

**Question for written answer E-001402/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Lack of funding for EU-13 Member State projects carried out under Horizon 2020 and EU Framework Programme 9 (FP9)

EU-13 Member States continue to produce poorer quantitative and qualitative results in EU framework programmes for research, development and innovation than EU-15 Member States.

The situation has only slightly improved under Horizon 2020, despite the dedicated measures taken at both EU and national levels and despite the fact that EU-13 Member States produce high-quality research in many disciplines.

Data for the years 2014-2017 indicates that the EU-13 Member States were among those to have submitted the fewest proposals to the EU during that period, both per capita and per number of researchers.

While lower participation levels and success rates can primarily be attributed to lower levels of national R&D spending, there can be no doubt that various elements of the design of the current EU framework programme, including evaluation procedures, thematic focuses, cost eligibility and excessive administrative limitations, are contributing to a growing EU divide in science and technology.

1. Is the Commission aware of the growing imbalance within the European Research Area (ERA)?
2. How will it address that issue when planning Framework Programme 9 (FP9)?