Why does ERA Need to Flourish

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Improving Europe's research performance to promote growth and job creation

- Europe is facing many *grand challenges*

- Europe’s *global position is weakening* measured by indicators of scientific quality, excellence

- ERA at the heart of *Europe 2020 Strategy* and *Innovation Union*

- Call by *European Council* in February 2011 and March 2012 to "complete ERA by 2014"
ERA is

"A unified research area open to the world based on the Internal Market, in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely and through which the Union and its Member States strengthen their scientific and technological bases, their competitiveness and their capacity to collectively address grand challenges."
The Five Key ERA Priorities

1. More effective national research systems

2. Optimal transnational co-operation and competition

3. An open labour market for researchers

4. Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research

5. Optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge including via digital ERA
A reinforced partnership

*Action-oriented & Responsibility-based*

- Member States
- Research Stakeholder Organisations
- European Commission
1. More effective national research systems

Objective: increased competition within national borders, sustained and greater investment

Optimal national-level competition is crucial to deliver maximum value from public money in research, as leading countries demonstrate.

Examples of proposed actions:

- Member States: remove barriers to allocate funding in a competitive way
- Commission: support mutual learning between MS on removal of legal barriers to ERA
2. Optimal transnational co-operation and competition

**Objective** – defining and implementing common research agendas on grand challenges, constructing and effectively running of pan-European research infrastructures

Member States are committed to **Joint Programming** – and to **pan-European Research Infrastructures (RIs)** - **ESFRI Roadmap** - but efforts need to be stepped up.

Examples of proposed actions:
- **Member States**: to prepare joint research agendas, improve interoperability of national programmes
- **Stakeholders**: agree on common funding principles, develop cross-border cooperation
- **Commission**: encourage 'partnering in research' to address grand challenges, support common funding standards
3. An open labour market for researchers

Objective: to ensure removal of barriers to researcher mobility, training and attractive careers

- Researchers mobility contributes to **excellence**, but still several obstacles for mobility and attractive researcher careers
- One of the most important is the **lack of transparent, open and merit-based recruitment**
- Other issues: Cross-border portability and accessibility of grants, innovative doctoral training and HR strategy for researchers

**Examples of proposed actions:**
- **Member States**: remove barriers to open, transparent and merit-based recruitment and to cross-border access and portability of grants
- **Stakeholders**: publish all vacancies on EURAXESS, fill research positions via open, transparent and merit-based recruitment
- **Commission**: strengthen collaboration in the EURAXESS network so that it becomes a means for researchers to access tailor-made assistance
4. Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research

Objective: diversify views and approaches in research and foster excellence

- **Issues to address:** legal and other barriers, institutional change in research organisations; representation of the under-represented sex in committees for recruitment and career progression; gender aspects of research programmes

- **Commission will adopt Commission Recommendation to Member States to provide common guidelines on institutional change in research organisations (2013)**

**Examples of proposed actions:**
- **Member States:** remove barriers to recruitment, retention and career progression of female researchers
- **Stakeholders:** implement institutional change via Gender Equality Plans
- **Commission:** foster gender equality also in Horizon 2020
5. Optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge including via digital ERA

Objective: to guarantee access to and uptake of knowledge by all.

- **Open Access to publications and data** are central to ERA
- **Digital ERA** needed to maintain Europe as hub of excellence
- **Free access to knowledge** and services saves public (and private) money and facilitates **innovation**
- So far, libraries and SMEs have difficulties subscribing to journals due to **high costs** and budgetary constraints

Examples of proposed actions for Member States, Stakeholders and Commission:
- To Promote Open Access
- To Foster Knowledge Transfer

“Scientific Information in the Digital Age” (2012)

COMM + Recommendation
Thank you for your attention