

Positions on the 10th EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10)

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Adequate and stable financial framework for FP10

uniko supports the widespread call for the budget of the next Framework Programme to be doubled to EUR 200 billion. Adequate funding for research-driven innovation in Europe is vital for achieving strategic autonomy and maintaining prosperity.

Excellent basic research and research collaboration

The main strength of the Framework Programme is that it fosters cooperation, bringing together the most brilliant minds in Europe for the benefit of society – this goes for basic research in particular. International cooperation should be promoted in line with aspects of trusted research and following the principle “as open as possible, as closed as necessary”. FP10’s established pillar system should be maintained, with adequate funding allocated to basic research. Instruments like ERC and MSCA have proven effective, and their budgets should be increased significantly. The principles of equal opportunity and diversity should continue to be considered.

Good balance considering technology readiness levels (TRLs)

uniko consistently advocates for budget shifts towards programmes with lower TRLs while seeking a good balance between basic, applied and experimental research. The primary aim of FP10 should, however, be to foster future innovation in Europe by making bold investments in potentially groundbreaking solutions.

Reducing political programming under FP10

Output-oriented programming is not the key to achieving creative and disruptive ideas. Priorities should reflect future challenges while allowing room for creative potential in research as well as for bottom-up research proposals. Political objectives and missions should be taken into account but should not result in the micromanagement of programmes.

European Research Area (ERA)

The ERA is crucial for Europe; the focus should be on ERA policies with a strong leverage effect on the international competitiveness of European research, technology and innovation systems. Prioritising a few key measures, especially concerning ERA actions, is essential. The European Universities initiative could play a leading role in relation to the ERA.

European Universities initiative

Research, innovation and technology activities under the European Universities initiative should be considered as part of the FP10 discussion in terms of both content and budget. Ideally, the initiative would have additional funds made available to it with a view to avoiding disadvantaging universities not part of a consortium.

Missions und partnerships

These areas reflect the political structures under the Framework Programme, which should continue to play a role. However, the means to achieve the goals set in these areas should come from all relevant Directorates-General of the Commission, meaning that use of FP10 funds should focus solely on financing research and innovation activities.

Social sciences, humanities and arts (SSHA)

The role and integration of social sciences, humanities and arts should be strengthened with regard to political objectives. Leveraging selection criteria to promote stronger integration of SSHA and foster transdisciplinary project consortia can better drive social innovation and thus long-term societal progress.

Open Science

Open Science has become an indispensable tool for research and innovation. Promoting an open culture of exchanging knowledge and data and the shared use of research infrastructure is essential. This includes exploiting synergies across projects and fostering communication among consortia.