



From Barriers to Bridges: Towards a More Cohesive European Research Area

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ORGANISED BY
THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA BUDAPEST HUB

5 November 2025, 9:00–11:30
Palace of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Reading Room

PROGRAMME

The symposium aims to highlight the current situation of 'widening' as a concept of EU research policy and to discuss the possible need for the reform of its instruments with a view to fostering scientific excellence in currently underperforming regions and a more cohesive and competitive European Research Area (ERA). After respective presentations by representatives of the European Commission on the upcoming framework programme and on the recommendations of stakeholder organisations, in the second part of the event panellists will be invited to share their views and suggestions aimed at improving EU RDI performance and competitiveness by achieving a more balanced distribution of funding for excellent research across Europe.

09:00–10:00

Moderator: Gergely Bóhm, Head of the President's and Vice Presidents' Office, Secretariat of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Member of the ERC Configuration of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee and ERC National Contact Point

PLENARY: WHAT IS TO BE EXPECTED: CHALLENGES FOR THE 2028–2034 EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (FP10)

Speakers:

Joerg Niehoff, Deputy Head of Unit ERA, Spreading Excellence & Research Careers, Directorate-General for Research, Technology and Innovation, European Commission – online

Lidia Borrell-Damián, Science Europe Secretary General – online

Henk Kummeling, Chair of CoARA

Katalin Solymosi, Former Chair of YAE, member of the ERA Forum Access to excellence – R&I and Cohesion Managing Authorities Network (RIMA) sub-group

Q&A

10:00–10:20 – Coffee break



10:20–11:30

**PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A: FROM BARRIERS
TO BRIDGES: TOWARDS A MORE COHESIVE
EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA**

Moderator: Péter Hegyi, Academic Director, AE
Budapest Hub

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Excellence & Research Careers, Directorate-General
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Gábor Juhász, Director of Innoscience Hungary Ltd.