

EIROforum's Statement on EU's Next Long-Term Budget (Multi-annual Financial Framework)

May 2025

The European Union stands at a pivotal moment in shaping its next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the future generation of EU funding programmes, facing a need to strengthen Europe's position in a rapidly changing global landscape. **EIROforum calls for strong, ring-fenced, and forward-looking investment in research and innovation.** Europe's global competitiveness depends on its ability to lead in science, drive innovation, and respond strategically to shared challenges.

Over the past decades, the EU Framework Programmes have become the backbone of this collective effort, delivering scientific excellence and generating high European added value at scale, while leveraging greater national investments. This has enabled frontier science, fostered cross-border collaboration and mobility, and helped build the technological and human capital that underpin Europe's prosperity.

Large research infrastructures, such as those managed by EIROforum members, have consistently played a critical role in this success - offering access to cutting-edge facilities, advanced data ecosystems and interdisciplinary expertise that empower academia and industry alike across borders and sectors. From delivering and enabling major scientific and technological breakthroughs to supporting rapid responses to global crises, research infrastructures are indispensable assets to addressing Europe's most pressing challenges - be they in health, environment, energy or artificial intelligence, and to training the next generation of scientists.

Their strategic value has been recognised in recent high-level reflections on Europe's future, including the [Draghi](#) and [Heitor](#) reports, which underscore their role in strengthening Europe's innovation capacity and competitiveness.

The post-2027 MFF represents a critical opportunity to maintain research and innovation as pillars of Europe's long-term strength.

With the right investment and a significantly increased ring-fenced budget for FP10 - preferentially as a stand-alone programme or under an envisaged Competitiveness Fund - large research-performing infrastructures will drive next generation frontier science, enable transformative technological innovation, and secure Europe's long-term global competitiveness.

About EIROforum

The European Intergovernmental Research Organisation forum brings together eight of Europe's largest research organisations:

CERN, EMBL, ESA, ESO, ESRF, EUROfusion, European XFEL, ILL

The mission of EIROforum is to combine the resources, facilities and expertise of its member organisations to support European science in reaching its full potential. www.eiroforum.org