



Feedback from: European Molecular Biology Laboratory

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Submitted by

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User type

Academic/research Institution

Organisation

European Molecular Biology Laboratory

Organisation size

Large (250 or more)

Country of origin

Germany

Initiative

[Research, innovation, education & young people – a new global approach \(/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12947-Research-innovation-education-young-people-a-new-global-approach\)](/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12947-Research-innovation-education-young-people-a-new-global-approach)

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) is one of the world's leading research institutions, and Europe's flagship laboratory for the life sciences, publicly funded by over 25 Member States and hosted at six European sites. EMBL is supportive of the European Commission's efforts to revise the current strategy for international cooperation on research and innovation between Europe and the rest of the world. Science is a global endeavour and should not be performed in geographical silos.

With over 10 institutional partnerships and over 20 Memoranda of Understanding in place with various research organisations both within and outside of the EU, international collaboration is one of the cornerstones of the EMBL model. A significant proportion of EMBL's activities are undertaken in collaboration with institutes across Europe and beyond with over 400 research, infrastructure and training grants held by EMBL in 2020. Furthermore, over 9000 scientists from all around the world participate in EMBL courses and conferences every year, while 210 students from over 50 countries are carrying out PhD research at EMBL at any time.

We believe that 'supporting Open Science as basis for collaboration' and 'tackling environmental challenges' should be added under the objectives of international collaborations, since these are Union, EU Green Deal, and Horizon Europe priorities. The updated strategy should facilitate the sharing of FAIR data with international partners. Increasingly, data represents the bloodline of research, and growing amounts of data will require coordination across institutes, countries, and sub-disciplines to align practices and standards. Research Infrastructures will have a decisive role to play in setting standards and establishing networks that can effectively enable open data sharing.

We feel that the revised strategy should recognise the strong experience that research organisations have in investing time and resources outside of their host countries, and rely on this to increase cooperation both between EU Member States and with partners outside of the Union. Considering the broader research landscape, cooperation with countries such as Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, and the USA, should continue to be nurtured, and the societal and environment goals and values of the Union should not be neglected. The Commission could also consider strengthening and encouraging the collaboration with countries in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

With the 2012 strategy defining the 'Framework Programmes for R&I' as its main funding instrument, we feel that Third Country access to the current and future FPs should be streamlined, encouraged, and clarified well in advance of their start date. The reciprocity of access principle should still be implemented.

Strengthening the European Research Area, and seeking synergies between the 'New ERA for research and innovation' plan and the updated international strategy would be beneficial.

In addition, the field of science diplomacy could be further developed and used to bring together research actors and champion joint initiatives. Finally, we encourage all EU institutions to collaborate with European intergovernmental initiatives such as EIROforum on scientific advice and effective coordination of international collaboration.