



October, 24<sup>th</sup> 2012

Please sign the petition and forward it to your colleagues for signature  
<http://www.no-cuts-on-research.eu>

To All FEBS Constituent Societies Members

Dear Colleagues,

As you most probably know, FEBS has been actively involved during last years in promoting support of scientific research by the European Union. One major line of these activities has been by establishment of and support for the Initiative of Science in Europe (ISE).

Last Friday (October 19th) I have been approached by Professor Helga Novotny, President of the European Research Council (ERC), requesting the support of FEBS in launching a major effort to raise the awareness of the public in the European Union countries and beyond, to potential cuts of research support and calling the EU to provide the best research budget possible for the next few years (Horizon 2020).

Important decisions concerning the EU budget will be taken very soon (at the summit of the EU Heads of States and Governments, scheduled on November 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>). Several member states are demanding severe cuts in the total EU budget, and research will have to compete with other priorities. The scientific community should act together to protect research funding including that of the European Research Council (ERC) from cuts. As these decisions will be prepared in discussions among politicians at the national level, all scientists are called to make special efforts to influence these decisions and are requested to send a strong signal to their Heads of States and Governments.

It is essential that each FEBS constituent society passes this letter to all its members and that all sign as soon as possible the online petition\* (see below), supporting the open letter signed by about 40 Nobel laureates (attached), which is being published this week in top European newspapers.

We count on you to make sure that this message reaches a maximal number of scientists and politicians (National Parliament and European Parliament representatives, ministers concerned) so as to make them aware of this very important issue.

Sincerely yours,

Israel Pecht  
FEBS Secretary General

Jacques-Henry Weil  
Chair of the FEBS Science & Society  
Committee

*A Federation of  
the Societies of  
Biochemistry and  
Molecular Biology  
in:*

*Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
FYROM  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Great Britain  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgystan  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Moldova  
Morocco  
The Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russia  
Serbia  
Slovak Republic  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Tunisia  
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Moldova  
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The Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russia  
Serbia  
Slovak Republic  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
Ukraine*

\* <http://www.no-cuts-on-research.eu>

## **A top priority for Europe: secure the EU research, innovation and education budget!**

We, the researchers in Europe, are convinced that

- Europe's future depends on making optimal use of its scientific talent for the benefit of science and society;
- creative environments and research infrastructures are needed in which talent can flourish and innovations emerge;
- reliable financial support must be provided for long-term, often risky, fundamental research. Only then will the grand challenges be addressed in a sustainable way.

Therefore, we strongly support the letter signed by Nobel Prize and Fields Medal winners and urge you to act:

- cuts in the EU budget for research, innovation and education are counter-productive as they will aggravate the problems Europe faces instead of finding solutions;
- the European Research Council, ERC, is an undeniable success story for Europe. The ERC has demonstrated its ability to find, fund and empower the best researchers and has changed the future outlook of the younger generation. It needs to be strengthened to achieve more scientific-technological breakthroughs leading to future innovation.
- We urge you to provide a clear signal that investment in research, innovation and education is a top political priority, especially in times of crisis. Europe has been the cradle of modern science and the role accorded to science will shape Europe's future.