



# European Research Area

An open space  
for knowledge and growth

## The ERA Communication

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# Outline

- What is ERA?
- The ERA Communication: a Reinforced Partnership
- Five key priorities
- The next steps following adoption
- Conclusions

# What is ERA?

# What is ERA?



A **unified research area open to the world** based on the **Internal Market**, in which researchers, scientific **knowledge** and technology **circulate freely** and through which the Union and its Member States strengthen their scientific and technological bases, their **competitiveness** and their capacity to collectively address **grand challenges**.



# ERA key milestones

## **2009 Lisbon Treaty: ERA explicit objective of the Union**

*'The Union shall have the objective of strengthening its scientific and technological bases by achieving a European research area (...)' (TFEU Art.179 and 182.5)*

## **2010 Europe 2020 & Innovation Union Flagship Initiative: announcement of an ERA Framework**

## **2011/2012 European Council Conclusions**

*'Europe needs a unified research area to attract talent and investment. Remaining gaps must therefore be addressed rapidly and the European Research Area completed by 2014 to create a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation.'* (February 2011)

*'... efforts must be stepped up'* (March 2012)

# The ERA Communication: a Reinforced Partnership

# The ERA Communication

- **Commission Communication** 'A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth', adopted on **17 July 2012**
- Joint **press conference** Commissioners Geoghegan Quinn and Kroes on **ERA** Communication and Communication and Recommendation on **Scientific Information**
- **Signing event** with 5 stakeholder organisations (EUA, LERU, Science Europe, EARTO, NordForsk): Joint Statement by all, 4 Memoranda of Understanding and unilateral Statement by Science Europe



# A reinforced partnership

## Action-oriented

- 'Key priorities' approach to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the European public research system

## Responsibility-based

- Member States to undertake reforms
- Research Stakeholder Organisations (through Joint Statement, Memoranda of Understanding, Unilateral Statement)
- European Commission



# The five key ERA priorities

- 1. More effective national research systems**
- 2. Optimal transnational co-operation and competition**
- 3. An open labour market for researchers**
- 4. Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research**
- 5. Optimal circulation and transfer of knowledge incl. via Digital ERA**

# 1. More effective national research systems

- **Objective:** increased competition within national borders, sustained and greater investment

## Examples of proposed actions:

- **Member States:** remove barriers to competitive allocation of funding, use of peer review for funding allocation
- **Commission:** support mutual learning between Member States on removal of legal barriers to ERA

## 2. Optimal transnational co-operation and competition (1/2)

- **Objective:** define and implement common research agendas on grand challenges, construct and effectively run pan-European research infrastructures

### Examples of proposed actions:

- **Member States:** to prepare joint research agendas, improve inter-operability of national programmes
- **Stakeholders:** agree on common funding principles, develop cross-border cooperation
- **Commission:** encourage 'partnering in research' to address grand challenges, support common funding standards

## 2. Optimal transnational co-operation and competition (2/2)

Member States committed to **pan-European Research Infrastructures (RIs)/ESFRI Roadmap**, but efforts need to be stepped up

### Examples of proposed actions:

- **Member States:** confirm financial commitments, remove barriers to cross-border access
- **Commission:** encourage Member States to link RI roadmaps to the ESFRI roadmap and to smart specialisation strategies in Structural Funds

## 3. An open labour market for researchers

- **Objective:** to ensure removal of barriers to researcher mobility, training and attractive careers

### Examples of proposed actions:

- **Member States:** remove barriers to open, transparent and merit-based recruitment
- **Stakeholders:** publish all vacancies on EURAXESS, fill research positions via open, transparent and merit-based recruitment
- **Commission:** strengthen collaboration in the EURAXESS network so that it becomes a means for researchers to access tailored services

## 3. An open labour market for researchers (2/2)

### Examples of proposed actions:

- **Member States:** remove barriers to portability of, and access to grants, create framework for innovative doctoral training programmes and HR strategies
- **Stakeholders:** define principles for portability of grants, increase mobility between public and private sector
- **Commission:** accreditation mechanism for Charter and Code, initiatives on social security

## 4. Gender equality and gender mainstreaming into research

- **Objective:** diversify views and approaches in research and foster excellence

### Examples of proposed actions:

- **Member States:** remove barriers to recruitment, retention and career progression of female researchers
- **Stakeholders:** implement institutional change via Gender Equality Plans
- **Commission:** foster gender equality in Horizon 2020



## 5. Optimal circulation and transfer of knowledge

- **Objective:** guarantee access to and uptake of knowledge by all

### Examples of proposed actions:

- **Member States:** adopt measures on open access, knowledge transfer and digital research services
- **Stakeholders:** implement changes on open access, uptake of electronic identity
- **Commission:** 2012 Commission Communication and Recommendation 'Scientific Information in the Digital Age'

# The next steps following the adoption

# Follow up with Member States and stakeholders

## Member States

- Political endorsement (Council Conclusions, December 2012)
- Implementation process to be prepared and initiated by Member States

## Stakeholders

- Meetings foreseen
- Implementation of the commitments agreed in the Joint Statements and Memoranda of Understanding

# Monitoring progress: ERA Monitoring Mechanism (EMM)

## Aim of the EMM

- To take stock of progress towards achieving the ERA priorities and actions
- To provide guidance on areas and topics where further action may be needed or where progress could be quicker

## Content of the EMM

- It will combine data on national/regional policy measures with data on the implementation of ERA actions by stakeholders' organisations

# How will the EMM work?

- The EMM will report on **each ERA action at national level**
- Role of the **Commission**
  - Identify **state of play** in each Member State for assessing future progress
  - Periodic **surveys and studies** to identify the degree of implementation
  - **Annually report** on progress (ERA Progress report)

# Looking ahead.... key conclusions

# Conclusions

- **Increase awareness** of the ERA Communication priorities and actions
- Strengthen **policy dialogue** amongst national authorities and representative bodies
- Start preparing **implementation** of the actions
- Importance of participating in the **ERA Monitoring Mechanism**





# Thank you for your attention

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/era>