

Amending budget No 2/2019: Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+

The European Commission's Draft Amending Budget No 2 aims to reinforce two key programmes for EU competitiveness: Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+. The intended increase amounts to €100 million of commitment appropriations for the two programmes, with no reinforcement in payment appropriations envisaged. A vote on this proposal, which reflects the agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on the 2019 budget, is scheduled for the September plenary session.

European Commission proposal

On 15 May 2019, the Commission adopted its [Draft Amending Budget \(DAB\) No 2](#) to the general 2019 budget with a view to reinforcing Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+, key programmes for EU competitiveness. Altogether, the proposal envisages additional commitment appropriations of €100 million for both programmes, with no plans to reinforce payment appropriations at this stage.

Most of the proposed amount – €80 million – goes to **Horizon 2020**, the EU's framework programme for research and innovation for 2014 to 2020, which brings together all EU research and innovation funding. It comes in support of specific measures and climate-related research, aiming to reach the target of dedicating 35 % of the overall Horizon 2020 budget to climate. The sum is to be split between two priorities. €45.4 million will go to the budget item 'Strengthening research in future and emerging technologies', to support fundamental science and technology research exploring new future technologies. The remaining €34.6 million is allocated to the budget item 'Achieving a European transport system that is resource-efficient, environmentally friendly, safe and seamless', for activities and projects in transport-related research and future emerging technologies under the European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot.

As regards **Erasmus+**, the EU programme for supporting education, training, youth and sport in Europe, the Commission proposed a further €20 million to reinforce the budget item 'Promoting excellence and cooperation in the European education and training area and its relevance to the labour market'. This would add support for core mobility activities to EU funding, in particular in the field of higher education and vocational education and training, as well as for centres of vocational excellence. It will also reinforce the [European universities initiative](#), a recent measure developed as part of the 2025 European education area goals.

The overall commitment appropriations for both programmes are to be financed from the global margin for commitments, as in the 2019 general budget there is no margin under the commitments ceiling of heading 1a – Competitiveness for growth and jobs.

European Parliament position

On 3 September, Parliament's Committee on Budgets (BUDG) adopted its [report](#) on the Commission's proposal, following the publication of the [Council position](#). The report acknowledges that the proposal reflects the agreement reached between Parliament and Council in the framework of the 2019 budget negotiations and approves the Council position on DAB No 2/2019. It suggests that while there may be no need to reinforce payment appropriations for Horizon 2020 by the end of 2019, increased payment appropriations may be required for Erasmus+. It calls on the Commission to inform the budgetary authority of how it intends to cover these needs. The report is scheduled for a vote in plenary in September 2019.

Budgetary procedure: [2019/2022\(BUD\)](#); Committee responsible: BUDG; Rapporteur: John Howarth (S&D, United Kingdom).

