



COCIR feedback to the public consultation on the present and future of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme

[COCIR](#) –the European Trade Association representing the leading industries in the medical imaging, radiotherapy, electromedical & health ICT sectors– appreciates the European Commission (EC) initiative to provide feedback on the Horizon Europe Framework Programme. COCIR members are active participants in different areas of Horizon Europe and conduct ambitious projects in R&I with other private and public partners. The following points summarize some common experiences from the first two years of the programme.

Budget and overall structure: COCIR welcomes the increased 95.5 billion Euro budget allocated to Horizon Europe compared to H2020, as well as the continuity with H2020 in the general structure and instruments. Overall, we welcome the structure of Horizon Europe programs, including the complementation of Pillar II clusters with missions, but we see the need to further strengthen the crosstalk between different clusters and missions. In particular, with the increasing digital transformation of the European economy and society, we emphasize the need to better connect the Health cluster and Digital, Industry & Space cluster, as the challenges for society cannot be addressed in silos. We also urge to increase the initiatives supporting digitization in the Health cluster, including the development of connected digital health technologies and secure solutions in compliance with relevant cybersecurity frameworks. We recommend the introduction of key performance indicators or quotas for digital aspects in calls within the health cluster.

Industry participation: COCIR recognizes the importance of Horizon Europe in establishing a competitive European industry by funding outstanding science and by supporting research and development activities at a broad range of TRL levels. However, the administrative burden of submitting and executing a proposal remains high and should be further reduced. This could involve more lump sum funding for smaller scale projects, two-stages proposal submission procedures and further shortening the average time to grant. COCIR also appreciates Horizon Europe's efforts to balance open science with the need to protect intellectual property rights, but emphasizes the need for clarity in implementation, so that in the case of legitimate commercial interest an opt-out to the open access obligation remains possible. To maximize the advantages of industry participation in Horizon Europe we further stress the benefit of strengthening the dialogue between the European Commission and industry stakeholders and facilitating industry involvement in decision-making and implementation in all areas.

Implementation: The current Horizon Europe Framework Programme started with delays; thus the above points represent a preliminary assessment of its implementation, and it will take more time to collect experiences. This is especially true for COCIR's participation in the Innovative Health Initiative, a joint undertaking in Pillar II, of which COCIR is an industry partner, but where we haven't yet gathered enough experience for a full assessment.

COCIR remains available for additional input and contributions to the evaluation of Horizon Europe as well as additional forward-looking discussions on funding and investment for healthcare.



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About COCIR

COCIR is the European Trade Association representing the medical imaging, radiotherapy, health ICT and electromedical industries. Founded in 1959, COCIR is a non-profit association headquartered in Brussels (Belgium) with a China Desk based in Beijing since 2007. Our members strive to create innovative solutions throughout the continuum of healthcare to allow European citizens to benefit from sustainable outcomes and added value. Our innovations enable better clinical outcomes, improve patient experience, increase satisfaction of health professionals, and contribute to overall cost containment.

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