

VOTE FOR SCIENCE

6-9 JUNE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

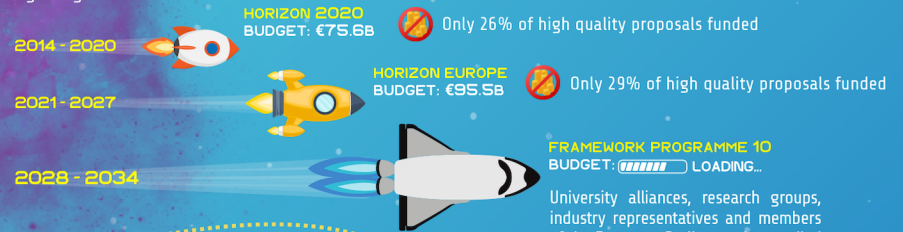
FACT SHEET INTRODUCTION

Scientific research fuels European progress, addressing challenges like climate change, inequality, and global health crises. Ahead of the European parliamentary election, prioritising research investment and scientific freedom is essential for sustained economic growth and improved quality of life.

Through this fact sheet, Science Europe offers an overview of research in Europe, highlighting its current state and pivotal developments shaping the future of our research ecosystem.

RESEARCH FUNDING

The largest support for European research comes from EU research framework programmes – but will the next one be big enough?



ARE WE SPENDING ENOUGH?

Is the EU spending enough on R&D? The short answer is, no. The target was to spend 3% GDP by 2010, but spending peaked in 2020 at only 2.30% – now its on the way down!



SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

The EU is remaining competitive, with a global share of top 10% highly cited scientific publications remaining high. But it will need to keep funding up, as this figure has declined slightly from 24% to 22.7% between 2000 – 2018.



RESEARCH COMMUNITY SIZE

The number of full-time equivalent researchers in the EU increased by more than 45% between 2012 and 2022, from 1.43 to 2.08 million.



WIDENING GAP

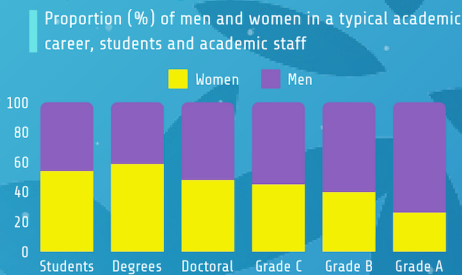
Differences across EU Member States in research quality, access to funding, and R&D spending remains high.

HORIZON 2020 FUNDING ALLOCATION
ONLY 4.4% of funding went to EU13 countries (who joined after 2004), compared to 95.6% of for EU15 countries.



WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Despite women making up the majority of the people employed in science and technology, they were underrepresented at higher levels.



Women remain considerably underrepresented among researchers based on head count in the EU, accounting for only 32.9% in 2019. There has been no considerable progress since 2005, when the share stood at 30.2%.



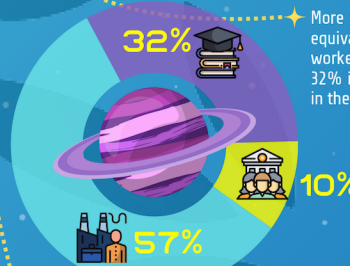
EDUCATION

Between 2007 and 2022, the share of 25-34 year-olds completing a university degree or similar increased from 28.9% to 42.0%. The EU is on track to reach its target of raising this share to:

45% BY 2030



More than half (57%) of full-time equivalent researchers in the EU worked in business enterprises, 32% in higher education and 10% in the government sector in 2022.



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The share of international co-publications with non-EU partners in the public sector has increased constantly between 2010 and 2021.

217 PUBLICATIONS PER 1000 RESEARCHERS 2010
TO 358 IN 2021



ACADEMIC FREEDOM

According to the Academic Freedom Index, academic freedom in the EU has been on a decreasing trend between 2010 and 2022, with this trend accelerating after 2020.

This is part of a larger global decline. In 1973, only about 1.6 billion people (43.5%) lived in countries with completely restricted academic freedom. Now, 45.5% of the world's population – 3.6 billion people – live in 27 countries where academic freedom is completely restricted.



OPEN ACCESS

Horizon 2020 pushed for greater open access to research papers, which became a general requirement under the programme, with an evaluation finding that 82% of publications were freely available online.

Currently, 91% of all publications and 95% of all peer-reviewed publications funded by Horizon Europe are open access. These percentages are exceptionally high globally.



SOURCES

European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Science, research and innovation performance of the EU 2022 – Building a sustainable future in uncertain times, Publications Office of the European Union, 2022, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/78826>

European Parliamentary Research Service, Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA) PE 641.542, June 2020 – Exploring the performance gap in EU Framework Programmes between EU13 and EU15 Member States, doi: 10.2861/654637

European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, She figures 2021 – Gender in research and innovation – Statistics and indicators, Publications Office, 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/06090>

Visit the science europe website to find out more about how you can use your vote to support scientific research this european election cycle: www.scienceeurope.org

#VOTE4SCIENCE