



# ERA PROGRESS IN GERMANY HIGHLIGHTS

This fact sheet provides a snapshot of Germany's progress in implementing the European Research Area (ERA) over the past decade.



## POLICY CONTEXT

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is the main public actor, holding most of the responsibilities for research and innovation policy at the federal level. It has launched a division dealing specifically with R&I in the EU and has created a special budget as an effective incentive mechanism for funding programmes. The budget of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research amounts to around EUR 20.4 billion in 2022 federal budget. The Government at federal and state level, including the universities, spent EUR 36.5 billion a year on R&D in 2022, while the private sector spent EUR 81.8 billion a year on R&D (2022). Germany invested 3.13% of GDP in R&D in 2022, placing it in the top third of highly developed economies. In its coalition agreement, the German government has set a target of investing 3.5% of GDP in R&D by 2025.

The German research and innovation policy is based on the government's Future Research and Innovation Strategy (Zukunftsstrategie Forschung und Innovation). This strategy creates the framework for an innovation system that contributes to securing Germany's international competitiveness, strengthening society's resilience and expanding economic strength, ensuring it is in line with ERA priorities and actions. The National Action Plan for the European Research Area will form the basis for German EU research and innovation policy in the upcoming years. Until 2027, Germany is focussing its ERA efforts on the three guidelines: 'For an innovative Europe', 'For excellent research in Europe' and 'For a free Europe'.




Next to the federal level, the German states (Länder) are relevant actors concerning the ERA. They are responsible for the higher education system. In addition, they are involved in the research and innovation system, by joining funding at the federal level and own funding. All questions of research funding, science and research policy strategies and the science system, which jointly affect the federal level and the Länder, are settled in the Joint Science Conference (GWK). Next to the joint regular funding of the main research organisations, many important initiatives are being implemented to strengthen research, education and innovation. One example is the Joint Federal Government-Länder funding programme for junior academics (tenure-track programmes) to enable young scientists to plan a long-term career with the goal of a professorship.

The Pact for Research and Innovation (PFI) is a research-funding initiative of the German Federal and State governments. It is designed to give publicly funded non-university research institutions security through continuous annual budget increases of 3%. The PFI sets out several (rather extensive) research policy goals (currently five) directly tailored by the scientific organisations of the country. The science organisations report on the achievement of these agreements and how they contribute to fulfilling the research policy goals in regular monitoring reports published by the Joint Science Conference (GWK).



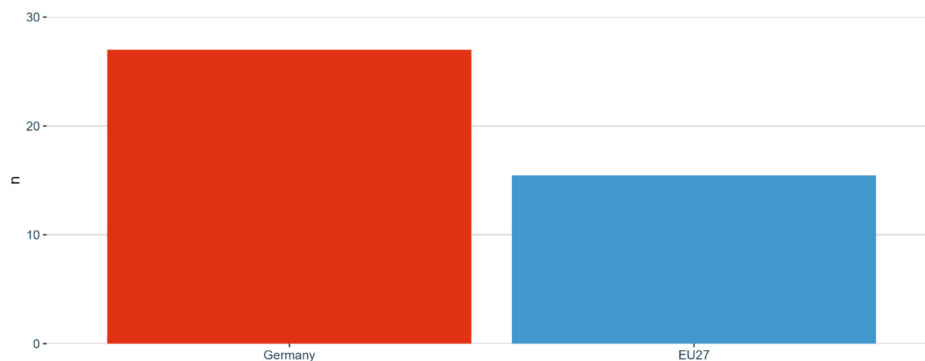
## KEY TAKE-AWAYS GERMANY



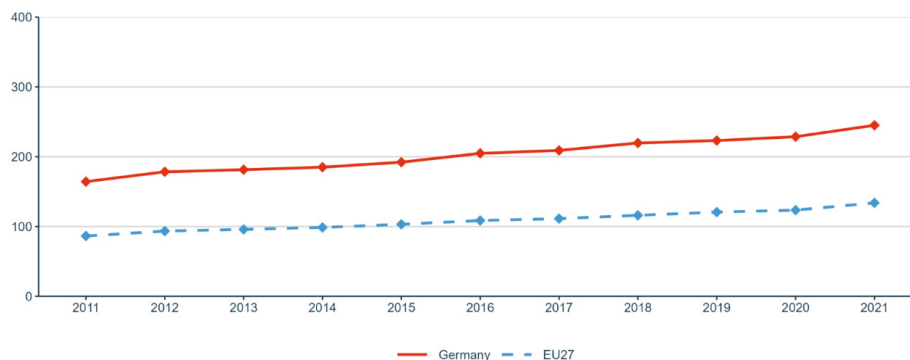
-  Germany is strongly committed to the implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda. It is among the first countries to have a national strategy and roadmap for the implementation of the ERA: The National Action Plan for the European Research Area.
-  Germany is a Strong Innovator according to the European Innovation Scoreboard 2023. According to the European Semester Country Reports, total R&D intensity in Germany reached 3.13% in 2020, placing the country among the five EU Member States reaching the EU 3% goal.
-  The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda includes the development of a green hydrogen R&I ERA pilot action, which is led by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).
-  Germany is above the EU average in ERA sub-priority areas such as open science (1.1), research infrastructures (1.2), knowledge valorisation (1.5), scientific leadership (1.6) and global engagement (1.7). Sub-priority 1.3 on gender equality and inclusiveness has been seen as the only area under Priority 1 that continues to be challenging. Most of the sub-priorities under Priority 2 have experienced stagnation or decreasing trends during the past years.

## CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD...

**Sub-priority 1.2: Research infrastructures – Number of European research infrastructures in which a Member State or an Associated Country participated (financially contributes to operations) in 2021**



**Sub-priority 1.5: Knowledge valorisation – Share of public-private co-publication per 1 mio inhabitants**



### LEARN MORE

- [Download](#) the full ERA Monitoring Germany Report 2023
- [Read](#) the ‘Communication on A new ERA for Research and Innovation’
- [Consult](#) the background on New ERA, the EU Pact for R&I, the EU Policy Agenda and more