

5 October 2020

In the framework of the 2021-2027 long term budget interinstitutional negotiation, the GIURI (Informal Group of Italian Representation Offices for Research and Innovation in Brussels) wants to underline the importance of promoting an ambitious budget for R&D&I that matches the European challenges.

The European Council compromise represents a historic agreement. The MFF 2021-2027 and Next Generation EU have been conceived for a resilient EU, faced with the current challenges. However, even if this compromise is positive and welcome, we should be aware that the R&D&I Framework Programme has been strongly sacrificed with a significant cut as compared with the May 2020 European Commission proposal.

According to the Council agreement, Horizon Europe would now receive €75.9 billion in the MFF and additional €5 billion from Next Generation EU, while in May the European Commission proposed €94.4 billion and the European Parliament is calling for a €120 billion budget. The European R&D&I has been affected in general terms. Indeed, not only the Framework Programme but also InvestEU, with its core R&I window, will result penalised by the Council agreement with a strong reduction of the allocated budget (down to €8.4 billion): addressing private investments drops in key policy priorities, amongst which R&I, requires more adequate resources. On the top of that, even Digital Europe and EU4Health budget have been heavily decreased. These programmes could be crucial to facilitate the uptake of research findings and scale-up and deployment of innovation.

Thus, the amounts devoted to R&I are completely disproportionate with the investments requested by the economic crisis and the pandemic. On the contrary, R&D&I should represent the key instrument for overcoming the crisis and having a competitive EU.

To achieve the highest level of impact, it is crucial to support the entire research and innovation ecosystem and encourage scientific and technological progress with a proper amount of resources. This would also give a strong signal by putting research at the core of the EU Agenda.

Now the European Parliament is called to give its legislative consent to the Council agreement. Precisely because of this central position, the GIURI asks the Members of the European Parliament to play a key role in this decision, underlining the importance of R&D&I for growth and prosperity. Therefore, we strongly support the effort of the European Parliament in claiming a substantial raising of the budget related to R&D&I in the MFF 2021-2027, and namely the budget for the EU flagship Programme Horizon Europe. **We recognise that the compromise struck during the July 2020 European Council was not an easy compromise, however we definitely call for a significant raise of the proposed budget in order to invest in R&D&I and matching with the EU's ambitions for the future.**

Since last year the GIURI has been actively engaged in this context. With the aim of supporting the European Parliament position for a Horizon Europe financial envelope of at least EUR €120 billion, major Italian representatives of research, academic, entrepreneurial, local bodies and financial sector within the GIURI have mobilised in support of an appeal addressed to the Italian Government in order to support the request for a more ambitious budget.

**At this time, the GIURI appeals to the European Parliament for playing bravely the key role in order to strengthen research and innovation for a more ambitious European future.**

*This contribution may not fully reflect the position of individual GIURI members.*