



Europe needs a standalone 10th EU Framework Programme for research and innovation

To ensure Europe's global competitiveness and long-term resilience, stability and predictability of funding for research and innovation are crucial. This is why **LEAPS calls for an independent FP10 with a ring-fenced budget of €200 billion** as suggested by the Draghi report. Research and innovation, supported by world-class **research infrastructures (RI)**, are the backbone of economic growth, green transition, and technological sovereignty. The step-change Europe needs for this endeavor must be supported by a dedicated programme. We need the bottom-up approaches of ERC and EIC, and we need a **strong and wise investment in continuously advancing European research and technology infrastructures** to stay technologically cutting-edge. This is the only way to meet the EU's goals for sustainable competitiveness. A dedicated programme with a ringfenced budget guarantees:

1. **Securing a Stable and Predictable Framework** – Researchers, industries, and **research infrastructures** require long-term financial stability to plan and deliver ambitious, high-impact projects. Predictable funding frameworks are essential to attract public and private investment as well as world class researchers and to foster an environment where breakthrough innovations can thrive. It is also vital in order to maximise coherence between European initiatives and investments.
2. **Boosting Strategic Autonomy** – Investing in key enabling technologies (e.g. AI, clean energy, health, climate change mitigation, semiconductors, advanced materials) and in **cutting-edge RI** reduces strategic dependencies, empowers European value chains and strengthens Europe's self-sufficiency. RI are vital for supporting industry and industrial ecosystems by providing access to cutting-edge technologies and expertise. This access fosters the development of new products and processes, enhances industrial competitiveness, and drives economic growth by creating a bridge between fundamental research and industrial applications.
3. **Excellence in Research & Technological competitiveness** – Fundamental research, which serves as the foundation for breakthrough innovations, is essential for ensuring the long-term competitiveness of the EU. **Cutting-edge RI** play a pivotal role in enabling these breakthroughs by providing world-class facilities, fostering cross-border collaboration, training both young and experienced scientists, and driving technological and scientific advancements across disciplines.
4. **Talent Retention & Attraction** – A strong, well-funded FP10, with modern **RI**, preserves Europe's competitiveness in attracting top researchers and innovators.
5. **Protection from Political Changes** – Safeguarding research funding from reallocation to other areas is essential to uphold Europe's global leadership in research and innovation, strengthen its technological sovereignty, and secure its long-term competitiveness in strategic sectors.

We fully support the Heitor-Report - Research and Technology infrastructures should be prioritized throughout Europe in order to foster the European RD&I ecosystem, attract and retain researchers.

A standalone FP10 with a ring-fenced budget and a dedicated and adequately funded programme for Research Infrastructures is not just an investment in research—it's an investment in Europe's future.

The **League of European Accelerator-based Photon Sources** is the network of all Synchrotron Radiation and Free Electron Laser user facilities in Europe. These unique facilities work like giant microscopes, harnessing the power of electrons to produce bright light that scientists can use to study anything from viruses to novel battery materials. LEAPS facilities serve a broad scientific community of more than 35,000 researchers in Europe.