

Consultation on Green Paper - towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU research and innovation funding

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Your details	
I am answering as	on behalf of an association
My/ my organisation's country of location is	United Kingdom
My/ my organisation's main activity is	Research
The name of my organisation is	Housing Studies Association
Have you or your organisation received funding in the last three years from	None of the above
Have you or do you intend to submit a separate written response to this consultation	No

Working together to deliver on Europe 2020	
1. How should the Common Strategic Framework make EU research and innovation more attractive and easy to access for participants? What is needed in addition to a single entry point with common IT tools, a one stop shop for support, a streamlined set of funding instruments covering the full innovation chain and further steps towards administrative simplification?	We support any initiative that makes the process of applying for EU R&I funds simpler and more straightforward. That said, we do not recognise the "innovation chain" in the same way as implied in the Green Paper, which assumes a very linear process. We support the view of innovation put forward in the British Academy's response to this consultation. We would, therefore, not wish to see a unified set of instruments or processes developed that disadvantaged forms of R&I that did not adhere closely to the "innovation chain".
How important are the aspects covered in this question?	Important

2. How should EU funding best cover the full innovation cycle from research to market uptake?	We do not recognise the "innovation chain" in the same way as implied in the Green Paper, which assumes a very linear process. We support the view of innovation put forward in the British Academy's response to this consultation. In particular, we believe that great care needs to be taken to ensure that the value of scholarly research which improves our basic capacities for intellectual engagement with, and understandings of, key societal debates is not diminished by an inflexible focus on "end user impact" or "market uptake". These latter definitions assume that valid research is only that research which ultimately creates economic value and diminished the importance of social, environmental or cultural value.
How important are the aspects covered in this question?	Very important
3. What are the characteristics of EU funding that maximise the benefit of acting at the EU level? Should there be a strong emphasis on leveraging other sources of funding?	EU funding is particularly important in terms of addressing issues of transnational significance, including the intellectual advances that are made from cooperation and knowledge sharing between member states.
How important are the aspects covered in this question?	Of some importance
4. How should EU research and innovation funding be used to pool Member States' research and innovation resources? Should Joint Programming Initiatives between groups of Member States be supported?	
How important are the aspects covered in this question?	Don't know
5. What should be the balance between smaller, targeted projects and larger, strategic ones?	Smaller projects are an important part of the EU's overall research & innovation infrastructure. Rigorous appraisal of the theoretical and conceptual bases for all research serves to ensure that smaller projects taken together generate incremental, and sometimes fundamental, advances in knowledge and understanding that are greater than the sum of their parts. Larger projects can serve as useful strategic or integrative frameworks but should not outweigh the importance of smaller, more flexible and more responsive initiatives.
How important are the aspects covered in this question?	Very important

<p>6. How could the Commission ensure the balance between a unique set of rules allowing for radical simplification and the necessity to keep a certain degree of flexibility and diversity to achieve objectives of different instruments, and respond to the needs of different beneficiaries, in particular SMEs?</p>	<p>Research and innovation takes many different forms (including those that do not fit well into the typology of the 'innovation chain'). The imposition of blanket rules and approaches is rarely helpful. In particular there is already deep concern that inflexible rules (including those related to procurement) precludes some types of organisation such as SMEs, individuals and smaller research institutes from participating in research projects. Equally, some types of larger organisation such as Universities are barred from leading certain types of transnational collaboration even when those collaborations may require research leadership.</p>
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<p>How important are the aspects covered in this question?</p>	<p>Important</p>
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<p>7. What should be the measure of success for EU research and innovation funding? Which performance indicators could be used?</p>	<p>Whatever performance indicators are used will be a compromise. At the very least, however, they must recognise that the research and innovation process is not linear and that the cumulative impacts of research can be felt in different ways and over different timescales. A narrow focus on 'end user impact' or marketisation/commercialisation will ultimately stifle research capacity and innovation.</p>
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<p>How important are the aspects covered in this question?</p>	<p>Very important</p>
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<p>8. How should EU research and innovation funding relate to regional and national funding? How should this funding complement funds from the future Cohesion policy, designed to help the less developed regions of the EU, and the rural development fund?</p>	<p>Further elucidation of the 'Grand Challenge led by the humanities and social sciences', as described in the British Academy's response to this green paper, should specifically include reference to the general value of research on the role of housing as a locus for cultural, economic and social processes. Social scientific research has an important role to play in providing the links between territorial policies and broader Grand Challenges.</p>
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<p>How important are the aspects covered in this question?</p>	<p>Important</p>
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Tackling Societal Challenges

<p>9. How should a stronger focus on societal challenges affect the balance between curiosity-driven research and agenda-driven activities?</p>	<p>Both types of activity are important, but we should not underestimate the importance of curiosity driven research in answering particular types of question, generating new insights or perspectives to existing questions, or fostering methodological or interdisciplinary innovation.</p>
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<p>How important are the aspects covered in this question?</p>	<p>Important</p>
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10. Should there be more room for bottom-up activities?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

11. How should EU research and innovation funding best support policy making and forward looking activities?

It will be important for the EU funding framework to understand that policy makers are not just one of the end users of a linear "innovation chain". Improving policy making in an important intellectual endeavour in its own right, which draws on social scientific knowledge and basic research. EU R&I funding must therefore ensure that there is sufficient capacity for basic research into aspects of governance, power, decision making, technology transfer, and their effectiveness.

How important are the aspects covered in this question? Important

12. How should the role of the Commission's Joint Research Centre be improved in supporting policy making and forward looking activities?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

13. How could EU research and innovation activities attract greater interest and involvement of citizens and civil society?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

Strengthening competitiveness

14. How should EU funding best take account of the broad nature of innovation, including non technological innovation, eco-innovation, and social innovation?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

15. How should industrial participation in EU research and innovation programmes be strengthened? How should Joint Technology Initiatives (such as those launched in the current Framework Programmes) or different forms of "public private partnership" be supported? What should be the role of European Technology Platforms?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

16. How and what type of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) should be supported at EU level; how should this complement national and regional level schemes? What kind of measures should be taken to decisively facilitate the participation of SMEs in EU research and innovation programmes?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

17. How should open, light and fast implementation schemes (e.g. building on the current FET actions and CIP eco-innovation market replication projects) be designed to allow flexible exploration and commercialisation of novel ideas, in particular by SMEs?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

18. How should EU level financial instruments (equity and debt based) be used more extensively?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

19. Should new approaches to supporting research and innovation be introduced, in particular through public procurement, including through rules on pre-commercial procurement, and/or inducement prizes?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

20. How should intellectual property rules governing EU funding strike the right balance between competitiveness aspects and the need for access to and dissemination of scientific results?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

Strengthening Europe's science base and the European Research Area

21. How should the role of the European Research Council be strengthened in supporting world class excellence?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

22. How should EU support assist Member States in building up excellence?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

23. How should the role of Marie Curie Actions be strengthened in promoting researcher mobility and developing attractive careers?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

24. What actions should be taken at EU level to further strengthen the role of women in science and innovation?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

25. How should research infrastructures (including EU-wide e-Infrastructures) be supported at EU level?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

26. How should international cooperation with non-EU countries be supported e.g. in terms of priority areas of strategic interest, instruments, reciprocity (including on IPR aspects) or cooperation with Member States?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

27. Which key issues and obstacles concerning ERA should EU funding instruments seek to overcome, and which should be addressed by other (e.g. legislative) measures?

How important are the aspects covered in this question?

Closing question

Are there any other ideas or comments which you believe are important for future EU research and innovation funding and are not covered in the Green Paper?