

ZÁPIS: IGLO Open on European Research Area: Communication and Way Forward

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European Research Area (ERA)

The **European Research Area (ERA)** was launched in 2000 and will soon mark its 25th anniversary. It has also been 15 years since ERA was formally recognized as an EU objective under **Article 179 of the TFEU**. Four years ago, ERA was revamped through the [Pact for Research and Innovation](#), aiming to address challenges, while also supporting the **twin transition, sustainability, and EU competitiveness**. Despite significant progress, ERA remains an ongoing process with persistent challenges.

Rationale for ERA's Revamp

Progress towards ERA objectives has been slowing, requiring adjustments to better align with new priorities, particularly in response to the COVID-19 crisis and the green and digital transitions. The focus areas are:

1. **Prioritising investments and reforms** – strengthening analysis and simplifying interactions between national and European R&I systems.
2. **Translating R&I results into the economy** – enhancing the environment for business R&I investments.
3. **Improving access to excellence** – reducing the R&I divide and increasing cohesion among Member States (MS), leveraging Horizon Europe measures.
4. **Deepening the ERA** – moving from policy coordination to deeper integration between national policies, fostering connections between actors, and supporting skill development.

ERA Governance and Policy Platform

To support these goals, the **European Research and Innovation Area Committee (ERAC)** was established, along with the **ERA Forum**, the primary implementation body composed of several stakeholder organisations, MS and Associated Countries (AC). A key milestone was the launch of the **ERA Policy Platform in January 2024**, a central hub for ERA governance, including **country reports, interactive maps, scoreboards, dashboards, and document repository**.

Key ERA Deliverables in 2024

- **January** – Launch of the [ERA Policy Platform](#), a one-stop shop for ERA-related developments
- **September** – [ERA Conference: European Research Area: Fostering Greater Integration, Advancing Competitiveness](#)
- **October** – [Commission Communication on the implementation of ERA](#)
- **November** – Finalisation of the 18-month co-creation process for the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-27
- **Throughout 2024** – Completion of the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24



Communication on ERA Implementation (October 2024)

- Reviews changes over the past four years
- Shows progress in the **four strategic ERA objectives** (endorsed by the Council in the Pact for Research and Innovation):
 1. Prioritising investments and reforms
 2. Improving access to excellence
 3. Translating R&I results into the economy
 4. Deepening the ERA
- Identifies remaining barriers and challenges.

ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24: examples of achievements

1. **Research Careers** – [Council recommendation on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe](#); new **European Charter for Researchers**; introduction of [ResearchComp](#), the EU competence framework for researchers.
2. **Gender Equality** – Adoption of the [Zero Tolerance Code of Conduct](#) against **gender-based violence in R&I**; strengthened gender equality measures in **Horizon Europe**.
3. **Industrial Technology & Innovation** – Adoption of [industrial technology roadmaps](#) to strengthen Europe's leadership in key technology areas; proposals to improve the **availability and accessibility of Technology Infrastructures**, accelerating the transition from research to market.

ERA Policy Agenda 2025-27: the Co-Creation Process

- Developed through an **18-month consultation**, starting with **32 proposals from MS, AC, and stakeholders**, followed by surveys, including the [Hungarian Council Conclusions on Strengthening the competitiveness of the EU, reinforcing the European Research Area and overcoming its fragmentation](#).
- **Timeline:**
 - **January 2025** – Launch of interservice consultation.
 - **March 2025** – Adoption of the Commission proposal.
 - **May 2025** – Council negotiation and adoption
- **Structure:**
 1. **Policy Narrative** – Overview of achievements, lessons learned, and future goals.
 2. **Structural Policies** – Focus on for example on **open science, research careers, and systemic reforms**.
 3. **ERA Actions** – Eight concrete actions with **specific deliverables over a three-year period**.
- **Examples of new Actions in ERA 2025-27:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Science, Research Security or Ethics and Integrity



ERA Policy Agenda vs. ERA Act

- **ERA Policy Agenda** (*Council Recommendation*) – A **non-binding instrument** encouraging voluntary collaboration and commitments, with implementation running until **2027**.
- **ERA Act** (*Legislation*) – A **binding legal framework** addressing long-standing issues that cannot be resolved through voluntary cooperation. The **ERA Act aims to enhance the free movement of research, knowledge, and technology (5th Freedom)**.
 - **Development Timeline:**
 - Planning started in **2024**, with adoption expected in **2026**.
 - Drafted in coordination with multiple DGs (e.g. **RTD, EMPL, and EAC**).
 - A **Call for Evidence** will be published on *Have Your Say* for public feedback, followed by a **public consultation and impact assessment**.