



European  
Commission

# **Proposal for a Council Recommendation on the Guiding principles for knowledge valorisation**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Research and  
Innovation*

# Proposal for a Council Recommendation on the Guiding principles for knowledge valorisation

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **1. WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION?**

Knowledge valorisation is the process of creating social and economic value from knowledge by linking different areas and sectors and transforming data and research results into sustainable products and solutions that benefit society in terms of economic prosperity, environmental benefits, progress and better policymaking.

### **2. ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION REPLACING THE 2008 RECOMMENDATION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER?**

The Commission proposal for a Council recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation repealed the 2008 Commission recommendation on the management of intellectual property in knowledge transfer activities and the Code of Practice for universities and other public research organisations (C(2008)1329).

### **3. WHY DID WE NEED TO UPDATE THE 2008 RECOMMENDATION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER?**

The research and innovation landscape has changed considerably since 2008 in terms of actors and complexity of the R&I ecosystems, as well as in terms of global challenges. This requires policymakers to set new objectives and provide updated guidance on knowledge valorisation of the research and innovation knowledge generated in the European Union.

### **4. ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF THE 2008 RECOMMENDATION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER?**

The Commission proposal for a Council recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation focusses on maximising the value of the R&I investments beyond the traditional knowledge transfer. Knowledge valorisation relies on different channels and involve all actors in the R&I ecosystem and their knowledge assets.

### **5. ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION ADDRESSING THE SAME ACTORS AS THE 2008 RECOMMENDATION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER?**

The guidance of the Commission proposal for a Council recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation extends from universities and public research organisation to a broader range of actors, such as individual researchers, innovators and businesses of all sizes, public administrations and civil society.

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### **6. WHAT ARE THE CODES OF PRACTICES?**

The Commission proposal for a Council recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation will be further supported by codes of practice providing more detailed guidance on the implementation of certain areas of knowledge valorisation for actors in the R&I ecosystem. The first two codes that will complement the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation are a code of practice on the smart use of intellectual property and a code of practice for researchers on standardisation.

### **7. WHAT ARE INTELLECTUAL ASSETS?**

Intellectual assets cover any result or products generated by any R&I activities (e.g. patents, copyrights, trademarks, publications, data, know-how, prototypes, processes, practices, technologies, inventions, software etc.) and that can be legally protected (patents, copyrights, trademarks etc.) or not.

### **8. ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION PART OF THE ERA POLICY?**

The Council Recommendation of 26 November 2021 ‘on a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe’ identifies knowledge valorisation as one of the priority areas for joint action in support of the European research area. The Council Conclusions on the ‘Future governance of the European Research Area’ adopted on 26 November 2021 endorsed the ERA Policy Agenda for 2022-2024 that includes an action to upgrade EU guidance for better knowledge valorisation. The first outcome of this is to develop and endorse guiding principles for knowledge valorisation.

### **9. WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CREATION OF THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION?**

The Commission proposal for a Council recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation build on the co-creation by the ERA Forum subgroup on knowledge valorisation established by the informal Commission expert group on the ERA Forum for Transition. Furthermore, stakeholders from the R&I ecosystem were involved through an open consultation and ERA stakeholder meeting.

### **10. ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION LEGALLY BINDING?**

No. The Commission proposal for a Council recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation sets a common line on policy principles and measures for improving knowledge valorisation in the EU without imposing legally binding provisions.

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### **11. WHAT ARE THE SYNERGIES WITH EU POLICIES?**

The Commission proposal for a Council recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation will support the updated Industrial Strategy for Europe and the EU Intellectual Property Action Plan, by raising the research community's awareness of the importance of IP management, promoting the effective use and deployment of IP, and ensuring easier access to and sharing of IP-protected assets.

It will also support the initiatives of the European Green Deal and enhance the link between research and standardisation in line with the EU Standardisation Strategy. In line with the Commission Communication on a New European Innovation Agenda, the guiding principles will also help leveraging the diverse talents, intellectual assets and industrial capabilities in Europe.

It will also help improve knowledge valorisation in universities and put focus on creative and entrepreneurial skills supporting the European strategy for universities, the European Education Area and the European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience. Furthermore, the guiding principles conform to the Council conclusions on Research assessment and implementation of Open Science which suggest that the evolution of the research assessment systems in Europe should take into consideration of knowledge valorisation.

### **12. ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES SUPPORTING POLICY UPTAKE OF RESEARCH RESULTS?**

Yes. The guiding principles will strengthen the capacity of R&I systems to support evidence-informed policymaking, public administrations and better regulation.