# Science & Education for Society Working Group

## Creating a coherent European space for research, innovation and education
## Linking the ERA and EEA

Webinar, 11 September 2020

*Vanessa Debiais-Sainton*
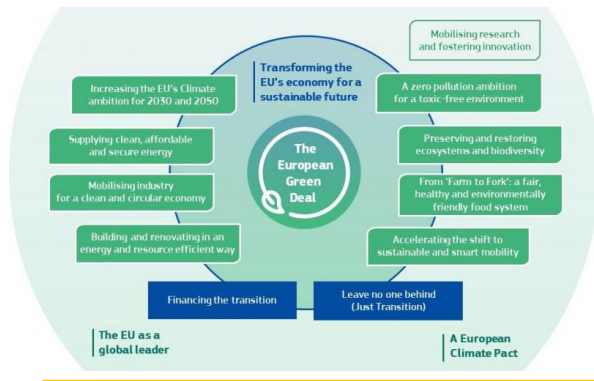*Apostolia Karamali*
*European Commission*

# Outline of synergies

- Policy

- Programmes

- Projects and People

- Cross-cutting aspects

# Synergies in Policies

From ERA and EEA towards the universities of the future

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# The new context: **a sustainable, digital and resilient Europe**



**Competitive sustainability**

**Digital transformation**

**COVID 19 and the EU recovery response**

# European Skills Agenda

## for sustainable competitiveness and social fairness and resilience

#SocialRights

# HOW? – BUILDING BLOCKS

2. Strengthening skills intelligence

3. National Skills Strategies and Public Employment Services

4. Recommendation on VET

5. European Universities and scientists

6. Skills to support twin transitions

7. STEM graduates, entrepreneurial and transversal skills

8. Skills for Life

9. Initiative on individual learning accounts

10. A European approach to micro-credentials

**Skills for jobs**

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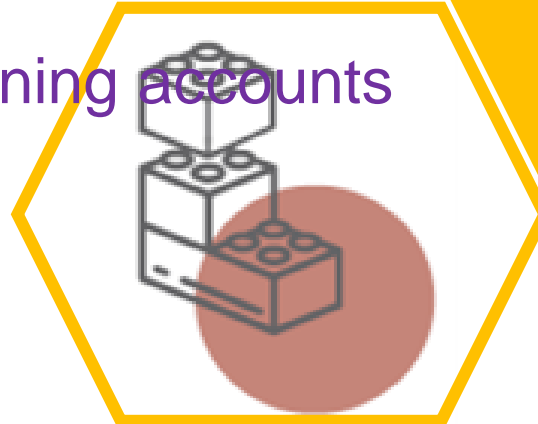
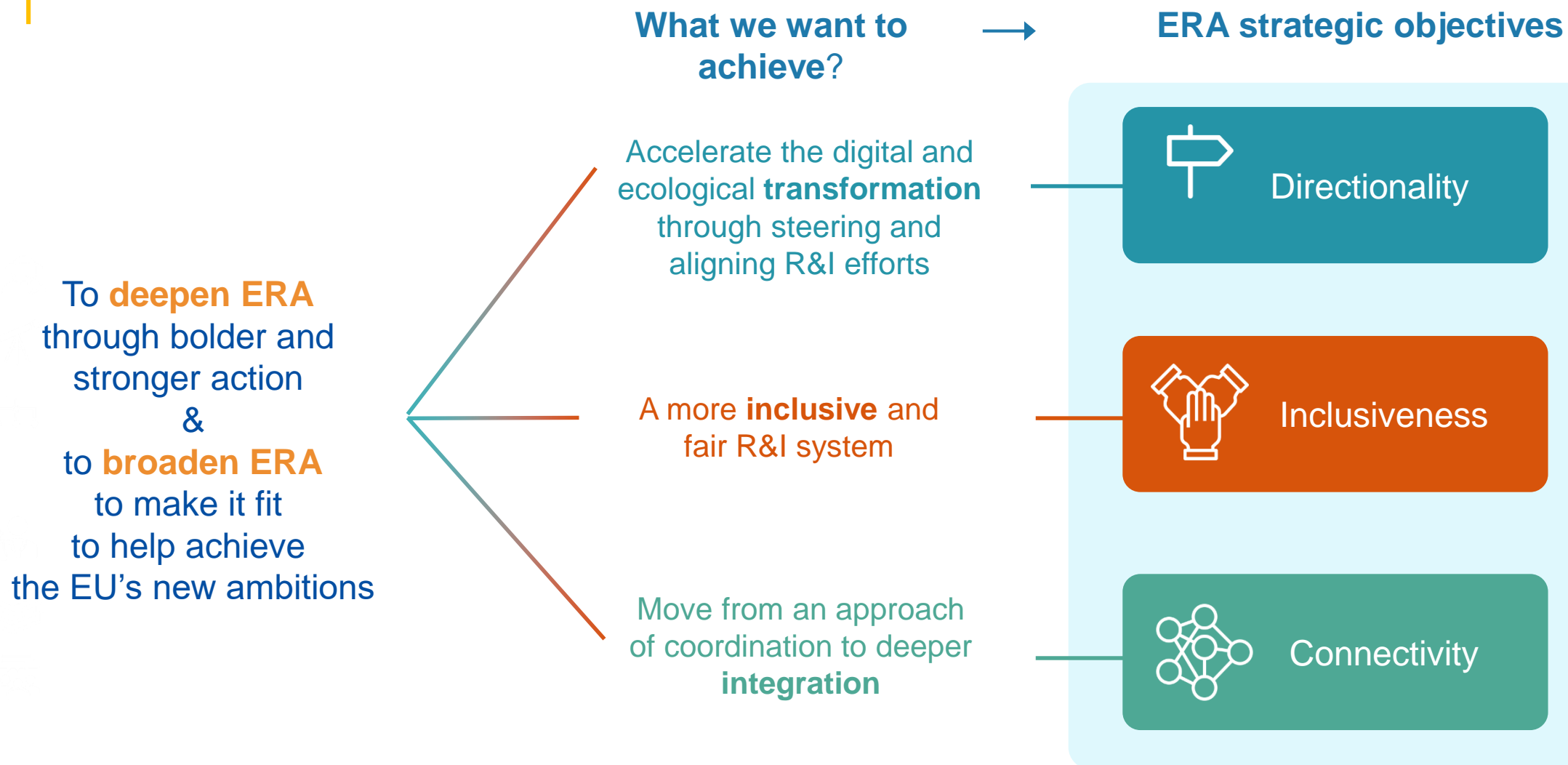# The European Universities initiative and skills for scientists

- Innovative alliances between higher education institutions
- Equip students with the most advanced knowledge and skills in their field

A framework and a taxonomy of skills for researchers

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# Vision and objectives for the new ERA

**What we want to achieve?** → **ERA strategic objectives**

To **deepen ERA** through bolder and stronger action & to **broaden ERA** to make it fit to help achieve the EU's new ambitions

Accelerate the digital and ecological **transformation** through steering and aligning R&I efforts

A more **inclusive** and fair R&I system

Move from an approach of coordination to deeper **integration**

Directionality

Inclusiveness

Connectivity

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# European Universities

Survey May 2020 – 17 Alliances – Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

**60%**

**96%**
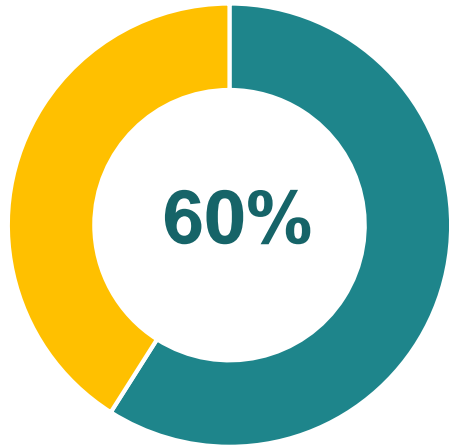
**More than 60%** consider that being part of a European University has put them in a stronger position
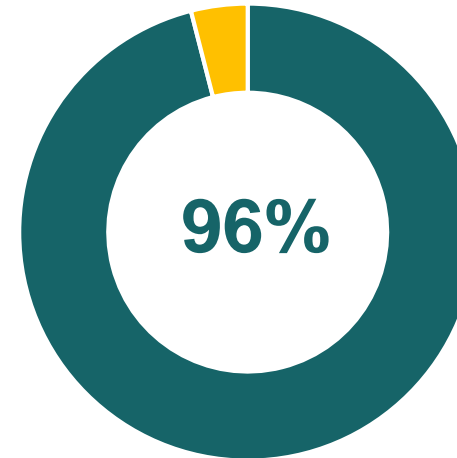
**More than 96%** think they would have been better prepared if their European University had been fully operational

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# European Education Area
## New initiatives in Higher Education

► Collective vision on the Universities of the future:

transformation agenda for higher education

Targetting all higher education institutions, covering all missions

► European degree

► Explore feasibility of a European University Statute

► European approach for micro-credentials

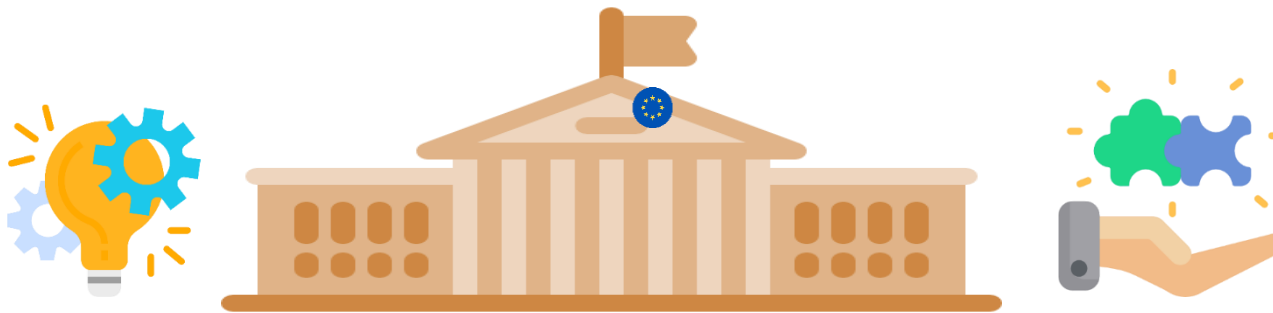► Towards a European Quality Assurance and recognition

system

2021 - 2022

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# Synergies in Programmes

Erasmus and Horizon Europe, and beyond

# European Universities

## European inter-university Campuses

### Bachelor/Master/Doctoral levels

Flexible and personalised European curriculum with embedded mobility leading to a European degree

Innovative pedagogies with **challenged-based transdisciplinary approach** to foster entrepreneurial mind-sets and civic engagement

Enhanced staff mobility between partner institutions to teach/do research/work and equip students with a broad range of forward looking skills

## COVID-19 impact: acceleration of reforms

- A **fully-functional digital EU inter-university campus**: pooling together on-line courses, sharing operational joint digital learning and teaching environment with common digital governance tools.

- Fully working common infrastructure for **joint teaching units & blended courses** across universities.

- Developing **in cooperation with companies, regions** and **cities** short learning courses leading to **micro-credentials.**

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# Horizon 2020 Support to European Universities

*Supporting the institutional transformation of universities (and their surrounding ecosystem)*

Possible transformation modules (R&I dimension testbed):

- Developing a common science agenda

- Sharing resources & infrastructures

- Strengthening human capital (incl. alternative reward mechanisms & balanced brain circulation)

- Mainstreaming Open Science practices

- Engaging citizens & society

- Reinforcing academia-business collaboration & knowledge transfer

- Exploring joint structures for common barriers and best practices

# Horizon Europe: Preliminary structure

## Pillar 1
### Excellent Science

- European Research Council

- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

- Research Infrastructures

## Pillar 2
### Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

**Clusters**
- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

## Pillar 3
### Innovative Europe

- European Innovation Council

- European innovation ecosystems

- European Institute of Innovation and Technology

## Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

- Widening participation and spreading excellence
- Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

# The role of R&I for the EU Recovery Plan

(1) The role of R&I as essential part of the **coordinated EU response** to the Covid-19 outbreak

(2) R&I drive, enable and accelerate the **digital and ecological transformation** of our societies, with a focus on the European Green Deal;

(3) In the context of the current fiscal stance as a response to Covid19, and in view of potential future crises, **public investments in R&I should be prioritised**;

(4) Investments in innovative **SMEs (including start-ups) and midcaps** are critical for the Recovery;

(5) **Incentives** for **firms** to create capacity to maintain their economic activity and invest in people and in R&I during the crisis to build **system wide resilience**;

(6) R&I funding has been among the most impactful tools at EU level to **tackle the Covid-19 outbreak.**

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# Towards recovery

**A dedicated "Erasmus recovery action"**
- Piloted in 2nd half 2020 with specific calls

**Next Erasmus: support for deeper cooperation**
- Step by step approach through the various cooperation opportunities
- Green, digital and inclusive

**A stronger Erasmus budget**
- 2014-2021 EU-27: € 13,5 billion
- **2021-2027 EU-27: € 27,9 billion (+75% in fixed prices)**

**Stronger synergies with other EU instruments**
- Horizon Europe, Structural funds, Digital Europe, InvestEU

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# Erasmus programme
## Synergies with research beyond the European Universities

### Objectives

- Step by step transformation of higher education institutions towards Universities of the future
- High quality and deeper cooperation between universities, research institutions, enterprises and local ecosystems
- Equipping young people with 21$^{st}$ century skills, incl. critical thinking
- Erasmus partnerships support testing and piloting of promising Horizon Europe research results in new didactics and pedagogy
- Attract a pool of talents in research careers

### Policy driven approach

- EU instruments to work in the same direction without overlapping
- Implement deeply interconnected actions where relevant

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# Projects and People

Students, staff and researchers

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# Students and staff

- Exposure to research to **boost students' and staff critical-thinking skills**

  - Erasmus students' (Bachelor, Master, Doctoral level or short cycles) and staff participate in the work of Horizon-funded research teams (e.g. traineeship or work-based project)

  - Network-wide trainings in Horizon Europe (e.g. MSCA Doctorates or Staff Exchanges) open to Erasmus students or staff

- **Doctoral candidates**

  - Erasmus offers opportunities for the mobility of doctoral candidates and staff members to experience an international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary exchange abroad for a period of between 2 days to 12 months.

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# Researchers

- balanced circulation of research and innovation talents

- boost teaching skills of researchers to transfer latest research results back into education

- boost permeability and employability of R&I talents across sectors

  - retaining, attracting through favourable working conditions (see above)

  - create transnational ties between researchers within and outside Europe (talent platform)

  - better access to intersectoral mobility funding (funding portal, synergies EU-MS)

  - incentivising mobility in key areas and less obvious destinations

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# Cross-cutting aspects

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## Geopolitical dimension
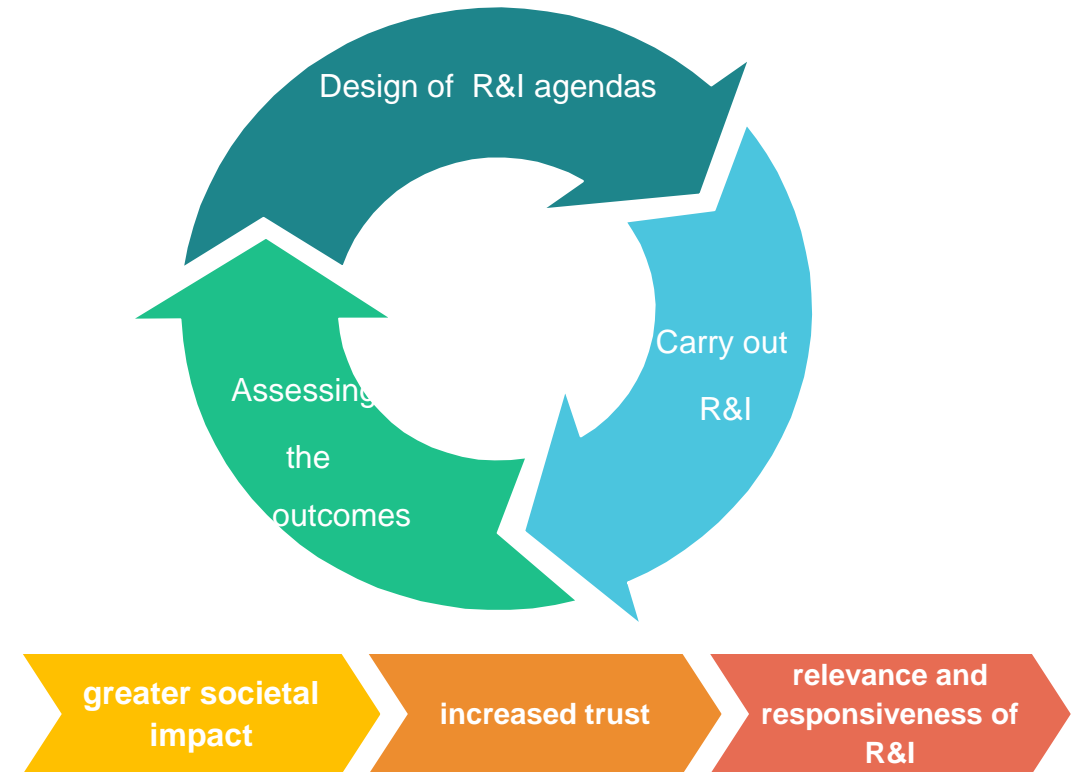
A **revamped international cooperation strategy in R&I**

A **coherence in the actions of the Union and the Member States**

**Association to the EU Framework Programmes**

Horizon Europe - Investing to shape our future

## Citizen engagement

Design of R&I agendas

Carry out R&I

Assessing the outcomes

**greater societal impact**

**increased trust**

**relevance and responsiveness of R&I**

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# EURAXESS

Policy instrument for ERA Priority 3: Open labour market for researchers

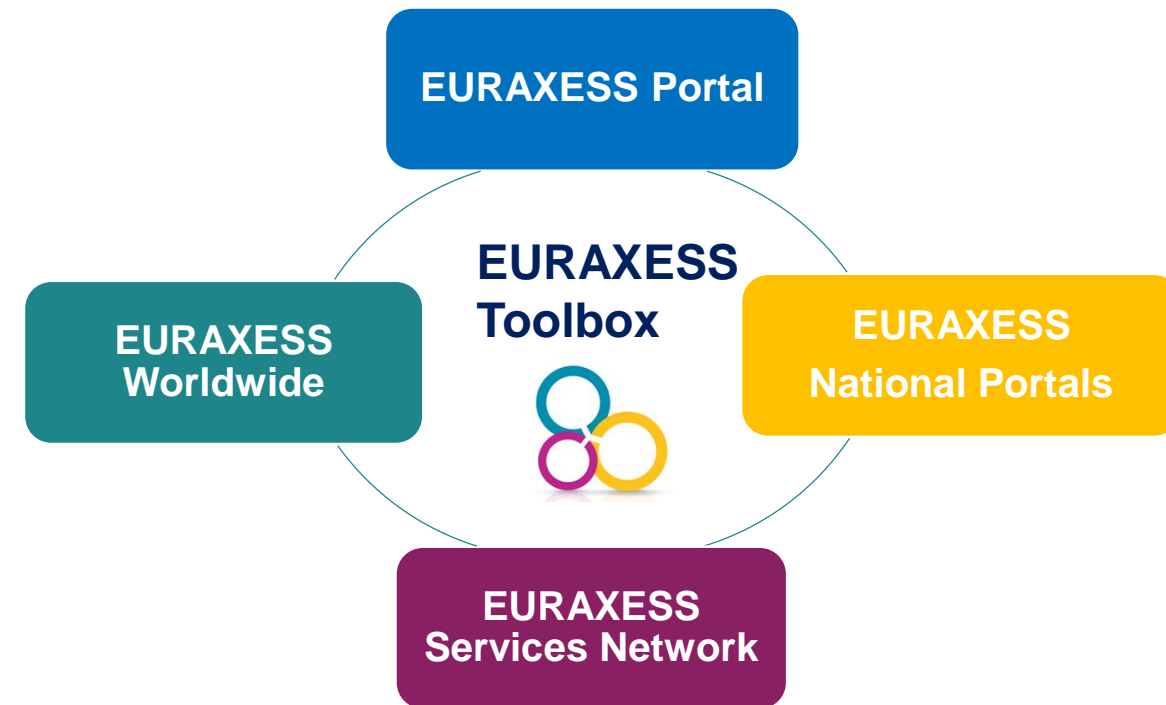**Launched in 2003 (formerly ERA-MORE**

**Backed by 42 countries (MS and AC):**

- ✓ Remove the barriers to researchers' mobility,
- ✓ Create conditions for open, transparent merit-based recruitment,
- ✓ Support career development and foster attractive research careers.

**Target audiences:**

- ✓ Researchers & their families
- ✓ R&I institutions (employers & funders)

**EURAXESS Portal**

**EURAXESS Toolbox**

**EURAXESS Worldwide**

**EURAXESS National Portals**

**EURAXESS Services Network**

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# Outreach

# Outreach

- Wide public consultation on the Digital Education Action Plan this summer

- Numerous targetted consultations this autumn

# Keep in touch

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# Thank you

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