

ISE Questionnaire European Elections

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The European Union (EU) budget for Research and Innovation is the 3rd largest line in the total EU budget. For the coming years, Research and Innovation will arguably be the most important for preparing the EU to face societal issues such as climate change, health, energy transition, as well as strategic autonomy and development.

More than twenty years ago, the Union set itself the goal to become a knowledge-based society, devoting 3% of its GDP (at national and EU levels) to research and innovation. However, this goal is yet to be met, which leaves the EU trailing its main competitors (such as the USA or China). Funding and supporting excellent research and innovation within the EU is an important driver force for the economy of the EU. Such funding and support also directly or indirectly influence the quality of higher education for the 18 million tertiary education students in Europe and the development, attraction, and retention of talent, thereby impacting large segments of the labour market in the long run.

The newly elected European Parliament will play a decisive role in the preparation of the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF), in particular for the next Framework programme for research and innovation (2028-2034), as well as the overall balance between the different "pillars" within the financial framework. In view of the importance of these topics, Initiative for Science in Europe together with Eurodoc, ICoRSA, MCAA, and YAE in collaboration with local organisations prepared a questionnaire for the parties.

We are highly interested in your views on research and innovation related issues and therefore would appreciate it if you filled in this questionnaire in the name of your party by May 10, 2024 and/or forward it to your EP election candidates. The responses will be published on a dedicated website and shared with EU citizens, Higher Education Institutions, and the media before the election.

Organised by:

ISE, Eurodoc, ICoRSA, MCAA, YAE

2 Background section

2.1 Please indicate your country.

- AT - Austria
- BE - Belgium
- BG - Bulgaria
- HR - Croatia
- CY - Cyprus
- CZ - Czech Republic
- DK - Denmark
- EE - Estonian
- FI - Finland
- FR - France
- DE - Germany
- EL - Greece

- HU - Hungary
- IE - Ireland
- IT - Italy
- LV - Latvia
- LT - Lithuania
- LU - Luxembourg
- MT - Malta
- NL - Netherlands
- PL - Poland
- PT - Portugal
- RO - Romania
- SK - Slovakia
- SI - Slovenia
- ES - Spain
- SE - Sweden

2.2 Please indicate the name of your political party.

2.3 Please indicate the name of the contact and role in the organisation

2.4 Please indicate your email:

3 Budget

The EU budget for Research and Innovation is the 3rd long line in the MFF. The Union and the member states have set themselves the goal to become a knowledge-based society, devoting 3 % of its GDP to research and innovation. However, this goal has yet to be reached, which means that the EU is trailing its main competitors such as the US or South Korea.

3.1 Do you support the idea that the multiannual financial framework should represent a larger share of the EU's GDP than it currently does to thereby allow for more ambitious EU-level projects? And if yes do you believe the Union and the member states should accelerate moving closer to the 3 % goal?

3.2 Do you agree that the budget for the next R&I framework programme should be doubled? And if yes how will you push for an increase of the budget?

4 European Parliament

The ITRE committee¹ and the STOA panel² are the parliamentary bodies that deal with Research and Innovation. The ITRE and other committees play an important role in determining the scope and budget of the 10th framework programme. Furthermore, the STOA panel expressed its worry that academic freedom is in decline across Europe, with threats coming from both inside and outside the European Union.

¹ <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/itre/home/highlights>

² <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/stoa/en/about/history-and-mission>

4.1 How does your party plan to ensure it has a voice in the ITRE and other parliamentary committees as well as in the STOA panel?

4.2 How does your party plan to ensure the protection of academic freedom?

4.3 What role, in your opinion, should the parliament have in addressing increasing concerns about research security?

5 RESEARCH CAREERS

Researchers is not an EU competence. However, the EU has recently made strong recommendations to improve the career paths of early career researchers in reaction to concerns about the deterioration of career paths in research. They are furthermore made more precarious by high levels of international mobility that often result in low levels of social rights for researchers.

5.1 How do you plan to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the political agreement confirmed by the Council [to support researchers and research workers in the European Union](#) that aims to improve basic working conditions across Europe? This holds in particular to social security such as health care, parental leave, sick leave, unemployment benefits, pension schemes, as well as as residential permits for researchers who are not-EU citizens.

6 EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Increasing European integration and ensuring a greater balance between countries in the EU is a key issue for the progress of democracy in Europe.

6.1 Programmes like the “ [Widening participation and spreading excellence](#)” are aimed at the so-called EU-15 countries³ as well as candidate countries and contribute to increased cooperation and decreasing regional inequalities within the EU. What is your assessment of these programmes and what further initiatives do you see the EU take to increase European integration?

3 Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

6.2 What role do you envision that research and innovation can play in furthering European integration?

6.3 What initiatives do you see the EU take to rebuild the higher education and research sector in Ukraine? How do you envision these initiatives to mitigate the accelerated brain drain caused by the war?

7 OUTPUT/ANYTHING YOU WISH TO ADD

7.1 Do you wish to add anything?

