MULTIPLY IMPACT. DOUBLE KNOWLEDGE.

Three guiding principles for the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework

As the Council, Parliament and the Commission shape the next MFF, three guiding principles should decide how to spend our money:

1. Invest in what matters

The EU is an Union of Values. To protect our shared European values, we need to strengthen our European cooperation. Erasmus+ is providing European students an opportunity to gain international experience and to build European networks. The 2025 Erasmus+ evaluation shows that 95% of participants feel a stronger sense of belonging, which is crucial to protecting this Union of Values and shape a new generation of Europeans. Besides, we need more funding for Horizon Europe to understand how to strengthen our democratic institutions in an AI driven and changing world-order. Last but not least, we need investments in research and innovation to increase the preparedness and resilience of our Union as we continue to face external threats.

2. Invest in what works.

Knowledge investments live up to their promise. The interim-evaluation of Horizon Europe made clear that every euro invested in Horizon Europe delivers approximately a GDP multiplier up to 11 euro. Next to that, 80% of the projects funded by the European Research Council produced a scientific breakthrough or major advance in their field. Horizon Europe has proven itself to be one of the EU's most effective programmes that delivers results. In the field of education there is a similar outcome. The Erasmus+ evaluation shows that 96% of the participants declared an increase in key competences and a clear majority of the participating organisations in education and training reported developing high-quality practices after their Erasmus + participation.

3. Invest in what is most needed.

Europe is facing geopolitical and economic challenges. Mario Draghi has written the roadmap that everyone embraced. Live up to it. The three pillars of Mario Draghi are security, competitiveness and innovation. They all have something in common: increased knowledge investments are needed to reach them. We need to turn the Union of Skills into a reality. We need to scale our groundbreaking research into economic impact, solve our European innovation paradox and increase our digital autonomy with the European Competitiveness Fund. Europe's competitiveness starts with people. Our most important European resource is knowledge. Treat it like that.