Three ways of looking at the European Research Area

FEUP Doctoral Congress Engineering on 28 June 2021
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”.

7
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.”

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

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

**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?

- Investigator-driven frontier research
- Scientific excellence
- Supporting research as such
- Follow EU research objectives
- Simple rules and procedures

- Applied & technology-oriented research & innovation
- Upgrading less-advanced (widening participation)
- Supporting research with European added-value
- Research supporting other EU policies
- Accountability and fair use of public money
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 we when changing institutions and crossing borders?
For more information:

- CESAER at [www.cesaer.org](http://www.cesaer.org)
- Rik Van de Walle at [Rik.VandeWalle@UGent.be](mailto:Rik.VandeWalle@UGent.be)