

Timeline of Key Milestones in European research cooperation

9 May 1950 - The Schuman Declaration	2
18 April 1951 - Treaty of Paris.....	2
25 March 1957 - Treaties of Rome are signed	3
22 November 1971 - Establishment of COST	3
25 July 1983 - 1st Framework Programme - FP1 (1983 – 1987)	4
17 July 1985 - EUREKA is established in Paris	5
1 July 1987 - ‘Single European Act’ enters into force	5
28 September 1987 - 2nd Framework Programme (1987-1991) is adopted	6
23 April 1990 - Third Framework Programme (1990-1994) is adopted.....	6
1 November 1993 - Entry into force of the “Treaty on European Union” (Maastricht Treaty)	7
26 April 1994 - 4th Framework Programme (1994-1998)	7
22 December 1998 - Fifth Framework Programme (1998-2002) is adopted	8
18 January 2000 - Communication “Towards a European Research Area” published.....	8
23-24 March 2000 - European Council adopts the ‘Lisbon Strategy’	9
1 January 2002 - Introduction of the EURO.....	9
15-16 March 2002 - European Council in Barcelona sets a target for EU R&D investment intensity to approach 3% of GDP (known as the ‘Barcelona target’)	10
5 February 2005 - Commission President Barroso puts forward the idea of establishing a European Institute of Technology (EIT)	10
6 April 2005 - The European Commission announces its proposal for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)	11
13 September 2006 - Commission publishes its ‘broad-based innovation strategy’ Communication	12
18 December 2006 - Seventh Framework Programme is adopted.....	13
4 April 2007 - Green Paper on ERA is published	13
30 May 2008 - The ‘Ljubljana Process’ is initiated, aiming to overcome fragmentation and build a strong ERA.....	14
17 July 2008 - Commission publishes Communication on “Joint Programming”	15
2 December 2008 - Council concludes on the definition of a "2020 Vision for the European Research Area"	15
10 June 2010 - European Council adopts “Europe 2020” strategy.....	16
30 November 2011 - Publication of Commission proposal on Horizon 2020.....	16
17 July 2012 - Communication on ERA framework.....	17
26 June 2013 - Agreement on "HORIZON 2020" reached	18
14 February 2014 - 2014 EIT Call for Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) proposals published.....	19
29 May 2015 - EU Council adopts European Research Area roadmap 2015-2010	20
22 June 2015 - Commissioner Moedas presents "Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World" priorities	21

9 May 1950

The Schuman Declaration

The **Schuman Declaration** is a governmental proposal by the then-French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman **to create a new form of organization of States in Europe called a supranational Community**. Following the experiences of two World Wars, France recognized that certain values such as justice could not be defined by the State apparatus alone. It involved far more than a technical Community to place the coal and steel industries of France, West Germany and other countries under one common High Authority. It led to the peaceful re-organization of post- World War Europe. The proposal furthermore led to the creation of the **European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)**. It was also the forerunner of several other European Communities and also what is now the European Union (EU). The event is celebrated annually as **Europe Day** and Schuman himself is considered one of the Founding fathers of the European Union.

Source: Wikipedia

18 April 1951

Treaty of Paris

The **Treaty of Paris** (formally the **Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community**) was signed on 18 April 1951 between France, West Germany, Italy and the three Benelux countries (Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) and established the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which subsequently became part of the European Union. The treaty came into force on 23 July 1952 and expired on 23 July 2002, exactly fifty years after it came into effect.

The treaty was seen as producing diplomatic and economic stability in Western Europe after the Second World War. Some of the main enemies during the war were now sharing production of coal and steel, the key-resources which previously had been central to the war effort.

The Europe Declaration was signed by all the leaders present. It declared that the Treaty had given birth to Europe. It emphasised that the supranational principle was the foundation of the new democratic organisation of Europe. The supranational concept was opposed by Charles de Gaulle.

Source: Wikipedia

25 March 1957

Treaties of Rome are signed

The **Treaties of Rome** are two treaties that were both signed on 25 March 1957 by the same countries: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany; referred to as the *The Six* of European integration.

1. The first treaty signed was the Treaty establishing the **European Atomic Energy Community (the EAEC Treaty)**, often referred to as the Euratom Treaty.
2. The second treaty signed was the Treaty establishing the **European Economic Community (the EEC Treaty)**, often referred to as the *Treaty of Rome*.

They were the first international organisations to be based on supranationalism, after the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) established a few years prior.

The treaties came into force on 1 January 1958 and the EEC Treaty has been amended many times.

The Joint Research Centre

The Joint Research Centre was originally established under the Euratom treaty. Euratom's role is to promote nuclear safety and security in Europe and the JRC has been contributing to this aim with its research activities ever since.

The JRC has, however, at the request of its customers, expanded to also embrace other fields important to policy making, such as life sciences, energy, security and consumer protection. It has transformed itself from a purely research-driven organisation focussing on nuclear energy to a customer-driven, research-based policy support organisation. Today, the JRC is deeply embedded in the European Research Area and the EU legislative process.

Source: Wikipedia

22 November 1971

Establishment of COST

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, allowing the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level. COST contributes to reducing the fragmentation in European research investments and opening the European Research Area to cooperation worldwide.

The goal of COST is to ensure that Europe holds a strong position in the field of scientific and technical research for peaceful purposes, by increasing European cooperation and interaction in this field. This research initiative makes it possible for the various national facilities, institutes, universities and private industry to work jointly on a wide range of Research and Development (R&D) activities.

Nine Key Scientific Domains

As a precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research, COST plays a very important role in building a European Research Area (ERA). It anticipates and complements the activities of the EU Framework Programmes, constituting a “bridge” towards the scientific communities of emerging countries. It also increases the mobility of researchers across Europe and fosters the establishment of scientific excellence in the nine key domains:

- Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences
- Food and Agriculture
- Forests, their Products and Services
- Materials, Physics and Nanosciences
- Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies
- Earth System Science and Environmental Management
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Transport and Urban Development
- Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health

In addition, Trans-Domain Proposals allow for broad, multidisciplinary proposals to strike across the nine scientific domains.

Source: COST Webiste (<http://www.cost.eu/>)

25 July 1983

1st Framework Programme - FP1 (1983 – 1987)

FP1 was established through a Council resolution on 25th July 1983 referring to Article 235 of the EEC (European Economic Community) and Article 7 of EURATOM (European Atomic Energy Community) treaty. The aim was very much about promoting competitiveness (Agricultural and Industrial) but also improving the management of raw materials and energy resources, stepping up development aid, improving living and working conditions and improving the effectiveness of the Community’s scientific and technical potential. This resolution laid the ground for such programmes as ESPRIT (*European Strategic Program on Research in Information Technology*), RACE (*Research and Development in Advanced Communications Technologies in Europe*) and BRITE (*Industrial and Technologies Materials Programme*).

Source: “Priority-setting in the European Research Framework Programmes” by Dan Andrée, VinnoVA Analysis VA 2009:17

17 July 1985

EUREKA is established in Paris

EUREKA was established with the "Paris Declaration" of July 17, 1985, and its principles are based on the later Hannover Declaration, subscribed by Ministers on November 6, 1985. The two main founders were former head of states François Mitterrand (France) and Helmut Kohl (Germany). Other important personalities involved were Hubert Curien, French ex-Minister of Research and former Chairman of the European Space Agency and Jacques Attali, adviser to François Mitterrand.

Source: Wikipedia

1 July 1987

‘Single European Act’ enters into force

The Single European Act (SEA) was the first major revision of the 1957 Treaty of Rome. The Act set the European Community an objective of establishing a Single Market by 31 December 1992, and codified European Political Cooperation, the forerunner of the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy. It was signed at Luxembourg on 17 February 1986, and at The Hague on 28 February 1986. It came into effect on 1 July 1987, under the Delors Commission.

Research becomes a Community responsibility

The Single European Act added Title VI to the Treaty on Research Activities for the first time and gave the legal basis for the Framework Programme and its objectives in Articles 130f-q. With some modifications, these articles are still the legal basis for the existing FP.

Article 130i ‘defined’ the FP:

‘The Community shall adopt a multi-annual framework programme setting out all its activities. The framework programme shall lay down the scientific and technical objectives, define their respective priorities, set out the main lines of envisaged activities and set the necessary amount, detailed rules of financial participation by the Community in the programme as a whole and the breakdown of this sum between the various activities envisaged’.

Sources: Wikipedia & “Priority-setting in the European Research Framework Programmes” by Dan Andrée, VinnoVA Analysis VA 2009:17

28 September 1987

2nd Framework Programme (1987-1991) is adopted

The adoption of the second Framework Programme on 28 September 1987 was a turning point in the history of Community research. The ratification of the Single Act in 1987 gave the Community a particular competence in research and technological development (Title IV). The Single Act gave a new institutional dimension to the concept of the Framework Programme and considerably enlarged its coverage. From this moment, the Single Act also brought together Community activities covering many objectives with the aim of optimising the potential of the internal market (scientific, technological and economic objectives as well as standardisation, economic and social cohesion etc).

General objectives

In accordance with the provisions of the Single European Act, the general objectives given to the second Framework Programme respond to the following requirements:

1. To reinforce the scientific and technological base of European industry, and in particular SMEs, especially in strategic areas of high technology;
2. To encourage the development of European industry's international competitiveness by promoting the technological base allowing it to acquire sufficient critical mass through networks set up between large companies, SMEs, research centres, universities etc;
3. To contribute to reinforcing social and economic cohesion in the Community, in particular through the added value obtained from activities at the Community scale and with the Single Market in mind.

Source: SEC(92) 675 final - Communication from the Commission "Evaluation of the second Framework Programme for research and technological development."

Accessible at <http://aei.pitt.edu/5821/>

23 April 1990

Third Framework Programme (1990-1994) is adopted

The Third Framework Programme was adopted on the 23rd of April 1990, with a total budget of approx. ECU 6 500 million.

The objectives and criteria were mainly the same as in FP2 but the Council added six 'concerns' that guided its choices in FP3:

1. Improve industrial competitiveness whilst maintaining the pre-competitive nature of Community actions.
2. Cope with the challenges for standards linked to the Single Market, thus boosting pre-normative research.
3. Modify the attitude of industrial operators, by orientating it towards transnational initiatives.

4. Instil a European dimension into the training of staff engaged in scientific research and technological development.
5. Increase economic and social cohesion while ensuring the scientific and technical excellence of research projects.
6. Take account of safeguarding environment and quality of life.

Source: "Priority-setting in the European Research Framework Programmes" by Dan Andrée, VinnoVA Analysis VA 2009:17

1 November 1993

Entry into force of the "Treaty on European Union" (Maastricht Treaty)

The **Treaty of Maastricht** was signed on 7 February 1992 by the members of the European Community in Maastricht, the Netherlands. On 9–10 December 1991, the same city hosted the European Council which drafted the treaty. Upon its entry into force on 1 November 1993 during the Delors Commission, it created the European Union and led to the creation of the single European currency, the euro. The Maastricht Treaty has been amended to a degree by later treaties.

The role of RTD in the EU is strengthened

An important addition was made to the Framework Programme (FP) criteria:

‘while promoting all the research activities deemed necessary by virtue of other Chapters of this Treaty’ which widened the scope of activities.’

This is probably one of the most important changes ever made as it opens up the possibility of including almost any topic in the FP, provided its EU interest is accepted.

Source: Wikipedia & "Priority-setting in the European Research Framework Programmes" by Dan Andrée, VinnoVA Analysis VA 2009:17

26 April 1994

4th Framework Programme (1994-1998)

With a budget of about €13 215 million the 4th Framework Programme (FP4) covered all the research and technological development (RTD) activities which were funded by the European Commission during the period 1994-1998.

The Fourth Framework Programme contains four Activities and a number of specific RTD programmes which cover the following areas (with funding in million Euros):

1. RTD and Demonstration programmes (10,686);
2. Cooperation with third countries and international organisations (540)

3. Dissemination and exploitation of results (330)
4. Stimulation of the training and mobility of researchers (744)

Source: DG Research's europa.eu website

22 December 1998

Fifth Framework Programme (1998-2002) is adopted

The Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) set out the priorities for the European Union's research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) activities for the period 1998-2002. These priorities have been identified on the basis of a set of common criteria reflecting the major concerns of increasing industrial competitiveness and the quality of life for European citizens.

The Fifth RTD Framework Programme differed considerably from its predecessors. It has been conceived to help solve problems and to respond to major socio-economic challenges facing Europe. To maximise its impact, it focuses on a limited number of research areas combining technological, industrial, economic, social and cultural aspects. Management procedures will be streamlined with an emphasis on simplifying procedures and systematically involving key players in research.

A major innovation of the Fifth Framework Programme is the concept of "Key actions". Implemented within each of the four thematic programmes. "Key actions" will mobilise the wide range of scientific and technological disciplines - both fundamental and applied - required to address a specific problem so as to overcome barriers that may exist, not only between disciplines but also between the programmes and the organisations concerned.

A budget of 14 960 million euros has been agreed for the period up to the year 2002 of which 13 700 million euros is foreseen for the implementation of the European Community section of Fifth Framework Programme and 1 260 million euros have been allocated to the Euratom programme.

Source: europa.eu website (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp5.html>)

18 January 2000

Communication "Towards a European Research Area" published

On 18 January 2000, the European Commission published the Communication "Towards a European Research Area" and started a broad discussion with the aim of creating a "single European market" for research. The main objectives of this political initiative were to boost Europe's competitiveness, to improve the coordination of research activities on national and European level, to develop human resources, and to increase the attractiveness of European research to the best researchers from all over the world. The Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration was seen as the most important instrument for the implementation of the European Research Area.

The European Research Area is composed of all research and development activities, programmes and policies in Europe which involve a transnational perspective. Together, they enable researchers, research institutions and businesses to increasingly circulate, compete and co-operate across borders. The aim is to give them access to a Europe-wide open space for knowledge and technologies in which transnational synergies and complementarities are fully exploited.

Source: <http://www.era.gv.at> and http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm

23-24 March 2000

European Council adopts the ‘Lisbon Strategy’

The **Lisbon Strategy**, also known as the **Lisbon Agenda** or **Lisbon Process**, was an action and development plan for the European Union between 2000 and 2010.

Its aim was to make the EU "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion," by 2010. It was set out by the European Council in Lisbon in March 2000 and by 2010 most of its goals were not achieved.

The Lisbon Strategy intended to deal with the low productivity and stagnation of economic growth in the EU, through the formulation of various policy initiatives to be taken by all EU member states. The broader objectives set out by the Lisbon strategy are to be attained by 2010.

Key concepts of the Lisbon Strategy include those of the knowledge economy, innovation, techno-economic paradigms, technology governance, and the "open method of coordination" (OMC).

Source: *Wikipedia*

1 January 2002

Introduction of the EURO

The euro was established by the provisions in the 1992 Maastricht Treaty. In order to participate in the currency, Member States are meant to meet strict criteria such as a budget deficit of less than three per cent of their GDP, a debt ratio of less than sixty per cent of GDP, low inflation, and interest rates close to the EU average.

The currency was introduced in non-physical form (traveller's cheques, electronic transfers, banking, etc.) at midnight on 1 January 1999, when the national currencies of participating countries (the eurozone) ceased to exist independently. Their exchange rates were locked at fixed rates against each other, effectively making them mere non-decimal subdivisions of the euro. The euro thus became the successor to the European Currency Unit (ECU). The notes and coins for the old currencies, however, continued to be used as legal tender until new euro notes and coins were introduced on 1 January 2002.

Source: *Wikipedia*

15-16 March 2002

European Council in Barcelona sets a target for EU R&D investment intensity to approach 3% of GDP (known as the ‘Barcelona target’)

In March 2000, at the Lisbon European Council, Heads of State and Government set the European Union the goal of becoming “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion” by 2010.

Two years later at the Barcelona European Council, which reviewed progress towards the Lisbon goal, they agreed that **Research and Technological Development (RTD) investment in the EU must be increased with the aim of approaching 3% of GDP by 2010**, up from 1,9 % in 2000. They also called for an increase of the level of business funding, which should rise from its current level of 56 % to two-thirds of total RTD investment, a proportion already achieved in the US and in a few European countries.

However, since the 3% goal was set in 2002, **progress has remained too slow**. Yet many concrete measures have been taken by the European Union, as well as by countries and regions, to increase investment in research, which make the "3% objective" a very much alive and exciting venture.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/index_en.htm

5 February 2005

Commission President Barroso puts forward the idea of establishing a European Institute of Technology (EIT)

The initial concept for a *European Institute of Technology* was based on the example of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and its combination of world class education, research, and deep engagement in effective innovation processes. However in July 2007, the European Parliament approved the plan under a new name of "European Institute of innovation and Technology", to emphasise its innovation aspect.

In its proposal for an EIT the European Commission put forward a two-level structure which combines both a bottom-up and a top-down approach: a governance structure which is based on a Governing Board (GB) and Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). It appears that the project will mainly operate by building networks of pre-existent universities and research institutions, without building any new education or research institution and without granting EU diplomas.

On 18 June 2008, Budapest, Hungary was chosen by the EU nations to host the headquarters of the Governing Board of the Institute.

The first three Knowledge and Innovation Communities were nominated by the EIT Governing Board on 16 December 2009:

- The KIC on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption, Climate-KIC with the Co-location centres: London, Zurich, Berlin metropolitan area, Paris metropolitan area, Randstad metropolitan area.
- The KIC on Sustainable Energy, KIC InnoEnergy with the Co-location centers: Karlsruhe, Kraków, Grenoble, Eindhoven/Leuven, Barcelona, Stockholm.
- The KIC on the Future Information and Communication Society, EIT ICT Labs with the Co-location centres: Berlin, Eindhoven, Helsinki, Paris and Stockholm.

Source: Wikipedia

6 April 2005

The European Commission announces its proposal for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)

The European Commission announced its proposals for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for EU research on 6 April 2005, accompanied by a Communication, 'Building the ERA of knowledge for growth' setting out the policy objectives.

This original proposal asked for a budget of 72 726 million Euro for FP7, and for the first time a duration of seven years instead of four that its predecessors had. It took more than 19 months for the co-decision process of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to finally adopt the 7th Framework Programme on 18 December 2006, finally limiting the budget to 50 521 million Euro, a reduction of more than 30% of the original proposal.

Source: CORDIS (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/roadmap_en.html)

The European Commission announces its proposal for the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

With small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as its main target, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) supports innovation activities (including eco-innovation), provides better access to finance and delivers business support services in the regions.

It encourages a better take-up and use of information and communication technologies (ICT) and helps to develop the information society. It also promotes the increased use of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

The CIP runs from 2007 to 2013 with **an overall budget of € 3 621 million** and is **divided into three operational programmes**.

Each programme has its specific objectives, aimed at contributing to the competitiveness of enterprises and their innovative capacity in their own areas, such as ICT or sustainable energy:

- The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)
- The Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP)
- The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)

Source: europa.eu (http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm)

13 September 2006

Commission publishes its ‘broad-based innovation strategy’ Communication

The main objective of the Communication was to lay down a framework for promoting all types of innovation and encouraging the development of innovation-friendly lead markets. The EU has exceptional innovation potential, however this potential is under-exploited and the European regulatory and economic framework is not conducive enough to innovation.

The European Union has already taken significant steps:

- the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs of 2005 sets out policies and reforms to make Europe's regulatory and economic framework more innovation-friendly;
- the Commission Communication of October 2005 "**More Research and Innovation**" sets out a programme of 19 fields of action for the EU and the Member States;
- the **National Reform Programmes**, based on the Integrated Guidelines of the 2005 Lisbon Strategy, encourage the Member States to take targeted measures to promote innovation, using the Structural Funds.

In spite of these initiatives, the EU economy is still not the innovative world economy that it should be. The report "Creating an Innovative Europe" (the Aho report) recommends urgent action to better exploit the EU's innovation potential. According to the report, the business environment must be made more innovation-friendly.

Against this background, the Communication is designed to:

- provide a framework for discussions on innovation at national and European level;
- identify new areas for action;
- introduce a strategy to facilitate the creation and marketing of new innovative products and services in promising areas.

Source:

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/employment_and_social_policy/growth_and_jobs/i23035_en.htm

18 December 2006

Seventh Framework Programme is adopted

The complete name of FP7 is *7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development*. It will last for seven years from 2007 until 2013. The programme has a total budget of over € 50 billion. FP7 is a key tool to respond to Europe's needs in terms of jobs and competitiveness, and to maintain leadership in the global knowledge economy.

This money will (for the most part) be spent on grants to research actors all over Europe and beyond, in order to co-finance research, technological development and demonstration projects. Grants are determined on the basis of calls for proposals and a peer review process, which are highly competitive.

The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) bundles all research-related EU initiatives together under a common roof playing a crucial role in reaching the goals of growth, competitiveness and employment; along with a new Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), Education and Training programmes, and Structural and Cohesion Funds for regional convergence and competitiveness. It is also a key pillar for the European Research Area (ERA).

The broad objectives of FP7 have been grouped into four categories: Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities. For each type of objective, there is a specific programme corresponding to the main areas of EU research policy. All specific programmes work together to promote and encourage the creation of European poles of (scientific) excellence.

The non-nuclear research activities of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) are grouped under a specific programme with individual budget allocation.

Source: Cordis (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/understand_en.html)

4 April 2007

Green Paper on ERA is published

With the Green Paper on the European Research Area (ERA), the European Commission launched a broad institutional and public debate on what should be done to create a unified and attractive European Research Area, which would fulfil the needs and expectations of the scientific community, business and citizens.

The debate was open to everyone with an interest in the realisation of a European knowledge society. In particular, the Commission expected to receive responses from research institutions (including universities), researchers, industry, civil society organisations, national and regional public authorities as well as the general public.

The Green Paper is set out along 6 main axes:

1. Adequate flow of competent researchers, with high levels of mobility between institutions, disciplines, sectors & countries;

2. World class research infrastructures, integrated, networked & accessible to research teams from across Europe & the world, notably thanks to new generations of electronic communication infrastructures;
3. Excellent research institutions, engaged in effective public-private co-operation and partnerships, forming the core of research and innovation clusters including virtual research communities. Such clusters & communities would be mostly specialised in interdisciplinary areas and would attract a critical mass of human & financial resources;
4. Effective knowledge-sharing notably between public research & industry, as well as with the public at large;

5. Well-coordinated research programmes & priorities, including significant jointly-programmed public research investment at European level with common priorities, coordinated implementation & joint evaluation;
6. Opening the European Research Area to the world with special emphasis on neighbouring countries & a strong commitment to addressing global challenges with Europe's partners.

Source: europa.eu (http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm)

30 May 2008

The 'Ljubljana Process' is initiated, aiming to overcome fragmentation and build a strong ERA

At the informal meeting of research ministers in Brdo, Slovenia, in April 2008, participants agreed that the European Research Area could only be realised with improved management and under consideration of the areas of education and innovation as well as all players. Ministers therefore proposed a process of endorsed governance of the ERA, the so called "Ljubljana Process". This process had as its aim to achieve a consensus between Member States for a new political governance of the European Research Area by the end of 2009.

The ultimate aim of the Ljubljana Process is to establish "the fundamental role of ERA as a primary pillar for the Lisbon objectives and as an engine for driving the competitiveness of Europe".

Source: era.gv.at (<http://www.era.gv.at/space/11442/directory/11475.html>)

17 July 2008

Commission publishes Communication on “Joint Programming”

Joint Programming - a concept introduced by the European Commission in July 2008 - is one of the five initiatives for implementing the European Research Area (ERA).

The aim of *Joint Programming* is to increase the value of relevant national and EU R&D funding by concerted and joint planning, implementation and evaluation of national research programmes. Even common financing could be considered in this context.

Within the concept of *Joint Programming*, Member States shall coordinate national research activities, bundle resources, benefit from complementarities and develop common research agendas, in order to face the grand societal challenges – all in variable geometry and therefore on a voluntary basis.

Joint Programming intends to tackle the challenges that cannot be solved solely on the national level and allows Member States to participate in those joint initiatives that seem useful for them.

Source: era.gv.at (<http://www.era.gv.at/space/11442/directory/11767.html>)

2 December 2008

Council concludes on the definition of a "2020 Vision for the European Research Area"

All Member States and the Commission agreed on a shared vision of how the European Research Area should develop by 2020. This vision was adopted by the Council of Ministers in December 2008. Since then, work is going on to make the vision a reality.

By adopting the [2020 Vision for ERA](#), Member States and the Commission agreed to develop ERA in ways that contribute to the sustainable development and competitiveness of Europe.

According to the opening statement of the vision, by 2020, all players should benefit from:

- The "fifth freedom" across the ERA: free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology;
- Attractive conditions for carrying out research and investing in R&D intensive sectors in Europe; and
- Healthy Europe-wide scientific competition, together with the appropriate level of cooperation and coordination.

Source: europa.eu (http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm)

10 June 2010

European Council adopts “Europe 2020” strategy

Europe 2020 is the successor of the Lisbon Strategy, which expired in 2010.

The aim of the EUROPE 2020 strategy is to turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy, delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion.

EUROPE 2020 puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:

- Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation.
- Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource-efficient, greener and more competitive economy.
- Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

To this end, the Commission proposes the following EU headline targets:

- 75% of the population aged 20-64 should be employed.
- 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D.
- The "20/20/20"¹ climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right).
- The share of early school leavers should be below 10%, and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree.
- 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.

Source: *era.gv.at* (<http://www.era.gv.at/space/11442/directory/11486.html>)

30 November 2011

Publication of Commission proposal on Horizon 2020

On 30 November 2011 the European Commission proposed a package of measures called Horizon 2020 which brings together all EU research and innovation funding under a single programme. Horizon 2020 includes the programme for research and innovation, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), and the innovation-related parts of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP).

¹ The „20/20/20“ Target refers to a reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions of at least 20% below 1990 levels, 20% of EU energy consumption to come from renewable resources, A 20% reduction in primary energy use compared with projected levels, to be achieved by improving energy efficiency.

Horizon 2020 will focus on three key objectives:

- Part I “Excellent science”;
- Part II “Industrial leadership”;
- Part III “Societal challenges”.

17 July 2012

Communication on ERA framework

'ERA Framework' indicates a set of measures appropriate to complete the European Research Area by 2014. It should be delivered due to the need to keep Europe as a global player in research by building excellence and enhancing efficiency.

The Innovation Union commitment n^o4 states that in 2012 *"the Commission will propose an ERA Framework and supporting measures to remove obstacles to mobility and cross-border co-operation, aiming for them to be in force by end 2014."* The European Council of 4 February 2011 endorsed the objective of completing ERA by 2014. There is also a strengthened legal basis for ERA in the Treaty of Lisbon. It mentions ERA as a means to achieve the objective of strengthening the EU's scientific and technological basis.

On 18 July 2012, the European Commission published a Communication on "A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership". It is based on a public consultation (autumn 2011) and on an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of Europe's research systems. Taking these into account and considering the overall objective of inducing lasting step-changes in Europe's research performance and effectiveness by 2014, the ERA priorities are:

- More **effective national research systems** – including increased competition within national borders and sustained or greater investment in research
- Optimal **transnational co-operation** and competition - defining and implementing common research agendas on grand challenges, raising quality through Europe-wide open competition, and constructing and running effectively key research infrastructures on a pan-European basis
- An **open labour market for researchers** - to ensure the removal of barriers to researcher mobility, training and attractive careers

- **Gender equality** and gender mainstreaming in research – to end the waste of talent which we cannot afford and to diversify views and approaches in research and foster excellence
- Optimal **circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge**

The **external dimension** is a cross-cutting and integral part of ERA. It will be addressed later in 2012 as part of a separate Communication on a strategic approach to enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation.

Source: era.gv.at (<http://www.era.gv.at/space/11442/directory/24389.html>)

26 June 2013

Agreement on "HORIZON 2020" reached

Today an agreement was reached between the Presidency of the Council and the European Parliament representatives on the "Horizon 2020" programme for research and innovation for the years 2014 to 2020. The agreement paves the way for the formal adoption of the "Horizon 2020" legislative package by the European Parliament and the Council through a vote in the coming months.

Horizon 2020, which has a budget of around 70 billion euros, will underpin the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs, as well as the goal of strengthening the scientific and technological bases by contributing to achieving a European Research Area in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely.

Horizon 2020 focuses on three priorities, namely generating excellent science in order to strengthen the Union's world-class scientific excellence and make the Union research and innovation system more competitive, fostering industrial leadership to speed up the development of technologies that will support businesses and innovation, including for small companies, and tackling societal challenges in order to respond to the priorities identified in the Europe 2020 strategy by supporting activities covering the entire chain from research to market.

The Horizon 2020 legislative package is made up of:

- a regulation establishing the Horizon 2020 framework programme,
- a decision establishing the specific programme laying down the implementation modalities of Horizon 2020,
- a regulation laying down the rules for participation and the dissemination of results, and
- two proposals on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT): an amending regulation and a decision setting out its strategic innovation agenda, which includes the priority fields for the new Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC's).

Moreover, it includes a separate regulation on the Euratom (European Atomic Energy Community) programme (2014-2018), which supplements Horizon 2020 for research activities in the fields of nuclear energy and radiation protection.

Source: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/press> – accessed 23.09.2013
(http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/138118.pdf)

14 February 2014

2014 EIT Call for Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) proposals published

Following the adoption of the Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) and the EIT's amended Regulation by the European Parliament and Council in December 2013, the EIT's 2014 Call for Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) proposals has been published on 14 February 2014.

As established in the EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) and Horizon 2020, the two new KICs to be established in 2014 address the thematic fields of:

- Innovation for healthy living and active ageing
- Raw materials: sustainable exploration, extraction, processing, recycling and substitution.

During the period from 2014 to 2020, the EIT will contribute to the general objectives of Horizon 2020, by integrating the entrepreneurship-driven 'Knowledge Triangle' of higher education, research and business in order to deliver disruptive innovation.

To further enhance its impact and to incentivise the innovations needed to meet new societal challenges, the EIT will, as established in the EIT Regulation and Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA), gradually expand its portfolio of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs).

The KICs offer a genuine opportunity for top innovation players to be part of a highly collaborative community, based on principles of excellence and commitment, which will achieve pan-European impact. KICs are organised according to business logic, with a focus on people and talent as drivers of innovation and a lean and efficient governance and business model. The interrelation of these elements within a KIC provides the optimal framework for achieving long-lasting structural, economic and societal impact, and the creation of high-quality jobs in Europe.

Source: <http://eit.europa.eu/kics/2014-call-for-kics/> – accessed 09.05.2014

29 May 2015

EU Council adopts European Research Area roadmap 2015-2010

In its conclusions, the Council endorsed a roadmap for the European Research Area (ERA) and set out the next steps to improve its governance.

The purpose of the roadmap, which covers the years 2015 to 2020, is to identify and focus on measures that can provide the greatest benefits for Europe's science, research and innovation systems.

Those measures are to be anchored in the key priorities agreed for the ERA, which are: more effective national research systems; optimal transnational co-operation and competition; an open labour market for researchers; gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research; and optimal circulation and transfer of scientific knowledge, including via a digital ERA. International cooperation in research is considered a sixth priority.

The Council adopted a separate set of conclusions on reviewing ERA governance to make the advisory structure of the ERA more efficient and effective.

The advisory work for the development of the ERA is currently undertaken by the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC) and a number of other ERA-related groups which include: the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), the Strategic Forum for International Science and Technology Cooperation (SFIC), the High Level Group on Joint Programming (GPC), the Helsinki Group on Gender in Research and Innovation (HG), the ERA Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility (SGHRM) and the ERAC working group on knowledge transfer (KT).

The ERA is the cornerstone of the Innovation Union flagship initiative to address major challenges in society. It is also a crucial component of the EU's strategy for growth and jobs..

Source: Conclusions of the Competitiveness Council's meeting of 28-29 May 2015 ([st9385/15](#))

22 June 2015

Commissioner Moedas presents "Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World" priorities

Speaking at the ERA conference "A new start for Europe: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation" in Brussels (22-23 June 2015), Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, highlighted the importance of open science and open innovation which very much also involved user innovation and where "new knowledge is created through global collaborations involving thousands of people from across the world and from all walks of life".

The Commissioner therefore called for drawing up "a new path for European research and innovation policy", fit for an open, digital and global environment. With regard to the European Research Area (ERA), which was started 15 years ago, he appreciated the progress that has already been made, e.g. with regard to cross-border research cooperation or researcher mobility.

While appreciating diversity and great institutions as European strengths, the Commissioner also saw three major challenges for this next ERA chapter: succeeding better in getting research results to market; adapting to the revolution in the way science works, becoming an open, collaborative and participative process; and for Europe to have a more active voice in global science debates to match its collective scientific importance. These challenges would have to be met by making Open Innovation, Open Science and Openness to the World Europe's strategic priorities.

Concluding, the Commissioner emphasised that "This new Innovation ERA must be based on actions and not words. ... Research and innovation must take a long term perspective and not be trapped by the past. And we must make sure that each one of our actions brings in new entrants, young researchers, dynamic entrepreneurs, and people who have never been involved in European research and innovation."

Source: <https://era.gv.at/object/news/1893> (accessed on 17/06/2016)