

## **Traditional and new tools and methods for the preparation of the next European Framework Programme (2006-2010)**

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Like other major world economies, Europe is facing the challenge of making the transition into the knowledge-based economy. Ever since the 2000 Lisbon European Council, and the formulation of the so-called Lisbon objectives (later complemented by the so-called Barcelona objectives), Europe has accelerated its efforts towards the achievement of that goal. Within that context, the European Commission is currently implementing, for the sixth time already, a so-called framework programme, its major policy tool, and already preparing for the Seventh Framework Programme. Thus the purpose of this paper/presentation will be to discuss – while comparing as much as possible with the Japanese experience, and aiming as much as possible to draw lessons for Japan - some or all of the below :

- The main challenges facing Europe, both more generally in terms of economic competitiveness and more specifically in terms of science, technology and innovation.
- The European experience in terms of S&T benchmarking to better understand the S&T policy challenges Europe is facing and the policies towards addressing them.
- Recent policies that have been instituted to face those challenges, so the main horizontal and thematic priorities of the Sixth and Seventh Framework Programmes.
- The recent European experience in terms of extended impact assessment of major research programmes, both ex ante and ex post.