



# R&I into Practice: What's Next?

GEroNIMO and RUMIGEN Joint Final Event

15 April 2026

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*DG AGRI F2 Research and Innovation April*





# EU Vision for Agriculture and Food

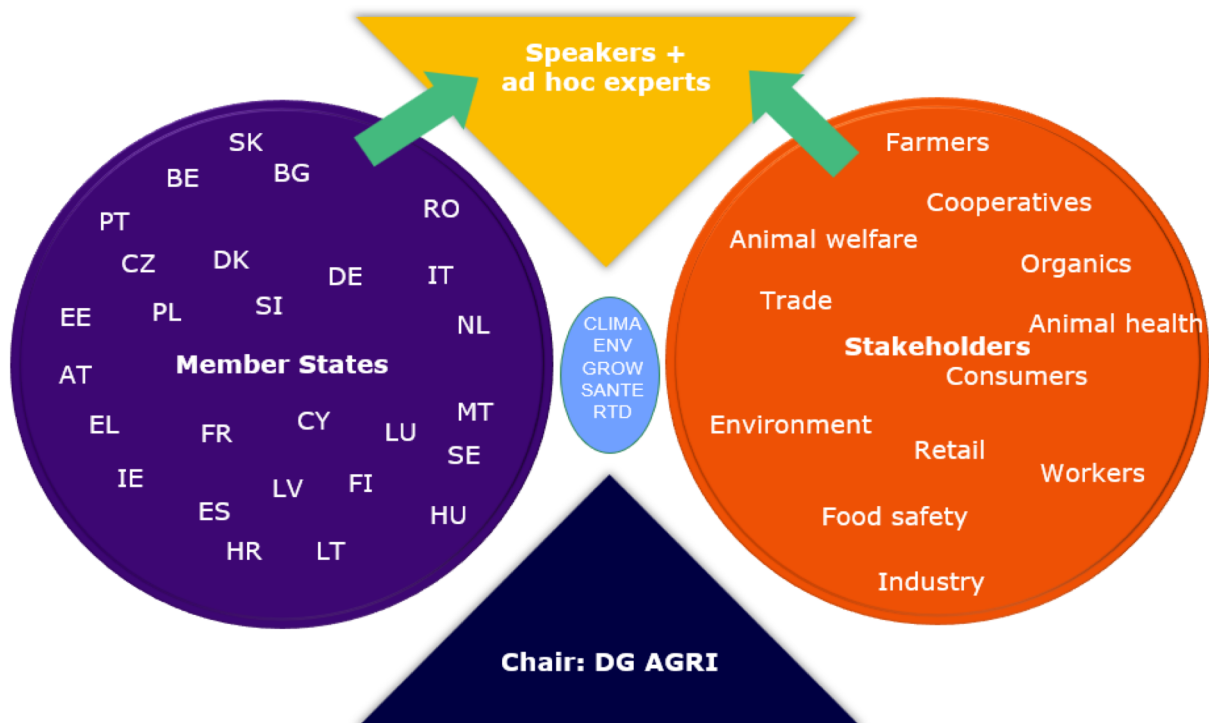
## Delivered!

- ✓ [Livestock workstream](#)
- ✓ [CAP simplification package](#)
- ✓ [Water resilience Strategy](#)
- ✓ [Post 2027 CAP](#)
- ✓ [Generational Renewal Strategy](#)
- ✓ [Bioeconomy Strategy](#)

## Next steps include:

- Livestock Strategy** (Q2 2026)
- New EU **strategic approach to R&I** to improve the competitiveness of agriculture, forestry and rural areas (Q2 2026)
- Protein Strategy** (Q2 2026)

# Work stream on livestock



More targeted CAP post 2027

- Simplification
- Bioeconomy
- On-farm sustainability
- Carbon farming
- Nature credits
- Production standards
- Climate adaptation
- UTP
- Water resilience
- Animal welfare update

...

[the Civil Dialogue Groups and Expert Groups of Agricultural Markets](#)



# Work stream on livestock

**2025**  
**27**  
**May**



Session 1  
**Enabling a Fair and Market-Driven Livestock Supply Chain**

Session 2  
**Calibrating CAP Support for Sustainable Livestock Systems**

**2025**  
**23**  
**Oct**



Session 1  
**Creating the conditions for a competitive livestock sector**

Session 2  
**A future-proof livestock farming functioning within planetary boundaries**

**2025**  
**11**  
**Dec**



Session 1  
**Enhancing prevention and preparedness against animal diseases**

Session 2  
**Leveraging R&I for a more sustainable livestock sector**

**2026**  
**18**  
**Feb**



Session 1  
**On-farm sustainability compass**

Session 2  
**Animal welfare in the EU livestock sector**

**2026**  
**29**  
**Apr**



Session 1  
**Feed & Circularity in livestock production**

Session 2  
**Social & territorial aspects in livestock production**

**2026**  
**17**  
**June**

**2026**  
**16**  
**Sep**

**2026**  
**...**  
**Dec**

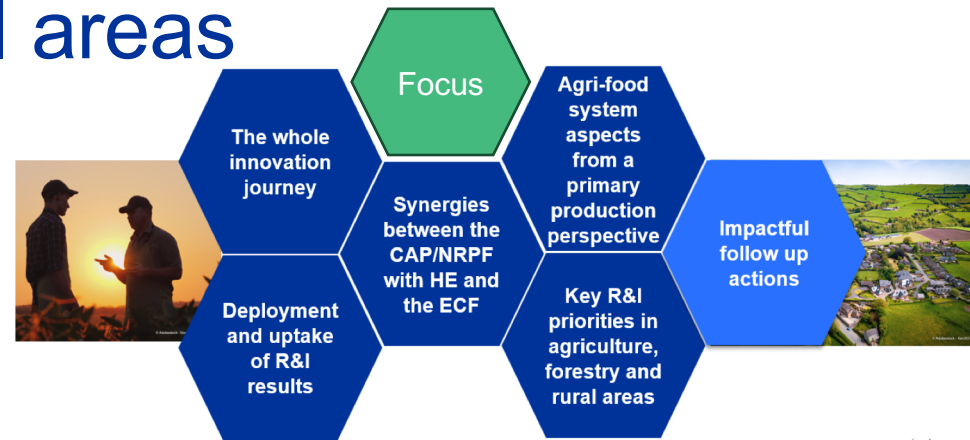


**EU livestock strategy**



# New R&I Strategic Approach to futureproofing agriculture, forestry and rural areas

- **Changing geopolitical situation, growing impact of climate change, etc.**
- Announced in the **Vision for agriculture and food**; referred to in the **Life Sciences Strategy**.
- It will update and replace the **2016 Strategic Approach to EU Agricultural R&I**.
- **Main objectives:**
  - **R&I that enables the ambition of the Vision for Agriculture and Food** for attractiveness, competitiveness, sustainability, resilience and fairness.
  - **Long-term framework for co-creating R&I priorities** on agriculture, forestry and rural areas.
  - Reflect on **current policy developments**: related initiatives, opportunities in the next Multi-annual Financial Framework - in particular HE and ECF.
  - **Adoption planned for mid-2026**



# Stakeholder consultation

Different consultation activities are being organised to collect feedback from all relevant stakeholders.

This feedback will support the co-creation and future implementation of the R&I Strategic Approach.

A **survey** was launched during the session "The future of EU agri-food: data & innovation for food security" at the **EU Agri-Food Days 2025** and promoted on the **AGRI website** and through **social media**.

Relevant stakeholder groups were contacted.

Survey period: 15 December 2025 – 25 January 2026

**Total responses received: 706**



EU **AGRI-FOOD**  
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Food and Agriculture

Future-proofing EU Agri-Food through research and innovation



We would like to hear your views to help identify the priorities.

The consultation is open until **25 January 2026**.



Future-proofing EU Agri-Food through research and innovation

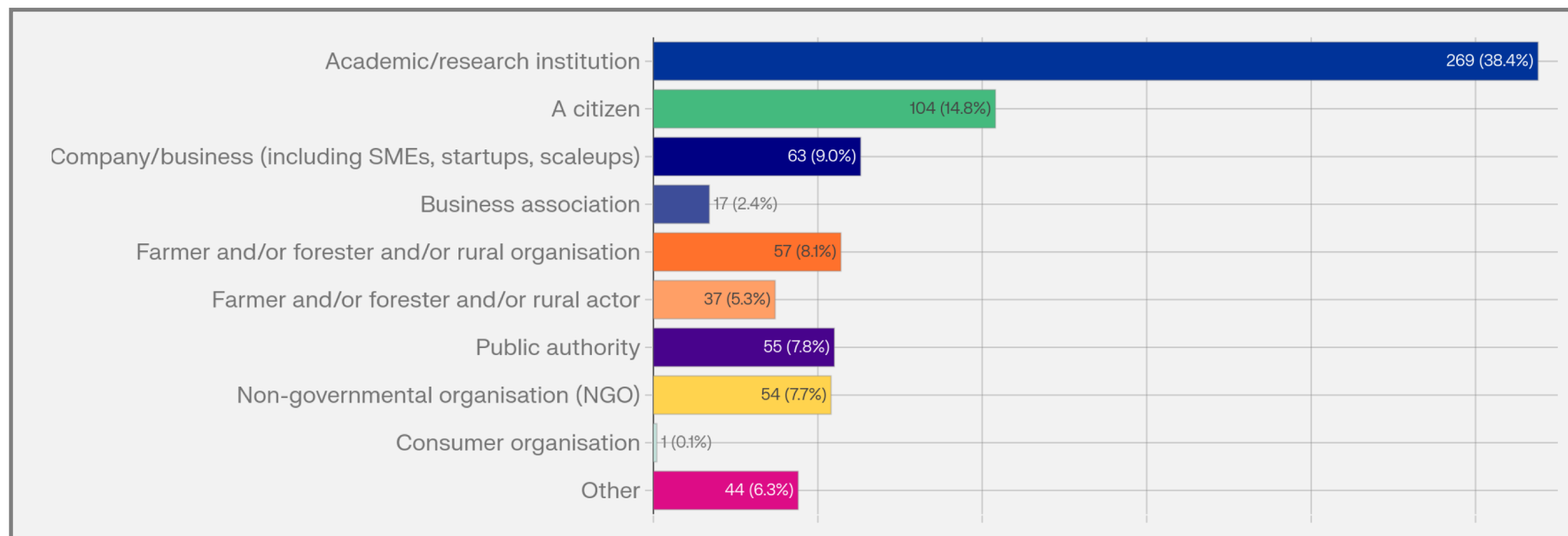
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[Give your feedback](#) →



# Stakeholders Profile

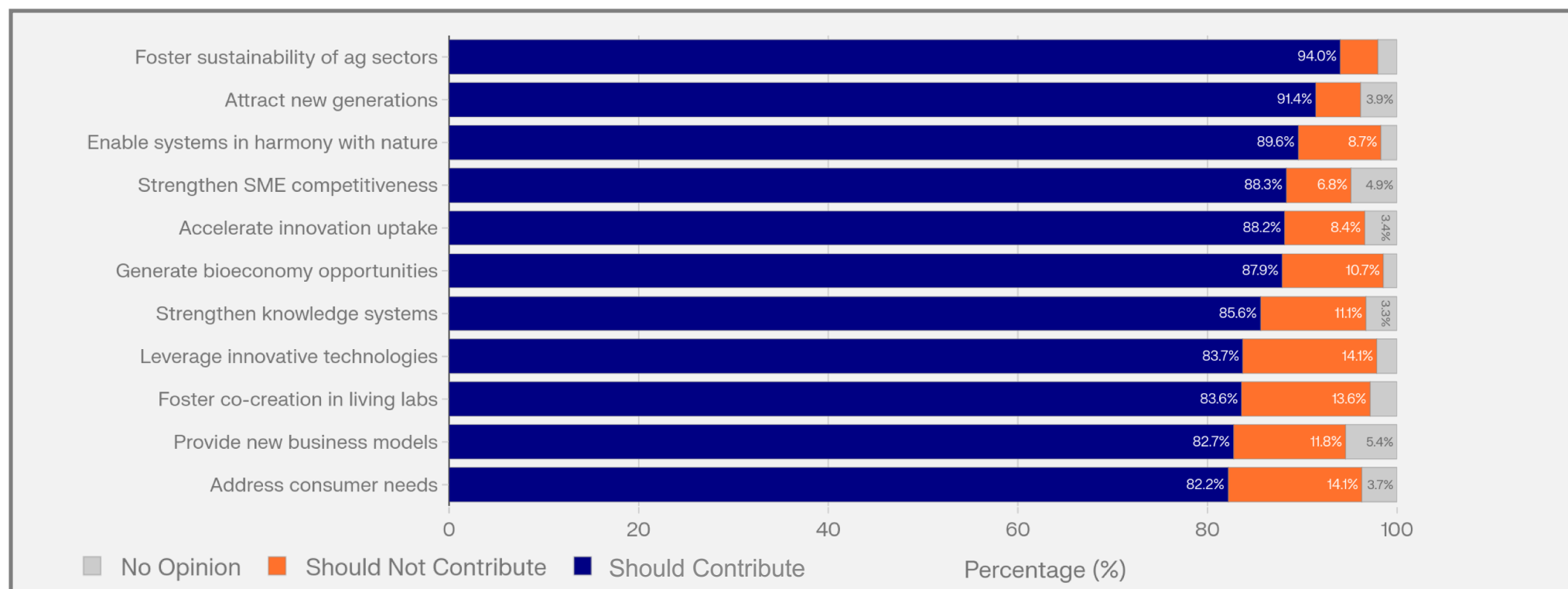


- Academic and research institutions form the largest group (**38.4%**)
- Citizens account for **14.8%**, showing strong individual engagement
- Rural & land-based actors represent **13.4%**
- Market & business actors contribute **11.4%**



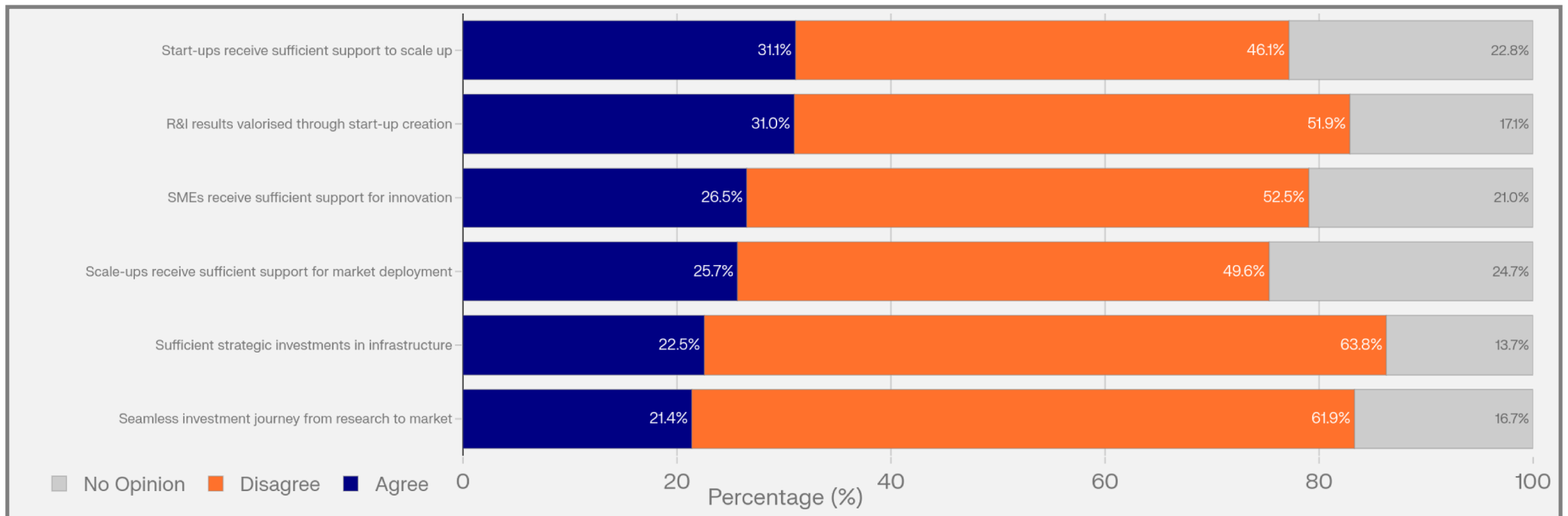
## Q1.2. New Strategic Approach contribution areas

While the 2016 objectives remain valid, 82-94% of stakeholders support addressing new areas, indicating broad agreement on expanding the strategy's scope



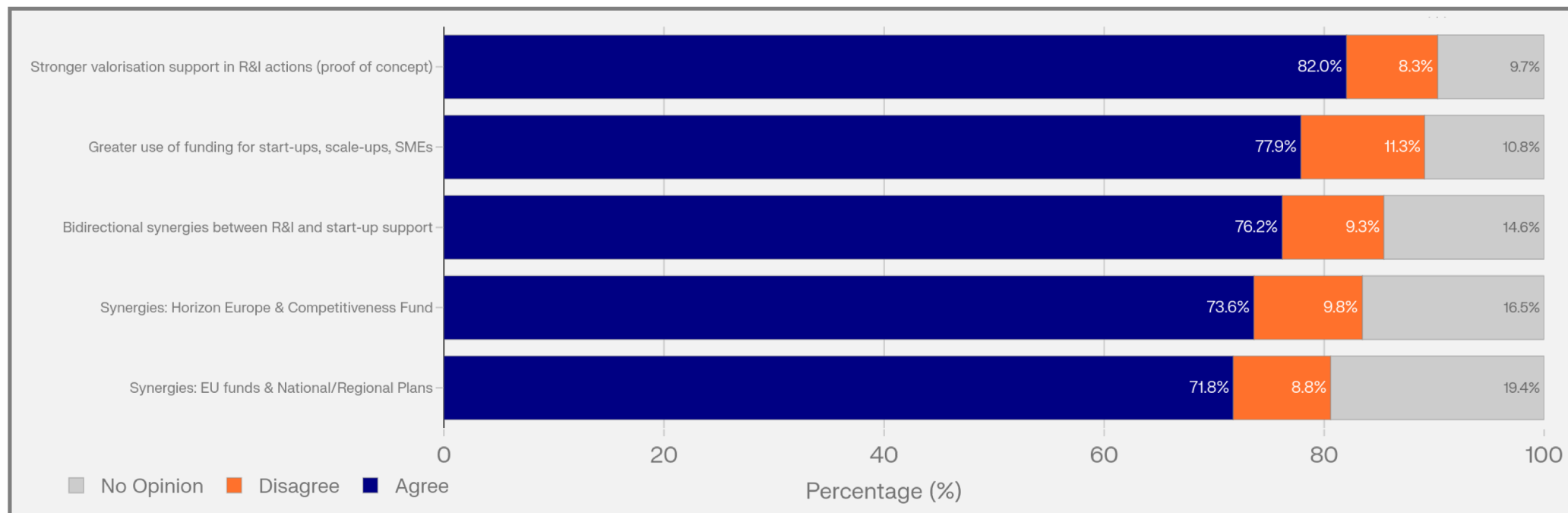
## Q2.1. Current state of the EU valorisation of R&I results through the “EU research and innovation ecosystem”

**46-64%** consider that the current EU valorisation ecosystem needs to be improved.



## Q2.2. Fostering a “seamless investment journey”

- 72-82% of stakeholders support the five proposed solutions to improve the investment journey.
- Higher "No Opinion" rates (16-19%) suggest some stakeholders are less familiar with new mechanisms such as the ECF and National and Regional Partnerships Plans

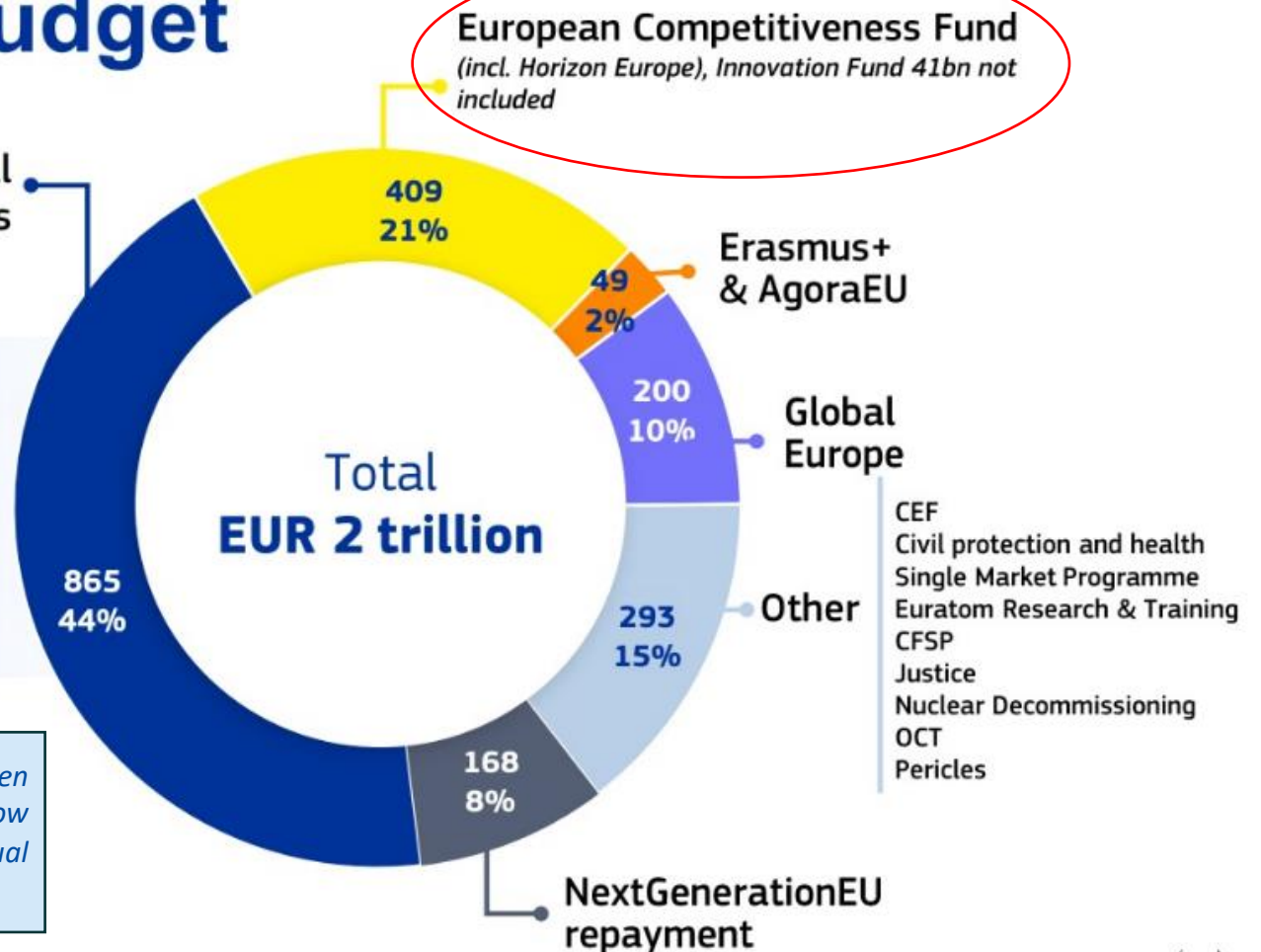


# Multiannual Financial Framework: An ambitious budget

- From 52 to **16 programmes**
- **Simpler** for beneficiaries
- **Results** oriented
- More **agile**

*Ceilings continue to be based on a 2% fixed deflator when EU inflation is between 1% and 3%. When inflation is below 1% or above 3%, adjustment made based on actual inflation.*

All amounts in EUR, **current prices**, adjusted with 2% deflator



# The structure of the new Horizon Europe

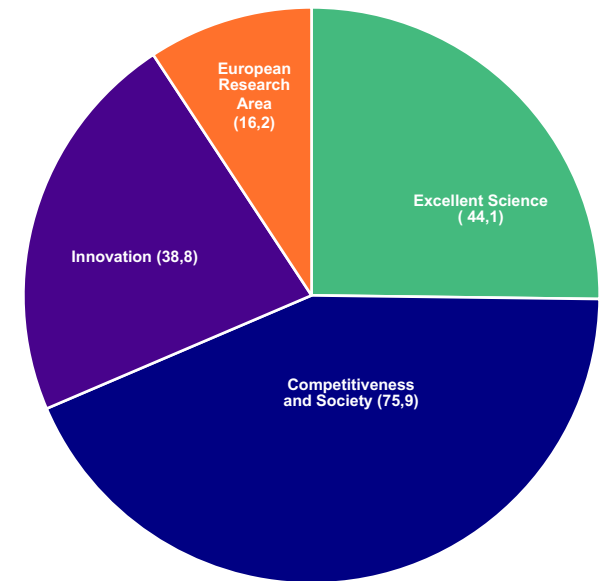


<sup>1</sup> Consistent with activities under the European Competitiveness Fund

Indicative budget : **EUR 75.9 billion**, of which:

- EUR 68.3 billion for ‘Competitiveness’:
  - EUR 25.3 billion for ‘Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation’
  - **EUR 19.7 billion for ‘Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy’**
  - EUR 16.9 billion for ‘Digital Leadership’
  - EUR 6.4 billion for ‘Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space’
- EUR 7.6 billion for ‘Society’

Horizon Europe total budget EUR 175 billion (current prices)  
Figures all in EUR billion



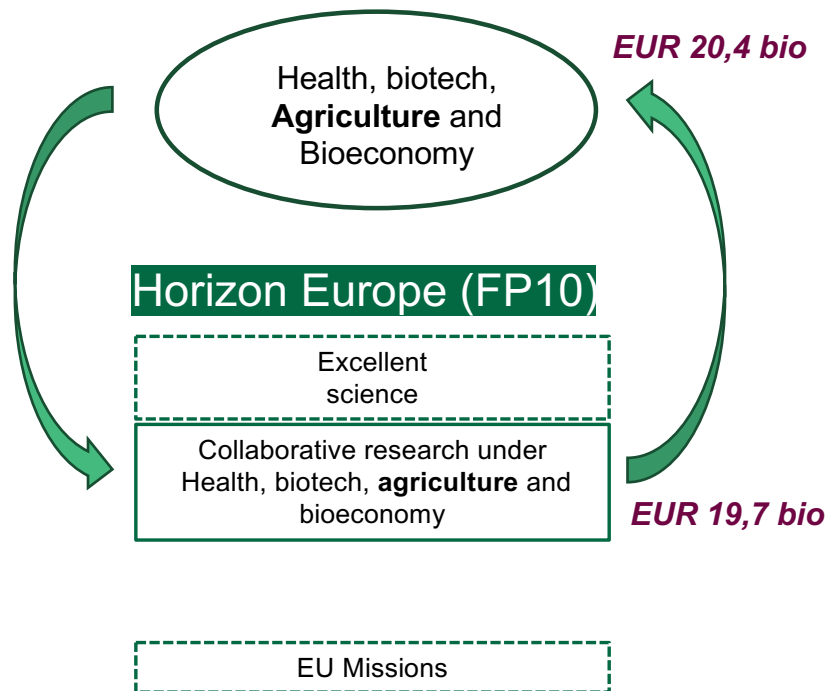
- Excellent Science ( 44,1)
- Competitiveness and Society (75,9)
- Innovation (38,8)
- European Research Area (16,2)



# Synergies for competitiveness & innovation

## Key features of ECF

### European Competitiveness Fund

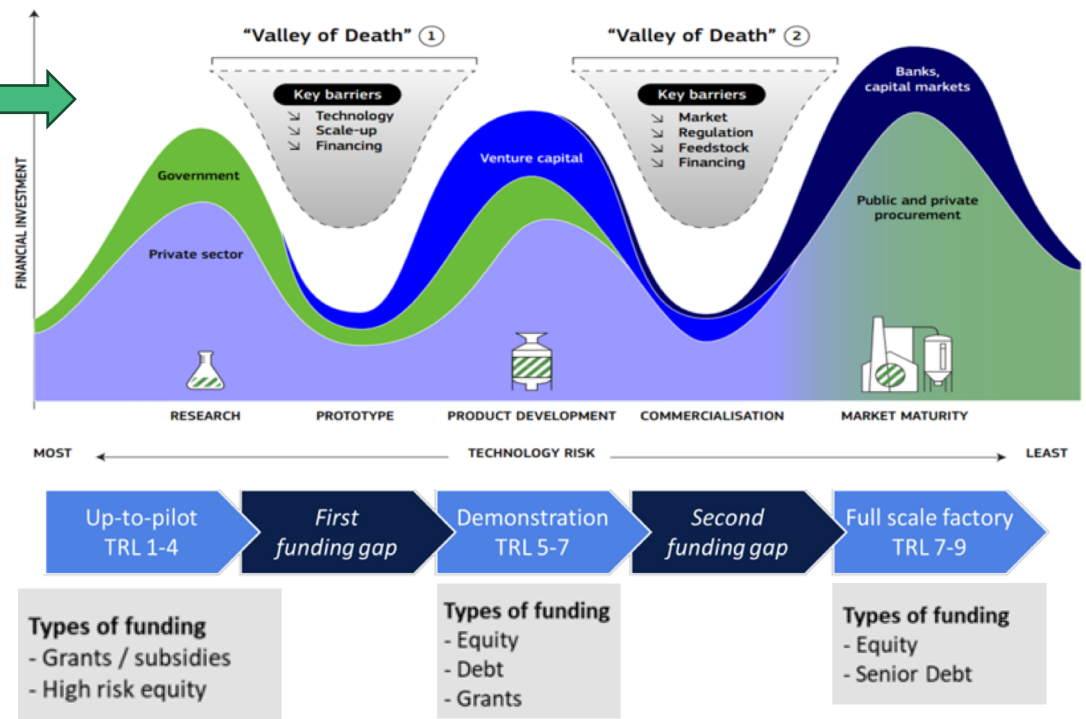


- ✓ **Main goals:** increasing technological and economic impact, reducing strategic dependencies, attracting private investment, **and supporting infrastructure and SMEs.**
- ✓ **ECF toolbox:** Grants, procurement, industrial policy tools ECF Invest EU instruments (loans, equity, guarantees)
- ✓ **Project Advisory services, support SME collaboration, and streamline access to funding.**
- ✓ **ECF will invest in skills:** Skills Guarantee; upskilling and reskilling, and foster public-private partnerships between universities, VET providers, businesses, in particular SMEs, social partners and applied research institutes.
- ✓ **ECF: Work programme based implementation:** annual or multi-annual format. **The ECF work programmes will include collaborative research and innovation actions**, in a specific dedicated part. The ECF work programmes should also set out policy priorities **that will steer EIC challenges.**

# Challenges for innovative SMES, startups and scaleups

## Issues indicated in ECF:

- access to finance
- lack of entrepreneurial skills
- lack of access technology infrastructure
- difficulties in protecting IP
- difficulties in accessing export markets and value chains in order to develop their internationalisation activities



## JRC report : Innovation in the EU: technological and creative performances in numbers across urban and rural regions:

[Urban-rural innovation divide: new metrics reveals rural regions that excel - Joint Research Centre](#)

- Rural regions receive only around 12% of total EU R&D investments, despite hosting 21% of the EU population



# ECF tools supporting SMEs

## Cross cutting tools

- Scale up facility (ECF Invest EU): set of targeted financing tools (Article 22)
- Project advisory
- EU for Business network
- Business support:
  - such as support and assistance for
  - + access to technologies
  - + technology infrastructure and facilities
  - + market uptake of innovation
  - + support business organisations
  - + facilitation access to markets including through support to the internationalisation of SMEs and provision of market intelligence
  - + Intellectual propriety valorization
  - + Standard setting
  - + Public procurement

## Tools in the policy windows

### Article 29

"Each window **shall support dedicated, sector-specific actions** targeting start-ups, SMEs and small mid-cap companies or calls for SMEs in strategic sectors with a view to fostering innovation, business acceleration, commercialisation and scalingup. "

Recital (81) "**such as bonus systems**"

### Article 26

..."**Project advisory shall be available** under each policy window"...

Article 30: Support for skills development

"...**strengthen cooperation between VET providers and businesses, especially SMEs** and connecting them with regional industrial ecosystems"



# Thank you

Agri-Research Conference  
24-25 September 2026



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