

Public Consultation - EU funding for competitiveness

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

In 2025, the European Commission will put forward a comprehensive proposal for the next long-term budget – the multiannual financial framework (MFF). This includes EU funding providing financial support to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries, including research and technology organisations, small and medium /sized businesses, startups and scale-ups, educational and research institutions, industry clusters, and many others.

Today, EU funding in support of competitiveness is spread over too many overlapping programmes, many of which fund the same thing but with different requirements and difficulties in combining funding effectively, which hinders access to EU funding and limits the impact that the funding can have.

As highlighted in President von der Leyen's Commission's [Political Guidelines](#), as well as in the [Competitiveness Compass](#), the Commission will work on a simpler, more focused and impactful MFF that reflects the European strategic priorities (with the ambition of being an “investment-focused Commission”),

The guidelines also announced the creation of a European Competitiveness Fund, as part of the proposal for the next MFF. As set out in the Competitiveness Compass, this investment capacity should channel investment in strategic technologies along the entire investment journey, from research, through scale-up, industrial deployment, to manufacturing – using the power of the EU budget to de-risk and mobilise private investment for our common goals.

The Commission's proposal for the next MFF will be focused on the things that matter most, in areas where the EU can achieve more than Member States acting alone. This requires a careful assessment both of what has worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future. The next MFF will draw lessons from the current budget – notably in terms of simplicity and flexibility, speed and strategic focus.

As an integral part of the process, the Commission is launching a series of public consultations to gather views from all interested parties on the future EU budget. This consultation covers EU funding in support of EU competitiveness. The decision to cluster issues serves to support the preparatory work and does not pre-empt the architecture of future programmes. This questionnaire consists of 3 parts:

Part 1 collects some information about you Part 2 contains questions related to EU funding for competitiveness. Part 3 comprises 2 closing questions.

Your feedback will inform the analysis of the impact assessment for the European Competitiveness Fund.

You can save your replies as a draft and finish later. Please be concise in those questions with a free text box for additional comments. If you want, you can also upload a document with your views at the end of the survey.

About you

Part 1. Questions about you

*** Language of my contribution**

- ☐ Bulgarian
- ☐ Croatian
- ☐ Czech
- ☐ Danish
- ☐ Dutch
- ☒ English
- ☐ Estonian
- ☐ Finnish
- ☐ French
- ☐ German
- ☐ Greek
- ☐ Hungarian
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Italian
- ☐ Latvian
- ☐ Lithuanian
- ☐ Maltese
- ☐ Polish
- ☐ Portuguese
- ☐ Romanian
- ☐ Slovak
- ☐ Slovenian
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Swedish

*** I am giving my contribution as**

- ☐ Academic/research institution
- ☒ Business association
- ☐ Company/business
- ☐ Consumer organisation
- ☐ EU citizen
- ☐ Environmental organisation
- ☐ Non-EU citizen

- ☐ Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- ☐ Public authority
- ☐ Trade union
- ☐ Other

* First name

Simon

* Surname

Thibaud

* Email (this won't be published)

simon.thibaud@aecm.eu

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

AECM - European Association of Guarantee Institutions

* Organisation size

- ☒ Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- ☐ Small (10 to 49 employees)
- ☐ Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- ☐ Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

67611102869-33

* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Afghanistan | <input type="radio"/> Djibouti | <input type="radio"/> Libya | <input type="radio"/> Saint Martin |
| <input type="radio"/> Åland Islands | <input type="radio"/> Dominica | <input type="radio"/> Liechtenstein | <input type="radio"/> Saint Pierre and Miquelon |

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|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Albania | <input type="radio"/> Dominican Republic | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania | <input type="radio"/> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| <input type="radio"/> Algeria | <input type="radio"/> Ecuador | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg | <input type="radio"/> Samoa |
| <input type="radio"/> American Samoa | <input type="radio"/> Egypt | <input type="radio"/> Macau | <input type="radio"/> San Marino |
| <input type="radio"/> Andorra | <input type="radio"/> El Salvador | <input type="radio"/> Madagascar | <input type="radio"/> São Tomé and Príncipe |
| <input type="radio"/> Angola | <input type="radio"/> Equatorial Guinea | <input type="radio"/> Malawi | <input type="radio"/> Saudi Arabia |
| <input type="radio"/> Anguilla | <input type="radio"/> Eritrea | <input type="radio"/> Malaysia | <input type="radio"/> Senegal |
| <input type="radio"/> Antarctica | <input type="radio"/> Estonia | <input type="radio"/> Maldives | <input type="radio"/> Serbia |
| <input type="radio"/> Antigua and Barbuda | <input type="radio"/> Eswatini | <input type="radio"/> Mali | <input type="radio"/> Seychelles |
| <input type="radio"/> Argentina | <input type="radio"/> Ethiopia | <input type="radio"/> Malta | <input type="radio"/> Sierra Leone |
| <input type="radio"/> Armenia | <input type="radio"/> Falkland Islands | <input type="radio"/> Marshall Islands | <input type="radio"/> Singapore |
| <input type="radio"/> Aruba | <input type="radio"/> Faroe Islands | <input type="radio"/> Martinique | <input type="radio"/> Sint Maarten |
| <input type="radio"/> Australia | <input type="radio"/> Fiji | <input type="radio"/> Mauritania | <input type="radio"/> Slovakia |
| <input type="radio"/> Austria | <input type="radio"/> Finland | <input type="radio"/> Mauritius | <input type="radio"/> Slovenia |
| <input type="radio"/> Azerbaijan | <input type="radio"/> France | <input type="radio"/> Mayotte | <input type="radio"/> Solomon Islands |
| <input type="radio"/> Bahamas | <input type="radio"/> French Guiana | <input type="radio"/> Mexico | <input type="radio"/> Somalia |
| <input type="radio"/> Bahrain | <input type="radio"/> French Polynesia | <input type="radio"/> Micronesia | <input type="radio"/> South Africa |
| <input type="radio"/> Bangladesh | <input type="radio"/> French Southern and Antarctic Lands | <input type="radio"/> Moldova | <input type="radio"/> South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands |
| <input type="radio"/> Barbados | <input type="radio"/> Gabon | <input type="radio"/> Monaco | <input type="radio"/> South Korea |
| <input type="radio"/> Belarus | <input type="radio"/> Georgia | <input type="radio"/> Mongolia | <input type="radio"/> South Sudan |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Belgium | <input type="radio"/> Germany | <input type="radio"/> Montenegro | <input type="radio"/> Spain |
| <input type="radio"/> Belize | <input type="radio"/> Ghana | <input type="radio"/> Montserrat | <input type="radio"/> Sri Lanka |
| <input type="radio"/> Benin | <input type="radio"/> Gibraltar | <input type="radio"/> Morocco | <input type="radio"/> Sudan |
| <input type="radio"/> Bermuda | <input type="radio"/> Greece | <input type="radio"/> Mozambique | <input type="radio"/> Suriname |
| <input type="radio"/> Bhutan | <input type="radio"/> Greenland | <input type="radio"/> Myanmar/Burma | <input type="radio"/> Svalbard and Jan Mayen |
| <input type="radio"/> Bolivia | <input type="radio"/> Grenada | <input type="radio"/> Namibia | <input type="radio"/> Sweden |

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ○ Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba | ○ Guadeloupe | ○ Nauru | ○ Switzerland |
| ○ Bosnia and Herzegovina | ○ Guam | ○ Nepal | ○ Syria |
| ○ Botswana | ○ Guatemala | ○ Netherlands | ○ Taiwan |
| ○ Bouvet Island | ○ Guernsey | ○ New Caledonia | ○ Tajikistan |
| ○ Brazil | ○ Guinea | ○ New Zealand | ○ Tanzania |
| ○ British Indian Ocean Territory | ○ Guinea-Bissau | ○ Nicaragua | ○ Thailand |
| ○ British Virgin Islands | ○ Guyana | ○ Niger | ○ The Gambia |
| ○ Brunei | ○ Haiti | ○ Nigeria | ○ Timor-Leste |
| ○ Bulgaria | ○ Heard Island and McDonald Islands | ○ Niue | ○ Togo |
| ○ Burkina Faso | ○ Honduras | ○ Norfolk Island | ○ Tokelau |
| ○ Burundi | ○ Hong Kong | ○ Northern Mariana Islands | ○ Tonga |
| ○ Cambodia | ○ Hungary | ○ North Korea | ○ Trinidad and Tobago |
| ○ Cameroon | ○ Iceland | ○ North Macedonia | ○ Tunisia |
| ○ Canada | ○ India | ○ Norway | ○ Türkiye |
| ○ Cape Verde | ○ Indonesia | ○ Oman | ○ Turkmenistan |
| ○ Cayman Islands | ○ Iran | ○ Pakistan | ○ Turks and Caicos Islands |
| ○ Central African Republic | ○ Iraq | ○ Palau | ○ Tuvalu |
| ○ Chad | ○ Ireland | ○ Palestine | ○ Uganda |
| ○ Chile | ○ Isle of Man | ○ Panama | ○ Ukraine |
| ○ China | ○ Israel | ○ Papua New Guinea | ○ United Arab Emirates |
| ○ Christmas Island | ○ Italy | ○ Paraguay | ○ United Kingdom |
| ○ Clipperton | ○ Jamaica | ○ Peru | ○ United States |

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| <input type="radio"/> Cocos (Keeling) Islands | <input type="radio"/> Japan | <input type="radio"/> Philippines | <input type="radio"/> United States Minor Outlying Islands |
| <input type="radio"/> Colombia | <input type="radio"/> Jersey | <input type="radio"/> Pitcairn Islands | <input type="radio"/> Uruguay |
| <input type="radio"/> Comoros | <input type="radio"/> Jordan | <input type="radio"/> Poland | <input type="radio"/> US Virgin Islands |
| <input type="radio"/> Congo | <input type="radio"/> Kazakhstan | <input type="radio"/> Portugal | <input type="radio"/> Uzbekistan |
| <input type="radio"/> Cook Islands | <input type="radio"/> Kenya | <input type="radio"/> Puerto Rico | <input type="radio"/> Vanuatu |
| <input type="radio"/> Costa Rica | <input type="radio"/> Kiribati | <input type="radio"/> Qatar | <input type="radio"/> Vatican City |
| <input type="radio"/> Côte d'Ivoire | <input type="radio"/> Kosovo | <input type="radio"/> Réunion | <input type="radio"/> Venezuela |
| <input type="radio"/> Croatia | <input type="radio"/> Kuwait | <input type="radio"/> Romania | <input type="radio"/> Vietnam |
| <input type="radio"/> Cuba | <input type="radio"/> Kyrgyzstan | <input type="radio"/> Russia | <input type="radio"/> Wallis and Futuna |
| <input type="radio"/> Curaçao | <input type="radio"/> Laos | <input type="radio"/> Rwanda | <input type="radio"/> Western Sahara |
| <input type="radio"/> Cyprus | <input type="radio"/> Latvia | <input type="radio"/> Saint Barthélemy | <input type="radio"/> Yemen |
| <input type="radio"/> Czechia | <input type="radio"/> Lebanon | <input type="radio"/> Saint Helena
Ascension and
Tristan da Cunha | <input type="radio"/> Zambia |
| <input type="radio"/> Democratic Republic of the Congo | <input type="radio"/> Lesotho | <input type="radio"/> Saint Kitts and Nevis | <input type="radio"/> Zimbabwe |
| <input type="radio"/> Denmark | <input type="radio"/> Liberia | <input type="radio"/> Saint Lucia | |

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association', 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

* Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

☐ **Anonymous**

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

☒ **Public**

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

☒ I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

Since 2021 have you applied for EU funding managed directly or indirectly by the European Commission?

Maximum 1 selection(s)

☐ Yes

☒ No

Part 2. EU funding on Competitiveness

The Commission has preliminarily identified the following challenges linked to competitiveness. How important are these challenges in your view?

	Very important	Important	Moderately important	Not important	No opinion
The innovation and technological gap for the EU in strategic technologies, with respect to key competitors globally	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Underinvestment in research and innovation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disparities in innovation and industrial capacity across Member States	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of fertilisation between civil and military research and development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Insufficient innovation and manufacturing capacity for strategic technologies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient focus of EU funding on EU strategic priorities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of coherence between EU, national and regional policies for competitiveness	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate resilience and costs associated with decarbonisation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Excessive dependence of the EU on non-EU countries for critical inputs, raw materials and strategic technologies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to finance for small businesses and for scale-up companies from research to manufacturing	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attracting world class researchers, skilled workers and entrepreneurs from abroad	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Incapacity to translate innovation into marketable technologies, and failure to integrate these technologies into the EU's industrial base	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mismatch between skills and labour market demands	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Digitalisation and diffusion of advanced technologies in key sectors	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient private investment, including by institutional investors	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Challenges related to the effective protection of EU funds against fraud, corruption and other illegal activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Which development stages for technologies and products should be supported by the next MFF to support EU competitiveness?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Fundamental research	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Applied research	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Early-stage development of technologies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scaling up	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Industrial deployment	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Manufacturing capacities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

To what extent does the current EU budget contribute to addressing the following challenges?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all
Attracting world class researchers, skilled workers and entrepreneurs from abroad	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitating collaboration between research and industry	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Translation of innovation into marketable technologies, and integration of these technologies into the EU's industrial base	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disparities in innovation and industrial capacity and resources across Member States	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing world class technological and research infrastructure across the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing excessive dependencies in critical inputs, raw materials and strategic technologies	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fertilisation between civil and military research and development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring continuity in EU funding across the stages from research to manufacturing	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Demand-side public initiatives for innovation and strategic technologies (e.g. procurement, standards)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Decarbonisation and environmental sustainability of strategic sectors	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Digitalisation and diffusion of advanced technologies in key sectors	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support for small businesses and for scale up companies from research to manufacturing	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient mobilisation of private financing (e.g. by de-risking private investment)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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The Commission has identified a number of possible measures for EU funding to better support EU competitiveness. To what extent do you think such measures could have a positive impact?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/ not applicable
Applying common rules, timelines and eligibility criteria to all relevant EU funds	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased focus of funding on key current and future strategic priorities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing the number of EU funding programmes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Continuity in EU funding from research to manufacturing	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aligning industrial and research policies and investment at EU and national levels	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase international collaboration with like-minded non-EU partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Targeted tools and measures to limit EU dependencies in strategic key sectors	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthen business advisory support services (e.g. coaching, mentoring, training) for successful applicants	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
User-friendly IT tools	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better feedback to applicants	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introduce more flexibility into resource allocation to react to crises and emerging needs	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Place greater focus on achieving results, including via performance-based funding (such as financing not linked to costs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preventing and combat fraud and corruption better as well as other illegal activities targeting EU funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Part 3. Closing questions

If you would like to add further information – within the scope of this questionnaire – feel free to do so here.

AECM members strongly advocate for SME access to finance to remain a key policy priority in the next EU budget. Ensuring that all SMEs have access to adequate financing throughout their lifecycle is essential for their growth, economic resilience and overall competitiveness. To achieve this, the European Commission should continue promoting the use of financial instruments in the form of guarantees and counter-guarantees which leverage private investment with minimal public resources, thereby optimising the impact of EU funding.

Attach any relevant documents to support your replies

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

1f8a2d49-c188-4a68-b7d9-03cfec8cf1dd/AECM_requests_for_future_funding_instruments_MFF_2028-2034.pdf

Contact

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