

[Tech It Further](#) brings together leading Swedish actors from industry, research organisations, universities, and regional authorities (Teknikföretagen, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, the University Alliance Stockholm Trio (Karolinska Institutet, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, and Stockholm University), FAM AB, and the Stockholm Region EU Office). Together, we represent a full innovation ecosystem from fundamental research to market deployment.

Building on our joint Key Messages<sup>1</sup>, we share a common ambition to strengthen Europe's technological leadership by reinforcing both Horizon Europe (FP10) and the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), and by ensuring a more effective translation of research results into innovation and industrial deployment.

We emphasise the continued importance of excellent, curiosity-driven research under Pillar 1, strong collaborative research under Pillar 2, support for innovation and scaling under Pillar 3, and research and technology infrastructures under Pillar 4, to ensure effective pathways from scientific discovery to market deployment. Excellence should therefore remain the fundamental principle guiding the selection and funding of the best research and innovation proposals based on quality, rather than geography, politics, or quotas.

In this context, we welcome elements of the European Parliament's emerging position, notably the emphasis on maintaining a strong, excellence-based Framework Programme across all four pillars, supported by a ring-fenced budget, while ensuring close coordination and alignment with the European Competitiveness Fund.

Strengthening the role of pre-competitive collaborative research under Pillar 2 is a unifying priority for the members of Tech It Further. It is within this pillar that actors from across the entire innovation chain come together to co-create value. We therefore underline the importance of establishing a ring-fenced budget for research and innovation activities, including where these are jointly programmed with the European Competitiveness Fund. This is essential to safeguard research and innovation as a key driver of European competitiveness.

In this context, we are also positive to the concept of more effective instruments to accelerate the pathway from research to innovation, including initiatives such as Fast Track to Innovation and Fast Track to Excellence, as well as efforts to improve simplification and accessibility for participants.

Tech It Further highlights that Excellence is not only research results but also the full value chain where academic progress can translate freely into applied knowledge, where tech infrastructure is the natural bridge between research and real-world testing, where public sector acts as the go-to demonstration and implementation partner, and where industry can initiate and scale up innovation. We represent the full Excellence value chain where research

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<sup>1</sup> These Key Messages are input from different perspectives from the Members of the Tech it Further- platform, on how we all contribute to the industrial competitiveness in different ways and perspectives. It is therefore not a formal joint position.

and innovation become impact. We argue that for FP10 and ECF to succeed, this needs to be reflected in the governance, calls for proposals, and funding instruments.

We also see clear value in strengthening the role of independent experts representing the full range of relevant stakeholders. At the same time, specific modalities for such involvement need to be carefully designed and further discussed. The current proposal, which concentrates influence among a limited number of experts, may risk not fully capturing the complexity of the R&I and the industrial and societal landscape.

At the same time, reflecting the diversity of our ecosystem, individual members will provide additional perspectives and specific recommendations.