



European Plant Science Organisation  
<https://epsoweb.org>

## A new European Research Area for Research and Innovation

---

Brussels, 01.10.2020

**EPSO welcomes the Concept and proposed actions towards a new ERA published by Commissioner Gabriel on 30.9.2020 and offers to collaborate in further shaping and implementing these. EPSO is focusing regarding the ERA for instance on critical mass investments in research and innovation, balancing basic, applied research, demonstration and innovation action support; widening participation; creating synergies between education and research; science outreach engaging citizens; and setting and implementing strategic priorities for Horizon Europe.**

**The New ERA** is centered on excellence, inclusiveness, talents, and driven by innovation. To this end, the Commission identifies four main objectives:

- 1) Prioritizing investments
- 2) Improving access to excellence
- 3) Translating R&I results into economic value
- 4) Deepening the ERA.

The Commission commits to 14 actions to reach these goals. It will push for further investment to reach the long-sought goal of 3% of GDP, and support EU-13 Countries. It will also improve synergies through common EU industrial roadmaps and update the governance of research infrastructures. It will support the transition to Open Science, with particular emphasis on Open Access and Open Data (European Open Science Cloud - EOSC). Gender equality and citizens science will also play a central role. Finally, by 2024, a new toolbox in support of researchers career development will be developed with the following components: (i) a Researchers Competence Framework, (ii) a mobility scheme to support exchange between industry and academia, (iii) targeted training under Horizon Europe and (iv) a one-stop shop portal. The toolbox will lead to the creation of a pipeline for talent.

EPSO is collaborating with European learned societies and research organisations in the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE) as a strong voice of the scientific community discussing with the European Commission and Member States recommendations for the ERA.

Summary of actions the Commission will take in the next years:

- 1) Proposes that Member States re-affirm the 3% EU GDP R&D investment target and update it to reflect new EU priorities, including a new 1.25% EU GDP public effort target to be

achieved by Member States by 2030 in an EU coordinated manner, to leverage and incentivise private investments.

- 2) Support Member States in the coordination and prioritisation of national R&I funding and reforms, between countries and with the EU, through dialogue and a dedicated ERA Forum for Transition. This will focus Member States common efforts, to voluntarily commit 5% of national public R&D funding to joint programmes and European partnerships by 2030.
- 3) Proposes that Member States lagging behind the EU average R&D investment over GDP direct their investment efforts to increase their total investment in R&D by 50% in the next 5 years. The Commission will support Member States to reform their R&I policies, also by targeting technical assistance to this end. It will facilitate the coordination and complementarity of national and EU programmes and contribute to the deployment of the recovery package.
- 4) Institute a dedicated work stream in the ERA Forum for Transition (i) to promote and monitor access to excellence of researchers and institutions from Widening Countries, with Cohesion Policy support, (ii) to support Member States to better integrate researchers in smart specialisation strategies in cooperation with industry, and (iii) help them design measures to support researchers in Widening Countries to improve their skills for excellence in the labour market. This should support low R&I performing countries to increase the excellence of their R&I systems. Member States lagging behind the EU average on highly cited publications should reduce the gap to the EU average by at least one third in the next 5 years.
- 5) Support the implementation of the New Industrial Strategy by jointly developing common industrial technology roadmaps by the end of 2022 to align and link key partnerships under Horizon Europe with industrial ecosystems, so as to ensure that efforts team up and that research results are known and rolled out faster in the economy.
- 6) Develop and test a networking framework in support of Europe's R&I ecosystems, building on existing capacities, in order to strengthen excellence and maximise the value of knowledge creation, circulation and use by 2022.
- 7) Update and develop guiding principles for knowledge valorisation and a code of practice for the smart use of intellectual property, by the end of 2022, including facilitating the implementation of the unitary patent, to ensure access to effective and affordable intellectual property protection.
- 8) Deliver, by the end of 2024, in partnership with Member States and research organisations, a toolbox of support for researchers careers with the following components: (i) a Researchers Competence Framework, (ii) a mobility scheme to support exchange between industry and academia, (iii) targeted training under Horizon Europe and (iv) a one-stop shop portal. The toolbox will lead to the creation of a pipeline for talent.
- 9) Launch, via the Horizon Europe Programme, a platform of peer-reviewed open access publishing; analyse authors' rights to enable sharing of publicly funded peer-reviewed articles without restriction; ensure a European Open Science Cloud that is offering findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable research data and services (Web of FAIR); and incentivise open science practices by improving the research assessment system.
- 10) Support ESFRI to work towards a world-class research infrastructures ecosystem focusing on the broader range of the EU's policy priorities and improve its governance to address the broadened focus of its activity by the end of 2021, and establish a new governance structure for Technology Infrastructures.
- 11) Develop a roadmap of actions for creating synergies between higher education and research, notably building on the dual role of universities.

- 12) Propose as of 2021, in line with the Horizon Europe programme objectives, the development of inclusive gender equality plans with Member States and stakeholders in order to promote EU gender equality in R&I.
- 13) Organise with Member States and stakeholders Europe-wide participatory citizen science campaigns to raise awareness and networking, crowdsourcing platforms and pan-European hackathons, in particular in the context of Horizon Europe Missions. The Commission will develop with Member States best practices to open up science and innovation to citizens and youth.
- 14) Building on the lessons learned from the Horizon Europe Strategic Planning process, develop with Member States an approach to set and implement strategic priorities that deliver on the ERA agenda through the European Forum of Transition and by means of a Pact for R&I in Europe

---

#### **Contacts**

Marco Masia, Executive Coordinator, Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE), T: +49-157-52659708;

[marco.masia@initiative-se.eu](mailto:marco.masia@initiative-se.eu) ; <https://initiative-se.eu>

Karin Metzloff, Executive Director, European Plant Science organisation (EPSO), T: +32-2213-6260;

[Karin.Metzloff@epsomail.org](mailto:Karin.Metzloff@epsomail.org) ; <https://epsoweb.org>

#### **Useful links**

EC: [A new ERA for Research and Innovation, communication by the EC](#), 30.9.2020

EPSO: [Statement on the First Draft Implementation Strategy for Horizon Europe by the EC](#), 3.6.2020

EPSO: [Statement on the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan](#), 18.2.2020

EPSO: <https://epsoweb.org>

EPSO publications: <https://epsoweb.org/news/>

EPSO member institutes and universities: <https://epsoweb.org/about-epso/epsoweb-members/>

EPSO representatives: <https://epsoweb.org/about-epso/representatives/>

#### **About EPSO**

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents more than 200 research institutes, departments and universities from 32 countries, mainly from Europe, and 2.700 individuals Personal Members, representing over 26 000 people working in plant science. EPSO's mission is to improve the impact and visibility of plant science in Europe, to provide authoritative source of independent information on plant science including science advice to policy, and to promote training of plant scientists to meet the 21st century challenges in breeding, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, plant ecology and sectors related to plant science. <https://epsoweb.org> | EU Transparency Register Number 38511867304-09