

# Horizon Europe

A perspective from 19 leading European Universities



**The Guild**  
of European Research-Intensive Universities

# Maintain focus on scientific excellence

- Excellence must remain key objective in the programme design, evaluation and implementation
- Leading scientists should have a central role in the strategic boards and expert groups
- Advisory groups of stakeholders should be continued and developed to guarantee cutting-edge scientific input

# Excellence must be supported throughout Europe

- Increase 'Sharing Excellence' Budget from 1.8% to 2.5%
- Supporting blind evaluation of proposals as appropriate
- Gender and geographical diversity as secondary criteria for funding decisions where top proposals score equal points in the evaluation.

# Invest in success: strengthen support for fundamental research

- Europe's global scientific leadership must be defended
- Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions must be strengthened, not cut from 8% to 7.2%
- The success of ERC justifies a budget increase beyond c.17%



# Strengthen collaborative research in Pillar 2

- Horizon 2020 lacked support for challenge-driven collaborative research, targeted research actions should be introduced
- Horizon Europe must concentrate on SDGs and avoid a bias towards developing individual technologies
- Missions must address the concerns of citizens. They must be scientific, interdisciplinary and ambitious – must be reflected in governance

# **Increase focus on societal needs of Europeans: Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)**

- Increase funding for topics related to Inclusive Societies
- Include SSH integration as a strategic goal across the programme
- The focus should be on addressing societal challenges and SDGs, not in subsidizing sectors (e.g. Cultural and Creative Industries)

# Europe first: Strengthen the European Research Area

- The EU is strengthened through collaboration with the best scientists across Europe (including Norway, Switzerland, UK)
- All countries within ERA must have an opportunity to participate fully and equally in Horizon Europe, subject to appropriate agreements.



# Priorities for Horizon Europe

- Scientific excellence must remain the core principle of the programme
- Address the participation gap in ways that are consistent with excellence.
- Ensure the EU remains a world leader in scientific production: increase investments in fundamental and collaborative research
- Strengthen support for Social Sciences and Humanities
- Europe first: Strengthen European Research Area





Univerza v Ljubljani

