



NRENs in the Digital Agenda; Work Programmes and Calls

What is the MFF?

The **MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK** is the **long-term budget plan of the European Union**

It sets out:

- **How much the EU can spend,**
- **In which policy areas, and under what rules,**
- Traditionally over a **seven-year period,**
- Shapes the **priorities and eligibility rules** of programmes like **Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, Digital Europe, and Cohesion Funds**

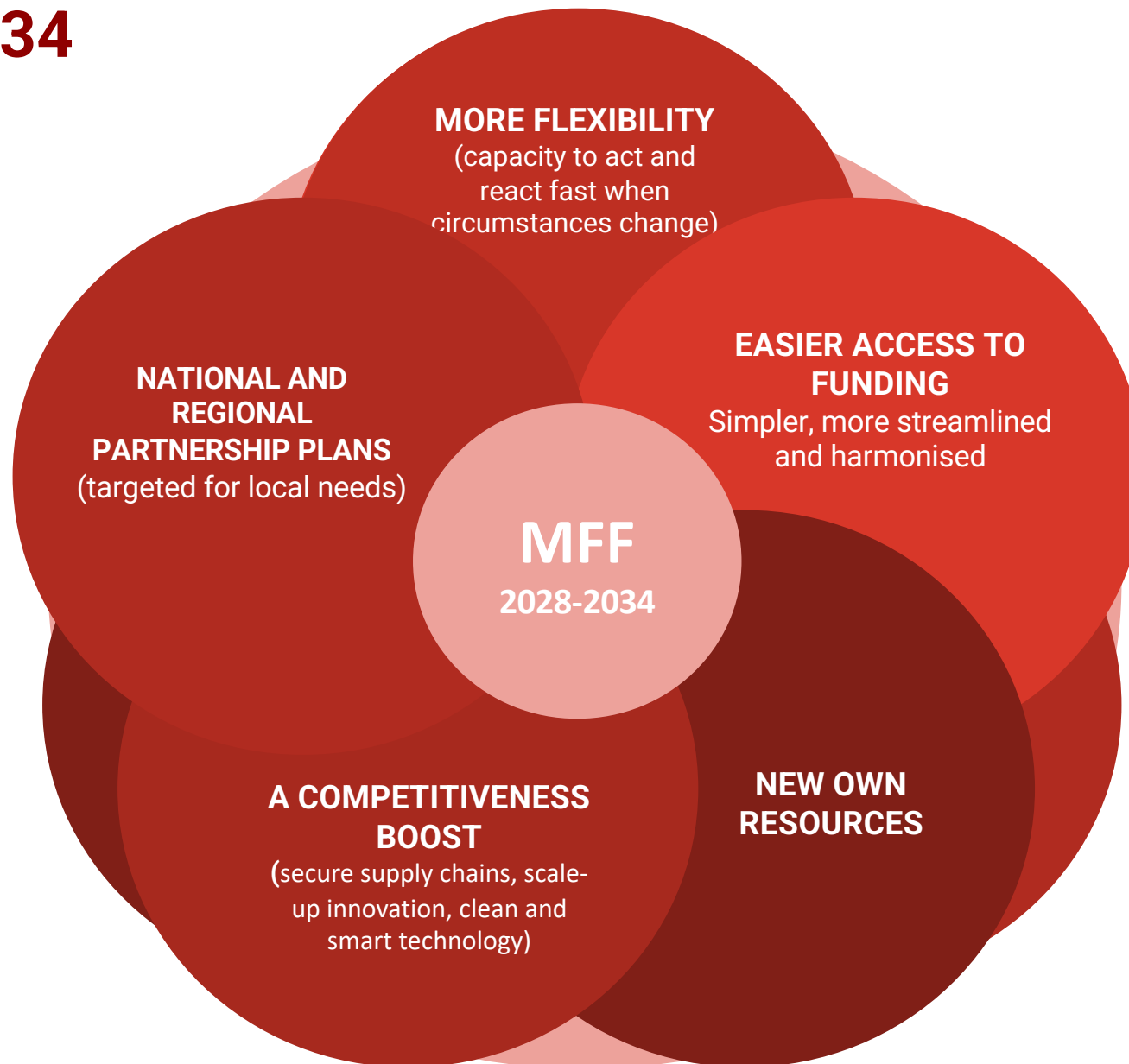
On the 16th of July, the Commission adopted the **first package of legislative proposals** on the MFF.

The proposals now go before the co-legislators: the Council (Member States) and the European Parliament (MEPs), who negotiate their respective positions.

Agreement should be achieved latest by the **end of 2027.**

Funding Envelope to be Negotiated – Horizon Europe budget proposed to increase to €175 billion by EC. Final number will be the last thing agreed and at this stage, less important.

MFF 2028-2034



MFF 2028-2034 STRUCTURE

HEADING 1

(EUR 1 trillion)

National and Regional Partnership Plans

Regional Funds, Cohesion, Agriculture, fisheries, border control, migration, social

Repayment of NextGenerationEU

HEADING 2

(EUR 589.6 billion)

European Competitiveness Fund

Connecting Europe Facility
Union Civil Protection Mechanism+
Erasmus+
new! AgoraEU

Horizon Europe

HEADING 3

(EUR 215.2 billion)

Global Europe

Europe, Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Americas and the Caribbean and complementary global pillar for global actions

Common Foreign and Security Policy and Overseas Countries and Territories

Special reserve:
Support to Ukraine
(outside the MFF)

Heading 4 European Public Administration

+in-built flexibilities: Single Margin Instrument, Flexibility Instrument, Crisis Mechanism Instrument

MFF 2021-2027 vs. MFF 2028-2034

	MFF 2021-2027	MFF 2028-2034
PROGRAMMES	<p>52 programs</p> <p>Multiple portals, calls, and co-financing rules</p> <p>Mix of direct EU grants (Horizon) and shared management (ESIF/ERDF)</p>	<p>16 programmes, few large horizontal instruments</p> <p>Expanded use of the Funding & Tenders Portal, harmonised rules</p> <p>Stronger emphasis on direct EU management, fewer national silos</p>
R&D FOCUS	<p>Inclusive science; TRL 1–9</p> <p>Programmes: Horizon Europe, DEP (for AI, supercomputing, cybersecurity, digital skills), CEF for digital infrastructure</p> <p>Fragmented funding across many smaller programmes (e.g., EIC, EuroHPC, national structural instruments).</p>	<p>Applied, strategic, market-ready innovation (TRL 5–9)</p> <p>Few large horizontal instruments</p> <p>Mission-driven, large-scale projects focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological sovereignty (semiconductors, AI, quantum, batteries) • Resilience (critical infrastructure, supply chains) • Security (cyber defense, encryption, dual-use R&D) • International cooperation

MFF 2021-2027 vs. MFF 2028-2034

	MFF 2021-2027	MFF 2028-2034
DIGITAL TECH	Fragmented (skills, cybersecurity, AI split across programs)	Integrated under single “Competitiveness” pillar; emphasis on digital sovereignty, EU cloud, AI/ML
RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE	Supported via different programmes	Tied to strategic EC industrial and defense priorities
FUNDING	100% for RIA/CSA (70% for-profit) Mix of actual costs and limited lump-sum option	Most action types: up to 100% (up to 70% for-profit) Extensive rollout of lump-sums and simplified cost options (unit costs)

**EU
Competitiveness
Funding**



MFF 2021-2027	MFF 2028-2034	
Horizon Europe	Horizon Europe (self-standing but tightly connected to ECF)	
Innovation Fund	Innovation Fund	
DEP	European Competitiveness Fund	
CEF – Digital		
European Defence Fund		
ASAP		
EDIRPA		
EDIP		
EU4Health		
European Space Programme		
IRIS2		
InvestEU		
Single Market Programme – SME Strand		
LIFE		
Instrument for Pre-Accession III (IPA-3)		Global Europe Fund
NDICI – GE (including the European Fund for Sustainable Development+)		
Western Balkan Growth Facility	Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)	
Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)		
Erasmus+		
European Solidarity Corps?	Erasmus 2.0	
Connecting Europe Facility	Connecting Europe Facility (energy and transport)	
European Regional Development Fund	National and Regional Partnerships	
Cohesion Fund		
EU4Health	Union Civil Protection Mechanism	
Union Civil Protection Mechanism		

Budget lines of relevance

MFF budget line proposal	Relevant activities of the Organization
Horizon Europe, Pillar 4, ERA – Research infrastructures	GNx?
Horizon Europe, Pillar III, knowledge triangle	Research & education synergy action?
European Competitiveness Fund, Digital Leadership (including HE collaborative research)	Connectivity; Wallet; authentication and interoperability; quantum; data; digitalization of the public sector; AI; cloud etc.
European Competitiveness Fund, Health (including HE collaborative research)	Health Data Space
Erasmus +	Student card; digital tools
National and Regional Partnerships	NRENs
National and Regional Partnerships, Interreg	Cross-border projects including with third countries
National and Regional Partnership – EU Facility	Multi-country projects
Union Civil Protection Mechanism	Space data and data from sensors
Global Europe (including OCT)	Activities in third countries



Horizon Europe

HORIZON EUROPE 2028 – 2034 (HE II)



Part	Sum (in current prices)
Pillar I - Excellent Science	44 079 000 000
of which JRC	2 600 000 000
Pillar II - Competitiveness and Society	75 876 000 000
2. Of which Competitiveness	68 270 000 000
2. of which Support for clean transition and industrial decarbonization	25 331 000 000
2. Of which Support for health and bioeconomy, and biotechnology policy	19 650 000 000
2. Of which Support for digital leadership policy	16 854 000 000
2. Of which Support for resilience, defence industry and space policy	6 435 000 000
2. Of which Society	7 606 000 000
Pillar III - Innovation	38 785 000 000
Pillar IV - European Research Area	16 262 000 000 (10 875 000 000 without Widening)
Of which Widening participation and spreading excellence	5 387 000 000
Of which research infrastructures	Not specified
TOTAL	175 002 000 000

(5) In a rapidly changing economic, social and geopolitical environment, recent experience has shown the need for a more flexible multiannual financial framework and its Union spending programmes. To that effect, and in line with the objectives of the Programme, the funding should duly consider the evolving policy needs and Union's priorities as identified in relevant documents published by the Commission, European Parliament resolutions and in Council conclusions, while ensuring sufficient predictability for the budget implementation.

Key HE changes in the next MFF (2028–2034)

- Home DG: DG RTD
- Research Infrastructures definition narrowed: Uncertainty over coverage of pan-European infrastructures. (Strategy for 2025 European Strategy on Research and Technology Infrastructures)
- Grant funding rules **tightened**: Co-funding required; EU contribution capped at 20% of RI CAPEX if pan-European.
- Funding **conditionality continues**: Access tied to shifting EU policy priorities.
- Funding not linked to cost (**FNLC**): Lump sums and unit costs become default; actual cost reimbursement only by exception.
- Greater **EC discretion**: More power over Work Programmes, award procedures, and reallocations.
- Addresses **societal challenges** like disinformation and climate change

Key HE changes in the next MFF (2028–2034)

- **100% funding is a ceiling, not a fixed funding rate.** The Work Programmes will specify actual funding rates, 100% is the maximum but it can be lower.
- Horizon Europe and the ECF **will support dual-use**, aligning with the May 2025 decision to allow dual-use in CEF and DEP.
- **Shorter** work programmes, open-topic calls by default,
- **Reducing time** between application and funding

Dual-use

- CEF proposal for 2028–2034
 - Explicitly includes provisions and definitions for “dual-use transport infrastructure” — meaning transport projects that serve both civilian connectivity and potential military mobility.
- Under the current Framework Programme (Horizon Europe),
 - only civilian research is eligible, and dual-use was mostly excluded.
- For FP10
 - The EC envisions supporting dual-use research and innovation more broadly, including through instruments like the European Innovation Council.
 - Parliament is debating how to define and govern this.

GÉANT membership

NATIONAL MEMBERS

1 per country

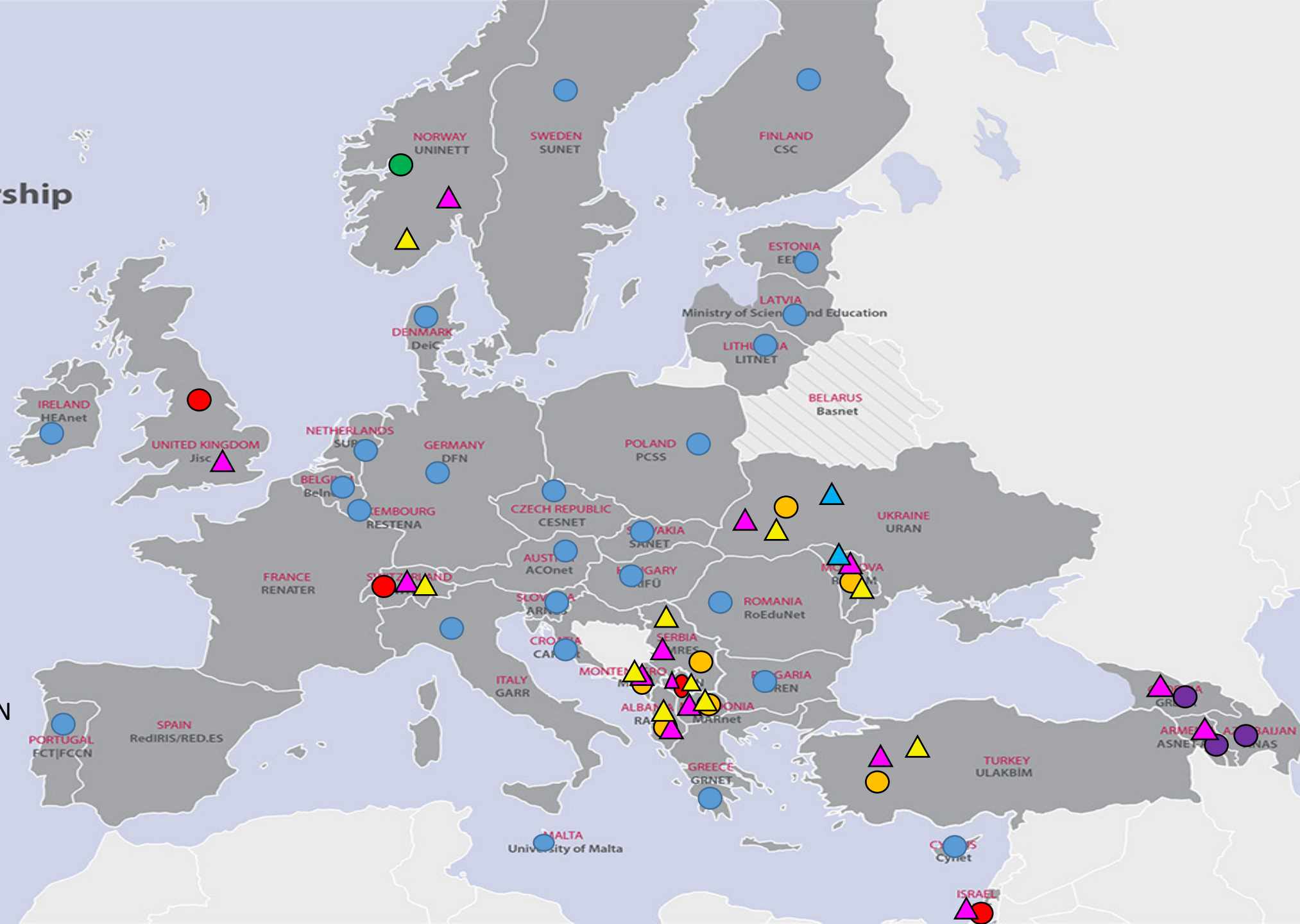
REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER

NORDUnet

ASSOCIATES

CERN
DeiC (Denmark)
European Space Agency
CSC/FUNET (Finland)
RHnet (Iceland)
KREN (Kosovo Research and Education)
SUNET (Sweden)
Sikt (Norway)

- EU-27
- EEA
- Accession candidates
- Neighbourhood
- Third countries and KREN
- ▲ Association to HE
- ▲ Association to CEF
- ▲ Association to DEP

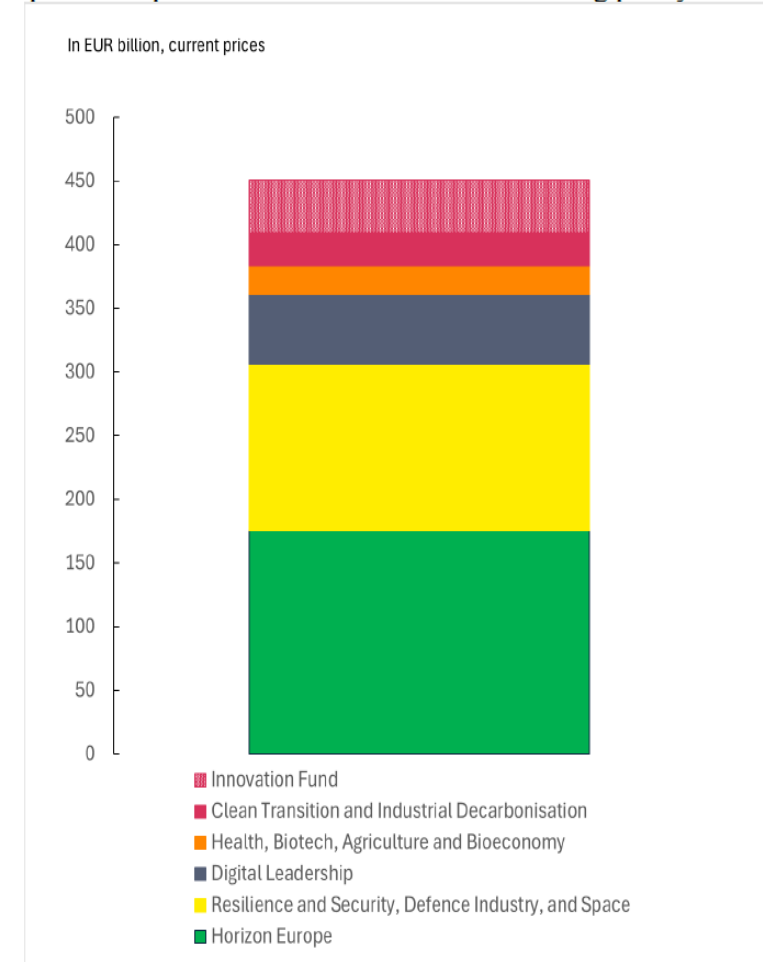




ECF – European Competitiveness Fund

- To support industrial policy by roll-out; scale-up; and deployment of technologies.
 - Legal base in Treaties: research, space, industry, internal market, trans-European networks and others.
 - Lead DG: DG GROW
 - ECF is a programme of programmes: it is composed of four policy windows
 - a) Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation
 - b) Health, Biotech and Bioeconomy
 - c) **Digital Leadership**
 - d) **Resilience, Defence Industry and Space**
- + Cross-cutting activities

Figure 4.2. European Competitiveness Fund: distribution among policy windows



Note: amounts for the ECF four policy windows include the ECF InvestEU instrument

European Competitiveness Fund

The ECF becomes the core EU instrument for industrial and technological competitiveness.

- Bridges the gap between R&I and deployment, complementing Horizon Europe
- Focus on scale-up, industrialisation, and market uptake of strategic technologies
- Explicit support for dual-use technologies, linking civilian, industrial, and defence ecosystems
- Operates through large policy windows (digital, space, security, clean tech)
- Strong alignment with EU strategic autonomy, resilience, and economic security objectives

Funding & eligibility (indicative):

- Funding rates: **typically below 100%**, with strong emphasis on co-funding, blending, and capped EU contributions
- Eligibility: primarily EU-27 focused; participation of associated or third countries possible but restricted, especially for security- or defence-relevant actions

Connecting Europe Facility

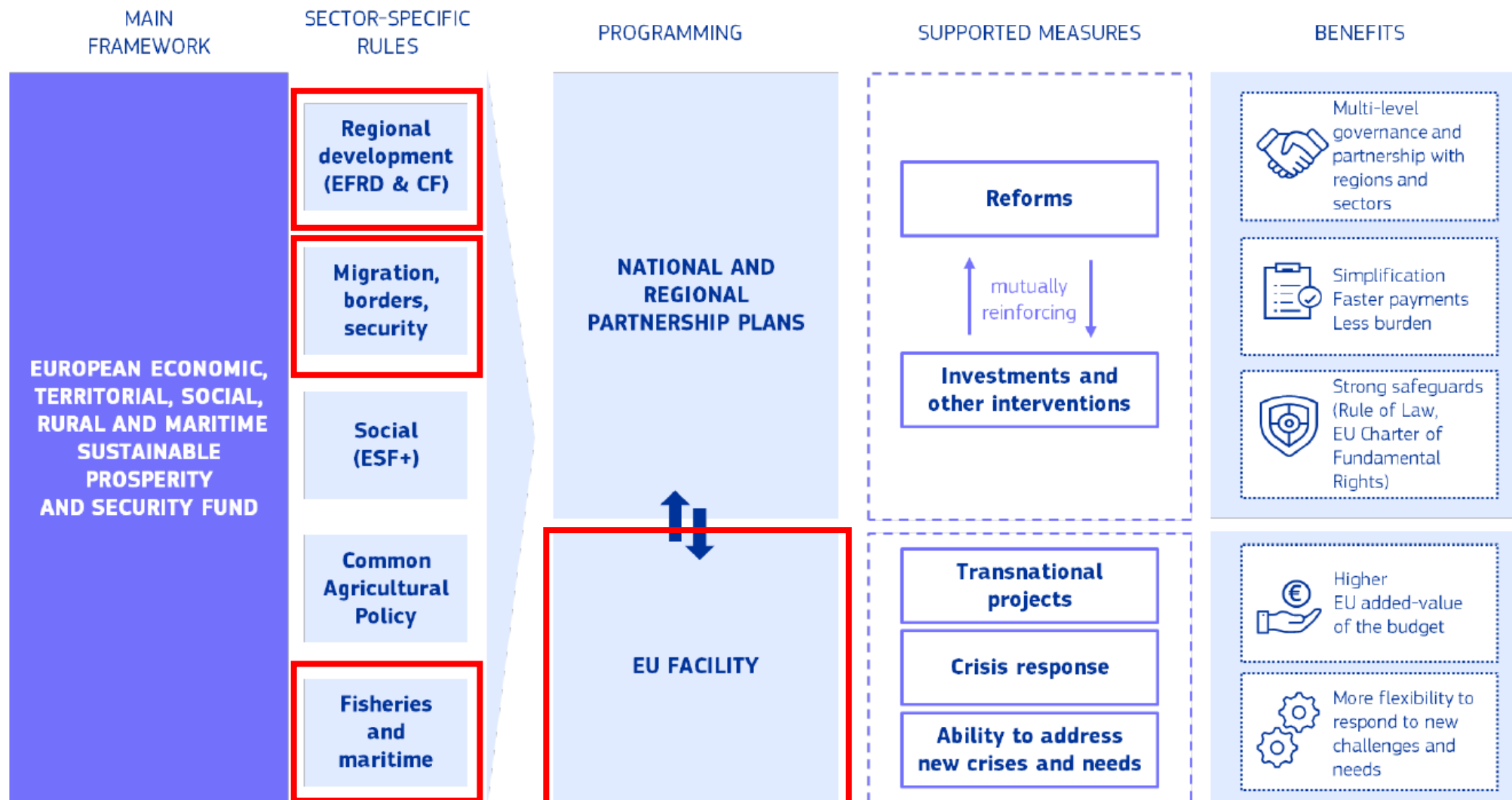
As CEF – Digital has been moved under the ECF, CEF now only concerns transport and energy. It is not deemed a relevant budget line.

Digital Europe Programme

As DEP has been moved under the ECF, we will watch if that transforms into a relevant budget line.



National & Regional Partnerships



Architecture

National and Regional Partnerships

- *Shared management (occasionally indirect)*
- 27 National and Regional Partnership Plans: Member States decide the distribution of actions between national, sectoral and where relevant regional or territorial chapters. If applicable, dedicated chapter on Outermost Regions
- One Interreg Plan
- No loans, but see CatalystEU

EU Facility

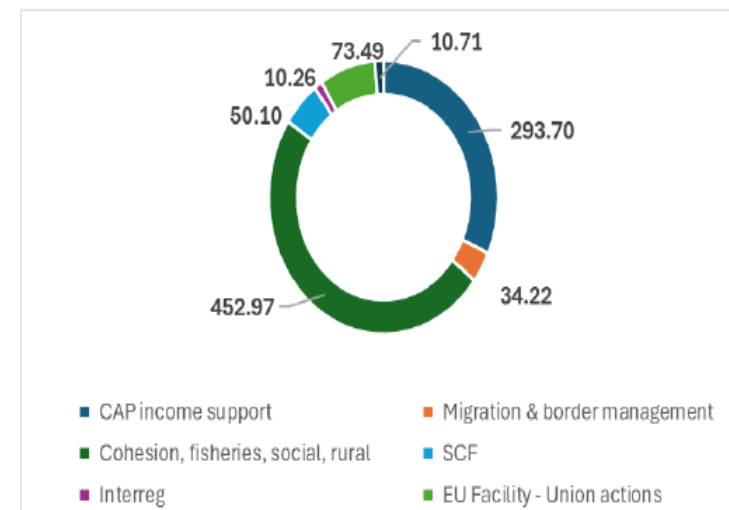
- *Direct/indirect/shared management*
- Transnational project (e.g.: Important Projects of Common European Interest)
- Administrative Support to National and Regional Partnership Plans
- Emerging Challenges And Priorities Cushion

CatalystEU

- *Direct management*
- Loan support in case a Member States requests and the Council authorizes the Commission to borrow on its behalf

	Sum in current prices	Annual allocation														
National and Regional Partnerships	782.879 mio	15.8% in 2028; 15.5% in 2029; 15.1% in 2030; 14.8% in 2031; 14.4% in 2032; 12.8% in 2033; 11.7% in 2034														
Of which support to internal security (+ top-up through EU facility possible)	6,843 331 500															
Of which Interreg	10,264 mio															
EU facility	71,933 mio	<p>Figure 4.1. National and regional partnership plans: pre-allocated amounts and EU Facility</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for Figure 4.1: National and regional partnership plans: pre-allocated amounts and EU Facility</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Amount (mio)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CAP income support</td> <td>293.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cohesion, fisheries, social, rural</td> <td>452.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Migration & border management</td> <td>34.22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SCF</td> <td>50.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interreg</td> <td>10.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EU Facility - Union actions</td> <td>73.49</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Amount (mio)	CAP income support	293.70	Cohesion, fisheries, social, rural	452.97	Migration & border management	34.22	SCF	50.10	Interreg	10.26	EU Facility - Union actions	73.49
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Of which Union actions	63, 223 million															
Of which emerging challenges and priorities cushion	8,710 million															
Total	865,076 mio															
CatalystEU (outside the MFF ceiling)	150 bio (loans)															

Figure 4.1. National and regional partnership plans: pre-allocated amounts and EU Facility





Thank You

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