Meeting of representatives of Europe affairs
France Universités: The European Research Area

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A new vision for the European Research Area (ERA)

What is the new ERA?

A single, borderless market for research, innovation and technology across the EU...

...where countries come together and improve their research policies and systems...

...and where there is free movement of researchers, knowledge and innovation.

What are the objectives of the new ERA?

Prioritise investments in research and innovation

Boost market uptake

Widening: Improve access to excellence

Strengthen the mobility of researchers and free flow of knowledge and technology
European Research Area 2020 – 2022

- **2020**
  - Commission Communication “A new ERA for Research and Innovation”, September

- **January 2021**
  - Establishment of the ERA Forum for Transition
    - 13 meetings
    - Three workshops and R&I Days side event with ERA stakeholder umbrella organisations
    - Some covered topics: ERA governance framework, ERA policy agenda, four ERA pilot actions

- **16 July 2021**
  - Commission adopts proposal for a “Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe”
    1) Principles for R&I in Europe
    2) Priority areas for ERA joint actions
    3) Investments and reforms
    4) Simplified policy coordination

- **26 November 2021**
  - Council Recommendation on a “Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe”

- **Beginning of 2022**
  - Council conclusions on the new ERA governance & the first ERA policy Agenda (2022–2024)
  - Establishment of the new ERA Forum to implement the actions of the ERA Policy Agenda
Policy Framework

**Pact for research and innovation in Europe**

- 10 values and principles
- 4 priority areas
  - Deepening ERA
  - Broadening ERA and relevance
  - Amplifying access to excellence
  - Advancing R&I investments and reforms
- Research and development targets

**ERA Policy Agenda**

- Designed to contribute to the priority areas of the Pact for R&I, setting out the voluntary **ERA actions** which are defined and coordinated at Union level.
- 20 actions for 2022-24

**ERA Governance**

- ERA Forum (+ subgroups)
  - Expert group for coordination and implementation of the ERA, together with EU countries, Associated countries and stakeholders
- ERAC
  - High-level strategic policy body, providing advice
Pact Priority Area: Deepening the ERA

Deepening a truly functioning internal market for knowledge

1. Open sharing of knowledge, incl. EOSC
2. Data legislation fit for research
3. Reform of the research assessment system
4. Strengthen research careers
5. Gender equality and inclusiveness
6. Protect academic freedom
7. Better knowledge valorisation
8. Strengthen research infrastructures
9. Promote international cooperation
Deepening the ERA: Action 3 - Advance towards the reform of research assessment

- Towards research assessment that rewards intrinsic quality and impact:
  - Relies on **qualitative judgement** with peer-review, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators;
  - Values a **diversity of research outputs** and their impact;
  - Rewards the **diversity of tasks** of researchers, and supports **team science**;
  - Incentivises open **collaboration** and early knowledge and data **sharing**.

- Way forward: Creation of a **stakeholder-owned coalition** and implementation plan, bringing together all research organisations willing to take the lead in reforming the current research assessment system

- Complemented by an analysis of national & transnational **legal and administrative barriers**


Call for expressions of interest (still open): https://europa.eu/gy8BU3
Pact Priority Area: Broadening the ERA

Taking up together the challenges posed by the 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. Green and digital transition of industrial ecosystems
13. Empower higher education institutions
14. Bring science closer to citizens
European Strategy for Universities: 4 key objectives

1. **Strengthen the European dimension in higher education and research**
   Bringing transnational cooperation to a higher level contributes to a culture of excellence and inclusion, a true European identity, and global competitiveness and attractiveness.

2. **Consolidate universities as lighthouses of our European way of life**
   - **Strengthen quality and relevance for future-proof skills**
     In a fast-changing environment, universities need to strengthen their capacities to equip young people, lifelong learners and researchers with the right competences and skills.
   - **Foster diversity, inclusiveness and gender equality**
     More institutional changes are needed for universities to become places of truly equal opportunities.
   - **Promote and protect European democratic values**
     Universities need to be places of freedom: for speech, thought, learning, research.

3. **Empower universities as key actors of change in the twin green and digital transitions**
   - **Develop skills, competences and technological innovation for the green and digital transition**
     Universities are key actors for the green transition and for a more sustainable world. We need to make ‘connected universities’ a reality.

4. **Reinforce universities as drivers of Europe’s global role and leadership**
   - **Unveil Europe’s connections with the world**
Broadening the ERA:
Action 13 - Empower higher education institutions to develop in line with the ERA, and in synergy with EEA – Objectives include:

**Cooperation for excellence**
- Raise excellence in science and in value creation through integrated and inclusive cooperation of higher education institutions
- *Support implementation of i.a. ERA actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16 by HEI, in particular support digital transition and research careers*
- Contribute to consolidating the European Universities Initiative for the R&I dimension

**Global competitiveness**
- Improve global competitiveness and visibility of Europe’s universities
- Create critical mass in research and innovation in key policy areas
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<td>Pact Priority Area: Widening the ERA</td>
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<td>Amplifying access to research and innovation excellence across the Union</td>
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<td>15. Regional and national R&amp;I ecosystems</td>
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<td>16. EU-wide access to excellence</td>
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<td>17. Strategic capacity of Europe’s public research performing organisations</td>
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Advancing concerted research and innovation investments and reforms

18. Coordination national support for ERA

19. ERA monitoring mechanism

20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms
Prioritising investments and reforms:
Action 19 - ERA Monitoring Process

Schematic presentation of the ERA monitoring process

- **Inputs from MS and the EC**
  - Implementation reports, data
  - Policy Platform
    - Dashboard
      - Data on MS level
      - Report
        - Per each MS
      - Scoreboard
        - EU level data, published
      - Policy Dialogue
        - Bilateral & multilateral
      - Report on implementation of ERA Policy agenda
        - EU level, published every 18 months
Conclusions

**Progress**

**2021:**
- Council Recommendation on a “Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe”
- Council conclusions on the new ERA governance & the first ERA policy Agenda (2022–2024)

**2022:**
- **New ERA Forum**, 6 meetings to discuss all 20 actions of the ERA Policy Agenda

**Next steps**

- Use the momentum for the implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda
- **ERA Policy Agenda**: by 30 July. Member States and Associated Countries identify the actions they want to participate in; stakeholders are invited to participate as well
- **Monitoring Framework**: Mid-2022, presentation to the Council
Thank you!