

The new European Research Area (ERA)

After seven months of work of the ERA Forum with stakeholder representation, and after its 9th meeting on 23 September in Ljubljana, we finally know the latest version of the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024. Out of the 20 ERA actions that were originally proposed by the Council Conclusions in November 2021, 16 have gathered the necessary minimal commitment from 14 member states to be included in the Agenda. While the university sector's advocacy allowed for two ERA actions to reach the threshold (2 – Copyright & Data; 13 – Empowering Higher Education), two other ERA actions did not reach the threshold (17 – Research performing organisations; 20 – R&I investments & reforms).

Stakeholders were also asked to provide their commitments to ERA Actions. EUA has committed to all ERA actions but has indicated 11 actions as high priorities for the Association following the recommendation of its Research Policy Working Group.

The focus of the ERA Forum will now be on the implementation of the ERA actions. EUA will remain the sector's representative and coordinator on the ERA Forum. In addition, recent influencing has led the Commission and member states to agree that the 11 university associations actively involved in ERA will be allowed to individually engage in all implementation activities of the ERA actions they committed to. This will facilitate the sector's contribution by sharing the work among the university associations.

Of particular interest to the university sector, ERA action 3 on the reform of research assessment is probably one of the actions that have progressed the most. As a reminder, EUA, Science Europe and the European Commission have worked closely with stakeholders from the R&I sector on this reform. The [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#) was published on 20 July and is now [open](#) for signatures. Signatures will be collected through the new website of the future Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment, CoARA (www.coara.eu). An initial group of 51 organisations, including 21 universities and their associations, declared their commitment to sign the Agreement before the official launch of the signature process.

To continue to inform its members on the next steps in the development of the Coalition, EUA has recently published a dedicated [expert voice](#) and will hold the [third workshop](#) of its series on reforming research assessment on 25 October, 14:00-16:00 CEST. [Registrations](#) will be accepted until 21 October.