

# **R&I in the Next EU Budget:**

## ***INVESTING IN EUROPE'S PROSPERITY AND COMPETITIVENESS***

**20 April 2026 - Event Report**

The event "R&I in the Next EU Budget: Investing in Europe's Prosperity and Competitiveness" was organised by CESAER, Coimbra Group, The Guild, LERU and YERUN, in collaboration with AURORA, ECIU, EUA, EURASHE, EuroTech, UAS4Europe and UNICA, and contributed to the Research Matters Campaign. It took place under the auspices of Member of European Parliament (MEP) Carla Tavares, co-rapporteur on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) (2028–2034), gathering 50 participants on site and around 180 participants online.

**The event aimed to bring together different voices from across the R&I landscape to demonstrate strong alignment around a key message: FP10 needs a high and ambitious budget to create a collaborative R&I framework that will help Europe strengthen its competitiveness and prosperity.**

Opening the event, MEP Carla Tavares presented her proposal to increase the budget for the next Horizon Europe framework programme (FP10) to €200 billion and summed up the ongoing discussions on the next MFF. Professor Manuel Heitor, former Chair of the Commission Expert Group on the Interim Evaluation of Horizon Europe, delivered a keynote speech placing R&I at the centre of European competitiveness. The keynote speech was followed by a panel discussion, with representatives from the industry sector (Magnus Madfors), research and technology organisations (Bertrand Bouchet), the university sector (Professor Luc Sels) and the European Parliament (MEP Lina Gálvez). The panel was moderated by Silvia Gómez Recio, Secretary General of YERUN. In their closing remarks, MEP René Repasi and MEP Hélder Sousa Silva highlighted that Europe cannot afford to underinvest in knowledge, research, talent and excellence. They agreed that FP10 is an enabler underpinning a wide range of broader policy priorities, while cautioning against potential reductions by the Council to the level of ambition reflected in Parliament's proposed budget.

## Speakers

- **MEP Carla Tavares**, Co-Rapporteur on the next MFF
- **MEP Lina Gálvez**, Shadow Rapporteur FP10 Regulation
- **MEP René Repasi**, Rapporteur for Specific Programme implementing the FP10
- **MEP Hélder Sousa Silva**, Rapporteur for the budgetary assessment of the FP10
- **Bertrand Bouchet**, CEA Representative in Brussels
- **Manuel Heitor**, Professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico (Lisbon), former Chair and Lead Author of the Commission Expert Group on the Interim Evaluation of Horizon Europe
- **Magnus Madfors**, Vice President, Head of Standard & Industry Initiatives Europe & Africa Group Function Technology, Ericsson
- **Luc Sels**, President of the Executive Board of Leiden University
- **Silvia Gómez Recio**, Secretary General, YERUN

## Key Takeaways

- The next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) must remain a **standalone programme**, linked to the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) and with a **strong budget**. The proposed EUR 200 billion allocation reflects the minimum level of ambition necessary to ensure that FP10 can meet Europe's strategic objectives: competitiveness, resilience, preparedness, health and the green and digital transitions.
- The EU is now facing an "impossible equation" with Member States seeking to reduce their contributions to the EU budget, while their expectations, priorities and ambitions continue to increase. In this context, **transparency and flexibility balanced with predictability** are crucial for building strong research and innovation ecosystems. Further delays in decision-making and implementation directly hamper researchers and innovators, contributing to brain drain and undermining Europe's capacity to train talents and develop skills.
- The EU shall **boost its own investments** while making the best use of its own R&I capacity. To achieve this, **stronger cooperation** between different actors, especially industry and university, is highly needed to ensure Europe can make the best use of one of its stronger resources: research and innovation.
- To remain globally competitive, **Europe must strengthen its excellence. Long-term and sustained investment** in mobility, cross-border collaboration, and a framework capable of attracting, retaining, and empowering talent are necessary to ensure research and innovation can scale and flourish across Europe.
- **Complementarity between EU and national research and innovation investments** must remain a guiding principle for the next Framework Programme. EU-level funding should strengthen and connect national and regional efforts, rather than replace them.

**A clear consensus emerged that FP10 must be understood as a cross-cutting investment in Europe's future excellence, security, and global positioning. Weakening it would entail significant societal, economic, technological, and political costs for the EU.**



## Organisers



## Supporting Organisations



The event contributed to the Research Matters Campaign

