ERA Hubs for collaborative regional innovation

COOPERATE

COOrdinating and **P**iloting actions towards **ERA**-hubs as inTer- and intraregional **E**cosystems 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.

Objective

COOPERATE's overall objective is to develop and pilot the ERA Hub concept based on the vision and success stories developed within the EuroTech Universities Alliance and their R&I ecosystems. COOPERATE aims to facilitate the harmonisation of research practices and sharing of best practices across member states, promoting a more seamless and efficient research environment within the ERA Hubs network.





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Piloting phase

To aid ecosystem players, COOPERATE offers a Playbook and a Toolbox. Its overarching aim is to provide framework for nurturing dvnamic а 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 а quide that provides recommendations for the development of thriving ecosystems within these seven key areas: 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.

The ERA-Hub model will be tested and validated in two phases. The first phase will commence with the Czech ecosystem, focusing on AI as a use case, followed by the Dutch and Danish ecosystems, which will emphasize interregional aspects. Feedback from these three ecosystems will influence the design of the Playbook and Toolbox.

In the second phase, two additional ecosystems will be engaged through a <u>Call for Champions</u>, with support tools provided for applicants. These ecosystems will map their scope, actors, and mission, resulting in a revised ERA Hub model incorporated into the Playbook, Toolbox, and Platform. A monitoring framework for ERA-Hubs, complete with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), will be developed and shared with EU Member States and regions after each piloting phase. Policy recommendations will be made available in a White Book, considering various dimensions such as R&I ecosystem capacity building and talent mobility.

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