

COST and the European Research Area

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COST - history

- COST – the first European international co-operation – from 1975 – concerted actions
- COST Structures – Actions, Management Committees, Technical-Domain Committees
- Financing of science and research on national level
- COST is not an activity of the EU, but strongly anchored element of the European Research Area
- Czech and Slovak Republic in the COST from 1992, Czech Republic from April 1993

European Research Area

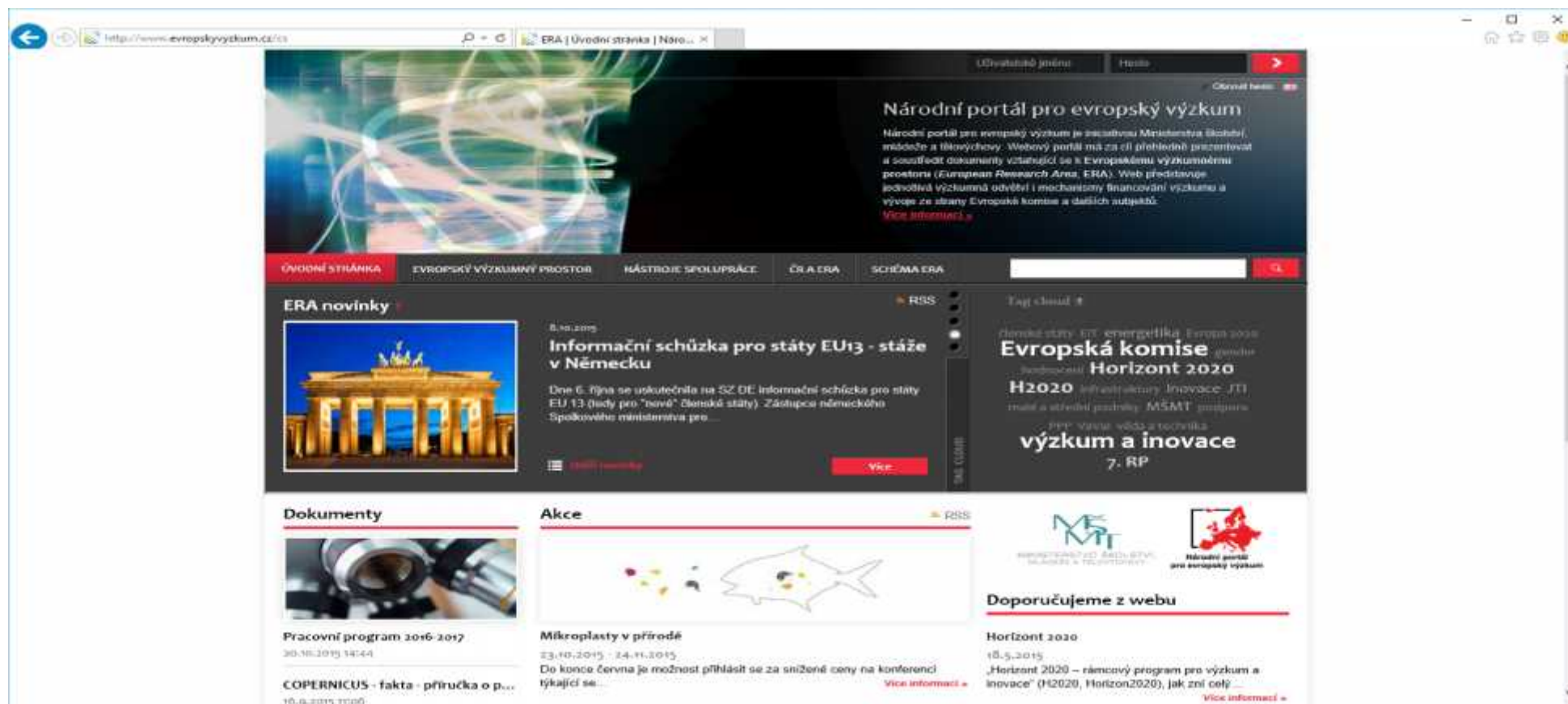
- Resolution of the European Council from June 15th, 2000 established ERA
 - **More effective national research systems**
 - **Optimal transnational co-operation and competition**
On common research agendas
 - **An open labour market for researchers**
 - **Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research**
 - **Optimal circulation and transfer of scientific knowledge**
 - **Freedom of scientific research**

European Research Area – ERA 2

The European Commission Communication:

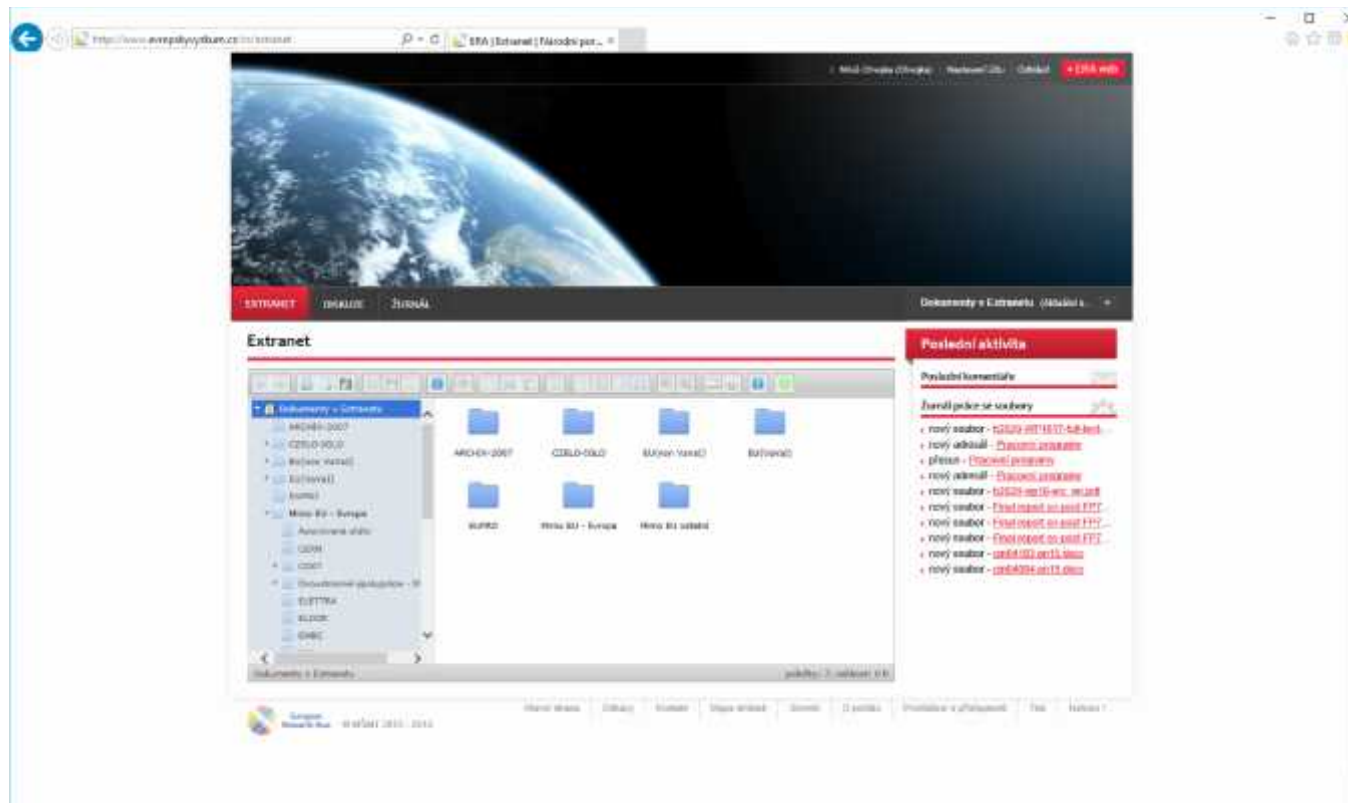
ERA is a unified research area open to the world based on the Internal market, in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely. Through ERA, the Union and its Member States will strengthen their scientific and technological bases, their competitiveness and their capacity to collectively address grand challenges.

ERA portal (cz) 1



The screenshot shows the homepage of the ERA portal (cz) at the URL <http://www.evropskyvyzkum.cz/cs>. The page features a dark header with the title "Národní portál pro evropský výzkum" and a navigation menu with items like "OVODNĚNÍ STRÁNKY", "EVROPSKÝ VÝZKUMNÝ PROSTOR", "NÁSTROJE SPOLUPRÁCE", "ČLA ERA", and "SCHEMA ERA". The main content area includes a news section titled "ERA novinky" with a featured article "Informační schůzka pro státy EU13 - stáže v Německu" dated 8.10.2015. There are also sections for "Dokumenty" (featuring "Pracovní program 2016-2017") and "Akce" (featuring "Mikroplasty v přírodě"). A sidebar on the right contains a "Tag cloud" and a "Doporučujeme z webu" section with a link to "Horizont 2020".

ERA portal (cz) - 2



ERA portal (cz) 3

- <http://www.evropskyvyzkum.cz/>
 - Database of the EU documents from the research and development and science and technology
 - Actions and News - ERA

COST structures

- Management and Technical or Domain Committees, Committee of senior officials, The General Secretariat of the European Council
- There was no statute (Term of reference) – it was also possible
- Administrative attempts to realize new structures – COST Office Association – legal person, multilevel mechanism for the new actions
- COST has awaked during the past five years into substantially different shape: domain committees have disappeared, open calls, single level selection of new actions.

COST characteristics

- Significantly simple administration
- COST was not and it is not direct source of financial means for science and technology but for coordination – concerted actions
- Bottom-up approach
- Nevertheless COST is – intergovernmental approach of coordination (at the beginning Directorate General of the European Commission for research and innovation, later on ESF, now COA)



TECHNOLOGICKÉ
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EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Framework Program – Horizon 2020

- Top-down approach, realization of politics of science and technology of the EU, nevertheless several percent total S&T expenditure in the EU
- H2020 – financing of research and development and other activities
- COST – financing of organisational and coordination activities
- COST actions – a source of generating (among others) projects H2020 including creation of consortia, mechanisms slightly different, but more simple,
- Simplification – COST is an example

Models of cooperation - COST

- COST is an example of one of the possible models
- Improvement is possible all the time – what is not possible to be improved is dead
- Improving of coordination processes and procedures, scientific quality of actions – towards the excellence
- The influence on national politics of research and development

Further development

- Further development of COST must not lead to an increase of bureaucracy – it was not characteristics never for COST and in the future it could lead to the end of COST.
- None in COST is determining direction of science and technology except of national needs and possibilities (excellence) of scientific and research workers.
- Actions are proposed by scientific and research sphere according to national priorities and possibilities with the aim of development of knowledge – it is true for all fields. COST avoids slightly nuclear research because it is coordinated by other means.

Conclusion

COST is the strong part of ERA and H2020 in the narrow coordination for the success of principles of ERA and Europe in general

http://www.cost.eu/about_cost

http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm

<http://www.h2020.cz/cs>

Thank you very much for your attention!