

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 [Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances](#), 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 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-and-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises-cosme-2014-2020_en

Consultation on modernising and simplifying the common agricultural policy (CAP)

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/cap-modernising/2017_en

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

About you

*1 You are replying

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

*2 First name

*3 Last name

*4 Email address

If you do not have an email address, please write "Not available".

*5 Country of residence

- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Croatia
- ☐ Cyprus
- ☐ Czech Republic
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Finland
- ☐ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Hungary
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Malta
- ☒ Netherlands
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Romania

- ☐ Slovakia
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Sweden
- ☐ United Kingdom
- ☐ Other

*6 If "other", please specify:

*7 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 personal information** (I consent the publication of all information in my contribution in whole or in part including my name or my organisation's name, 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 you remain 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.

*8 Respondent's first name

*9 Respondent's last name

*10 Respondent's professional email address

*11 Name of the organisation

*12 Postal address of the organisation

*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

* 14 If "other", please specify:

* 15 How many employees does the company have?

- ☐ More than 250 employees (Large enterprise)
- ☐ Between 50 and 250 employees (Medium-sized enterprise)
- ☐ Between 10 and 49 employees (Small enterprise)
- ☐ Less than 10 employees (Micro enterprise)
- ☐ Self-employed (Micro enterprise)

* 16 Please specify the type of organisation.

- ☐ Chamber of commerce
- ☐ Business organisation
- ☐ Trade Union
- ☐ Representative of professions or crafts
- ☐ Other

* 17 If "other", please specify:

* 18 Please specify the type of organisation.

- ☐ Think tank
- ☐ Research institution
- ☐ Academic institution

* 19 Please specify the type of organisation.

- ☐ Regional public authority
- ☐ Local public authority
- ☐ Public-private sub-national organisation
- ☐ Network of public sub-national authorities
- ☐ Other

* 20 If "other", please specify:

*21 Please specify the type of organisation.

- ☐ Intergovernmental organisation
- ☐ EU institution, body or agency
- ☐ National parliament
- ☒ National government
- ☐ National public authority or agency

*22 Is your organisation included in the Transparency Register?

If your organisation is not registered, we invite you to register [here](#), although it is not compulsory to be registered to reply to this consultation. [Why a transparency register?](#)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable

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

*24 Country of organisation's headquarters

- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Croatia
- ☐ Cyprus
- ☐ Czech Republic
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Finland
- ☐ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Hungary
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Malta
- ☐ Netherlands
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Romania

- ☐ Slovak Republic
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Sweden
- ☐ United Kingdom
- ☐ Other

*25 If "other", please specify:

*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 support for the Single Market

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	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Foster research and innovation across the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Support industrial development	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support education, skills and training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitate digital transition of the economy, industry, services and society	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Ensure that existing rules are applied and enforced consistently across the EU						
Ensure smooth circulation of goods both within EU and at EU borders						
Ensure fair conditions of competition in the EU						
Promote security of citizens						
Support labour mobility						
Support capital flows and investment						
Facilitate access to finance, in particular to SMEs						
Promote financial stability						
Improve quality of public institutions (including digitalisation)						
Reduce unemployment and social disparities						

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

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

200 character(s) maximum

Open science: research financed with public money should optimally benefit society.
The Framework Programme should therefore enforce open science.

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

	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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Foster research and innovation across the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support industrial development	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support education, skills and training	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitate digital transition of the economy, industry, services and society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure that existing rules are applied and enforced consistently across the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure smooth circulation of goods both within EU and at EU borders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Ensure fair conditions of competition in the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote security of citizens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support labour mobility	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support capital flows and investment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Facilitate access to finance, in particular to SMEs	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Promote financial stability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Improve quality of public institutions (including digitalisation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reduce unemployment and social disparities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Ensure safe, sustainable transport and mobility	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote and protect public health	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote a safe and sustainable food chain	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support social investment and social innovation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Ensure a high level of consumer protection and effective redress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Provide reliable and comparable statistics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 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

The Framework Programme should enforce open science. Additional steps on this point in FP9 are important.

* 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 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 refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

Investments in R&I for future European economic growth and investments addressing societal challenges (e.g. climate, energy, migration, health) are crucial for a strong and competitive Europe – these investments have a clear European Added Value through competition and cooperation (economies of scale). Europe's competitors are increasing their investments in R&D. There is a serious risk that Europe's relatively good position as a R&I location may deteriorate in the medium and longer term, if we do not take steps to ensure investments in R&I.

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

- Secure Europe's competitive position: keep investing in Research and Innovation (comprising fundamental, applied and innovation)
- Scientific excellence and impact as the only drivers
- Keep, balance & connect the current three-pillar structure,
- Ensure that structural funds stimulate the building of R&I capacity
- New technology developments (e.g. materials / nanotechnology) should always be accompanied by research on human safety and regulatory issues (e.g. 'safe by design') and technology assessment.

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	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient administrative capacity to manage programmes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of flexibility to react to unforeseen circumstances	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient synergies between the EU programmes/funds	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulty of combining EU action with other public interventions and private finance	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Insufficient critical mass	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient use of financial instruments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Lack of information/communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient scope	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of EU standards and EU rules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inadequate facilities to support enhanced cooperation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Out of date and inadequate IT capabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient involvement of citizens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (Please specify below)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

1000 character(s) maximum

Oversubscription

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	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fewer, clearer, shorter rules	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More reliance on national rules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
A stable but flexible framework between programming periods	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extension of the single audit principle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Better feedback to applicants	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More structured reporting	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
User-friendly IT tools	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E-governance	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Adequate administrative capacity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other (Please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

1000 character(s) maximum

Regarding financial reporting on projects receiving EU grants: more acceptance of the usual accounting practices of the participants. This means less-one-size-fits-all solutions, as these only provide simplification for the European Commission themselves. If applicable, better aligning of the scientific questions that arise from European agencies with the R&I agenda of the FP. Align administrative rules and financial rules to organise a simpler system of bookkeeping.

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

- more focus on concretely formulated priorities and greater coherence and synergy between various EU-programmes (like EU Health Programme) at strategic, programmatic and project level.
- societal challenges should be the leitmotiv in all EU-instruments
- better participation in R&I cooperation within the ESI-funds: a sharper focus in spending options aimed at societal challenges, innovation and interregional cooperation, together with the utilization of ESI-funds for capacity building, should be able to provide scope to remedy the lagging performance in the area of R&I of some member states

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

