



## **YERUN position on the future of the EU finances as regards investments in Research and Innovation**

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Following European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's demands to ensure "budgets are not bookkeeping exercises but priorities and ambitions"<sup>1</sup>, YERUN asks for European investments in research and innovation that match ambitious objectives. We need to collectively foster the European identity among European citizens. We also need to collectively tackle global challenges and ensure that European citizens are engaged with the research agenda so that they optimally benefit from the investments made.

YERUN asks for a reinforced and higher dedication of the future EU finances to Research and Innovation (R&I) to build a larger, more flexible and inclusive Framework Programme 9 (FP9). An R&I programme is needed that prioritises collaboration among EU countries, builds collective expertise, shares resources and creates infrastructures to solve global challenges as well as addresses European missions. Europe also needs to invest in the next generation of researchers and innovators and in strengthening a truly European Research Area. Current investments in R&I (Horizon 2020) provide high added value because they foster European wide competition, increase possibilities for European collaboration, improve quality of research teams and give a common sense of ownership across Europe. Promoting collaboration across countries has a leverage effect. Horizon 2020 facilitates the creation of a mobile knowledge workforce across countries, which gives better career perspectives and stronger employment prospects for young researchers. Horizon 2020 also creates a European pool of researchers who share a general understanding of common values and systems, and the cultivation of young research talent ready and able to tackle whatever global challenges the next generations are likely to face. This helps create a true European identity and contributes to the European Research Area. European (and national) investments in research and innovation need to be reinforced to provide our citizens, scientists and innovators with optimal tools to solve European and global challenges, and to achieve wellbeing at individual and collective level.

Open Science has a crucial role to play in the implementation of FP9. Science should be Open by default: collaborative, transparent and accessible. This can only be fully achieved by supporting and fostering the development of an Open Science culture. In this context, the European Agenda should also continue to strongly emphasise the need for and support the development of the necessary research infrastructures. At the same time, promoting Open Access to research findings and the implementation of FAIR principles should represent explicit priorities for FP9.

Investments in R&I at EU level contribute also to guide national and regional investments that complement the actions done at EU level. This is particularly relevant in the context of the upcoming missions-oriented policy for the next Framework Programme. Missions should be defined at European level but for their realisation, Member States will need to engage and commit as well. It is important that both investments, at national and European level complement each other towards common goals. Furthermore, the next Framework Programme

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<sup>1</sup> [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council. A new, modern Multiannual Financial Framework for a European Union that delivers efficiently on its priorities post-2020.](#)



should seek for connections and linkages with international funding programmes whereby joint cooperation is facilitated. Reciprocity is key in this respect.

Finally, investments in R&I need to appropriately include and explicitly address the role of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) to support innovation that takes into account the nature of our societies and the global needs of European citizens. Input of SSH is pivotal in the context of new technological development also to prevent alienation of citizens to the ever more complex economic and societal environment. Citizens want to know what the EU is doing for them, and in relation to R&I, the next Framework Programme needs to place a stronger focus on science communication and outreach to citizens.

The European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH)<sup>2</sup> have pointed out that individuals and communities are rightly seeking to participate in co-designing the economic, social and political environment they want to live in. In this context, YERUN joins the EASSH request to design a multifarious, ambitious and pioneering investment in a collaborative programme on economic and political democracy to achieve the European Social Dimension in the next FP9. YERUN echoes EASSH position, namely that the future FP9 must invest in research that will provide the evidence-base to design norms and policies to foster a union of people, cohesion, mutual respect, innovation and understanding, and social progress and wellbeing.

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- *About YERUN* -

The Young European Research University Network (YERUN) is a cluster of highly-ranked young universities in Europe that strengthens and facilitates cooperation in the areas of scientific research, academic education and services which benefit society. In this context, YERUN members consider that adequate support to human capital is essential to foster the next generations of (European) researchers and innovators. Strong support for excellent early-career researchers is therefore a priority for all YERUN members.

- *YERUN members* -

University of Antwerp, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Autonomous University of Madrid, Bremen University, Brunel University London, University Carlos III Madrid, Dublin City University, University of Essex, University of Eastern Finland, University of Konstanz, Linköping University, Maastricht University, University Nova de Lisboa, University Paris Dauphine, University Pompeu Fabra, University Rome Tor Vergata, Syddansk University, and Ulm University

*For related information, please see the [YERUN FP9 Position Paper](#).*

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**YERUN, Young European Research Universities Network, March 2018**

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<sup>2</sup> European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities. [FP9 must invest in Research for a Democratic Union and the European Social Dimension](#).