

INRAE Position Paper

10th European Framework programme for Research and Innovation

[INRAE](#), as a leading organisation funded by Horizon Europe Cluster 6, is keen to contribute to the discussions on FP10 and proposes the key messages below. For a more detailed document, please refer to the attached file.

FP10 General approach

1. **Competitiveness and sustainability should not be opposed or considered separately**, but rather in synergy with high added value for European global leadership. The EU has to make sure that the system in which its industry and economy operate meets the challenges of resilience and sustainability to guarantee its long-term competitiveness. The pursuit of a strong Green Deal ambition is therefore a strong signal to tie EU competitiveness to Green Deal goals. In the fields of agriculture, food and the environment, this calls for far-reaching changes to productions systems. Only a **large spectrum from fundamental research to innovation**, embedded in the EU's industrial and sustainability strategy, will provide the next generation of solutions to complex challenges.
2. **FP10 must support collaborative research across the whole continuum of research and innovation** to achieve impact. Including **"Research Actions" for collaborative research projects with low TRL (TRL 2 to 4) would allow the completion of the TRL chain**. The innovation process is not linear, but basic research, by advancing basic knowledge and understanding of scientific phenomena, is more likely to lead to new discoveries, thus multiplying the potential for new technological and scientific advantages that will feed the innovation cycle. Supporting basic research in all major scientific fields will therefore provide the EU with a high level of preparedness for breakthrough innovations.
3. **The collaborative dimension of European research brings clear European added value and fosters more impactful innovations**. Pan-European collaborative research enables large-scale projects to be carried out with substantial resources – thus accelerating the development of solutions to global challenges. By allowing the combination of **complementary expertise, skills and resources** from multiple countries and players, collaborative research projects create a critical mass that raises the **quality of research and innovation outputs and fosters innovative solutions for end-users**.
4. **A new "project cycle" approach is needed to create a portfolio of collaborative research projects organised in increasing TRLs that are part of a "challenge-driven programme"**. This approach would be based on long term-planning for the financing from low-TRL projects through to high-TRL projects that meet the same challenge, ensuring that projects are linked beyond their own lifecycle. This **portfolio approach ensures that projects progress in synergy**, allowing to navigate the TRL chain when necessary.

Governance, simplification and budget

5. **The creation of a 'European Technology and Industrial Competitiveness Council' and a 'European Societal Challenges Council' is welcomed to engage practitioners in the governance of the programme**. These two Councils could provide independent expertise in defining the challenges to be addressed through the project cycle approach, in order to make them relevant

to all stakeholders and align them with the EU's priorities. While two distinct Councils are necessary to deal adequately with the specificities of competitiveness and societal challenges, **strong synergies** should be established between them to ensure that improved competitiveness is also sustainable, and vice-versa. These Councils will also have to work closely with the ERC Scientific Council and the EIC Board to ensure overall coherence.

6. **It is important for the effectiveness of research and innovation to strengthen the synergies between FP10 and other EU funds**, as it could help to feed the innovation pipeline with outcomes from projects that go beyond the strict area of research or facilitate the deployment of solutions to relevant stakeholders. Synergies beyond FP10 must not, however, lead to greater complexity in project management.
7. **FP10 budget should reach €200 billion**. Massive investments in research and innovation are needed at the European level to maintain the EU scientific and technological sovereignty in a highly competitive global environment. Moreover, the challenges related to agriculture, food and environment are so important and urgent that they cannot be tackled without a significant increase in funding for research and innovation in these fields. An increased budget will also make it possible to fund more high-quality proposals, thus enabling the realisation of excellent projects likely to offer alternative solutions, thereby accelerating innovations.
8. **FP10 must pursue simplification efforts, especially to make participation and coordination easier**. Over the years, increased transaction costs to apply to European Framework Programmes for R&I have considerably reduced their attractiveness for scientists. **Stable procedures** within and between Framework Programmes and a **balanced approach to project size and expectations** are decisive factors in attractiveness.

Specific instruments

9. **European Partnerships are strategic instruments for ensuring synergies between national and European research priorities, as well as optimal public-private collaboration through a jointly defined agenda**. By design, these instruments are relevant to address some research questions with a systemic approach. However, FP10 must bring significant improvement in the simplification and clarification of participation rules to enable their full potential.
10. **Research Infrastructures should retain their own identity as tools devoted to ERA excellence**, while considering that closer links with thematic collaborative projects. FP10 should promote the AI ecosystem in Research Infrastructures by supporting the provision of AI-ready data and facilitating data and knowledge integration by research communities.
11. **The solution-oriented approaches proposed by European Missions are relevant** for responding to social and public policy issues. As **Missions go far beyond solving research questions** and operate according to a specific timetable and governance, they **should not be financed solely by FP10**.

International

12. To remain competitive in the international research arena and meet the scientific needs required to address global issues, **FP10 should facilitate the establishment of international scientific partnerships** tailored to these needs, i.e. with scientific partners of excellence and/or key partners outside Europe.