

Welcome to the Masterclass on Inclusiveness

Vienna, 10/11 May 2016

Dear Participants

It is common knowledge that research and innovation is the key to a prosperous economy and a wealthy society. But it is no secret that research is also expensive and investments in research are risky. Therefore it is of utmost importance that research is supported by public money. The European Union has acknowledged this long ago and supported research activities through the European Framework Programmes since 1984 with an exponential increasing budget. While most of the Framework Programme budget is dedicated to the support of direct research activities the Framework Programme always supported Coordination of research as well. Especially in Europe Coordination of research activities is a key issue because without an alignment of national research activities lots of overlaps and gaps exist and as societal challenges grow bigger no individual member state is able to fund the necessary research by itself.

Therefore the European Commission extended its coordination activities during the 6th Framework Programme (2002 to 2007) and introduced the ERA-NET instrument.

The instrument fits especially in the area of bioeconomy that is per se a research area that includes topics from a wide range of themes and coordination of those themes and topics is crucial for the success of the bioeconomy concept.

I have learnt that this 2 days event has the aim to encourage those countries that have not participated in Bioeconomy related ERA-Net activities very much to engage them more intensively. As Austria historically always had close relations with most of those countries it is a great pleasure to have this event in Vienna and I would like to warmly welcome you and wish you a great success.