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Public consultation on EU funds in the area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Public consultation on EU funds in the area of of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market

Introduction

'A stronger Union needs to be equipped with appropriate financial means to continue to deliver its policies. The Union has changed fundamentally in recent years, as have the challenges it faces. Our Union needs a budget that can help us achieve our ambitions. The Multiannual Financial Framework for the period after 2020 must reflect this.' (Commission Work Programme 2018)

The EU budget currently amounts to less than 1 euro per citizen per day. Although a modest budget, at around 1% of the EU's gross national income or 2% of all EU public spending, it supports the EU's shared goals by delivering essential public goods and tangible results for EU citizens. These include: investing in skills, innovation and infrastructure; ensuring sustainable food systems and developing rural areas; ensuring a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources; promoting joint research and industrial projects; funding shared activities in the field of migration and security; and supporting development and humanitarian aid.

The current Multiannual Financial Framework — the EU's long-term budget — runs until the end of 2020. In 2018, the Commission will put forth comprehensive proposals for the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework and for the next generation of financial programmes that will receive funding. These programmes/funds provide financial support to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries such as regions, towns, NGOs, businesses, farmers, students, scientists, and many others.

The Commission's proposals will be designed to make it possible for the EU to deliver on the things that matter most, in areas where it can achieve more than Member States acting alone. This requires a careful assessment both of what has worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future. What should the priorities be for future policies and programmes/funds? And how can they be designed to best deliver results on the ground?

As an integral part of this process and following on from the <u>Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances</u>, the Commission is launching a series of public consultations covering all the major spending areas to gather views from all interested parties on how to make the very most of every euro of the EU budget.

The EU has developed a variety of instruments to stimulate investment and entrepreneurship to create jobs and growth. The Investment Plan for Europe, the so-called Juncker Plan, aims to unlock investment throughout Europe through to the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which provides a EU guarantee to mobilise investment. The EFSI also complements other existing instruments like COSME that make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access finance in all phases of their lifecycle – creation, expansion, or business transfer. Through EU support, businesses have easier access to guarantees, loans and equity capital.

Research and innovation are instrumental for addressing the EU's productivity gap and play a crucial role in providing solutions to many global challenges the EU and its citizens are facing today. In that context, the EU has made a major contribution with the Horizon 2020 programme.

The European Single Market is one of the EU's greatest achievements. It has fuelled economic growth and made the everyday life of European businesses and consumers easier. A well-functioning Single Market, including in its digital dimension, stimulates competition and trade, improves efficiency, raises quality, and helps cut prices. In that context, the EU has set up several programmes in a wide range of areas (health, food safety, customs...) to facilitate the free circulation of goods, services, capital and persons across the European continent.

Recent consultations already covered several policy areas, including on current performance and future challenges. The views already expressed by stakeholders in these consultations will be taken into account as part of the current process for the future MFF.

Link to portal for recent consultations: https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations en

Interim evaluation of the programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME) (2014-2020)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/interim-evaluation-programme-competitiveness-enterprises-and-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises-cosme-2014-2020_en

Consultation on modernising and simplifying the common agricultural policy (CAP) https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/cap-modernising/2017_en

Public stakeholder consultation – interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 https://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim h2020 2016/consultation en.htm

Open Public Consultation of the mid-term evaluation of the 3rd Health Programme 2014-2020 https://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/consultations/midterm_evaluation_fr

Public stakeholder consultation – Interim evaluation of Joint Undertakings operating under Horizon 2020. http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim_joint-undertakings_h2020/consultation_en.htm Public Consultation – Evaluation of Public-Public Partnerships (Art.185 initiatives) in the context of the Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/pp_partnerships_art185/consultation_en.htm

Public consultation on Transformation of Health and Care in the Digital Single Market https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-transformation-health-and-care-digital-single-market_en

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*1 You are replying
as an individual in your personal capacity
on your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation
*8 Respondent's first name
Max
*9 Respondent's last name
Eklund
*10 Respondent's professional email address
max.eklund@embl.de
*11 Name of the organisation
European Molecular Biology Laboratory
*12 Postal address of the organisation
Meyerhofstraße 1
D-69117 Heidelberg
*13 Type of organisation
Please select the answer option that fits best.
Private enterprise
Professional consultancy, law firm, self-employed consultant
 Trade, business or professional association
Non-governmental organisation, platform or network
Research and academia
Churches and religious communities
Regional or local authority (public or mixed)

International or national public authority	
Other	
*21 Please specify the type of organisation.	
Intergovernmental organisation	
EU institution, body or agency	
National parliament	
National government	
National public authority or agency	
- Canada and an angle of a agency	
*22 Is your organisation included in the Transparency Register?	
If your organisation is not registered, we invite you to register here , although it is not compulsory to be registered to reply to this	
consultation. Why a transparency register?	
© Yes	
O No	
Not applicable	
*24 Country of organisation's headquarters	
Austria	
Belgium	
Bulgaria	
Croatia	
O Cyprus	
Czech Republic	
O Denmark	
© Estonia	
Finland	
France	
Germany	
○ Greece	
Hungary	
Ireland	
Italy	
C Latvia	
C Lithuania	
Luxembourg	
Malta	
Netherlands	
Poland	
Portugal	
Romania	
Slovak Republic	
Slovenia	
Spain	
Sweden	

United Kingdom

Other
*26 Your contribution,
Note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under Regulation (EC) N°1049/2001
can be published with your organisation's information (I consent the publication of all information in my
contribution in whole or in part including the name of my organisation, and I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent publication)
can be published provided that your organisation remains anonymous (I consent to the publication of any
information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication.
*27 Please let us know whether you have experience with one or more of the following funds and programmes.
at least 1 choice(s)
European Fund for Strategic Investments (Investment Plan for Europe)
✓ Horizon 2020
European Structural and Investment funds
□ COSME
EU Health Programme
EU Food and Feed Programme
Customs 2020
Fiscalis
Anti-Fraud Information System
■ EURES
Employment and Social Innovation Programme
Standards in the field of financial reporting Programme
Implementation of single market for financial services
Enhancing consumers involvement in EU policy-making in the field of financial services
Consumer Programme
European statistical programme
Interoperability solutions and common frameworks for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA2 programme) as a means for modernising the public sector
Support for the functioning of various aspects of the single market (including goods, services, taxation, company law) – standardisation, assistance to citizens and businesses, enforcement
Digital Single Market support programme
EEEF (European energy efficiency fund)
PF4EE (private finance for energy efficiency)
None of the above
*28 Please let us know to which of the following topics your replies to this questionnaire will refer.

EU support for Investment

EU support for research and innovationEU support for SME and entrepreneurship

EU support for the Single Market

5

EU funds in the area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market

29 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of policy challenges which programmes/funds in this area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market could address. How important are these policy challenges in your view?

	Very important	Rather important	Neither important nor unimportant	Rather not important	Not important at all	No opinion
Facilitate transition to low carbon and circular economy and resilience to climate change, support security of supply	©	•	•	•	•	•
Foster research and innovation across the EU	•	0	0	0	0	0
Support industrial development	0	•	0	0	0	0
Support education, skills and training	•	0	0	0	0	0
Ensure a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources	•	0	0	0	0	•
Facilitate digital transition of the economy, industry, services and society	•	0	0	0	0	0

Ensure that existing rules are applied and enforced consistently across the EU	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ensure smooth circulation of goods both within EU and at EU borders	0	0	0	0	0	•
Ensure fair conditions of competition in the EU	0	0	0	0	0	•
Promote security of citizens	0	0	0	0	0	•
Support labour mobility	•	0	0	0	0	0
Support capital flows and investment	•	0	0	0	0	0
Facilitate access to finance, in particular to SMEs	0	0	0	0	0	•
Promote financial stability	0	0	0	0	0	•
Improve quality of public institutions (including digitalisation)	0	0	0	0	0	•
Reduce unemployment and social disparities	0	0	0	0	0	•

Ensure safe, sustainable transport and mobility	0	•	0	•	•	•
Promote and protect public health	0	•	0	0	0	0
Promote a safe and sustainable food chain	0	0	0	0	0	•
Support social investment and social innovation	0	•	0	•	•	•
Ensure a high level of consumer protection and effective redress	0	•	0	•	•	•
Provide reliable and comparable statistics	0	0	0	0	0	•
Other (Please specify below)	0	0	0	0	0	0

31 To what extent do the current policies successfully address these challenges?

	Fully addressed	Fairly well addressed	Addressed to some extent only	Not addressed at all	No opinion
Facilitate transition to low carbon and circular economy and resilience to climate change; support security of supply	©	0	0	0	•
Foster research and innovation across the EU	©	•	0	©	0
Support industrial development	0	0	0	0	•
Support education, skills and training	0	•	0	0	0
Ensure a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources	0	0	0	0	•
Facilitate digital transition of the economy, industry, services and society	©	0	•	0	0
Ensure that existing rules are applied and enforced consistently across the EU	©	0	•	0	0
Ensure smooth circulation of goods both within EU and at EU borders	0	0	0	0	•
Ensure fair conditions of competition in the EU	0	0	0	0	•
Promote security of citizens	0	0	0	0	•
Support labour mobility	0	•	0	0	0
Support capital flows and investment	0	0	0	0	•
Facilitate access to finance, in particular to SMEs	0	0	0	0	•
Promote financial stability	0	0	0	0	•
Improve quality of public institutions (including digitalisation)	0	0	0	0	•
Reduce unemployment and social disparities	0	©	©	©	•

Ensure safe, sustainable transport and mobility	0	0	0	0	•
Promote and protect public health	0	•	0	0	0
Promote a safe and sustainable food chain	0	0	0	0	•
Support social investment and social innovation	0	0	0	•	•
Ensure a high level of consumer protection and effective redress	0	0	0	0	•
Provide reliable and comparable statistics	0	0	0	0	•
Other (please specify below)	0	0	0	0	0

*33 To what extent do the current programmes/funds add value, compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels?

- To a large extent
- To a fairly good extent
- To some extent only
- Not at all
- Don't know

34 Please specify <u>how</u> the current programmes/funds add value compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels. Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

The Framework Programmes for R&I play a critical role in boosting cross-national, interdisciplinary and intersectorial R&I collaborations across Europe and there are no national initiatives with such a broad scope and focus. In particular, current and recent programmes have supported large-scale infrastructure and research projects, particularly through ESFRI and the FET actions, with broad financial support to partners in many countries. These programmes fund cross-border research and research infrastructures that, because they are supranational, would be difficult for national governments to support. Additionally, they promote mobility and help build personal networks across Europe: movement of people, and personal networks, have real, if difficult to measure, benefits to research and commercial activities throughout the EU. At smaller scales the funding from the European Research Council for research projects, and to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions for individual researchers, through support for cross-border research and personal networks, also play a significant role in boosting excellent science in Europe.

35 Is there a need to modify or add to the objectives of the programmes/funds in this policy area? If yes, which changes would be necessary or desirable? Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

Desirable changes in the policy area of R&I would be to reintroduce support for basic research in the health domain due to the essential role of basic research as the key driver of innovation. The ability of Europe to

handle today's pressing issues, such as curing and eradicating illnesses, will require further breakthroughs that arise from basic research. EMBL would also support funding access by the smaller and newer EU member states to state-of-the-art Research Infrastructure that are primarily located in the EU15. Additionally, the next programme should provide stronger and more systematic support for the utilization and curation of existing biomedical data deposited in data repositories across Europe. Data repositories, such as those managed by EMBL-EBI and coordinated by ELIXIR, are crucially important in storing the data produced by research funding, and they add value by allowing re-use of research data. Curation—the interpretation of data—also adds tremendous value to data repositories, yet curatorial activities are perpetually underfunded: this leaves much potential value locked within uncurated raw data. The European Open Science Cloud is also a promising initiative. We suggest that the success of EOSC will depend on involvement of commercial providers, with EOSC concentrating on providing bespoke services to scientists that complements the technical strengths of the commercial providers.

36 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of possible obstacles, which could prevent the current programmes/funds from achieving their objectives. To what extent do possible obstacles prevent the current programme/funds from achieving their objectives?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	Don' t know
Too complex procedures leading to high administrative burden and delays	0	•	0	0	0
Insufficient administrative capacity to manage programmes	0	0	•	0	0
Lack of flexibility to react to unforeseen circumstances	0	•	0	0	0
Insufficient synergies between the EU programmes/funds	0	•	0	0	0
Difficulty of combining EU action with other public interventions and private finance	0	0	0	0	•
Insufficient critical mass	0	0	0	0	•
Insufficient use of financial instruments	0	0	0	0	•
Lack of information/communication	0	0	0	0	•
Insufficient scope	0	0	0	0	•
Lack of EU standards and EU rules	0	0	0	0	•
Inadequate facilities to support enhanced cooperation	0	0	0	0	•
Out of date and inadequate IT capabilities	0	0	0	0	•
Insufficient involvement of citizens	0	0	•	0	0
Other (Please specify below)	0	0	0	0	•

7	UUU Character(s) maximum
	EMBL would welcome further efforts to harmonize the legal framework for accessing and sharing health data across borders in Europe.

*37 If you have identified another obstacle, please specify it here:

38 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of steps that could help to further simplify and reduce administrative burdens for beneficiaries under current programmes/funds. To what extent would these steps be helpful in your view?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	Don' t know
Alignment of rules between EU funds	•	0	0	0	0
Fewer, clearer, shorter rules	•	0	0	0	©
More reliance on national rules	0	0	•	0	©
A stable but flexible framework between programming periods	0	•	0	0	0
Extension of the single audit principle	•	0	0	0	0
Better feedback to applicants	•	0	0	0	0
More structured reporting	•	0	0	0	0
User-friendly IT tools	•	0	0	0	0
E-governance	0	•	0	0	0
Adequate administrative capacity	0	•	0	0	0
Other (Please specify below)	0	•	0	0	0

*39 If you have identified another way to simplify and reduce burdens, please specify it here:

1000 character(s) maximum

For the R&I programmes, EMBL recommends extending the use of a two-stage application process in FP9 whenever it is appropriate. Two-stage applications save time for applicants who do not make it to the second stage: time they can use for research, or to attract other funding. An additional simplification would also be to acknowledge organisations' own accounting practices and to adapt a more trust-based approach to audit, highlighting accountability and performance rather than compliance and control. Many Horizon 2020 beneficiaries, members of the European Parliament, and indeed the European Court of Auditors, have encouraged adopting such an approach.

15	arly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refer. 500 character(s) maximum
٥ر	cument upload and final comments
11	Please feel free to upload a concise document, such as a position paper. The maximum file size is
1M	
Ple	ase note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire
whi	ich is the essential input to this public consultation. The document is optional and serves as additional
	ckground reading to better understand your position.
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Contact