The Universities and the European Research Area

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The future of the European research area

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Motivation for the ERA

To add value to national research efforts:
not merely to replicate them.

How?

By exploiting the scale of the European economy and the diversity of its capability.

What does Europe need from its universities?

Systems that affordably contain:

- research universities capable of competing with the world's best

- higher education & skills for a large proportion of the rising generation

- strong engagement with regional society

The dual approach

- Increase competition

- Support collaboration

They are not alternatives. We are doing this in Scotland.

Ask Ian Halliday how.

European Level

A common enabling platform

- Competitive funding for basic research through the ERC

- Enabling/supporting researcher mobility

- Facilitating trans-European networks

- Supporting technology platforms

- European patent

Efficiencies of scale

- Major infrastructure

- Supporting access to facilities

- Coordinating development & funding of globally significant projects

National/Regional Level

Processes to promote:

- **Innovative research**

- **Capacity building in new and emerging areas**

- **Investment in areas of national/regional strategic importance**

- **Sustaining progress in well-established areas**

- **Training of highly skilled people**

- **Maintaining national capacity**

- **Knowledge transfer for economic, public policy and cultural development**

- **Engagement with the innovation process**

What are the priorities?

High Impact initiatives
- The ERC - if properly funded
- The demand side - exploiting the power of public procurement
- Common infrastructure/facilities
- Globally-significant research programmes (bottom-up/top-down)

Enabling mechanisms
- University autonomy
- Mobility
- Networks of opportunity
- European patents

Avoiding errors
- Institutionalised networks
- Bureaucracy
- EITs