

07/08/2019

Horizon Europe Co-design 2021-2024

With a proposed budget of 100 billion euro from 2021 to 2027, the Horizon Europe framework programme represents the largest collaborative multinational research and innovation investment in Europe and is open to participants worldwide. The European Parliament and the Council, the co-legislators have provisionally agreed on the Horizon Europe legislative package. Based on the agreement, a Strategic Plan will put forward the targeted impacts for the investment in research and innovation and the priorities for the first four years of implementation of Horizon Europe. We invite you to contribute to co-designing and help shaping the future research and innovation investment by responding to this questionnaire. It takes approximately 20 minutes to respond. The results will inform the work on the first Strategic Plan of Horizon Europe. You can further engage by participating in the [European Research and Innovation Days](#) on 24-25-26 September 2019 in Brussels. It is recommended that prior to responding to the questions, you read the attached document: [Orientations](#) towards the first Strategic Plan implementing the research and innovation framework programme Horizon Europe.

QUESTION :Please provide here your comments on where Horizon Europe should play its greatest role in terms of global challenges, Sustainable Development Goals, and EU policy priorities.

Réponse du Conseil Français du Cerveau

Horizon Europe should support robust measures for accelerating brain health research and decreasing the burden of diseases still ailing European citizens, without many effective cures at hand. For example, the global population is ageing and with this comes the steady increased risk and incidence of brain, i.e. neurological and psychiatric, conditions. Addressing health—in particular, brain health—must be a priority for Europe & an example for the rest of the world in addressing the biggest glob.

QUESTION : In your view, how relevant is it for Horizon Europe to deliver impacts for a "Competitive Europe"?

Réponse du Conseil Français du Cerveau

Industrial leadership in public-private partnerships for new technologies can play a big role for health. This need is quite apparent in the field of neurological & mental disorders; compared to other disease areas, the pace of innovation in this field is hindered by the complexity of the brain.

QUESTION : In your view, how relevant is it for Horizon Europe to deliver on the following impacts for a "Fair Europe"?

Réponse du Conseil Français du Cerveau

The following items are highly relevant for Horizon Europe future impacts :

1. Healthy citizens in a rapidly changing society
2. Healthy and health-promoting living and working environments
3. Effective health services to tackle diseases and reduce the burden of diseases
4. Improved access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality health care
5. Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society
6. A sustainable and globally competitive health- related industry in the EU

Current health systems have not adapted fast enough to provide patients with optimum outcomes. This is particularly true for brain disorders. Treatment gaps (the proportion of people who require but don't receive access to care) pose the biggest barriers to improved diagnosis, treatment & care.

QUESTION : In your view, how relevant is it for Horizon Europe to deliver on the following impacts for a "Sustainable Europe"?

Réponse du Conseil Français du Cerveau

1. Advanced climate science and solutions
2. More sustainable management of natural resources, prevention and removal of pollution
3. A built Environment better fit for EU citizens

The three items rated as very relevant contribute to the aims of the French Brain Council which is not competent for rating other items

QUESTION : Please provide here your suggestions for relevant Horizon Europe impacts to contribute to an "Influential Europe".

Réponse du Conseil Français du Cerveau

Fostering global initiatives through a strategic R&I agenda and coordination at the global level, feeding through existing concrete projects such as the European Brain Research Area (H2020). This demonstrates neuroscience as a link to external partners and enhances the EU's voice in global research.

QUESTION : Please click on the part of Horizon Europe for which you would like to provide further general input regarding the targeted impacts from Horizon Europe.

Réponse du Conseil Français du Cerveau

Health (cluster 1)

The Health cluster, according to the Orientations document, aims to tackle diseases and to decrease the burden of diseases on citizens and health care systems. Though it mentions “Non-communicable diseases, including mental illnesses and neurodegenerative diseases, are responsible for up to 80% of EU health care costs”, there is no further prioritization of mental or neurodegenerative diseases reflected within the cluster or the missions. In 2010, it was estimated that brain disorders, neurological and mental alike, affected approximately 179 million European citizens and that the costs associated with these conditions were estimated at €800 billion annually. In 2016, neurological disorders were the cause of 276 million DALYs & 9 million deaths, with mental disorders adding approximately 8 million deaths annually. In this regard, addressing the societal impact of the most burdensome diseases should be much more disease-specific and a key requisite for improving human health and decreasing the overall burden of disease on European citizens.

In light of the societal challenges highlighted and prioritized in the document and the staggering statistics presented by mental and neurological conditions, it is crucial that the “Health” cluster becomes a robust tool for reducing the disease burden caused by brain disorders. Such action will significantly contribute to realizing the EU's ambitions in decreasing the overall burden of disease on European society as well as achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 (good health and well-being). We therefore urge the European Commission to introduce specific targets and expected impacts aimed at accelerating brain research, reducing the burden of brain disorders, enhancing early diagnosis, advancing knowledge about the human brain and preventing mental and neurological conditions in the first Strategic Plan of Horizon Europe. Concrete and measurable objectives aimed at decreasing the burden of brain disorders in terms of mortality, DALYs and economic costs to society should be added, as priority objectives of the Horizon Europe programme. Furthermore, the targeted impacts currently highlight, amongst other issues, early diagnosis and effective translation of research results. This section should be further extended in order to underline the need to diagnose people at an earlier stage and prioritize early intervention of diseases to avoid worsening and burden

increase. This is particularly true for brain disorders as most still do not have effective treatments or cures.

Brain disorders are increasingly playing the largest role alongside cancers and cardiovascular diseases. The aims of the health cluster are to solve the big health issues plaguing the European population, yet, brain disorders remain low and unrecognized on the priority list though the majority of brain conditions remain without efficient treatment and none with full cures. The continued commitment of funding agencies to basic neuroscience research has advanced our understanding of the nervous system, as well as in the practical and clinical application of this knowledge. Yet, the inherent complexity of the nervous system hampered our translational capacity, suggesting that a higher level of integration is required.

Engagement of the scientific and clinical community at all levels is required in order for the European population to benefit from discoveries and for advances in basic science to be translated into new diagnostic tools and treatments. In this regard, we wholly support the establishment of a Brain Health partnership under Horizon Europe, to build on existing projects such as the European Brain Research Area, to improve alignment and synergies across European and global brain disease research initiatives to minimize time-to-market of preventions and treatments by intensifying scientific collaborations, identifying gaps in knowledge, improving data sharing and facilitating access to infrastructures. Further objectives aimed at supporting activities that aim to boost the development of novel treatments for improving the lives of people living with brain disorders should become an integral part of the fifth area of activities (“new and advanced therapies for non-communicable diseases”).