

Horizon Europe

Ensuring success for Europe in global competition

Elevating European Innovation to the top of the league

The perspective of Grenoble's innovation Ecosystem

Grenoble is one of Europe's leading and most dynamic ecosystems in the field of research-driven innovation. The importance of cross-fertilisation and integration within this ecosystem has been fostered for over 50 years, with a visible impact on both science and society. One such effort is the GIANT innovation campus, which brings together in Grenoble Higher Education, Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs), industries and cutting-edge technology companies of all sizes, as well as large-scale international research infrastructures and public authorities. These complementary actors not only have the necessary resources and know-how to carry out the highly sophisticated characterisation of materials and manufacturing processes but also strive continuously for new knowledge and innovation by contributing to joint projects, as the key to remaining successful in their highly competitive fields. This dual focus has created a recognised and powerful European Research and Innovation ecosystem that not only maintains its Fundamental Research activities at the highest level but also contributes to innovation on all levels of the technology readiness scale.

Consequently, the members of GIANT, having very much appreciated the scale and success of Horizon 2020 and its three pillars covering all Technology Readiness Levels, strongly support the innovative concepts put forward by the European Commission in its new Research and Innovation framework programme, Horizon Europe.



To deliver on the high expectations placed on them, new and existing concepts must be properly funded, which requires a significant increase in the budget available. In our view, this is not an option but a *sine qua non* requirement if Europe seriously intends to remain a leading industrial and technological player whilst at the same time meeting the climatic and societal challenges ahead.

Indeed, Europe must not only maintain its technological edge in the many fields in which it already excels, but must also explore new avenues to ensure its competitiveness and strengthen its autonomy. To achieve this goal, it is essential that Europe make full use of all its assets, one of the strongest of which is its highly developed research network that until now has helped place Europe at the top of the science pyramid. This community must be seamlessly supported and closely integrated into the innovation process if it is to continue to successfully serve the needs of our society.

Horizon Europe aims to enhance Europe's international competitiveness by providing targeted tools not only for reinforcing scientific excellence in its Pillar 1, but also for feeding the innovation process. To this end, we very much welcome its focus on "mission-oriented innovations", and the creation of the European Innovation Council in Pillar 3 of **Horizon Europe**, as well as the acknowledgement of the need to support Innovation Ecosystems in order to drive innovation to its fullest potential. Pillar 2 - Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness - is another powerful collaborative part of the programme that will help to break down silos and promote the cross-fertilisation of knowledge between public research and industry. This is a key element for strengthening Europe's Research, Development and Innovation ecosystems and industrial value chains.

In this way, **Horizon Europe** places even stronger emphasis on developing the innovation potential of European science for the benefit of society. The European funding instruments have already proven to be particularly efficient by adding value through harmonising and enhancing national efforts.

The members of **GIANT** therefore ask decision-makers to provide **Horizon Europe** with adequate funding to meet its aims. We call on European institutions to focus on the support of scientific excellence and to deliver a programme that will further boost Europe's enormous capacity for transforming Research into Innovation.

At **GIANT**, we are mobilising all our resources to make sure we remain a leading European player in this endeavour.