

European recovery needs innovation

EWGIC, the European Working Group of Innovation Consultants, welcomes the European Council's [agreement](#) on the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) and the Next Generation EU budget, but **regrets the treatment of European research and innovation funding especially related to Horizon Europe**. The 5B€ cut for the Horizon Europe MFF budget and further 8.5B€ cut for the recovery top-up are threatening the European recovery from the economic crisis COVID-19 pandemic has created.

Investing in research, innovation, and development paves way both for European economic recovery and for the creation of new value chains in Europe. Besides the adequate levels of funding, it is important to ensure that the **European funding programmes have real synergies that support the scaling up and deployment of innovative solutions to markets**. Moreover, care must be taken that recovery money in these areas goes to truly competitive and excellent technologies and not in maintaining existing solutions.

EWGIC supports Parliament's stance that the Council's budget deal needs to be transformed to a more future-oriented approach. We are now calling the European Parliament to ensure **Horizon Europe will get back at least to the original proposal that the EC made in 2018 of 83.5 B€ (2018 prices)**. So that R&I can actually contribute to our continent recovery and allow for the development of added-value products and solutions developed in Europe.

The pandemic has shown that resilience needs Research and Innovation. It is time for Europe to show its support for the sector that can guide it out of the crisis. Now it is also time for decision-makers to finalize the budget deal on a programme level. EWGIC **calls for a swift decision on Horizon Europe's internal budget** so that the programme implementation can be finished, and the programme launched without delays in the beginning of 2021.

Industry-led collaborative projects and European Partnerships, where industry and academia together solve European citizens most important problems, **should be one of the main priorities of Horizon Europe**, to ensure that the results of excellent Research and Innovation beneficiate to all of them.

Moreover, innovative SMEs are essential to ensure Europe's competitiveness and technological independence in the long term: the recovery funding should dedicate an important part of its additional support towards the European Innovation Council to expedite the economic recovery and ensure that innovation continues also during the downturn.

Collaborative projects are complex by nature and they require sufficient resources to project management. Professional project management supports European industry and academia in their research, development and innovation activities. It contributes to maximizing projects' impact and commercialization of the scientific excellence of European research. Moreover, it would also increase industrial participation in Horizon Europe. Our role is to help research going out of labs and convert in true European solutions and products.

About EWGIC

The European Working Group of Innovation Consultants (EWGIC) gathers experts in the field of European research and innovation projects. The group aims to facilitate exchange and promotion of best practices and success stories, as well as to promote professional skills and expertise in European RDI projects. Today the group gathers 36 companies and two national associations, active in more than 18 countries around Europe. It is growing every month.