



## KEY MESSAGES

### **ERA supports cohesion:**

In ERA, coordination of research and cohesion policies is reinforced to support *regional growth*. The thrust towards allocating a larger share of structural funds to research and innovation is driven not only by cohesion goals, but notably by the need to improve conditions for research teams to benefit from additional resources and research infrastructures. These conditions, accompanied by investment in human capital and skills, offer a robust argument for talented scientists to stay in their own countries, nurturing future generations of students and researchers and enabling them to compete internationally within a reasonable time frame.

### **More competition, mobility and higher performance within ERA:**

ERA raises *overall excellence*. Research systems based on peer review tend to more generously fund better scientists, who in turn train more PhD students and researchers leading to more results. ERA promotes the circulation of competent researchers between institutions, disciplines, sectors and countries, generating *economic benefits* from improved interaction as well as from knowledge circulation and transfer.

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### **ERA promotes the development of research-based solutions:**

As an essential component of the Innovation Union, ERA requires that the *design and integration of research policies* at European level fully incorporates the *innovation* goal.

### **The European Research Area (ERA) increases efficiency in carrying out research activities and contributes to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.**

ERA induces a better balance between competition and cooperation, essential for research quality and creativity. It calls for truly European framework conditions and common standards. It requires the optimal coordination of the various policy levels: regional, national, cross-border, and European.

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### **ERA is based on cross-border co-operation:**

ERA ensures a *critical mass* of financial resources, research personnel and infrastructure to encourage better networking across specialisations; better division of labour and less duplication while maintaining diversity of research focus; better visibility of scientific work; administrative efficiency; a more reliable environment for private investment; and last but not least, economies of scope.

### **Benefits for the economy and society within ERA:**

The results obtained in ERA are tailor-made to European interests, benefiting *all Member States and all actors*, bringing high added value for tax-payers money. A large research area promotes exchanges of knowledge and practices within and across sectors as well as across borders. This generates largely positive results induced by voluntary, long term, variable geometry and transparent processes of coordination. Besides, ERA induces *complementarity* between public and private investment in research, which *benefits directly and indirectly European economy and society* as it enhances productivity and quality and paves the way for innovation.

### **Societal challenges are adequately addressed in ERA:**

The focus of ERA on societal challenges leads to identifying workable solutions, which represent an opportunity for Europe to *regain world leadership* through innovation. The development of technologies and services associated with most societal challenges addresses new markets, based on new societal needs and new business models, for which standards have not yet been established.