

NEW ERA ACTIONS FOR THE ERA POLICY AGENDA 2025-2027
TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

This template follows up on the debate in the ERA Forum on 25 May, in which Forum representatives agreed on a coordinated approach towards the definition of new actions for the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027. It builds on a gap analysis exercise in which the ERA Forum assessed, which parts of the [Pact for Research and Innovation](#) are already covered by the [Policy Agenda 2022-2024](#) and where there should be additions.

Forum representatives are invited to distribute this template among actors at national level to collect input for potential new actions for the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027. The priority areas of the Pact for Research and Innovation and content of the Policy Agenda 2022-2024 should be taken into account when filling in this template.

The results of the national process should be then fed into the gap analysis document by Forum representatives by **18 August 2023**. This will help to prepare the overall assessment for the ERA Forum meeting of September.

Action title: <i>(Please use as a maximum two lines.)</i>	Borrow a researcher
Description of the action <i>(Please explain the proposed action in a simple, clear and communicable narrative).</i>	<p>The “Borrow a researcher” concept through which schools are visited by a researcher, has proven to be a popular and successful Researchers’ Night (ERN) activity in Sweden. The initiative enables school pupils to meet a researcher either face to face or online. In 2021, a national online booking platform was developed and successfully piloted involving 80 researchers and around 100 school bookings. The project is currently in its third year and has grown even bigger creating nearly 300 opportunities for researchers and citizens to engage in discussion and mutual learning. For a lot of pupils (and others) the meeting with a researcher during ERN is their first encounter.</p> <p>Through “Borrow a researcher” researchers visit school classes, either in person or virtually, to talk about their research, its wider societal context, as well as their daily work and career path. By showing the range of researchers with different backgrounds and research areas, the future generation learns that everyone can become a researcher. Researchers’ profiles and their availability are uploaded to the platform and teachers can book visits directly. The initiative enables schools, organisations and researchers across the whole of the country to participate regardless of where they are located.</p> <p>Due to the flexibility of the initiative, which enables both virtual and in person visits, schools and organisations across a specific country, which usually don’t have access to science engagement activities, are able to participate. It is also a simple engagement activity, which an encouraging number of researchers and research performing organisations are keen to get involved in, and from which participating researchers can also gain valuable experience and insights.</p>

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	<p>Prior to the meetings, researchers are given guidance and training on how to make their visit interactive and informative. The activity also helps to fulfill many of the objectives of the European Researchers' Night and Researchers at Schools 2024-2025 (ERN) For a lot of pupils (and others) the meeting with a researcher during ERN is their first.</p> <p>Given the success of "Borrow a researcher" among researchers, teachers and pupils in Sweden, we suggest that the concept and activity could be scaled up and offered on a European level involving researchers and schools in all member states.</p>
Actors <i>(Please explain who would take part in the action and who would benefit from it).</i>	Universities, business, research institutes, researchers, teachers, school pupils (all ages)
Expected impact <i>(Please describe the expected impact of the action (including outside the scientific community), paying attention to the fact that it needs to focus on concrete results and reachable deliverables).</i>	<p>To inspire the next generation of researchers and innovators, i.e young people and school children.</p> <p>Give researchers new insights and valuable experience of science engagement and the experience of meeting new target groups.</p>
Why do we need this action? <i>(Please indicate the need for this action in view of implementing the Pact for R&I and achieving the ERA objectives and explain why its <u>objective cannot be reached through existing programmes/ activities</u>. What is the action's <u>added value</u> at national and European level as well as for stakeholders? How does it <u>make a change</u> and how is <u>co-creation</u> ensured?)</i>	<p>This action brings science closer to society and especially to school pupils and especially those who don't have access to science and research in their daily lives or for those who live in remote areas where visits to a science centre or university is too costly.</p>
Additional information <i>(For example, timing and milestones, which already could be envisaged, can be indicated.)</i>	