Stakeholders' survey on Europe's innovation ecosystem

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

This survey is aimed at gathering views from a wide range of stakeholders on how to strengthen the European innovation ecosystem and improve innovation cohesion in Europe. Your input will feed into ongoing analysis and reflections on the evolution of the European innovation ecosystem, also in view of future programming for Horizon Europe (e.g. European Innovation Ecosystems, European Innovation Council), and Cohesion Policy programmes and the role of smart specialisation approaches.

Collecting stakeholders' views is essential for making Europe's innovation ecosystem more cohesive and integrated, and better able to transform scientific excellence into the innovations of tomorrow, while addressing the persisting innovation divide.

A vibrant and inclusive innovation ecosystem is essential to fulfil the EU's commitment to the green and digital transitions and contribute to a strong European recovery, economic and social cohesion, and global leadership in key technologies and innovative solutions. It is also essential to support the process of economic and social convergence of the less prosperous regions towards higher levels of prosperity by ensuring that the benefits of innovation are spread fairly across the EU and that all regions contribute to delivering the green and digital transition.

We therefore welcome your views on the challenges and opportunities that Europe faces in the domain of innovation. We also encourage your proposals for concrete measures that have the potential of being replicated, customised or scaled up at local, regional, national or European level.

We are seeking contributions from a wide range of innovation stakeholders, notably start-ups, SMEs and corporates in all sectors, business support organisations, including cluster organisations, universities and research organisations, science and technology parks, incubators and accelerators, investors, and local, regional and national authorities, including those involved in the cohesion policy implementation.

European Commission services in charge of R&I and of Cohesion policy will analyse the contributions received and will post on their webpages the outcome of this survey, including a summary report highlighting the key insights gained.

The survey is composed of 2 sections: "Section I - About you" and "Section II - Your chance to shape a stronger European Innovation ecosystem and boost innovation cohesion in Europe!"

Section II has 4 main questions.

This survey is estimated to take 20 minutes to complete. We particularly welcome new ideas and actions under section II.3 of this survey (under the tab "other"). In case of questions or problems of technical nature please contact RTD-A5-ASSIST@ec.europa.eu. We thank you in advance for your contribution.

Section I - About you

* I am giving my contribution as:

> Business support organization

First name

> Sofia

Surname

> Garrido Perez

E-mail (this will not be published)

> sofia.garrido.perez@investeurope.eu

Organisation name

> Invest Europe

Position in the organisation
50 character(s) maximum

> Public Affairs Officer

Organisation size in terms of employees:

> 10-50

* Which country or countries do your answers refer to?
(Please check all relevant options)
at least 1 choice(s)

- ☑ Austria
- ☑ Belgium
- ☑ Bulgaria
- ☑ Croatia
- ☑ Cyprus
- ☑ Czech Republic
- ☑ Denmark

- ☑ Estonia
- ☑ Finland
- ☑ France
- ☑ Germany
- ☑ Greece
- ☑ Hungary
- ☑ Ireland
- ☑ Italy
- ☑ Latvia
- ☑ Lithuania
- ☑ Luxembourg
- ☑ Malta
- ☑ Netherlands
- ☑ Poland
- ☑ Portugal
- ☑ Romania
- ☑ Slovakia
- ☑ Slovenia
- ☑ Spain
- ☑ Sweden
- ☐ Other (Please specify)

Which region/city/locality does your answer refer to?

50 character(s) maximum

How would you qualify the type of innovation that you are most involved/interested in:

at most 3 choice(s)

- ☐ Technological innovation
- ☐ Deep tech innovation
- ☐ Non-technological innovation
- ☐ Product innovation
- ☐ Process innovation
- ☐ Marketing innovation
- ☐ Organisational innovation
- ☐ Social innovation
- ☐ Other (please specify)

If "Other", please elaborate:

50 character(s) maximum

Which are your sectors or domains of innovation? (e.g. digital, transport, energy, etc)

250 character(s) maximum

We represent venture capital funds investing in all types of sectors.

Privacy setting

The Commission will publish the responses to this questionnaire. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or remain anonymous.

- ⊙ <u>Anonymous</u> - Only the respondent type, country and contribution will be published. Personal details (name, position, organisation name and size) will not be published. Your email will not be made public in any occasion.
- ⊙ <u>Public</u> - Your personal details (name, position, organisation name and size, country) will be published with your contribution.

Consent notice

- ☑ I give a consent for keeping my records in a database of stakeholders for receiving future news, invitations to meetings, answer surveys, and other communications from the Data Controller.

* Personal data protection provisions

- ⊙ I agree with the <u>personal data protection provisions</u>

Section II - Your chance to shape a stronger European Innovation ecosystem and boost innovation cohesion in Europe!

You are invited to answer the series of four questions below, with a combination of multiple choice answers and open fields:

This section will focus on the 4 main topics listed below.
1) The most important **needs and challenges** for innovation to thrive in Europe;
2) Your **vision** of a European innovation approach;
3) Your ideas for the **actions** and type of support at European, national, regional or local levels;
4) Your suggestions of **best practices**.

Questions
Let's begin!

1) Needs and challenges

What are the most important needs and challenges that Europe is facing in the domain of innovation? In particular, for developing break-through innovations, scaling up firms, investing in innovation and bridging the innovation divide in Europe.

Select up to 3 options per cluster from the 5 clusters available (general approach, skills, funding, regulations, ecosystems) and rate them on a scale from 1 to 3 (1- least important, 3- most important).

It is also possible to provide specific comments for each cluster, with a maximum of 100 characters.

1. General approach

at most 3 choice(s)

- ☑ Deliver innovation that contributes to the EU's political ambition for Europe's green and digital transition
- ☑ Have clear and focused innovation policy objectives across the EU and MS policies
- ☑ Promote breakthrough and deep tech innovations and the role of start-ups as key dynamic players and drivers of innovation
- ☐ Implement an inclusive and broad approach to innovation policy that notably ensures the inclusion of less developed European regions
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Deliver innovation that contributes to the EU's political ambition for Europe's green and digital transition

> 3

Have clear and focused innovation policy objectives across the EU and MS policies

> 2

Promote breakthrough and deep tech innovations and the role of start-ups as key dynamic players and drivers of innovation

> 3

2. Skills/people (access to skills, talents, knowledge and ability)

at most 3 choice(s)

- ☑ Tertiary education or vocational training that can provide the necessary skills
- ☐ Scarcity/shortage of appropriate skills or talent on the labour market
- ☑ More balanced participation of women better reflection of Europe's cultural and social diversity
- ☐ Policies that reflect that innovation is increasingly coming from sources other than research and researchers (entrepreneurs, students, academia, industry, public sector, civil society)
- ☑ Transforming our higher education sector to strengthen the links between education, research, and innovation
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Tertiary education or vocational training that can provide the necessary skills

> 3

More balanced participation of women better reflection of Europe's cultural and social diversity

> 3

Transforming our higher education sector to strengthen the links between education, research, and innovation

> 3

3. Funding/financing (public and private investments in R&I)

at most 3 choice(s)

- ☐ Access to finance in general
- ☑ Availability of risk finance
- ☐ Availability of public support
- ☑ Availability of alternative finance (crowdfunding, etc.)
- ☑ Incentives for private investors
- ☐ Better leverage of EU R&I funding programmes
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Availability of risk finance

> 3

Availability of alternative finance (crowdfunding, etc.)

> 2

Incentives for private investors

> 2

4. Regulatory environment /single market (sufficiently innovation-friendly regulations)

at most 3 choice(s)

- ☑ Reinforcing the internal market and tackling fragmentation /multiple national regulatory regimes that create obstacles to the cross-border development and diffusion of innovations and firms' scale-up
- ☑ Decreasing regulatory burdens and red tape affecting all businesses, but particularly start-ups
- ☐ Adjusting product market regulations and standards that prevent, hinder or make uncompetitive the development and marketing of innovations, notably due to the inability to combine innovation support with the safeguard of socio-environmental requirements
- ☐ Public procurement rules that take into account the innovation dimension or reward innovative solutions
- ☐ Better access and possibility to re-use data and knowledge
- ☐ Greater influence on global standard-setting relevant to innovation
- ☐ More opportunities for innovation co-creation, crowd-sourcing and/or policy experimentation
- ☑ Other (please specify)

Reinforcing the internal market and tackling fragmentation /multiple national regulatory regimes that create obstacles to the cross-border development and diffusion of innovations and firms' scale-up

> 3

Decreasing regulatory burdens and red tape affecting all businesses, but particularly start-ups

> 3

If "Other", please elaborate:

100 character(s) maximum

> Amend legislation to promote institutional and retail long-term investments into venture funds

Other

> 3

5. Innovation ecosystems (strengthening local innovation ecosystems and the development of an interconnected and inclusive innovation ecosystem at European level)

at most 3 choice(s)

- ☐ Improved investment opportunities
- ☐ Coordination of R&I funding programmes across EU, national and regional levels
- ☑ Intersectoral collaboration, technology/knowledge transfer and mobility between innovation actors, in particular between universities, public research institutions, research and technology organisations and businesses
- ☑ Better infrastructures for deployment of innovative solutions
- ☐ Wide diffusion of knowledge, data and innovations across EU Member States and regions
- ☐ Reduce the persistent innovation divide between regions across Europe
- ☐ Innovation policies that are sufficiently tailored to specific regions, including less developed regions
- ☑ Wider access to innovation support services in less developed regions of Europe
- ☐ Improved administrative and institutional capacities at local or regional level to access finance and manage R&I investments
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Intersectoral collaboration, technology/knowledge transfer and mobility between innovation actors, in particular between universities, public research institutions, research and technology organisations and businesses

> 3

Better infrastructures for deployment of innovative solutions

> 2

Wider access to innovation support services in less developed regions of Europe

> 2

2) Your vision

How would you respond to these needs and challenges? What opportunities can we create? Indicate your vision of a European innovation approach.

Select any combination of objectives listed below. For each selected option, indicate the importance on a scale from 1 to 3 (1- least important, 3- most important).

It is also possible to provide a specific answer under "Other", with a maximum of 100 characters.

My vision would be to:

☐ Give innovation a **direction** by focusing on delivering European leadership in innovations for the green and digital transitions and related economic and societal transformations

☐ Adopt a broad **scope** for innovation policy covering technological, non-technological and social innovation and engaging with people, students and end users

☐ Stimulate a value-based, citizen-led and human-centric innovation approach, **placing people at the centre of innovation**

☑ Increase the focus on defragmenting Europe's internal market for innovations, and creating a **pro-innovation regulatory and standard-setting environment**

☑ Increase the focus on **mobilising long term capital and risk finance** for scale up and diffusion of innovation

☑ Increase the focus on **inclusion and interconnection** of innovation ecosystems across Europe

☐ Increase the focus on **capacity building** in Europe's local innovation ecosystems

☐ Increase the focus on broadening innovation and technology adoption, **addressing the innovation divide** and regions at all levels of development

☐ Other (please specify)

Increase the focus on defragmenting Europe's internal market for innovations, and creating a **pro-innovation regulatory and standard-setting environment**

> 3

Increase the focus on **mobilising long term capital and risk finance** for scale up and diffusion of innovation

> 3

Increase the focus on **inclusion and interconnection** of innovation ecosystems across Europe

> 2

3) Your ideas for action

How would you support innovation at the European, national, regional or local level?
Select up to 3 options per cluster from the 4 clusters available (skills/people, funding/financing, regulatory environment, innovation ecosystems) and rate them on a scale from 1 to 3 (1- least important, 3- most important).

It is also possible to provide specific proposals for each cluster, with a maximum of 100 characters.

1. Skills/people
at most 3 choice(s)

☐ Support underrepresented innovators (ensuring diversity)

☑ Create a more responsive educational/training system that responds (more rapidly) to new innovation skills and changing labour market needs

☑ Promote entrepreneurship in education and training programmes across all age groups

☐ Provide better support for social innovators

☑ Develop easier/faster solutions for attracting foreign talent to Europe

☐ Other (please specify)

Create a more responsive educational/training system that responds (more rapidly) to new innovation skills and changing labour market needs

> 3

Promote entrepreneurship in education and training programmes across all age groups

> 3

Develop easier/faster solutions for attracting foreign talent to Europe

> 2

2. Funding/financing

at most 3 choice(s)

☐ Create conditions for mobilising/crowding-in more private funding

☐ Leverage EU R&I funding instruments, in particular the EIC and the EIT/KICs to support and accelerate scale-ups

☑ Create critical mass for Venture Capital in Europe through public support

☑ Create conditions for strengthening Patient capital in Europe

☐ Develop new forms of public-private high-risk financing

☐ Launch joint or coordinated major innovative procurement initiatives

☐ Make use of innovative procurement to promote development and market uptake of innovative solutions

☐ Other (please specify)

Create critical mass for Venture Capital in Europe through public support

> 2

Create conditions for strengthening Patient capital in Europe

> 3

3. Regulatory environment

☑ Identify and remove regulatory burdens

☑ Involve innovators in early discussions of regulations and standards with legislators and policymakers

☐ Make information more easily/widely accessible about regulatory measures affecting emerging tech

☐ Develop standards in priority policy areas concerning new technologies or innovations reaching commercial application

☐ Create lead markets for breakthrough technologies and strategic innovations

☑ Develop and promote frameworks/guidance for technology/knowledge transfer between academia and business

☐ Create spaces for experimentation and testing of innovative solutions

☐ Assist stakeholders in understanding state aid in the area of R&I

☐ Other (please specify)

Identify and remove regulatory burdens

> 3

Involve innovators in early discussions of regulations and standards with legislators and policymakers

> 2

Develop and promote frameworks/guidance for technology/knowledge transfer between academia and business

> 2

4. Innovation ecosystems

- ☐ Develop bottom-up, place-based approaches of smart specialisation and use them to guide R&I investments and initiatives for reinforcing innovation ecosystems
- ☑ Enhance local innovation networks among innovation actors (academia, industry, public bodies, civil society and citizens) and reinforce network connectivity between them
- ☐ Improve/integrate information & service platforms at local level, and interconnect them at EU level
- ☑ Develop pan-European 'market places' that connect ideas and research results with entrepreneurs and investors across Europe (supply and demand)
- ☐ Support networking among innovation actors of strategic value chains across local ecosystems, notably building on EU-level initiatives (e.g. European missions and Partnerships)
- ☑ Interconnect European innovation hubs
- ☐ Foster synergies between different EU, as well as national and regional programmes
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Enhance local innovation networks among innovation actors (academia, industry, public bodies, civil society and citizens) and reinforce network connectivity between them

> 2

Develop pan-European 'market places' that connect ideas and research results with entrepreneurs and investors across Europe (supply and demand)

> 2

Interconnect European innovation hubs

> 2

4) Your suggestions of best practices

What existing initiatives, policies or programmes help improving the innovation performance at European, national, regional or local level?

Share up to three examples of best practices that have the potential to be replicated, customised or scaled up. For each example, briefly describe each best practice and indicate its demonstrated impact, adding web links where available.

Table

	Short description and links	**Demonstrated impact**
Example 1	Scale-up Europe (https://scaleupeurope.tech/) "is a call to join forces around startups: to reinforce Europe's sovereignty, develop the prosperity of our economies and societies, and achieve the objectives of social cohesion and climate transition that are at the heart of the European project".	As result of the collaboration between investors, innovators, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders, the Scale-up Europe initiative has produced a report (https://content.sifted. eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06 /15162949/Scale-Up-Europe-Report.pdf) which contains a detailed analysis of the current state of play, main challenges ahead, and 21 recommendations to address these and boost European start-ups.
Example 2		
Example 3		

Contact

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