



Norwegian Ministry
of Education and Research

Report

Norwegian ERA Roadmap 2016-2020

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INTRODUCTION

Norway hereby presents its national European Research Area Roadmap (ERA Roadmap). Its purpose is to contribute to a successful European Research Area by stating goals and actions, which implement the Top Action Priorities identified in the ERA Roadmap 2015-2020.

Active participation in ERA is a clear priority in the Norwegian Government's strategy for research and innovation cooperation with the EU (Horizon 2020 and ERA) of May 2014. Through ERA – a unified internal market for research - the EU's member states, EEA / EFTA states and other associated countries seek to strengthen their scientific and technological bases, their competitiveness as well as their capacity to collectively address grand challenges.

Norway has taken part in the development of ERA from the start, notably through full participation in the sixth EU Framework Programme (FP) for Research, and later on in FP7 and Horizon 2020. Norway has been active in the follow-up of the new EU-partnerships since 2008 and the follow-up of the European Commission's 2012 policy Communication on the ERA, including contributions to the ERA Progress Reports. Norway currently participates in all 10 Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) and are involved in 24 of the projects related to the European Strategy for Research Infrastructure (ESFRI) process. Norway will host three ESFRI projects. Participation in the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC) and other ERA-groups has high priority.

Norway shares the concern that to complete ERA and maximise the return on research investments, increased efficiency and effectiveness of the public research system is crucial. Intensified and improved cooperation is also needed to enable the brightest minds to work together to make a significant impact on the grand challenges such as an ageing population, energy security, mobility, environmental degradation, and to reduce duplication of research and infrastructure investments. ERA can also bring more competition to ensure that the best researchers and research teams receive funding - those able to compete in the increasingly globalised and competitive research landscape.

Norway makes substantial contributions to social and economic cohesion in Europe through the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Financial Mechanisms. For the new period from 2014, the EEA and Norway Grants may contribute to a strengthened cooperation between Norway and beneficiary countries on research and on the development of ERA.

With the explicit objective of opening up and connecting European research systems, the ERA agenda focuses on six key priorities:

- More effective national research systems
- Optimal transnational co-operation and competition – On common research agendas, grand challenges and infrastructures
- An open labour market for researchers – Facilitating mobility, supporting training and ensuring attractive careers
- Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research – Encouraging gender diversity to foster science excellence and relevance
- Optimal circulation and transfer of scientific knowledge – To guarantee access to and uptake of knowledge by all
- International cooperation

The ERA roadmap was adopted in spring 2015 and covers the period 2015-2020. It is designed to facilitate and reinforce efforts primarily undertaken at national level to implement ERA. Norway, on the basis of a dialogue with all relevant Norwegian stakeholders, participated actively in the development of the roadmap in ERAC in 2014 and 2015. The Competitiveness Council in May 2015 encouraged the implementation of the ERA roadmap through appropriate actions in action plans and strategies at the national level (national ERA roadmaps), as well as at the EU-level.

Through the ERA roadmap, the EU and its member states, in close cooperation with EEA-EFTA and other associated countries, have decided on one Top Action Priority for each of the six ERA-priorities considered most important to fulfil the ERA-ambitions. The national ERA roadmaps set out goals and actions to be taken to realise the Top Action Priority according to the national status and context.

The ambitions of the 2015 Lund-declaration, to strengthen European efforts in the area of societal challenges, are to be taken into account in the context of the national ERA roadmaps.

A high-level indicator for each priority to enable monitoring of the European roadmap has been proposed by ERAC – cf. annex 2, including a further description of each indicator. The indicators chosen are linked to the ERA-priority area, not to the individual Top Action Priority as such. National indicators assess the designated national actions.

For each ERA-priority area, the starting point is the Top Action Priority of the European roadmap, along with the designated high-level indicator, as well as Norway's current performance according to this indicator. As can be seen, Norway performs rather well on some of the top action priorities, but could also improve, and nevertheless have higher ambitions for performance on all the priorities. The goals and actions set in the national ERA roadmap are tailored to improve our performance. The roadmap has been developed in close contact with relevant Norwegian stakeholders. They will be important also in the implementation of many of the actions put forward in the national ERA roadmap.

The national ERA roadmap will be closely monitored and will be revised according to updates of the European roadmap, including possible improvements of the high-level indicators.