



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

The Future of the European Research Area

Towards a new deal ? – Outlook on the German EU Council Presidency

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Overview

1. Introduction and brief look back at the development of the European Research Area (ERA)
2. A new vision for the future of ERA
3. ERA during the German EU Council Presidency
4. Outlook on ERA in the Trio-Presidency



European Research Area (ERA)

„Globalization, digitization, climate change – common problems require common answers. We want to create a vibrant and dynamic innovation ecosystem in which science, business, politics and society are closely interlinked.

The European Research Area needs to become a real single area for research and innovation.

We need research for Europe!”

Anja Karliczek

*German Federal Minister of Education and Research
at a conference on the European Research Area in Berlin
on 14 May 2019*





What is the ERA?

„Single market for research“

- Area in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely (Art. 179 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union)
- Joint agenda setting
- Opening of national programmes and infrastructures
- Comparable standards and framework conditions
- Mobility of researchers
- Knowledge transfer



Development of the ERA – Milestones

- **1973:** Idea of Ralf Dahrendorf (at that time EU Commissioner for Research)
- **2000:** Lisbon Strategy / Communication of the European Commission „Towards a European Research Area“
- **2009:** ERA anchored in the Treaty of Lisbon
- **2010:** Europe 2020 strategy (the EU's agenda for growth and jobs for the current decade)
- **2012:** Communication of the European Commission „A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth“
- **2014:** Completion of the ERA in the main lines / Adoption to the German government's ERA strategy (guidelines and national roadmap)
- **2015:** Adoption of ERA roadmap 2015-2020 at European level with regular monitoring

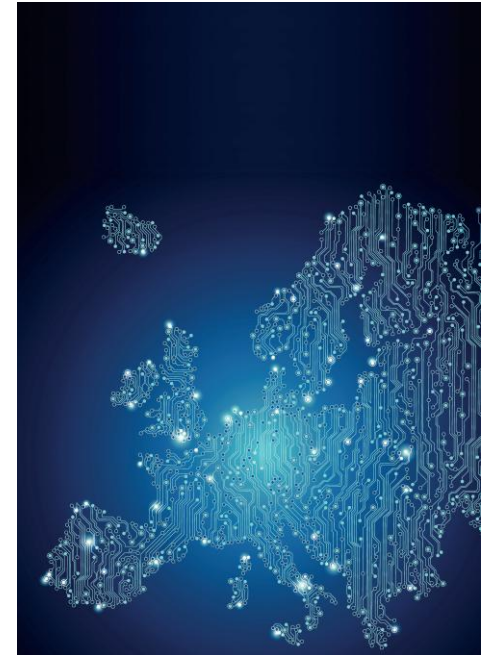
Current ERA Priorities

- **ERA Priority 1:** More effective national research systems
- **ERA Priority 2.1:** Optimal transnational cooperation and competition – planning and implementation of transnational cooperation
- **ERA Priority 2.2:** Optimal transnational cooperation and competition – research infrastructures
- **ERA Priority 3:** Open labour market for researchers
- **ERA Priority 4:** Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research
- **ERA Priority 5:** Optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge
- **ERA Priority 6:** International dimension of the European Research Area

ERA Strategy of the German Federal Government (adopted 2014)

Guidelines and National Roadmap

- ⇒ The ERA: Driver for Europe's Future Viability
- ⇒ Guidelines for further shaping the European Research Area
- ⇒ National Roadmap on the ERA



State of discussion in the ERAC WG

- The European Research and Innovation Area Committee (ERAC) is an advisory body of the Council of Ministers
- From May to Dec 2019 an ***ad-hoc Working Group*** of the ERAC has discussed the ***future of the ERA***
- Output of the group is a ***Report on a new paradigm of the ERA, new objectives and ERA priorities***
- The report will feed into an ERAC opinion on the Future of ERA

State of discussion in the ERAC WG

Why do we need a new vision for the ERA?

- Despite the relevance of ERA, implementation has slowed down in the past years. The visibility and ownership among stakeholders is rather limited. New technology and scientific knowledge requires an adaptation

Core assumption of the ERAC working group:

- A convincing/modern new narrative with focusing on some policy objectives AND a focus on implementation will improve relevance, impacts and visibility of ERA policies at EU and national/regional level



State of discussion in the ERAC WG

- Overall goal: *From* free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology *to* a single space for knowledge producers and users
- Policy Approach: *From* overcoming barriers *to* seizing opportunities
- Societal function of knowledge: *From* service for society *to* cohesion of society;
- Relation to socio-economic objectives I: *From* global competitiveness *to* knowledge driven sustainable growth leadership;
- Relation to socio-economic objectives II: *From* addressing grand challenges *to* addressing transformative changes based on smart directionality

State of discussion in the ERAC WG

- Relation to sectoral policies: *From* evidence-based policy-making *to* research-based knowledge-driven policy change
- Co-evolution of ERA: *From* innovation divide *to* an encompassing view of inclusiveness
- Planning and implementation: *From* separated knowledge dimensions *to* an integrated and dynamic knowledge circle
- Interaction with society: *From* involvement of stakeholders *to* broader societal engagement and responsiveness

The German EU Council Presidency – 2020 as a unique window of opportunity

- A new Multi-annual Financial Framework for the EU (MFF)
- A new direction for the ERA
- A new strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (“post-ET2020”/“ET2030”)
- Promoting excellence in vocational education and training (VET)

High dependance on volatile Brussels agenda, i.a. poss. conclusion/finalization of negotiations on:

- Horizon Europe
- Erasmus+
- Legislative acts on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
- Legislative package on future institutionalised partnerships (Art. 185 and 187 TFEU)
- Euratom programme for research and training
- ITER

Furthermore: Advancement of the European Education Area (incl. the European Universities Initiative)

=> *Holistic vision of a European area of education, research and innovation*

German viewpoint on the ERA

Does Germany need the ERA?

- Yes, an increasingly difficult global situation, the rapid technological developments and the challenges of SDGs make a coherent, agile, responsive and sovereign European knowledge policy more important than ever – Germany alone cannot provide the necessary resources and ideas

How will Germany address ERA during its presidency?

- High ambition to elaborate a coherent presidency programme with Trio partners Portugal and Slovenia and in close partnership with Croatia and the European Commission
- ERA ministerial conference in Oct. 2020 to ensure ownership and commitment for a new ERA vision for the next decade
- ERA Council Conclusions to be adopted in Nov. 2020
- Selection of ERA lighthouses as new approach to make ERA relevant for stakeholders and the broader society

Trio Presidency Germany, Portugal, Slovenia

- Very close cooperation: Development of a joint roadmap for education, research and innovation
- Common priority: Strengthening the links between education and research
- Future direction of ERA
- The role of society in research
- Brain circulation
- The role of European Universities/University Networks
- Value-based approaches to key technologies
- Skills, education and training for technological and societal change



Thank you for your attention!