

Glossary:European Research Area (ERA)

Statistics Explained

The **European Research Area** , abbreviated as **ERA** , launched at the [Lisbon European Council](#) in March 2000, is composed of all [research and development](#) activities, programmes and policies in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) which involve a transnational perspective. Together, they enable researchers, research institutions and businesses to increasingly circulate, compete and co-operate across borders. The aim is to give them access to a Europe-wide open space for knowledge and technologies in which transnational synergies and complementarities are fully exploited.

The creation of a European research area was given new impetus in 2007 with the [European Commission](#) 's Green Paper on ERA. In 2008, the [European Council](#) set in motion the Ljubljana Process to improve the political governance of ERA and adopted a shared ERA 2020 vision. Concrete progress is being made via a series of new partnership initiatives proposed by the Commission in 2008.

Further information

- [European Commission - European Research Area](#)

Related concepts

- [Research and development \(R & D\)](#)