

Online event on research management

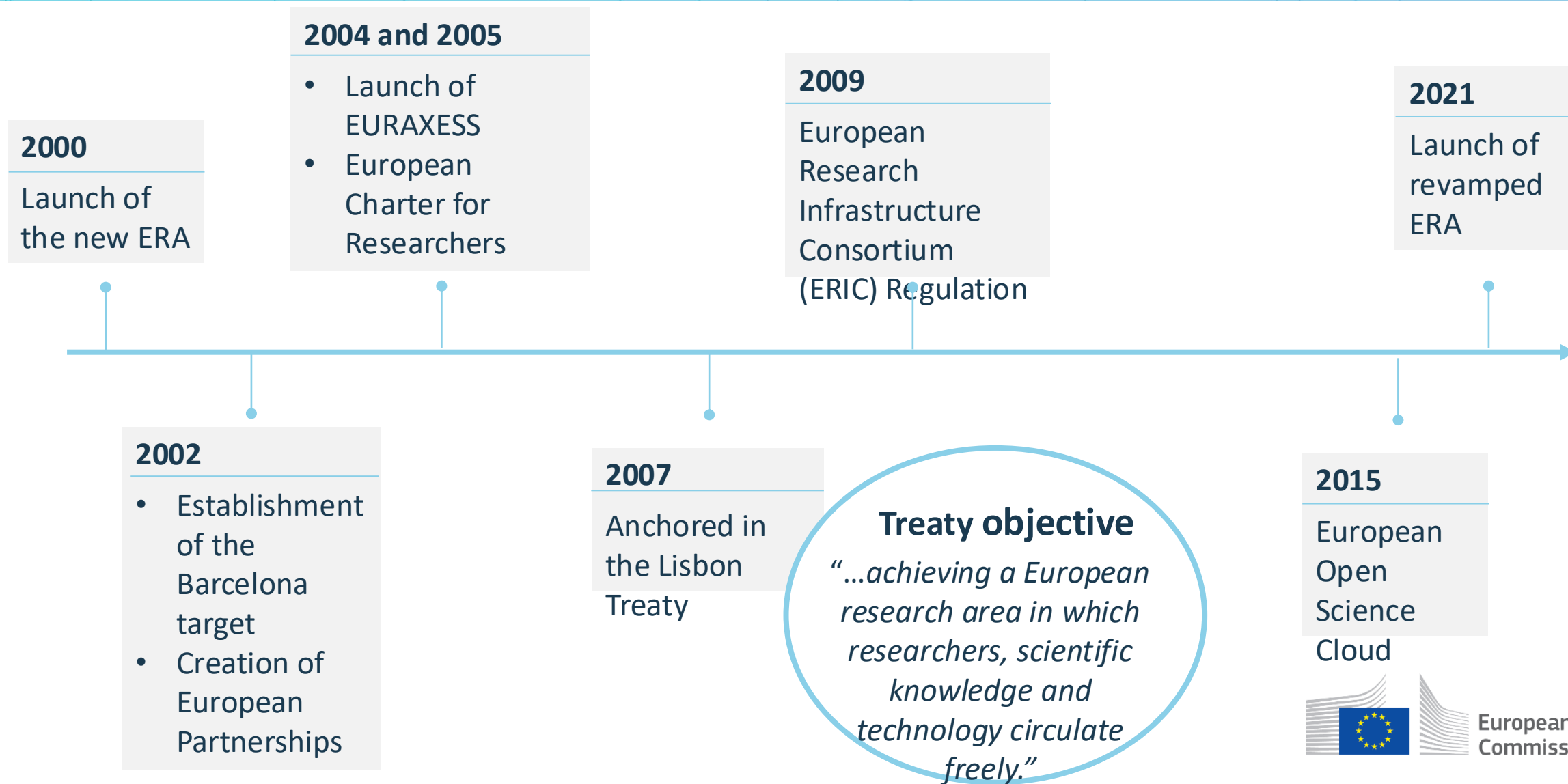
Research management in the ERA: policy context and strategic relevance

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ERA timeline



Broader Framework of ERA Policy Instruments



ERA in Horizon Europe

- Grant-based funding framework
- The current WIDERA work programme specifically supports the implementation of the ERA Policy Agendas
- Pillar IV - ERA in Commission proposal for Horizon Europe 2028-2034



ERA Policy Agendas

- Non-binding, collaboration instrument: Council Recommendation (2025-2027) and Council Conclusions (2022-2024)
- **Action 17: Strategic capacity of public RPOs (2022-2024)**
- **An new era in research management (2025-2027)**



ERA Act

- Mission letter of Commissioner Zaharieva
- Legal instrument to tackle enduring issues that are not solved through voluntary measures

Who are research managers?

Broad definition: Research managers enable, facilitate and support the performance of research in all its applications. Research Managers hold generalist or specialized roles within the research and innovation ecosystem and work in all possible types of research performing and research funding organisations.

Enablers in the R&I ecosystem: Research management sits at the intersection of academic, administrative, and leadership work. They work in multifaceted and complex job roles, for example, financial management or innovation management.

Feedback from surveys: The majority of research managers are between 35 and 54 years old, half of them have spent at least 10 years in the profession and three-quarters are women. They are highly educated as 43.42% hold a PhD, while 46.47% hold Master's degrees (RM Roadmap, CARDEA and RAAAP).

Strategic capacity of public RPOs: Some outcomes of the first ERA action 2022-2024



Success Stories from the Research Management Community

A catalogue of best-practices + short video series



Research Manager Competence Framework (RM Comp)

Definition of key skills and knowledge for research management



CARDEA Academy

Resources for research managers at all career stages



Community-building and overarching roadmap

Core of the first action and guidance in next implementation

Outcomes of the second ERA action 2025-2027

Objectives: Recognition, Upskilling, Networking and Capacity Building



Awareness campaign in Member States and uptake of the RM Competence framework



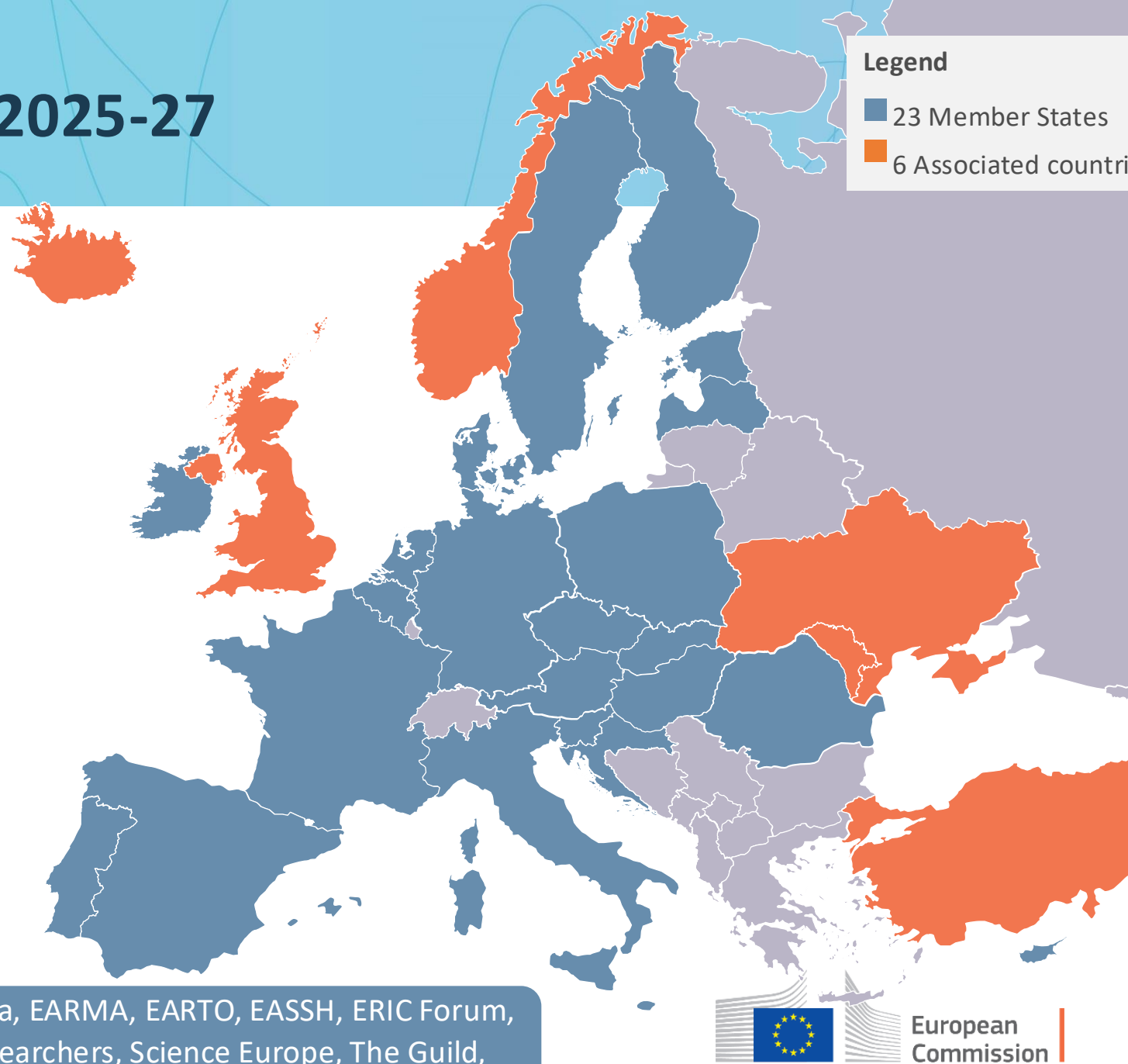
Launching a centralised hub that collects educational and upskilling material as well as to training and certification programmes



Analysing the role of research management in selected actions funded under the “widening” part to the Horizon Europe

Advancement of ERA action 2025-27

- Supported by **23 Member States**
- Research Managers as enablers of other ERA activities
- Importance of Horizon Europe projects: **RM Framework**



13 stakeholder groups: Aurora, Coimbra, EARMA, EARTO, EASSH, ERIC Forum, EUA, EU-Life, EURASHE, Individual researchers, Science Europe, The Guild, YERUN

Thank you!

Find out more: Download the factsheet
or go to the ERA Policy Platform.



1. Why does research management matter?

As research and innovation become more complex and expectations for societal impact increase, skilled research managers are essential to support effective research processes and the implementation of key European Research Area (ERA) priorities. The Commission's strategic priorities for 2024-2029 place research and innovation at the centre of the EU's economy to secure its long-term competitiveness and strategic autonomy. Strengthening research

management capacity helps connect actors and activities, ensuring a more resilient and effective European research and innovation ecosystem. The ERA actions on research management have been designed to strengthen the strategic capacity for performing and research-funding Europe. This factsheet offers a brief overview of these objectives are pursued.

Where research management can make the difference*

- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Policy alignment
- Impact and knowledge transfer as well as valorisation of results
- Resource acquisition and allocation
- Shaping the governance and strategy of their organisations

- Accountability and compliance
- Interoperability and flexibility
- Talent development and research
- Research infrastructure management

*See RM Roadmap project deliverable "Research as a strategic opportunity for strengthening RMI ecosystem" Roadmap, 31.08.2025

