

Protect Horizon 2020 from the EU Investment Package

The European Commission is planning a new investment programme financed with guarantees from the EU budget. We urge the European Council at its meeting on the 18th December to decide not to take this money from the Horizon 2020 budget. European research needs long-term, reliable and adequate funding of excellent research by the EU to deliver sustainable growth and jobs.

Whilst we welcome the additional infrastructure investments set out in the Juncker investment plan, we are concerned that, according to the European Commission, a substantial portion of the EU guarantee should be taken from the budget of Horizon 2020. This would affect the budgets of the European Research Council (ERC), one of the most important funders of excellent basic research, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions for the support of early-career researchers, as well as researchers' access to research infrastructures across Europe.

An EU investment guarantee is supposed to be of great benefit to the real economy. However, research is a prerequisite for innovation, without basic research the pipeline to innovation is cut off. Research must be publicly funded in an appropriate way and any cuts to the Horizon 2020 budget will result in a performance loss for the whole European research and innovation system.

We therefore urge the EU policy-makers to refrain from using the allocated Horizon 2020 budget to finance the Investment Package.

