**Council of the
European Union**

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RECH 517

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	ERA Monitoring 2023: 18-months-review of the implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda ('EU-level Report')
	- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached a note from the Presidency on the "*ERA Monitoring 2023: 18-months-review of the implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda ('EU-level Report')*" with a view to the AOB items at the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 8 December 2023.

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ERA Monitoring 2023: 18-months-review of the implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda ('EU-level Report')

Information from the Commission

Context

The Pact for Research & Innovation in Europe (Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/2122 of 26 November 2021) foresees that the *"Commission should review the implementation of the European Research Area (ERA) policy agenda every 18 months and issue a report for consideration by the Council on the state of play of its implementation (…)."*

The Commission has, accordingly, and in close coordination with the ERA Forum, prepared the 1st edition of this EU-level report[1]. Furthermore, progress was made in establishing the ERA Monitoring Mechanism, based on the framework that was presented to the Council on 10 June 2022. The publication of the next reports (ERA Scoreboard, ERA Dashboard) is envisaged for the end of this year, to be followed by the publication of ERA Country Reports in the first quarter of 2024.

Purpose and conclusions of the 1st edition of the ERA Monitoring EU-level report

This EU-level report is the **first 18-months review** of the progress towards the priority areas for joint action in the ERA, as laid down in the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe, and of the implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda. The report serves as a **baseline** for the future assessment of progress on EU-level. In the context of the renewal of the ERA governance since 2021, this monitoring will allow for **evidence-informed policymaking**.

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[1] This report was edited by ECORYS as part of 'Development of the ERA Scoreboard, the ERA Dashboard and the Regular Reports' project for the European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, under Framework Contract N° 2018/RTD/A2/OP/PP-07001-2018 Lot 2 (EDAR).

The report serves the **purpose** of mapping trends towards achieving the ERA priorities over a longer period, outlining the implementation state-of-play of each ERA action and providing insights into the implementation on the level of Member States and associated countries, where relevant for exemplifying the findings on the EU-level.

Key **insights** from this first monitoring report show that the ERA Policy Agenda is in full implementation mode. The ERA Forum, with its sub-groups and different implementation instruments, has proven to be a successful co-creation body. However, since the ERA Policy Agenda as well as the quantitative indicator framework are new elements of the revamped ERA, a longer assessment period will be needed before more robust statements can be made about Europe's progress in achieving the ERA priorities. The same applies to measuring the impact of the ERA Actions in this process. Nevertheless, the first assessment shows that the EU together with the Member States, Associated Countries and R&I stakeholders have already made significant advancements within the different ERA Policy Agenda Actions. Examples of such **achievements** include:

- the development of an European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Co-programmed European Partnership under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme with an expected allocation of around €1 billion in the period 2021-2023 (around EUR 200 million contributed by the EU through Horizon Europe and the remaining through the additional in-kind activities of the members of the EOSC Association) (ERA Action 1);

- the establishment of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) (ERA Action 3);

- the preparation of the Council Recommendation on a 'European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe' in 2023 (ERA Action 4);

- the publication of a comprehensive strategy for tackling foreign interference in EU Higher Education Institutions and Research Performing Organisations, focusing on values, governance, partnerships, and cybersecurity (ERA Action 6);

- the adoption of a Council Recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation in 2022 (ERA Action 7);

- a push on green energy transformation through the implementation of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the ERA pilot on green hydrogen as well as the adoption of a Commission Communication on the revision of the Strategic Energy Technology (SET)-Plan (ERA Action 11);

- the adoption of Industrial Technology Roadmaps (ERA Action 12);

- the roll-out of the Plastic Pirates initiative ERA, involving more than 5000 young citizens in 11 countries as active participants in campaigning against plastic pollution (within ERA Action 14);

- the "R&I and Cohesion Managing Authorities Network" (RIMA) was set up to link research and innovation policy actors and managing authorities to assess the innovation divide, increase excellence and capitalise on existing widening instruments (ERA Action 16);

- the development of a new ERA monitoring and evaluation framework (ERA Action 19).

The full report is available for download at: https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5f91e877-88e5-11ee-99ba-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-296914217