



Warsaw Declaration

**on the
strategic role
of the future
EU R&I
framework
programme**

11 March 2025, Warsaw



We, the EU ministers responsible for research, gathered on 10 and 11 March 2025 in Warsaw, Poland, during the informal meeting of research ministers, held under the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, **with respect for the future negotiations of the post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and without prejudging its outcome**, declare the following:

- We recall the provisions of **the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union** on the multiannual framework programme, and its **art. 182** stating among others that the framework programme shall establish the scientific and technological objectives to be achieved and fix the maximum overall amount and the detailed rules for Union financial participation.
- We acknowledge that throughout its 40-year history, the framework programmes have proven to be the **Union main instrument for fostering excellent science, technological development and innovation**. They have supported citizens' wellbeing, prosperity and security, the Union's competitiveness, economic stability and a strong single market. They have also been crucial for safeguarding democracy, strengthening common European values, and protecting academic freedom.
- The recent EU R&I framework programmes – Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe – have become a major tool for expanding **transnational science and innovation cooperation within Europe and with the like-minded countries**.
- In 2024, the Council has unanimously endorsed that the **Framework Programme is instrumental for the Union's political and policy priorities**, including development of the European Research Area, strongly contributing to the Union's competitiveness and resilience.
- We therefore call on the European Commission to draft its initial proposal for the future framework programme building on the **legacy of self-standing framework programmes**, in close cooperation with the Member States.
- We stress that the future framework programme should support **excellent and impactful R&I in an open and fair competition**, in order to **boost competitiveness of the entire Union and economies of its Member States**, to contribute to the EU's security, sustainability, resilience, technological sovereignty and strategic autonomy, and allow the European Union to **respond to current and future challenges** more effectively.



- We call for an adequate **budget for the future R&I framework programme matching its strategic role**, including strengthening the **European competitiveness** and **tackling global and societal challenges**. We stress that in general none of the future programmes or instruments should be funded at the expense of the framework programme, and that its funds should be allocated solely to research and innovation to maintain programme continuity and efficiency.
- We stress that, where possible, **increased coordination, better alignment** and **synergies** are needed among available policy and financial measures relevant for R&I at European, national, and regional level in order to strengthen a holistic approach of R&I funding along the full value chain.
- We believe that the next framework programme should be designed in a way to provide **long-term orientation** to address the Union's key challenges, and secure **a stable and predictable framework to the R&I community**.
- The future framework programme needs to offer an attractive frame for **collaborative research**, foster **creation of new transnational R&I cooperation networks**, bringing together R&I professionals of different disciplines and backgrounds, thus **strengthening the European Research Area**.
- We expect the future framework programme to **enhance the EU's capacity as the best research work environment in the world**, to retain top talents and attract the best researchers from around the globe, including reintegration of researchers back to the EU.
- The programme should **provide space for experimentation, risk-taking, and learning from failures**, as these are key drivers of breakthrough science and innovation.
- The framework programme should continue **empowering women and underrepresented groups in R&I** and supporting diverse talents in an equitable and inclusive environment.
- We recall the pivotal role played by the **European Research Council (ERC)** and the **European Innovation Council (EIC)** in the current Horizon Europe framework programme and we call upon the Commission to preserve their independence and expand their role in the future framework programme, in cooperation with the Member States.
- We stress the importance of **simplified rules** and **reduced administrative burden**.