



European  
Commission

# History of the European Research Area

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## 20 YEARS OF WORKING TOGETHER TO STIMULATE COHERENT RESEARCH POLICY IN EUROPE



*My ambition is to revitalise the European Research Area, both to make it fit for purpose in a globally changing environment and to tackle its longstanding challenges.*



Commissioner **Mariya Gabriel**

### Phase 1 MORE COHERENCE, LESS FRAGMENTATION | 2000 - 2007

#### Towards a European Research Area

*'The problem is not money but fragmentation of the efforts carried out at European level... So it is imperative that we mobilise resources and create a movement towards coherence of research policies in Europe. This is why I have launched the idea of a European Research Area.'*

Commissioner **Philippe Busquin**, 18 November 2000

#### FOCUS

A better organisation of research in Europe by addressing the fragmentation, isolation and compartmentalisation of national research systems and the lack of policy coordination between Member States and the EU.

#### PRIORITIES

- Large scale research infrastructures
- coherent implementation of national and European research activities
- mobile human resources
- cohesion
- attractiveness of the European R&I system
- common social and ethical values

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

- New instruments of FP6,
- ERA-NET
- Article 185 and 187 initiatives
- EURAXESS
- European Charter for Researchers
- the Code of Conduct for Recruitment of Researchers

## Phase 2 THE FIFTH FREEDOM TO BECOME A REALITY | 2007 - 2012

### The ERA: new perspectives

*'We are gradually lifting the barriers to the freedom of movement of knowledge: we are making the "5th Freedom" a reality... Investing in R&D and innovation is not a supplementary burden but an indispensable investment in future jobs and growth.'*

Commissioner **Janez Potocnik**, 2 December 2008

#### FOCUS

Consolidating the partnership between the Commission and the Member States and positioning knowledge as the Fifth Freedom.

#### PRIORITIES

- Research mobility at all levels,
- world-class infrastructures,
- excellent research institutions forming clusters and engaging in public-private partnerships;
- effective knowledge sharing,
- well-coordinated research programmes
- priorities through joint programming; and opening of ERA to the World

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ljubljana process
- ERA Vision 2020
- Lund Declaration
- Joint Programming in research
- Commission Recommendation on the management of IP in knowledge transfer activities and
- Code of Practice for universities and other public research organisations
- European Partnership for Researchers
- Strategic European framework for international S&T cooperation
- legal framework for ERIC, a European Research Infrastructure Consortium
- **Treaty recognition of ERA through Article 179 of the Lisbon Treaty**

## Phase 3 STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMISSION, MEMBER STATES AND STAKEHOLDERS | 2012 - 2020

### A reinforced ERA partnership for excellence and growth

*Talk to any business leader and they will tell you that the quality of the research base is a major factor in their investment decisions. In today's economy, no Member State or region can afford to neglect its knowledge base.'*

Commissioner **Maire Geoghegan-Quinn**, 17 July 2012

#### FOCUS

Creating a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation.

#### PRIORITIES

- more effective national research systems
- optimal transnational cooperation and competition
- an open labour market for researchers
- gender equality & gender mainstreaming
- optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge
- international cooperation

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

- ERA Roadmap 2015 and ERA National Action Plans 2015-2020
- Governance through ERAC and dedicated ERAC configurations and subgroups
- ERA Progress Reports