

The background of the slide is the European Union flag, featuring a blue field with twelve five-pointed yellow stars arranged in a circle. The flag is shown with a slight wavy texture, suggesting it is a physical fabric.

A new European Research Area

*Manuel ALEIXO - Cabinet Expert - Commissioner Zaharieva
5 February 2026*

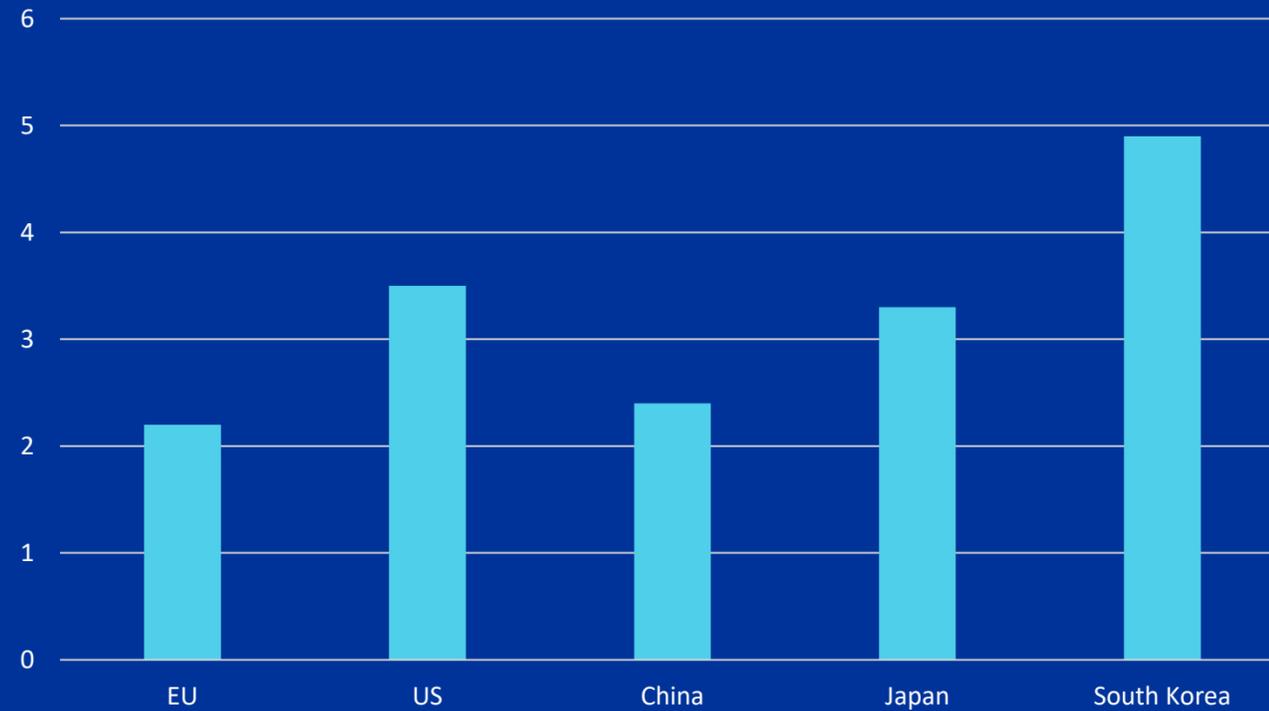
Europe's Research & Innovation Context & Overview

- Overview of Europe's position in global research and innovation.
- Growing competition for talent, investment, and knowledge transfer.
- The role of policy coherence in strengthening the European research ecosystem.

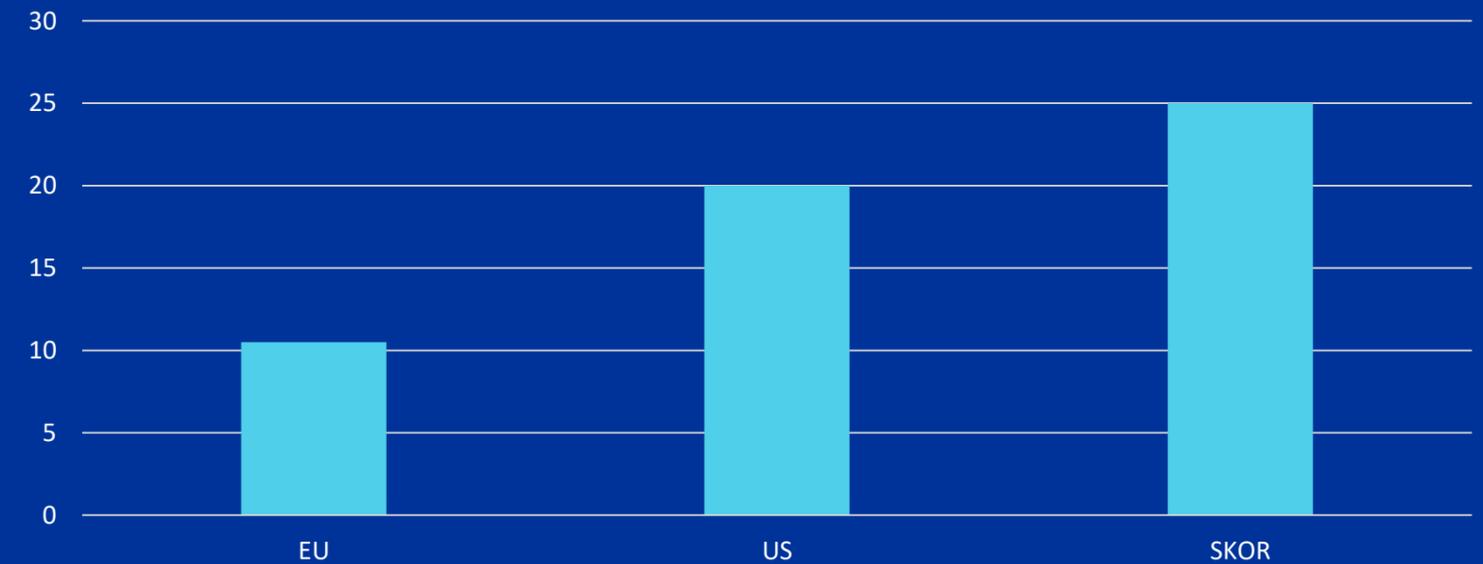


Global R&I Landscape

R&D intensity



Innovative procurment as % of overall procurement



European Research Area Evolution & Purpose

- The Lisbon Treaty objective: establishing a single market for research and innovation.
- Progress has been made through policy coordination, but fragmentation across national systems persists.
- The ERA is now moving toward a more structured and legally anchored framework.



ERA Act

Overview & Core Vision

- **Framework conditions:** improved research careers, mobility, and open science practices.
- **Safeguarding values:** scientific freedom, ethics, integrity, and equal opportunities across the ERA.
- **Investment target:** coordinated efforts to reach 3% of GDP for R&D.
- **Policy alignment:** stronger international coordination of policies and investments in key priority areas.

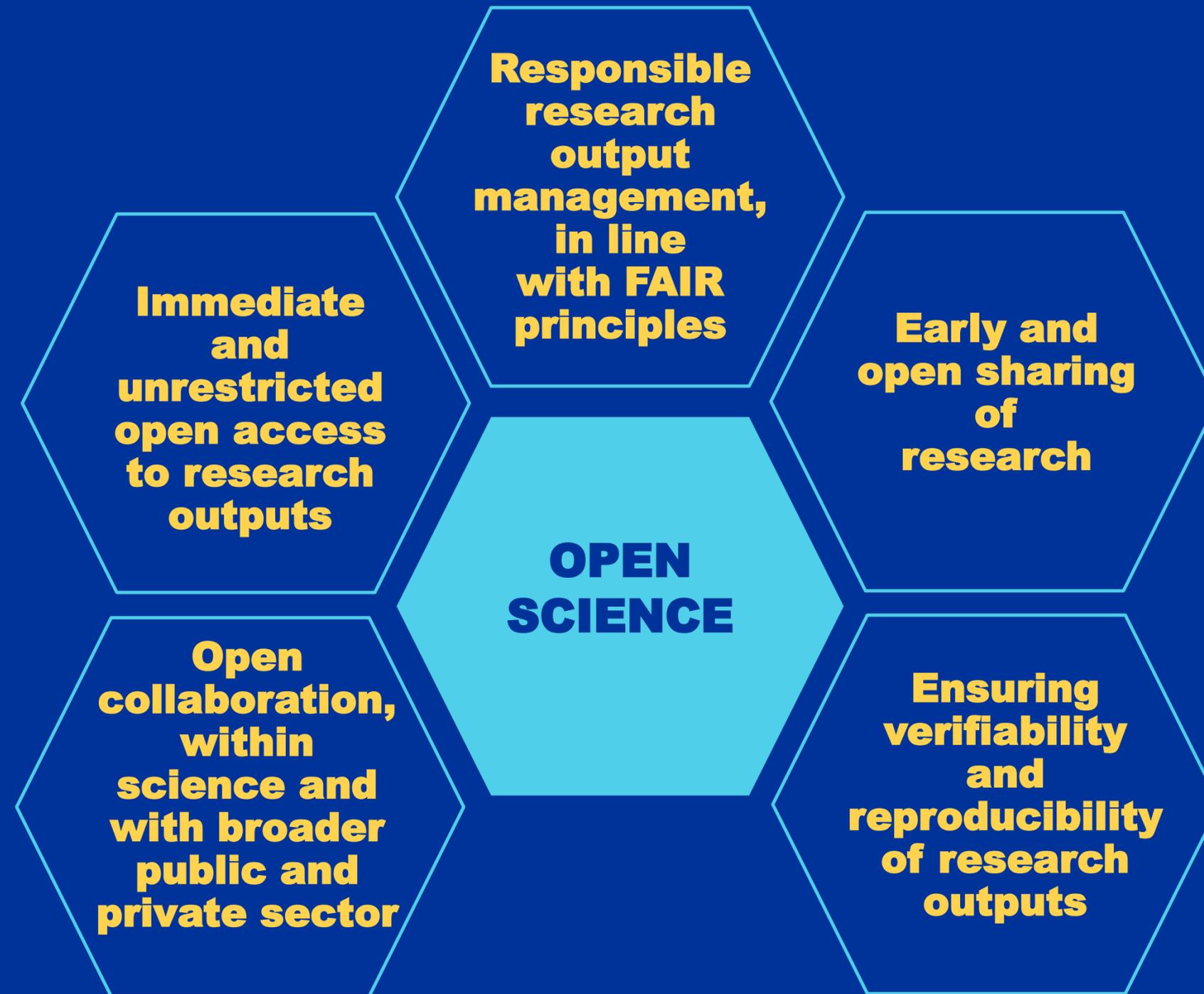


Open Science

- **Improves research QUALITY:** Transparent, accessible, reusable methods and outputs
- **Accelerates research EFFICIENCY:** Sharing and reuse of methods and outputs
- **Enhances IMPACT of research:** Research methods and outputs visible and accessible to public and private sectors



Embracing Open Science as the modus operandi



Problem

- **visibility, recognition and reward of research work**
- **public funding -> publications, underlying datasets and other outputs available in open access**
- **many scientific publications still end up behind paywalls, lengthy embargoes and/or with restrictive reuse conditions**
- **> 50% of existing publications are currently behind paywalls**
- **commercial publishers most often require transfer of copyright**
- **article processing charge (APC)**



Possible approaches

- **Immediate open access of all research outputs resulting from national publicly funded research (= Horizon Europe)**
- **researchers and/or their institutions to retain rights to provide open access and reuse under an open license when entering into agreements with publishers (= Horizon Europe)**
- **introduction of an EU-wide Secondary Publication Right (SPR)**
- **harmonise the research exception to EU copyright rules and expand its scope**



FP10

Introduction & Objectives

- **FP10 as the successor to Horizon Europe (2028–2034)**
- **Proposed budget: €175 billion.**
- **Strategic continuity with Horizon Europe, but with focus on simplicity and impact.**



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FP10 Structure

Pillar I & Pillar II

- **Pillar I – Excellent Science: fundamental research through ERC and MSCA; increased funding.**
- **Pillar II – Competitiveness and Society: collaborative research on decarbonisation, health, digital transformation, and security.**
- **European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)**



Strategic “Moonshots”

- **Large-scale flagship initiatives in fusion, zero-emission aviation, quantum, fusion or space.**
- **Strengthening EU leadership in high-impact frontier technologies.**
- **Coordination between FP10 research and Competitiveness Fund deployment instruments.**



FP10 Structure

Pillar III & Pillar IV

- **Pillar III – Innovation: expanded EIC, support for high-risk projects, and development of emerging technologies (AI, quantum, biotech).**
- **Pillar IV – ERA: reducing fragmentation, strengthening infrastructures and mobility, and widening participation.**



Thank you



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