One Hour with Europe

Towards the implementation of the New European Research Area: *status, achievements, next steps*

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### New European Research Area (ERA): Policy Framework

#### ERA Communication
- Prioritise investments in research & innovation
- Boost market uptake
- Widening: improve access to excellence
- Strengthen the mobility of researchers and free flow of knowledge and technology

#### 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.

18 actions for 2022-24

#### 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

#### ERA Governance
- **ERA Forum (+subgroups)**
  Expert group for coordination and implementation of the ERA, together with MSs, AsoC and stakeholders
- **ERAC**
  high-level strategic policy body, providing advice
- **Council**
  Decision making
  “Owner” of Policy Agenda
Achievements of the current ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24

Deepening an internal market for knowledge

- **Action 3 – Research Assessment**: establishment of ‘Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment’
- **Action 4 – Research Careers**: Council Recommendation on a European Framework for research careers (December 2023) & implementation tools: ERA Talent Platform and R&I Careers Observatory

Research and innovation excellence

- **Action 16 – Access to excellence**: set up of sub-group to bring together R&I policy actors and managing authorities to assess the innovation divide, increase excellence and capitalise on existing widening instruments

Green and digital transition

- **Action 11.1 – Green Hydrogen**: establishment of the roadmap of hydrogen valleys Q2-2023, creating synergies with the SET Plan
- **Action 14 – Citizen Science**: successful finalised pilot on Plastic Pirates; further development of the idea of a Network of European Cities of Science, EU Contest for Young Scientists and EU TALENTON

Investments and reforms

- **Action 19 – ERA Monitoring**: should collect quantitative and qualitative information on the progress of implementing ERA actions; first EU-level report Dec 2023
A package for attractive and sustainable research careers (Action 4)

Setting standards

• Council Recommendation on a European Framework for Research Careers (incl. new Charter for Researchers)

Supporting implementation

• MLE, ResearchComp, ERA Talent Platform one-stop-shop, R&I Careers Observatory, RESAVER…

Promoting cultural change

• Reform of research and researcher assessment (COARA.eu; ERA Action 3)

Coordinating investments

• Pilot in Horizon Europe 2024 supporting organisational change – possible upscaling 2026-2027
ERA Policy Platform

The ERA Policy Platform:

- provide up-to-date information about the state of implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda and its joint actions;

- give insights into EU-wide activities contributing to make progress on the ERA;

- feature all the elements of the ERA monitoring mechanism, including interactive graphs showing the progress on ERA priorities as reported in the ERA Scoreboard and the ERA Dashboard;

- offer a repository of key ERA-related documents and reports available to the public;

- serve as a central space for communicating between all actors interested in advancing the ERA objectives.

Check out the platform: [https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/](https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/)
Areas for attention

• The investment gap is persistent, regardless of the ambitious 3% of GDP objective
• Whole-of-governance approach: difficulties in advancing thematic ERA actions
• Further strengthening the competitiveness of the industry by facilitating technology development, scale-up and deployment
• Emergence of new priorities, such as AI, economic security
• Improving the reporting on investments (e.g. example of research infrastructures)
Proposals for the next ERA Policy Agenda 2025-27

Deepening an internal market for knowledge

- Enabling Open Science
- Equity in Open and Responsible Research
- Research Infrastructures
- Inclusive and intersectional gender equality
- Research Careers
- Research Assessment
- Knowledge Valorisation
- Freedom of Scientific Research
- Fundamental research and scientific leadership
- Establishment of a European Science for Policy ecosystem
- AI in science and research in the EU
- Global Approach to R&I
- Knowledge Security

Green and digital transition

- Revamping the SET Plan
- Greening Research: first steps towards sustainable research practices
- Non-animal approaches in biomedical research and testing pharmaceuticals
- Renewable Energy Valleys
- A harmonised framework to support integrity and ethics in R&I
- Unleashing the full R&I potential of Europe’s universities
- Accelerating industrial transformation for Europe’s competitive sustainability and strategic autonomy
- Enhancing Trust in Science through Citizen Engagement and Science Communication

Research and innovation excellence

- Improve EU-wide access to excellence
- An new ERA for Research Management

Investments and reforms

- An R&I foresight community of practice
State of play and steps towards the adoption

- Supporting the High-Level Group on the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe
  - to increase links between the FP10 and the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027

- Political developments:
  - **Letta report** with suggestions to establish the “5th freedom to enhance research, innovation and education in the Single Market” provides a significant political boost for the further implementation of the ERA
  - Upcoming **Draghi report** on competitiveness will also outline recommendations
ERA Conference – General Aspects

• **18 and 19 September**, lunch-to-lunch conference in Brussels

• Approximately 300 participants

• Main objectives:
  
  • Review the implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24, also through showcasing projects
  
  • Give an outlook on the next ERA Policy Agenda 2025-27
  
  • Explore how ERA and the future ERA Policy Agenda can be a vehicle for Europe’s competitiveness.
  
  • Get feedback and buy-in from the stakeholder community beyond the ERA Forum and ERAC
Timeline towards the next ERA Policy Agenda 2025-27

2024
- Q1-Q3: ERA Forum - list of ERA actions + outcomes, preparation of explanatory documents
- 11-12 April: ERAC - preparation of opinion
- June: ERAC - opinion on list of actions
- 18 and 19 September: ERA stakeholders conference to engage broader community
- 29 November: Council - adoption of conclusions on ERA state of play
- Q4 2024/Q1 2025: Commission - launch of interservice consultation

2025
- Q1: Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation
- Q1-2: Council - negotiation and adoption

Launch of Policy Platform (January)
Publication of Country Reports 2023
Publication of Scoreboard, Dashboard and Country Reports 2024 (rhc)
Thank you for your attention!