

# 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.

## Playbook

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. To aid ecosystem players such as educational institutions, local industry, policymakers and other stakeholders, we offer a Playbook.

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. To that end, the Playbook contains a guide that provides recommendations for the development of thriving ecosystems within these seven key areas: Research, Talent, Knowledge Transfer, Collaboration, Funding, Governance, and Innovation. This playbook is intended to serve as a resource for designing and implementing strategies that cultivate vibrant and sustainable ecosystems, driving breakthroughs and maximising the impact of research and innovation efforts.

## Toolbox

While the Playbook is intended to serve as a guide to inform strategy and decision-making, the Toolbox contains a number of tools that an ecosystem can apply in order to strengthen their capabilities within research and innovation. The tools are aligned with the seven themes identified above and are described in terms of the value they bring to the ecosystem, the prerequisites that must be in place for the tool to be effective, and the operational blueprint indicating how to implement the tool.



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## Introduction to tools

The 11 tools introduced in the Playbook set of a greater catalogue of tried-and-true methods that have been successful in some of the established ecosystems that are already closely aligned with the ERA Hub ideal.

### Tools for Research:

- Establishing Centres of Excellence

### Tools for Talent:

- Diversity outreach
- Thematic challenges

### Tools for Knowledge transfer:

- Mentorship programmes
- Popular science events

### Tools for Funding:

- Grants & soft funding

### Tools for Collaboration:

- MiniSprint
- Industry involvement in courses

### Tools for Governance:

- Stakeholder engagement and collaboration platforms

### Tools for Innovation:

- Start-up programmes
- Start-up Boot Camp

Detailed information about the tools can be found in the Playbook

## Consortium Partners



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