



The Research Council of Norway's main priorities for EU's next framework programme for R&I

EU's framework programme for research and innovation has been a great success throughout its 40-year history. It has been instrumental for improving the quality of research and innovation in Europe, to integrate European, national and regional research and innovation systems, and for addressing major societal challenges, enhancing productivity and boost competitiveness.

Recent geopolitical developments and the acceleration of global crises call for speeding up the transition towards a sustainable competitive economy and increasing Europe's resilience. We acknowledge the need for a strong link to EU's competitiveness agenda. Nevertheless, we strongly believe **a standalone and well-funded integrated research and innovation programme** is vital to bring R&I to the heart of our economy and society. The framework programme needs to be agile to meet current and future market developments and geopolitical challenges.

EU's framework programme is the most important instrument for international R&I cooperation for Norwegian researchers and businesses. We are eager to work together with our European friends and allies to solve common challenges and strengthen Europe's competitiveness and autonomy. To build a prosperous and resilient Europe, the EU needs to join forces and collaborate closely with like-minded non-EU countries in Europe and beyond. A ringfenced R&I programme allowing for association on equal terms, is a necessary precondition for strengthening international cooperation in R&I.

Objectives and Principles

The next framework programme (FP10) should contribute to a Europe that is excellent in cutting edge R&I and technological development. The Programme should generate the knowledge and preparedness we need to meet long-term challenges, handle acute crises and create a sustainable, resilient and democratic society. FP10 should be based on the following key principles:

Fundamental values:

FP10 must be based on and promote European values, as described in the ERA Pact for R&I, i.e. ethics, integrity, open science, gender equality and inclusiveness, and scientific freedom.

European Added Value (EAV):

FP10 should focus on objectives, programme areas and actions that create value beyond what is achievable at the national level, while complementing and strengthening national priorities. Trans-national and multi-sectoral collaborative projects bringing together contributions from researchers, entrepreneurs, societal actors and industry have a strong EAV and should be at the core of FP10.

Excellence:

Excellence should continue to be a main principle for R&I funding, based on competitive calls. There is a need to reinforce the criteria of excellence in RD&I throughout the programme and its various actions.

Impact:

FP10 should have a strengthened emphasis on impact encompassing cutting-edge research, technological breakthroughs, innovative solutions to societal challenges, enhancements in productivity and competitiveness and strengthened synergies with other relevant EU programmes and initiatives.

Main priorities

FP10 should prioritise European and global cooperation to tackle global challenges, focusing on driving the necessary green and digital transitions and adaptations to strengthen Europe's competitiveness and technological sovereignty. EU's strategic agenda needs a transformative research and innovation policy, and it needs broad research-based policy advice provided now by JRC and collaborative partners. This requires large investments, a clear direction with tight priorities regarding areas, and a strong and broader research and innovation system with excellence at the forefront – all conditions that we believe to be necessary in increasing the use and impact of research and innovation activities.