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EU R&I Funding 2028–2034: A Work in Progress

Karim Jouhari, Advocacy officer

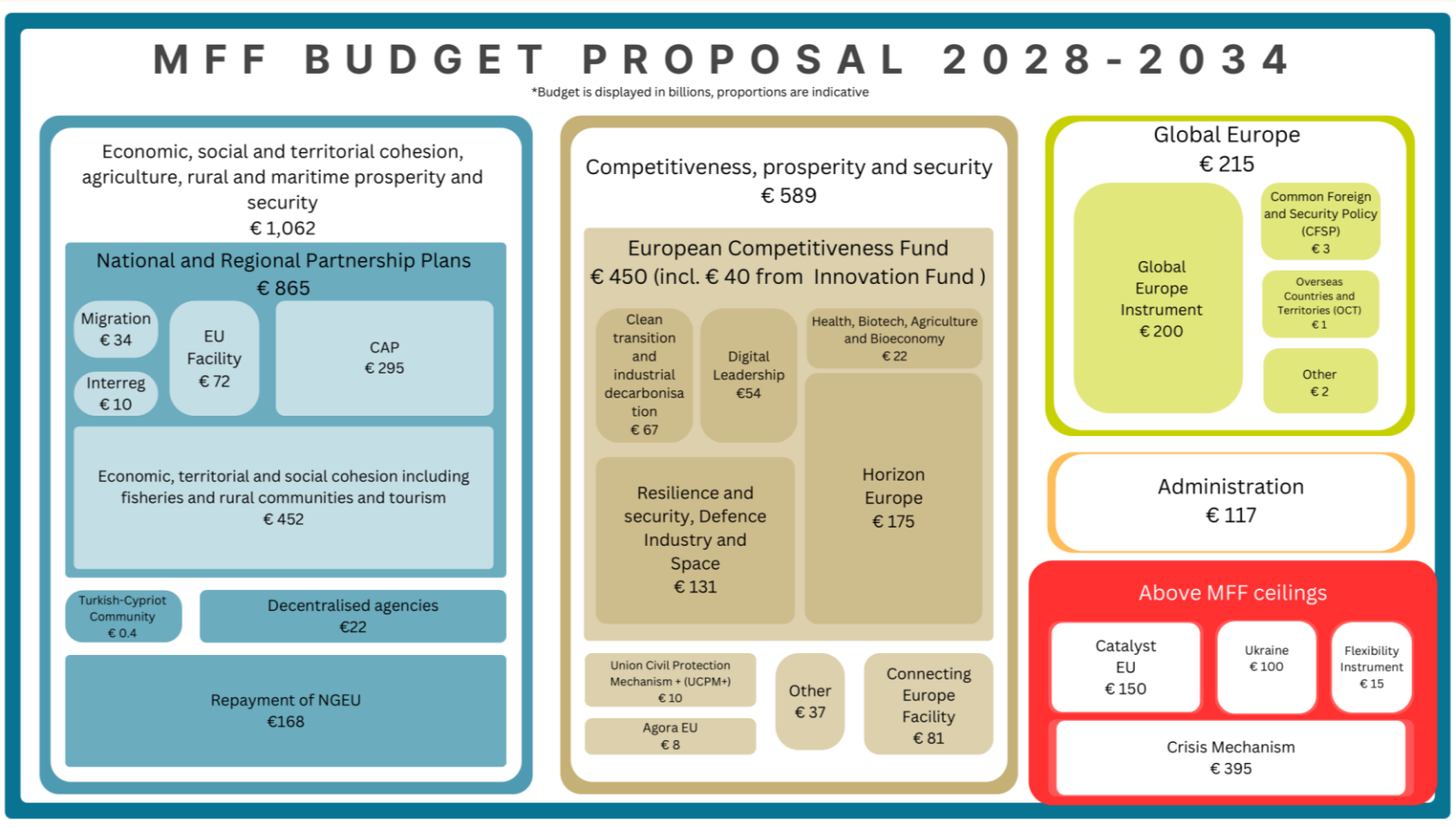
Organics Innovation Days - Brussels, 03 November 2026

The next EU funding cycle: where are we?



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The MFF: understanding the bigger picture



Visual representation of the new MFF structure based on the European Commission proposal from July 2025:
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2026/782646/EPRS_BRI(2026)782646_EN.pdf
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0570&qid=1753978048542

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From Horizon Europe to FP10: what's changing?

Horizon Europe, FP9
2021 - 2027

The EU's framework programme for research and innovation, **supporting scientific excellence, collaborative research and innovation to strengthen Europe's scientific and technological base**, foster competitiveness, address global challenges and contribute to EU policy objectives.

REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe (2021-2027)

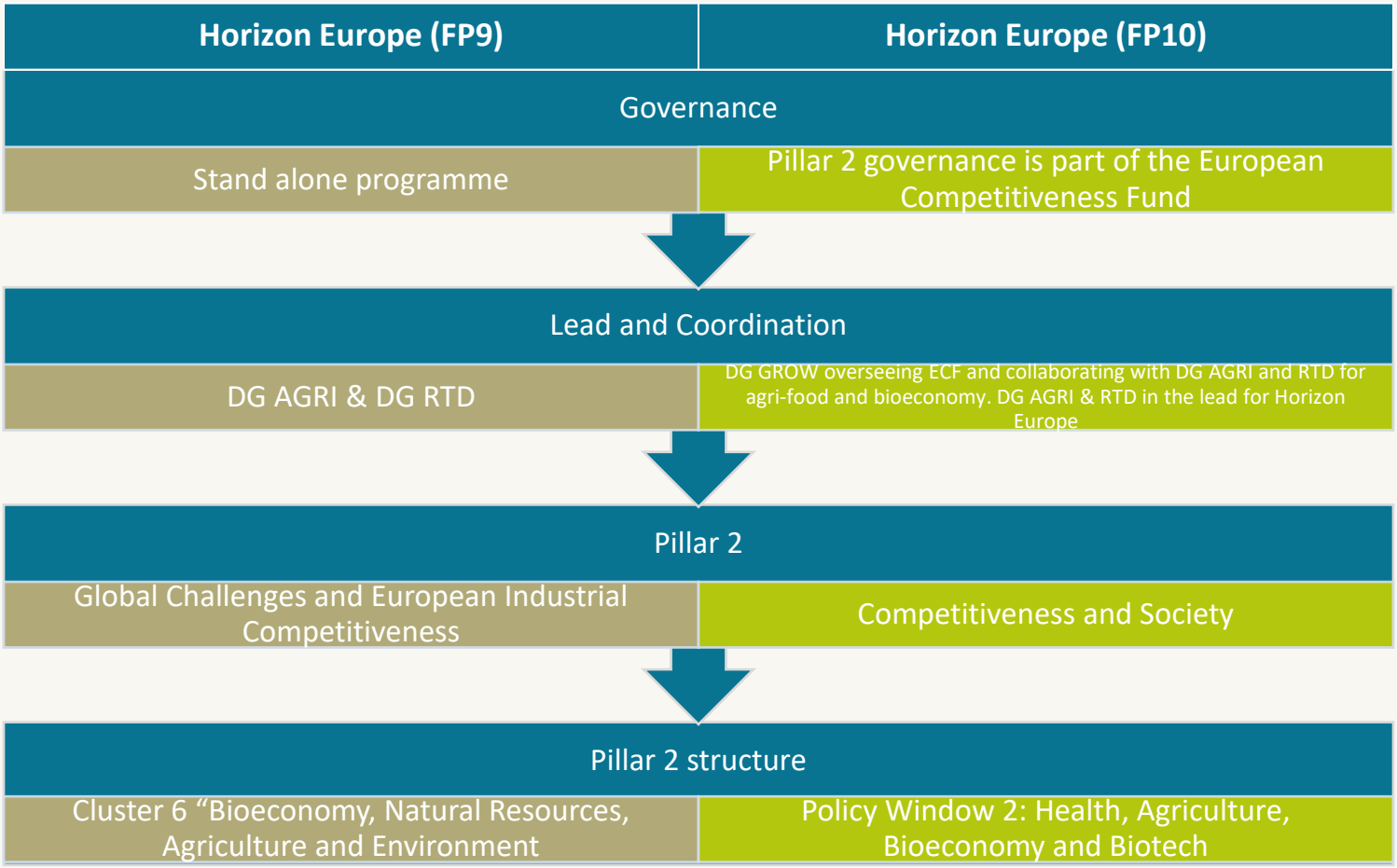
Horizon Europe, FP10
2028 - 2034

The proposed EU framework programme for research and innovation, aiming to **strengthen Europe's competitiveness and scientific and technological base**, while addressing global challenges through excellent research and innovation.

EC proposal for a regulation establishing Horizon Europe (2025/0543 (COD))

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From Horizon Europe to FP10: what's changing?



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Pillar II: competitiveness, society and collaborative research

What is the Commission proposing?

The new programme will be based on four pillars.

Pillar I

EXCELLENT SCIENCE

- EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL
- MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS
- SCIENCE FOR EU POLICIES

Pillar II

COMPETITIVENESS AND SOCIETY

COMPETITIVENESS[1] :
1. Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation
2. Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy
3. Digital leadership
4. Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space

SOCIETY:
1. Global societal challenges
2. EU Missions
3. New European Bauhaus Facility

Pillar III

INNOVATION

- EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL
- INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS AND THE KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE

Pillar IV

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

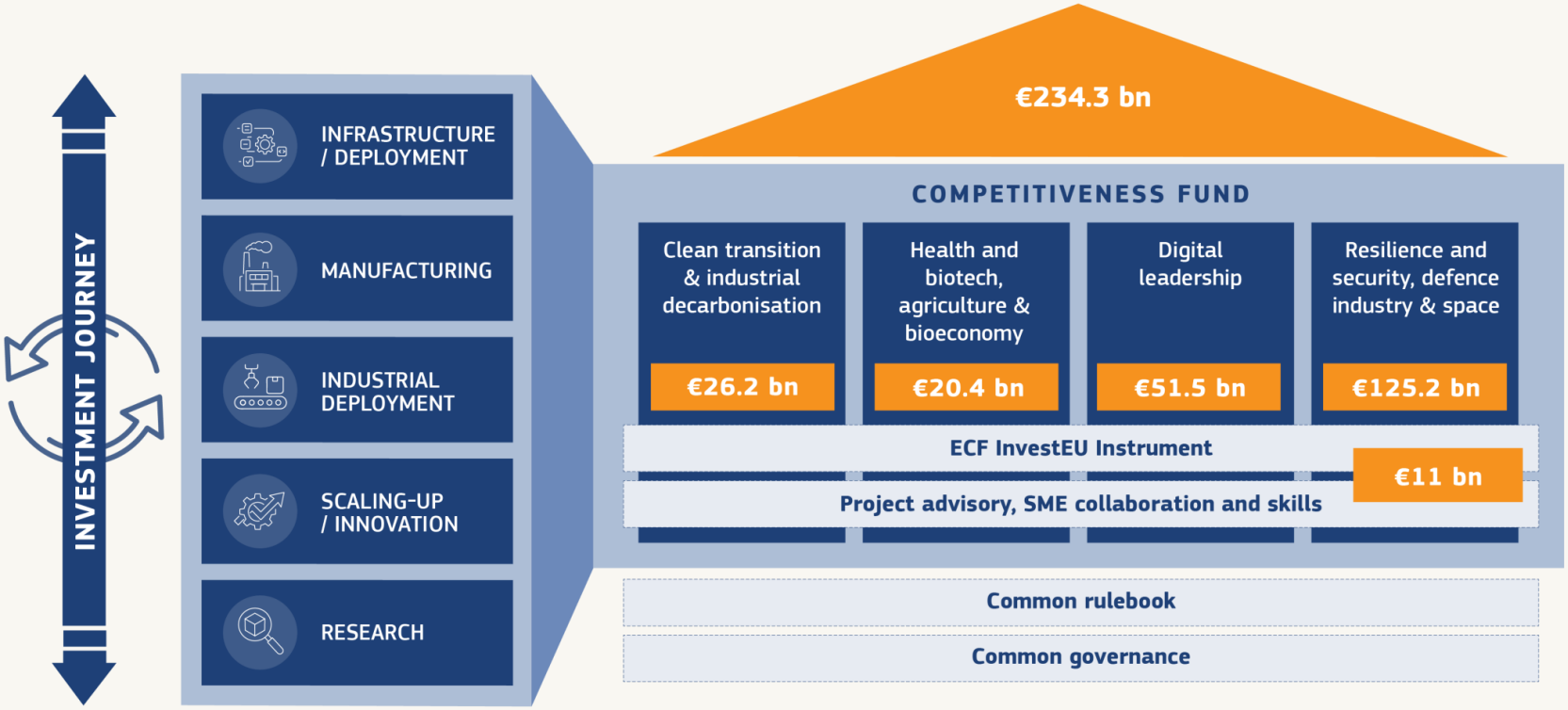
- ERA POLICIES
- RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURES
- WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE

[1] Consistent with activities under the European Competitiveness Fund

https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/7776a04c-637d-11f0-bf4e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en

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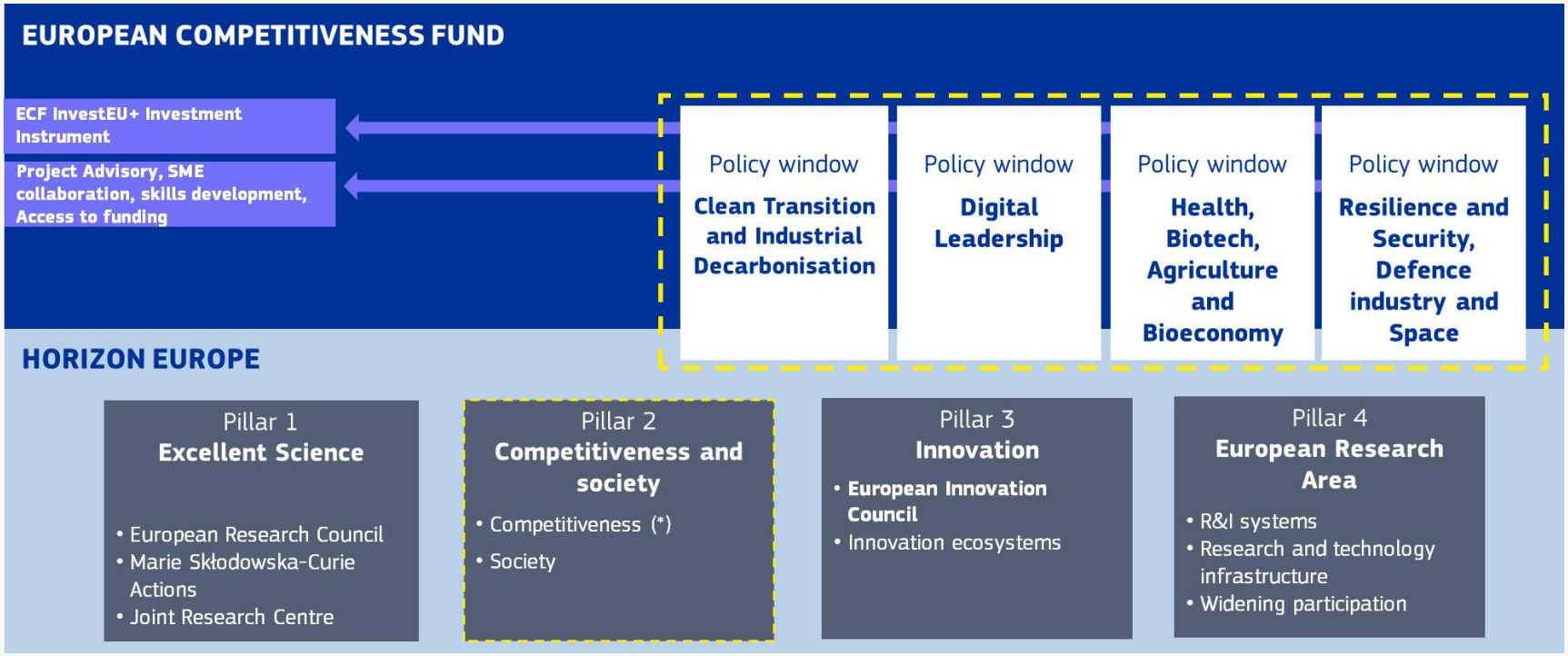
Introducing the European Competitiveness Fund



- European Commission – DG GROW: https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/access-finance/european-competitiveness-fund_en
- https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/110f1996-8159-11f0-9af8-01aa75ed71a1/language-en

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ECF: four policy windows



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Two instruments, one innovation ecosystem: how HE and ECF fit together

Horizon Europe (FP 10):

- The successor of *Horizon Europe*
- The EU's main **funding Programme** for **Research & Innovation** (2028–2034)
- Funds:
  - » Research projects
  - » Innovation actions
  - » Multi-stakeholders' collaboration
- Supports → R&I
- Builds knowledge and new practices to support EU's Competitiveness and address global challenges
- Grants

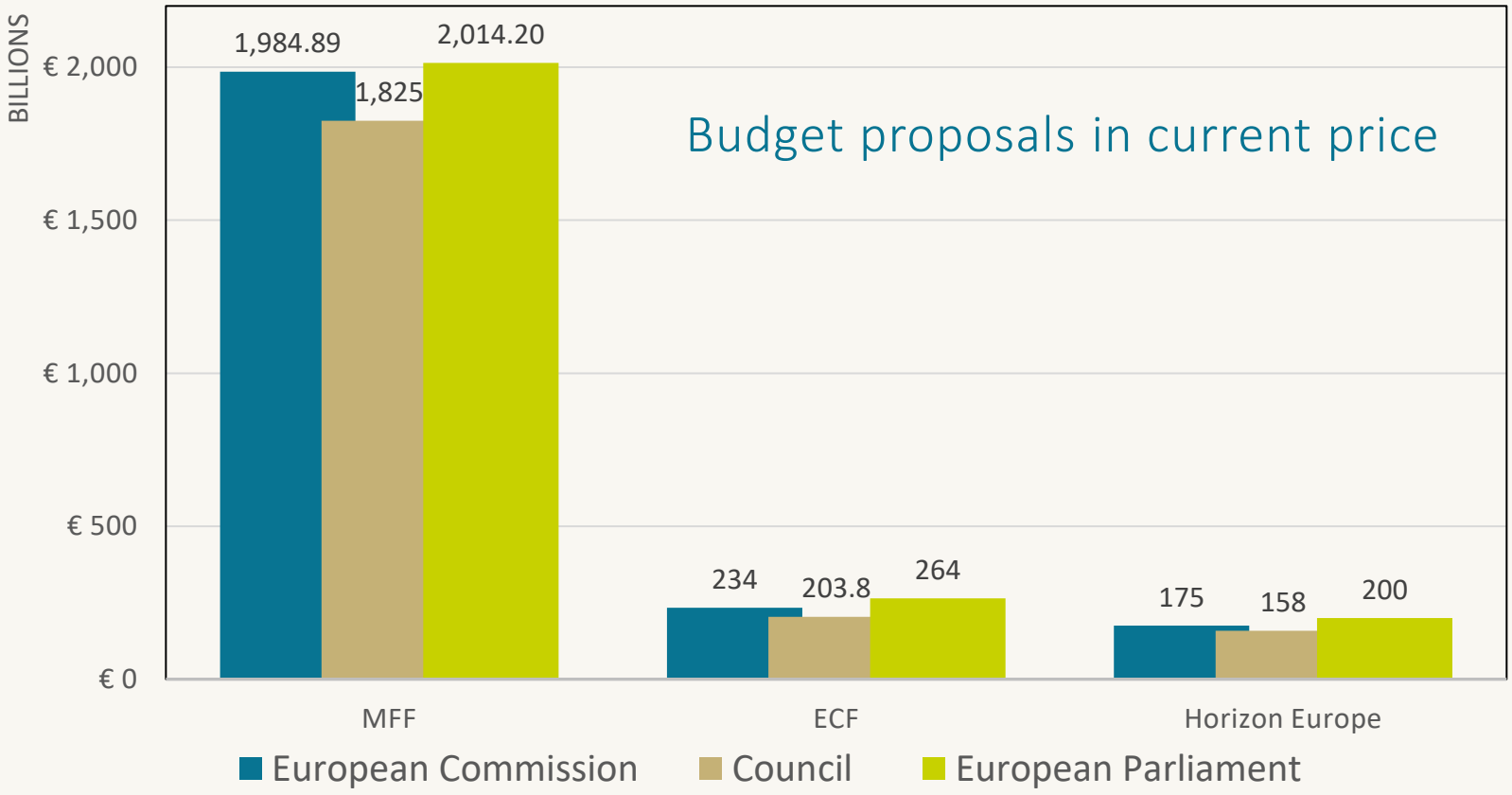
European Competitiveness Fund (ECF):

- A new proposed **EU funding instrument**
- Focuses on:
  - » Strategic sectors
  - » Industrial competitiveness
  - » Scaling up and deploying technologies
- Supports → deployment and competitiveness
- Boosts EU competitiveness by ensuring that innovation are deployed on the market
- Grants, Financial instruments, Blended finance, advisory and business support, Skills development

https://www.organicseurope.bio/news/new-horizon-europe-and-the-european-competitiveness-fund-why-the-coming-months-matter-for-organic-ri/

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The budget question: what is at stake in the MFF negotiations?



https://budget-navigator.eu/visualisations/compare-28-34

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Where do negotiations stand? Three institutions, three perspectives

COMMISSION

Centralisation and top-down approach

Closely connected programmes, particularly in Pillar II.

Programming procedure in ECF legislation

Competitiveness priorities closely linked to ECF policy windows.

Commission-led strategic programming, supported by advisory and committee structures.

Work Programmes from 1 to 3 years

COUNCIL

Stronger Member States role

Unclear nature of the connection between the programmes

Stronger focus on Social Science and Humanities (SSH)

Greater Member State involvement in strategic priority-setting.

Work Programmes from 1 to 3 years

PARLIAMENT

expert-led governance

Separate but coordinated FP10 and ECF governance structures.

New expert-led governance model for Pillar II.

New Programming procedure with strong role from experts.

.Work Programmes of 3 years

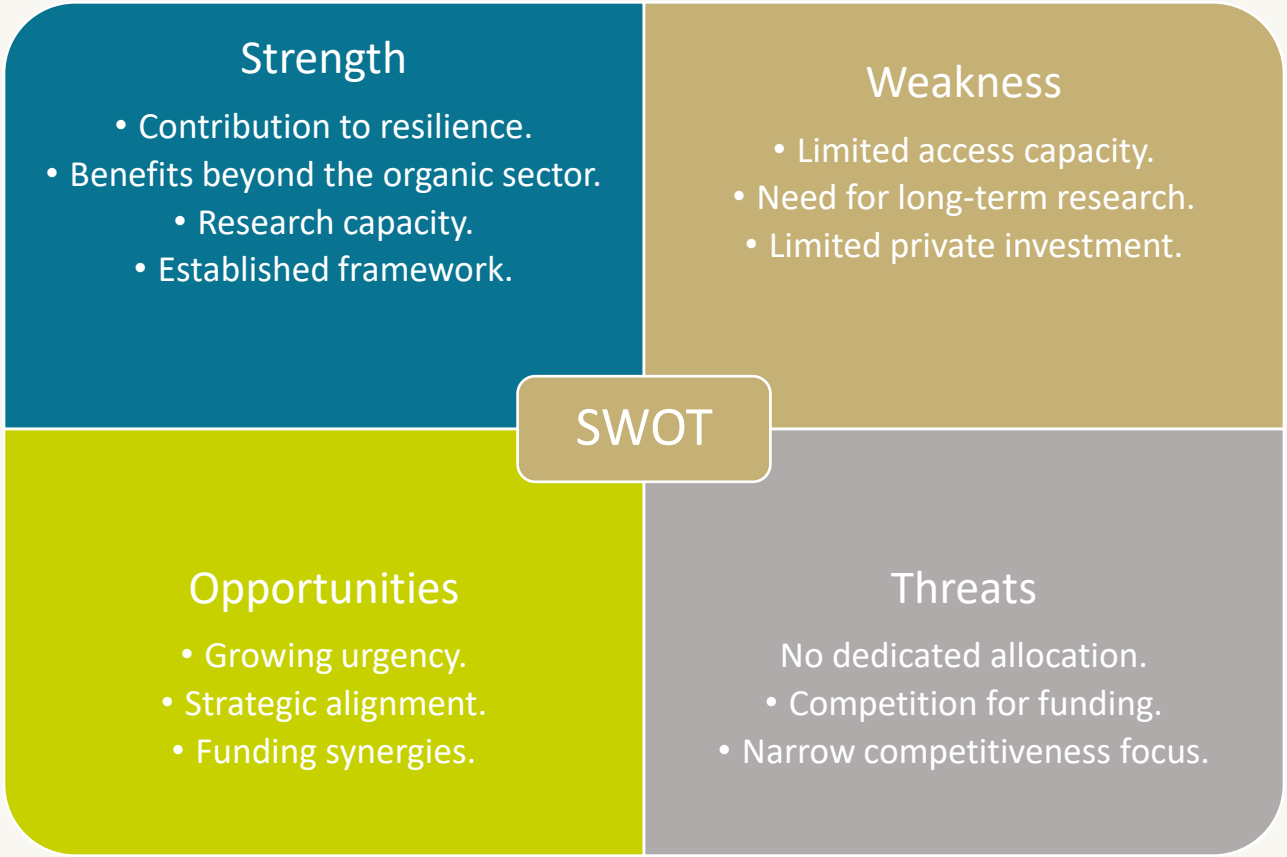
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The road ahead: what happens between now and 2028?

	Q4 2026	Q1 2027	Q2 2027	Q3 2027	Q4 2027	Q1 2028
EP position on HE and ECF	Vote in ITRE Committee and in Plenary					
MFF agreement at the Council						
HE and ECF Trilogue		Council General Approaches				
Adoption of the regulations (ECF & HE)				Vote in EP Plenary and Council		
HE/ECF Work Programme 2028	EC working on 1st version			publication of the WP 2028?		
New EU Partnerships		**Selections of the new Partnerships**				**Launch under new MFF**
Council Presidency	**Irish Presidency**	**Lithuania Presidency**		**Greek Presidency**		**Italy Presidency**

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What does this mean for organic and agroecology R&I?



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Concluding remarks: shaping Europe's next R&I framework



Safeguard an independent and ambitious FP10

Preserve a dedicated EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme, with its own legal basis, mission and budget, complementary to the ECF and focused on scientific excellence and the public interest.



Ensure open and inclusive R&I governance

Maintain strong collaborative and multi-actor research, involving farmers, researchers, SMEs, civil society and European Technology Platforms in shaping priorities and implementing research. Ensure that smaller actors can access funding.



Turn strategic recognition into investment for agri-food R&I

Give agriculture and food a clear and adequately funded place in FP10 and ECF. Recognise organic farming and agroecology as strategic contributors to Europe's competitiveness, food security, resilience and climate mitigation.

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Further readings

Open letter to the President of the European Commission: the EU needs an independent FP10 to strengthen its leadership in R&I

(10 April 2025)

Press release: TP Organics calls on the European Parliament and the Council of the EU to make the European Competitiveness Fund and the new Horizon Europe fit for the transition to sustainable food systems (20 January 2026)

The future of EU's research and innovation: state of play MFF and FP10

(12 June 2025)

Statement on the strategic importance of R&I in agriculture and food for the EU's competitiveness, resilience and strategic autonomy

(7 May 2026)

Are the ECF and FP10 putting the cart before the horses? A prosperous bioeconomy must have a sustainable agri-food sector at its core

(18 July 2025)

What the EU's new Strategic Approach to R&I means for agriculture, food systems and the future of organic

(14 September 2026)

Press release: New Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda from TP Organics and OrganicTargets4EU sets direction for organic and agroecological research in Europe

(04 Novembre 2025)

Joint call for EU agricultural and food systems research and innovation that delivers societal value

(23 September 2026)

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