



# Programme Research Infrastructures – Major changes in the programme design during FP7

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## European Research Area (ERA)

political concept and vision (2000)

- free movement of researchers throughout Europe
- creation of excellent networks of research institutions
- joint use of research infrastructures
- optimisation and coordination of national and regional research programmes
- knowledge sharing throughout Europe

contribution to the Lisbon Strategy (most competitive area in the world)

## European Research Area (ERA) – Legal Base

- Treaty on the European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
  - In force since 1 December 2009
- Art. 179-190 (Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) for Research and Technological Development and Space
- Objectives (Art. 179):
  - 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.

## Treaty on the functioning of the European Union

- Framework Programme: Art. 180 a, 182
- Specific Programmes: Art. 182, para. 3 and 4
- Measures based on Art. 185 und 187 (ex-Art. 169, 171)
- ERA: Art. 179, 182, § 5
- coordination of research and development activities: Monitoring and evaluation Art. 181, § 2
- the realization of the ERA is a **pivotal and essential objective** of the framework programme for research, technological development and innovation

## Research Infrastructure - Definition

Facilities, resources and related services which are used by the scientific community to conduct top-level research in their respective fields

- Major scientific equipment or set of instruments
- Knowledge-based resources such as collections, archives, repositories or structured scientific information
- ICT-based e-infrastructures such as data, computing, software and communication infrastructures
- Entity of a unique nature to achieve excellence in research

Research infrastructures may be ‚single-sited‘ or ‚distributed‘

## ESFRI

**ESFRI** (European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures)  
Informal body (member states and associated countries to FP);  
inaugurated in 2002

### Main task:

- Support to a coherent and strategy-led approach **to** policy making on research infrastructures in Europe
- Facilitation of multilateral initiatives for the better use und development of research infrastructures
- Identification of new research infrastructures of pan-European interest in all scientific fields according to the needs of the research community

## ESFRI Roadmap

- Autumn 2006: Publication of the first ESFRI Roadmap with 35 strategic projects
- December 2008: Publication of the updated list with 10 new projects
- December 2010: Publication of a further update with projects on energy, food and system biology



## Research Infrastructures in the European Research Area (ERA)

One of the five **ERA-Initiatives**:

1. Researchers (careers and mobility)
- 2. Research Infrastructures**
3. Knowledge Sharing
4. International Science & Technology Cooperation
5. Joint Programming



European Research Area



## Research Infrastructures in ERA

- Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)
  - entered into force 28 August 2010 in order to facilitate the joint establishment and operation of research facilities
- Implementation of the project on the ESFRI Roadmap by the member states
  - National roadmaps - prioritization
- Elaboration of indicators by ERAC (former CREST)

## Impact on the programme design – Research Infrastructures

- Integrating Activities (DG Research) from bottom-up to top down
- More references on projects of the ESFRI Roadmap in the topics of the Integrating Activities (DG Research)
- More efficient use of e-infrastructures and/or their components
- EU-funded projects' contributions to the European Research Area