Keynote Speech

"Horizon Europe: First Impressions from NRW"

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On the occasion of the

"Successful R&I in Europe 2019: 10th European Networking Event"

14 February 2019
Van der Valk Airporthotel, Düsseldorf

I.   Welcome and introduction

II. Horizon Europe and North Rhine-Westphalia

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I. Welcome and introduction

Dear Dr Burtscher *[European Commission]*,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you today to the evening programme of the *Successful R&I in Europe 2019: 10th European Networking Event.*

I am looking forward to an interesting discussion on the topic of "Impact-oriented Support for Innovation: Today and Tomorrow".

Today, an important element in the funding of research and innovation is *Horizon 2020*, the European Union's current Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. From 2021 onwards, *Horizon Europe* will take its place. The draft programme has been available since June 2018 and you, Dr Burtscher, have just presented it to us. Thank you very much.

II. Horizon Europe and North Rhine-Westphalia

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the present time, my ministry is already very busy getting to grips with the three pillars of *Horizon Europe*, particularly against the backdrop of the many successful activities that we are continuing to organise together with NRW.Europa, the Enterprise Europe Network node for North Rhine-Westphalia, for proposers and project managers in the framework of the still ongoing *Horizon 2020* programme.

This is because the changes and new developments in *Horizon Europe* will also mean that enterprises as well as higher education and research institutions with an interest in submitting a proposal or in a project will signal new requirements and need corresponding advice.

That is why we are already engaged in an extensive exchange with representatives of all target groups in order to register these requirements. Together with advisors and experts from higher education and research institutions, ZENIT, the National Contact Points and KoWi, the European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations, new bespoke activities will be developed to assist stakeholders in the submission of proposals and later with project management, so that researchers in North Rhine-Westphalia are familiar with all the new rules and requirements from the very start of *Horizon Europe*.

To this purpose, we have already launched a pilot project with ZENIT in order to stress the importance of preparing for *Horizon Europe.* From 2021 onwards we want to follow on seamlessly from our success in *Horizon 2020* and continue to expand North Rhine-Westphalia's participation in the forthcoming EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation at a high level.

The mission-oriented approach *[Definition from the EU website: "This is an approach to policy-making which means setting defined goals, with specific targets and working to achieve them in a set time."]* which you, Dr Burtscher, presented, holds opportunities that we in North Rhine-Westphalia want to use. Why? Because there are major challenges, for example in energy research, urban development or use of resources, to which we want to devote ourselves in the framework of *Horizon Europe* projects together with European partners. The draft of *Horizon Europe* offers excellent conditions for successful cutting-edge research and development that can then lead to innovative approaches with which to master such challenges together.

III. Closing remarks

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As one of Europe's important regions in science and business, North Rhine-Westphalia takes on a special role in this mission-oriented approach. For this reason, I am now looking forward to an interesting exchange.

I wish you all an interesting discussion and further on an even more important successful networking this evening during dinner!

Thank you!