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ERA policy

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Outline

- What is ERA?

- Why ERA?

- Key milestones

- Where do we stand now?

European Research Area (ERA)

- A unified research area open to the world
- Based on the Internal Market
- Free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology

28 national research systems
are the foundation of ERA

Not to be integrated or merged into a single system, but to be **more open, inter-operable and inter-connected**

AC are part of ERA

Why ERA ?
Problems : fragmentation, compartmentalisation & barriers to free circulation

- Sheltered funding
- Low / lack of competition
- Inefficient tackling of common societal challenges
- Protectionism
- Grant portability & access difficulties
- Access to & circulation of scientific information
- Under exploitation of STI cooperation with 3rd countries
- Lack of involvement of stakeholders in ERA decision-making process

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Why ERA (2)?

- Critical mass
- Research excellence
- Remove barriers to free movement
- Increase impact
- Support EU policy
- Global competition

A European research policy to make national research systems more open, inter-operable and inter-connected

Financial resources can be used with full efficiency, effectiveness and impact across Europe.

ERA key milestones

2000	ERA & Lisbon Strategy
2002	6th Framework Programme & 3% target
2003	3% Action Plan & OMC
2007	ERA Green Paper & FP7
2008	European Council: '5th Freedom', MS and Cion must remove barriers for free circulation of knowledge
	Comp. Council: Ljubljana Process & ERA 2020 Vision
2008	Five ERA Partnership initiatives (ongoing)
2009	Lisbon Treaty - ERA an explicit objective of the Union
2010	Europe 2020 & Innovation Union Flagship Initiative
2011	European Council: complete ERA by 2014
	Commission proposal for HORIZON 2020
2012	European Council (March): step up efforts
	ERA Communication (June)
	Council Conclusions on ERA– MS endorse ERA actions
2013	First ERA Progress Report (Sept)
2014	Council Conclusions on ERA – MS commit to develop ERA Roadmap at EU Level
	2nd ERA Progress Report (Norway– self assessment)

Taking ERA to a new level
Legally...

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)

… gives the Union legislative powers to reach this objective

"As a complement to the activities planned in the multiannual framework programme, the European Parliament and Council,… shall establish the measures necessary for the implementation of the European research area (TFEU Art. 182.5)

Taking ERA to a new level Politically… (I)

2010 - Europe 2020 & IU : Announcement ERA Framework

"an ERA Framework and supporting measures to remove obstacles to mobility and cross-border co-operation", "researchers and innovators must work and cooperate across the EU as within national borders"

Europe 2020 : 5 EU targets, a reinforced economic governance, **7 flagship initiatives :**

Smart Growth	Sustainable Growth	Inclusive Growth
Innovation « Innovation Union »	**Climate, energy and mobility** « Resource efficient Europe »	**Employment and skills** « An agenda for new skills and jobs »
Education « Youth on the move » **Digital society** « A digital agenda for Europe »	**Competitiveness** « An industrial policy for the globalisation era »	**Fighting poverty** « European platform against poverty »

ERA relating to many IU Commitments for example,

1. Training researchers	**2. University ranking system**	**3. Developing new curricula**	**4. ERA Framework**	**5. European Research infrastructures**	**6. Programmes focusing on EU2020**	**7. Involvement of SMEs in R&I**
8. Forum on Forward Looking Activities	**9. EIT to expand its activities**	**10. New financial instruments for private finance**	**11. Free Venture Capital funds**	**12. Cross-border matching of innovative firms**	**13. Review of State aid R&D&I**	**14. EU Patent**
15. Screening of key regulatory frameworks	**16. Modernise standard-setting**	**17. Pre-commercial and public procurements**	**18. Eco-innovation action plan**	**19. European Design Board**	**20. Open access**	**21. Knowledge transfer**
22. European market for patents and licensing	**23. Safeguard of IPRs**	**24. Smart Specialisation**	**25. Focus on Innovation in the next Structural Funds**	**26. European Social innovation pilot**	**27. Research programmes on public sector and social innovation**	**28. Partners consultation on knowledge economy**
29. European Innovation Partnerships	**30. Policies for researchers to reside in Europe**	**31. Scientific cooperation with third countries**	**32. International agreements on research infrastructures**	**33. MS to carry out self assessments**	**34. New indicator for fast-growing companies and monitoring**	

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Taking ERA to a new level (II)

17 July 2012

- Commission Communication **'A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth'**

- Commission Communication '**Towards better access to scientific information: Boosting the benefits of public investments in research**' and Commission Recommendation to Member States on **access to and preservation of scientific information**

- **Action-oriented & responsibility based Reinforced Partnership** between Member States, European Commission, Research Stakeholder Organisations (EARTO, EUA, LERU, NordForsk, Science Europe and CESAER)

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…a non-legislative approach

- Based on **TRUST** and **TRANSPARENCY**
  - **Trust** needs to be built by working together
  - **Transparency** helps building trust, by opening the systems
- **Specific actions for each actor**
  - Clear, explicit **objectives** to be reached
  - Clear, tailored **written commitments**: Joint Statement MoUs &US (EARTO, EUA, LERU, NordForsk , Science Europe, CEASAR)
  - Clear **indicators**: measurements of progress
  - Clear **deadlines**

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** including via Digital ERA

EX. 3. An open labour market for researchers : open recruitment

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

- Researchers mobility contributes to **excellence,** still several obstacles for mobility and attractive researcher careers
- One of the most important is the **lack of transparent, open and merit-based recruitment**

Examples of proposed actions:

- MS to remove **legal and other barriers** for open, transparent and merit-based recruitment

- SHOs to **advertise all vacancies** in EURAXESS, and fill positions according to **open, transparent and merit based selection procedures**

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Where do we stand now ?

- The 2014 ERA Progress Report : The ERA partnership has made good progress in delivering ERA.

- The goal for 2014 has been achieved : **the conditions are in place** for a fully functioning ERA.

  - ➢ **Member States** are gradually adopting ERA supportive policies (NRPs).
  - ➢ **Stakeholders** are showing continued support for ERA agenda.
  - ➢ **Commission:**
  - – included ERA in the European Semester;
  - – provides funding for ERA initiatives through H2020;
  - – leads by example on ERA priorities through H2020.
  - ➢ The **ERA Monitoring Mechanism** delivers robust data.

- ERA remains a gradual process and **it is now up to MS to implement** the ERA reforms and make ERA work.

Outcomes of the 2014 ERA Progress Report (1/2)

- Complying with ERA leads to **increased performance:**

  - ➢ Open and attractive research systems are more innovative.
  - ➢ ERA compliant institutions produce a higher number of publications and patent applications per researcher.

- There is **no single path** to achieve ERA:

  - ➢ The pace and level of ERA implementation depends largely on the national context.
  - ➢ but it tends to be more effective when national measures are in place and supported by research funding and research performing organisations.

Outcomes of the 2014 ERA Progress Report (2/2)

- Most **successful areas:**

➢ The share of funding allocated on a **competitive basis** is increasing in MS and is higher than the EU average in 2/3 of the MS.

➢ Much progress on **open access** and **knowledge transfer**.

- Biggest **remaining obstacles:**

➢ **Inertia** in the current systems prevents alignment of national research agendas: **EU approach is needed to tackle societal challenges.**

➢ There are **discrepancies in the ways ERA is implemented** at MS level (i.e. national specificities, smart specialisation priorities): no common ERA approach.

➢ **Gender imbalance** remains: waste of talents and future skills.

➢ Still **wide disparities to open recruitment** practices: hinder mobility.

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European Commission

Future challenges : keeping the momentum in 2015

- **Implementing ERA** at EU and national level:

  - ➤ MS to develop ERA Roadmap by mid-2015 to address remaining bottlenecks through ERA reforms and to guide them in ERA implementation.
  - ➤ Exploit synergies by aligning national research strategies and pooling funding to tackle societal challenges.
  - ➤ Further synchronise national and EU roadmaps for Research Infrastructures
  - ➤ Enhance International Cooperation as cross-cutting activity

- **Involve new stakeholders in the SHO Platform.**

- **Maximise benefits of R&I for society** (tighter integration of RRI, Science 2.0, Smart Specialisation in ERA policy objectives).

- Continued **support** by the Commission through H2020, through targeted and cross-cutting measures, such as the pension fund for researchers (RESAVER – 4 mio to set up the structure).

ERA and Framework Programmes

- FPs <u>financial pillar</u> of the Union's actions "…to support the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy and other Union policies, as well as the achievement and functioning of the European Research Area" (H2020 objectives)

- They are closely interlinked
- Funding measures are crucial to the realisation of ERA:
- Strengthening coordination, governance and a structuring effect on research institutions
- Supporting ERA activities: common agenda setting, pooling of resources, researcher's mobility, infrastructures, policy learning

Exemple : support to Gender : from FP7 to

Policy + funding

Apply to H2020 the structural change requested in ERA
Strengthen the ties between funding and gender equality

- *Gender balance in advisory groups and evaluation panels*

- *Engage applicants to enrol more women in research teams at all levels*

- *Explicit gender dimension in topics of Work programmes*

Thank you for your attention

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