



#HorizonEU

**THE EU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME**

2021 – 2027

**Widening Participation
and Strengthening the ERA**

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DG Research and Innovation

Research and
Innovation

Horizon Europe

Pillar 1

Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2

Excellent Science Global
Challenges and European Industrial
Competiveness

- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate Energy and Mobility
- Food Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3

Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation ecosystems

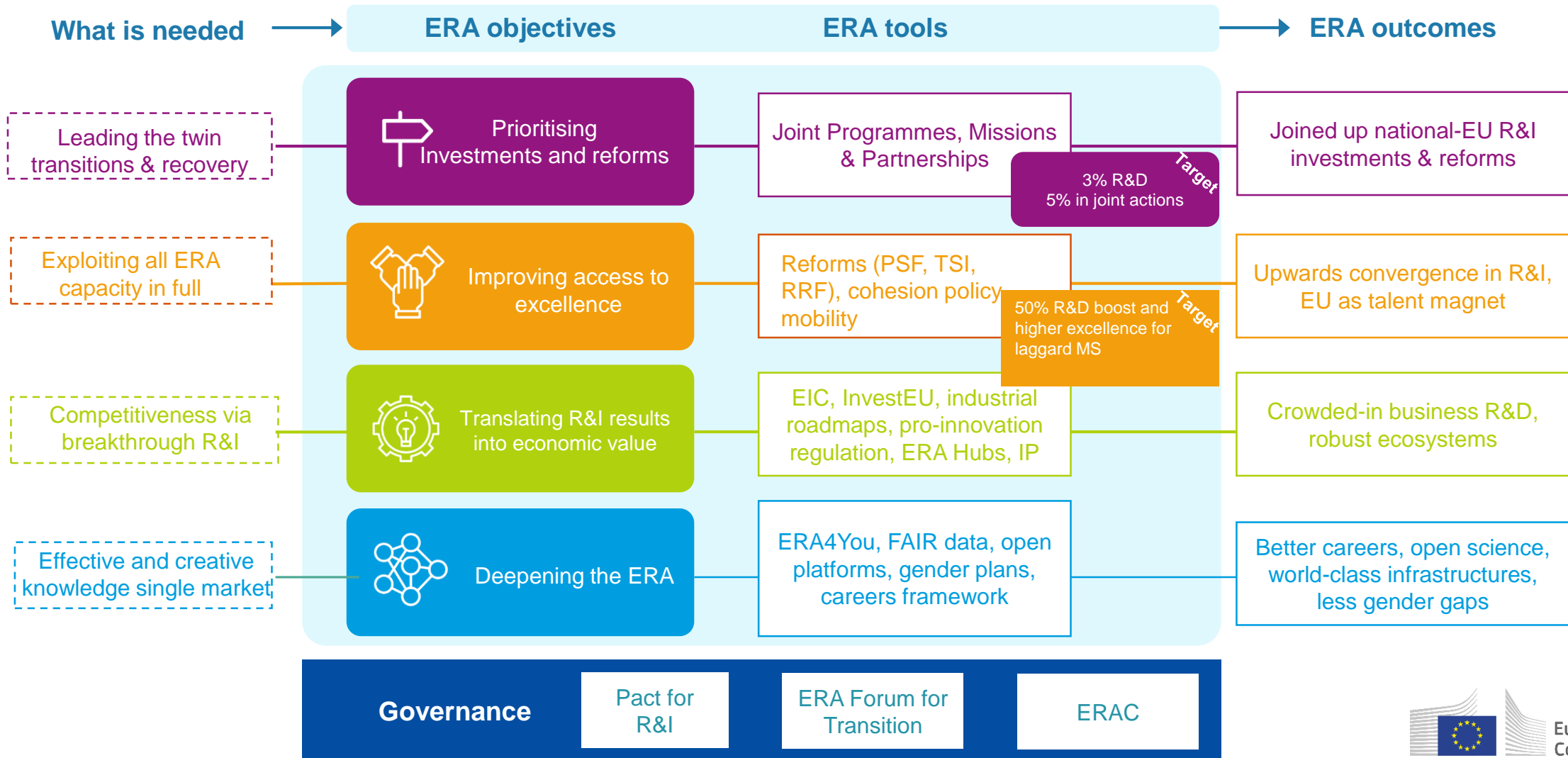
European Institute of Innovation
and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

A stronger ERA for the future



Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA):

Part I: Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

- Reducing the R&I divide
- Encourage institutional reforms and transformation processes of the R&I system
- Mobilise national investments in R&I capacity
- Raise the bar of excellence
- Increase participation
- Promote the creation of new innovation ecosystems and upscaling of existing
- Foster brain circulation

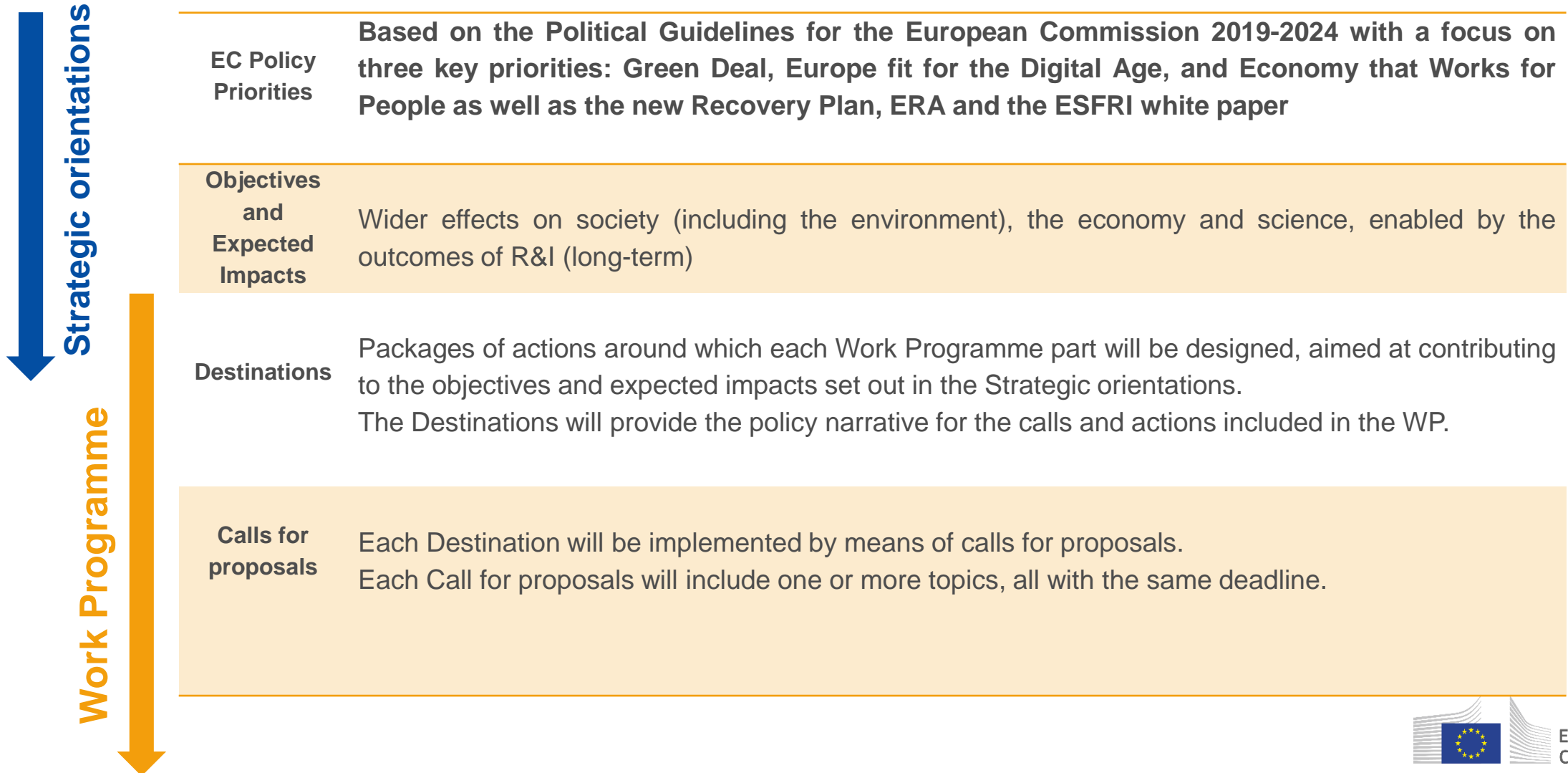
€ 2,96 billion

Part II: Reforming and enhancing the European R&I system

- Sets out to reform and enhance the EU R&I system in line with the four priorities of the ERA Communication
- Support to national R&I policy reform
- Promote researchers careers and open science policy
- Share research output effectively
- Promote ERA principles
- Citizens science and science communication

€ 0,44 billion

Horizon Europe - Towards the first HE WP: definitions and approach



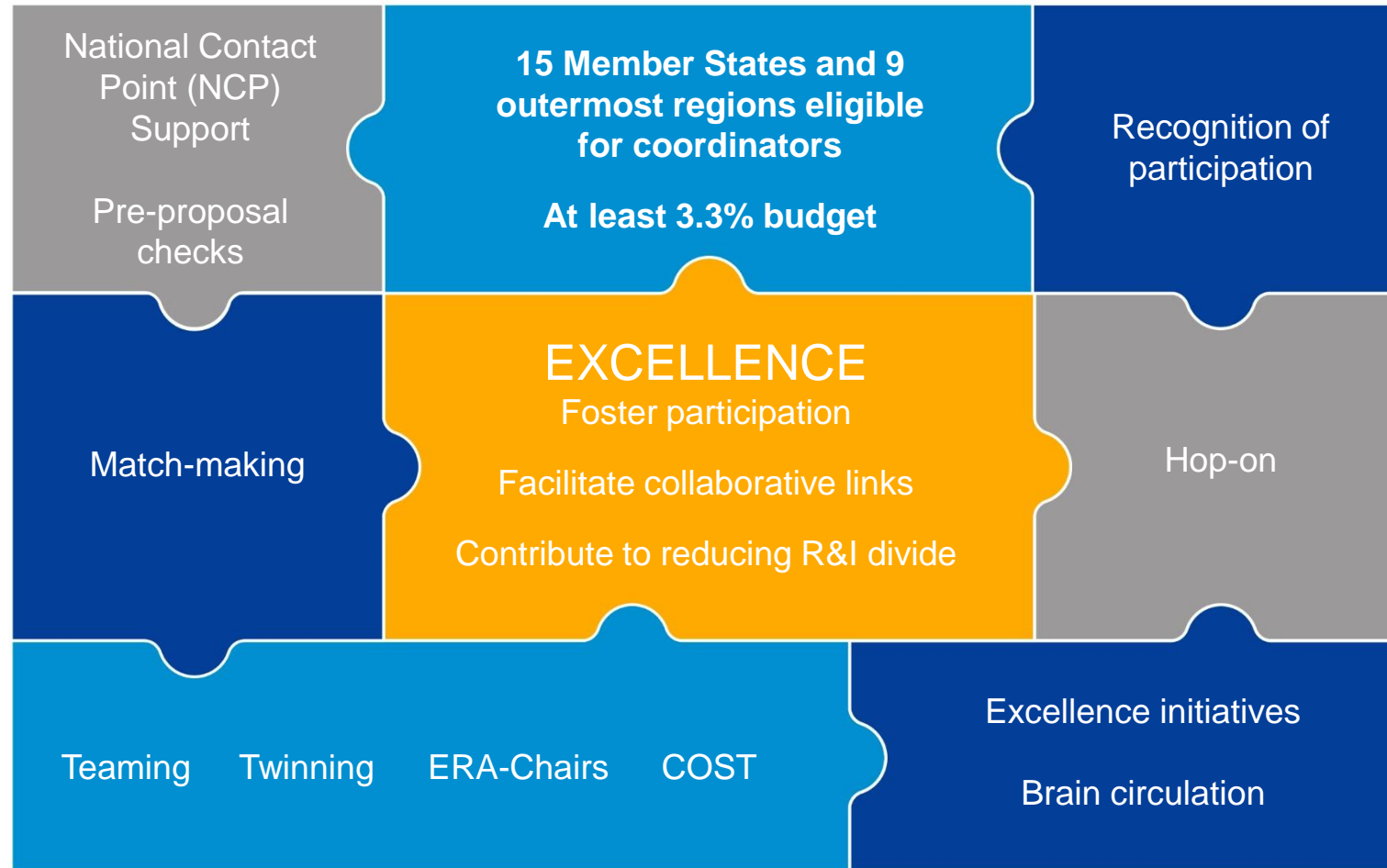
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Widening actions in HE





Widening participation/spreading excellence



Novelties for Widening under Horizon Europe:

- Increased **budget** (3,3% of Horizon Europe)
- Full alignment with **new ERA strategic priorities**
- **Full implementation of “Advancing Europe” package with a number of additional support schemes to boost participation of less research performing countries** (increased support to NCPs, pre-proposal checks, matchmaking)
- **Fixed list of eligible Member States to host the main beneficiary (EU13 + PT + EL) + Associated Countries**
- **EU Outermost Regions fully eligible to host the co-ordinator**
- **Continuation of core widening instruments** Teaming, Twinning and ERA Chairs
- More emphasis on **developing research management capacities**
- **Full integration of COST** under widening, 80% of actions must have significant widening dimension
- More integrated policy approach and **enhanced synergies** with regional policy, transnational missions, regional smart specialisation strategies etc.

Destination #1: Improved access to excellence

Objective: to create a portfolio of complementary actions that will build R&I capacities in Widening countries enabling them to advance to the competitive edge at European and international level.

Main impact:

- Increased science and innovation capacities for all actors in modernised and more competitive R&I systems in widening countries
- Reformed institutions and increased attractiveness for talents
- Higher participation success in Horizon Europe and more consortium leadership roles
- Stronger linkages between academia and business and improved career permeability
- Strengthened role of the Higher Education sector in research and innovation
- Better involvement of regional actors in R&I process
- Improved outreach to international scale for all actors

ACTIONS

- **Teaming**
- **Twinning (incl. special call for Western Balkan Countries)**
- **Excellence Hubs**
- **European Excellence Initiative for Higher Education Institutions**
- **R&I Policy making in Western Balkans**
- **Hop-on facility**
- **COST**

Destination #2: Attracting and mobilising the best talents

Main impacts:

- Inciting institutional reforms in research institutions in widening countries
- Better use existing research infrastructures and populate them with excellent talents
- Attract first-class talents and turn them into game changers in institutions
- Revert brain drain
- Improved linkages between academic and business, notably by overcoming sectoral barriers
- Free circulation of knowledge and expertise in line with ERA priorities

ACTIONS

- ERA Chairs
- Fostering balanced brain circulation: ERA Fellowships
- Fostering balanced brain circulation: ERA Talents

Comparison of key characteristics of Widening actions

Actions in WP	Consortium structure	Target group and scale of operation	Policy objectives
Teaming	Main beneficiary + 1 or 2 strategic advanced partners	Single centre of excellence to be modernised or created, relevant at national scale	Develop light houses and role models to stimulate reforms of national R&I system, increase level of excellence of national R&I system, mobilise new investments
Twinning	Main beneficiary and focused network of partnering organisations	Individual institutions and small network of advanced partnering institutions. Institutional scale with European outreach	Develop excellence in a chosen R&I domain for the main beneficiary with the help of twinning partners, increase visibility of main beneficiary and upskill its staff
ERA Chairs	Mono-beneficiary host organisation with optional single partner organisation	Excellent individuals and their teams, institutional scale	Excellent scientists and their teams to become game changers at institutional level, develop new research strands and raise level of excellence
Excellence hubs	Group of 2 or 3 placed based innovation ecosystems based on the quadruple helix approach	Research institutions, firms, local/regional government, societal actors, local regional scale with cross border dimension	Foster innovation excellence in place based (local/regional) innovation ecosystems, improve science business linkages, regional dimension of widening, bottom-up approach
Excellence Initiative for Higher Education Institutions	Network of European Universities, co-ordinated by university from widening country	Universities at European Level	Support transformation of HE institutions towards excellence and international profile

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European Research Area



#ResearchImpactEU
#EUResearchArea

Destination 3: Reforming and enhancing the European Research & Innovation system

2. Improving access to excellence

- Networking & training for research managers

1. Prioritising investments & reforms

- Support for policy makers, Policy Support Facility, ERA Scoreboard, Support SI presidency



3. Translating R&I results into economic value

- Standardisation booster, Innowide Bridging, IP mgmt
- ERA Hubs for interconnected ecosystems, future resilience
- Innovation scoreboard, industrial technology roadmaps

4. Deepening the ERA

- Open Science, reform assessment
- Acceleration services for HEI
- Strengthening R&I talents/careers
- Citizen Science
- Science education
- Gender
- Ethics and integrity

Strand 1: Support for policy makers – Programme level collaboration between national R&I programmes

Rationale:

- coordinate national and regional R&I programmes by pooling national resources and contributing to the alignment of national research and innovation policies.

Objective:

- provides the possibility for Member States, Associated Countries and civil society organisations such as foundations, to maintain existing and establish new collaborations on priorities of their choice.

Expected Outcome:

- Identification of common research and innovation priorities agreed among the participating national and regional R&I programmes
- Implementation of multiannual joint calls, resulting in the funding of transnational collaborative R&I projects
- Implementation of other joint activities supporting the market, regulatory or societal uptake of results

Strand 2: Network for research managers

Rationale:

- Entities and regions who are proven strong and excellent hubs in knowledge creation and innovation usually rely on a strong population of ‘research managers’: expand across ERA

Objective:

- Improving training and skills development of research management staff
- Develop better research and innovation management capacity and guidance for researchers

Expected Outcome:

- Increased capacity and compatibility of cooperation and funding systems throughout the ERA for research management, and support to scientists
- Improved knowledge for policy making about the networking patterns of support staff
- Appropriate “fit for purpose” skills in EU research management for EU R&I system
- Clear career path for research manager, enhancing role in ERA

Strand 3: ERA Hubs

promoting knowledge creation, circulation, use

Rationale for action:

- Strengthen territorial cohesion, place-based growth and regional development
- Stimulate excellence and incentivize less developed ecosystems
- Create a networking framework to collaborate and exchange of best practice
- Interconnect ecosystems to make them interoperable and compliant with common criteria
- Better attract and retain talent in countries/regions.

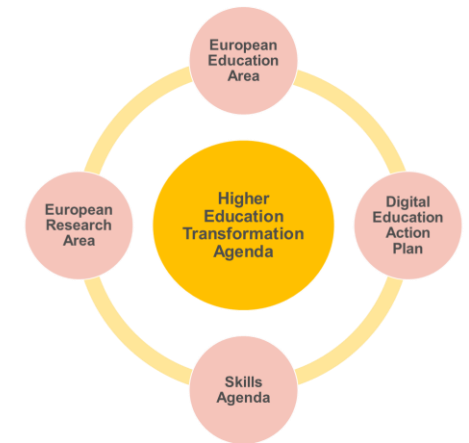
Activities towards ERA Hubs:

- Mapping knowledge ecosystems, identify regional gaps
- Identify success factors of ecosystems (often at its core HEI, RTO, research infrastructures)
- Develop and interconnect knowledge ecosystems across the entire ERA; improve access to talents and investments

Strand 4: Acceleration services for HEI

Rationale:

- Empowering higher education sector in its institutional transformations
- Implementing a collective vision on the future of universities
- Key synergy initiative between ERA, EEA, DEAP, Skills Agenda

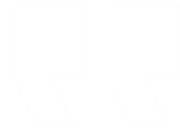


Actions:

- Coaching/counselling services for higher education institutions to pursue institutional transformations
- Facilitate access to support for higher education institutions and surrounding ecosystem to deliver on the transformations
- Monitor progress in the transformation efforts

“Transformations” such as:

- Creating critical mass, joining forces
- Sharing of capacity and resources
- Open Science & digitalisation
- Researcher careers & assessment reforms
- Strengthened knowledge transfer capacity
- Reinforced cooperation within ecosystem
- Engaging citizens



Thank you!

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<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe>



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