Horizon Europe framework programme for research and innovation 2021–2027

2018/0224(COD) - 17/04/2019 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 578 votes to 40, with 41 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amended the Commission's proposal.

Objective

Following on from the Horizon 2020 programme, the proposed Regulation seeks to establish the Horizon Europe - Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for the period 2021-2027. Its general objective is to:

- deliver scientific, technological, economic and societal impact from the Union’s investments in research and innovation so as to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of the Union as a whole, to strengthen the European Research Area and foster its competitiveness in all Member States;
- contribute to the realisation of EU objectives and policies, contribute to tackling global challenges, including the Sustainable Development Goals by following the principles of the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement;
- strengthen the European Research Area.

The Programme shall thus maximise Union added value by focusing on objectives and activities that cannot be effectively realised by Member States acting alone, but in cooperation.

It has the following specific objectives:

- to develop, promote and advance scientific excellence, support the creation and diffusion of high-quality new fundamental and applied knowledge, skills, technologies and solutions, training and mobility of researchers, attract talent at all levels and contribute to full engagement of Union's talent pool in actions supported under this Programme;
- to generate knowledge, strengthen the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing Union policies and support the access to and uptake of innovative solutions in European industry, notably in SMEs, and society to address global challenges, including climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- to foster all forms of innovation, facilitate technological development, demonstration and knowledge and technology transfer, strengthen deployment and exploitation of innovative solutions;

- to optimise the Programme's delivery for strengthening and increasing the impact and attractiveness of the European Research Area, to foster the excellence-based participations from all Member States, including low R&I performing Member States, in Horizon Europe and to facilitate collaborative links in European research and innovation.

Principles of the Programme

The Programme shall:

- ensure a multidisciplinary approach and shall foresee, where appropriate, the integration of social sciences and humanities across all clusters and activities developed under the Programme;
- ensure the effective promotion and integration of cooperation with third countries and international organisations and initiatives based on mutual benefits, EU interests, international commitments and, where appropriate, reciprocity;
- assist widening countries to increase participation in Horizon Europe and to promote broad geographical coverage in collaborative projects ;
- ensure the effective promotion of equal opportunities for all, and the implementation of gender mainstreaming, and of the gender dimension in the research and innovation content and shall aim to address the causes of gender imbalance;
- ensure to the extent possible gender balance, in evaluation panels and in other relevant advisory bodies such as boards and expert groups;
- be implemented in synergy with other Union funding programmes while seeking maximal administrative simplification;
- contribute to increasing public and private investment in R&I in Member States thereby helping to reach an overall investment of at least 3% of Union gross domestic product (GDP) in research and development;
- promote co-creation and co-design through engagement of citizens and civil society.

The Commission when implementing the programme shall aim at continuous administrative simplification and reduction of the burden for the applicants and beneficiaries.

Budget

Parliament proposed to set the financial envelope for the implementation of the Framework Programme for the period 2021-2027 at **EUR 120 million in 2018 prices**. This shall be distributed as follows:

- Pillar I: Excellent and Open Science (European Research Council, Marie Skodowska-Curie Actions): 27.42%;
- Pillar II: Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness: 55.48%;
- Pillar III: Innovative Europe: 12.71%. 4.39% for the Part 'Strengthening the European Research Area'.

In order to respond to unforeseen situations or to new developments and needs, the Commission may, within the annual budgetary procedure, deviate from the amounts referred to above up to a maximum of 10%, including the allocation of the contributions from associated countries.

As part of the general Union objective of mainstreaming climate actions into EU sectoral policies and EU funds, actions under this Programme shall contribute at least 35% of the expenditure to climate objectives where appropriate. Climate mainstreaming shall be adequately integrated in research and innovation content.

45% of the budget of cluster ‘Inclusive and Creative Society’ shall support research on cultural and creative sectors, including the Union’s cultural heritage, that shall include EUR 300 million to be earmarked for the creation of a European Cultural Heritage Cloud.

At least EUR 1 billion should be spent on quantum research.

The European Innovation Council

The Commission shall establish a European Innovation Council (EIC) as a centrally-managed "one stop shop" for implementing actions under Pillar III 'Innovative Europe‘ which relate to the EIC. At least 70% of EIC budget shall be dedicated to SMEs, including start-ups.