

Statement on EU's Future Framework Programme for Research & Innovation (FP10)

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About EIROforum

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



EMBL



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.

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EIROforum welcomes the European Commission’s proposal for a 175 billion euros next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) and its political and financial ambition to reinforce Europe’s scientific and technological leadership, resilience and competitiveness in an increasingly challenging global context.

As Europe’s leading intergovernmental research organisations, operating world-class research and technology infrastructures, training programmes, enabling frontier science and transformative innovation, EIROforum members stand ready to work with the European institutions and Member States to support the successful design and implementation of FP10 and to contribute their facilities, expertise and international networks to Europe’s future. A strong, stand-alone and excellence-driven FP10 is essential to ensure that Europe remains at the forefront of frontier research, breakthrough technologies and long-term innovation capacity, particularly in rapidly advancing domains such as artificial intelligence (AI) in science.

1. A strong and predictable budget for Europe’s future

The scale of Europe’s scientific and technological challenges, intensifying global competition, and the broadened scope of FP10 call for a substantial and predictable overall budget. A strong Framework Programme is a strategic investment in Europe’s future prosperity, security and technological sovereignty.

FP10 must remain a coherent, legally self-standing programme with **funding commensurate with its ambitions and allowing for long-term planning, continuity and effective access to excellence across Europe**. In this context, the proposed **175 billion euros** budget should be regarded as a **strict minimum**.

Any weakening of FP10’s coherence as a stand-alone programme would risk fragmentation, reduced impact and dilution of its excellence-driven objectives. Predictability is particularly crucial for large research endeavours and infrastructures, whose planning, construction and upgrade cycles extend over decades.

Clear governance and well-designed operational interface between FP10 and the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) are also essential so that complementarities reinforce, rather than weaken, Europe’s scientific base and allow the Fund to fully benefit from Europe’s excellence-driven research and innovation ecosystem.

2. Fundamental research and scientific excellence as foundations

Support for fundamental research and scientific excellence must remain a primary guiding principle of FP10 across all its components. Curiosity-driven research, both investigator-led and consortium-based, is the main source of scientific breakthroughs and, ultimately, of future technologies, including in areas of high strategic importance such as AI. Sustained **support for frontier research, including under Pillar 2 “Competitiveness and Society”**, together with continued investment in talent development and attractive career pathways, is essential to ensure that Europe continues to generate transformative knowledge, which ultimately underpins Europe’s long-term competitiveness and technological sovereignty.

EIROforum is **supportive of the suggested “moonshot” initiatives within FP10** as a means to mobilise critical mass around clearly defined, high-impact objectives. For these initiatives to deliver tangible European added value, **greater clarity in the FP10 Regulation is needed** regarding their selection process, dedicated budget, their articulation with the FP10 Pillars and the ECF.

3. Research Infrastructures: strategic capabilities for European innovation

EIROforum welcomes the **reinforced role of Research and Technology Infrastructures (RTIs)** within the fourth pillar of the programme. They are an integral part of the European Research Area and innovation ecosystem, underpinning the full research and innovation cycle, from discovery to technology development, testing, scale-up and deployment for smaller and large companies alike.

Many EIROforum facilities operate along this continuum, combining frontier science, training, advanced technological capabilities, data and computing resources, and close interaction with industry. FP10 should therefore **avoid artificial distinctions and support RIs and TIs** as complementary and integrated components of Europe’s infrastructure landscape.

Given the broadening of Europe’s infrastructure ecosystem, and their expanded role and strategic importance, the **budget of the RI and TI work programme must increase substantially compared with previous Framework Programmes** and be commensurate with their contribution to scientific excellence, innovation, competitiveness and technological sovereignty.

EIROforum also welcomes the possibility for EU co-funding for the construction and major upgrades of critical, world-class infrastructures. **This level of co-funding** should be implemented through transparent, excellence-based and strategically informed selection processes, and **prioritise the upgrading of existing infrastructures to consolidate Europe’s capacities**.

In addition, EIROforum stresses the importance of continuing the **EURATOM co-fund instrument** as a **strategic means to maintain Europe’s leadership** by supporting crucial research and developments in a cohesive and efficient approach.

Where relevant, FP10 **investments shall be complemented by instruments under the ECF for world-class Research and Technology infrastructures serving particularly strategic technology areas** and industrial ecosystems. Such complementarity should be clearly coordinated, while preserving FP10’s excellence-driven logic and long-term perspective.

4. Open and strategic international collaboration with trusted partners

International collaboration is a cornerstone of scientific excellence and a key strength of the European Research Area. **EIROforum strongly supports an open, balanced and attractive framework for international cooperation within FP10, in particular with trusted partners and associated countries**. Some associated countries are among the EU’s closest research and innovation partners. Their world-class facilities, complementary expertise and substantial financial contributions significantly enhance the quality, impact and global standing of European research.

FP10 can further strengthen Europe’s leadership and security through such cooperation. **Provisions that could unduly restrict access and participation by trusted associated countries should be**

avoided. It is in the mutual interest of EU Member States and their trusted partners to preserve openness, reciprocity and long-term stability of the association framework.

Finally, Europe's long-term leadership in research and innovation depends on **safeguarding scientific freedom**. Curiosity-driven research across disciplines has historically produced many of Europe's most transformative discoveries. In a context of intensifying global competition for talent and knowledge, maintaining this openness strengthens Europe's capacity to attract excellent researchers and to generate the breakthroughs on which future innovation and competitiveness depend.