



## CSIC proposition for amendments on Horizon Europe

The Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) is the Spanish major public Research institution and ranks among Europe's main research organisations, performing a key role in scientific and technological policies in Spain and worldwide. The values of the CSIC include the promotion of measures to achieve excellence, scientific and technical equality between women and men, research integrity, open access and means of open science. This illustrates the strong leadership of the CSIC and the commitment in pursuing a new era of dynamism for European research as a motor for social development.

As of July 2018, in H2020 (2014-2018) CSIC has obtained 446 projects with a total EU financial contribution of 181 million euros. As E-CORDA points out the CSIC is listed the 1st organisation in Spain and the 3rd participant within the European research organisations by number of projects.

The CSIC is a major player in the ERC programme with a total of 87 projects signed as Host Institution in all areas of knowledge. The CSIC is also an active member in Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC), such as Raw Materials and Food of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT).

### State of Play

Last June, the European Commission (EC) published its proposal for the two documents that will make up the future Framework programme – Horizon Europe:

- The Regulation<sup>1</sup> establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination (to abbreviate “the rules for participation and dissemination”), and
- The Decision<sup>2</sup> on establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (to abbreviate “the specific programme”).

At the beginning of July the leading committee in the European Parliament (EP), the ITRE committee (committee on Industry, research and Energy), published the drafts<sup>3,4</sup> of the corresponding reports on both documents, including the proposed amendments.

The ITRE committee will debate the two draft reports in an extraordinary meeting next Monday 10 September.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/budget-may2018-horizon-europe-regulation\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/budget-may2018-horizon-europe-regulation_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/budget-may2018-horizon-europe-decision\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/budget-may2018-horizon-europe-decision_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARL&mode=XML&language=EN&reference=PE625.306>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARL&mode=XML&language=EN&reference=PE625.305>



## CSIC analysis

The CSIC wants to be an active part in the preparation of the next Framework Programme. As such, the CSIC published responses to the European Commission public consultation on EU funds in the area of research & innovation, and to the European Commission Call for feedback on Missions. And now, the CSIC welcomes the opportunity to share its proposals for amendments or comments to the original text of the EC and to the changes proposed by the EP.

In general terms, the CSIC embraces the EP's proposal to **increase the general budget** to EUR 120 billion, especially in Pillars I and II. We also appreciate the **simplification** efforts from both the EC and the EP.

In regards to the inclusion of the “**societal, scientific and/ or economic impact for the Union**” as one of the evaluation criteria, the CSIC supports this addition. As we have stated in previous position papers, we are aware that impact assessment is the prime tool to distribute scarce resources, but a short-term restricted conception of impact can be detrimental to the whole research and innovation ecosystem if based on immediate economic or financial effects. Thinking only in what can increase economic outputs will set aside the creation of disruptive and breakthrough knowledge that, in the end, will broaden European competitiveness and society wellbeing in the long-term, as well as the value that excellence in research and innovation can create for future generations.

In this context we also welcome the three different categories included in annex V of the “Rules for Participation” that take into account scientific and societal impact as well as the economic impact to evaluate the implementation of the Framework Programme.

In agreement with the EP, the CSIC wants to highlight the importance of **basic research**. As we have previously declared, excellent research performed in academia represents the ultimate state-of-the-art and is the basis and the crucial instrument for transferring high quality knowledge that will lead to high quality innovation. This applies to the whole programme, including instruments under Pillar III such as the EIC and the EIT. And also supports the position of the CSIC and the EC that excellence should be the only evaluation criteria applied to ERC proposals.

There are, however, some items that the CSIC views as very positive inclusions, but which we still have to study given their complexity, such as the proposal from the EP to use **lump-sums for personnel costs** with four researcher categories with four established salaries regardless of the country, the EP's proposals to clarify the plans for **implementation of Missions**, or the attempts on simplifying the European R&I landscape with **new categories of European Partnerships**.

Taking all this into consideration, the CSIC reaffirms its commitment in promoting excellence in science and innovation and its willingness to play an active role in the preparation of the next Framework Programme working closely with the European Union Institutions and the rest of European research and innovation organisations.