



ERA : What, Why, When?

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Research & Innovation
Unit 'Open Science and ERA Policy'

Summary

What is ERA?

Why establish an ERA?

When? – key milestones for ERA

Who contributes?

How is ERA implemented?

What is ERA?

- A European area of **free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology** – clearly defined for the first time in the 2000 Communication “Towards a European Research Area” => **treaty of Lisbon**
- **A Unified area, open to the world, based on the internal market**
2012 Commission Communication 'A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth'

Why establish an ERA (1)?

- Critical mass
- Research excellence
- Remove barriers to free movement
- Increase impact
- Support EU policy
- Global competition

A European research policy to make national research systems more open, inter-operable and inter-connected.

Financial resources can be used with full efficiency, effectiveness and impact across Europe.

Why have an ERA (2)? - Issues fragmentation, compartmentalisation & barriers to free circulation (*Public Consultation end 2011*)

- Sheltered funding
- Low / lack of competition
- Inefficient tackling of common societal challenges
- Protectionism
- Grant portability & access difficulties
- Access to & circulation of scientific information
- Under exploitation of STI cooperation with 3rd countries
- Lack of involvement of stakeholders in ERA decision-making process

When? – key milestones for ERA (1)



When? – key milestones for ERA (2)



When? – key milestones for ERA (3)

2016

3rd ERA Progress Report (Autumn 2016)

Launch of RESAVER (Mid-2016)

ERA National Action Plans (Mid-2016)

2015

Conference 'A new start for Europe: opening up to an ERA of Innovation (22-23 June 2015)

Renewal of the Stakeholders Organisations' commitments

Council Conclusions on the ERA Roadmap 2015-2020

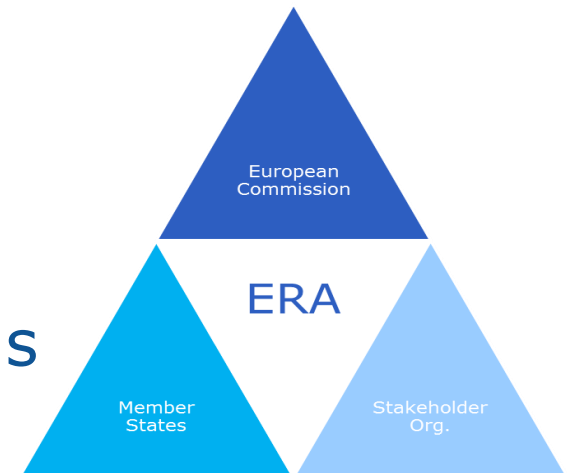
Who contributes?

The approach: **A reinforced partnership...**

Responsibility-based:

- European Commission
- Member States
- Research Stakeholder Organisations

Action-oriented: 60 actions!



A non-legislative approach - A reinforced partnership

- Based on **trust** and **transparency**
 - ✓ Trust needs to be built by working together
 - ✓ Transparency helps building trust, achieved by opening the systems
- **Specific actions for each partner**
 - ✓ Concrete objectives to be reached
 - ✓ Commitments from each partner (Commission; MS - Council Conclusions; SHO – Joint Statement)
 - ✓ Follow-up of progress
 - ✓ Clear deadlines

The Five Key ERA Priorities

1. More effective national **research systems**
2. Optimal **transnational co-operation and competition**
3. An **open labour market** for researchers
4. **Gender** equality and **gender** mainstreaming in research
5. Optimal Circulation and Transfer of **Knowledge** including via Digital ERA

International cooperation as cross-cutting theme

ERA and Framework Programmes

- FPs **financial pillar** of the Union's actions "...to **support** the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy and other Union policies, as well as **the achievement and functioning of the European Research Area**" (H2020 objectives)
- ERA Framework - **policy pillar** **creating the right conditions** – 2012 Commission Communication 'A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth'

The ERA monitoring mechanism

Objectives:

- Identify **progress** in achieving ERA
- Help the **political steering** process
- Identify areas where **further progress** is needed

How does it work?

- A **reporting cycle** has been set up since 2013: report issued by Commission, support by ERAC

First and second ERA Progress Reports (2013 and 2014)

- **Policy part**
- **Facts & Figures:**
 - EU-level summary state-of-play as regards ERA-related actions
 - Descriptive individual Country Fiches
 - List of ERA-related measures in each country

http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/eraprogress_en.htm

Key Milestones in 2014 – 2016 (1)

Competitive ness Council

February
2014 **Council
Conclusions**
on ERA
Progress
Report

EU Semester

April 2014
NRPs – ERA
structural
reforms to be
identified

Commission Communica- tion on R&I

June 2014
Including **ERA
Dimension**

ERA Progress Report

September
2014
**Full
assessment**
of progress

Key Milestones in 2014 – 2016 (2)

Competitive ness Council

May 2015

Council
Conclusions
on the ERA
National
Action plans

ERA Conference 2015

June 2015

'A new start for
Europe –
Opening up to
an ERA of
Innovation'

Launch of RESAVER

Mid-2016

ERA Progress Report

Autumn 2016

Full
assessment
of progress