

European Research: Facing the challenges and building the future

Paul Boyle, EUA Vice president

- University-based fundamental & applied research is at the heart of economic growth
- Universities are the key actors in the EU Framework Programmes for R&I
- H2020 and previous framework programmes have provided a foundation for success



Economic impact

- In 2014, R&D activity in UK universities generated a £28.9 billion increase in gross value added for the UK economy, equivalent to £1,071 per household
- EU research funding alone is worth £1.9 billion for the UK economy

Job creation

- Universities employed 403,800 people in 2014-15
- They employ 196,500 in academic roles
- EU research funding alone generates more than 19,000 jobs across the UK

Knowledge exchange

- This economic impact derives from universities' extensive KE activities: UK funding for KE in universities shows a return on investment of £6.40 per pound
- In 2014-15, UK universities filed 2,200 patents, established 140 spin-outs, granted over 41,000 licenses to businesses and other organisations, and provided external consultancy services to over 98,000 organisations, earning more than £440 million

- We need the best minds in Europe to work together
- FP funding reduces duplication and fragmentation, creates critical mass and generates economies of scale
- European funded research has a higher field-weighted citation index than national research

11 REASONS TO STEP UP EU INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH & INNOVATION

1 LEVERAGE

The EU Framework Programme (FP) has a proven value for research and innovation support in Europe. Every €1 invested by the FP generates on average €13 in increased value added of the business sector. Estimated GDP gains by 2030: 6 to 8.5 times the initial investment.



Challenges to sustainable long-term funding and equal participation

Building the future

- Excessively **low success rates** lead to demotivation, closed partnerships & unequal participation
- **Efficiency & simplification** continue to be priorities
- **Financial instruments** shouldn't replace grants

- We must not compromise on **excellence**, but we need imaginative approaches to engaging all European partners in R&I
- Better **synergies between FP9 and ESIF**
- **Increase funding for FP9** through strategic MFF reallocation
- Simplify through broader acceptance of **national & institutional accounting practices**

Stronger alignment
of education,
research &
innovation policies

- Need for **stronger links between education and research** to develop human talent, the fundamental driver of innovation
- Introduce into **EU grant agreements** the possibility to link research to education by **embedding research into learning**
- Broaden and clarify the **concept of ‘impact’**: societal, cultural and long-term impact need to be considered in addition to purely numerical measures
- Focus indicators on the **innovation potential of research**, rather than on TRLs, to facilitate integration of **Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences** and **STEM**