A new European Research Area

Based on excellence
Competitive, talent-driven and open

What is the European Research Area?

A single, borderless market for research, innovation and technology across the EU...

...where countries come together and improve their research policies and systems...

...and where there is free movement of researchers, knowledge and innovation.

In the new European Research Area we will:

Prioritise investments and reforms in research and innovation towards the green and digital transition, to support Europe's recovery;

Strengthen mobility of researchers and free flow of knowledge and technology through greater cooperation among Member States;

Boost market uptake of research and innovation results;

Improve access to excellence for researchers across the EU.

Research and Innovation

Era is for YOU – The new European Research Area is for all Europeans

- Work with researchers in universities and businesses in different countries;
- Innovate and conduct your research using high-quality infrastructure;
- Advance your talents, skills and career across scientific sectors and disciplines;
- Openly share, use and find publications and data;
- Find business partners to get your results to the market quicker;
- Help shape research and innovation through participatory science.

The EU and Member States will shape the new European Research Area through 14 actions:

1 Reaffirm the target of 3% GDP on EU research and development investment and propose a new EU 1.25% GDP public effort target to be achieved by Member States by 2030.

2 Support Member States in the coordination and prioritisation of national research and innovation funding and reforms through an European Research Area Forum for Transition. Voluntarily commit 5% of national public research and development investments to joint programmes and European partnerships by 2030.

3 Support Member States that are below the EU average level of research and innovation investments to increase their investment by 50% in the next 5 years.

4 Support Member States that have lower performance in training their reserachers to access and develop excellence and increase their number of highly cited publications by one-third over 5 years.

5 Develop common industrial technology roadmaps to maximise innovation in strategic areas like Artificial Intelligence, circular industries and resilient health industries.

6 Develop and test a networking framework in support of Europe's research and innovation ecosystems, building on existing capacities, to strengthen excellence and maximise the value of knowledge creation, circulation and use.

7 Update and develop guiding principles for creating value from knowledge and a code of practice for the smart use of intellectual property.

8 Deliver a toolbox of measures to support researchers' careers, through a mobility scheme, trainings and more, in order to make Europe more attractive for talent.

9 Launch a platform of peer-reviewed open access publishing and incentivise open science practices by improving the research assessment system.

10 Support the creation of world-class research infrastructures and establish an updated governance structure for research and technological infrastructures.

11 Develop a roadmap of actions for creating synergies between higher education and research, notably building on the dual role of universities.

12 Develop concrete plans with Member States to promote gender equality, as well as diversity and inclusiveness, in science, research and innovation.

13 Organise citizen science campaigns and hackathons to engage citizens, especially young people, in science and innovation.

14 Develop with Member States a new approach to set and implement strategic priorities for the European Research Area, through a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe.

Publications Office
of the European Union