

EPS Statement

On research and education opportunities for innovation in Horizon 2020

Investment in scientific research and education is essential for sustainable economic development. This is a basic principle that motivated the goal established in 2000 by the European Council in Lisbon for Europe to become the world's most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy. Achieving this requires a firm commitment from the European Union, and each country in Europe, to continue to invest in scientific education and research, and to work to implement a unified research policy.

The European Physical Society (EPS) has been repeatedly stressing the importance of such investment, and it newly and strongly supports this view, and moreover affirms its belief that re-focusing Europe as a knowledge-based society is the best way to deal with present and future social and economic challenges. In this context, EPS considers the new **European research programme Horizon 2020** to be a unique opportunity to reinforce the vital relation between basic science and technological applications, and thus to advance Europe's position in both research and innovation. At the same time, EPS stresses that Horizon 2020 must recognise without any doubt that it is basic scientific knowledge that provides the seed for technological development and economic growth. Funding priorities and mechanisms in Horizon 2020 must be founded on the principles that science and technology are interdependent, they drive each other in a synergetic way, and that both must be supported.

Horizon 2020 is an opportunity for both researchers and policy makers to recognise and expand Europe's scientific and technological strength. Europe has a dynamic culture of research creativity and diversity, and leads the world in areas ranging from particle physics to communications and aerospace technologies. But there is much room for improvement: for example, reducing research fragmentation and bureaucracy will improve use of public resources; simplifying academic-industry linkages will reduce time to market for new technologies; strengthening public-private partnerships will better promote growth and create jobs. Horizon 2020 has potential to support Europe's strengths and address Europe's weaknesses. Investment in research is essential for economic growth, and reaffirms Europe's commitment to its future.

The EPS nevertheless states clearly its position that current austerity measures in many countries in Europe should not jeopardise this vision. It is more important than ever that Horizon 2020 be funded at the level proposed to meet its ambitious objectives, including support for: infrastructure and new facilities; both team-driven research and individual researchers; coupling with national actions; mobility, training and education. EPS requests of the European Union and research policy makers to support European research and development through a coherent and inclusive European policy that strengthens the mutually beneficial relationship between education, research and innovation. Research and education together provide the opportunities for innovation that Europe needs.



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