



Setting 'innovation' at the heart of the EU

Research and innovation (R&I) have a crucial role in shaping the future. R&I policy must be linked to other EU policies, such as competitiveness, industry, environment and energy. Investing in intangible assets makes vital contributions to productivity and is at the core of what makes firms competitive resulting in higher value-added jobs, goods and services and value generation for economy and society. **Given that R&I is one of the main factors of global competitiveness, the EU's ambition must be to at least align its investment with that of its main competitors such as USA, China, Japan or South Korea.** Every action and all funds of the EU should be targeted to the renewal of Europe instead of sustaining the past.

Significant EU investments need to be geared at industrial innovation and co-creation between large, mid-sized and small companies, research institutes and universities. To further stimulate market demand for products and solutions based on advanced technologies and made in Europe, Europe needs to strengthen its competitiveness along entire value and innovation chains.

- Within the Multiannual Financial Framework, the EU and the Member States should prioritize research and innovation in the EU. We must double the budget of the post-2020 EU research and innovation program. The EU must direct the use of EU cohesion funding and agriculture funding increasingly for renewal and sustainability of infrastructure.
- Design the EU R&I program for greater impact: Make Horizon Europe pillars driven by purpose and impact, fine-tune the proposal evaluation system and increase the flexibility in the implementation to make the program more attractive to companies of all sizes.
- Make Horizon Europe more attractive to industry by
 - o ensuring a strong focus on advanced technologies, their faster adoption and new business solutions in Horizon Europe, Digital Europe and the other EU funding instruments;
 - o giving a high weight to Pillar II in Horizon Europe and ensuring that the industry's requirements drive the agenda and the projects;
 - o emphasizing bottom-up process and topics;
 - o giving scope for higher technology readiness levels that are important for impact without losing focus on radical innovation;
 - o accepting smaller consortia when closer to market, and
 - o making IPRs available for industry licensing free or with very reasonable terms, and ensuring faster decision-making and speed to money.
- Foster industry-led ecosystems and partnerships that bring together industries (global companies, SMEs, start-ups), innovators, researchers and the public sector, and promote and invest in R&I collaboration and innovative ideas with true scale-up potential.
- Foster industrial cross-border cooperation with strong and innovative European players, around Strategic Value Networks crucial to EU industrial competitiveness and strategic autonomy. Ensure that the Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs) have positive spill-over effects across Europe and are carefully designed and justified.
- Make Europe a competitive environment for data-driven business to evolve and grow by ensuring competitive infrastructures that enable effective mobility, sharing and use of data and the development of data-platforms to seize leadership in data-economy, particularly in B2B business.

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