

COOPERATE

COOrdinating and PIloting actions towards ERA-hubs as inTer- and intraregional Ecosystems for knowledge production

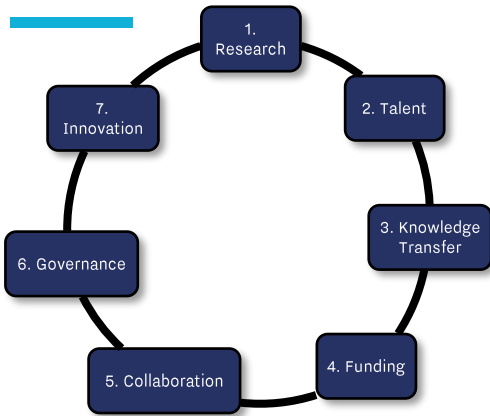


Building up research & innovation ecosystems to improve regional and national excellence and competitiveness.

ERA Hubs

ERA hubs are a spearhead in the European Commission's strategy to boost regional innovation in the European Research Area (ERA). Their aim is to help regions play a greater part in the coordination of R&D policies and investments in member states. The ERA Hubs could support organizations – and people – to bring together different stakeholders, join up public and private spheres and break existing silos.

Seven Lines of Action



To aid ecosystem players, COOPERATE offers a Playbook and a Toolbox. Its overarching aim is to provide a framework for nurturing dynamic ecosystems that stimulate research excellence, attract and retain top talent, facilitate knowledge transfer, foster collaboration among diverse actors, secure adequate funding, establish effective governance structures, and foster a culture of innovation. The Playbook contains a guide that provides recommendations for the development of thriving ecosystems within these seven lines of action: Research, Talent, Knowledge Transfer, Collaboration, Funding, Governance, and Innovation. Based on these seven areas, the Toolbox offers tools that can be employed in the ecosystem to develop regional excellence and competitiveness.

Research

1. Research plays a pivotal role in fostering a strong research and innovation ecosystem within the framework of ERA Hubs. Key factors that highlight the significance of research in cultivating a thriving ecosystem include the production of world-class research, the translation of research results into addressing societal needs, the emphasis on generating economic, environmental, and societal benefits, and the promotion of public acceptance of state-funded research.



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Talent

2. In the ever-changing landscape of research and innovation, talent plays a central role in driving progress and fostering sustainable growth. The framework of the ERA Hubs places a strong emphasis on recognising and harnessing the potential of talent as a fundamental factor in cultivating a vibrant research and innovation ecosystem. The significance of talent spans two key dimensions: educating the future talent pool, attracting, developing and retaining talent.

Knowledge Transfer

3. In the context of the ERA Hubs framework, knowledge transfer plays a pivotal role in establishing and maintaining a strong research and innovation ecosystem. The effective exchange of knowledge not only accelerates the pace of scientific discovery and technological advancements but also fosters a culture of collaboration, dissemination, and entrepreneurship.

Collaboration

4. Addressing complex challenges and driving meaningful innovation requires the collective expertise, resources, and perspectives of diverse stakeholders. A successful R&I-ecosystem requires interconnectedness, interdisciplinary approaches, and the need for scalable solutions. Collaboration, therefore, becomes imperative to leverage complementary strengths, enhance efficiency, and amplify impact.

Funding

5. In the pursuit of scientific advancement and innovation, funding plays a pivotal role in nurturing and sustaining a robust research ecosystem. The availability of soft funding and further funding options is crucial for fostering a culture of research excellence and driving impactful innovation.

Governance

6. Effective governance entails forming robust partnerships between the stakeholders of the quadruple helix, encompassing academia, industry, government, and civil society. Through effective governance, partnerships can facilitate knowledge exchange, resource sharing, and the alignment of goals.

Innovation

7. A strong innovation ecosystem can be identified by characteristic such as a high number of patents, active licensing agreements, a flourishing start-up community, access to funding, robust mentorship programmes, availability of education and training, and a talented workforce.

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