



European Research Area

An open space
for knowledge and growth

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European Research Area (ERA)

- A unified research area open to the world
- Based on the Internal Market
- Free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology

28 national research systems
are the foundation of ERA

Not to be integrated or merged into a single system, but to be **more open, inter-operable and inter-connected** in different societal contexts





Taking ERA to a new level Legally...

2009 - Lisbon Treaty - ERA explicit objective of the Union

*"The Union shall have the objective of strengthening its scientific and technological bases by achieving a European research area (...)"
(TFEU Art. 179)*

... gives the Union legislative powers to reach this objective

"As a complement to the activities planned in the multiannual framework programme, the European Parliament and Council,... shall establish the measures necessary for the implementation of the European research area (TFEU Art. 182.5)



Future challenges : keeping the momentum in 2015

- **Implementing ERA** at EU and national level:
 - MS to develop ERA Roadmap by mid-2015 to address remaining bottlenecks through ERA reforms and to guide them in ERA implementation.
 - Exploit synergies by aligning national research strategies and pooling funding to tackle **societal challenges (notably Joint Programming)**.
 - Further synchronise national and EU roadmaps for Research Infrastructures
 - Enhance International Cooperation as cross-cutting activity
- **Involve new stakeholders in the SHO Platform.**
- **Maximise benefits of R&I for society** (tighter integration of RRI, Open Science, Smart Specialisation in ERA policy objectives).
- Continued **support** by the Commission through H2020, through targeted and cross-cutting measures, such as the pension fund for researchers (RESAVER – 4 mio to set up the structure).

Relevance of VERA scenario's for answers to future challenges

- Guidance for future policy directions in different political contexts, both for Cie, MS/AC and SHO
- Different options to link with societal challenges:
 - top down vs. bottom up
 - weak vs. strong coordination (ERA light vs. ERA heavy)
 - remove barriers vs. legislation
 - Involvement with relevant stakeholders
- Tool for evidence based policy making
- Robustness of Policies, no regret options



Thank you for your attention

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/era>