



The European Research Area



What is the European Research Area?

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.

ERA-Milestones

2000

Initially only a theoretical concept dating back to 1973, the European Research Area (ERA) becomes a political project addressing the fragmentation of the EU's research and innovation system.

2007

The ERA is recognized through Article 179 of the Lisbon Treaty, which sets out the free circulation of researchers, scientific knowledge and technology.

2009

The Lisbon Treaty enters into force. Besides Article 179, Article 182 (5) gives the European legislator a broad legislative competence for establishing measures necessary for the implementation of the ERA.

2012-2020

The focus lies on transnational cooperation, gender mainstreaming and the optimal circulation of scientific knowledge; Some achievements include the [ERA Roadmap 2015](#) and National ERA Action Plans 2015-2020, as well as a governance through ERAC and its sub-groups.

2019

Together with the Member States, the European Commission initiates a process to renew the ERA. With its new objectives, the revamped ERA governance responds to new challenges, such as the green and digital transitions.

2021

The new ERA is launched through the adoption of the [Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe and the Council conclusions on the future governance of ERA by the Council of the EU, to which the first ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24 is annexed.](#)



ERA policy framework

Through its governance, the Pact and the ERA Policy Agenda, the ERA policy framework sets up the broader parameters, for example working modalities and institutional settings, through which the ERA objectives are implemented.

Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe

- Provides the long-term vision.
- Sets out principles for research and innovation:
 - Upholding values
 - Working better
 - Working together
- Defines 16 priority areas for joint action, ranging from open science to coordination of research and innovation investments, as a long-term framework for the ERA Policy Agendas.
- Outlines research and development targets.

ERA Policy Agenda

- Describes concrete actions, based on the priority areas of the Pact. These are implemented jointly with the Member States Horizon Europe associated countries and stakeholders
- The ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024 encompasses 20 actions, based on the 16 priority areas of the Pact.

ERA Governance

- **Council of the EU** adopts the ERA Policy Agenda.
- **European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC)** provides high-level strategic advice.
- **ERA Forum (+subgroups)** brings together the Commission, EU countries, Horizon Europe associated countries and research and innovation stakeholders in an expert group to coordinate and implement the ERA Policy Agenda.

ERA Monitoring

The implementation of the actions is monitored by the European Commission to insure a proper basis for evidence-informed policy.

In the European Research Area we will:



Strengthen mobility of researchers and free flow of knowledge and technology through greater cooperation among Member States;



Prioritise investments and reforms in research and innovation towards the green and digital transition, to support Europe's recovery;



Boost market uptake of research and innovation results;



Improve access to excellence for researchers across the EU.

More information at

European research area (ERA) | European Commission (europa.eu)
<https://europa.eu/!YmgHHX>

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