



**ASPIRE
INVENT
ACHIEVE**





SIMPLIFICATION: THE WAY AHEAD

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS

30 NOVEMBER 2010,

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IMEC MISSION

Imec performs world-leading research in **nanoelectronics**. We leverage our scientific knowledge with the innovative power of our **global partnerships** in **ICT, healthcare** and **energy**.



IMEC FIGURES

Revenue: in 2010: 287m€

(incl. 42 m€ grant from Flanders government and
9 m€ from The Netherlands)

Staff: >1850 worldwide

Nationalities: ~ 65

Worldwide collaboration: >600 companies



PRINCIPLES OF SIMPLIFICATION

Healthy balance between scientific output and administrative burden

Rules and procedures should be stable.

Consistency in interpretation of rules and procedures

Mutual trust

Excellence

PROPOSED CHANGES

Further develop the Research Participant Portal

Ensure equal interpretation and application of rules and regulations

Accept the official accounts of the beneficiary

Simplify the criteria for average personnel cost methodology

Remove the obligation to open interest-bearing bank accounts

REDUCING BUREAUCRACY

A substantial effort goes towards bureaucracy → an important share of the funding is not devoted to research or innovation

Technology experts are scarce - their knowledge, time and funding should not be used for administrative actions

Examples for improvement

Use of common accounting principles

Improve success rate, reduce delays and paperwork by reforming the process

Use common rules, audit methodologies, procedures and electronic tools in the various calls.

STANDARD ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES

Average actual personnel costs

Proposed methodology (Financial Regulation) to use average costs is welcome (but swift implementation requested)

Should not create additional administrative burdens for beneficiaries and projects

Indirect costs

Rates of indirect costs in Research Institutes with high CAPEX are often very high (can be >100%)

For Research Institutes the use of actual indirect costs should be retained (no imposition of flat rates)

LUMP SUMS & RESULTS-BASED FUNDING

For Research Institutes with high CAPEX use of lump sums is not acceptable (negotiation delay, insufficient funding, lack of accountability).

Indirect cost can be > 100% if technology development is involved.

Results-based funding is not workable for collaborative projects.

Risk of non-funding after 3-4 years if project cannot be finalised with “results” – no results is also a result!

Discourages participation and innovation, encourages low risk research

SIMPLIFICATION AND NEW INSTRUMENTS (JTIs)

Europe has a lot of research potential (e.g. in nanoelectronics: FhG, IMEC, LETI, but also Tyndall, CRANN, Chalmers, ...many excellent academic centers..)

Non-European industry has discovered the (hidden) jewels in Europe and make good use of them (we live and compete in a global research arena).

Because of national research and industrial policies it is hard to establish cross border funding schemes in Europe and as a result **we miss opportunities to bring strengths together. The IP is available in Europe, but not used.**

Because of the present European funding schemes, it is hard for a Center of Excellence to be accepted as a European Center of Excellence.

Europe should step in and provide the glue for bringing excellence together across borders. JTIs, PPPs and Joint Programming may be ideal to do so, provided the right funding schemes are used.