Designing a new EFP

Overview

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A democratic process

- R&I is part of **MFF EU budget**

- Approval of the FP: three parties EC, EP and MS

- Member States' priorities inform the European Research ecosystem

- Industry and science lobbying between approvals

- Proposals for large European programmes stem co-funded programmes

- The work programme is drafted and discussed with Prog Committees of National representatives

Design a new Framework Programme

The political agenda: main reports and guidelines

- ➤ Letta's report: **"Much more than a market"** April 2024

- ➤ Von Der Leyen's EU Strategic Agenda and **"Europe's Choice: Political guidelines for the next** European Commission **2024–2029"** of July 2024

- ➤ Draghi's report: **"The future of European competitiveness"** September 2024

- ➤ Heitor's report: **"Align, act, accelerate – Research, technology and innovation to boost European competitiveness"**, October 2024

- ➤ **Safer Together** Niinisto Report (March 2025)

- ➤ **Make business easier** and Deepen **the Single Market** (Letta Report) (Europe's Choice)

- ➤ **Unlock innovative potentials**: disruptive innovation, new technologies

- ➤ Rise to the challenge of **a new era for European defence and security** (Europe's Choice; Draghi Report)

- ➤ Defence narrative must consider **civilian resilience** (Niinistö report)

- ➤ The **Cultural Compass for Europe** NEW

The European Framework Programme (FP): Why does it matter?

establishes the scientific and technological objectives to be achieved/fixes priorities;

indicates the broad cross-border research priorities (pillars ERC; Clusters; Missions;
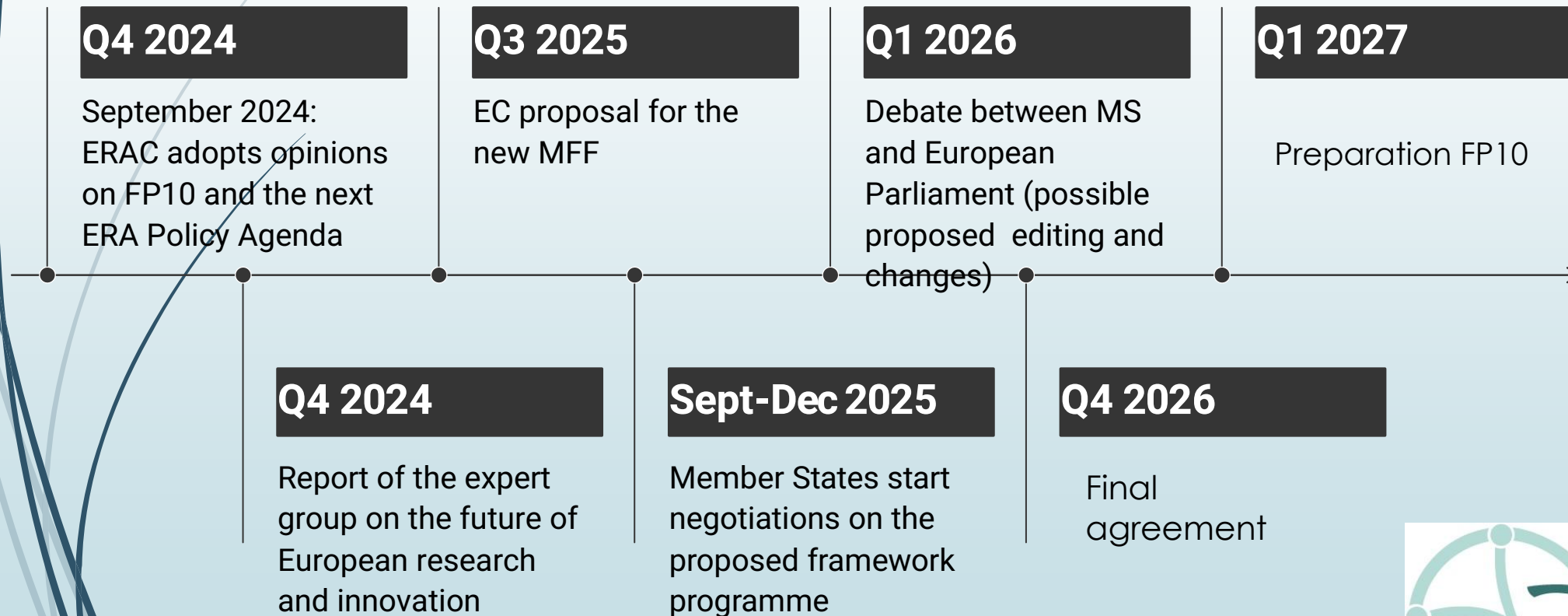
mirrors funding distribution amount.

sets rules for participation and respective shares in activities (eg SSH as a principle; experts' selection; Monitoring and reporting)

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Tentative Timeline

Q4 2024

September 2024: ERAC adopts opinions on FP10 and the next ERA Policy Agenda

Q3 2025

EC proposal for the new MFF

Q1 2026

Debate between MS and European Parliament (possible proposed editing and changes)

Q1 2027

Preparation FP10

Q4 2024

Report of the expert group on the future of European research and innovation

Sept-Dec 2025

Member States start negotiations on the proposed framework programme

Q4 2026

Final agreement

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The EC proposal

16 July 2025

MFF Key features - EUR 2 trillion

➼ **More flexibility** across the budget, **act – and react – fast**;

➼ **Simpler, more streamlined and harmonised** EU financial programmes;

➼ A budget tailored to local needs, with **National and Regional Partnership Plans** for investments and reforms;

➼ A powerful **competitiveness boost,** for Europe to secure supply chains, scale-up innovation and lead the global race for clean and smart technology;

➼ A **balanced package of new own resources** that ensures adequate revenues for our priorities while minimising pressure on national public finances.

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European Competitiveness Fund

- ➥ The European Competitiveness Fund (ECF, the Fund) is part of the post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) package,

- ➥ ECF aims to consolidate 14 individual funding instruments from the current MFF in one framework

- ➥ ECF operates as an investment capacity to bolster European competitiveness in technologies and strategic sectors critical to the EU competitiveness from collaborative research to scaling up, innovation, industrial and infrastructure deployment and manufacturing, including skills, and

- ➥ ECF supports projects and companies including SMEs, start-ups, larger companies, universities and research entities, while acting as a leverage tool employing budgetary instruments to attract private, institutional and national investments.

The next Framework Programme structure

What is the Commission proposing?

With a proposed **€175 billion** budget, the new programme will be based on four pillars.

Pillar I	Pillar II	Pillar III	Pillar IV
EXCELLENT SCIENCE	**COMPETITIVENESS AND SOCIETY**	**INNOVATION**	**EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA**
€44.079 BILLION	**€75.876 BILLION**	**€38.785 BILLION**	**€16.262 BILLION**
EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL	COMPETITIVENESS[1] : 1. Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation 2. Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy 3. Digital leadership 4. Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space	EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL	ERA POLICIES
MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS		INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS AND THE KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE	RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURES
SCIENCE FOR EU POLICIES	SOCIETY: 1. Global societal challenges 2. EU Missions 3. New European Bauhaus Facility		WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE

Horizon Europe and FP10 Budget compared

■ Pillar 2 ■ ERC and MSCA ■ Innovation* ■ Widening participation and spreading excellence ■ JRC (non-nuclear)
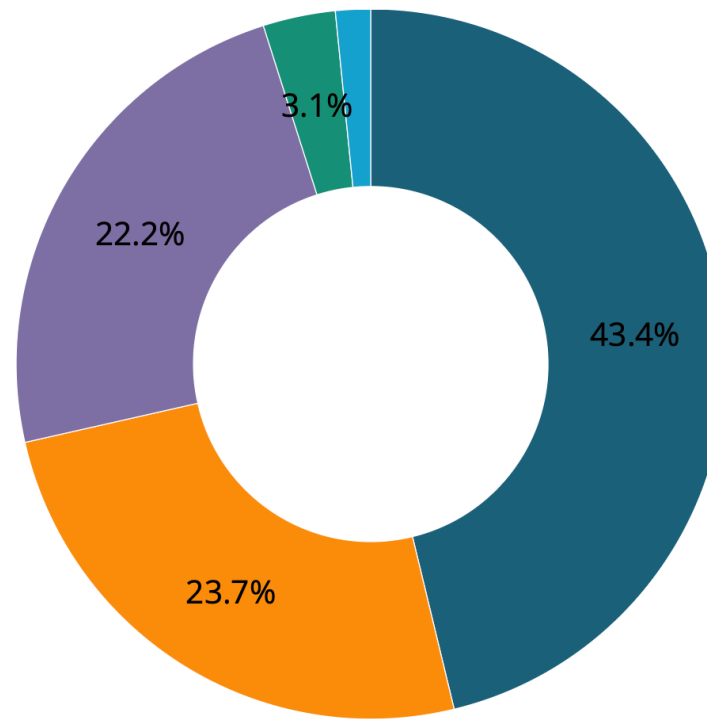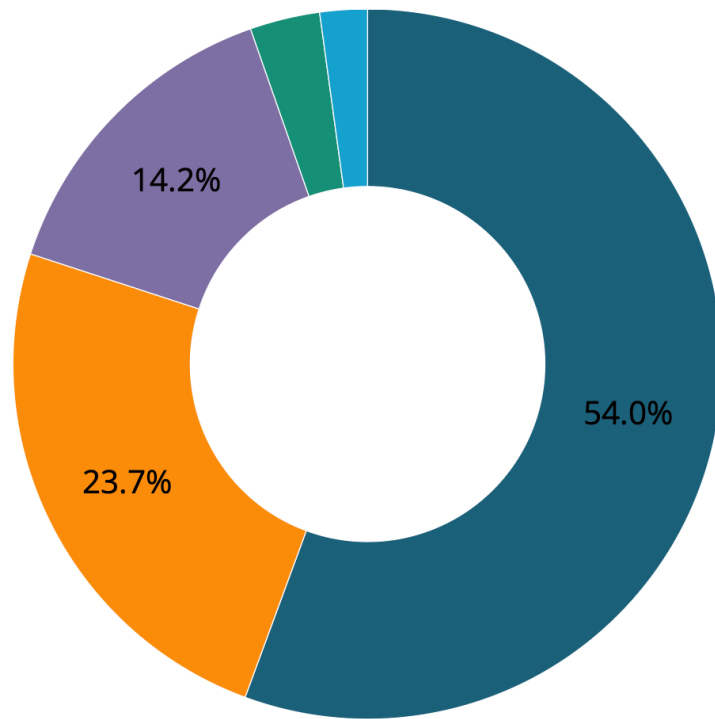
Left chart: 54.0%, 23.7%, 14.2%

Right chart: 43.4%, 23.7%, 22.2%, 3.1%

Focus on Society – EUR 7.6Bn

Society includes:

➡ Global Societal Challenges such as migration, disinformation, and the safeguarding, strengthening and promotion of democracy, as well as social and economic transformations, inclusive societies and social cohesion

➡ New European Bauhaus Facility

➡ EU Missions

Engagement in the negotiations

- EASSH to meet Ms Zaharieva, Commissioner for Start-up, R&I and Ms Minzatu Vice-President for Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness

- Target ministries and research councils

- Coordinated action and individual actions

- Be vocal and visible as a community not as individuals

- Coordinate interventions with Ministries (eg. Deans of SSH faculties together; coordinate 3 things to demand)

- Participation at key conference and events

- **Consistency with EASSH's recommendations**

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Key focus points in the Negotiation: EP, MS, EC

- Budget: keep the proposed budget of €175bn
- Competitiveness:
  - **SSH in all policy windows (art 5)**
- **Society in FP10 is for research on society**
  - Societal Challenges SSH-led SC
  - Missions: to be allocated to the other policy windows
  - New European Bauhaus: in HE received a very small amount
- ERC, MCSA
  - More directionality is at stake
  - More control from the EC policy agenda

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Society in FP10 is for Research on Society

EASSH calls for the European Parliament and the member states to support
the following key issues in the EC proposal for a new framework programme
(FP10):

- Society focus on research on societal challenges

- SSH integration.

- Excellent Science (ERC, MSCA, and research infrastructures.)

Society in FP10 is for research on society: A programme

Democracy

Education

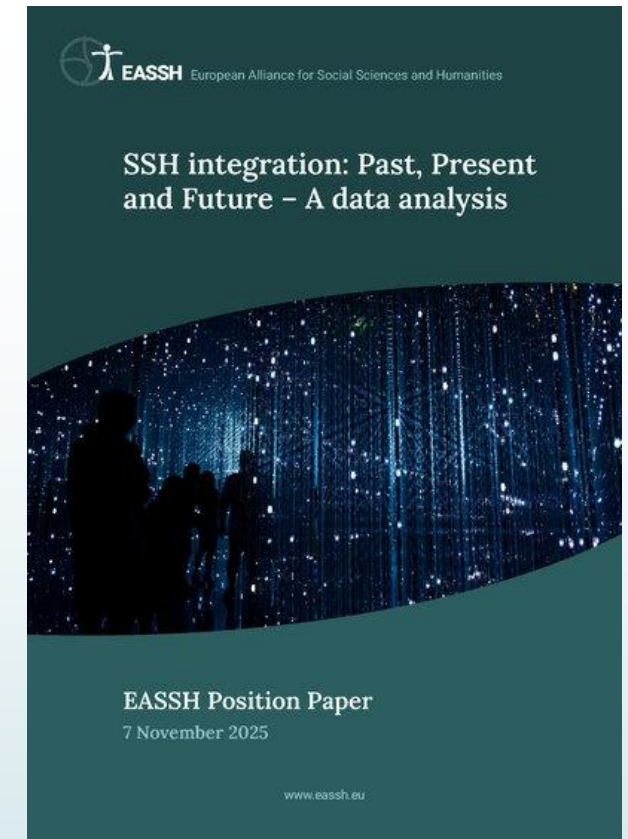Europe in the 2040 world

Culture and Knowledge

Healthy and productive societies

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EASSH presents its analysis and recommendations based on the EC's first monitoring report on SSH integration under Horizon Europe.

The paper describes EASSH's analysis of and recommendations for SSH integration following the report, in particular:

1. A more robust assessment methodology
2. Sustained implementation and monitoring
3. Facilitate policy- and research-level lessons of experience
4. Using SSH integration to monitor multidisciplinarity
5. Societal challenges implemented across all policy windows

EASSH European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities

SSH integration: Past, Present and Future – A data analysis

EASSH Position Paper
7 November 2025

www.eassh.eu

SSH integration: past, present and future – A data analysis

First feedback

Danish Presidency draft text (report to be published end of December)
Societal Challenges

The headings of the societal challenges proposed:

- Understanding geopolitical, environmental, technologic and democratic changes and evidence for policy making

- Fostering democratic just and secure societies

- Sustaining European cultures and creative industries

Defining multidisciplinarity and the role of SSH

- Article 5: Horizontal Principles
  - (a) ensure a multidisciplinary approach, where appropriate, and **provide for the integration of social sciences and humanities (SSH)** across all components under the Programme, including specific calls for proposals on SSH related topics.

- Art 15: Collaborative research
  - The Programme shall support activities to tackle global societal challenges in the areas of strengthening democratic values and tackling disinformation, including rule of law and fundamental rights; promoting socio-economic transformations that contribute to inclusion and growth, addressing demographic and intergenerational challenges, including from a youth perspective and including migration management and integration of migrants.

  - In FP10 The Programme shall support activities to tackle global societal challenges in the areas of strengthening democratic values and tackling disinformation, including rule of law and fundamental rights; **promoting socio-economic transformations that contribute to inclusion and growth**, addressing demographic and intergenerational challenges, including from a youth perspective and including migration management and integration of migrants.

  - **MS proposed to include: SSH research explicitly in this article similar to what was in HEU ("*The Programme shall ensure a multidisciplinary approach and shall, where appropriate, provide for the integration of SSH across all clusters and activities developed under the Programme, including specific calls for proposals on SSH related topics*" (Article 7(2))**

Your role

Contribute to EASSH Mission to consolidate the funding for SSH in the next FP

Disseminate the position paper and engage with dean of your faculty, your rector, VP for research

Mobilise your university to meet Ministry of Science/ Min of finance

Identify research priorities with your community for a coherent programme design

Become an expert reviewer for EU programmes

Engage with science policy debate: it matters!

THIS IS A NEGOTIATION: ALL VOICES COUNT!!!!

EASSH

Thank you

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Horizon Europe 2: Structure (proposed)

- Pilar 1: Frontier research (ERC, MSCA, JRC)
  - from €25 billion to €44 billion
- Pillar 2: Collaborative Research
  - €53.5 billion to €75.8 billion.
  - Competitiveness (€68.2) – Clean trans, Life Science, Digital Leadership, Resilience, Security, Defence & Space => **ECF**
  - & Society (€7.6) - global societal challenges such as migration, disinformation, democracy, social and economic transformations, inclusive societies and social cohesion
- Pillar 3: Innovation (from €13.6 billion to €38.7 billion)
  - EIC
  - Innovation ecosystems
- Pillar 4: Research policy
  - From €3.4 to €16.2 billion
  - Research Infrastructures
  - Widening Programme