



Putting innovation at the heart of the EU

Research and innovation (R&I) have a crucial role in shaping the future. 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, Japan, South Korea or China. 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.

Action points:

- The EU and the Member States should prioritize research and innovation in the EU and national budgets. Double the budget of the post-2020 EU research and innovation program. Direct the use of EU cohesion funding and agriculture funding increasingly for renewal and sustainability.
- 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.
- Foster industry-led ecosystems and partnerships that bring together industries (global companies, SMEs, start-ups), innovators, researchers and governments, and promote and invest in R&I collaboration and innovative ideas with true scale-up potential.
- Make Europe a competitive environment for data-driven business to evolve and grow. Ensure competitive infrastructures that enable effective mobility, sharing and use of data, development of data-platforms to seize leadership in data-economy particularly in B2B sectors. Fast-track the Europe-wide roll-out of first-class communication networks, such as 5G and fibre optics, and develop a European cybersecurity infrastructure that enables resilient, flexible and market-based cybersecurity solutions for a connected Europe
- Foster industrial cross-border cooperation with strong European players, around strategic value chains that are key to EU industrial competitiveness and strategic autonomy. Ensure that the Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) have positive spill-over effects across Europe and are carefully designed and justified. The fundamental European values of free and fair competition and market-driven innovation, reinforced with supporting trade policies, will continue to be strategic advantages in future and must not be discarded.

Further Information:

Mervi Karikorpi, mervi.karikorpi@techind.fi; +358 (0)40 741 9801
Matti Mannonen, matti.mannonen@techind.fi; +358 (0) 544 7047