

STRUCTURAL TRENDS FOR EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA: CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND CHANGING STRUCTURES FOR RESEARCH

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Abstract: *The paper provides an overview of the structural trends faced nowadays by European Research Area (ERA). These trends reflect not only societal developments, but also the changing structures of research itself. Beginning from the general context of understanding the concept of ERA as one of the core elements of the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, our paper is based on the conclusions and recommendations made by Metris Report 2009 - 'Emerging trends in Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities in Europe'. In this sense, we analyze the new complex issues approached by EU researchers and scientists, with focus on innovation issue, concluding with the challenges for ERA success and Metris Report recommendations.*

Key words: scientific research, interdisciplinary research, European Research Area, Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, globalization.

JEL Classification: I20, I23

The European Research Area (ERA) is one of the core elements of the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs. In the context of a changing and dynamic world characterized by the accelerating globalization of research and technology and the emergence of new scientific and technological powers - notably China and India - the European Research Area is more than ever a key for the success of the European knowledge society.

The ERA concept combines: a European 'internal market' for research, where researchers, technology and knowledge freely circulate; effective European-level coordination of national and regional research activities, programmes and policies; and initiatives implemented and funded at European level. It is obviously that some progress has been made since the concept was endorsed at the Lisbon European Council in 2000, ERA becoming in present a key reference for research policy in Europe. However, there is still much further to go to build ERA, particularly to overcome the fragmentation of research activities, programmes and policies across Europe.

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