Public consultation on EU funds in the area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

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Introduction

'A stronger Union needs to be equipped with appropriate financial means to continue to deliver its policies. The Union has changed fundamentally in recent years, as have the challenges it faces. Our Union needs a budget that can help us achieve our ambitions. The Multiannual Financial Framework for the period after 2020 must reflect this.' (Commission Work Programme 2018)

- The EU budget currently amounts to less than 1 euro per citizen per day. Although a modest budget, at around 1 % of the EU's gross national income or 2 % of all EU public spending, it supports the EU's shared goals by delivering essential public goods and tangible results for EU citizens. These include: investing in skills, innovation and infrastructure; ensuring sustainable food systems and developing rural areas; ensuring a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources; promoting joint research and industrial projects; funding shared activities in the field of migration and security; and supporting development and humanitarian aid.
- The current Multiannual Financial Framework the EU's long-term budget runs until the end of 2020. In 2018, the Commission will put forth comprehensive proposals for the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework and for the next generation of financial programmes that will receive funding. These programmes/funds provide financial support to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries such as regions, towns, NGOs, businesses, farmers, students, scientists, and many others.
- The Commission's proposals will be designed to make it possible for the EU to deliver on the things that matter most, in areas where it can achieve more than Member States acting alone. This requires a careful assessment both of what has worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future. What should the priorities be for future policies and programmes/funds? And how can they be designed to best deliver results on the ground?

As an integral part of this process and following on from the <u>Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances</u>, the Commission is launching a series of public consultations covering all the major spending areas to gather views from all interested parties on how to make the very most of every euro of the EU budget.

The EU has developed a variety of instruments to stimulate investment and entrepreneurship to create jobs and growth. The Investment Plan for Europe, the so-called Juncker Plan, aims to unlock investment throughout Europe through to the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which provides a EU guarantee to mobilise investment. The EFSI also complements other existing instruments like COSME that make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access finance in all phases of their lifecycle – creation, expansion, or business transfer. Through EU support, businesses have easier access to guarantees, loans and equity capital.

Research and innovation are instrumental for addressing the EU's productivity gap and play a crucial role in providing solutions to many global challenges the EU and its citizens are facing today. In that context, the EU has made a major contribution with the Horizon 2020 programme.

The European Single Market is one of the EU's greatest achievements. It has fuelled economic growth and made the everyday life of European businesses and consumers easier. A well-functioning Single Market, including in its digital dimension, stimulates competition and trade, improves efficiency, raises quality, and helps cut prices. In that context, the EU has set up several programmes in a wide range of areas (health, food safety, customs...) to facilitate the free circulation of goods, services, capital and persons across the European continent.

Recent consultations already covered several policy areas, including on current performance and future challenges. The views already expressed by stakeholders in these consultations will be taken into account as part of the current process for the future MFF.

Link to portal for recent consultations: https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations_en

Interim evaluation of the programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME) (2014-2020)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/interim-evaluation-programme-competitiveness-enterprises-andsmall-and-medium-sized-enterprises-cosme-2014-2020_en

Consultation on modernising and simplifying the common agricultural policy (CAP) <u>https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/cap-modernising/2017_en</u>

Public stakeholder consultation – interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 https://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim_h2020_2016/consultation_en.htm

Open Public Consultation of the mid-term evaluation of the 3rd Health Programme 2014-2020 https://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/consultations/midterm_evaluation_fr

Public stakeholder consultation – Interim evaluation of Joint Undertakings operating under Horizon 2020. http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim_joint-undertakings_h2020/consultation_en.htm Public Consultation – Evaluation of Public-Public Partnerships (Art.185 initiatives) in the context of the Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/pp_partnerships_art185/consultation_en.htm

Public consultation on Transformation of Health and Care in the Digital Single Market <u>https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-transformation-health-and-care-digital-single-market_en</u>

About you

- *1 You are replying
 - as an individual in your personal capacity
 - in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation
- *8 Respondent's first name

Salome

*9 Respondent's last name

Adam

*10 Respondent's professional email address

salome.adam@actionuni.ch

*11 Name of the organisation

actionuni der Schweizer Mittelbau / actionuni le corps intermédiaire académique suisse / actionuni il collegio intermediario academico svizzero

*12 Postal address of the organisation

actionuni der Schweizer Mittelbau c/o VAUZ Rämistrasse 62 8001 Zürich

*13 Type of organisation

Please select the answer option that fits best.

- Private enterprise
- Professional consultancy, law firm, self-employed consultant
- Trade, business or professional association
- Non-governmental organisation, platform or network
- Research and academia
- Churches and religious communities

- Regional or local authority (public or mixed)
- International or national public authority
- Other

*22 Is your organisation included in the Transparency Register?

If your organisation is not registered, we invite you to register <u>here</u>, although it is not compulsory to be registered to reply to this consultation. <u>Why a transparency register</u>?



No

Not applicable

*23 If so, please indicate your Register ID number.

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- *24 Country of organisation's headquarters
 - Austria
 - Belgium
 - Bulgaria
 - Croatia
 - Oprus
 - Czech Republic
 - Denmark
 - Estonia
 - Finland
 - France
 - Germany
 - Greece
 - Hungary
 - Ireland
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 - Netherlands
 - Poland
 - Portugal
 - Romania
 - Slovak Republic
 - Slovenia
 - Spain
 - Sweden
 - United Kingdom
 - Other

*25 If "other", please specify:

Switzerland

*26 Your contribution,

Note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under Regulation (EC) N°1049/2001

- Can be published with your organisation's information (I consent the publication of all information in my contribution in whole or in part including the name of my organisation, and I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent publication)
- can be published provided that your organisation remains anonymous (I consent to the publication of any information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication.

*27 Please let us know whether you have experience with one or more of the following funds and programmes.

at least 1 choice(s)

- European Fund for Strategic Investments (Investment Plan for Europe)
- Horizon 2020
- European Structural and Investment funds
- COSME
- EU Health Programme
- EU Food and Feed Programme
- Customs 2020
- Fiscalis
- Anti-Fraud Information System
- EURES
- Employment and Social Innovation Programme
- Standards in the field of financial reporting Programme
- Implementation of single market for financial services
- Enhancing consumers involvement in EU policy-making in the field of financial services
- Consumer Programme
- European statistical programme
- Interoperability solutions and common frameworks for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA2 programme) as a means for modernising the public sector
- Support for the functioning of various aspects of the single market (including goods, services, taxation, company law) standardisation, assistance to citizens and businesses, enforcement
- Digital Single Market support programme
- EEEF (European energy efficiency fund)
- PF4EE (private finance for energy efficiency)
- None of the above

*28 Please let us know to which of the following topics your replies to this questionnaire will refer.

- EU support for Investment
- EU support for research and innovation
- EU support for SME and entrepreneurship

EU funds in the area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market

29 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of policy challenges which programmes/funds in this area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market could address. How important are these policy challenges in your view?

	Very important	Rather important	Neither important nor unimportant	Rather not important	Not important at all	No opinion
Facilitate transition to low carbon and circular economy and resilience to climate change, support security of supply	O	۲	0	O	۲	O
Foster research and innovation across the EU	۲	0	0	0	0	0
Support industrial development	0	۲	0	۲	0	0
Support education, skills and training	۲	0	0	0	0	0
Ensure a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources	0	۲	0	0	0	0
Facilitate digital transition of the economy, industry, services and society	0	۲	0	0	0	0

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0	0	0	0	O	۲
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0	0	0	0	O	۲
۲	0	0	0	0	O
۲	0	0	0	0	O
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Ensure safe, sustainable transport and mobility	۲	©	O	O	O	0
Promote and protect public health	۲	0	0	0	0	0
Promote a safe and sustainable food chain	۲	0	0	0	O	0
Support social investment and social innovation	۲	0	0	0	0	0
Ensure a high level of consumer protection and effective redress	0	۲	0	0	0	O
Provide reliable and comparable statistics	0	۲	0	0	0	0
Other (Please specify below)	۲	0	0	0	O	۲

*30 If you identified another policy challenge, please specify it here:

200 character(s) maximum

- (1) Increase budget of FP9
- (2) Support Open Science for researchers
- (3) Support career development of researchers
- (4) Fund research into mental health of researchers
- See Eurodoc Statement on FP9

31 To what extent do the current policies successfully address these challenges?

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Facilitate access to finance, in particular to SMEs	0	©	O	O	۲
Promote financial stability	0	0	0	0	۲
Improve quality of public institutions (including digitalisation)	0	0	۲	O	0
Reduce unemployment and social disparities	O	O	O	©	۲
Ensure safe, sustainable transport and mobility	0	۲	0	0	O
Promote and protect public health	0	0	۲	0	0
Promote a safe and sustainable food chain	0	0	۲	0	0
Support social investment and social innovation	0	0	۲	0	0
Ensure a high level of consumer protection and effective redress	0	0	0	0	۲
Provide reliable and comparable statistics	0	۲	0	0	0
Other (please specify below)	0	0	۲	0	0

*32 If you identified another policy challenge in Question 1, please let us know how well the current policies address it:

200 character(s) maximum

- (1) Increase budget of FP9
- (2) Support Open Science for researchers
- (3) Support career development of researchers
- (4) Fund research into mental health of researchers
- See Eurodoc Statement on FP9

*33 To what extent do the current programmes/funds add value, compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels?

- To a large extent
- To a fairly good extent
- To some extent only
- Not at all
- Don't know

34 Please specify <u>how</u> the current programmes/funds add value compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels. Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refer.

EU Research and Innovation - Horizon 2020 Programme:

*Excellent Science: The European Research Council has fostered collaboration and innovation in cuttingedge science and has increased the public awareness and image of science in Europe. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions have nurtured and trained talented early-career researchers and improved the mobility of researchers in Europe.

*Societal Challenges: This has been a crucial part of H2020 as it addresses key societal challenges to improve the well-being of citizens across Europe which may not have been addressed nationally or locally. It also shows European taxpayers that science is crucial to developing and improving our societies. This is also the case for the Science with and for Society programme which is also funded under H2020. *Industrial Leadership: This has stimulated collaboration and innovation between academia and the public and private sector leading to breakthroughs in technological development and improving the lives of European citizens.

* H2020 has furthermore focussed on diversity and equality and ensured that issues such as gender imbalance are being raised and addressed at a European level.

35 Is there a need to modify or add to the objectives of the programmes/funds in this policy area? If yes, which changes would be necessary or desirable? Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

Actionuni hopes that FP9 will be even more ambitious than the previous programme and will aim beyond the horizon for early-career researchers.

*Increase the Budget for Excellent Science and Early-Career Researchers: The budget for Excellent Research should be significantly increased and there should be more opportunities for early-career researchers in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and European Research Council funding calls. *FP9 should create a fourth pillar of Open Science or make Open Science cross-cutting which will directly fund the further implementation of Open Science and raise awareness and train and support researchers in Open Science so that they are fully prepared.

*FP9 should address the fact that most researchers must leave academia and support the career development and intersectoral mobility of researchers so that they are skilled to collaborate with industry and enter the non-academic job market.

*FP9 should lastly address the growing mental health concerns in academia and support research into the work-life balance and mental health of researchers so that the working environment for researchers remains safe, healthy, and productive.

*A final point is that it is crucial that attention is paid to addressing funding imbalances for researchers from the arts, humanities, and social sciences as well as from countries on the eastern and southern periphery of Europe.

See Eurodoc FP9

36 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of possible obstacles, which could prevent the current programmes/funds from achieving their objectives. To what extent do possible obstacles prevent the current programme/funds from achieving their objectives?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	Don' t know
Too complex procedures leading to high administrative burden and delays	۲	0	0	۲	

Insufficient administrative capacity to manage programmes	0	۲		۲	0
Lack of flexibility to react to unforeseen circumstances	0	0	0	O	۲
Insufficient synergies between the EU programmes/funds	0	0	0	0	۲
Difficulty of combining EU action with other public interventions and private finance	0	0	0	0	۲
Insufficient critical mass	0	0	0	0	۲
Insufficient use of financial instruments	0	0	0	0	۲
Lack of information/communication	۲	0	0	0	0
Insufficient scope	0	0	۲	0	۲
Lack of EU standards and EU rules	0	0	۲	0	0
Inadequate facilities to support enhanced cooperation	0	0	0	0	۲
Out of date and inadequate IT capabilities	0	۲	۲	0	0
Insufficient involvement of citizens	0	۲	۲	0	۲
Other (Please specify below)	۲	0	0	۲	0

*37 If you have identified another obstacle, please specify it here:

1000 character(s) maximum

We see several additional obstacles for researchers:

*Project application success rates: The success of applications is low for individual and regional applications. The only way to address this is to increase the budget and increase widening participation. However, many applications pass the excellent threshold but are still rejected due to the high number of excellent applications. This results in excellent applications and applicants being dismissed without any recognition or reward and wastes funding gone into the assessment. Initiatives to recognise and reward excellent applications and applications and applications and applicates to recognise and reward excellent applications.

*Geographic mobility of researchers: The Erasmus+ programme has been extremely successful in making students and people in education mobile. Such geographic mobility is crucial for researchers to develop European networks and stimulate collaboration. Erasmus+ should create more opportunities for early-career researchers to be mobile.

38 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of steps that could help to further simplify and reduce administrative burdens for beneficiaries under current programmes/funds. To what extent would these steps be helpful in your view?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	Don' t know	

Alignment of rules between EU funds	0	0	\odot	\bigcirc	۲
Fewer, clearer, shorter rules	۲	0	0	0	0
More reliance on national rules	0	0	0	۲	0
A stable but flexible framework between programming periods	۲	0	0	0	0
Extension of the single audit principle	0	۲	0	0	0
Better feedback to applicants	۲	0	0	0	0
More structured reporting	0	0	0	۲	0
User-friendly IT tools	۲	0	0	0	0
E-governance	۲	0	0		0
Adequate administrative capacity	0	0	0		۲
Other (Please specify below)	۲	0	0	0	۲

*39 If you have identified another way to simplify and reduce burdens, please specify it here:

1000 character(s) maximum

Transparency of project applications: All project applications and project application assessments should be made fully public for transparency. This is not the case now. Such a policy on transparency could be coupled with policies for recognising and rewarding researchers for submitting proposals as well as the general shift towards Open Science. It is not only the research which should be made transparent but also the assessments. It is after all not only the research which is publicly funded but also the assessments.

40 How could synergies among programmes/funds in this area be further strengthened to avoid possible overlaps/duplication? For example, would you consider grouping/merging some programmes? Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

Integration of European Research Area and Open Science in Framework Programme 9: The European Research Area and its objectives have been somewhat sidelined by the shift towards Open Science and its objectives. Open Science needs to be fully integrated into the European Research Area such that all research becomes open research as a default and that the framework conceptually becomes the European Open Science Area. We could envision a further step towards integration of Open Innovation into this framework leading to an encompassing European Open Science and Innovation Area. This should not only be reflected in policies but in Framework Programme 9.

Document upload and final comments

41 Please feel free to upload a concise document, such as a position paper. The maximum file size is 1MB.

Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire which is the essential input to this public consultation. The document is optional and serves as additional background reading to better understand your position.

65e51f97-2f97-4d50-85a1-e9ebdb087959/Eurodoc_FP9_Statement.pdf

42 If you wish to add further information — within the scope of this questionnaire — please feel free to do so here.

1500 character(s) maximum

See Eurodoc FP9 Statement

Contact

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