

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

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

ISE Draft 1, KM, 25.2.2018

A. ABOUT YOU

*You are replying

- as an individual in your personal capacity
- in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation

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

at least 1 choice(s)

- Private enterprise
- 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

This field is required.

*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 support for the Single Market

B. 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?

tick each row once

	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		X				
Foster research and innovation across the EU	X					
Support industrial development		X				
Support education, skills and training	X					
Ensure a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources		X				
Facilitate digital transition of the economy, industry, services and society		X				
Ensure that existing rules are applied and enforced consistently across the EU			X			
Ensure smooth circulation of goods both within EU and at EU borders			X			
Ensure fair conditions of competition in the EU		X				
Promote security of citizens		X				
Support labour mobility	X					
Support capital flows and investment	X					
Facilitate access to finance, in particular to SMEs		X				
Promote financial stability		X				
Improve quality of public institutions (including digitalisation)	X					
Reduce unemployment and social disparities		X				
Ensure safe, sustainable transport and mobility			X			
Promote and protect public health		X				
Promote a safe and sustainable food chain			X			
Support social investment and social innovation			X			
Ensure a high level of consumer protection and effective redress			X			
Provide reliable and comparable			X			

statistics						
Other (Please specify below)						

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

tick each row once

	Fully addressed	Fairly well addressed	Addressed to some extent only	Not addressed at all	No opinion
Facilitate transition to low carbon and circular economy and resilience to climate change; support security of supply		x			
Foster research and innovation across the EU		x			
Support industrial development					x
Support education, skills and training		x			
Ensure a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources		x			
Facilitate digital transition of the economy, industry, services and society					x
Ensure that existing rules are applied and enforced consistently across the EU		x			
Ensure smooth circulation of goods both within EU and at EU borders					X
Ensure fair conditions of competition in the EU					X
Promote security of citizens					x
Support labour mobility		x			
Support capital flows and investment					X
Facilitate access to finance, in particular to SMEs					x
Promote financial stability		x			
Improve quality of public institutions (including digitalisation)			X		
Reduce unemployment and social disparities			x		
Ensure safe, sustainable transport and mobility					x
Promote and protect public health		x			
Promote a safe and sustainable food chain		x			
Support social investment and social innovation		x			
Ensure a high level of consumer protection and effective redress		x			
Provide reliable and comparable statistics		x			
Other (please specify below)					

*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?

tick one

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

34. Please specify how 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 refers to.

1500 character(s) maximum

EU Research and Innovation – Horizon 2020 programme:

1-Excellent science pillar: The European Research Council supports frontier research in a European-wide competition, pulling up the level of research across Europe, attracting (back) the best minds and ideas. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Programme is a cornerstone of mobility and training of young scientists and entrepreneurs across Europe.

2-Societal Challenges pillar: The challenge driven approach brings academia, industry, and other stakeholders together to develop solutions often across disciplines and regions of Europe. Pulling resources to a critical mass across Europe, combined with the variety of science and industrial expertise, is a big asset is Europe's capacity to tackle XXXXX

3-Industrial leadership pillar: The Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEIT) programme facilitates the advancement of breakthrough technologies towards translation into applications, including transdisciplinary approaches beyond the capacity of an individual country, benefiting all of them.

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 refers to.

1500 character(s) maximum –

EU Research and Innovation – Horizon 2020 programme:

2-Societal Challenges pillar: **Give more balanced consideration to basic research in relation to the other components (applied research, demonstration and innovation actions) of the research and innovation cycle:** due to the focus on higher Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), the Societal Challenges pillar misses the potential benefits from projects that include, or focus on, basic research, but also on linking basic research to applied solutions. It thus hinders ground-breaking solutions for current and future challenges. There has been a steady increase of support for applied research and demonstration actions and a steep increase of support for innovation actions. However, support for basic research has dropped dramatically, especially from FP7 to Horizon 2020. This could be overcome by:

- Provisioning funding that addresses Societal Challenges through encouraging collaborative basic research as focus or intrinsic component of research and innovation projects.
- Encourage more cost-effective ERA-NETs which support fundamental research and its translation into applications, including transdisciplinary approaches, to broaden the scope of the European Research Area Networks and their ability to address interlinking and related goals through basic as well as applied research.

Both approaches will widen participation, increase mobilisation of national and EU resources and contribute to resolving gaps in collaborative research.

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?

tick each row once

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

Other: EU Research and Innovation – Horizon 2020 programme:

Better involve the scientific community in developing the Framework Programme and Work Programmes. This could be done in collaboration with science organisations and / or in preferred partnerships with public and private researchers in contractual Public-Private Partnerships.

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?

tick each row once

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

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 refers to.

1500 character(s) maximum

currently 1 441 char

Improve links between FP9, ESIF, ESFRI and CAPS programmes to maximise impact. To enable all countries to participate in FP9 schemes, allow contributions from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF); additionally, ESIF could be utilised to fund projects that received the “Seal of Excellence”.

Consider establishing and improving an instrument in FP9 feeding into the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructure (ESFRI) to: (i) facilitate advancement of and access to state-of-the-art research infrastructure in all sectors to address SDGs, (ii) perform a gap analysis on research infrastructure in these sectors, and (iii) advance the issues of data management and standardisation.

A better coordination with other EU programmes would increase the impact of research; eg the Common Agricultural Policy, the European Security Strategy, the EU immigration policy... with incentives for scientists' involvement.

C. 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.

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