

## **DHERA Strategy (2025-27)**

### **Who we are**

HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area<sup>1</sup>) is a network of European funding organisations dedicated to creating new opportunities for innovative and collaborative transnational research across humanities disciplines. Through funding research and knowledge exchange, supporting collaboration and advocacy, HERA promotes the value of the humanities research for society and for policymaking. HERA has been active in the European Research Area (ERA) since 2002 and even since has been making a significant proportion of intellectual contribution that Europe makes in humanities.

### **Our Vision**

Humanities seek to answer some of the most complex challenges of our time. Their insights help shape the future, make us more resilient in the face of uncertainties and improve decision making that impact us all.

HERA is built on a fundamental premise of the enduring importance of the Humanities that can be significantly amplified through international collaboration.

### **Mission**

HERA provides a unique and united platform to channel the centrality of humanities in expanding our knowledge of human culture and our place in the world, and in addressing societal challenges.

We will engage creativity, innovation and collaboration across Europe and beyond based on the following key principles:

#### ***Championing humanities***

As an unparalleled network representing the humanities in Europe, HERA has an opportunity and responsibility to be a voice for humanities and their strong contribution to drive a positive change. It will build on a formidable track record of funding excellent research and transnational collaboration to amplify and champion the role of the humanities. This will include the delivery of kick off and closing conferences for the HERA Crisis joint research programme, drawing input from members and feeding those into key sector surveys and public consultations for example those related to the Cluster 2 proposed co-funded partnerships as well as the development of FP10.

#### ***Joint programming***

Transnational community-led calls remain one of the most recognised aspects of HERA's activities. We will look into opportunities to further diversify HERA-run schemes, from large scale calls to smaller scale foundational funding opportunities to support international team and capacity building across humanities, and interface of humanities and other disciplines, feeding into larger initiatives by international funders, e.g. ERC schemes and/or calls under the auspices of European partnerships.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Humanities in the European Research Area | HERA \(heranet.info\)](https://heranet.info)

We will explore a potential for initiatives with the focus on early career researchers and researcher mobility.

### ***Interdisciplinarity***

We will continue strengthening collaborations across humanities disciplines to support the creation of knowledge that extends the insights of individual disciplines. While remaining a humanities-led network, HERA will be open to opportunities to engage with other disciplinary networks to advance its vision through further collaborative endeavours, with the particular focus on championing humanities-led interdisciplinary activities. To this end we will build on the CHANSE collaboration with NORFACE and convene interdisciplinary round table discussions/workshops to identify areas of added value through collaboration and help inform our joint programming.

### ***Knowledge Exchange***

We will build on HERA's successful track record of knowledge exchange and knowledge translation programming, to support and amplify impact generation from our research and advocacy activity we fund and to the benefit of the wider humanities community within, across and beyond member countries. Through knowledge exchange HERA will be in a stronger position to reinforce the role of humanities in tackling challenges and driving change.

### ***Internationalisation***

Transnational collaboration is at the heart of HERA's vision. As such, HERA will remain open to new opportunities to extend its international outreach within Europe and beyond. This will be achieved through both joint funding opportunities with partners outside of HERA and through attracting new members sharing its ambition.

### **Communication and Engagement**

To support targeted delivery of our vision and strategy, we will develop a communication and engagement plan to help increase visibility and sustain HERA's brand and recognition across Europe and beyond. As part of the plan, we will consider an annual conference, regular public and policy facing publications showcasing HERA projects and the value of the Humanities, including in addressing contemporary challenges.

### **Governance to support the delivery of the strategy**

Robust and yet flexible governance will play a central role to underpin the delivery of our strategy. It reflects the collaborative nature of HERA and outlines key roles and responsibilities within network's structures.

The proposed governance model is one with a combined network board with management team members as reserve attendees. The Network Board is the ultimate body responsible for HERA. The Network Board is composed of one delegate per participating country (including the Chair and Vice-Chair(s)). The Management Team is composed of one delegate per country. There will continue to be a HERA chair (appointed for a three-year term) and an optional vice-chair (appointed for a three-year term). The prospect of a second vice chair was noted during the 2024 meetings with agencies as something to be considered and dependent on demand.

Secretariat functions including holding and managing the HERA finances and organising meetings is proposed to be done by an executive office (contracted out to European Science Foundation if approved by the board). This is needed as it was confirmed there are no HERA members who have capacity to provide these functions through a distributed governance model. Two governance models are proposed with communications being managed by the executive office or separately by a HERA member.

HERA working groups are to be developed based on network activities. There will be a knowledge exchange group led by AHRC who will manage the HERA Crisis Knowledge Exchange facilitator between 2025-2028. The HERA Crisis Call board will continue for the duration of the awards (2025-2028) with monitoring activities coordinated by Poland and Romania with support from the network board.

Finally, it was recognised there is a need to bring in expertise from the academic community. This could be done by further strengthening via targeted workshops and rounds tables rather than via a new permanent structure (i.e. Scientific and Advisory board).

