

PRESS RELEASE: ISE launches a petition for more investment in Horizon Europe

Strasbourg, France - February 6, 2020

The Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE) has started a campaign to ask the governments of Member States to invest more in Education, Research, and Innovation. We call for Researchers, Learned Societies, Academies, Research Organisations and Institutions to support the campaign with an effective and concerted action and show a united researchers' front!

The budget discussion regarding the next 7-year framework program (Horizon Europe) is coming to a close. A lower investment than hoped for in Horizon Europe looks highly probable due to an unfavorable geo-political situation. This will have some dire consequences on European Research, and hence our capacity for innovation.

The initial allocation of 120B EUR to HE proposed by the Parliament has been revised to 94B EUR by the Commission in spring, and the budget compromise decided by the European Council this fall could lead to further cuts.

According to Martin Andler, President of ISE *"The upcoming EU Council on February 20 will be crucial to reach an agreement. News from many Member States hint that the contribution will shrink to 1% of their Gross National Income, way below the 1.07% proposed by Finnish presidency in December, and even further away from the 1,11% proposed by the Parliament. This decision will have a major impact on the budget for Horizon Europe, and may well bring it down to 75Bn EUR, approximately 20% less than expected after the Finnish presidency proposal. Therefore, to avoid that such scenario comes true, **it is very important for researchers to act swiftly and strongly.**"*

Marco Masia, Executive Coordinator of ISE, says: *"We aim at collecting thousands of signatures and show the European Countries' Leaders that the research community is deeply worried by low investments in Education, Research, and Innovation. Europe should be strategical in her choices; it's known that knowledge is the main driver for economic growth. Even if the final contribution from each Country will be smaller than proposed by the Parliament, we ask the Member States to keep the investment in Horizon Europe at least to 100Bn EUR."*

ISE asks supporters of the campaign to be activists and engage with the broad research community to achieve this important goal. People and institutions can support us in the following ways:

1. Sign the petition
2. Share the petition on social networks frequently and ask contacts to re-share
3. Distribute the information via email to all contacts who might be interested
4. Bring the petition to the attention of local press

ISE is a non-profit organization based in Strasbourg which was established in 2004, as an independent platform of European learned societies and scientific organizations. Its aim is to support research in all fields of science (human, social, natural, formal as well as technology) at a European level, involve researchers in the design and implementation of European science policies, and to advocate strong independent scientific advice in European policy making.

Follow ISE on **Twitter**, **LinkedIn**, and visit our **website**.

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ISE is an association established on June 15, 2017 in the departments of Haut Rhin, Bas-Rhin and Moselle (France), regulated by the article 21 to 79 of the local civil code. It has been registered in Strasbourg as "association de droit local" (not-for-profit organization) on October 17, 2017 with registration number (SIREN) 837 814 730.