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European strategy on research and technology infrastructures

RedIDI – 28 October 2025

ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027: Research & technology infrastructures

ERA Structural Policies

Structural policy 2 - Strengthening sustainability, accessibility and resilience of research infrastructures in the ERA

Set of foreseen activities

- [...] a long-term EU strategy for research infrastructures including a new, strategic approach for EU support to research infrastructures;

ERA Actions

Kick-off meeting: 10/10

Action 16 – Accelerating R&I investments for Europe's industrial transformation and competitive sustainability

Set of foreseen activities

- [...] contribution to the European policy on Research and Technology Infrastructures including actions leading to demand-driven use of such infrastructures by industry, in particular SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups

Towards a European strategy on Research and Technology Infrastructures

Throughout 2024-2025

Evidence collected in the context of the ERA Policy Agenda and ESFRI, as well as interaction with key infrastructure stakeholders.

Specific Milestones:

26 June 2024

ERAC discusses the general approach towards a European strategy for research Infrastructures

25 October 2024

ERAC stresses TI policy must be considered within broader ecosystem, in particular in relation to RIs

13 June 2025

ERAC adopts opinion on Research and Technology Infrastructures

17 September 2024

Commissioner Zaharieva's mission letter includes a "long term strategy to boost European Research Infrastructures"

24 April 2025- 22 May 2025

Formal Call for Evidence for a European strategy on research and technology infrastructures

15 September 2025

Adoption of the European strategy on Research and Technology Infrastructures

Research and technology infrastructures

Research Infrastructures: equipment or set of instruments, collections, archives and scientific data infrastructures for frontier science; high-quality research data producers and curators; addressing global challenges; enabling deep-tech innovation

Technology Infrastructures: facilities, equipment, capabilities and resources to develop, test, upscale and validate new technologies. They can be test beds, pilot lines, cleanrooms, demonstration facilities to validate and scale new technologies; catalysts for Europe's startup ecosystems and industry

Together they form **the backbone of Europe's R&I ecosystem**

Why are research and technology infrastructures important?

- Backbone of **Europe's R&I ecosystem**
- 'Poles of attraction' for global talent to ***Choose Europe***
- Indispensable **producers and curators of high-quality research data**
- Enabling **deep-tech innovation** and supporting Europe's **technological sovereignty**



Why a European strategy now?

- Europe's research and technology infrastructures are strategic assets for its scientific, technological and industrial **competitiveness**, and they are 'poles of attraction' for global talent to ***Choose Europe***
- As major powers disengage from R&I cooperation, these infrastructures are essential to **tackle global** challenges, while bolstering **sovereignty in critical research data**.
- Urgent need to improve the channeling of breakthrough research into innovation and economic impact; **deep tech startups and scaleups** rely on access to research and technology infrastructures for their R&D.
- These infrastructures have the potential to **pool resources**, share knowledge, and coordinate efforts across the wider European R&I ecosystem

Challenges to address

€ **Fragmented policies and funding** across the EU, especially for technology infrastructures

🤝 **Limited collaboration** across sectors and borders, reinforcing disparities

🏠 **Complex and costly access** procedures, particularly affecting SMEs and startups

🧠 **Skills gaps** in technical, scientific and managerial staff

⚙️ **Untapped potential of digitalisation** and AI adoption

📈 **Hampered reuse of data** for research and innovation

Vision and objectives

- Strengthen infrastructures through holistic **capacity building** and **mobilising investments**, as well as maximizing the potential of digitalisation.
- Bolster **accessibility to continuum of complementary services**, best-in-class facilities and data to drive excellence in science and innovation.
- **Attract global talent** and strengthen career pathways in line with *Choose Europe*
- Improve **governance frameworks** to support investment decisions and align priorities
- Increase **resilience and autonomy including research data sovereignty** while leveraging world class research infrastructures in international cooperation

Blocs of Actions

Capacities &
Investment

Digitalisation
& AI

Accessibility

Attracting &
Growing
Talent

Governance
Framework

International
dimension &
Resilience

Capacities & Investment

1. Develop **criteria to identify technology infrastructures** of European interest in synergy with the ESFRI roadmap. (2025)
2. Map and assess capacities, **identify priority areas for targeted investments** and develop joint roadmaps. (2026)
3. Invest in **building and sustaining critical new capacities** to ensure global leadership. (2027)
4. **Increase EU-level funding** opportunities, pooling public and private resources. (2026)

Capacities & Investment

5. Provide a **stable framework for maintaining and upgrading research infrastructures**, supporting new technology needs. (2025)
6. **Promote synergies** among regional, national and EU funding instruments, adjusting rules where needed. (2025)
7. **Revise ERIC Regulation** to strengthen joint investments and international participation. (2025)
8. Facilitate transnational and multisite **collaboration among technology infrastructures**. (2025)

Digitalisation & AI

9. Sustain and enhance **EOSC Federation** as Europe's trusted research and innovation data space. (2025)
10. Ensure compliance with **FAIR principles** and connections to EOSC and data spaces. (2025)
11. **Support pooling and development of AI-ready data**, tools and services, contributing to the pilot of RAISE. (2025)

Accessibility

- 12. Develop an **integrated and sustainable scheme for access to state-of-the-art research infrastructures** ('one-stop-shop') with AI assisted navigation. (2025)
- 13. Implement **pilot schemes for startups and scaleups** to access technology infrastructures. (2026)
- 14. Test joint research and technology infrastructure transnational **access schemes in priority areas**. (2027)

Attracting & Growing Talent

15. Develop strategies for **attracting global talent in line with Choose Europe**. (2026)

16. Support **training for staff** in research and technology infrastructures: (2026)

- Professionalising managerial and leadership staff training
- Address evolving needs such as research security and data management
- Improve entrepreneurial skills for infrastructures
- Establish mechanisms for staff exchanges between infrastructures and innovation ecosystems.

Governance Framework

- 17. Propose an overarching **EU coordination framework** for the research and technology infrastructures **ecosystem**. (2026)
- 18. Implement a **governance mechanism** with Member States and stakeholders **for technology infrastructures**. (2026)
- 19. Encourage **ESFRI** to review its methodologies and propose new indicators linked to EU priorities and economic security. (2026)

International Dimension & Resilience

- 20. Strengthen the international role of infrastructures in **science diplomacy** and promote reciprocal access for EU researchers. (2025)
- 21. Strengthen Europe's **sovereignty in critical research data and develop research security plans** aligned with the Protect EU strategy. (2025)
- 22. Support integration of candidate and associated countries, with focus on Ukraine, into **the ERA**. (2025)

Links to major initiatives

- **Life Sciences Strategy:** Develop and streamline European research infrastructures to facilitate multi-country clinical trials
- **Upcoming European Research Area Act**
- **Upcoming European Innovation Act:** Further promote access of innovative companies to research and technology infrastructures
- **EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy:** Develop a **Charter of Access** for industrial users to research and technology infrastructures including innovative startups and scaleups
- **Upcoming AI in Science Strategy:** Contribute to RAISE (Resource for AI in Science in Europe) by pooling data, tools and services