Investing in research careers for a smart, sustainable, inclusive growth

Fulvio Esposito
ERA Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility
University of Camerino, Italy
The number of researchers, as a share of the labour force, is nearly 50% higher in the US and 60% more in Japan (as for China, the absolute number matters!) with respect to Europe, with an extremely wide spread among European countries.

The limited European stock of researchers
The US and Japan have more than 1.5x as many researchers per thousand in the private sector than does the EU (again with a huge spread among its countries).
The European paradox

Innovation Union Commitment #1
“By the end of 2011, Member States should have strategies in place to train enough researchers to meet their national R&D targets...”

BUT, in several European countries, currently, many researchers are facing long periods of unemployment, underemployment and insecurity.
A FEW QUESTIONS (& ANSWERS)

• To increase the stock of researchers OR to increase the stock of research positions (especially in the private sector) ?

• Is it realistic to aim at increasing research positions in times of fiscal constraints?
To prioritise research and researchers, even.especially in times of fiscal constraints, a better matching between demand & supply should be promoted.

Yes, but **HOW?**

Horizon 2020 Italy: a tentative ‘model’
Stakeholders, processes & products - HIT 2020

International Workshop
Developing research careers in and beyond Europe
Oslo, 21-23 May, 2013

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION RESULTS

EXCELLENT SCIENCE (Knowledge driven research)

INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP (Technology driven research)

Excellent Science

Industrial Leadership

INVESTMENTS IN HUMAN & MATERIAL RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

‘TRANSLATE’ NEEDS IN RESEARCH DEMAND

Eurpean Union, National and Regional Administrations

Major Societal Challenges

Express Citizen Needs

Build Active & Conscious Citizenship

Training (School & University)

Smart Communities

R&I Results

Programmes & Calls

Projects & Competence

Produce Research & Innovation

Research Performing Organisations (public & private)
The virtuous circle

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT
OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION RESULTS

INVESTMENTS IN HUMAN & MATERIAL
RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

may work, upon the condition that research and researchers’ demand and supply smoothly match
The ‘model’ may be applied more generally, and an «European Researchers’ Professional Development Framework» may play a catalyst role to make it work efficiently!
The ‘model’ may work Europe-wide, making it possible to increase both the stock of researchers and the stock of research positions, but a European dimension is needed, in terms of

• a generalised implementation of the Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training;

• a wide adoption of the European Framework for Research Careers;

• the development of a truly European Researchers’ Professional Development Framework, with its accompanying measures in terms of monitoring and peer reviewing.
How to prevent allergic reactions?
The story of a patchwork and a masterpiece
With essentially the same series of different colors, a patchwork or a masterpiece can be produced.
There is nothing sinful with patchworks, but here are the masterpieces and here are the patchworks
The new generations of Europeans in general, and European researchers in particular, have to decide if they want to be part of a patchwork or part of a masterpiece...