



European Commission



The role of research and innovation investments in

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR EUROPEANS

27 NOVEMBER 2020



“ Investments in research and innovation improve Europeans’ quality of life. Research and innovation accelerate the green and digital transformations that our planet needs, but also increase the competitiveness of our economies. The EU and Member States need to allocate enough resources in science, research and innovation to shape the future we want. ”

Mariya Gabriel EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

Investments in research and innovation ensure a sustainable and inclusive future

Europe faces societal, ecological and economic challenges, aggravated by the coronavirus crisis. Research and innovation are best placed to:



 **2/3** of EU productivity growth over the last decades has been driven by R&I investments

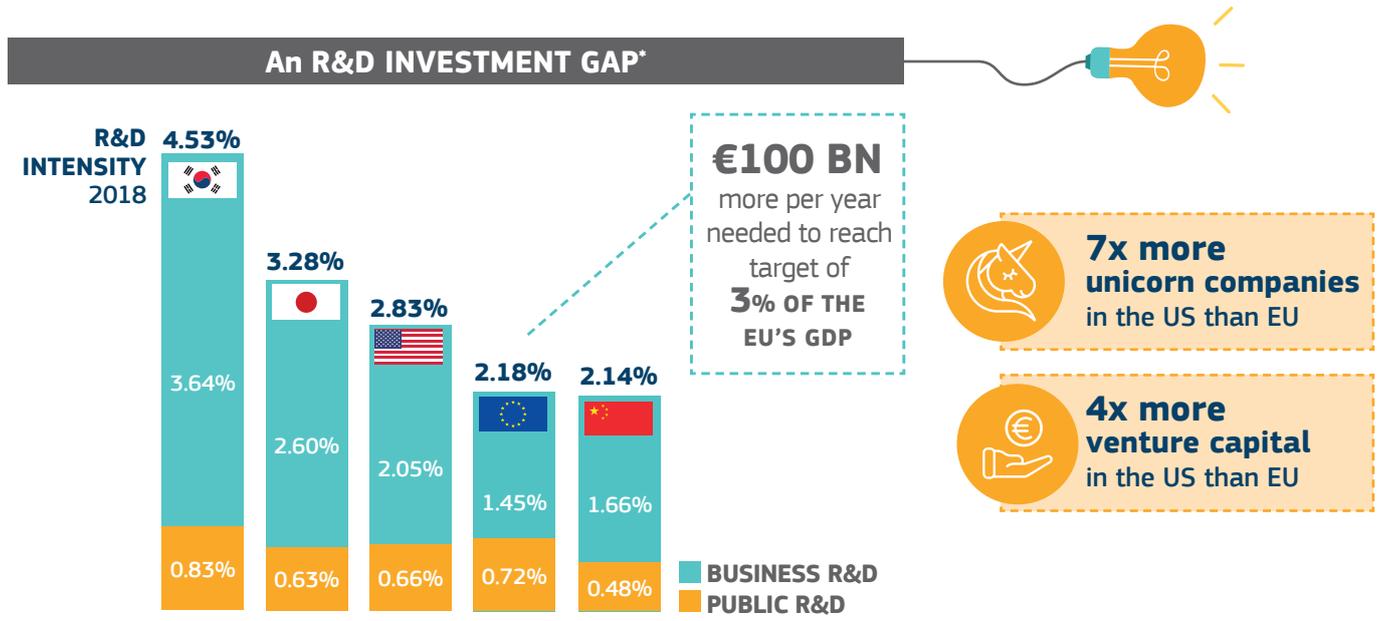
 up to **€11** of GDP gains over 25 years can be potentially generated by each euro invested at EU level in R&I

 **€400-600 billion** by 2030 is the estimated GDP gain from Horizon 2020

Europe must invest in research and innovation to keep its scientific and technological leadership

Europe is leading scientific and technological progress in the fields of energy, climate, environment, food and bioeconomy. However, to deliver on the digital and green transitions, the EU needs to keep boosting its investment in research and development (R&D).

With 2.18% of its GDP invested in R&D, the EU is still far from its 3% target compared to its main competitors (US, Japan, South Korea), the EU underinvests in R&D, especially in terms of private investments. The Commission Communication on “A new ERA for Research and Innovation” proposes that this target is re-affirmed by Member States and updated to reflect new EU priorities.



Next Generation EU and the Recovery and Resilience Facility as an opportunity for better investments for Europe

The large-scale recovery plan “Next Generation EU” will lay the foundations of a modern and more sustainable Europe. The Recovery and Resilience Facility will provide large-scale financial support in support of a strong public pipeline of investments and reforms to accelerate the green and digital transitions and the creation and deployment of new and innovative solutions in a number of flagship areas. Research and innovation are enablers to deploy essential technologies to unlock the full potential of these areas.

Horizon Europe’s powerful instruments for change

The next EU research and innovation programme will drive the systemic changes needed to ensure a green, healthy and resilient Europe. Its instruments such as the **European Innovation Council**, **EU missions** and **European Partnerships** are important investments to accelerate the achievement of the green and digital goals, while strengthening Europe’s global leadership and technological sovereignty.

* Source: Science, Research and Innovation Performance of the EU, 2020 (European Commission, 2020)

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