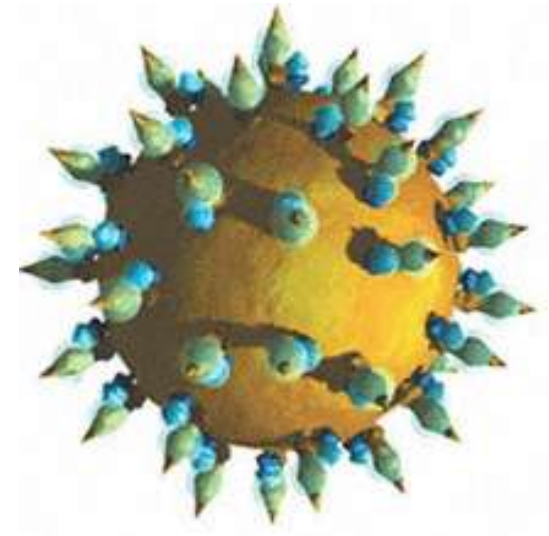




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# EU support to hepatitis research

Anna Lönnroth Sjödén  
Health Research  
DG Research - European Commission

Hepatitis B and C Summit, Brussels, 15 October 2010



# DG Research?

- and EU research policy

## Main Objectives:

- to improve quality of life
- to improve competitiveness of Europe through collaboration

## How ?

- by pooling resources (funds for Framework Programme)
- by coordinating national research programmes





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# Main policy drivers HEALTH

Budget: €6 billion over 7 years (2007-2013)



**Improving  
health of  
European  
citizens -  
Art.163 of the  
Treaty**



**Increasing  
competitiveness of  
European health-  
related industries**



**Addressing global  
health issues,  
including  
emerging  
epidemics**





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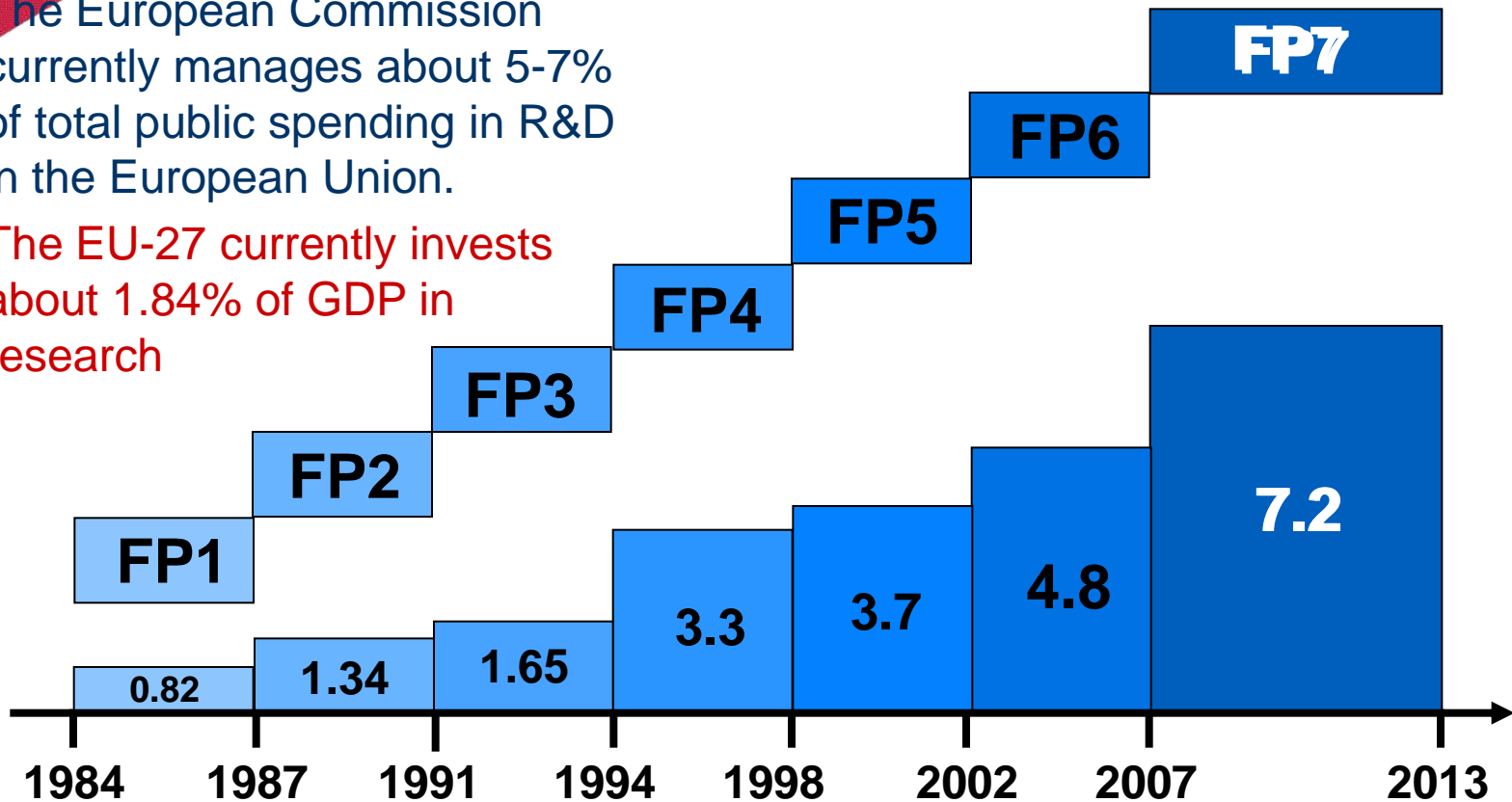
# EU Research Policy

## Framework Programmes' Budget

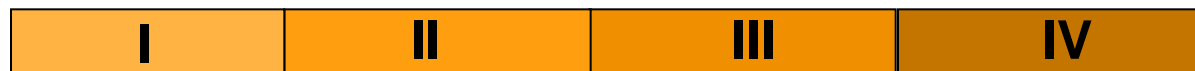
Average *annual* budget in billion EUR

The European Commission currently manages about 5-7% of total public spending in R&D in the European Union.

The EU-27 currently invests about 1.84% of GDP in research



Financial Perspectives





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# The Health Theme

## Three main activities (“pillars”)

### Pillar 1:

**Biotechnology,  
generic tools  
& technologies  
for health**

### Pillar 2:

**Translating  
research for  
human health**

### Pillar 3:

**Optimising  
the delivery  
of health care**

**imi!**

**The  
Innovative  
Medicines  
Initiative**

cross-cutting issues: **child health**, the health of **ageing  
population**, **gender**-related health issues

Support actions & response to policy needs





# Infectious Diseases in FP7

**Pillar 1: Biotechnology** Detection, diagnosis, monitoring

**Pillar 2: Translational research on infectious diseases**

Poverty-  
Related  
Diseases

**HIV/AIDS,  
Malaria, TB**

Neglected  
Infectious  
Diseases (NID)

**Parasitic and  
Bacterial diseases**

Emerging  
Epidemics  
(EE)

**Viral diseases**

cross-cutting issue: **Anti-microbial Resistance**



# Collaborative research across borders and other barriers

- **Between countries:**

- Within Europe
- Europe and non-European countries
- Create critical mass



- **Between sectors:**

- Public sector: universities, research centres, hospitals
- Private sector: large pharma companies, biotech SMEs
- Global stakeholders: WHO/TDR, PPPs, NGOs etc



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# International collaboration on HCV

- **Mediterranean Partner Countries (esp. Egypt)**
  - Excessive prevalence of HCV in Egypt ( > 10%)
  - Added value (win-win) by working together
  - Several topics called for in different calls and sections of health research







# Hepatitis research portfolio

## 1) HCV vaccines

- Major HCV vaccine effort
- HEPACIVAC – New preventative and therapeutic HCV vaccines (from preclinical to phase I)
  - 8.8 million €
  - 12 ppt, incl major vaccine companies and Egypt





# Hepatitis research portfolio

## 2) HCV Disease Predictive Biomarkers

- Upstream, systems biology approaches (development of disease predictive models), identification of novel targets
- PATHOSYS – New algorithms for host pathogen systems biology
  - 3 million €
  - 10 ppt, incl Russia (3), Turkey (2), Cyprus (1)





# Hepatitis research portfolio

## 2) HCV Disease Predictive Biomarkers

- How HCV progresses to chronic disease, identification of predictive biomarkers, improving diagnostics and clinical management
- HEPACUTE – Host and viral factors in acute HCV
  - 3 million €
  - 17 ppt, incl Egypt (3) and Morocco
- SPHINX – Spontaneous clearance in patients acutely infected with HCV. Immune profiling, novel biomarkers and X-omics approaches
  - 3 million €
  - 10 ppt, Egypt (3) and Tunisia





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# Hepatitis research portfolio

## 3) HIV/Hepatitis co-infection

- European AIDS Treatment Network including HIV/Hepatitis co-infection
- 12.5 million €
- 41 ppt, EU countries





# Hepatitis research portfolio

## 4) European Research Council Grants

- Nanoparticle vaccines for HBV
- 2.5 million €, 1 ppt
- HCV immunoprevention
- 2.5 million €, 1 ppt
- Transcriptional-Metabolic Intervention
- 2.0 million €, 1 ppt
- Role of Type I interferons in HCV
- 1.1 million €, 1 ppt
- Role of inflammatory signalling pathways in acute and chronic hepatitis and liver cancer
- 1.6 million €, 1 ppt





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# Future trends – rest of FP7

- 2-stage submission/evaluation in majority of topics
- Broader topics – bottom up
- Fewer but bigger projects - critical mass to make an impact
- SMEs
- International cooperation continues to be a priority for the Commission and an opportunity for applicants





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# Future trends – FP8....

## Broad orientation

- Still very open for discussion
- Europe 2020: Innovation Union (communication published on 6th October) => “Grand Challenges” in Health
- Joint programming between Member States
- March-June 2011: Open stakeholder consultation on FP8





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# Thank you

**EC Research web site:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research>



**FP7 web site:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health>

