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Answer given by Ms Zaharieva
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.8.2026)

As announced in the Competitiveness Compass¹ and the One Europe, One Market Roadmap², the Commission is preparing a legislative proposal for a European Research Area (ERA) Act, targeted for adoption in the second half of 2026. The ERA Act will contribute to implementing the Fifth Freedom by improving framework conditions for research and innovation, notably through measures supporting attractive research careers, mobility, knowledge circulation and open science. The Commission is also advancing these objectives through existing initiatives such as the ERA Policy Agenda³, the ERA Talent Platform⁴, the Union of Skills⁵ and Choose Europe for Science⁶.

The European Innovation Council already provides a combination of grants and equity investments for breakthrough innovation and high-risk deep tech. The Commission proposes to reinforce these instruments under the next Multiannual Financial Framework and is also advancing the proposal for a Scaleup Europe Fund to help address financing gaps for strategic European companies.

The European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)⁷ realises the vision of a European Knowledge Commons through the EOSC Federation⁸, a federated ‘system of systems’ enabling researchers to store, share, process, analyse and reuse Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR) research outputs across Europe. Rather than establishing a new centralised structure, EOSC is expanding as an interoperable infrastructure, which addresses the fragmentation and under-exploitation of publicly funded research outputs. It also facilitates cross-border access and collaboration in an open, secure and trusted environment, while developing synergies with other European Common Data Spaces and strategic data initiatives.

¹ COM/2025/30 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0030>.

² https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/5445de81-9481-4335-9902-9756159ba614_en?filename=one-europe-one-market-roadmap.pdf.

³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C_202503593.

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/era-talent-platform/>.

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/f0beb292-fe6a-47e8-8570-ce5569f1be5c_en.

⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/research-and-innovation/choose-europe_en.

⁷ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/our-digital-future/open-science/european-open-science-cloud-eosc_en.

⁸ <https://eosc.eu/building-the-eosc-federation>.