



PRESS RELEASE

European Life Science Research Institutes want a more balanced Framework Programme 9 for Research and Innovation

Barcelona, September 20, 2017 — EU-LIFE, the alliance of 13 leading Life Science Research Institutes in Europe announced their key priorities for the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP9) that will run from 2021 to 2027.

The key points are as follows:

1. To double the investment by the European Commission to **150 billion euro** for the entire programme 2021-2027. It is clear from calculations for previous framework programmes by the European Commission that every euro spent will generate a multiple in economic benefits over time.
2. To invest more in **basic research** than today. Without basic research, no applied research is possible. Good basic research actually acts as a booster for applied and commercial research investments.
3. To encourage **collaboration of excellent research** based on more bottom-up, non-prescriptive approaches that address key societal challenges.
4. To encourage **technology transfer** that turns scientific insights into economic value. Technology transfer is critical to counter the current “innovation paradox”. The true challenge is to pro-actively assist the basic researchers with identifying and enabling commercial and medical use of their findings.
5. To have **excellence** as the sole criterion for selection in FP9.
6. To focus on **open science** in order to foster wider impact of excellent research. Furthermore, expected timing of impact of research outputs should be readjusted for the longer term.

EU-LIFE drafted a Position Paper on FP9 which is available on: <http://eu-life.eu/tags/publication> .

Jo Bury, Chairman of EU-LIFE and Managing Director of VIB “Flanders Institute of Biotechnology” says: *“Excellent science and professional technology transfer are essential for the well-being of citizens in the future. We have seen that some approaches were successful in the past, where deep scientific insights have led to major breakthroughs in applied science as we see today in immuno-oncology for instance. In our research institutes, tens of thousands of Europe’s leading researchers are committed to finding solutions for the most challenging issues of our time, both in health and agriculture. For public research institutes, the funding by the Framework Programmes is critical. We are convinced that the right choices will be made to re-balance the funding for more basic research”.*

Marta Agostinho, EU-LIFE Coordinator says: *‘EU-LIFE is of the opinion that there are many instruments to drive innovation. Public funding is crucial at the more risky and unpredictable stage – the basic research stage – coupled to professional knowledge and technology transfer. This is what FP9 should focus on.’*



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About EU-LIFE

EU-LIFE is an alliance of research centres whose mission is to support and strengthen European research excellence (www.eu-life.eu). EU-LIFE members are leading research institutes in their countries and internationally renowned for producing excellent research, widely transferring knowledge and nurturing talent.

EU-LIFE Partners

Center for Genomic Regulation (CRG, Spain) | Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC, Czech Republic) | European Institute of Oncology (IEO, Italy) | Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research (FMI, Switzerland) | Institut Curie (France) | Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM, Finland) | Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência (IGC, Portugal) | Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association (MDC, Germany) | Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (CeMM, Austria) | The Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI, The Netherlands) | The University of Copenhagen Biotech Research & Innovation Centre (BRIC, Denmark) | The Babraham Institute (Babraham, United Kingdom) | Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB, Belgium)

About the Framework Programme 9

The European Research Programme 9 will run from January 2021 to the end of 2027. It will replace the current Horizon 2020 programme that is composed of three main blocks: Excellent Science (with amongst others the European Research Council and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions), Industrial Leadership (space, nanotechnologies and information technology) and Societal Challenges (health, food, energy, transport, environment, inclusive societies and security). The European Commission is currently drafting the first texts of the Framework Programme 9.

For more information

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