



Attention Newsdesks / Science Correspondents

For immediate Release

25 June 2015

Adoption of EFSI leaves EU research with a limp

The regulation creating the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) was formally adopted by the European Parliament on 24 June 2015, paving the way for implementation in the second half of the year.

Following the agreement reached in “trilogue” discussions between the European Commission, the Council and the Parliament, the vote confirmed that the guarantee for the fund will be financed via the reallocation of resources originally dedicated to the Connecting Europe Facility and the Horizon 2020 programme. The increased use of available margins in the budget nevertheless decreases the contribution of Horizon 2020 from 2.7 billion Euros to 2.2 billion Euros.

The European University Association (EUA) notes that the new amount of 2.2 billion Euros will be spread over the other pillars of Horizon 2020 (excluding “Excellent Science” and “Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation”) in proportion to the distribution initially proposed by the Commission.

While fundamental research is not affected by EFSI, with the funding originally foreseen for the European Research Council and Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions being restored, collaborative research remains gravely hit by these cuts. EUA deeply regrets the signal that is being sent to the research community in this regard, and recalls the importance of university research for Europe’s overall economic recovery.

On behalf of Europe’s universities, EUA will hold the European institutions and the governments of the Member States to their promise of making the most extensive use of available margins in the EU budget each year, with the view to relieve the pressure on Horizon 2020 resources. The second draft budget for 2016 that the European Commission is expected to release soon will constitute a first test.

ENDS

Notes

1. [EUA policy brief on EFSI](#)
2. The Council of the EU is expected to formally endorse the regulation by written procedure before it enters into force in July.

Contact:

Ulrike Reimann Tel: +32 2 743 11 58; mobile: +32 491 15 89 72; email: Ulrike.reimann@eua.be

The European University Association, as the representative organisation of both the European universities and the national rectors’ conferences, is the main voice of the higher education community in Europe. EUA’s mission is to promote the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research.