

4 June 2024

## A call to strengthen research and innovation in Europe.

In a world of major environmental, societal, and geopolitical crises, it is imperative that Europe invests in its future. Investing in our knowledge capital is the foundation for Europe's competitiveness, wellbeing, and peace.

We need urgent solutions to address the complex challenges facing our societies: Climate change, AI, cybersecurity, environmental and energy crises, threats to democracy and security, pandemics, among others. Developing and enhancing excellent research and innovation with a long-term, multidisciplinary, and cross-sectoral perspective is key to our future.

In recent years, North America and Asia have massively ramped up their investments, leaving Europe behind. To remain competitive and advance the economic, ecological, and societal transitions, European countries and the EU must boost their research and innovation funding.

With the #ResearchMatters campaign, leading research, and innovation (R&I) organisations urge Finance Ministers of European countries, and the European Council, Commission and Parliament, to act boldly and:

- Push funding for research and innovation in Europe through the achievement of over 3% of the GDP within the European Union and all European countries.
- Double the budget for the EU's next research & innovation programme (FP10) to reach 200 billion EUR.
- Protect the latter by ringfencing the budget.

Together, these measures are critical to provide Europe with strategies to cope with current and future geopolitical and societal challenges. By increasing investments in knowledge creation, research, and research-driven innovation, we are investing in the very future of Europe and its people. In this campaign, we urge the European institutions and all European countries, national and regional policymakers, the whole research and innovation community, society, and the media, to join our quest.

**The time to act is now!** Let's get our act together and build a bright future for Europe. Read about the campaign and stories on the benefits of R&I on: [research-matters.eu](https://research-matters.eu).

**Sincerely,**

**Academia Europaea**

**ALLEA** (All European Academies)

**CESAER** (Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research)

**Coimbra Group Universities**

**EARMA** (European Association of Research Managers and Administrators)

**ECIU** (European Consortium of Innovative Universities)

**EERA** (European Energy Research Alliance)

**EOSC Association**

**EASSH** (European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities)

**EUA** (European University Association)

**EU-LIFE** (Alliance of independent European research institutes in the life science)

**Eurodoc**

**EUPRIO** (European Association of Communication Professionals in Higher Education)

**EuroTech Universities Alliance**

**LERU** (League of European Research Universities)

**Science Europe**

**UAS4EUROPE**

**The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities**

**ISE** (Initiative for Science in Europe)

**UnLiON** (Universities Informal Liaison Offices Network)

**Yerun** (Young European Research Universities Network)

**Young Academy of Europe**