

# Korea-EU Research Centre

“A Bridgehead to enhance Korea-EU R&D Cooperation”

October 2025

Dae Myung Lee, Director General  
Yale Song, Network & Policy Officer

# Who are we

**“A Bridgehead to enhance  
Korea-EU R&D Cooperation”**

“Our mission is to promote  
R&I Cooperation between  
Korea and the EU”

We serve as a platform to  
facilitate policy and research  
collaboration

**Strategic Location –  
Rue de la Science,  
Brussels**

**Local Non-Profit  
Organization**





# History

## Strategic R&D Center

Association

**2025**

Mar

With Korea's association to Horizon Europe and the growing need for R&I cooperation between Korea and Europe, KERCC now serves as a strategic R&D center coordinator to better facilitate collaborative R&I efforts.

## Positioning & Growth

Growing phase

**2022**

Mar

KERC has strengthened its role and has grown into an essential part of Korea-Europe R&I Cooperation

## Reformation

Reformation

**2017**

Mar

KIC Europe was reformed into the KERCC to focus on R&D and policy cooperation

## Establishment

ROK-EU Summit

**2013**

Nov

Korea Research & Innovation Centre – Europe (KIC Europe) was established as a local non-profit organization

# Main Roles



1

## Korean R&I Liaison Office to the EU

KERC functions as one of overseas offices of the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), and work closely with the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT).



2

## Horizon Europe Office & NCP Coordinator

KERC is the Korean Horizon Europe Office based in Europe. It supports the entire lifecycle of Horizon Europe and coordinates National Contact Point (NCP) activities.

3

## National Strategic R&D Center Coordinator

KERC coordinates National Strategic R&D Centers across Europe to provide a single access point for Korean researchers seeking collaboration with European partners. It will coordinate efforts among six leading organizations, bring together information and resources, initiate joint activities, and promote key outcomes.



We connect researchers, institutions,  
and policy makers to foster strong,  
cross-regional research partnerships.

KERC provides curated  
insights on R&I policies and  
trends to support evidence-  
based Korea-EU cooperation.

**Information  
Sharing**

**Networking**

**Path-finding**

KERC helps identify joint R&I  
opportunities and guides  
access to funding, mobility, and  
collaboration schemes.

We coordinate multi-level  
cooperation between Korea and  
the EU through dialogue,  
alignment, and joint initiatives.

**Facilitating**

**Management**

**Promotion**

We boost visibility of Korea-EU  
research successes and  
opportunities through strategic  
communication and outreach.

KERC operates support platforms  
offering up to-date information and  
services for Korea+EU R&I collaboration.

# Our Activities

# Information



**Weekly Briefing on EU R&I**



**Two Weekly Newsletters**

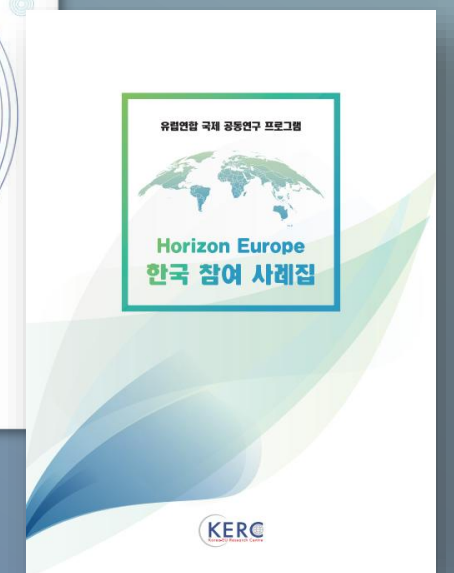
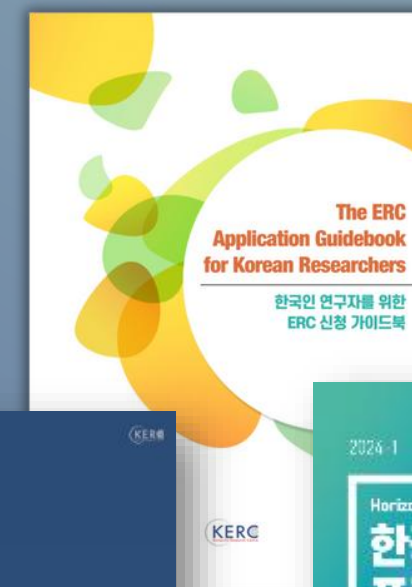


**In-depth Issue Report**



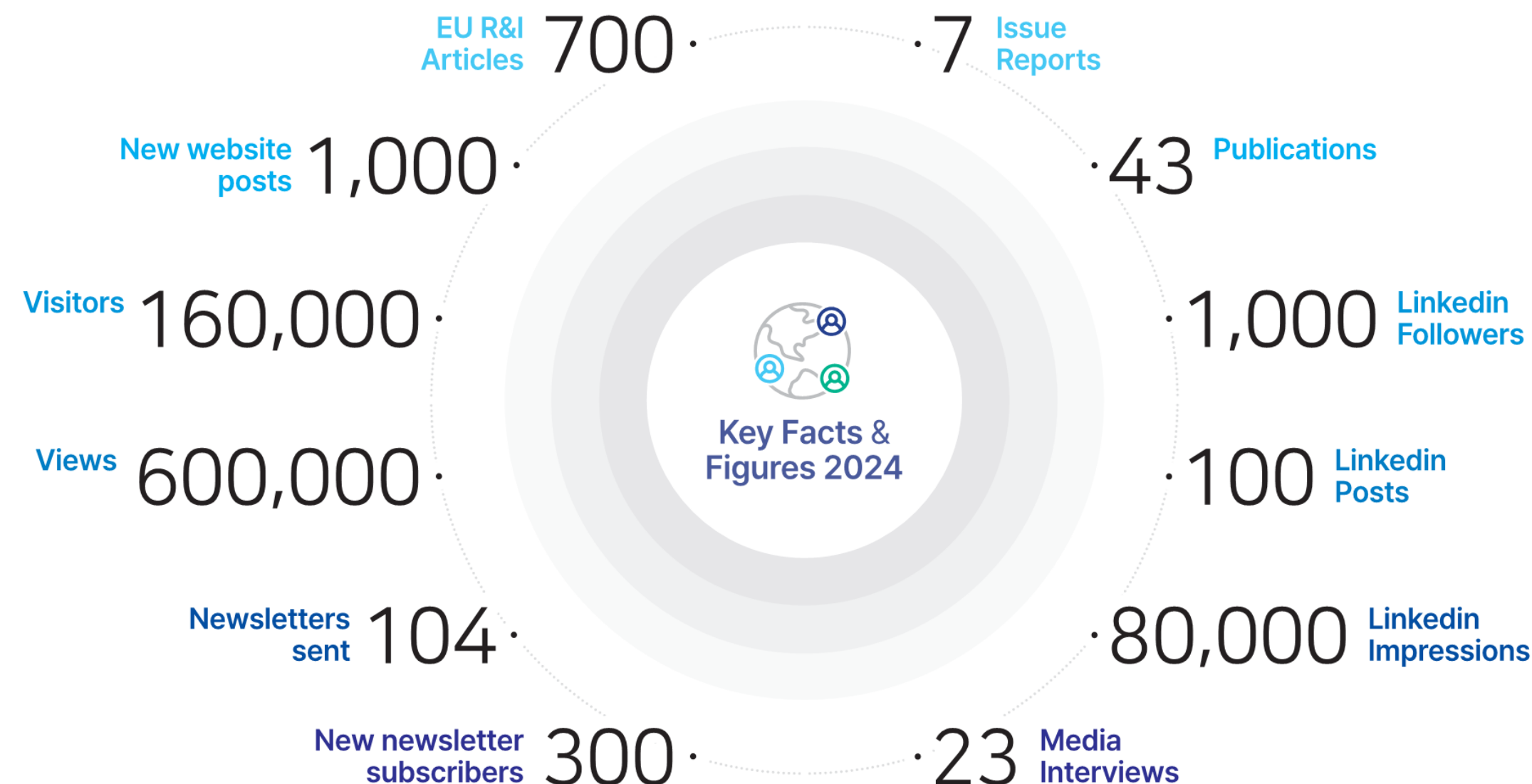
**Publications**

KERC collects, analyzes, shares and accumulates information to generate knowledge and build database



# Information

## Key Figures in 2024



## 2025

- Visitor 160,000 (Jan~Jun)
- Views 600,000 (Jan~Jun)
- Linkedin Followers 1,650

# Networking

KERC connects Korea and Europe  
by active networking activities

- ✓ **Build and Expand Network**
- ✓ **Establish Strategic Partnership**
- ✓ **Facilitate Connections**
- ✓ **Attend & Monitor Key Events**



# Networking

- DG RTD
- DG EAC
- DG CNECT
- EURAXESS
- COST

**30** funding agencies

**57** offices

**171** universities

**80** Members



European Commission

European Funding Agencies

European Research Institutes & Universities

Brussels R&I Network

KERC

Ministry of Science and ICT

National Research Foundation of Korea

National Institutes & Universities

Korean Scientists & Engineers Association in Europe



**25** government funded institutes

**9** associations across Europe



## KERC joins IGLO Network (2025)

IGLO is an informal association of **more than 30 Brussels-based non-profit R&D Liaison Offices** that aims to facilitate and enhance the interaction, information exchange and co-operation between Members of IGLO, their national research systems and the European institutions on issues related to EU RTD, in particular, the Framework Programme.

# Networking

## Latest Membership



## Science|Business Network (2024)

The Science|Business Network provides a unique forum for R&D discussions among **more than 80 internationally renowned members**, including companies, universities, funding agencies, and other key stakeholders.

# Path-Finding

KERC identifies and creates opportunities for joint research and career development



## Info-Session & Training



## Horizon Europe Webinar & Consulting



## Horizon Europe Matchmaking & Workshop



## Career Support & Funding Opportunity



# Path-Finding

## Horizon Europe Webinar Series



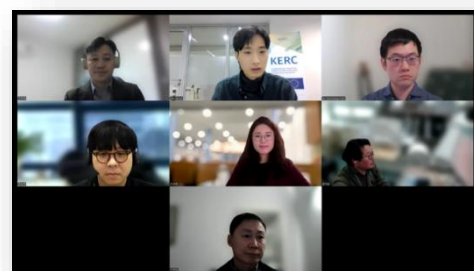
### Pillar 2 Webinar (May 2025)

350+ registrants



### MSCA PF Online Workshop (May 2025)

200+ registrants



**Pillar 2 Webinar (Dec 2024)**  
350+ registrants



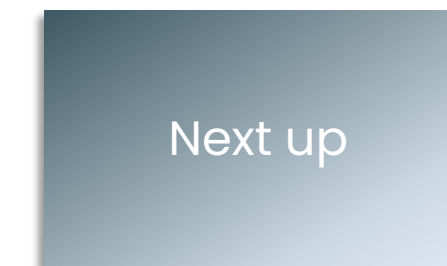
**ERC Webinar (Oct 2024)**  
200+ registrants



**MSCA PF (June 2024)**  
260+ registrants



**MSCA PF (July 2023)**  
120+ registrants



- **COST Webinar**
- **MSCA SE**
- **ERC Webinar**
- **Pillar 2 WP 2026-2027**

# Path-Finding

## Korea-EU Horizon Europe Researchers Networking Forum



### AI & Quantum (April 2025)

40 participants in AI



### Advanced Biotechnology (July 2025)

70 Participants

**Next Events:** Cluster 5 Energy & Advanced Mobility (Oct 2025), Cluster 6, Cluster 2, Cluster 3 ...

# Facilitating

KERC supports and facilitates cooperation on national, governmental, organizational level



## Horizon Europe Association



## Korea-EU Digital Partnership



## Bilateral S&T Cooperation with European Countries



KERC supports the negotiation and establishment of major cooperation agreements between Korea and the EU. We contribute to their effective implementation by monitoring progress, promoting participation, and facilitating ongoing dialogue.

# Facilitating

## Horizon Europe Association



Exploratory  
Talks  
(Feb 2022)



Formal  
Negotiations  
(May 2023)



Conclusion of  
Negotiations  
(March 2024)



Association Celebration  
Ceremony  
(April 2025)



Agreement  
Signing Ceremony  
(July 2025)

# Facilitating

## Korea-EU Digital Partnership



## Quantum Technology



## Semiconductor



## Space



Switzerland  
(`23.1)



France  
(`23.6)(`24.1)



Belgium  
(`23.10)(`25.2)



United Kingdom  
(`23.11)(`24.8)

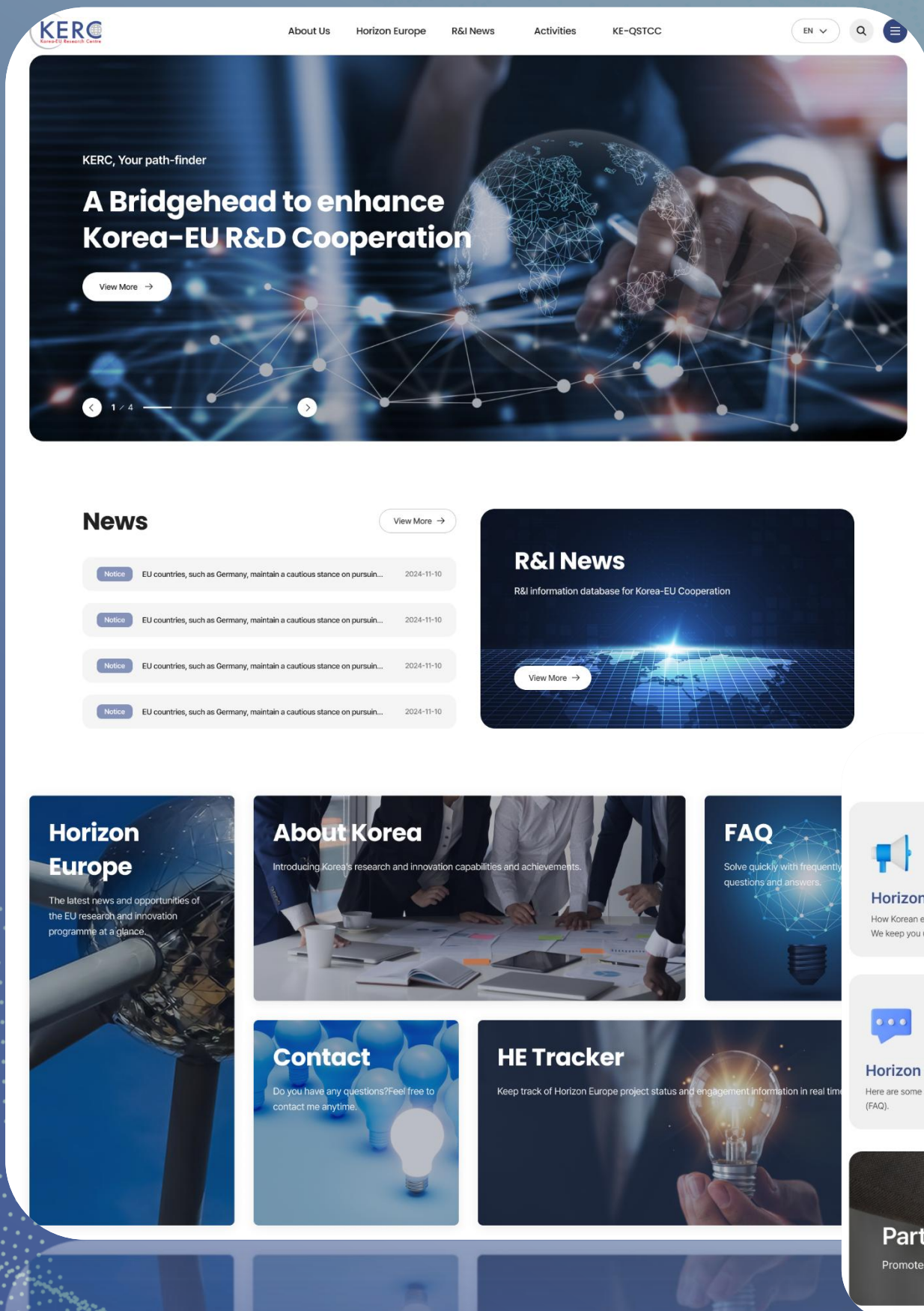


Netherlands  
(`23.12)(`24.3)



Czech Republic  
(`24.9)



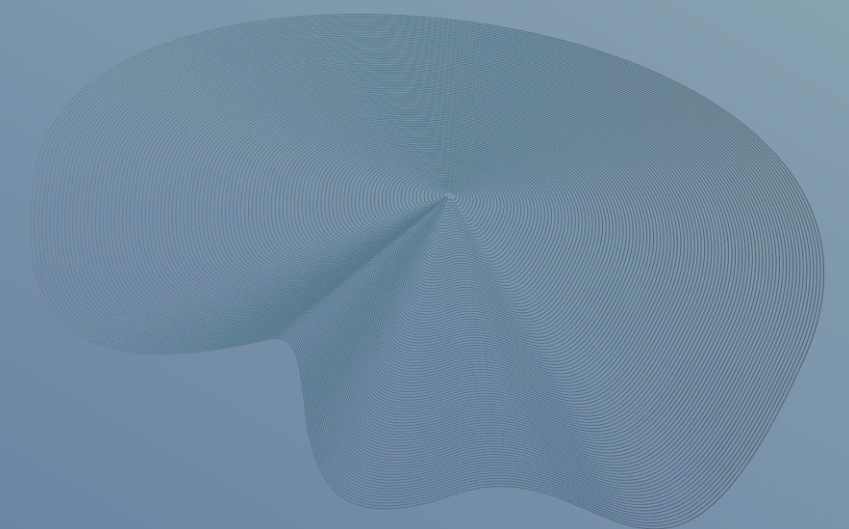


# Management

KERC manages a central platform and helpdesk for Horizon Europe, serving as a one-stop hub for Korea-EU cooperation.

## Horizon Europe Platform & Helpdesk

## Horizon Europe Office & NCP coordinator



# Horizon Europe Support



Providing real-time  
information and building  
networks at the forefront  
of Europe



Tailored Support for  
Korean Entities



Project-level  
participation  
support

# Promotion

KERC boosts visibility of Korea-EU research successes and opportunities



**Raise awareness**



**Public Engagement &  
Media Outreach**



**Promote Success  
Stories**

# Promotion



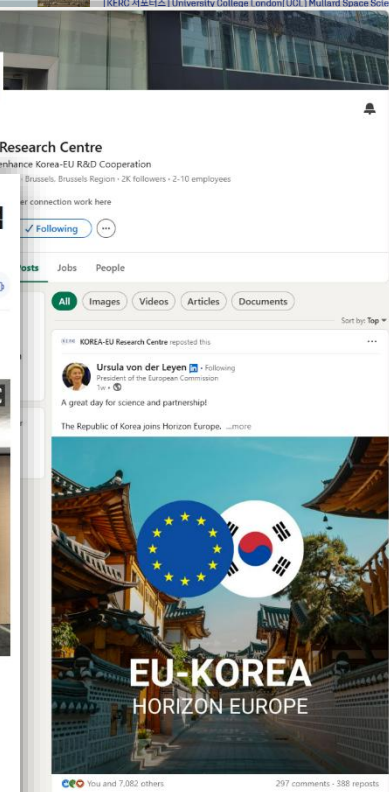
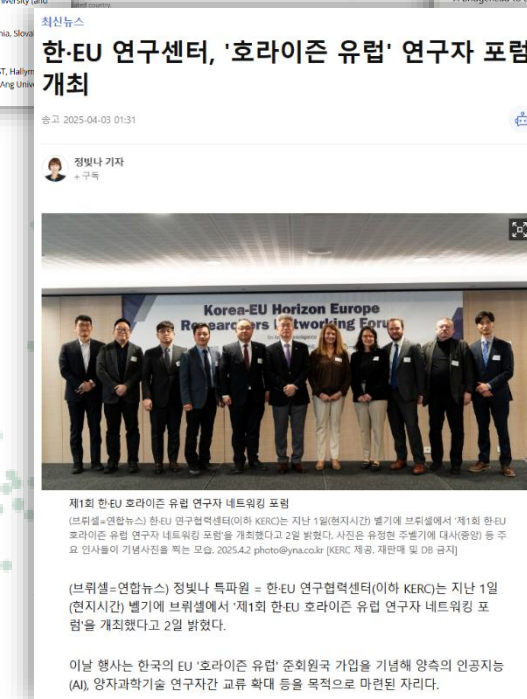
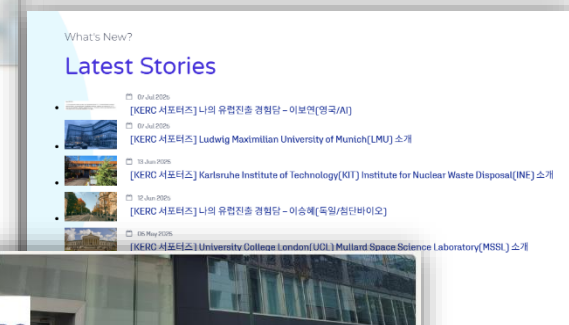
## Public & Private Events



## Publications



## Media Interviews



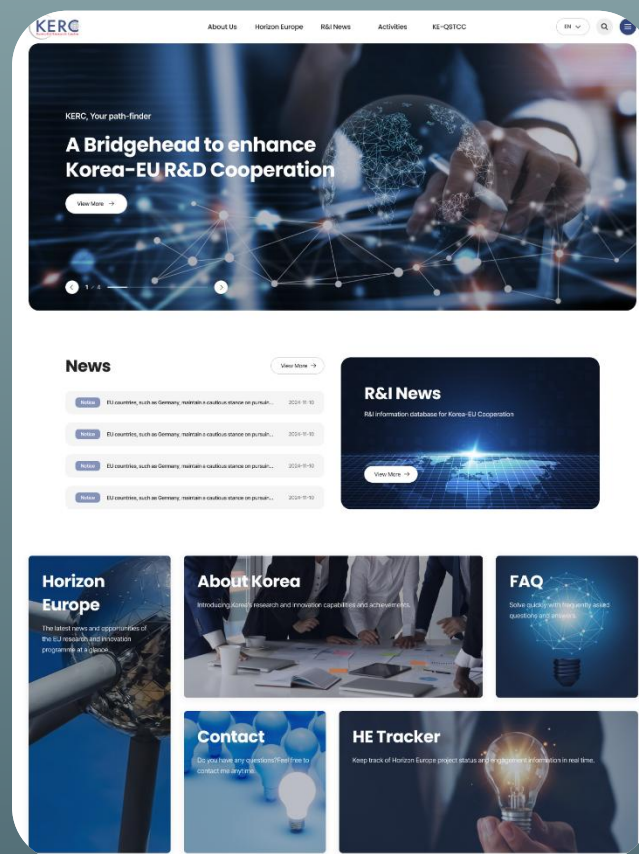
Share your story!

## Press Releases

## Social Media

# What's Next?

## Horizon Europe Official Website (Dec 2025)



## Horizon Europe Networking Forum (Oct 2025)



## Horizon Europe Seminar & Training



1<sup>st</sup> COST Webinar  
for Korea

KIRD-KERC  
Training  
Programme



National Research  
Foundation of Korea



Horizon Europe  
Manual for Korea

MSCA SE  
Webinar

Pillar 2 Work  
Programme 2026-  
2027 Webinar

# R&D Landscape of Korea

## Overview



**Innovation Leader** (Top Global Performance in EIS 2023)

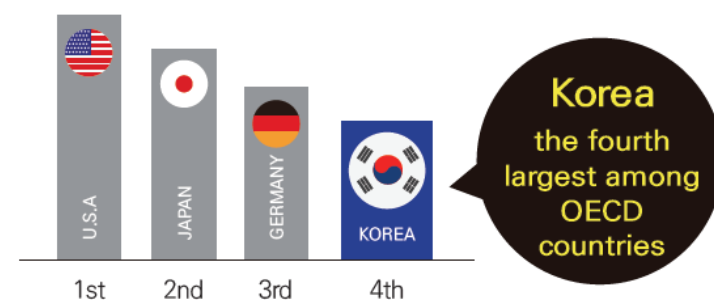
**601,530 Researchers** in 2022 (World's 4<sup>th</sup> Rank)

**4<sup>th</sup> Biggest government investment** in R&D among OECD (22 bn EUR in 2023)

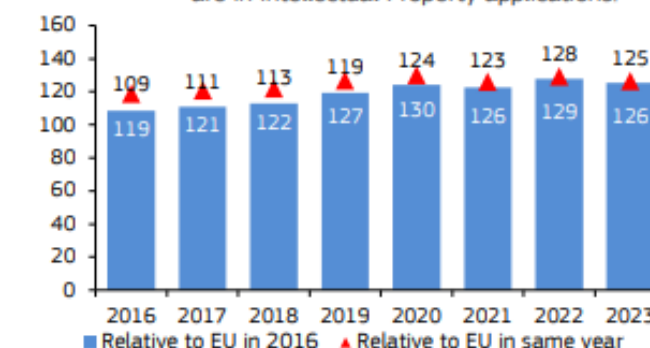
**R&D Intensity 5.21%** in 2022 (World's 2<sup>nd</sup>)

- The Korean government's R&D investment is the fourth largest among OECD countries as of 2020
- The government's R&D investment has been steadily increasing every year, reaching KRW 29.777 trillion in 2022

Ranking of Government Investment in R&D of OECD Countries in 2020

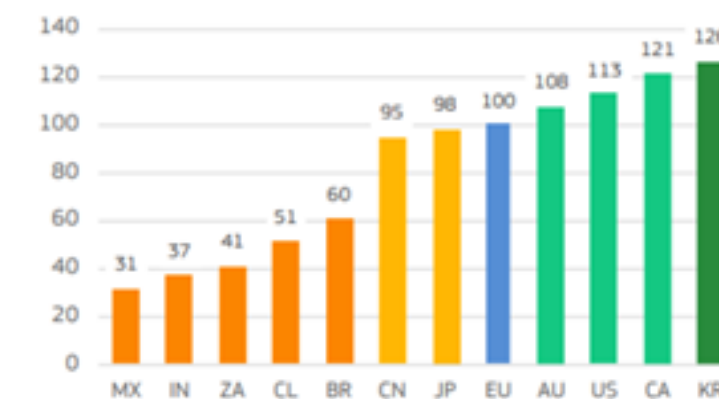


The performance of **South Korea** is well above that of the EU, and the country is an Innovation Leader. Performance has increased since 2016. In 2023 performance declined. South Korea's relative strengths are in Intellectual Property applications.



Columns show performance relative to EU in 2016. The red triangle and white numbers show performance relative to EU in the same year.

Figure 20: Performance global competitors



Coloured columns show performance in 2023 relative to that of the EU in 2023.

# R&D Landscape of Korea

R&D Budget and Expenditure

Total R&D expenditure (2022)

**76.2bn  
Euro**

- Private Sector (79.4%)
- Public Research Institutes (11.5%)
- Universities (9.1%)

**18bn  
Euro**

Korean Government's  
total R&D budget  
(2024)

**12.6bn  
Euro**

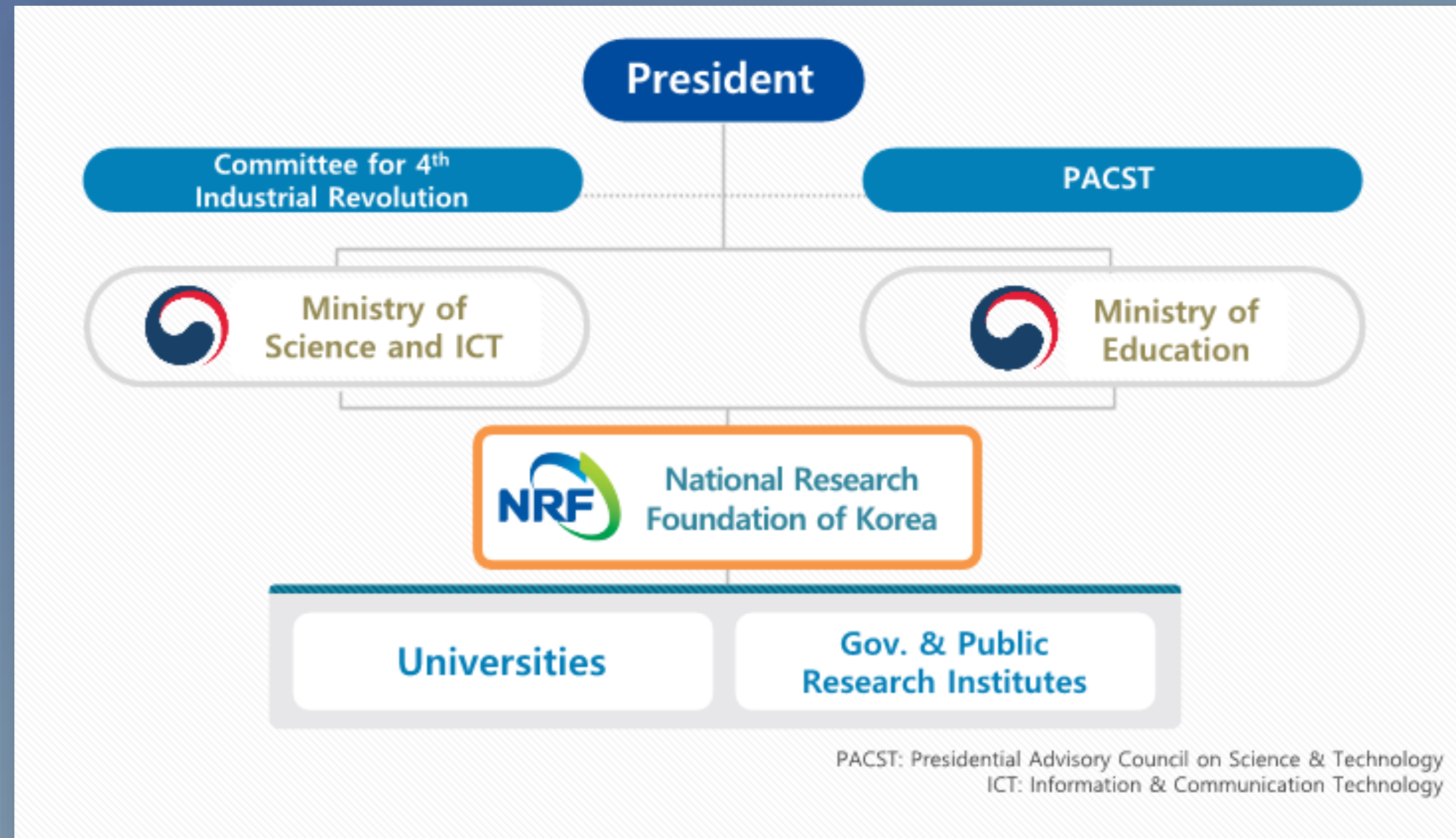
Budget for Ministry of  
Science and ICT (2024)

**1.22bn  
Euro**

Global R&D (6.8% of total  
gov budget)

# R&D Landscape of Korea

National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)



# R&D Landscape of Korea

National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)

## NRF's international partnership



MOU with 82 institutions in 51 countries.

### Europe

(41 agencies in 24 countries)

RFBR, RAS, SKOLKOVO,  
RA, BRFFR, SAS, SSF, NASU,  
GACR, CAS, TUBITAK,  
PAN, OTKA, HAS, HAE,  
FORTH, NWO, SINTEF, IFD,  
DFG, AvH, DAAD, MPG,  
FNRS, FWO-Vlaanderen,  
IVA, SSF, STINT, VR, SNSF,  
CSIC, AHRC, ESRC, RS, BC,  
BBSRC, FWF, CNR, CNRS,  
ANR, AF

### Asia

(19 agencies in 12 countries)

MOST, MAS, NCSSH, VAST, BRC,  
SCST, ICSSR, INSA, LIPI, JSPS, JST,  
CAS, NSFC, CASS, CSTE, NRCT,  
NAST, NRCR, A\*STAR

### America

(7 agencies in 6 countries)

NSF, NSERC, Mitacs, CONACYT,  
CONICYT, CONICET, CNPq

### Middle East and Africa

(8 agencies in 7 countries)

ASRT, STDF, UNCST, ScienceFund,  
COSTECH, CNRST, NRF, QNRF

### Oceania

(4 agencies in 2 countries)

AAS, ARC, ATSE, RSNZ

## NRF Organization



Board of Directors

NRF President

Secretary General

Astra

Directorate  
Basic  
Research in  
Science &  
Engineering

Directorate  
Humanities  
& Social  
Sciences

Directorate  
National  
Strategic  
R&D  
Programs

Directorate  
Academic  
Research  
(University  
Funding)

Directorate  
International  
Affairs

Directorate Digital Innovation

Directorate Management and Operations

Office of Research Ethics

Office of Planning & Coordination

Office of Public Relations

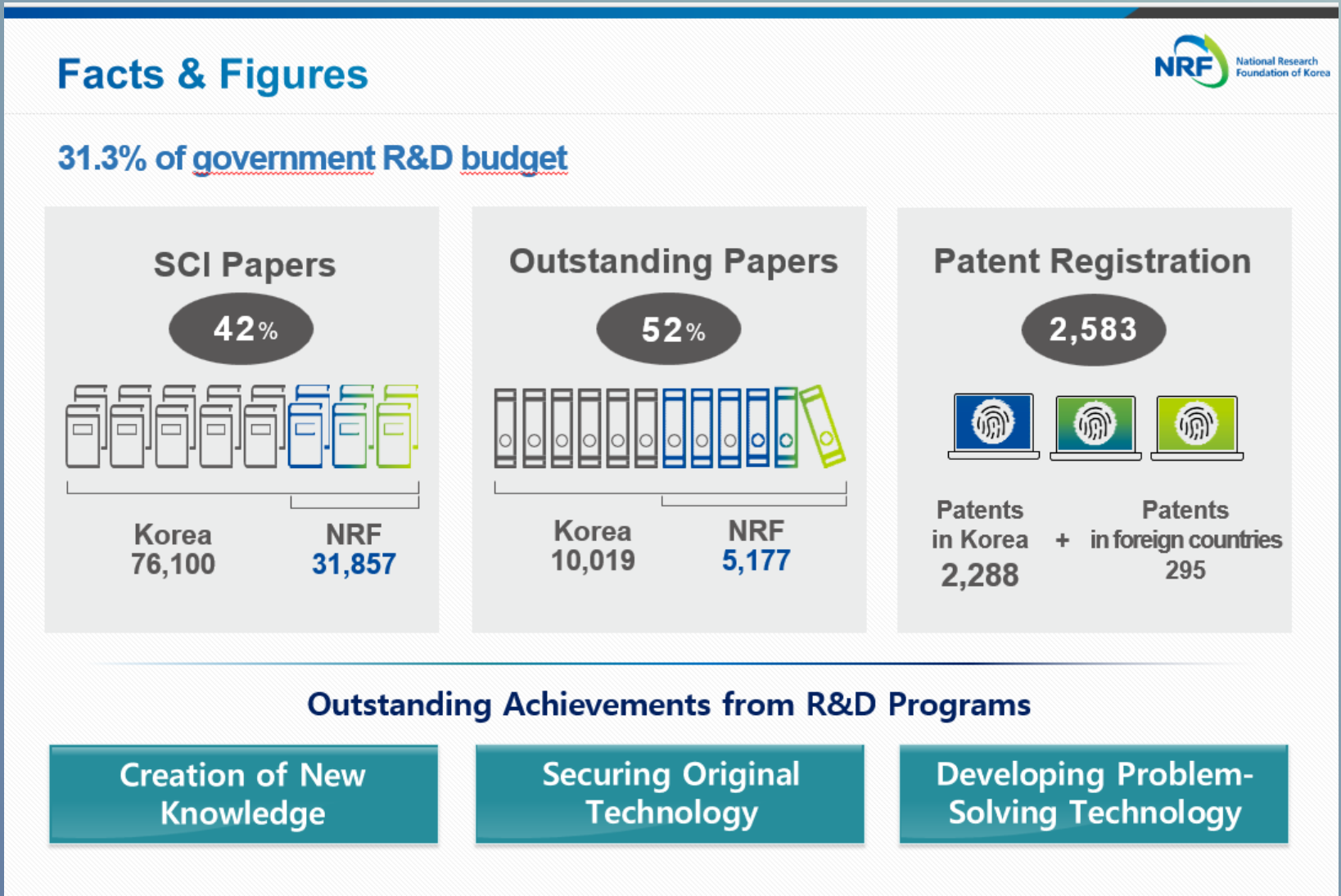
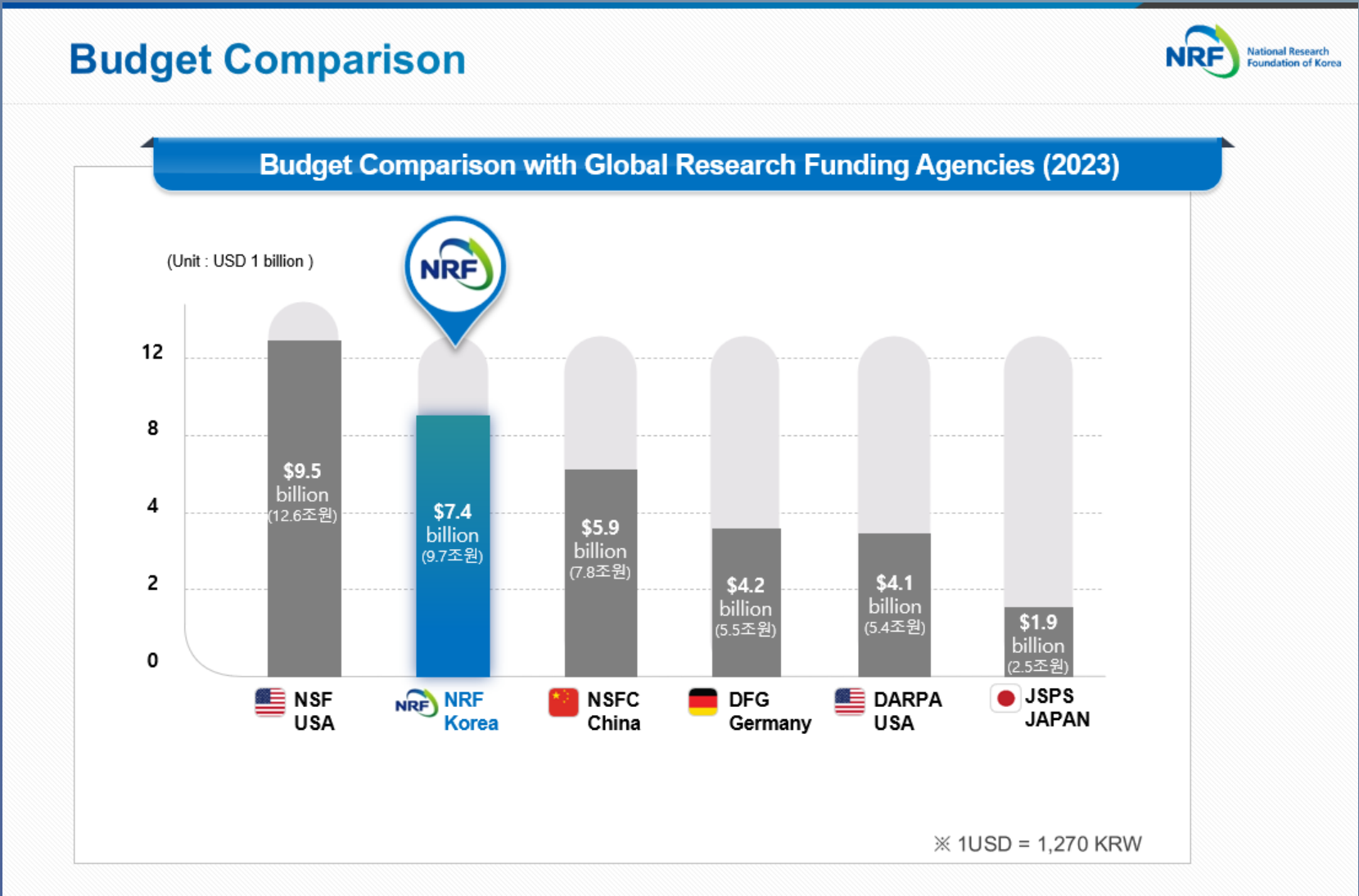
Regional  
office

US, Japan, China, Sweden, Belgium, Germany, Russia



# R&D Landscape of Korea

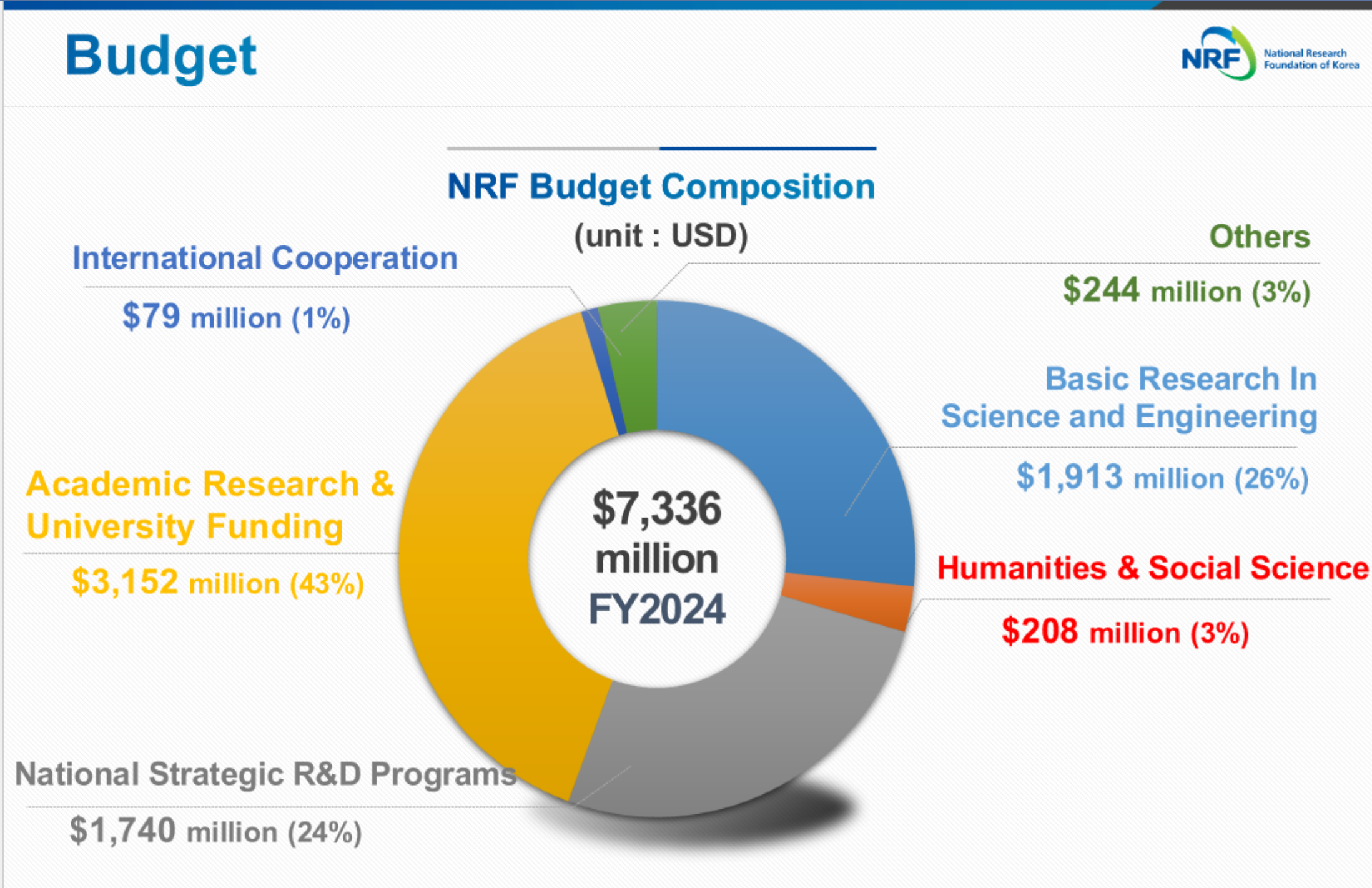
National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)



6.8bn Euro

# R&D Landscape of Korea

National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)



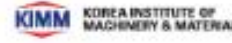
# R&D Landscape of Korea

State Institutes under NST (National Research Council of S&T)



## Government-funded Research Institutes (GRIs) under the NST

We would like to introduce our 25 research institutes

|                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Korea Institute of Science and Technology |  NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GREEN TECHNOLOGY     |  KOREA BASIC SCIENCE INSTITUTE            |  Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute |  Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information |
|  KIOM                                    |  KRISS                                    |  KITECH                                 |  ETRI                                      |  NSR                                                 |
|  KICT                                    |  Korea Railroad Research Institute        |  KRIS                                   |  KFRI                                      |  World Institute of Kimchi                           |
|  KIGAM                                   |  KOREA INSTITUTE OF MACHINERY & MATERIALS |  KARI                                   |  KIER                                      |  KERA ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE       |
|  KRICT                                   |  Korea Institute of Technology            |  Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute |  Korea Institute of Materials Science      |  KOREA INSTITUTE OF FUSION ENERGY                    |

17,000 Human Resources

# R&D Landscape of Korea

Korean Council for University Education (KCUE)

A non-profit,  
non-governmental  
association of 4-year  
universities



198 member  
universities(2022)



Founded in 1982



## ROLE & FUNCTIONS

01

Conduct research on higher education

02

Address common issues to policy makers and educators

03

Maintain quality assurance of institutions

04

Coordinate university admissions system

05

Provide training to university faculty/staffs

06

Provide information on university to public

07

Support HE internationalization and globalization

# Thank you!

Korea-EU Research Centre

October 2025

Dae Myung Lee, Director General  
Yale Song, Network & Policy Officer