

2. Stratégie Européenne des Infrastructures de Recherche et des Infrastructures Technologiques

*Agnès Robin,
Commission Européenne, DG RTD
Head of Sector Research Infrastructures
& Open Science Unit*



Choose
Europe



European strategy on research and technology infrastructures

Research and technology infrastructures

research infrastructures: equipment or set of instruments, collections, archives and scientific data infrastructures for **frontier science**; high-quality research data producers and curators; addressing **global challenges**; enabling **deep-tech innovation**

technology infrastructures: facilities, equipment, capabilities and resources to develop, test, upscale and validate **new technologies**. They can be test beds, pilot lines, cleanrooms, demonstration facilities; catalysts for Europe's **startup ecosystems** and **industry**

Why are research and technology infrastructures important?

- Backbone of **Europe's R&I ecosystem**
- 'Poles of attraction' for global talent to ***Choose Europe***
- Indispensable **producers and curators of high-quality research data**
- Enabling **deep-tech innovation** and supporting Europe's **technological sovereignty**



From calls for a strategy ...



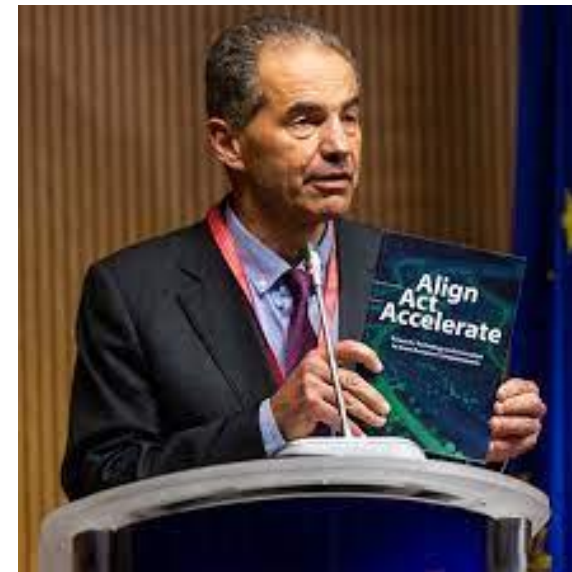
Letta Report on the Single Market (2024):
Empowering RIs as a key pillar of the fifth freedom



President von Der Leyen on *Choose Europe* at La Sorbonne (2025)
World class research infrastructures as a compelling reason to choose Europe



Draghi Report on Competitiveness (2024):
Research and technology infrastructures as essential for the EU's competitiveness



"Heitor report" (2024) :
Secure long-term investment in world class RIs and TIs and develop a pan-EU strategy for TIs

... a long-term European strategy on research and technology infrastructures



"An ambitious and coordinated European approach to research and technology infrastructures is crucial for us to remain a global leader in excellent science and in technology innovation. With our new strategy we will ensure that scientists, researchers and innovators across Europe, including startups and scaleups, have easy access to state-of-the-art facilities and tailored services to develop and test their products and services."

Ekaterina Zaharieva, Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation


15/09/2025

Challenges to address

€ **Fragmented policies and funding** across the EU, especially for technology infrastructures

 **Limited collaboration** across sectors and borders, reinforcing disparities

 **Complex and costly access** procedures, particularly affecting SMEs and startups

 **Skills gaps** in technical, scientific and managerial staff

 **Untapped potential of digitalisation** and AI adoption

 **Hampered reuse of data** for research and innovation

Blocks of Actions

Capacities &
Investment

Digitalisation
& AI

Accessibility

Attracting &
Growing
Talent

Governance
Framework

International
dimension &
Resilience

Some highlighted actions

Capacities and Investment

- Build and sustain **critical new capacities** (2027)
- Increased **EU-level funding** opportunities (2026)
- **A stable framework to ensure cutting edge scientific instrumentation** (2025)

Talent

- Strategies for **attracting global talent** in line with *Choose Europe* (2026)
- **Train infrastructure staff** to address emerging needs (2026)

Digitalisation

- A stronger **EOSC Federation** (2025)
- **AI-ready research data, tools and services**, contributing to RAISE(2025)

Governance

- An **EU coordination framework for the RI and TI Ecosystem**(2026)
- A **governance mechanism for technology infrastructures** (2026)

Accessibility

- **An integrated and sustainable scheme** for accessing research infrastructures (2025)
- Access schemes for **startups and scaleups** to technology infrastructures (2026)

International Dimension & Resilience

- A stronger role of infrastructures in **science diplomacy** (2025)
- Support **research data sovereignty frameworks** for secure and efficient data sharing (2025)

Links to other major initiatives

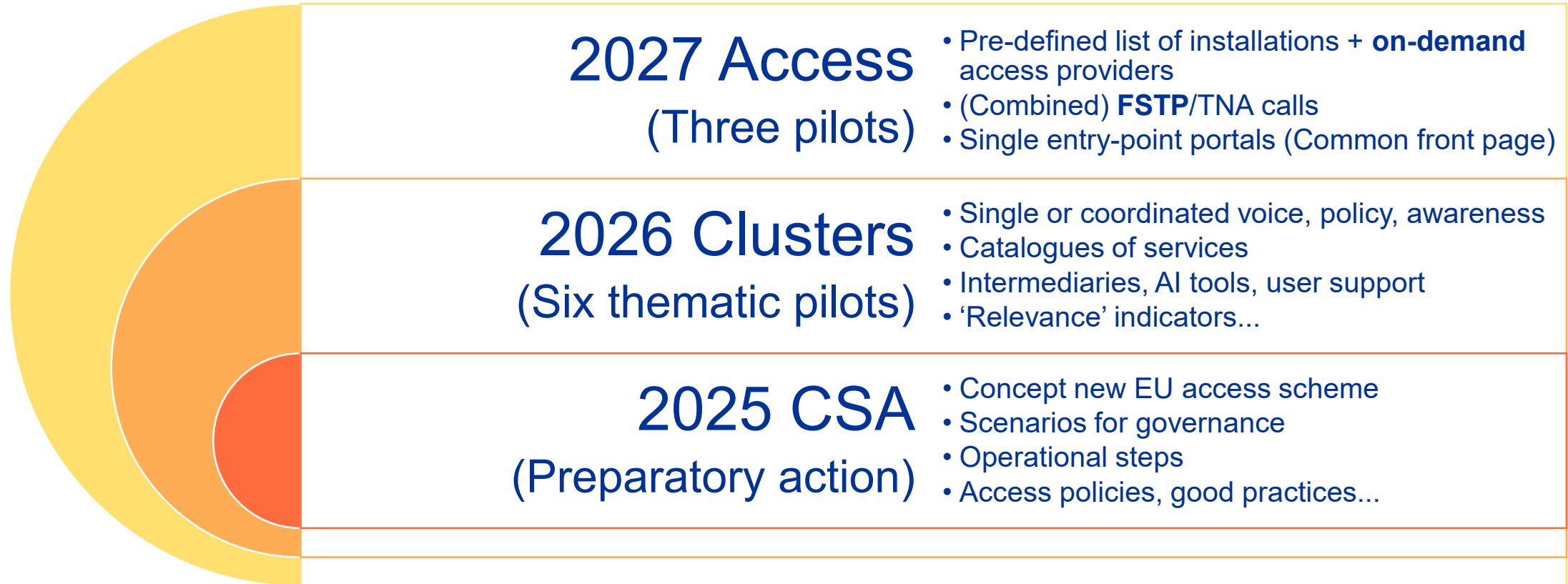
- **EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy:** Develop a Charter of Access for industrial users to align conditions and reduce barriers of access for innovative startups and scaleups
- **Life Sciences Strategy:** Develop and streamline European research infrastructures in clinical research, facilitating multi-country clinical trials
- **AI in Science Strategy:** Contribute to RAISE (Resource for AI in Science in Europe) by pooling data, tools and services
- Upcoming **European Innovation Act:** Further promote access of innovative companies to research and technology infrastructures through legislative measures
- Upcoming **European Research Area Act:** Tackle long-standing challenges in the ERA, such as policy coordination, R&D investment target, researchers' mobility and knowledge sharing, scientific freedom, ethics

What does Horizon Europe do for RIs?

- We fund **transnational access** to RIs and their services
- We facilitate a **roadmap** for future RI investments and help with **early phase implementation** of new RI capacities
- We support co-development of new **instrumentation and tools**
- We fund the further development of the **European Open Science Cloud**
- We foster **international cooperation**
- We support **skills** development



Towards a more integrated access scheme



Towards optimised RI technology development

Optimising Framework Conditions

Improving also conditions for

Bottom-Up and Challenge-Driven Activities

2025 Framework for joint research infrastructure technology developments (CSA)

- More stable framework for joint technology developments.
- Further development of RI innovation ecosystem.
- Virtuous circle for early involvement of industry/SMEs.
- Openness to integrate new players.

2027 Testing and optimising models of co-creation of advanced research infrastructure technologies

- Increased cooperation of European RIs and other research performing organisations for co-creation of advanced RI technologies.
- Addressing common needs across different types of RIs.
- Creation of coherent and supportive ecosystem for deep-tech innovation in Europe with strengthened role of RIs.
- Strengthened EU innovation capacity and technology sovereignty.

2025 Implementing existing RI technology roadmaps

2025 Technologies reducing the environmental and climate footprint of RIs

2026 R&D for the next generation of scientific instrumentation

Technology infrastructure, knowledge valorisation and support for scaleups and startups

Cluster 4 - Destination: Leadership in materials and production for Europe

- HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD-41: Enhancing industry-academia knowledge exchange in Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) (CSA)
- HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD-44: Attracting management talent for capacity building for Technology Infrastructures staff members (CSA)
- HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD-45: Pilot access schemes to Technology Infrastructures for European startups, scaleups and innovative SMEs (CSA)
- HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD-46: Mapping and service finder for Technology Infrastructures (CSA)
- HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD-48: 'Proof of market' to improve valorisation and commercialisation of Horizon generated R&I results (IA)

The structure of the new Horizon Europe



¹ Consistent with activities under the European Competitiveness Fund

Research and Technology Infrastructures

Research Infrastructures

Construction, development and integration of research infrastructures of European Union interest

- Developing, consolidating and streamlining the Union landscape of research infrastructures
- Reinforcing transnational access
- Making research infrastructures more resilient and sustainable
- Developing a web of FAIR research data - EOSC
- Reinforcing European research infrastructure policy and international cooperation

Technology Infrastructures

Improve technology infrastructures capacities and facilitate access

- Improving the visibility and uptake of technology infrastructure services;
- Access programme for SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups across the Union
- Collaboration and networking among the infrastructures, training and upskilling of their staff
- Reinforcing the European technology infrastructure policy.



Thank you

