

**EuChemS response to the Open Consultation on the revised version of Orientations towards the first Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe**

*Q1. Which targeted impacts can be best reached (or only reached) through Horizon Europe? On the other hand, what are the targeted impacts, mentioned in the updated orientations, least likely to benefit from Horizon Europe investments?*

Horizon Europe can best be used to achieve the targeted impacts laid out in the “Orientations towards the first Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe” if it is granted with a certain flexibility, designed to foster international collaboration, and open to curiosity-driven, fundamental research. Moreover, it should aspire to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as these priorities do not need to be re-invented.

The targeted impacts, most notable the priority for a European Green Deal, will most benefit from Horizon Europe funding if the framework programme remains open to broad third country participation. The international component will be vital in order to tackle the global challenges we face and to advance scientific research. Achieving a European Green Deal requires research into and innovations in climate, energy, health, water quality, food safety – broad fields that can only benefit if the best talents are supported and included. International collaboration instigates important reciprocal benefits to the EU, member states, and individual researchers.

EuChemS understands the current push to use Horizon Europe as a means to mobilise research and innovation into finding solutions to global challenges, and in particular towards the climate emergency. However, this mission-driven research should not come at the expense of continuing to support and encourage curiosity-driven, discovery research (fundamental or basic research). Although harder to fit in a box with a well-defined objective, such research can lead to ground-breaking discoveries, and ensure a healthy and diverse ecosystem of research and science.

*Q2. What are your impressions of the co-design process and how can we improve it?*

As an umbrella organisation representing over 40 Chemical Societies and by extension some 150,000 chemists and scientists, EuChemS is pleased to see a continued push for greater involvement of stakeholders and of individuals. The possibility for individual citizens to contribute to calls for feedback is an important tool that we are able to share with our community and hence encourage participation between scientists and policymakers.

However, we are aware that a consultation that gives the same weight to contributions from individuals as those of organisations which can potentially represent many thousands of people can have its limitations – potentially creating an artificially inflated interest in a certain area from a large group of individuals. It will be important to properly analyse and evaluate the approach so far taken by the European Commission.

*About the European Chemical Society (EuChemS)*

EuChemS, the European Chemical Society, coordinates the work of 47 Chemical Societies and other chemistry related organisations in Europe, representing more than 150,000 chemists. Through the promotion of chemistry and by providing expert and scientific advice, EuChemS aims to take part in solving today's major societal challenges.

For further information, please see [www.euchems.eu](http://www.euchems.eu) and contact us [secretariat@euchems.eu](mailto:secretariat@euchems.eu) @EuChemS

19 November 2019