

ERA Factsheet

No. 6

Reforming and Enhancing the European Research and Innovation System in Horizon Europe – Key Facts on Knowledge Valorisation in the European Research Area

This factsheet¹ presents key information on knowledge valorisation (KV) and highlights its relevance within the European Research Area and Horizon Europe, with a special focus on the Horizon Europe programme component “[Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I System](#)” (in short: the “ERA part”).

The European Commission defines **knowledge valorisation** as follows:

“Knowledge valorisation is the process of creating social and economic value from knowledge – transforming research results, data, and know-how into sustainable products, services, solutions, and knowledge-based policies that benefit society. It serves as a bridge linking academia, industry, policymakers, and citizens”.

Source: [COM\(2022\) 391 final](#)

Knowledge Valorisation in the ERA Part of the WIDERA Programme

The [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#), first proposed by the European Commission in 2000, aims to create a single, borderless market for research, innovation, and technology across Europe.

Producing excellent research is not sufficient on its own. For R&I investment to deliver its full return in economic growth, societal solutions, and global competitiveness, research results need to reach and

¹ This factsheet does not claim to be exhaustive and is based on the state of play as of July 2026.

benefit the people and sectors that can use them. KV is the policy approach the EU has put in place to make this happen.

Recognising its strategic importance, KV was identified as a dedicated ERA priority in the [2020 ERA Communication \(COM\(2020\) 628\)](#), which called for updated guiding principles for KV and a code of practice for the smart use of intellectual property.

Within Horizon Europe, the [ERA part](#) of [WIDERA](#) plays a specific and central role in supporting KV activities. While the thematic clusters in Pillar II of Horizon Europe embed KV as a cross-cutting dimension of broader R&I objectives, for example, WIDERA's mandate to strengthen the ERA make it the dedicated programme for targeted KV actions within Horizon Europe.

Specifically, it supports the implementation of the ERA Policy Agendas, which define the upscaling of KV capacities and activities as a structural policy. The ERA part funds measures that test and replicate valorisation practices, build intermediary capacity, and strengthen citizen engagement in the uptake of research results.

ERA Knowledge Valorisation: Key Milestones

The timeline below provides background context on how KV became part of ERA.

January-March 2000	ERA is proposed by the European Commission in COM(2000) 6 and endorsed in March 2000 at the Lisbon European Council , aiming to integrate Europe's fragmented research systems and to lay the foundations for today's objective of a more connected and coordinated European research landscape.
2008	Commission Recommendation on IP management in knowledge transfer – predecessor to modern KV guidance.
September 2020	Commission Communication ' A new ERA for Research and Innovation ' (COM(2020) 628) proposes developing guiding principles for KV as a priority action.
November 2021	The Council of the EU adopts the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe (Council Recommendation, 26 November 2021), which identifies knowledge valorisation as one of the priority areas for joint action in support of ERA. On the same day, the Council Conclusions on the Future Governance of ERA endorse the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024, which translates this commitment into a concrete action: ERA Action 7 – "Upgrade EU guidance for better knowledge valorisation".
August 2022	The European Commission adopts the proposal for a Council Recommendation on KV guiding principles: COM(2022) 391 .
December 2022	The Council of the EU formally adopts the Recommendation on Guiding Principles for Knowledge Valorisation – a landmark ERA milestone. The seven guiding principles cover: KV in policy frameworks; skills and capacities; incentive systems for researchers; intellectual asset management; relevance in public funding; peer learning; metrics and monitoring.
March 2023	Two Codes of Practice adopted as Commission Recommendations, providing practical guidance for researchers and institutions on IP strategy, smart

	licensing, and standardisation of research results: (1) Intellectual Assets Management ; (2) Standardisation for KV .
March 2024	Two further Codes of Practice adopted: (3) Industry-Academia Co-Creation ; (4) Citizen Engagement for KV . The Industry-Academia Co-Creation Code supports structured collaboration between research organisations and companies. The Citizen Engagement Code supports the involvement of citizens and civil society in co-creating and deploying research-based solutions.
January 2025	Competitiveness Compass adopted. Highlights insufficient commercial exploitation of research results as a key European challenge. Points to the ERA Act and European Innovation Act as planned initiatives to address this issue.
2025-2027	ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 elevates KV from a time-limited action (ERA Action 7, 2022-2024) to a structural policy, reflecting a sustained commitment from both the European Commission and the EU Member States beyond individual ERA Policy Agendas.
2026 (Planned)	ERA Act – expected legislative initiative aimed at strengthening the governance of the European Research Area, including KV. It is intended to reinforce long-term coordination between the European Commission and the EU Member States across key ERA policy areas, such as R&D investment, researcher mobility, open science and scientific freedom. European Innovation Act – planned legislative initiative at Single Market level addressing barriers to innovation and commercialisation, including knowledge and IP exploitation, industry-academia collaboration, access to finance and infrastructure, and framework conditions for startups.

Horizon Europe: Knowledge Valorisation Funding Actions

→ ERA Knowledge Valorisation: Awarded Projects in the ERA Part

The following projects have been awarded funding under Horizon Europe's ERA calls and are specifically targeting KV, thereby contributing to the ERA Policy Agendas. These projects represent an important part of the active EU KV project ecosystem, supporting policy implementation, experimentation, and best practice exchange.

Many of these projects offer tools, training resources, or networking opportunities relevant to Horizon Europe applicants and beneficiaries. The projects target different levels, ranging from individuals to institutions to the European level. The project websites provide further information on their outputs.

Call	Project	Full Title and Focus
HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ERA-01-32 Standardisation Booster	HSbooster.eu	Standardisation Booster for Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe research results. Connects project beneficiaries with standardisation experts; provides a Standards Orientation Tool, Training Academy, and micro-grants for CEN Workshop Agreements.
HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01-32 Experimentation space for R&I results	FUTURESILIENCE	An Experimentation Space for the Uptake and Use of R&I Results for EU Resilience and Future Preparedness. Tests and applies research results to strengthen policy resilience.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-03 Experimentation and good practices for value creation	Project BEAGLE	Blue Oceans Strategy for Value Creation. Translates scientific outputs into scalable services and policy tools.
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-03 Experimentation and good practices for value creation	CO-VALUE	Citizen-Oriented Valorisation for Advancement, Learning and Uptake in Europe. Experiments with citizen-centred collaboration and replication of valorisation practices across borders.
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-03 Experimentation and good practices for value creation	KALEIDOS	Quadruple-helix-based KV Best Practices to Transition to an Open Science Innovation Management Model. Builds multi-stakeholder networks for knowledge uptake.
HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-01 Experimentation and good practices for value creation	MEDVIEW	Medical Research Valorisation through Intelligent Engagement of Citizens for Well-being. Focuses on health research KV through structured citizen engagement.
HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-01 Experimentation and good practices for value creation	ERIS	European Research Institute on Simulation. Valorisation of simulation-based research results for industrial and policy applications.
HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-01 Experimentation and good practices for value creation	GreenEsteem	Collaborative KV for Sustainable Nature-Based Solutions. Applies KV approaches to nature-based solutions in the context of the green transition.
HORIZON-WIDERA -2023-ERA-01-05 Exploitation and valorisation of results relevant to the ERA Policy Agenda	INSPIRING ERA	Connects ERA policymakers with the R&I community, translating ERA policy outcomes – including KV - into accessible tools, factsheets, and events for practitioners across Europe.
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-01 Rolling out the ERA Policy Agenda results – Area 4: Establish a European network of knowledge valorisation intermediaries	Valleys	Valorisation Alliance Linking Laboratories, Enterprises and society Stakeholders. Establishes a European network to empower and bring together experts who translate research into practice.
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-01 Rolling out the ERA Policy Agenda results – Area 4: Establish a European network of knowledge valorisation intermediaries	ALL4KV	European Alliance for Knowledge Valorisation. A practical bridge between academia, industry, public authorities and society so that the Guiding Principles and the four Codes of Practice become daily practice.
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-01 Rolling out the ERA Policy Agenda results – Area 4: Establish a European network of knowledge valorisation intermediaries	TransBioNet	Accelerating Biomedical Translation through a European Network of Knowledge Valorisation Intermediaries. The first pan-European network of knowledge valorisation intermediaries fully dedicated to drug discovery and biomedical innovation.
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-01 Rolling out the ERA Policy Agenda results – Area 5: Upgrade services of Knowledge and Technology	KnowValTE	Knowledge VALorisation To Everyone. Coherent, demand-driven framework that builds competences, upgrades institutional services, and embeds systemic change.

Transfer professionals in universities and research performing organisations		
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-01 Rolling out the ERA Policy Agenda results – Area 5: Upgrade services of Knowledge and Technology Transfer professionals in universities and research performing organisations	Skills4Valorisation	Valorising Skills, Empowering KTOs – Building Europe's bridge from research to impact. Maps and benchmarks practices, develops a European competence framework, designs training modules and service-adaptation toolkits.
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-01 Rolling out the ERA Policy Agenda results – Area 5: Upgrade services of Knowledge and Technology Transfer professionals in universities and research performing organisations	Knowledge to Impact	Valorising Knowledge for European Competitiveness. Transforms fragmented Technology and Knowledge Transfer Offices into a connected, professionalised, and impact-driven ecosystem.
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-01 Rolling out the ERA Policy Agenda results – Area 5: Upgrade services of Knowledge and Technology Transfer professionals in universities and research performing organisations	WINGS	Widening Innovation through Networking, Growth and Skills. Addresses the persistent innovation gap between WIDENING countries and the EU average by strengthening the capacity of Knowledge/Technology Transfer Offices and fostering KV across research-performing organisations.

Further projects aimed at strengthening various aspects of KV will follow in 2026 under the ERA call topics:

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-04: Piloting innovative approaches to support academic startups and spinoffs, and
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-06: European Citizens' Hackathon Championship.

By the end of Horizon Europe, the ERA component will have funded almost 20 projects aimed at strengthening KV, with a **total budget of over 30 million euros**.

→ KV-Related Calls for Proposals Beyond the ERA Part in 2026-2027

KV is not confined to the WIDERA part of Horizon Europe. It is embedded as a cross-cutting priority across the entire framework programme, appearing, for example, in thematic clusters, missions, and partnerships under Pillar II alongside sector-specific research objectives. This reflects the European Commission's recognition that KV is not a standalone policy area but an expected dimension of excellence-driven R&I. Projects are encouraged to demonstrate how their results will reach users, generate impact, and create value beyond the research community itself.

To support applicants, National Contact Points (NCPs), and ERA stakeholders, [NCP WIDERA.NET](#) has produced two dedicated guidebooks mapping all ERA-relevant topics outside the ERA calls, across Pillar II and the Mission calls, with a dedicated chapter for KV-relevant topics.

For each relevant topic identified, the following information was provided: topic ID, title, funding type, direct link to the Funding & Tenders Portal, total budget, expected funding per project, number of projects to be funded, and a description of the KV dimension within the topic.

[ERA Opportunities Guidebook 2026](#) – Covers KV-relevant topics in the 2026 calls.

Based on the NCP_WIDERA.NET mapping, 6 KV-related topics appear in the 2026 work programmes:

- **Cluster 2** (1 topic): creative startups and disruptive innovation in the cultural and creative industries.
- **Cluster 4** (5 topics): industry-academia knowledge exchange in SSH; Technology Infrastructure access for startups, scaleups and SMEs; discoverability of research assets; Proof-of-Market pilots for Horizon R&I results.

[ERA Opportunities Guidebook 2027](#) – The equivalent document for 2027 calls, structured identically.

Based on the NCP_WIDERA.NET mapping, 6 KV-related topics appear in the 2027 work programmes:

- **Cluster 2** (1 topic): scaling culture and creativity-driven European innovation ecosystems.
- **Cluster 4** (3 topics): unlocking academic intellectual assets for industry and SMEs; Technology Infrastructure access; Proof-of-Market pilots for Cluster 4 R&I results.
- **Cluster 6** (1 topic): commercialisation of food systems microbiome research.
- **Missions** (1 topic): deployment and scaling of innovative wastewater valorisation solutions in climate-resilient cities and regions.

Total indicative budget across all listed Pillar II & Missions calls with KV-related topics in 2026-2027: **approximately 89.5 million euros.**

What KV means for your Horizon Europe project:

All Horizon Europe projects must include:

- (1) a **Data Management Plan** (DMP), explaining how research data will be stored, shared, and made reusable (FAIR);
- (2) an **Exploitation and Dissemination Plan**, setting out how project results will reach users and generate impact beyond the research community.

Both are grant agreement obligations, submitted at the start of the project and updated throughout. Evaluators assess KV at both proposal and reporting stages.

EU Tools and Resources for Knowledge Valorisation

→ EU Valorisation Policy

The European Commission's overarching [policy framework for knowledge valorisation](#), bringing together EU strategies, policy initiatives, guiding principles, and implementation tools supporting the uptake and impact of research and innovation results.

→ EU Knowledge Valorisation Platform

The [EU Knowledge Valorisation Platform](#) is the Commission's central community hub for KV practitioners across Europe. It provides:

- A [repository of best practices](#) and case studies from universities, companies, research organisations, and public authorities.
- Regular [thematic publications](#), articles, and news on KV trends and policy developments.
- [The EU Knowledge Valorisation Newsletter](#) for ongoing stakeholder communication.
- [EU Knowledge Valorisation Talks](#) - online events showcasing novel approaches.
- [Events](#), online trainings and workshops.

→ ERA Platform: Horizon Europe Support for Knowledge Valorisation

The [ERA Platform page](#) is the main ERA-level entry point mapping Horizon Europe instruments, calls, and projects that support KV implementation. It aggregates information on funded ERA KV projects, relevant WIDERA calls, and the ERA structural policy on KV, providing practitioners, NCPs, and policymakers with a single point of access to the full landscape of KV support available under Horizon Europe. It complements the European Commission's EU Valorisation Policy and EU KV Platform by focusing specifically on the ERA governance and Horizon Europe implementation dimensions.

→ Horizon Results Booster

The [Horizon Results Booster](#) is a free expert support service funded by Horizon Europe, open to projects funded under FP7, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, and related programmes (Joint Undertakings, EIT KICs). It provides tailor-made dissemination support and go-to-market mentoring to help project teams translate research results into societal and commercial impact.

→ European IP Helpdesk

The [European IP Helpdesk](#) is a European-Commission-funded service providing free, first-line IP support to EU-funded project participants and SMEs. It offers a helpline, online training, and comprehensive information resources covering patent strategy, licensing, trade secrets, and the Unitary Patent system.

→ Competence Centre on Technology Transfer (CCTT)

The [Competence Centre on Technology Transfer](#) offers expertise in technology transfer, capacity building, financing, and innovation ecosystem development. It provides technology transfer policy related expertise and services to the European Commission and other institutions of the Union, and operational support services to a broader range of stakeholders, including: EU Member States and individual research institutions facing technology transfer related challenges and issues.

Activities and Key Studies for Knowledge Valorisation

→ Mutual Learning Exercise

A [Mutual Learning Exercise](#) (MLE) on KV (March 2023 – April 2024) brought together 18 EU Member States and associated countries in a structured policy dialogue focused on three themes: incentives and skills for researchers, the role of KV intermediaries, and multi-stakeholder networks and processes. The exercise produced thematic reports, discussion papers, and a [final report](#) including a policy toolbox and recommendations for implementing the Guiding Principles at national level. All outputs are available on the [Policy Support Facility page](#).

→ Key Studies and Reports

These selected studies and reports represent part of the evidence base and broader policy discourse that contributed to the development and evaluation of the ERA KV policy framework:

- [Role of Arts and Cultural Organisations in KV \(September 2022\)](#): Investigates how cultural and creative sector interactions can foster KV and broaden societal impact beyond technological innovation.
- [Citizen Engagement for KV \(2024\)](#): Analysis of 60 case studies from 37 countries on how citizens and civil society can be active partners in KV processes.
- [Letta Report \(2024\)](#): "Much More Than a Market" – identifies the gap between European research excellence and market uptake as a Key Single Market Challenge, with implications for KV policy.

- [Draghi Report \(2024\)](#): “The Future of European Competitiveness” – identifies Europe’s insufficient translation of research into commercial outcomes as a core competitiveness challenge, providing a political impetus for KV-related measures.
- [Study on Metrics and Indicators for Knowledge Valorisation \(2026\)](#): It investigates how R&I activities generate economic and societal value across the EU, responding to the growing need for a harmonised measurement framework for KV.

Information and Advice

Where to get support:

IP strategy, licensing, patents, trade secrets → **European IP Helpdesk**

Exploitation and dissemination of Horizon project results → **Horizon Results Booster**

Standardisation of research results → **HSbooster.eu**

KV policy, best practices, and community → **EU Knowledge Valorisation Platform**

Finding KV-relevant calls and opportunities → **ERA Opportunities Guidebooks**

Personalised advice on ERA calls and KV requirements → **your country’s WIDERA NCP**

The WIDERA National Contact Points (NCPs) provide free and confidential advice on all questions related to the ERA part and the application process. They also offer proposal checks. Early contact is recommended. Find the WIDERA NCP of your country in the [NCP database](#).

NCP_WIDERA.NET is the European network of WIDERA National Contact Points. Visit us on www.ncpwideranet.eu, register for our [newsletter](#) and follow us on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to stay up to date on ERA and WIDENING.

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