

Establishing and implementing Horizon Europe

Parliament and Council have reached a partial agreement on the Horizon Europe framework programme for research and innovation and its specific implementing programme. The aim is to bridge the EU research gap while championing excellence, prioritise small and medium-sized enterprises and broaden the research scope.

Background

On 7 June 2018, in the context of the 2021-2027 [multiannual financial framework](#), the European Commission presented its proposal for the next EU research and innovation programme. The Horizon Europe package includes proposals for the Horizon Europe [framework programme](#), laying down the rules for participation and dissemination, and also for a [specific implementing programme](#). Horizon Europe would replace the current [Horizon 2020](#) programme, which comes to an end on 31 December 2020.

European Commission proposal

The [proposal](#) envisages a financial envelope for Horizon Europe of €84.5 billion or €94.1 billion ([current prices](#)) for the 2021-2027 period. Horizon Europe aims to strengthen EU science, technology, and innovation, foster industrial competitiveness, and deliver on the EU's strategic priorities (e.g. climate change). Based on three pillars (open science, global challenges and industrial competitiveness, and open innovation), the programme would include new features such as the European Innovation Council (a one-stop shop to support high-risk, market-creating innovation projects) and EU-wide research missions. It is [estimated](#) that Horizon Europe could generate up to 100 000 new jobs in research and innovation in the 2021-2027 period.

European Parliament position

Parliament voted on the Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Committee reports on the Horizon Europe [framework programme](#) (rapporteur: Dan Nica, S&D, Romania) and the related [specific programme](#) (rapporteur: Christian Ehler, EPP, Germany) during its December 2018 plenary session.

During the trilogue negotiations in March 2019, a [partial agreement](#) was reached between Parliament and Council. Parliament has prioritised getting Member States with low performances in research and innovation to participate in the programme, in particular by reducing the existing remuneration gap between researchers across the EU and by increasing the budget dedicated to spreading excellence and strengthening the European research area (ERA). There will also be broader support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including start-ups, with at least 70 % of the European Innovation Council budget to be dedicated to SMEs. Five potential research focus areas were agreed: adaptation to climate change; cancer; healthy oceans, seas and waters; climate-neutral and smart cities; and soil health and food. Horizon Europe will place greater emphasis on social sciences, humanities and the creative industries. The deal also envisages at least 35 % of the Horizon Europe budget contributing to climate objectives.

The agreement does not cover the programme's budget details, however, as this is part of the negotiations on the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, due to continue in the new parliamentary term. In this respect, Parliament has demonstrated more ambition than the Commission proposal by asking Council to increase the Horizon Europe budget to €120 billion or €135.25 billion (current prices).

First-reading reports: [2018/0224\(COD\)](#) and [2018/0225\(COD\)](#);
Committee responsible: ITRE; Rapporteurs: Dan Nica (S&D, Romania) and Christian Ehler (EPP, Germany). For further information see our 'EU Legislation in progress' briefings on the [programme](#) and the [specific implementing programme](#).

