

inventing our future together

European
Research
Area

Green Paper

The European Research Area: New Perspectives

Isi Saragossi, European Commission

ESF Forum

8 November 2007

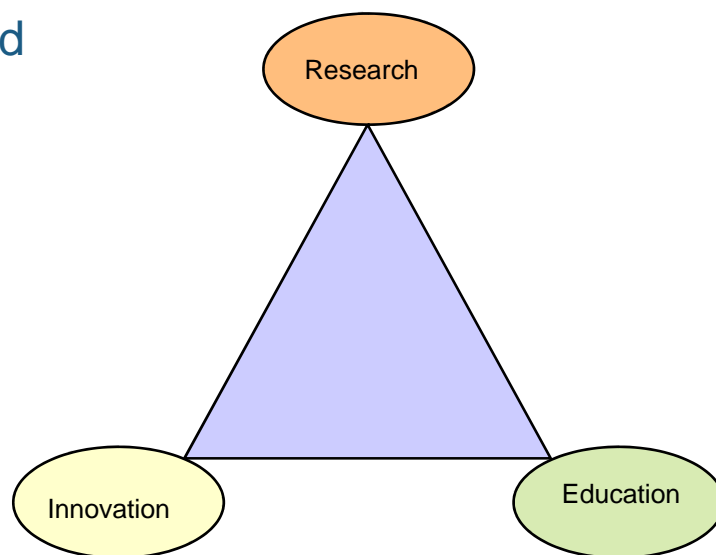
Green Paper: The European Research Area: New Perspectives

- Re-launching ERA: why and what?
- Consultation: results so far
- Next steps: “researchers” is a priority

Why does ERA need to be relaunched?

■ To focus on research

ERA (2000 and 2007)



Broad Based
Innovation
Strategy (2006)

Challenges:

- Internationalisation of research and global issues (climate change, energy security, health...)
- Despite progress at EU and National reform levels, fragmentation of R&D systems, policies and programmes remains

European Higher
Education Area
(since *Bologna*
1999)

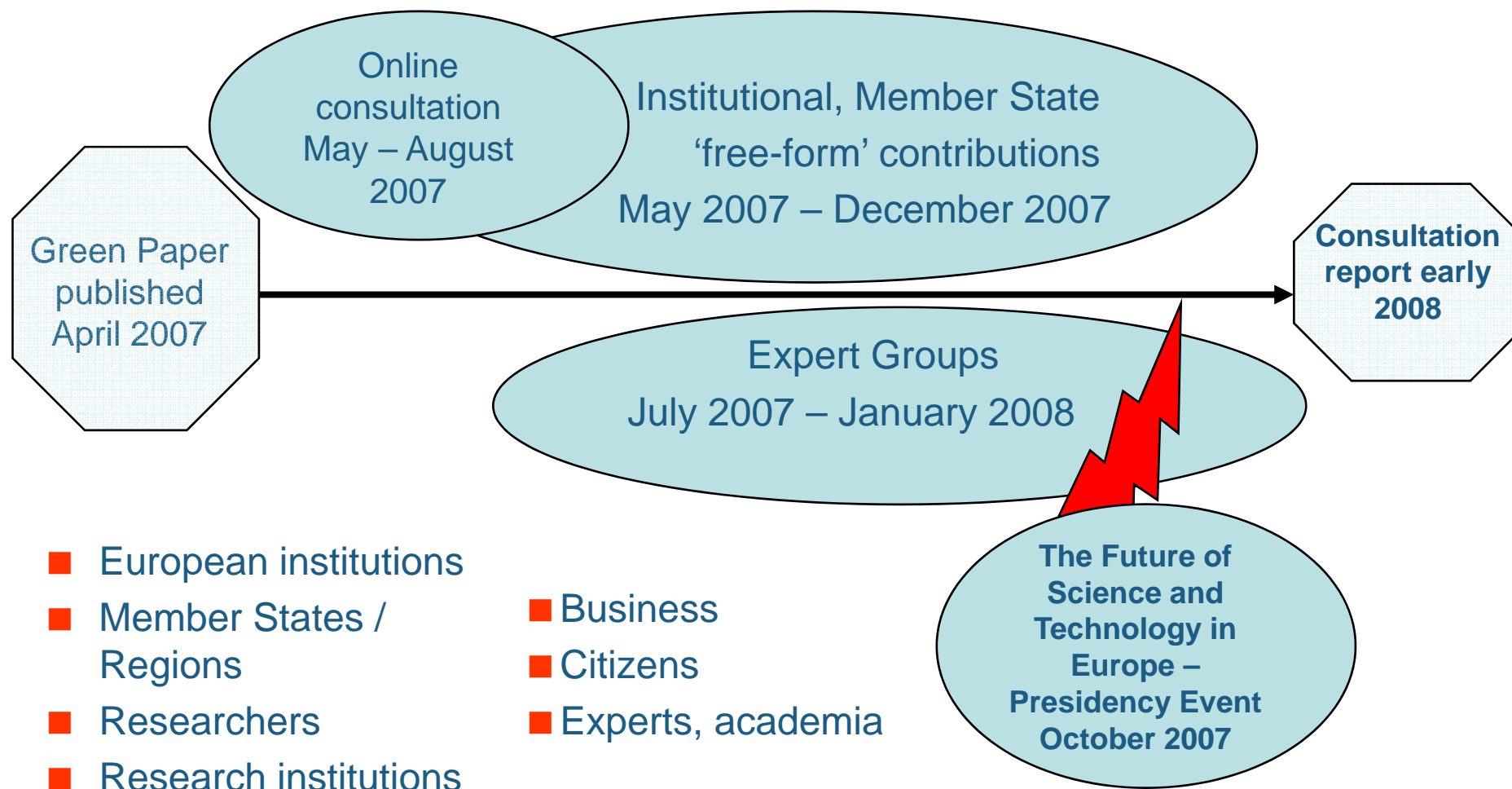
The Green Paper

- **Vision – a « *fifth freedom of knowledge* » with questions posed on six axes:**
 - 1. A single labour market for researchers
 - 2. World-class research infrastructures
 - 3. Excellent research institutions
 - 4. Effective knowledge sharing
 - 5. Well co-ordinated research programmes and priorities
 - 6. A wide opening of ERA to the world

- *“The Commission will not build the ERA alone, neither by law nor by wishful thinking. A genuine European Research Area will only be created if all researchers, their institutions and companies, the Member States and regions as well as the Commission work together in partnership, with each accepting their responsibility for making it happen”.*

Janez Potocnik, Presidency conference, Lisbon October 2007

Consultation May 2007 – December 2007



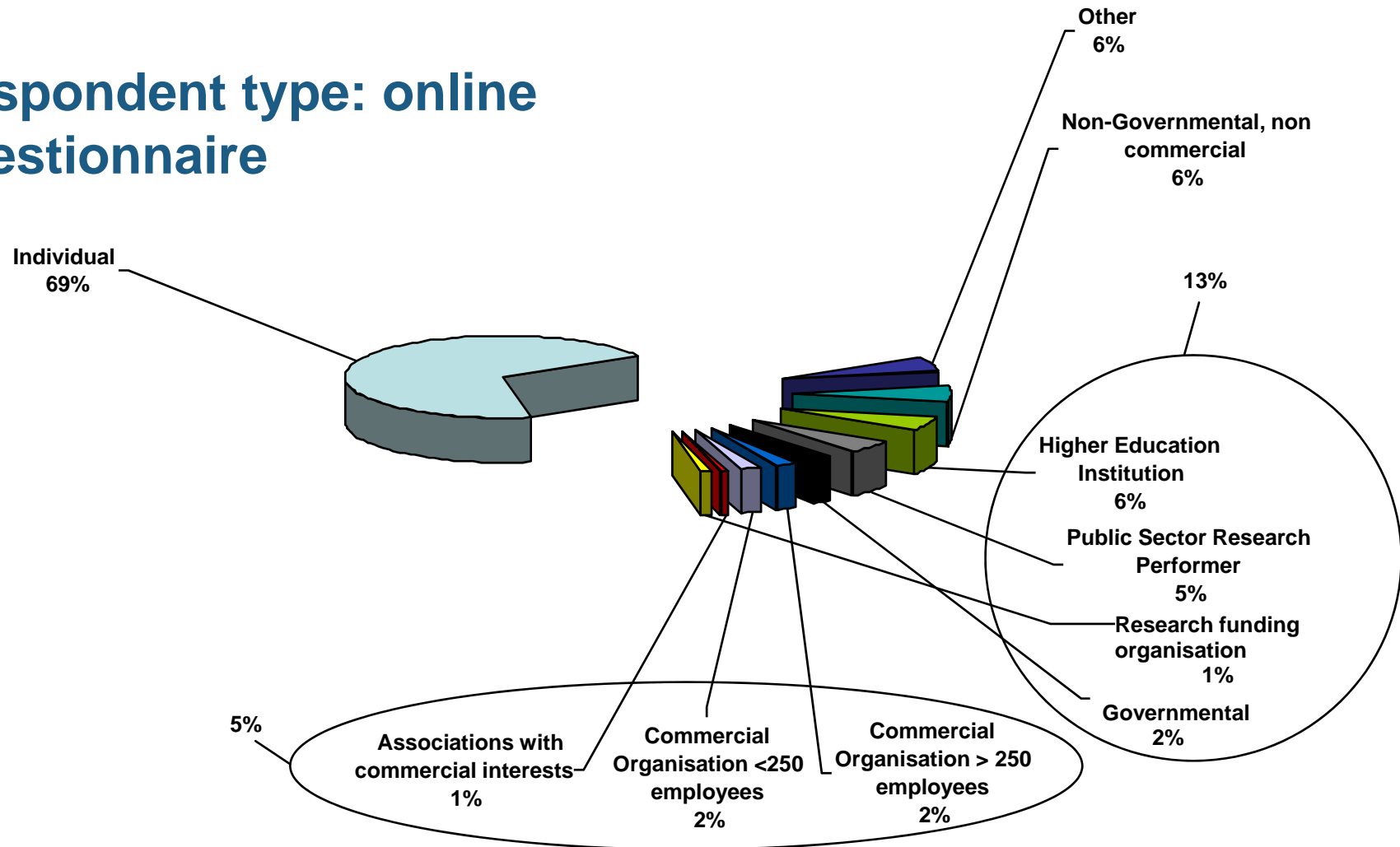
Consultation so far...

- ~700 online replies from individuals and organisations
- ~130 'free form' replies from organisations
- 8 Member State positions so far (SE, FR, DE, IT, CZ, NL, UK, IE)
- Parallel work of 7 Expert Groups
- Portuguese Presidency conference 'The Future of Science and Technology in Europe'

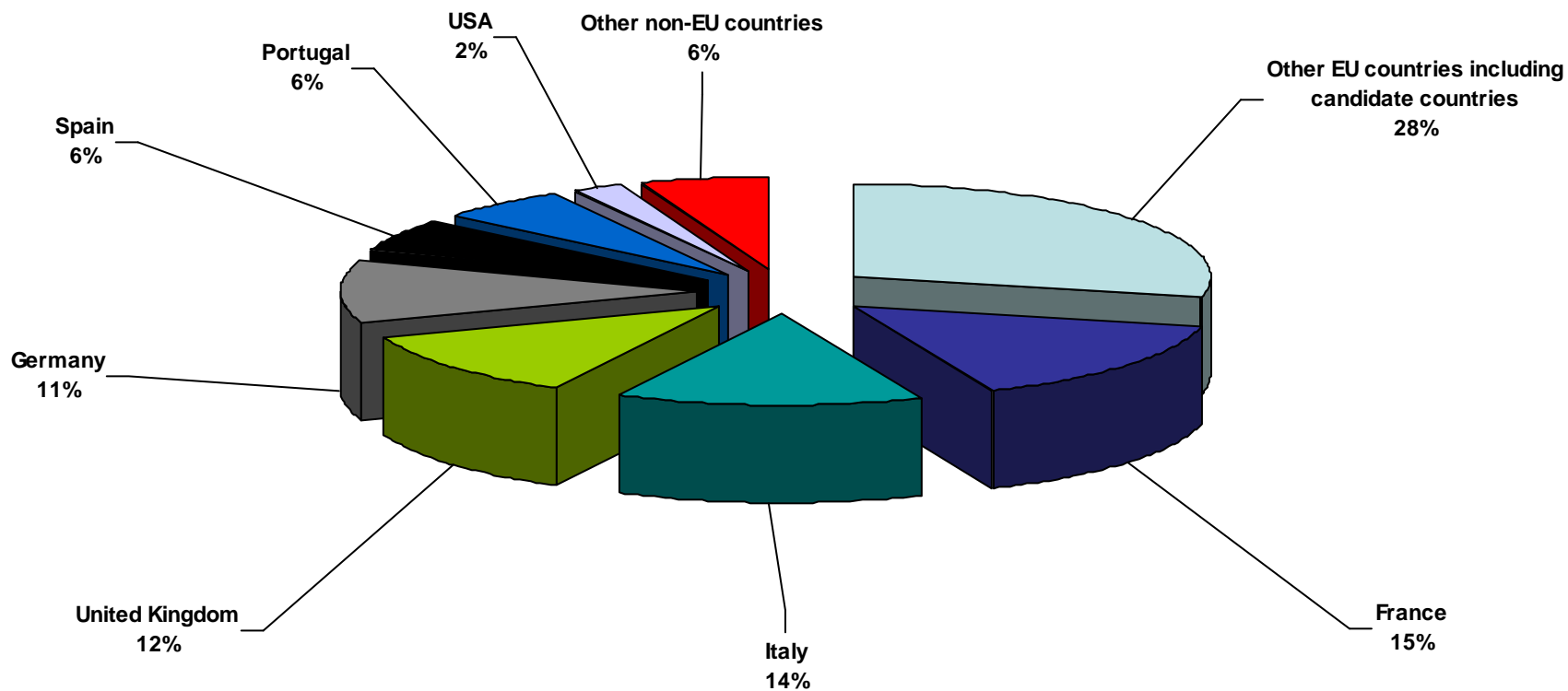
Points to watch

- Role and requirements of Industry
- Links and synergies with education and innovation
- Role of regions
- Role of research performing organisations, *other than Universities*
- Governance aspects of ERA

Respondent type: online questionnaire



Respondent origin: online questionnaire



Respondent type: 'free form' submissions

These data do not lend themselves to graphical representation. A single submission may represent a number of high profile, large organisations (e.g. joint submission from CSIC, CNRS, MPS) or a smaller, more single issue oriented body.

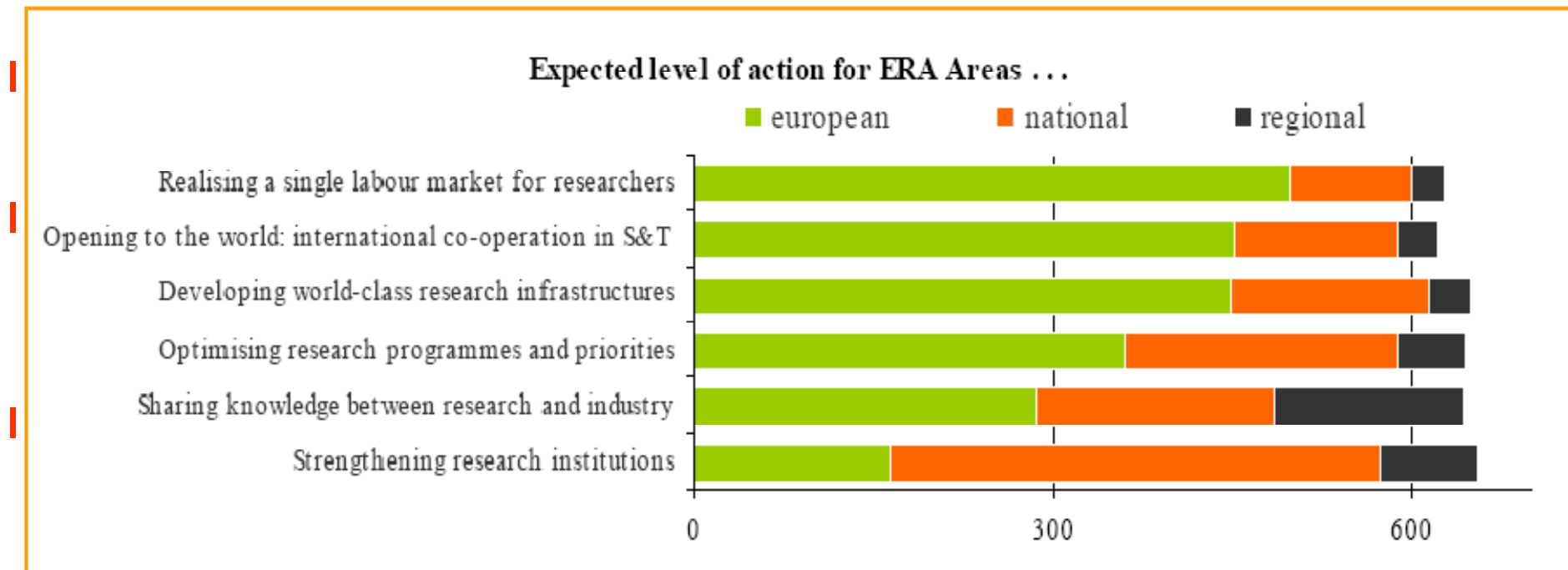
Organisations represented nevertheless included the following categories:

- Higher education institutions and other public sector research performers
- Research funding organisations
- Member States
- European Technology Platforms
- Associations representing thematic groupings of researchers
- Civil society organisations
- Large companies and associations representing the interests of thematic industrial groupings

Preliminary analysis of results

- Strong stakeholder support for the ERA vision
- Each of the six specific ERA dimensions are considered very important for the development of ERA, with "knowledge sharing" coming out on top
- Realising a single labour market for researchers is the area in which action at EU level is most required

ERA vision



Researchers

Preliminary overview of comments

- Strong support for **accelerating the implementation of the Charter and Code (C&C)** but the majority of free-format contributors, especially from the private sector, do not favour binding rules
- **Statutory pension rights, health and unemployment benefits** seem to be the **most problematic** social security areas for mobile researchers within the EU. As such there is broad support for actions to develop common rules on the acquisition, preservation and transferability of supplementary pension rights for researchers
- An overwhelming majority (87%) of the respondents are in favour of **offering end-of-career researchers new job opportunities to make best use of their expertise**
- The majority favour **strengthening European fellowship funding programmes** to attract the EU "scientific diaspora" and the best non-EU talent

Portuguese Presidency Conference, October 2007

- Revealed **large convergence** with replies to Green Paper:
- **MS commitment is key to progress.** European objectives and dimension must be integrated in national policies
- Commission role is catalytic and facilitative
- There are strong interdependencies and synergies between the various ERA dimensions
- ERA must be part of a **broad policy approach**, linking research, innovation education and other policies.
- Knowledge policy is central to the delivery of the **Lisbon agenda** objectives

Follow up

- *Progressive* approach to build momentum (no multi-annual action plan)
- Start in 2008 with concrete actions in selected areas to promote / facilitate / leverage actions at national and regional levels
 - more consistency, coherence and joint action
 - stronger and sustained commitment of MS

Follow up: areas envisaged for action in 2008

- A framework / partnership focussing on key issues to improve **researchers' career prospects and mobility** (virtual researchers' passport)
- Promote **joint programming** process to increase pooling of public efforts in relevant areas
- Community legal framework to facilitate the construction and operation of **new pan-European infrastructures**
- A European strategy for enhanced and coherent **international S&T co-operation**
- Recommendation and code of conduct for enhancing **knowledge transfer between universities and industry** (IP charter)

Researchers – Next steps

- **A three-year framework/partnership (enhanced OMC)** between Member States and the Commission to define goals, actions, benchmarks by also building on stakeholders' initiatives in:
 - Competition-based trans-national recruitment
 - Training (e.g. transferable skills)
 - Fair employment conditions
 - Social security: better use/adaptation current EU legislation to researchers' needs
 - Recognition of any kind of mobility, in recruitment and evaluation procedures
 - Trans-national portability of grants

- FP7 mid-term review: promote/support ERA objectives



<http://ec.europa.eu/research/era>