



Wellcome's view on Framework Programme 9

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The EU's contribution to the European research system supports our mission to improve health through funding the best research. Europe needs a Framework Programme that:

Improves collaboration between foundations and the Commission

- Wellcome, along with many foundations, shares the Commission's goal of excellent research and innovation that improves lives for European citizens. However, it is difficult for foundations to collaborate, or co-fund, with the Commission in the way that industry and public bodies do.
- Framework Programme 9 could improve efficiency in the European Research Area by **formalising strategic alignment with foundation funding** and exploring project-level cooperation.

Draws on wider expertise by being open to the world

- Framework Programme 9 should **seek greater participation from across the ERA**, including from countries outside the EU. Accelerating the development of the ERA would benefit EU members, helping to deliver benefits including broader support for the 3% GDP investment target in research and innovation, or wider coordination to tackle major research challenges. Our report, [Building a Strong Future for European Science: Brexit & Beyond](#) shows how the EU can capture the value of cooperation with these partners.

Continues to support high-quality knowledge creation

- Funding for basic science, awarded based on excellence, is fundamental to the ideas that improve health. Many of Wellcome's fellows also receive funding through the ERC and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. **Maintaining and improving support for basic research** should be integral to FP9.

Implements complementary missions

- Beyond our support for great ideas, Wellcome provides intensive support for areas where we can achieve significant progress and meet ambitious goals. **Fewer, bolder missions** in FP9 could help tackle global health issues like anti-microbial resistance and pandemic preparedness. This should maintain the diversity and balance of EU funding, and must not come at the expense of knowledge creation. **Involving foundations in mission development** can increase our ambitions and the speed which we reach them.

Transforms translation across Europe

- Alongside other funders, Wellcome launched the commitments to [Transforming Translation](#). The new European Innovation Council should look to these, to **ensure research can have the widest possible benefit to society**. A system that rewards translation, encourages movement between academia and industry, and builds entrepreneurial networks, can accelerate the use of innovative health technologies.
- We are committed to ensuring the healthcare interventions we support are affordable, appropriate, adapted and available. The EU should **prioritise similar access conditions** in FP9 to maximise public benefit.

Pushes further on responsible research

- Horizon 2020 has helped drive responsible research through 'science with and for society'. Foundations like Wellcome have led the way on supporting open access to research outputs. Around 80% of Wellcome-attributed publications are [freely accessible](#), and we're striving to do the same for data, code and biological materials. FP9 should **continue to push forward the Commission's Open Science agenda**.

- FP9 can also lead by example to **create a better culture in research**, for example improving reproducibility and becoming more inclusive to engage a wider range of people and ideas. Wellcome's work in this area includes our priority area on [Diversity and Inclusion](#).

Is simpler for researchers

- Our [Future Partnership Project consultation](#) heard that successive Framework Programmes have considerably improved their efficiency. Administrative costs compare favorably with some bilateral agreements. However, many noted the need to streamline further, focusing on **reducing the significant administrative burden for applicants**.