

**Attention: news desks/science and education correspondents**

**For immediate release**

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### **EUA calls for ambitious EU research funding for 2017**

The European University Association (EUA) welcomes the European Parliament's vote on 26 October 2016 in favour of an increased budget for the EU's flagship research and innovation programme Horizon 2020. EUA is pleased that the Parliament upholds its commitment to protect the programme from cuts related to the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI) and recognises its value in promoting growth and job creation.

As negotiations continue, EUA calls on the Parliament and Council to view the EU's 2017 budget in the context of the mid-term revision of the Union's Multiannual Financial Framework, in which the European Commission proposes reinforcing allocations for Horizon 2020.

"The European Union needs ambitious collaborative research," explains Thomas Estermann, EUA Director of Governance, Funding and Public Policy Development. "EU-level funding for research and innovation based on grants and open, competitive calls creates unparalleled added value and remains paramount to enlarge the European knowledge base, foster the circulation of talent and boost Europe's global competitiveness."

Horizon 2020 is highly successful in generating top research ideas that address Europe's current and future challenges. However, according to EUA data, [the programme is endangered by critically low success rates due to a lack of funding](#). Many highly rated proposals are left unfunded and as a result considerable money is wasted in a costly proposal process. Europe simply cannot afford this loss.

Increased, sustainable and efficient funding of research at the EU level benefits the entire continent, particularly if invested in fundamental research. EUA believes that under no circumstances should the extension and increase of EFSI justify less investment in Horizon 2020. In a recent study, EUA found that [EFSI has failed to fund innovative projects that would bring universities and industry closer together](#), as originally promised.

EUA therefore calls on the negotiating parties to fully embrace the importance of university-based research and to adopt an EU budget for 2017 that will support the scientific community in tackling Europe's many challenges.

**Notes:**

To read "One year of EFSI: What's in it for universities? An EUA review," [please click here](#). For the EUA presentation "European Funding: A call for dialogue to increase efficiency," [please click here](#).

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*The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities in 47 European countries and 33 national rectors' conferences (NRCs). The EUA Council is made up of the president, the members of the Board, and of the presidents of all of Europe's NRCs. EUA works closely with its members to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard.*