



## EURASHE statement on FP10

As the European institutions advance their work on the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10), EURASHE welcomes the momentum to shape a programme capable of strengthening Europe's competitiveness and resilience. As the European Parliament agrees on its negotiating position, EURASHE underlines the following points:

1. The priority should be to design a programme that harnesses the potential of all parts of the innovation journey and across the whole European Union. All research and innovation funded by the Programme should be excellent, but this means different things along the journey. Above all the Programme should find ways to address the **"European R&I paradox"**, namely that European countries are among the world's leaders in basic research but they are much less capable of converting knowledge into economic and social value.
2. In some parts of the Programme, excellent research and innovation that builds on regional strengths should be prioritised, **connecting ecosystems through Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3)**, as called for in a recent [open letter](#) from leading place-based innovation advocates including EURASHE. In addition to central funding for smart specialisation, links to the Cohesion Policy should be introduced in the legislation.
3. The draft ITRE report by Christian Ehler MEP is right to insist on a **separate work programme and committee structure for FP10** and the European Competitiveness Fund. However, it is essential that they work closely together, including the issuing of common funding calls, in order to avoid a linear approach to research and innovation.
4. The Ehler report introduces some interesting novelties that are very positive, including a **Fast Track to Innovation Instrument** whereby collaborative applied research teams can respond to a continuously open call.
5. However, the **creation of new research councils for collaborative research needs to be closely analysed**, given that it adds an extra cost and administrative structure to be funded by the EU budget. The councils would need to include a range of profiles from across the research and innovation spectrum, including those that understand the added value of the universities of applied sciences. At the same time, there may be more cost-effective solutions that avoid the risk of incumbency bias in the R&I system, including greater use of experts from the Commission's in house science service, the Joint Research Centre.
6. The **mission orientated approach should be strengthened and improved**, in which case an option for missions to run until the end of the programme should be maintained.
7. **European university alliances**, including those that receive core funding from the Erasmus+ Programme, provide a vehicle to integrate the missions of higher education institutions on a transnational basis, which can make a significant contribution to the European Research



and Innovation Areas. Therefore, it would be beneficial to design dedicated or tailored funding calls for the alliances that draw on different programmes, including FP10.

8. The Commission is asked to **urgently clarify the future of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**, since the knowledge triangle is a form of integrated policy making that recognises the role of both research and education in promoting innovation.

As the European Parliament and Council move towards shaping their final positions, EURASHE encourages co-legislators to ensure that FP10 remains ambitious, inclusive and future-oriented. The Programme should be designed to strengthen Europe's knowledge base, accelerate transitions, and deliver tangible benefits for citizens and industry while ensuring that no region is left behind.

EURASHE remains committed to engaging constructively with stakeholders throughout the negotiations. We will continue to advocate for a Framework Programme that builds on the diversity of Europe's higher education and innovation landscape and support institutions across all territories to fully contribute to Europe's scientific and technological future.

#### About EURASHE

Founded in 1990, EURASHE is the European Association for the Applied Sciences in Higher Education. With more than 100 members, EURASHE represents over 500 applied sciences universities (UAS) or departments in 32 countries. It is a consultative member in the European Higher Education Area (Bologna Follow'Up Group), and a stakeholder in the European Education and Research Areas.