



European Research Council
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€80 billion budget for research and innovation is vital for Europe's future

The European Council will soon agree on the EU budget for the period 2014-2020. We call on Europe's leaders to approve the €80 billion funding programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020. This will lay the foundations for growth in Europe.

The European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT) and the European Research Council (ERC) share the strong concerns about cuts to the EU research budget expressed by Nobel laureates in their letter that was published across Europe last October. The prosperity of Europe depends on maintaining its competitive edge. Scientific discovery and technological progress will produce new products, processes and services, and new industries will be created in their wake. If we want Europe to be an attractive place for research investment and entrepreneurship, Europe's R&D budget must serve this purpose.

Any reduction in the funding to support excellent research will result in Europe having limited means to attract outstanding talent in a highly competitive global market. We cannot risk losing a generation of talented scientists, just when we need them most. Europe must become a magnet for talent wherever it can be found. Industry has long realised that one of its most precious assets is people. A continued supply of well-trained scientists and entrepreneurs is essential, especially for SMEs and start-up companies. Europe's future can only be built on its brains.

The fact that the US (2.8%), Japan (3.3%) and South Korea (3.4%) invest significantly more in research and development relative to GDP than the EU (1.9%), is a clear warning signal that Europe should not cut its R&D budget. Europe is at the forefront in many scientific areas, while maintaining industrial leadership across multiple sectors. The proposed €80 billion budget for the EU's next research framework programme Horizon 2020 is the bare minimum necessary for European research and industry, including SMEs, to meet the many societal challenges that face us at this time. Indeed, to put Europe back on a path of sustainable growth and employment requires increased investment in education, research and innovation.

We urge European leaders at the forthcoming Summit to boost Europe's growth and employment prospects by fully funding Horizon 2020.

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Chairman, Ericsson

Helga Nowotny
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Tim Hunt
Member of the ERC Scientific Council,
Nobel Laureate, Physiology or Medicine 2001

The **European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT)** is a forum of around 50 European industrial leaders aiming at promoting the competitiveness and growth of Europe's economy. ERT Members are Chairmen and Chief Executives of major multinational companies of European parentage from a wide range of industry sectors. Their combined turnover is €1,000 billion thereby sustaining around 6.6 million jobs in the region.

The **European Research Council (ERC)** is the first pan-European funding organisation for frontier research. It already funds 3,000 top researchers on the sole basis of scientific excellence. Among the researchers holding the ERC research grants are Nobel prize winners and Fields Medallists. The ERC is recognised as a success story.