

Courtesy translation



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
11TH TERM

522nd

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 18th session held on 17th October 2018

on the Horizon Europe programme package

Senate Print no. N 157/11, COM(2018) 435 - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination

Senate Print no. J 158/11, COM(2018) 436 - Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

The Senate

I.

1. Got acquainted

with the Horizon Europe package and with the position of the Government regarding this package;

2. Is aware

that support for science and innovation is a key element in sustainable development and preservation of the EU's competitiveness on a global scale, particularly in the situation when other global players invest significantly more in this area; the Senate points out, in this regard, to its recent resolution No. 420 delivered on 17th May 2018 on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Horizon 2020 interim evaluation: maximising the impact of EU research and innovation;

3. Appreciates therefore

the proposed increase in funds for Horizon Europe compared to Horizon 2020 by around 30 %, that will facilitate dealing with the record low success rate of applicants, which is a problem in Horizon 2020;

4. Stresses, however,

that it is necessary to increase the budget for the Horizon Europe programme even more significantly in order to meet the declared and desirable objectives of greater support for innovation, improving success rate of applicants and funding of the large missions, as recommended also by the European University Association (EUA) and the High Level Group to maximize the impact of EU programs for research and innovation; it would be preferable to double the current budget of Horizon 2020, but at least to provide 120 billion EUR;

5. Is convinced

that

- the strategic planning of missions and other key initiatives of the Horizon Europe programme should be more transparent and open to the involvement of stakeholders;
- the financial burden on Member States linked to the construction and operation of large research infrastructures, which have an evident European added value and are shared by more Member States, should be reduced by means of allowing a greater use of EU funds;
- funding should primarily focus on programmes that have already demonstrated clear European added value; this applies in particular to the European Research Council (ERC) and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, for which a larger increase in budget is therefore desirable;
- the Horizon Europe programme should consistently in all its pillars link science and innovation with education;
- reflection by humanities and social sciences should be part of all pillars and missions;
- freshwater, its protection and preservation of its quality should be part of the key theme of the programme, mainly in view of the critical development in recent years and regarding the wider debate about the climate policy;
- even market-related activities should be complemented by primary research so that they do not stop at merely modifying already known approaches;
- the Horizon Europe programme should strive for synergies with the European Defense Fund;
- the possibility of moving up to 10 % of the funding between and within pillars should not apply to the Pillar I and generally, it should only be used in exceptional crisis situations to preserve the possibility of a flexible response to unexpected needs on the one hand, but also to ensure predictability of the programme for principal investigators;

6. Points out

- that some significant players, e.g. many universities, cannot benefit from loans and similar instruments or they benefit from them only in a very limited way, however, the Horizon Europe programme anticipates greater use of these instruments;
- that the possibility to terminate an action due to the "loss of relevance" increases a financial risk for investigators and it is unclear in terms of evidence of such a loss that should be provided;
- that adequate resources need to be earmarked for the construction and operation of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), the realization of which is desirable but can hardly be funded by participating institutions;
- that it is desirable to negotiate an appropriate form of participation in the Horizon Europe programme with the United Kingdom;

7. Supports

open science and related FAIR principles, i. e. findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable data; at the same time, points out to the need to earmark adequate funding under Horizon 2020 for educational and research institutions to apply open science in practice in order to ensure establishment, operation and maintenance of

adequate quality of open access journals and platforms and to avoid compromising quality or volume of publication of these institutions;

II.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate about the way this resolution was taken into account and about further development of negotiations once the political agreement of the required number of Member States on the main elements of the proposals is reached, or at an earlier time, should the results of negotiations in the Council begin to depart considerably from the position of the Czech Republic expressed in the General Position of the Government;

2. Authorises

the President of the Senate to forward this Resolution to the European Commission.

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Luděk Jeništa
sign manual
Senate Verifier