

**Alliance of Science
Organisations in Germany
Statement**

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Research and innovation are the backbone of the European economy

Position statement from the Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany on the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021–2027

Europe's economy and its knowledge-based society depend on excellent research and the development of forward-looking technologies. Europe needs to be in a position to compete with other ambitious industrial nations and emerging economies. A strong European Research Area is an indispensable condition for achieving this aim. The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is an important instrument in this context and, since the Sibiu Declaration in May 2019, its goals are now closely linked to the political priorities of the strategic agenda for Europe. However, these goals can only be achieved if the heads of state and government of the European Union make the appropriate funds available in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). At the same time, the special significance of research and education for European societies needs to be reflected in an appropriate and visible status as a policy area at EU level.

If the EU is to be in a position to tackle Europe's current social, environmental, economic and political challenges, and meet its ambitious targets in key areas like climate and the environment, security and migration, widespread diseases and digitalisation, then Horizon Europe, the future EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, needs to be allocated a correspondingly substantial share of the MFF for 2021–2027. The Alliance therefore welcomes the European Commission's proposal to allocate a minimum of €100 billion to finance research and innovation. However, Europe should strive for a €120 billion budget in order to strengthen its global competitive position. Therefore the Alliance supports wholeheartedly the European Parliament's position regarding the financing of the new framework programme.

Strong national research funding has to continue to provide the basis for sustainable European collaboration. This calls for implementation of the 3% target for spending on R&D by all member states. In terms of the overall political strategy for Europe, the next MFF should focus on cooperation that promise clear added value for Europe.

Europe has the opportunity to secure its technological leadership in the field of artificial intelligence, through political will and suitably ambitious investments. In view of the massive investments being made in China and the USA, Europe needs to set a clear example.

Investments in research and innovation are investments in the future of Europe's democratic societies. By creating attractive financial conditions, they make it possible to translate the results of European research into innovative products and solutions for

Europe and to develop Europe's economic base in a profitable manner. In addition, this will enable European research to attract the best minds with innovative approaches and to strengthen promising research infrastructure and research regions in Europe.

This is why Horizon Europe, the future EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, must receive a correspondingly ambitious share of the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021–2027.

The Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany is a union of the most important German research organisations. It regularly issues statements relating to research policy and funding and the structural development of the German research system. Members of the Alliance include the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service, the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), the Leibniz Association, the Max Planck Society, the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, and the German Council of Science and Humanities (Wissenschaftsrat). In 2019, the Leibniz Association is chair of the Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany.

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