

**CITIZENS AND RESEARCH INVESTMENTS:
PRIORITY TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

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In 2009 research on renewable energy remains the first and foremost priority of Italian citizens in the field of research investments. About one interviewee out of two points out the renewable energy as the research sector to favour. Climate research follows, with a slight decrease compared with the past: all together the two sectors attract almost six out of ten preferences.

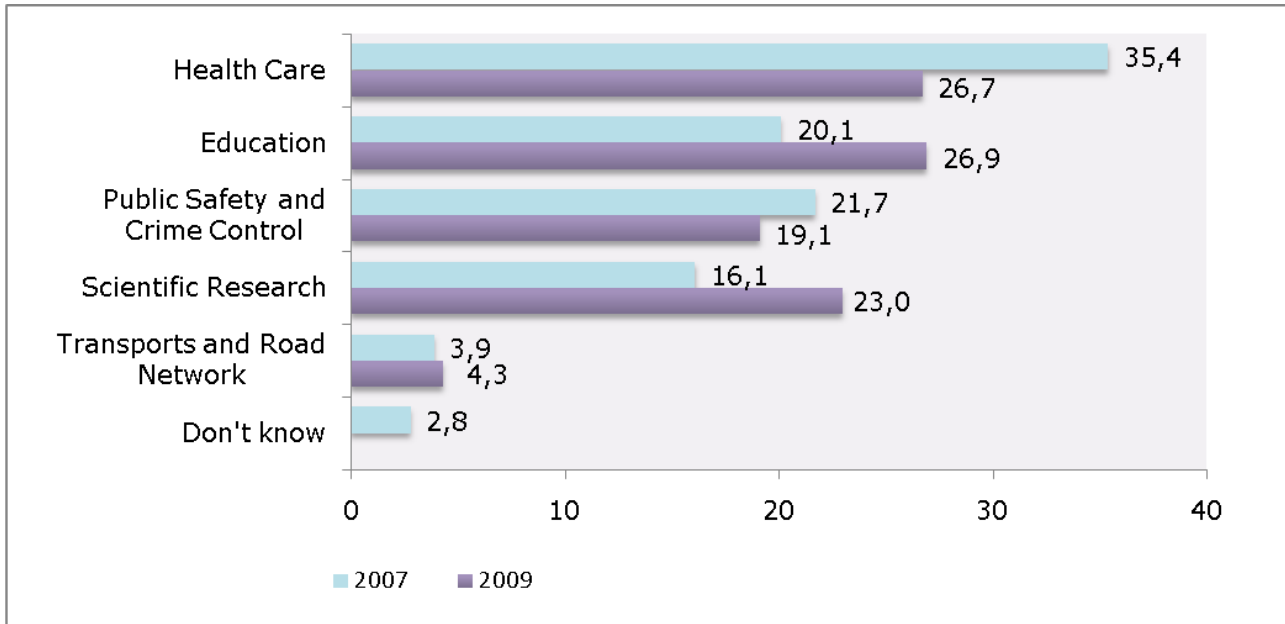
Public sensitivity for the energy problem is confirmed by the moderate increasing attention to research investments on nuclear power. After a period of decline, appeal is also regained by biotechnologies and nanotechnologies. Real attention does not seem to correspond to the high media visibility of space research: less than one Italian out of 100 consider it as an investment priority. Generally, citizens' sensitivity about research is on the increase: investing in this sector (23%) is now deemed more relevant than investing in security (19%). Only health care and education (27%) exceeds research in terms of priority of public expenditure.

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The Science and Society Monitor is an initiative by Observa – Science in Society, supported by Compagnia di San Paolo www.observa.it

PRIORITIES OF ITALIAN CITIZENS – PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

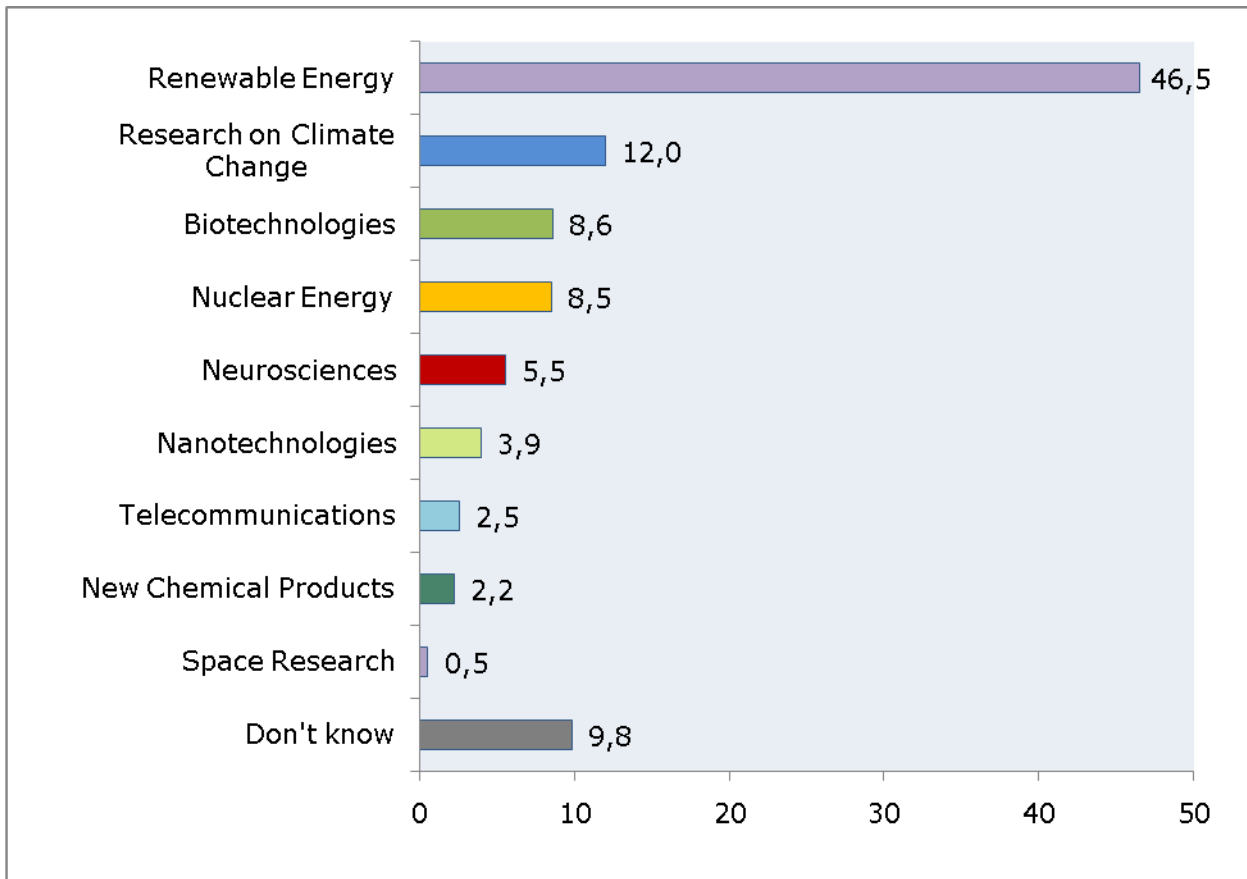
General fields in which more investments should be made, 2007 – 2009 (%)



Source: Observa - Science in Society, www.observa.it

RESEARCH PRIORITIES ACCORDING TO ITALIAN CITIZENS

Research sectors in which more investments should be made, 2009 (%)



Source: *Observe - Science in Society*, www.observe.it

ITALIANS AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Research sectors in which more investments should be made, comparative survey 2005 – 2007 – 2009 (%)

	2005	2007	2009
Renewable Energy	33,5	45,7	46,5
Research on Climate Change	17,4	16,4	12,0
Biotechnologies	12,9	6,9	8,6
Nuclear Energy	6,3	6,5	8,5
Neurosciences	7,1	6,4	5,5
Nanotechnologies	5,1	2,6	3,9
Telecommunications	6,4	3,2	2,5
New Chemical Products	4,0	2,9	2,2
Space Research	2,2	1,1	0,5
Don't know	5,2	8,3	9,8
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Observa – Science in Society, www.observa.it

The survey was conducted through CATI-method telephone interviews on a sample of 1021 subjects in 2005, 998 subjects in 2007 and 1020 subjects in 2009, stratified by gender, age and geographical area of residence, and representing the Italian population aged 15 and over.

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