

Belgian universities call on the Belgian representatives in the EU to strongly advocate investment in knowledge

The eleven Belgian universities jointly call on the Belgian representatives in, or working with, the European Institutions to strongly advocate serious investment in knowledge and innovation for a prosperous European future.

On 23 February, for the first time, the heads of state or government of the EU member states in the European Council, will debate on the [political priorities for the Multi-Annual Financial Framework](#) (MFF) from 2021 onwards. A month later, on 22 and 23 March, our leaders will discuss Research and Innovation. Since the EU27 leaders committed to a stronger, prosperous and social European Union in the Rome Declaration of March 2017, Europe's future ambitions must be based on Europe's excellent knowledge base and infrastructure. To realise Europe's ambitions, investment in research, innovation and education should be at the heart of the next MFF, as the knowledge-based economy is at the heart of Europe's future.

In light of implementing an effective and coherent knowledge policy, we welcome the suggestion by the European Parliament and the Lamy group, whose report was commissioned by the European Commission, to invest at least € 120 billion in the next framework programme for civil research and innovation. Let's invest in a hopeful future which was at the heart of the Rome Declaration. Let's not only turn money into knowledge, but also knowledge into money. Let's recognise knowledge and innovation as a core priority for inclusive and sustainable prosperity for all Europeans and let's invest in a coherent European Research and Innovation Policy.

Together with our statement, you will find showcases of how Belgian universities use the European R&I budget to create impact. Impact on our European society. Impact on job creation and wellbeing of European citizens. Economic impact. Impact on the career development of researchers. Impact in all kinds of forms. For Belgium and for Europe.

Read our position paper

The brochure can be downloaded [here](#).

More information

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