



How the EU research FP supports EU Agricultural and Environmental policy and the Strategic Dialogue.

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European Research Executive Agency



EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY

FOSTERING EXCELLENT SCIENCE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



RESPONSIBILITIES OF REA



- **Horizon Europe**
- **Horizon 2020**
- **Research Fund for Coal and Steel**
- **Promotion of agriculture products**



- **Project evaluation support**
- **Participant validation***
- **Handling of expert evaluators**
- **Research Enquiry Service**

*Calls for tenders and calls for project proposals

REA'S CENTRAL ROLE IN HORIZON EUROPE



Pillar I Excellent science

- European Research Council

• Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

• Research Infrastructures



Pillar II Global challenges & European industrial competitiveness

- Health

• Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society

• Civil Security for Society

• Digital, Industry & Space

• Climate, Energy & Mobility

• Food, Bioeconomy, Natural
Resources, Agriculture & Environment

- Joint Research Centre



Pillar III Innovative Europe

- European Innovation Council

• European Innovation Ecosystems

• European Institute of Innovation &
Technology

CLUSTERS

Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation & spreading
excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European
R&I system

Recent Developments (1)

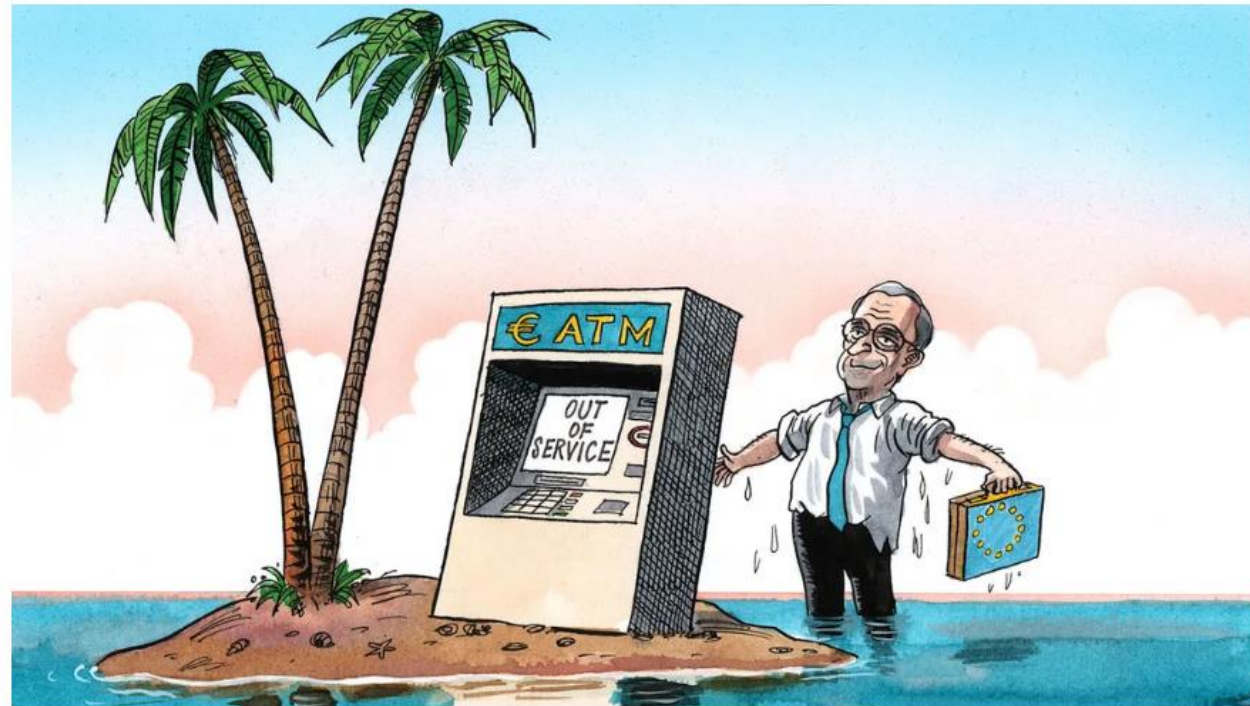
- Mission letter to Commissioner-designate Zaharieva:
 - Strategy for European Life Sciences (and contribute to EU Biotech Act)
 - European Research Area Act
 - Expand ERC and EIC, and Research Infrastructures
 - Support to the next generation of researchers and strengthen University Alliances
 - Innovation Act, Advanced Materials Act, strengthen research security and reinforce international cooperation, AI research council

Recent Developments (2)

- Draghi Report on competitiveness:
 - FP of €200bn
 - Research as a key to (or a servant of?) competitiveness
 - Driver for a competitiveness programme?

Nice ideas, Mr Draghi—now who will pay for them?

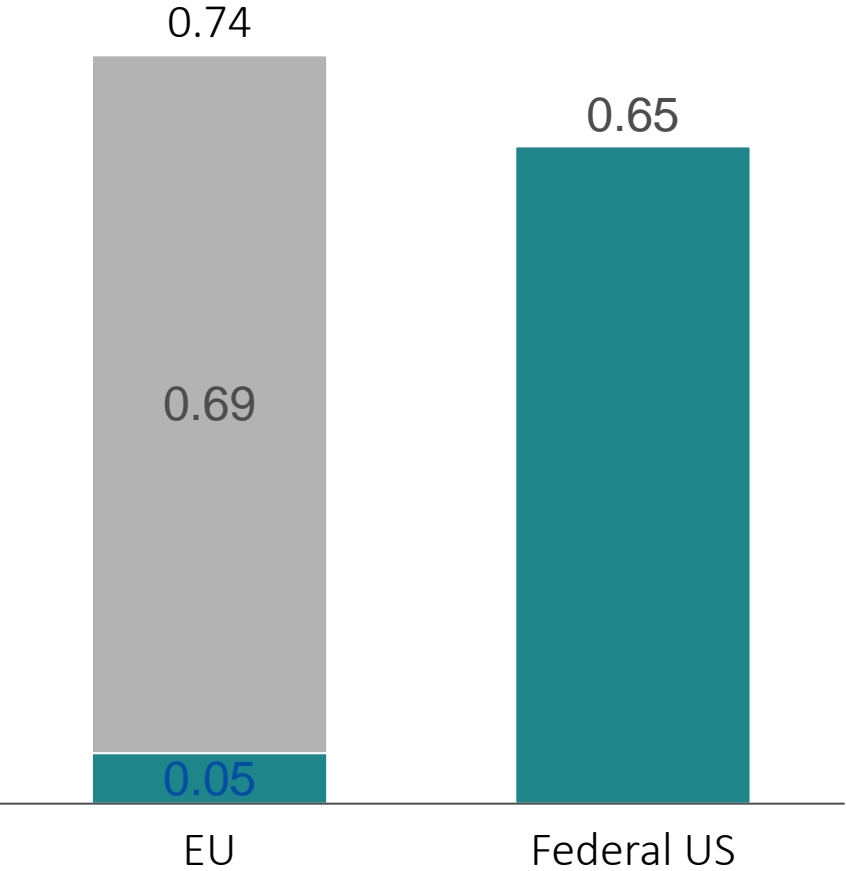
From “whatever it takes” to “whatever the cost”



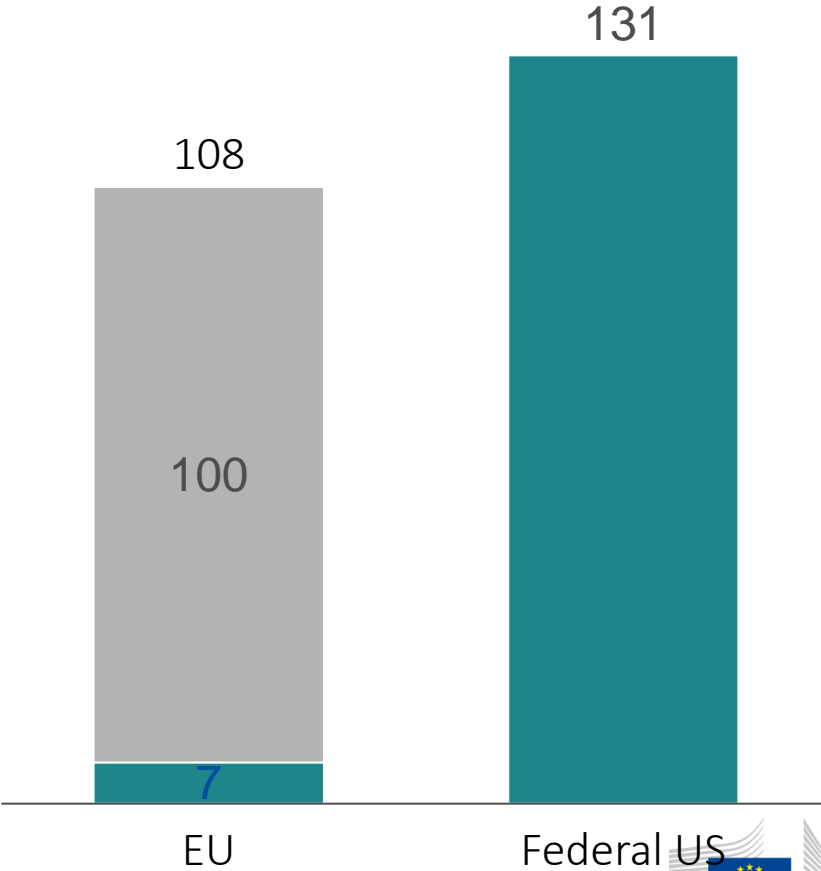
State versus federal source of R&D funding in the EU and US

From national budget
From EU budget (Horizon Europe)

Public support for R&D
% of GDP, 2021



Public support for R&D
EUR billion, 2021



Source: European Commission, 2024. Based on Eurostat and OECD.

Recent Developments (3)

- Letta Report – much more than a market
 - A fifth freedom on Research, Innovation and Education
 - Links to European Area Act
 - Free movement and more emphasis on economic security

Recent Developments (4)

- Strategic dialogue on agriculture (research dimension)
 - Maintenance and enforcement of environmental legislation
 - Demand for a solid regulatory approach and science-based decision-making
 - Faster innovation
 - Placed-based and democratic approach
 - Emphasis on methodology
 - More Public-private partnerships And basic research

Recent Developments (5)

- « Heitor » Expert Group Report – Align, Act, Accelerate - reaction
 - “Time for a major shakeup of how the EU funds research, expert group says” (Science Business)
 - “The report, is stuffed to the brim with ideas for new councils, efficiencies and restructurings” (Science Business)
 - “Experts urge “transformative” changes and €220 billion budget to reverse bloc’s decline in global standing” (Research professional news)
 - “CESAER welcomes the ... bold vision for transforming European research and innovation, emphasising the urgency for swift implementation to boost competitiveness and secure Europe’s leadership in science and technology.”

Recent Developments (6)

- « Heitor » Expert Group Report - reaction
 - LERU – the report “strikes a good balance between an “evolution” from Horizon Europe ... and a “revolution”
 - LERU – the more revolutionary parts of the report “often lack the detail needed to assess their added value and potential impact”
 - Funding for FP10 will be "a brutal political fight" (Quote from the press conference according to Research Professional News)

Recent Developments (7)

- « Heitor » Expert Group Report – a few highlights
 - Budget of €220bn plus better national funding (3% of GDP)
 - Strong support for ERC, EIC, MSCA, University Alliances (but not EIT, EIE)
 - Radical simplification, user orientation and efficiency
 - Industrial Competitiveness and Technology Council and Societal Challenges Council
 - Experimental unit to test new programmes, evaluation procedures and instruments
 - Innovation procurement (PCP) and dual use

Recent Developments (8)

- « Heitor » Expert Group Report
 - “All this by Brussels standards is a pretty radical wish list, that by no means is certain of adoption. But it appears in the midst of debates that could lead to the biggest overhaul of EU R&D funding since the Framework Programme began in 1984”. (Science Business)

Horizon Europe (1)

- Issues arising from H2020:
 - Services not working together
 - Lack of an evidence base
 - European research is not leading to sufficient innovation and deployment of solutions

Horizon Europe (2)

- Solutions:
 - Co-creation (especially Agriculture and Environment)
 - Feedback to Policy, policy actions
 - More Innovation actions, Multi-actor approach, living labs

The next Framework Programme

- Research and/versus competitiveness
- Single competitiveness programme?
- Financial commitments
- Balance of top-down and bottom up research
- « Directionality »

Joint Research Council

- No funding programmes
- Doctoral programmes – training of doctoral graduates at JRC
- Collaboration agreements – sharing of infrastructure, laboratory equipment, data materials as well as transferring knowledge, for example;
 - The JRC closely collaborates with the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) to conduct safety assessments of Molten Salt Reactor (MSR) fuel and its corresponding fuel cycle
 - The JRC has established a Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Agreement with the Lithuanian Energy Institute (LEI) and the Kaunas University of Technology (KUT) in the field of nuclear decommissioning and waste management.
- Collaboration on analyses

Conclusion

- Strategic dialogue – (r)evolution in research priorities (?)
- Strong support to research in the mission letter
- But moves towards a competitiveness programme
- Co-creation, evidence base, and emphasis on innovation and deployment as key developments in Horizon Europe (multi actor approach for example)
- FP10 and the question of the rôle of research

Thank you



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