



ERA FABRIC

"Structuring an ERA HUB model: indications from an ERA_FABRIC European survey"



Funded by
the European Union

HORIZON-WIDERA pilot project (2023-2025)

About ERA_FABRIC

ERA_FABRIC *Framing And Bridging Regional research and Innovation ecosystems Capacities for a renewed ERA*

HORIZON-WIDERA pilot project (2023-2025)

The ERA_FABRIC project aims to develop and test the **ERA Hubs concept** across different geographies and structures in Europe, based on common compliance criteria.

The process acts as an incentive for advanced ecosystems to seek recognition, and for less advanced ecosystems to reach the criteria facilitating support from European, national and regional level.



ERA_FABRIC in brief

Main focus:

find **ways for better cooperation within and between the regions**, identify what is missing, which models and activities already exist, etc. and based on the result create set of **recommendations for policy makers**.

Final goal:

contributing to the European Research Area and leading to more successful products/services and answers to societal challenges - through **better cooperation between science, business, policy maker** and better **involvement of the civil society**.



What is an ERA Hub

An ERA Hub is a structured governance mechanism

It is designed to align policies, facilitate collaboration and enhance research and innovation impact at regional, national and European levels.

Three key roles of an ERA Hub:

1. **Align research and innovation policies** (regional, national, EU)
2. **Facilitate structured interregional collaboration** (scaling innovation beyond borders)
3. **Provide governance tools to ensure impact and policy coherence**

- **✗ Not** an institution or bureaucratic layer → **✓ A governance tool that strengthens coordination**
- **✗ Not** just a funding mechanism → **✓ A structured way to align policies and innovation efforts**
- **✗ Not** limited to a single country → **✓ A framework for cross-border R&I cooperation**
- **✗ Not** a traditional research network → **✓ An integration point for policy, research and business collaboration**

3 ERA HUB dimensions



Knowledge
ecosystems



Multi stakeholders
Platform



Policy co-creation
Toolbox

ERA_FABRIC Consortium

ERA_FABRIC is designed by leading European actors in the domain of regional development, coordinated by ART-ER. The 11 partners represent 8 Member States and 1 Associated State.



Interregional exchange via stakeholders engagement



- Trondelag (Norway)
- Lower Austria (Austria)
- Emilia-Romagna (Italy)
- Catalonia (Spain)
- South Moravian Region(Czech Republic)
- Masovia (Poland)
- Norte (Portugal)
- Adriatic Croatia (Croatia)
- North West Romania(Romania)



ERA_FABRIC evaluation survey

On-line open survey available on the ERA_FABRIC website
from February to March 2025,
promoted by the partners in their regional environment and beyond

Objective of the survey:

- continuous development and improvement of the ERA Hub concept
- validation of its potential benefits/ impacts
- better tailoring of the supporting tools developed by the project.



Survey results

126 Completed questionnaires

European Countries		Regions
Norway	13	Trøndelag, Rogaland, Agder
Austria	14	Ostosterreich
Romania	19	Nord Vest, Bucharest-Ilfov
Portugal	2	Norte, Lisbon Metropolitan Area
Poland	16	Mazowieckie, Małopolska
Czech Republic	16	Jihomoravský kraj, Prague
Croatia	9	Jadranska Hrvatska
Italy	16	Emilia-Romagna, Lazio
Spain	14	Catalonia
Belgium	1	Brussels
Ukraine	4	Kyiv
Sweden	1	
Lithuania	1	Capital region

Type of responding stakeholders	
Research & High education institutions	55
Industry	6
Business support organisations	13
Clusters/ professional associations	18
Governance institutions	10
Regional development/innovation agencies	23
Civil society organizations	1

Q 3.1 The ERA Hubs initiative aims to achieve several **key outcomes** to enhance regional innovation and territorial competitiveness across the European Union

Possible rates: 1=unimportant, 2=least, 3=average, 4=greatest

	Average	SD
- Build more robust research and innovation ecosystems by leveraging regional strengths and addressing systemic weaknesses	3.49	0.63
- Enhance the transfer of knowledge and the development of entrepreneurial skills , particularly benefiting SMEs and creating new employment opportunities	3.33	0.72
- Promote and exchange knowledge valorisation strategies at the regional level through close collaboration with stakeholders from the public and private sectors.	3.29	0.75
- Fill in the territorial gaps and ensure an easier flow of talents and investments between regions (incl. internationally) and their research and innovation ecosystems	3.16	0.74
- Develop platforms for stakeholder collaboration and sharing of best practices across EU country borders, sectors, and disciplines	3.10	0.84

Q 4.1 The introduction of ERA Hubs in the panorama of European research and innovation policies is considered as **crucial to fill in 3 acknowledged gaps of the existing EU policy mix.**

Possible rates: 1=unimportant, 2=least, 3=average, 4=greatest

	Average	SD
- Strengthening R&I ecosystems: Building robust research and innovation ecosystems by leveraging regional strengths and addressing weaknesses.	3.56	0.64
- Filling territorial gaps: Ensuring all regions have access to research and innovation opportunities.	3.25	0.69
- Facilitating talent and investment flow: Making it easier for talents and investments to move across regions.	3.17	0.69

Q 5.1 ERA Hubs should act in **three strategic directions**, all having in common a multicountry/multiregional coverage and perspective.

Possible rates: 1=unimportant, 2=least, 3=average, 4=greatest

	Average	SD
- Support for knowledge ecosystems: Providing a toolbox of best practices for researchers, innovators, industry, and institutions to cooperate effectively.	3.35	0.73
- Collaboration platforms: Developing common platforms for collaboration and best practice sharing across borders, sectors, and disciplines.	3.25	0.78
- Coordination of R&D policies: Helping regions play a greater part in the coordination of research and development policies and investments.	3.24	0.72

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Q 7.1 Capacity to bring benefit to the current EU policy scenario in terms of **integration and valorisation of research and innovation results**

Possible rates: 1=unimportant, 2=least, 3=average, 4=greatest

	Average	SD
- ERA Hub as Knowledge Ecosystem	3.44	0.70
- ERA Hub as Multi-Stakeholder Platform	3.28	0.74
- ERA Hub as Policy Co-Creation Toolbox	3.03	0.73

Thank You for Your Attention!

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More about ERA_FABRIC:



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