

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

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DG RTD, A.2. – ERA governance and
implementation

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#EUResearchArea
#ResearchImpactEU

Research and
Innovation

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

Council Conclusions on the new ERA, December

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”

Council conclusions on the new ERA governance & the first ERA policy Agenda (2022-2024)

Beginning of 2022

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

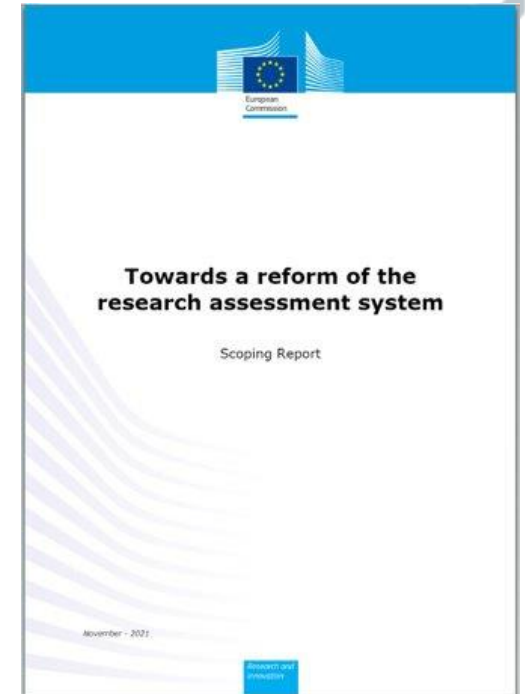




Deepening the ERA:

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**



Scoping report:

<https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/707440>

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

Universities are instrumental in building 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



Pact Priority Area: Widening the ERA

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 Europe's public research performing organisations





Pact Priority Area: Prioritising investments and reforms

Advancing concerted research and innovation investments and reforms

18. Coordination national support for ERA

19. ERA monitoring mechanism

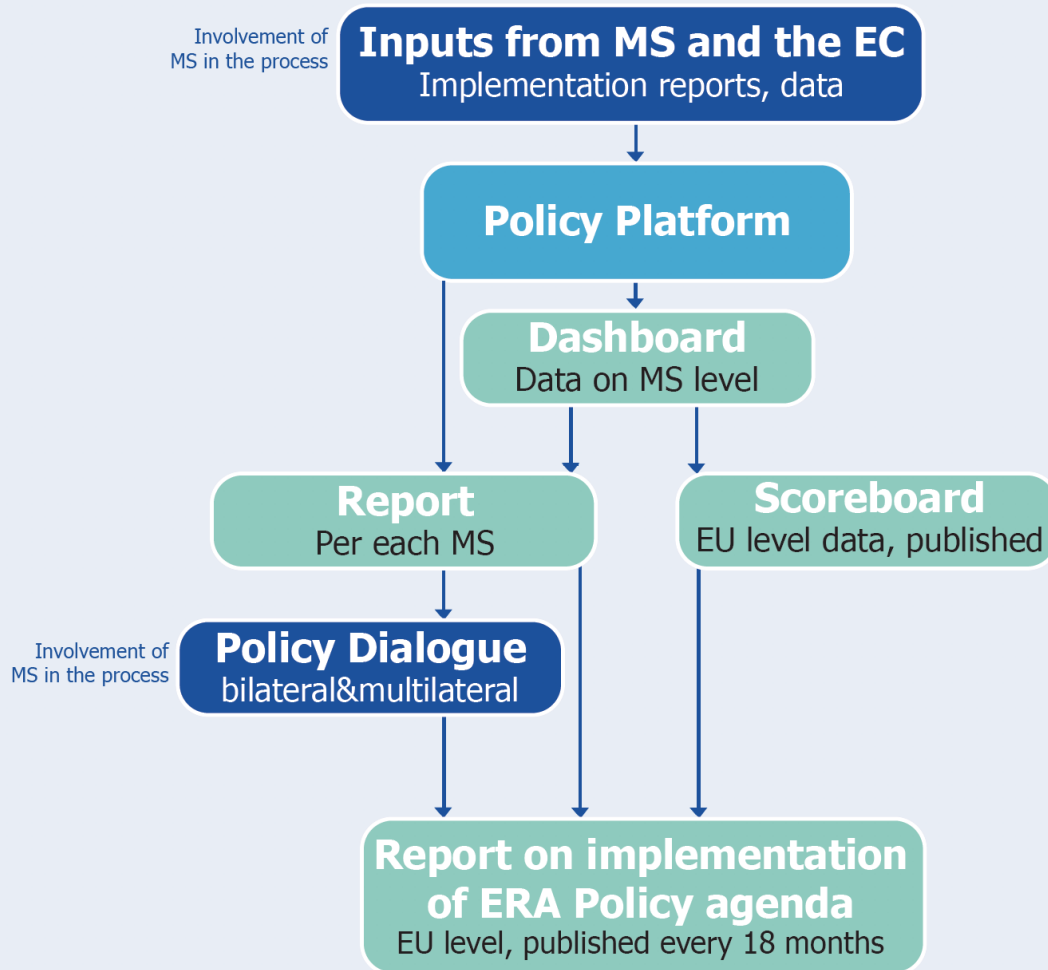
20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms





Prioritising investments and reforms:

Action 19 – ERA Monitoring Process



Schematic presentation of the ERA monitoring process

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!