

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2016/2147(INI)	Procedure completed
Assessment of Horizon 2020 implementation in view of its interim evaluation and the Framework Programme 9 proposal		
See also 2011/0401(COD)		
Subject		
3.50.01 European research area and policy		
3.50.02.01 EC, EU framework programme		
3.50.04 Innovation		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	 CABEZÓN RUIZ Soledad	24/05/2016
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 KUDRYCKA Barbara	
		 VAN BOSSUYT Anneleen	
		 WIERINCK Lieve	
		 DALUNDE Jakop G.	
		 BORRELLI David	
		 BAY Nicolas	
		Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion
 BUDG Budgets		 TORVALDS Nils	15/06/2016
 REGI Regional Development		 VAN MILTENBURG Matthijs	13/07/2016
 FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality		 BLINKEVIČIŪTĒ Vilija	07/07/2016

Key events

15/09/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/05/2017	Vote in committee		
06/06/2017	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0209/2017	Summary
12/06/2017	Debate in Parliament		
13/06/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/06/2017	Decision by Parliament	T8-0253/2017	Summary
13/06/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2016/2147(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
	See also 2011/0401(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/8/07112

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE600.940	06/03/2017	EP	
Committee opinion	REGI	PE594.064	30/03/2017	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE602.762	04/04/2017	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE602.917	04/04/2017	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE599.641	26/04/2017	EP	
Committee opinion	FEMM	PE599.697	03/05/2017	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0209/2017	06/06/2017	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0253/2017	13/06/2017	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2017)574	20/11/2017	EC	

Programme 9 proposal

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy adopted the own-initiative report by Soledad CABEZÓN RUIZ (S&D, ES) on the assessment of Horizon 2020 implementation in view of its interim evaluation and the Framework Programme 9 proposal.

Members considered that, more than three years after the launch of Horizon 2020, it is time for Parliament to develop its position on its interim evaluation and a vision of the future FP9.

The main conclusions of the assessments are as follows:

Implementation of Horizon 2020: Members stressed that the evaluation of FP7 and monitoring of Horizon 2020 show that the EU FP for research and innovation is a success and brings clear added value to the EU. However, the report noted that there are still possibilities to improve the FP and future programmes. They considered that the reasons for its success are the multidisciplinary and collaborative setting and the excellence and impact requirements.

Noting that the FP intends to incentivise industry participation in order to increase R&D spending by industry, Members called on the Commission to assess the European added value and relevance to the public of funding for industry-driven instruments such as Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs), as well as the coherence, openness and transparency of all joint initiatives.

Given that the programme budget, management and implementation is spread over 20 different EU bodies, Members queried whether this results in excessive coordination efforts, administrative complexity and duplication. The Commission should work towards streamlining and simplifying this.

Budget: Members noted that the current alarmingly low success rate of less than 14 % represents a negative trend compared to FP7. Oversubscription makes it impossible to make funding available for a large number of very high-quality projects and that the cuts inflicted by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) have deepened this problem. The Commission is called on to avoid making further cuts to the Horizon 2020 budget.

Evaluation: the report called for better and more transparent evaluation and quality assurance by the evaluators and the need to improve the feedback given to participants throughout the evaluation process.

The Commission is called on to publish, in conjunction with the call for proposals, detailed evaluation criteria, to provide participants with more detailed and informative Evaluation Summary Reports (ESRs).

The participant portal should be more readily available and the network of National Contact Points extended and be provided with more resources.

Cross-cutting issues: Members noted that synergies between funds are crucial to make investments more effective. They stressed that RIS3 are an important tool to catalyse synergies setting out national and regional frameworks for R&D&I investments and, as such, should be promoted and reinforced. They regretted the presence of substantial barriers to making synergies fully operational and sought an alignment of rules and procedures for R&D&I projects under ESIF and FP.

They called on the Commission to earmark part of ESIF for Research and Innovation Strategies (RIS3) synergies with Horizon 2020 and to revise the State Aid rules and to allow R&D structural fund projects to be justifiable within the FP rules of procedure.

Members also welcomed efforts to secure better links between the ERA and the European Higher Education Area, with a view to facilitating ways of training the next generation of researchers.

The importance of closer cooperation between industry and the university and scientific establishment has been stressed.

The Commission is called upon to:

- review the terms of international cooperation in FP and to establish concrete, immediate measures and a long-term strategic vision and structure to support this objective; welcomes, in this regard, initiatives such as BONUS and PRIMA;
- design mechanisms to better include SMEs in larger interdisciplinary FP9 projects in order to harness their full potential;
- keep KICs in the current EIT structure, stressing the importance of transparency and extensive stakeholder involvement, and to analyse how the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and KICs may interact with the European Innovation Council (EIC);
- encourage venture capital investments in Europe;

FP 9 recommendations: the report called for the following:

- an increased overall budget of EUR 120 billion for FP9;
- providing in Pillar 3 a balanced and flexible set of instruments responding to the dynamic nature of emerging problems;
- enhanced synergies between FP9 and other dedicated European funds for research and innovation;
- separate defence research from civil research in the next MFF, providing two different programmes with two separate budgets that do not affect the budgetary ambitions of civilian research of FP9;
- prioritise funding for climate change research and climate data collection infrastructure;
- need for new higher excellence centres and regions and the importance of continuing to develop the ERA;
- provide increased levels of support in FP9 for young researchers;
- the next FP will have to take into consideration the UKs departure from the EU and its implications.

Assessment of Horizon 2020 implementation in view of its interim evaluation and the Framework Programme 9 proposal

The European Parliament adopted by 523 votes to 65, with 81 abstentions, a resolution on the assessment of Horizon 2020 implementation in view of its interim evaluation and the Framework Programme 9 proposal.

Members considered that, more than three years after the launch of Horizon 2020, it is time for Parliament to develop its position on its interim evaluation and a vision of the future FP9.

The main conclusions of the assessments are as follows:

Implementation of Horizon 2020: Parliament stressed that the evaluation of FP7 and monitoring of Horizon 2020 show that the EU FP for research and innovation is a success and brings clear added value to the EU. The reasons for its success are the multidisciplinary and collaborative setting and the excellence and impact requirements.

Noting that the FP intends to incentivise industry participation in order to increase R&D spending by industry, Members called on the Commission to assess the European added value and relevance to the public of funding for industry-driven instruments such as Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs), as well as the coherence, openness and transparency of all joint initiatives.

Given that the programme budget, management and implementation is spread over 20 different EU bodies, Members queried whether this results in excessive coordination efforts, administrative complexity and duplication. The Commission should work towards streamlining and simplifying this.

Budget: the resolution noted that the current alarmingly low success rate of less than 14 % represents a negative trend compared to FP7. Oversubscription makes it impossible to make funding available for a large number of very high-quality projects and that the cuts inflicted by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) have deepened this problem. The Commission is called on to avoid making further cuts to the Horizon 2020 budget.

Horizon 2020 must be primarily grant-based and geared towards funding fundamental and collaborative research. Research may be a high risk investment for investors and that funding research through grants is a necessity. Financial instruments should be available for high Technology Readiness Levels (TRL), close to market activities as part of InnovFin financial instruments.

Evaluation: confirming that excellence should remain the essential evaluation criterion across all three pillars of the FP, Parliament called for better and more transparent evaluation and quality assurance by the evaluators and the need to improve the feedback given to participants throughout the evaluation process.

The Commission is called on to publish, in conjunction with the call for proposals, detailed evaluation criteria, to provide participants with more detailed and informative Evaluation Summary Reports (ESRs).

The participant portal should be more readily available and the network of National Contact Points extended and be provided with more resources.

Cross-cutting issues: Parliament recommended, inter alia:

- enhancing the societal challenges approach;
- continuing efforts to simplify administration, in particular through the Commission's proposal to introduce lump sum payments;
- encouraging synergies between funds to make investments more effective, for example by strengthening research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3), which are an important tool to catalyse synergies setting out national and regional frameworks for investment in research, development and innovation;
- revising the state aid rules and to allow R&D structural fund projects to be justifiable within the FP rules of procedure;
- coming forward with clear rules enabling the full implementation of the Seal of Excellence scheme and to explore funding synergies;
- reviewing the terms of international cooperation in the framework programme which fell from 5 % in FP7 to 2.8 % in Horizon 2020;
- providing adequate funding for activities related to social sciences and humanities;
- designing new policies to maximise research results and the amount of scientific data available;
- designing mechanisms to better include SMEs in larger interdisciplinary FP9 projects in order to harness their full potential;
- keeping KICs in the current EIT structure, stressing the importance of transparency and extensive stakeholder involvement, and to analyse how the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and KICs may interact with the European Innovation Council (EIC);
- encouraging venture capital investments in Europe.

Members also welcomed efforts to secure better links between the European Research Area (ERA) and the European Higher Education Area, with a view to facilitating ways of training the next generation of researchers.

The importance of closer cooperation between industry and the university and scientific establishment has been stressed.

FP 9 recommendations: Parliament called for the following:

- an increased overall budget of EUR 120 billion for FP9;
- providing in Pillar 3 a balanced and flexible set of instruments responding to the dynamic nature of emerging problems;
- enhanced synergies between FP9 and other dedicated European funds for research and innovation;
- separate defence research from civil research in the next MFF, providing two different programmes with two separate budgets that do not affect the budgetary ambitions of civilian research of FP9;
- address the potential problem of too many applications and low success rates in the Horizon 2020 programme;
- prioritise funding for climate change research and climate data collection infrastructure;
- need for new higher excellence centres and regions and the importance of continuing to develop the ERA;
- provide increased levels of support in FP9 for young researchers.

The next FP will have to take into consideration the UK's departure from the EU and its implications.