



# Three ways of looking at the European Research Area

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Rik Van de Walle (Rector of [Ghent University](#) and President of [CESAER](#))

# Thank you for this invitation!

Rik van de Walle:

- Rector of [Ghent University](#) since October 2017 starting second term in October
- Former Dean of Faculty of Engineering and Architecture of Ghent
- President of [CESAER](#) since January 2020

Double commitment to co-shape ERA:

- Collectively as association of universities of science and technology, see our [position](#)
- Personally as engineer and university leader, see my [op-ed](#)



# Three ways of looking at the ERA

1. [A new ERA for Research and Innovation](#) (political perspective)
2. Free circulation of researchers, scientific knowledge and technology  
([constitutional perspective](#))
3. Never war and hunger again in Europe ([societal perspective](#))

Please note the links in this presentation: they are [underlined](#) and can be clicked on.

# A new ERA for Research and Innovation (political perspective)

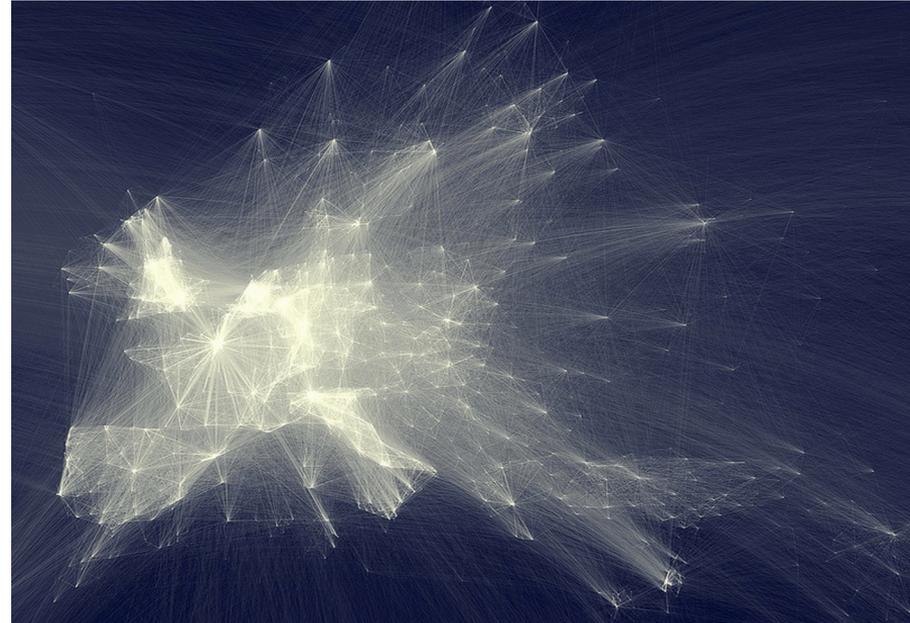
# Recent political initiative of EU

Quick roll-out along following steps:

1. Commission published [communication](#) in September 2020
2. Council adopted [Conclusions](#) in November 2020
3. Council and Commission are now writing 'Pact for R&I in Europe' for adoption under Slovenian EU Council Presidency in autumn 2021
4. Council is expected to adopt recommendation in autumn 2021
5. Council and Commission will establish ERA Forum of Transition as of 2022
6. Member states will develop national ERA action plans as of 2022
7. Stakeholder organisations such as universities are expected to implement national ERA action plans

[Differences](#) between (i) Council and Commission and (ii) ERA stakeholder organisations on:

- Level of ambition
- Legally binding nature
- Engagement of ERA stakeholder organisations



**Free circulation of researchers,  
scientific knowledge and technology  
(constitutional perspective)**

# European integration in research: funding

## European (technological) R&D funding programmes

### RTD as basis in Community treaties

1951 in ECSC  
1957 in Euratom  
and EEC

### large industrial R&D programmes

1983 ESPRIT  
1985 EUREKA  
2007 Joint Technology  
Initiatives (JTI)

### European FP

70ies principle of  
transnational  
collaborative projects  
1984 First RTD  
Framework Programme  
(FP1)

### Single European Act (1986)

research becomes **formal Community Policy** Objective: "Strengthen the scientific and technological basis of European industry and to encourage it to become more competitive at international level".

# European integration in research: inclusion in treaty

## Article 179 of TFEU:

“The Union shall have the objective of strengthening its scientific and technological bases by achieving a **EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA** in which **RESEARCHERS, SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY CIRCULATE FREELY**, and encouraging it to become more competitive, including in its industry, while promoting all the research activities deemed necessary by virtue of other Chapters of the Treaties.”

## European Research (and Innovation) Area

**Dahrendorf (1970 – 1974)**

Single Area for European Science  
CREST now ERAC

**Antonio Rubierti (1993-1994)**

achieving Co-ordination through Cooperation and European Scientific Area

**Philippe Busquin (1999-2004)**

2000: Communication ‘Towards a European Research Area’  
2002: ESFRI

### Lisbon Treaty (2007)

**ERA in TFEU.** Objective: “Strengthening scientific and technological bases by achieving a ERA in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely, and encouraging it to become more competitive”.

**REVIVAL IN (2000, 2008, 2012, 2020)**

## Article 180 of TFEU:

“As a complement to the activities planned in the multiannual framework programme, the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee, **SHALL ESTABLISH THE MEASURES NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA.**”

# Never war and hunger again in Europe (societal perspective)

# Never war and hunger again in Europe

- 1949 Council of Europe in Strasbourg:
- European dimension in education
  - Human rights and education
  - Democratic citizenship
  - Intercultural dialogue
  - Multilingualism and framework for languages
- 1950 College of Europe in Bruges
- 1976 European University Institute (EUI) in Florence
- 1987 Erasmus Programme
- 1989 Jean Monnet Programme
- 2006 Communication 'citizenship, equality, tolerance and respect'
- 2007 Communication 'circular migration and mobility partnerships between EU and third countries'
- 2007-14 Programme Europe for Citizens
- 2014 European Institute for Technology (EIT)
- 2018 [European Universities](#)



# Values

Safeguard academic freedom, institutional autonomy and scientific integrity



see [sign the Magna Charta Universitatum](#)

Promote sustainable peace and prosperity



see [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

# Major achievements changing academic practice

1954 (CERN)	European Organization for Nuclear Research
1957	European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM)
1974	European Science Foundation (ESF)
1984	First RTD Framework Programme (FP1)
1996	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
2007	Inclusion of ERA in EU treaties
2007	European Research Council (ERC)
2007	Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI)
2011	Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI)
2021	European Innovation Council (EIC)

## Europe of Knowledge

“The knowledge society depends for its growth on the production of new knowledge, its transmission through education and training, its dissemination through information and communication technologies, and on its use through new industrial processes or services.

**UNIVERSITIES ARE UNIQUE, IN THAT THEY TAKE PART IN ALL THESE PROCESSES**, at their core, due to the key role they play in the three fields of **RESEARCH AND EXPLOITATION OF ITS RESULTS**, thanks to industrial cooperation and spin-off; **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**, in particular training of researchers; and regional and local development, to which they can contribute significantly.”

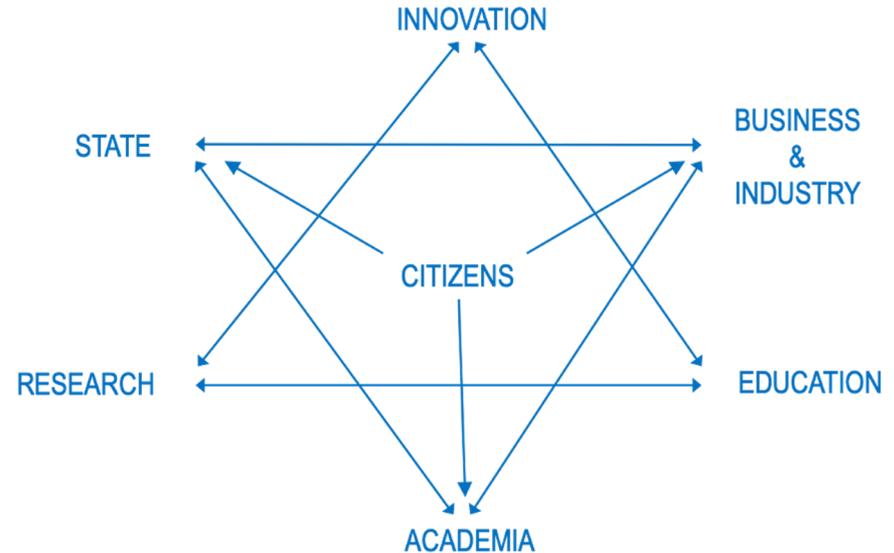
Communication ‘The role of the universities in the Europe of knowledge’ (2003)

# Lisbon Agenda along competitiveness paradigm

1. Create jobs
2. Boost economic growth

Along knowledge triangle  
And triple helix

Originates in [Arrábida Meetings](#)

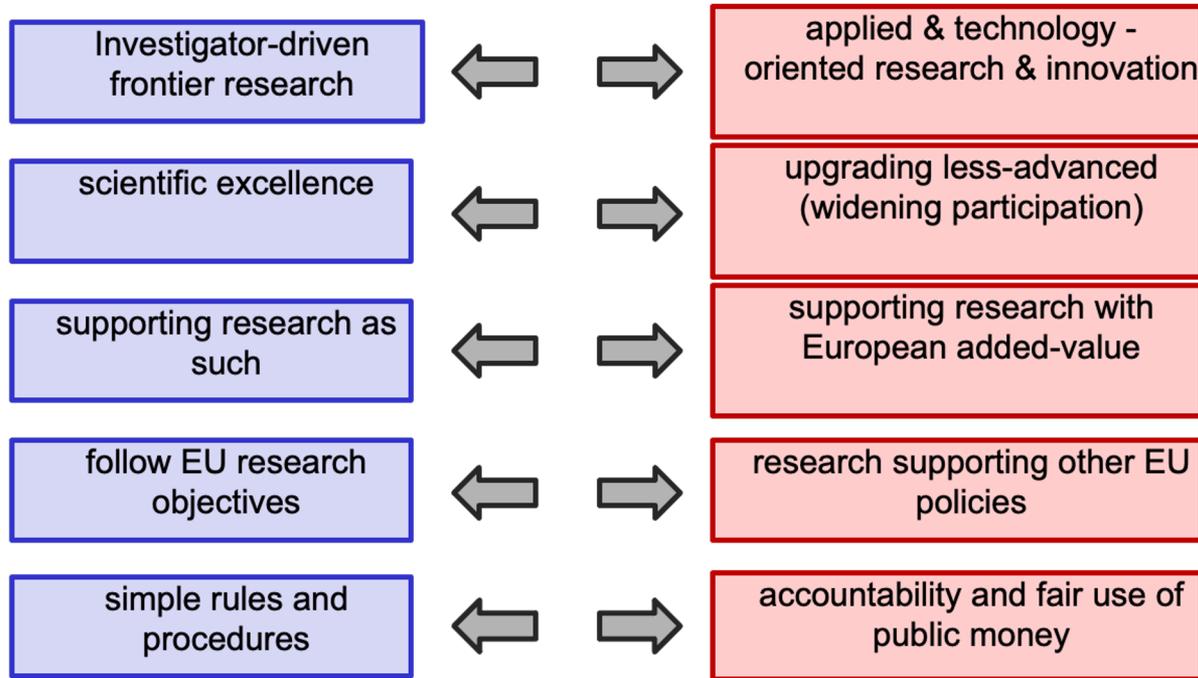


# Kuhnian paradigm shift needed

1. Anthropocene *Weltanschauung*
2. Great changes and transformations needed to help tackling local and global challenges
3. Values and ethics
4. Multi stakeholder cooperation
5. Agency of academics and academic institutions



# What kind of research at European level?



# Imminent questions for doctoral students

The ERA from this perspective is about your role and societal responsibility as scientists and engineers.

- What topics and technologies can I work on and under what conditions?
- Will publishing in open access journals have negative impact on my scientific career?
- Which whom can I collaborate and co-publish?
- How will my degrees and scientific qualifications be assessed and recognised?
- To what (e-) infrastructures can I get access?
- What happens to my pension and social security when changing institution and crossing borders?
- Can I bring my family and pets with me when changing institutions and crossing borders?



