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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No.101131556



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# INSPIRING ERA

Breathing new life into the  
European Research Area

Warsaw, 28.10.2025

# Introduction to the European Research Area



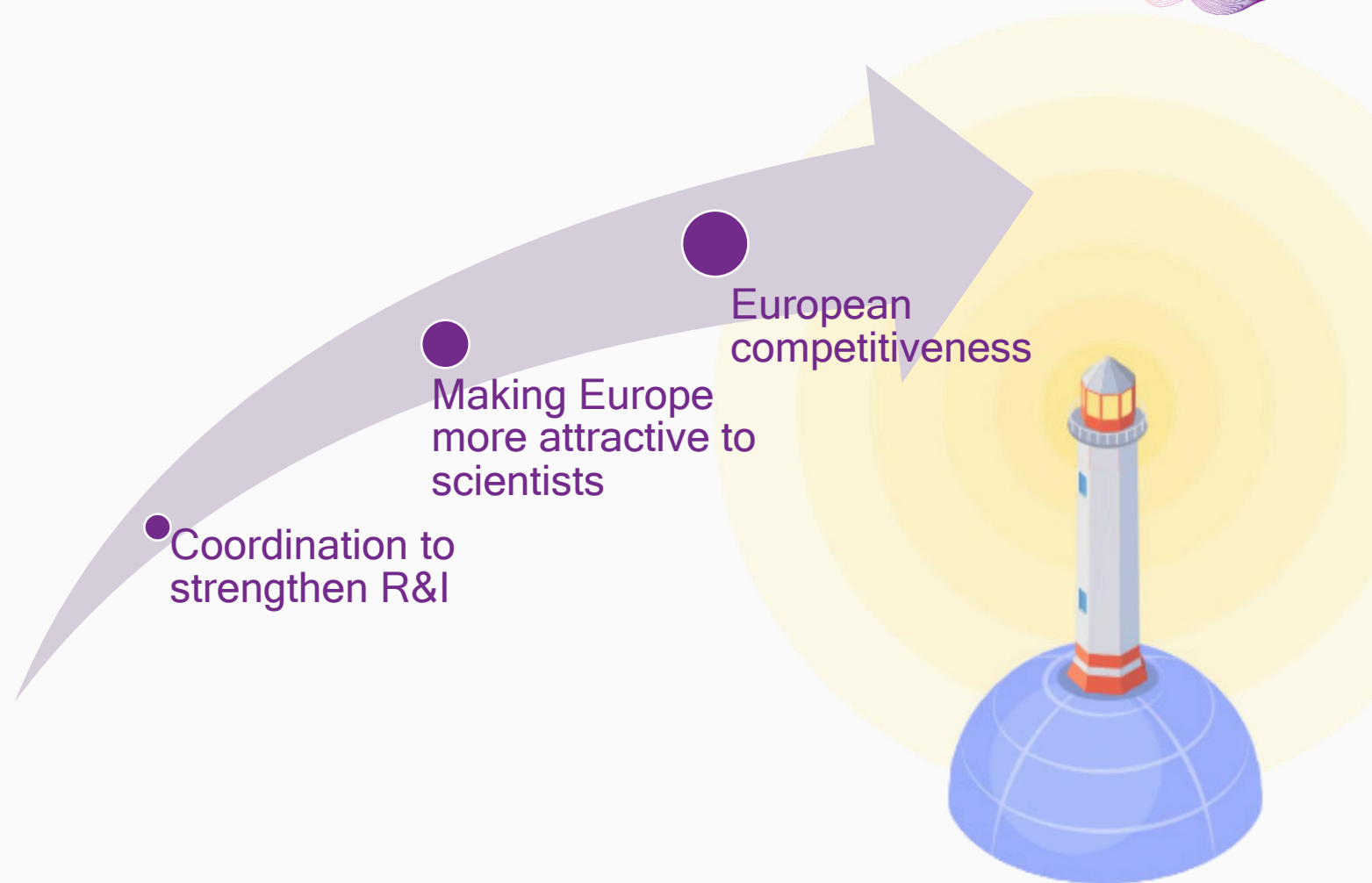
## European Research Area (ERA)

Creating a **single market** for  
**research and innovation**  
towards a **free circulation** of  
**researchers, knowledge and**  
**innovation**

Launched in 2000 by the  
European Commission.

**25th anniversary in 2025**

Its role in **fostering collaboration**  
between EU countries



# Objectives of the ERA



- ➡ Free movement of researchers, knowledge, and technology
- ➡ Strengthening research institutions and infrastructure
- ➡ Enhancing cooperation between public and private sectors
- ➡ Increasing investment in research and development (R&D)



# Governance of the ERA



- **European Commission (EC):** Leading policy development and funding strategies
- **ERA Forum:** Advisory body coordinating ERA implementation with Member States
- **Council of the European Union:** Setting research priorities and policy adoption
- **European Parliament:** Oversight of research legislation and funding allocation
- **National Governments & Research Agencies:** Implementation at the national level
- **Stakeholders (Universities, industries, NGOs, researchers):** Contributing to policy discussions
- **ERA Policy Development & Decision-Making Process:**
  - How research priorities are set
  - Implementation through EU Framework Programs (e.g., Horizon Europe)
  - Coordination between EU and national policies



# Key Components of the ERA



**Open Science:** Promoting open access to scientific publications and data



**Research Mobility & Career Development:** Encouraging cross-border movement of researchers



**Infrastructure & Funding:** Development of high-quality research facilities and funding mechanisms



**International Cooperation:** Partnering with non-EU countries on global scientific challenges

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## 4 Priorities of the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe

Deepening a truly functioning internal market for knowledge



Taking up together the challenges posed by the twin green and digital transition, and increasing society's participation in the ERA

Amplifying access to research and innovation excellence across the Union



Advancing concerted research and innovation investments and reforms



# 4 Priorities of the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe

## 8 ERA Actions & 11 Structural Policies of the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027

|                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Deepening a truly functioning internal market for knowledge</b></p>                         | <p><b>ERA Action 1:</b> Equity in open science</p> <p><b>ERA Action 2:</b> Advancing the European Science for Policy (S4P) ecosystem</p> <p><b>ERA Action 3:</b> Facilitating and accelerating the responsible use of AI in science in the EU</p> <p><b>ERA Action 4:</b> Enhancing research security</p>                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>Structural Policy 1:</b> Equity in open science</p> <p><b>Structural Policy 2:</b> Research infrastructures</p> <p><b>Structural Policy 3:</b> Gender equality, equal opportunities for all and inclusiveness</p> <p><b>Structural Policy 4:</b> Researchers' careers and mobility</p> <p><b>Structural Policy 5:</b> Research assessment and reward systems</p> <p><b>Structural Policy 6:</b> Knowledge valorisation</p> <p><b>Structural Policy 7:</b> Global engagement</p> |
| <p><b>Taking up together the green and digital transitions, and other societal challenges</b></p> | <p><b>ERA Action 5:</b> Accelerating R&amp;I investments for Europe's industrial transformation and competitive sustainability</p> <p><b>ERA Action 6:</b> Accelerating new approach methodologies (NAMs) to advance biomedical research and testing of medicinal products and medical devices</p> <p><b>ERA Action 7:</b> A harmonised and coordinated framework for a European approach to integrity and ethics in R&amp;I in the face of emerging challenges</p> | <p><b>Structural Policy 8:</b> Challenge-based initiatives</p> <p><b>Structural Policy 9:</b> Synergies with education and the European Skills Agenda</p> <p><b>Structural Policy 10:</b> An active citizen and societal engagement in R&amp;I</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p><b>Enhancing access to excellent research and innovation for all</b></p>                       | <p><b>ERA Action 8:</b> Empowering R&amp;I: A new era in research management.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Structural Policy 11:</b> synergies between EU, national and regional funding programmes</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p><b>Advancing concerted investments and reforms in R&amp;I</b></p>                              | <p>There is <b>no specific ERA action</b> proposed under this objective but it is widely acknowledged that boosting R&amp;I investments and adopting structural reforms remains a key priority for the European Commission and the Member States to work closely together using a set of existing instruments.</p>                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

# ERA and Horizon Europe



- How Horizon Europe (2021-2027) supports ERA goals
- Funding opportunities for researchers and institutions
- Key areas of focus: Green Deal, digital transformation, health, etc.

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# Achievements and Impact of the ERA



- **Success stories** of European research collaborations
- **Growth** in research funding and investment
- The role of ERA in responding to **global challenges** (e.g., climate change, COVID-19 research)
- Enhanced **research mobility** and **knowledge-sharing initiatives**
- **Facts and figures**

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# Challenges in the ERA



- Persistent **funding disparities** among EU countries
- **Bureaucratic hurdles** and **complex regulations**
- Balancing **national interests** with EU-level policy coordination
- Addressing **brain drain** and **retaining research talent**



# Future of the ERA



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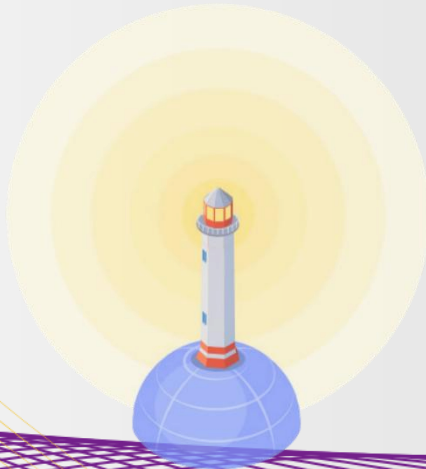
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# European Research Area

- Facilitate and encourage the effective execution of the ERA Policy Agenda
- Disseminate results and knowledge gained from ERA Actions to a broader audience
- Promote mutual learning and collaboration among practitioners within the community



- Information HUB
- Reports
- Factsheets
- Recommendations and Guidelines
- INSPIRING ERA Exchanges & mutual learning





INSPIRING ERA and it's mission



What we do and how we work



Who we reach



Topics we currently work on



Join the ERA community!

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# What is INSPIRING ERA?



Bringing the European Research Area (ERA) closer to its research community

A Horizon Europe project running until December 2026.

## Our objectives

- ➡ Support the successful implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda
- ➡ Disseminate results and lessons learned from ERA Actions
- ➡ Facilitate mutual learning and exchange
- ➡ Build an ERA community across the whole Europe

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# Our Mission



We make ERA outcomes:



## Visible

Showcasing tools,  
services & policies



## Understandable

Explaining what policies  
mean in practice



## Usable

Helping researchers and  
institutions apply ERA  
outcomes in daily work

INSPIRING ERA ensures that **ERA policies** are **understood**, **applied**, and **improved** through practical engagement and structured feedback. By enabling mutual learning and community building, we help make ERA a lived reality for the people it's designed to serve.

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# What we do



- Create **tailored communication materials / factsheets** that simplify ERA for practitioners
- Run **online and in-person events** to share knowledge and build networks
- **Gather insights from practitioners** about how ERA is working in real-world settings
- **Identify needs, challenges & good practices** and share them through policy briefs & recommendation

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# How we work - a Two-Way Bridge



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# How we work - a Two-Way Bridge



## **Policy → Practice**

Disseminate and explain ERA outcomes through practical resources and events

## **Practice → Policy:**

Collect feedback, challenges & success stories from the ground

We work in collaboration with the European Commission, ERA Forum, and other relevant EU projects, initiatives and networks.

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# Who we reach



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# Topics we currently work on



Research  
Assessment



Gender Equality



Knowledge valorization\*



Research Careers



Open Science



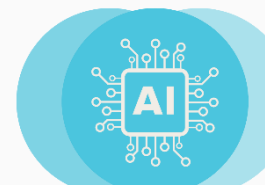
Research management\*



Science,  
society & citizens



Academic freedom



AI in science\*

\*Focus 2026

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# Join the ERA Community!



- ➔ Stay informed about ERA developments that impact research and innovation
- ➔ Access expert insights, resources and practical tools
- ➔ Take part in online events and mutual learning exchanges
- ➔ Receive regular news, updates, and opportunities via our newsletter



[www.inspiring-era.eu/join-the-era-community/](http://www.inspiring-era.eu/join-the-era-community/)

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