

Enabling Innovation: A key issue for a sustainable Europe

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Innovation is key for a sustainable Europe

- To face **global competition** and emerging economic powers
- To find a meaningful role in the so-called "**knowledge economy**"
- To deal with the demographic problem of having an **aging population**
- To work in a larger common market after the **enlargement of the EU**

» **Europe has to innovate in order to succeed**

The Lisbon Strategy was designed to deal with that challenge

- To state the ambition of becoming the **most competitive knowledge-based economy** in the world
- To ground that ambition in the values of **social cohesion** and **environmental sustainability**
- To call in **action** institutions, companies, researchers and citizens
- To give a **strategic focus** to everyday actions and choices

The revised Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs deepens that focus

- Providing the strategy with a **clearer governance**, introducing national coordinators
- Using the **National Reform Programmes** as transformation agendas
- Making ground for the **exchange of good practice** amongst member states
- Keeping **Innovation** at its very core, as a joint call for action

This call for action is a challenge that we cannot fail to address

- The Finnish EU Presidency **contributed substantially to address the challenge of innovation**
- The emergence of this **European Network of Living Labs** is the evidence that it is possible to develop innovation in an open, collaborative approach including companies, research institutions, European and National public agencies
- We all need to **build upon this example** in order to design more effective public policies to support innovation, finding the appropriate governance solutions

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Innovation is a key priority for Portugal

- **Portugal is catching up** in relation to the most innovative countries in Europe
- The Portuguese Government has chosen as **its main priority to become more competitive through innovation**
- That priority was translated into the **Portuguese Technological Plan**, a strategic agenda reporting directly to the Prime Minister to coordinate the public policies aiming at improving **qualifications**, bridging the **digital divide**, reducing the **scientific and technological gap** and to promoting more **innovative companies**.

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The European Network of Living Labs can be an enabler of innovation

- The Portuguese Government, through its Technological Plan, **is encouraging the emergence of Portuguese Living Labs** which can be part of this network
- Developing the concept of Living Labs as **open innovation communities** will provide the opportunity to further develop local, regional and national networks within the European network
- We are supporting the scheduling of a **Living Labs event in Portugal**, to take place in Spring 2007

Enabling innovation requires a continuous effort

- The **Lisbon Strategy** will be one of the **priorities** of the forthcoming Portuguese EU Presidency
- The **development of innovation networks** is particularly relevant, especially when including SME's and promoting cohesion
- The **European Network of Living Labs is an important contribution** to these objectives, thus deserving encouragement and support
- The challenge is to increasingly **connect innovation to people**



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