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

History of the European Research Area

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

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

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

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
- Governance through ERAC and dedicated ERAC configurations and subgroups
- ERA Progress Reports