

CONFERENCE

# Enhancing the Attractiveness of European Universities as a Destination for World-Class Researchers

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# European Research Area

An open space  
for knowledge and growth

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**Enhancing the Attractiveness of European Universities  
as a Destination for World-Class Researchers**  
**Barcelona, 5 November 2012**



# Enhancing Competitiveness

- Research has a unique system of resources allocation: **competition**
- Bigger competition pools increase **research quality**: the **wider** the base, the better.
- Examples of excellence in research:
  - **ERC** pan-European competition
  - **NIH** US competition (+ world-wide grants)

# European Research Area (ERA)

- A Unified Research Area open to the world
- Based on the Internal Market
- Free Circulation of Researchers, Knowledge & Technology



**27 national research systems** are the foundation of ERA:

- **94% of public investment in R&D**
- + **6%** European Framework Programmes  
(*25% of competitive funds*)

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

# Enhancing Competitiveness of European Research



- **ERC**: an example for national systems, based on **open competition** at European level
- **ERA**: (27 + 1) systems to open up for synergies
  - Non-legislative approach:  
(*ERA Communication, 19 July 2012*)
    - Clear political message
    - Setting priorities and measures
    - Partnership based on **trust and transparency**



# ERA: An open space for knowledge and growth



- **Open** competition, both at national and cross-border levels
- **Open** evaluation systems
- **Open** research agendas
- **Open**, transparent recruitment of researchers
- **Open** access to scientific knowledge



# Horizon 2020

## The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2014-2020

- Commission proposal for a 80 billion euro research and innovation funding programme (2014-2020)
- Currently under debate (*budget, rules for participation*)
- *Linked to MFF*

A graphic for "Horizon 2020" featuring the word "HORIZON 2020" in white, uppercase, sans-serif letters. The letter "O" in "HORIZON" is replaced by a transparent globe of the Earth. The text is set against a dark blue background with a bright, glowing horizon line and radiating light beams, suggesting a futuristic or global theme.

HORIZON 2020

# H2020 + ERA = the formula



HORIZON 2020

**ERA invites Member States and Research organisations to follow the example of the Framework Programmes**

## **Leading by example:**

- Excellence: selecting only the best projects, through open competitive calls.
- Promoting researchers mobility
- Granting portable funds and fellowships
- Pan-European competition
- International Dimension
- Open Access: FP7 pilot, will be extended to all H2020 programmes

## **Giving incentives:**

- To Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) ← to tackle societal challenges
- To joint evaluations

# The five Key ERA priorities

90 Structural measures: low cost, big impact



1. More effective **national** research systems
2. Optimal **transnational** cooperation and competition
3. An **open labour market** for researchers
4. **Gender** equality and gender mainstreaming in research
5. Optimal Circulation and Transfer of **Knowledge**

# 1. More effective national research systems

**EU countries:** variable degree of competitive funds allocated to research.

**Framework Programme:** all funds (except JRC's own research) are competitive.

- **Excellence** in science and **specialisation** driven by **competition between researchers**
  - **excellence:** proportional to the **size of the pool**
- The amount of **funds for competition** in all Member States should increase
- There should be a **sustained or greater investment in research**



## 2. Optimal transnational co-operation and competition

**Framework Programme:**  
Collaborative projects, ERC,  
Access to RIs, ESFRI.  
International peer review

Within ERA, national systems must be **interoperable**

### Cooperation

- Defining and implementing **common research agendas** on grand challenges (ageing, climate change...) or areas requiring comparison (epidemiology, public health)
- Constructing and running effectively **key research infrastructures** on a pan-European basis.

### Competition

- Raising quality through **Europe-wide open competition.**

# 3. An open labour market for researchers

**Framework Programme:**  
Marie Curie, EURAXESS  
+ all grants in FP projects are portable

Removal of barriers to researchers mobility, training and attractive careers:

- Increase **mobility** of researchers
- Facilitate **open recruitment** in Member States (merit-based)
  - building on *Charter & Code, European Framework for Research Careers, Euraxess*
  - ***Impact as big as injecting funds into the system***
- **Portability** of grants
- Innovative **doctoral training**



## 4. Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research

### Framework Programme:

Gender mainstreaming in calls, gender plans in FP projects; gender balance in expert groups, evaluators, Commission staff

- To make **justice**.
- To end the **waste of talent** which we cannot afford.
- To **diversify** views and approaches in research.
- To foster **excellence**.

**Strong calls from Council to improve gender equality:**

**In 2005:** aim to 25% of women in leading positions

→ **present level 13%**



# 5. Optimal circulation and transfer of knowledge

## Framework Programme:

OA pilot on FP7 (20% budget): Health, Environment, Energy, Social Sciences, IT, e-RIs...)

To guarantee **access to and uptake of knowledge by all**:

- **Open Access** to publications and data are central to ERA.
- Member States not equally advanced → to define and coordinate their policies.
- **Digital ERA** needed to maintain Europe as hub of excellence  
- e.g. by digital research services, e-identity for researchers.

# Conclusion

- We should support a **strong European research programme**, with enough resources to give incentives to Member States to open-up their research systems.
- Member States and Universities must realise that the **ERA reforms are on their best interest**:
  - Opening up the national systems is a win-win situation
- Relatively easy measures include:
  - **Open recruitment**
  - Increase proportion of **competitive funds**
  - **Common evaluations**
  - **Gender equality policies**
  - **Open access policies**

# Thank you for your attention

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

