



ECTRI INPUT

“Public consultation on EU funds in the area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market”

March 2018

The European Conference of Transport Research Institutes (ECTRI) is an international non-profit association that was officially founded in April 2003. It is the first attempt to unite the forces of the foremost multimodal transport research centres across Europe and to thereby promote the excellence of European transport research.

Today, it includes 26 major transport research institutes or universities from 19 European countries. Together, they account for more than 4,000 European scientific and research staff in the field of transport. ECTRI as the leading European research association for sustainable and multimodal mobility is committed to provide the scientifically based competence, knowledge and advice to move towards a green, safe, efficient, and inclusive transport for people and goods.

European Conference of Transport Research Institutes | ECTRI aisbl

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Objective of the consultation

In 2018, the Commission will make comprehensive proposals for the next generation of financial programmes for the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, which is the EU's long-term budget. The Commission's proposals will be designed to make it possible for the EU to deliver on the things that matter most, in areas where it can achieve more than Member States acting alone. This requires a careful assessment both of what has worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future.

This consultation is an integral part of the process and its objective is to collect the views of all interested parties on how to make the most of every euro of the EU budget. Consultations have taken place in the context of evaluations of existing EU financial programmes covering several policy areas, including on current performance and future challenges. The views expressed by stakeholders in these consultations will be taken into account as part of the current process for the future Multiannual Financial Framework.

In parallel, to this consultation, there are others running in parallel, covering the entire spectrum of EU future funding in the following areas: Cohesion; Security; Migration and Asylum; Strategic Infrastructure; Values and Mobility.

Consultation outcome

The Commission will summarise the replies after the end of the consultation period. Your replies will be taken into account when designing comprehensive proposals for the post -2020 Multiannual Financial Framework and for the next generation of financial programmes.

More information can be found on the following webpages:

Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/reflection-paper-future-eu-finances_en

Commission Work Programme 2018: https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2018-commission-work-programme_en

Contact: SG-OPC-INVESTMENT-SME-INNOVATION@ec.europa.eu

Introduction

‘A stronger Union needs to be equipped with appropriate financial means to continue to deliver its policies. The Union has changed fundamentally in recent years, as have the challenges it faces. Our Union needs a budget that can help us achieve our ambitions. The Multiannual Financial Framework for the period after 2020 must reflect this.’ (Commission Work Programme 2018)

The EU budget currently amounts to less than 1 euro per citizen per day. Although a modest budget, at around 1 % of the EU’s gross national income or 2 % of all EU public spending, it supports the EU’s shared goals by delivering essential public goods and tangible results for EU citizens. These include: investing in skills, innovation and infrastructure; ensuring sustainable food systems and developing rural areas; ensuring a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources; promoting joint research and industrial projects; funding shared activities in the field of migration and security; and supporting development and humanitarian aid.

The current Multiannual Financial Framework — the EU’s long-term budget — runs until the end of 2020. In 2018, the Commission will put forth comprehensive proposals for the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework and for the next generation of financial programmes that will receive funding. These programmes/funds provide financial support to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries such as regions, towns, NGOs, businesses, farmers, students, scientists, and many others.

The Commission’s proposals will be designed to make it possible for the EU to deliver on the things that matter most, in areas where it can achieve more than Member States acting alone. This requires a careful assessment both of what has worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future. What should the priorities be for future policies and programmes/funds? And how can they be designed to best deliver results on the ground?

As an integral part of this process and following on from the Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances, the Commission is launching a series of public consultations covering all the major spending areas to gather views from all interested parties on how to make the very most of every euro of the EU budget.

The EU has developed a variety of instruments to stimulate investment and entrepreneurship to create jobs and growth. The Investment Plan for Europe, the so-called Juncker Plan, aims to unlock investment throughout Europe through to the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which provides a EU guarantee to mobilise investment. The EFSI also complements other existing instruments like COSME that make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access finance in all phases of their lifecycle – creation, expansion, or business transfer. Through EU support, businesses have easier access to guarantees, loans and equity capital.

Research and innovation are instrumental for addressing the EU’s productivity gap and play a crucial role in providing solutions to many global challenges the EU and its citizens are facing

today. In that context, the EU has made a major contribution with the Horizon 2020 programme.

The European Single Market is one of the EU’s greatest achievements. It has fuelled economic growth and made the everyday life of European businesses and consumers easier. A well-functioning Single Market, including in its digital dimension, stimulates competition and trade, improves efficiency, raises quality, and helps cut prices. In that context, the EU has set up several programmes in a wide range of areas (health, food safety, customs...) to facilitate the free circulation of goods, services, capital and persons across the European continent.

Recent consultations already covered several policy areas, including on current performance and future challenges. The views already expressed by stakeholders in these consultations will be taken into account as part of the current process for the future MFF.

Link to portal for recent consultations:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations_en

Interim evaluation of the programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME) (2014-2020)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/interim-evaluation-programme-competitiveness-enterprises-and-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises-cosme-2014-2020_en

Consultation on modernising and simplifying the common agricultural policy (CAP)

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/cap-modernising/2017_en

Public stakeholder consultation – interim evaluation of Horizon 2020

https://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim_h2020_2016/consultation_en.htm

Open Public Consultation of the mid-term evaluation of the 3rd Health Programme 2014-2020

https://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/consultations/midterm_evaluation_fr

Public stakeholder consultation – Interim evaluation of Joint Undertakings operating under Horizon 2020.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim_joint-undertakings_h2020/consultation_en.htm

Public Consultation – Evaluation of Public-Public Partnerships (Art.185 initiatives) in the context of the Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/pp_partnerships_art185/consultation_en.htm

Public consultation on Transformation of Health and Care in the Digital Single Market

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-transformation-health-and-care-digital-single-market_en

About you

***1** You are replying

- in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation

***8** Respondent's first name

Caroline

***9** Respondent's last name

Alméras

***10** Respondent's professional email address

caroline.almeras@ectri.org

***11** Name of the organisation

ECTRI – European Conference of Transport Research Institutes

***12** Postal address of the organisation

ECTRI
Rue du Trone 98
1050 Ixelles
Belgium

***13** Type of organisation

- Non-governmental organisation, platform or network

***22** Is your organisation included in the Transparency Register?

- Yes

***23** If so, please indicate your Register ID number.

54191854341-51

***24** Country of organisation/s headquarters

- Belgium

***26** Your contribution,

Note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under [Regulation \(EC\) N°1049/2001](#)

- **can be published provided that your organisation remains anonymous** (I consent to the publication of any information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication.

***27** Please let us know whether you have experience with one or more of the following funds and programmes.

at least 1 choice(s)

- ✓ Horizon 2020
- ✓ European Structural and Investment funds

***28** Please let us know to which of the following topics your replies to this questionnaire will refer.

- ✓ EU support for research and innovation

and single market

29 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of policy challenges which programmes/funds in this area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market could address. How important are these policy challenges in your view?

	Very important	Rather important	Neither important nor unimportant	Rather not important	Not important at all	No opinion
Facilitate transition to low carbon and circular economy and resilience to climate change, support security of supply			•			
Foster research and innovation across the EU		•				
Support industrial development			•			
Support education, skills and training			•			
Ensure a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources			•			
Facilitate digital transition of the economy, industry,			•			

services and society						
Ensure that existing rules are applied and enforced consistently across the EU			•			
Ensure smooth circulation of goods both within EU and at EU borders			•			
Ensure fair conditions of competition in the EU		•				
Promote security of citizens		•				
Support labour mobility			•			
Support capital flows and investment		•				
Facilitate access to finance, in particular to SMEs		•				
Promote financial stability		•				
Improve quality of public institutions (including digitalisation)			•			
Reduce unemployment and		•				

social disparities						
Ensure safe, sustainable transport and mobility	•					
Promote and protect public health		•				
Promote a safe and sustainable food chain			•			
Support social investment and social innovation			•			
Ensure a high level of consumer protection and effective redress		•				
Provide reliable and comparable statistics			•			
Other (Please specify below)						•

31 To what extent do the current policies successfully address these challenges?

	Fully addressed	Fairly well addressed	Addressed to some extent only	Not addressed at all	No opinion
Facilitate transition to low carbon and circular economy and resilience to climate change; support security of supply		•			
Foster research and innovation across the EU			•		
Support industrial development		•			
Support education, skills and training		•			
Ensure a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources		•			
Facilitate digital transition of the economy, industry, services and society		•			
Ensure that existing rules are applied and enforced consistently across the EU		•			
Ensure smooth circulation of goods both within EU and at EU borders		•			
Ensure fair conditions of competition in the EU		•			
Promote security of citizens			•		
Support labour mobility		•			

Support capital flows and investment		•			
Facilitate access to finance, in particular to SMEs		•			
Promote financial stability		•			
Improve quality of public institutions (including digitalisation)		•			
Reduce unemployment and social disparities		•			
Ensure safe, sustainable transport and mobility		•			
Promote and protect public health		•			
Promote a safe and sustainable food chain		•			
Support social investment and social innovation		•			
Ensure a high level of consumer protection and effective redress		•			
Provide reliable and comparable statistics		•			
Other (please specify below)	•				

***32** If you identified another policy challenge in Question 1, please let us know how well the current policies address it:

200 character(s) maximum

ECTRI calls for a properly founded FP9 by reaching the target set by Heads of States to invest 3% of GDP in R&I. ECTRI welcomes recommendations of the Lamy-Report of a minimum of 120 Billion.

***33** To what extent do the current programmes/funds add value, compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels?

- To a large extent

34 Please specify how the current programmes/funds add value compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels. Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

Europe needs collaborative research to answer challenges on a European level, which cannot be achieved by single Member State alone, the best capabilities of European Research need to be brought together. This is of key importance for domains that span across borders such as transport and mobility.

Furthermore, the international cooperation dimension of the programme is key to achieve a critical mass to tackle grand societal challenges, to secure Europe’s global competitiveness and to foster multicultural education. Supporting only national or even regional programmes will not add value to this superordinate importance. ECTRI strives for interdisciplinary cooperation, e.g. between academia and the private sector to deliver innovation while acknowledging the particular role of research.

35 Is there a need to modify or add to the objectives of the programmes/funds in this policy area? If yes, which changes would be necessary or desirable? Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

In line with the report of the independent Lamy-High-Level-Group on maximising the impact of EU Research & Innovation Programmes, ECTRI calls for a properly funded FP9 as there is abundant evidence of Horizon 2020’s European added value compared to what can be done at national level. Any reduction in the foreseen budget for FP9 compared to H2020 would break momentum and call into question the EU’s commitment to deliver on its political priorities, as embodied in the Rome declaration of March 2017.

36 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of possible obstacles, which could prevent the current programmes/funds from achieving their objectives. To what extent do possible obstacles prevent the current programme/funds from achieving their objectives?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	Don’t know
Too complex procedures leading to high administrative burden and delays		•			

Insufficient administrative capacity to manage programmes		•			
Lack of flexibility to react to unforeseen circumstances			•		
Insufficient synergies between the EU programmes/funds			•		
Difficulty of combining EU action with other public interventions and private finance			•		
Insufficient critical mass		•			
Insufficient use of financial instruments		•			
Lack of information/communication		•			
Insufficient scope		•			
Lack of EU standards and EU rules			•		
Inadequate facilities to support enhanced cooperation			•		
Out of date and inadequate IT capabilities			•		
Insufficient involvement of citizens					•
Other (Please specify below)					•

38 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of steps that could help to further simplify and reduce administrative burdens for beneficiaries under current programmes/funds. To what extent would these steps be helpful in your view?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	Don't know
Alignment of rules between EU funds			•		
Fewer, clearer, shorter rules		•			

More reliance on national rules		•			
A stable but flexible framework between programming periods	•				
Extension of the single audit principle		•			
Better feedback to applicants	•				
More structured reporting			•		
User-friendly IT tools			•		
E-governance			•		
Adequate administrative capacity	•				
Other (Please specify below)					•

40 How could synergies among programmes/funds in this area be further strengthened to avoid possible overlaps/duplication? For example, would you consider grouping/merging some programmes? Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

In order to foster simplification for participants the application of usual national accounting principles should be accepted in the next framework programme. ECTRI suggests a better financial support for coordinators would enable also smaller entities to take over the leadership in projects.

Document upload and final comments

41 Please feel free to upload a concise document, such as a position paper. The maximum file size is 1MB.

Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire which is the essential input to this public consultation. The document is optional and serves as additional background reading to better understand your position.

42 If you wish to add further information — within the scope of this questionnaire — please feel free to do so here.

1500 character(s) maximum

Contact

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