



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

# The European Innovation Union

**Germany's Commitment to the  
European Research Area**



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Joint European research and innovation are a long-term life insurance for a future-proof Europe. No country can solve the current grand challenges on its own. Excellent education, research and innovation have proven to be particularly effective in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. They will also drive the development of a more resilient, sovereign and sustainable post-crisis Europe. We will shape Europe's future with a powerful European Research Area (ERA).



### Taking responsibility for the future of the European Innovation Union

A strong commitment by the EU Member States is key to a dynamic and innovative ERA. Germany's research and innovation system is the largest in the EU. Germany has therefore a special responsibility to shape the ERA as a robust foundation for a Europe that can face future crises with greater solidarity and resilience. A strong Europe needs a strong Germany.

The national programme of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research shows Germany's strong commitment to the ERA. In addition to providing financial support for the ERA itself, it enables better access for German researchers to the ERA and closer European cooperation in research and innovation.

# Joint research for a strong, resilient and sustainable Europe

Joint European research will help us build a climate neutral economy and society and secure Europe's competitiveness in the digital age.



With its different fields of action, Germany's national programme for the European Innovation Union will strengthen networking within the ERA by encouraging greater commitment of German stakeholders. Furthermore, it promotes the effective transfer of European research results into the economy and society, thereby enabling the ERA to make substantial contributions to global public health, green growth and digital progress.



## Shaping Europe's future through research and innovation

Joint European research is the basis of Europe's future. The innovation capacities of the ERA depend on the level of cooperation and cohesion.

Member States need to join forces to achieve European objectives such as the [Green Deal](#). Excellent research and transborder cooperation on green technologies are needed to reach Europe's ambitious climate goals. A European initiative for green hydrogen based on European research cooperation can play an important role in realising an energy transition that helps achieving the climate goals and that contributes substantially to Europe's economic competitiveness.

Germany's national programme strengthens networking and the strategic capability of the ERA. Europe-wide coordination of research agendas is needed to achieve an impact.



## Spreading excellence – leveraging the potential of the Innovation Union

Cohesion in Europe is important. The ERA is a good example of European solidarity. The national programme therefore encourages stronger cooperation with lower performing countries. A particular focus is on providing support for the development of their research systems, e.g. by [strengthening capacities in science management](#). Only an ERA for all will be successful in the long term. This includes a smooth knowledge transfer based on solidarity which multiplies the potential and added value of the ERA to the benefit of all Member States.

# Boosting progress through shared knowledge

Joint research and a knowledge transfer that has an added value for all European countries can protect Europe's economic competitiveness and prosperity, the well-being of European citizens and joint European values.



## Securing technological sovereignty

Europe's future economic success and capacity to act must be secured. The lessons learned from the current crisis include the necessity to improve the resilience of value creation networks for products that are essential or whose sales are of paramount importance for Europe. The national programme supports this transformation, for example with the [EUREKA](#) call concerning the [improvement of the resilience of the economy](#).

Only European cooperation can secure long-term competitiveness in particular with regard to technological and digital sovereignty. In major technological areas such as artificial intelligence, microelectronics, supercomputing, communication systems, materials and battery research, production and quantum technologies and the development of data infrastructures, Europe will need to pool resources and mobilise existing expertise within an ERA that combines excellence and values. Standards of new competitors – whether companies or states – may not correspond to European values. But the development e.g. of data infrastructures must meet high technical standards as well as security and trustworthiness standards. The ERA strives for both because it is built on shared European values, including human and civil rights.

The national programme supports Europe's technological sovereignty by systematically promoting European research cooperation and networking in key emerging technologies.



## Strengthening transfer between science and society across Europe

The ERA will drive change when science, industry, society and politics are actively involved as partners in the generation and dissemination of knowledge. Europe-wide strategies that embrace different disciplines and sectors will increase the strength of the ERA. This requires broad participation by all relevant stakeholders including citizens across Europe.

With an ERA campaign and the [Ralf Dahrendorf Award for the ERA](#), the national programme will enhance the visibility of the ERA in society. Both measures highlight the excellence within the ERA and the great added value of joint European research and honour the outstanding commitment of researchers that is vital to the success of the ERA.



Citizens' participation, e.g. in citizen science initiatives, strengthens trust in research and innovation and increases solidarity across national borders. With support from the national programme, the German, Portuguese and Slovenian Trio Presidency will implement the “[Plastic Pirates Go Europe!](#)” initiative to highlight their strong commitment to new European initiatives for a more dynamic and powerful ERA.

Freedom of science, open access and the search for knowledge are important values of European societies. Germany's national programme encourages science to enrich public debates and political decision-making throughout Europe. Science and research, with their values and freedoms, stand for the European promise of enabling citizens to live in prosperity and peace in stable democratic societies. Germany's national programme for the European Innovation Union will encourage progress on this road.



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