

The European Research Area in 20' (or so...)

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TITLE XIX

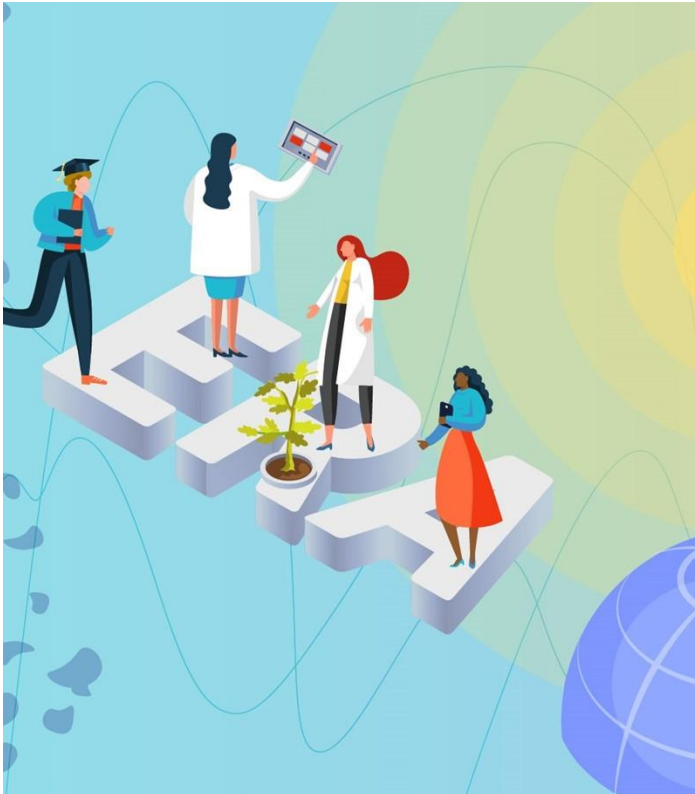
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPACE

Article 179

(ex Article 163 TEC)

1. The Union shall have the objective of strengthening its scientific and technological bases by achieving a **European research area** in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely, and encouraging it to become more competitive, including in its industry, while promoting all the research activities deemed necessary by virtue of other Chapters of the Treaties.
2. For this purpose the Union shall, throughout the Union, encourage undertakings, including small and medium-sized undertakings, research centres and universities in their research and technological development activities of high quality; it shall support their efforts to cooperate with one another, aiming, notably, at permitting researchers to cooperate freely across borders and at enabling undertakings to exploit the internal market potential to the full, in particular through the opening-up of national public contracts, the definition of common standards and the removal of legal and fiscal obstacles to that cooperation.

What is ERA?



The European Research Area (ERA) is the ambition to create a **single, borderless market for research, innovation and technology** across the EU.

It helps **countries** be more effective together, by strongly **aligning their research policies and programmes**.

The **free circulation of researchers and knowledge** enables

- better cross-border cooperation
- building of critical mass
- continent-wide competition

ERA was **re-launched in 2000** in its modern form and **revitalised in 2020**



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 19.6.2015
C(2015) 4063 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 19.6.2015

on the signature of a Joint Statement to take action on working in partnership in achieving the European Research Area (ERA)

Done at Brussels on 23 June 2015

Professor Ernst Schmachtenberg, President-Elect of the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER)

Maria Khorsand, President of the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO)

Muriel Attané, Secretary General of the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO)

Professor Maria Helena Nazaré, President of the European University Association (EUA)

Lesley Wilson, Secretary General of the European University Association (EUA)

Professor Alain Beretz, Chair of the League of European Research Universities (LERU)

Professor Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary General of the League of European Research Universities (LERU)

Professor Miguel Seabra, President of Science Europe (SE)

Carlos Moedas, Member of the European Commission in charge of Research, Science and Innovation

CESAER

conference of european schools
for advanced engineering education
and research



2020

Commission Communication
“A new ERA for Research and
Innovation”

**Council Conclusions on the
new ERA**

January 2021

Establishment of the **ERA
Forum for Transition**

16 July 2021

Commission adopts proposal
for a “**Pact for Research and
Innovation in Europe**”

Principles for R&I in Europe
Priority areas for ERA joint actions
Investments and reforms
Simplified policy coordination

26 November 2021

Council Recommendation
on a “Pact for Research and
Innovation in Europe”

**Council conclusions on the
new ERA governance & the
first ERA policy Agenda**

To: Minister Simona Kustec, Commissioner Mariya Gabriel

Brussels, 4 October 2021

ERA Governance?

Open letter on ERA governance

Open letter on ERA governance

Honourable Minister Simona Kustec and Commissioner Mariya Gabriel,

With this letter, the undersigned representatives of research and innovation (R&I) organisations

AURORA

CESAER



eua EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY
ASSOCIATION

eurodoc
The European Council of Doctoral
Candidates and Junior Researchers



Initiative for Science
in Europe *ise*



Governance

ERA Forum

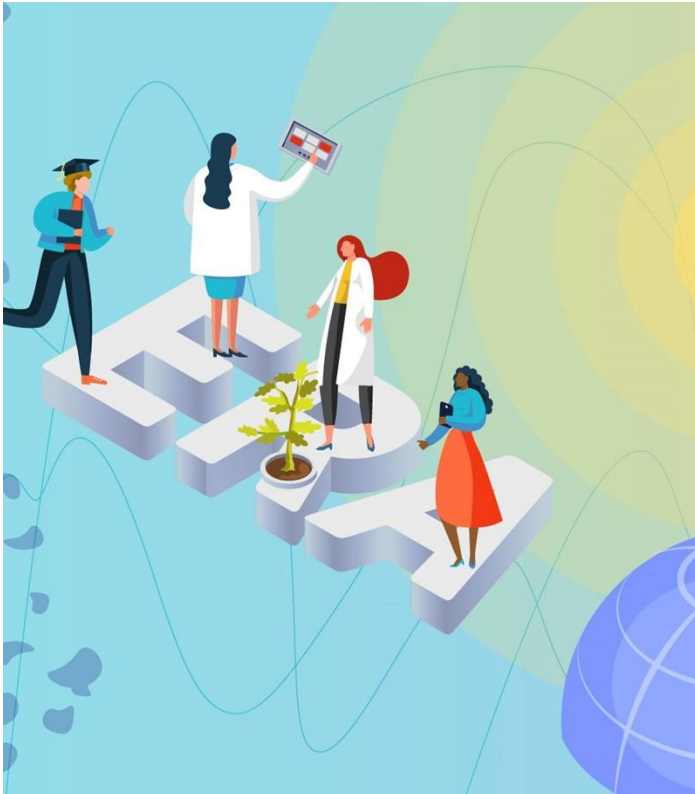
Council

Conclusions



- **Stakeholders** should be more **systematically involved** in the delivery of the ERA at Union and national levels
- The Commission should foresee that the **ERA Forum** will ensure representative involvement at its relevant meetings of **EU-level umbrella organisations** [...] of the following **seven types of stakeholders**:
 1. **universities and other higher education institutions**
 2. research and technology performing organisations
 3. R&I-intensive businesses, including SMEs,
 4. individual researchers and innovators
 5. research infrastructures
 6. R&I-funding organisations
 7. academies of sciences
- **National stakeholder participation** should be ensured **at national level**

EUA's role in ERA



Formal partner in shaping the ERA since 2012

Input on the new ERA: **secured a seat at the table** of the ERA Forum for Transition

Today

- Coordinating the university sector
- Representing the sector in the ERA Forum for Transition
- Engaging universities in the ERA (webinar series, expert voices, dialogue with national rectors' conferences)
- Contributing to the implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024
- Co-designing the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027

The new European Research Area

ERA university sectorial coordination group



ERA Forum for Transition (27 meetings)

Member states, Associated countries, European Commission and Stakeholders

ERA Policy Agenda: 20 actions along four priority areas

DEEPENING A TRULY FUNCTIONING INTERNAL MARKET FOR KNOWLEDGE

1. Open sharing of knowledge, incl. EOOSC
2. Data legislation fit for research
3. Reform of research assessment
4. Strengthen research careers
5. Gender equality and inclusiveness
6. Protect academic freedom
7. Better knowledge valorisation
8. Research infrastructures
9. International cooperation, reciprocity



TOGETHER FOR TWIN GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION, AND INCREASING SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ERA

10. R&I Missions and Partnerships for ERA
11. Green energy transformation
12. Transition of industrial ecosystems
13. Empower higher education institutions
14. Bring science closer to society



AMPLIFYING ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE UNION

15. Regional and national R&I ecosystems
16. EU-wide access to excellence
17. Strategic capacity of public RPOs

ADVANCING CONCERTED R&I INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

18. Coordination national support for ERA
19. ERA monitoring mechanism
20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms

COLLABORATIVE MOMENTUM

The European Union has defined **4 ERA priorities** in its Pact for R&I and proposed **20 ERA actions** now being implemented and tracked for progress under the ERA Monitoring Mechanism ...

ERA PRIORITIES

1. Deepening a truly functioning internal market for knowledge

ERA ACTIONS

1. Enable open science, including through the European Open Science Cloud
2. Propose an EU copyright and data legislative framework for research
3. Reform the assessment system for research, researchers and institutions
4. Promote attractive research careers, talent circulation and mobility
5. Promote gender equality and foster inclusiveness
6. Protect academic freedom in Europe
7. Upgrade EU guidance for a better knowledge valorisation
8. Strengthen research infrastructures
9. Promote international cooperation



ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024: Action 1

Enable the open sharing of knowledge and the re-use of research outputs, including through the development of the **European Science Cloud (EOSC)**

Targeted outcomes

- Deploy **Open Science Principles** and identify **Open Science best practices**
- Deploy the **core components and services of EOSC and federate existing data infrastructures** in Europe, working towards the interoperability of research data
- Establish a **monitoring mechanism** to collect data and benchmark investments, policies, digital research outputs, open science skills and infrastructure capacities related to EOSC



Targets defined in ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024

ERA Action 2

- “Propose a EU copyright and data legislative and regulatory framework fit for research”

Outcomes

- 1) “Identify barriers and challenges to access and reuse of publicly funded R&I results and of publications and data for scientific purposes, and identify potential impacts on research, through an analysis of relevant provisions under EU copyright and data legislation and related regulatory frameworks, and of relevant institutional and national initiatives.
- 2) Propose legislative and non-legislative measures to improve the current EU copyright and data legislative and regulatory frameworks”



^ 3. Reform the Assessment System for research, researchers and institutions



ERA Action 3 of the ERA Policy Agenda aims to advance towards a reform of the research assessment system, with the goal of assessing the quality, performance, and impact of research and researchers using more suitable criteria and procedures.

The assessment of research projects, researchers, and institutions is crucial for ensuring a well-functioning R&I system and to improve the quality, performance and impact of research. While some research funding and performing organisations have begun to enhance their assessment tools, the current system still often relies on inadequate and narrow methods, and the advancement in improving research and researcher assessment across Europe has been slow, limited, and fragmented.

In view of the objective to advance towards the reform of the assessment system for research, researchers and institutions to improve their quality, performance and impact, Action 3 aims to reward open science practices in terms of open collaboration, knowledge and data sharing to increase quality, efficiency and trust, establish coalitions between relevant stakeholders and identify potential administrative and legal barriers to institutional changes. The three **expected outcomes** outlined in the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024 are:

- Analysis of legal and administrative barriers at national and trans-national level for a modern research assessment system;
- Create a Coalition of European research funders and research performers who agree on a new approach for research assessment, following wide and inclusive consultations at European and international level;
- Implementation plan of the coalition to roll-out the new approach, including pilots in different domains.

v 4. Promote attractive research careers, talent circulation and mobility

v 5. Promote gender equality and foster inclusiveness

✓ 3. Reform the Assessment System for research, researchers and institutions

^ 4. Promote attractive research careers, talent circulation and mobility



This action aims at strengthening research careers in Europe and at making them more attractive for EU and international research talents. It seeks to provide researchers with enhanced working conditions and with the necessary instruments to undertake excellent research. The action also tackles the challenges posed by current skills mismatches, which can negatively affect inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary mobility as well as the whole cycle of knowledge production, circulation and valorisation.

On the basis of the expected outcomes defined by the Council, the Commission has identified 3 strands of activities to be implemented in the context of the action:

- The development of a European framework for research careers, to address in a comprehensive way all challenges related to research careers in Europe;
- The exchange of best practices and mutual learning to foster inter-sectoral mobility, more balanced talent circulation, and researchers' skills;
- Developing or improving tools in support of research careers. This includes existing instruments such as EURAXESS, RESAVER, or the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R, the implementation mechanism for the Charter and Code for Researchers), as well as the development of new ones, such as a European Competence Framework for Researchers (ResearchComp), the [ERA Talent Platform](#) as a one-stop-shop for researchers, and a Research and Innovation Careers Observatory.

✓ 5. Promote gender equality and foster inclusiveness



ERA Policy Agenda Action 5 - Promote gender equality and foster inclusiveness, taking note of the Ljubljana Declaration

Four interlinked outcome deliverables

1. Develop a **policy coordination mechanism** to support all aspects of gender equality through **inclusive Gender Equality Plans and policies**, and a dedicated EU network on their implementation

2. Strategy to **counteract gender-based violence** including sexual harassment in the European R&I system and to assure gender equality in working environments through institutional change in any research funding or performing organisation

3. A **policy approach to strengthen gender equality**, that addresses **gender mainstreaming** to advance the new ERA

4. Develop **principles for the integration and evaluation of the gender perspective in research and innovation content** in cooperation with national research funding organisations

Synergies with Action 3

Principle 10: “**Ensure gender equality**, equal opportunities and inclusiveness”
[Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#) (July 2022)



Gender equality and inclusiveness priority at EUA

EUA Strategic Plan

- EUA protects and promotes the values of universities, including inclusivity, diversity, and equality.

EUA Research and Innovation Agenda 2027

- EUA promotes a holistic approach to equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDIB)



Actions

Identifying and sharing good practices examples in addressing gender imbalance, and EDIB more broadly, offering spaces for collective reflection, and raising awareness within and beyond EUA's membership -> notably through annual campaigns promoting gender equality and inclusiveness.

ERA Action 17: *Enhance the strategic capacity of Europe's public research performing and funding organisations*

- **Aim:** contribute to improve the European R&I system across the entire ERA, by strengthening the capacity for research management in Europe's public research performing & funding organisations

Research Management Initiative

- **Recognition:** contribute to professionalization
- **Upskilling:** improve training and skills of research management staff
- **Networking:** support best-practice exchange
- **Capacity building:** support less R&I advanced regions and organisations

EUA priorities addressing research management

EUA Open Science Agenda 2025

Priority 2: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable (FAIR) research data

EUA Innovation Agenda 2026

Priority 2: Institutional innovation capacity, competence and culture

EUA Research and Innovation Agenda 2027

Priority 2: Cultivating robust, diverse and collaborative R&I culture(s)

EUA's vision for FP10

Key recommendation 6: Enhance excellence across Europe to bridge the R&I divide among countries



Actions

- Raise awareness about the need for a common framework for new FAIR data handling and management careers.
- Identifying and sharing good practices of boosting innovation skills among university staff
- Monitor R&I administrative processes, identify gaps and challenges, gather evidence, and support EUA members in developing solutions to reduce the administrative burden on those engaging in R&I.
- Advocate for FP10 to empower institutions from countries with lower R&I capacity to strengthen their role as R&I leaders.

Rationale – slightly reversed process of co-creation

Process first ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24

26 November 2021:

First ERA Policy Agenda,
annexed to Council
conclusions

**Starting in February
2022:**

Filling action titles with
content through
explanatory documents

Over summer 2022:

Commitment exercise
through **templates** (on each
action by Member States,
associated countries and
stakeholders)

Process second ERA Policy Agenda 2025-27

March 2023:

Work starts on second
ERA Policy Agenda

May 2023 until now:

Full co-creation on
explanatory documents

Spring 2025:

Adoption of the next ERA
Policy Agenda as a Council
Recommendation

1. Enabling open science via sharing and re-use of data, including through EOSC (23 MS+ 4 AC)
2. Equity in Open Science (13 MS + 2 AC)
3. Strengthen sustainability, accessibility and resilience of research infrastructures in the ERA (21 MS + 4 AC)
4. Strengthening inclusive and intersectional gender equality in the ERA (19 MS + 4 AC)
5. Making research careers more attractive and sustainable (22 MS + 3 AC)
6. Reforming Research Assessment (19 MS + 4 AC)
7. Upscaling knowledge valorisation capacities and activities (22 MS + 4 AC)
8. Promoting and Protecting Freedom of Scientific Research in Europe (9 MS + 4 AC)
9. Fundamental research and scientific leadership of Europe (12 MS + 3 AC)
10. Advancing the European Science for Policy (S4P) Ecosystem (16 MS + 3 AC)
11. Facilitating and accelerating the responsible use of AI in science in the EU (21 MS + 4 AC)
12. Global Approach to Research and Innovation (20 MS + 3 AC)

13. Enhancing Research Security (21 MS + 4 AC)

14. Enshrining Research in the Strategic Energy Technologies Plan (13 MS + 3 AC)

15. Greening Research: towards climate-sustainable research practices (8 MS + 3 AC)

16. Accelerating New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) to advance biomedical research and testing of medicinal products and medical devices (9 MS + 3 AC)

17. A harmonised and coordinated framework for a European approach to integrity and ethics in R&I in the face of emerging challenges (10 MS + 4 AC)

18. Improving synergies between Research & Innovation (R&I) and Higher Education within the ERA and unleashing the full potential of European R&I environments (13 MS + 4 AC)

19. Accelerating R&I investments for Europe's industrial transformation and competitive sustainability (19 MS + 4 AC)

20. Enhancing Trust in Science through Citizen Engagement and Science Communication (14 MS + 4 AC)

21. Improve EU access to excellence (10 MS + 3 AC)

22. Empowering Research and Innovation: A New Era in Research Management (19 MS + 4 AC)

23. An R&I foresight community of practice for the ERA (8 MS + 2 AC)

Process on the adoption of the next ERA Policy Agenda

Aim of agenda point: Finalise co-creation through a broader overview on all elements

Co-creation process in the ERA Forum and ERAC with Member States, Horizon Europe associated countries and stakeholders

Legislative process, starting with the transfer of the ERA Forum's work into a Commission proposal for a Council recommendation and internal Commission decision steps

March 2023:
Work starts on second ERA Policy Agenda

May 2023 until 20 November :
Full co-creation on explanatory documents

Q4 2024/Q1 2025:
Commission launch of interservice consultation

Q1 2025:
Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation

Q1-2:
Council negotiation and adoption, COMPET Council 23 May (tbc)

Thank you for your attention

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