

# VERA - FORWARD VISIONS ON THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA. INSIGHTS INTO ERA SCENARIO BUILDING

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**evoREG Workshop  
„Innovation, territories  
and policies“**

**Strasbourg**

**22 January 2014**

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# The VERA project: Basic characteristics

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## Outline

- The VERA project: Basis characteristics
- Scenario building
- The 4 VERA scenarios
- Discussion

# The VERA project: Basic characteristics

## VERA objectives

- Provide strategic intelligence for governance and priority-setting of research, technology, development and innovation (RTDI) system in Europe

## From ERA to VERA

- ERA: better coordination of national research policies at EU-level ⇒ EU's innovativeness and competitiveness
- Evolution of ERA: (2007) 6 dimensions, (2010) 7 flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, (2012) 5 priority areas for political action in ERA communication ⇒ European RTDI landscape and governance



The screenshot shows the VERA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Sign in', 'Register', and a search icon. The main header features the VERA logo and the tagline 'Forward Visions on the European Research Area'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'Home', 'News', 'Events', 'Scenarios', 'Documents', and 'About'. The main content area includes a large graphic of a globe with various icons representing research and innovation. To the right of the globe, there is a section titled 'VERA Scenario drafts' with a brief description and a 'read more' button. Below the globe, there is a 'Latest news' section with two articles: 'Horizon 2020 first calls published' (dated Dec 11, 2013) and 'ERA Progress Report 2013 published by European Commission' (dated Nov 20, 2013). To the right of the news section, there is a 'Tag cloud' and an 'Event Calendar' for January 2014. At the bottom right, there is an 'Active Poll' section titled 'Your opinion on'.

<http://eravisions.eu/>

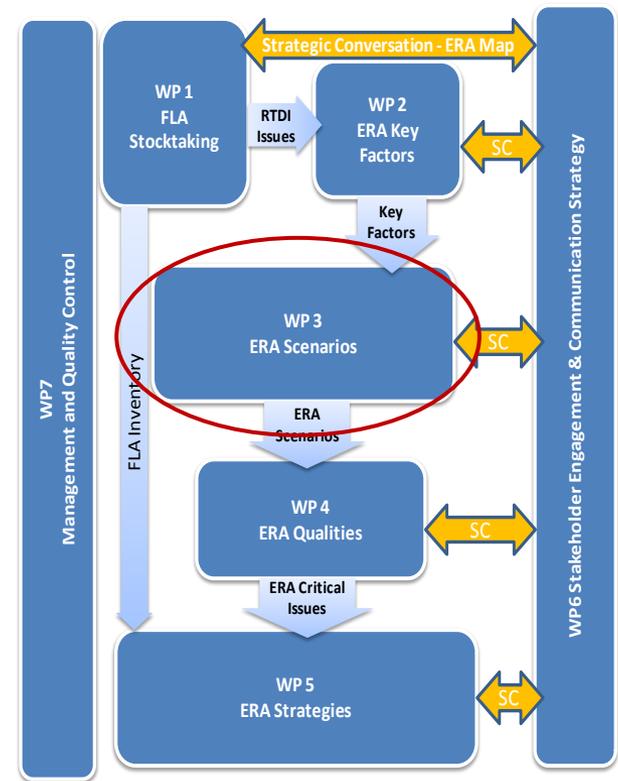
# The VERA project: Basic characteristics

- FP7-Project (Socio-Economic Sciences & Humanities)
- Duration of the project: 2012-2014

## The VERA Consortium

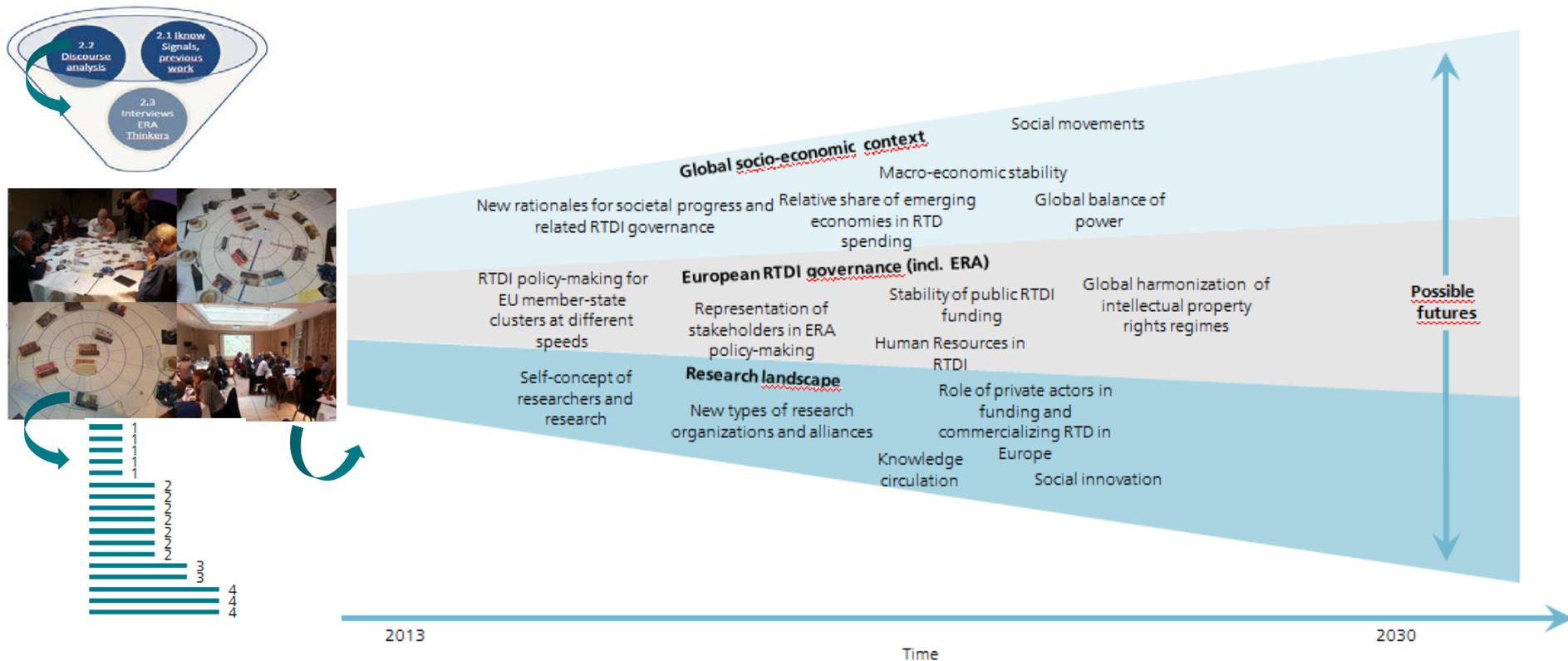
Participant no.*	Participant organisation name	Part. Short Name	Country
1 (coordinator)	Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI	FHG-ISI	Germany
2	Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii	UEFISCDI	Romania
3	University of Twente	UTwente	Netherlands
4	L'Institut Francilien Recherche Innovation et Société	IFRIS	France
5	Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH	AIT	Austria
6	Manchester Institute of Innovation Research	UNIMAN	United Kingdom
7	VTT-Technical Research Centre of Finland	VTT	Finland
8	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas	CSIC	Spain
9	EU Joint Research Centre Institute for Prospective Technological Studies	JRC-IPTS	Spain
10	Centre for Social Innovation	ZSI	Austria

## Structure of the project



# The VERA project - Forward Visions on the ERA: Scenario building

VERA scenarios: **a factor approach** (selection of key factors  $\Rightarrow$  factor projections  $\Rightarrow$  development of different scenarios)



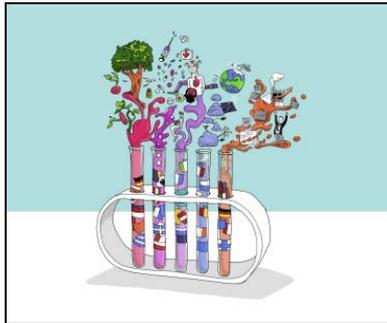
# The 4 VERA scenarios

## Four scenarios on European RTDI governance in 2030

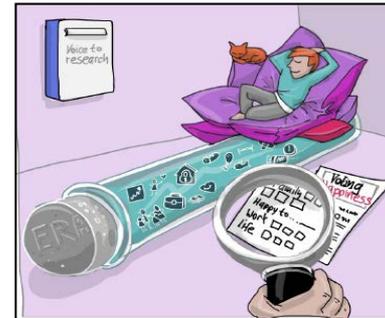
1. Global market coordination for jobs and growth



2. Intergovernmental action for Grand Challenges



3. Public participation for human well-being



4. Integrated expertise for sustainability

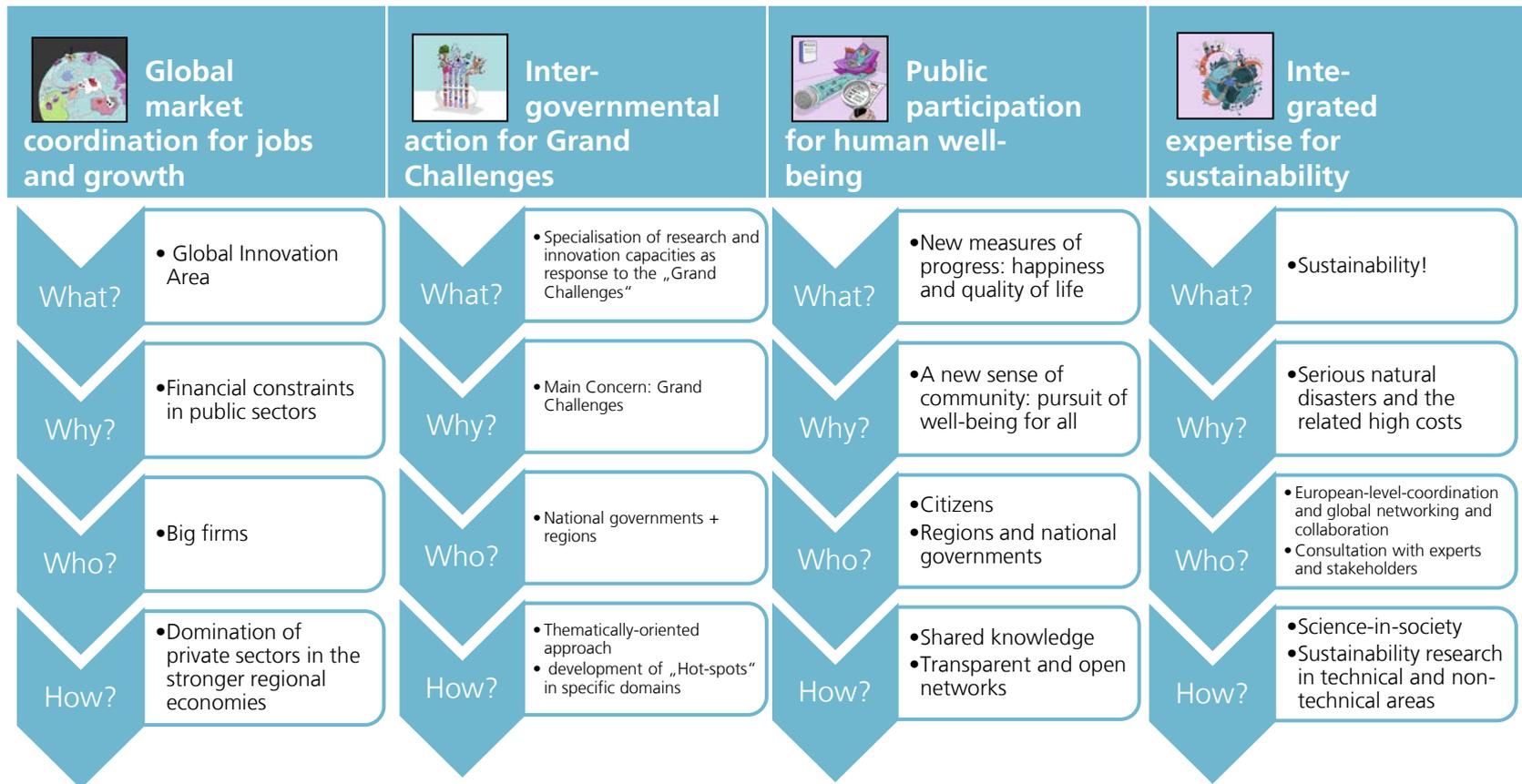


New socio-technical regimes,  
transformative structural  
changes

Incremental changes in RTDI  
governance and surroundings

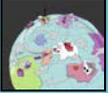
# The 4 VERA scenarios

## The four scenarios at a glance



# The 4 VERA scenarios

## Selected features: Rationales

 <b>1. Global market coordination for jobs and growth</b>	 <b>2. Inter-governmental action for Grand Challenges</b>	 <b>3. Public participation for human well-being</b>	 <b>4. Integrated expertise for sustainability</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inequalities within EU, joint action difficult</li> <li>• Focus: short-term survival in turbulent financial context</li> <li>• Risk-averse RTDI spending</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate economic growth worldwide, further focus on growth and jobs</li> <li>• Global competition</li> <li>• Collaboration vs. national domination</li> <li>• European integration, variable geometry as response to Grand Societal Challenges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new individualism / post-materialistic concept of human well-being in Europe</li> <li>• Pursuit of individual happiness, health and quality of life for all members of society</li> <li>• Broadened economic measures of progress to socio-economic ones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability (global consensus), severe environmental events</li> <li>• Moderate economic growth due to the next emerging “11 countries” i.e. due to a new demand for sustainability innovations</li> <li>• Sustainability rationale adopted at different speeds and in various ways</li> </ul>

# The 4 VERA scenarios

## Selected features: RTDI governance

 <b>1. Global market coordination for jobs and growth</b>	 <b>2. Inter-governmental action for Grand Challenges</b>	 <b>3. Public participation for human well-being</b>	 <b>4. Integrated expertise for sustainability</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Austerity, little room to manoeuvre</li> <li>• Shift of RTDI funding to private sector, economic value of research</li> <li>• Global RTDI shaped by global, vertical networks and value chains</li> <li>• EU: research coordinated by closed circles, limited to domains of competitiveness</li> <li>• Intergovernmental coordination, joint action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governments in driving-seat</li> <li>• Thematically-oriented variable geometry approaches gained importance</li> <li>• Need to address Grand Societal Challenges ⇒ joint action</li> <li>• EC: research needs, agenda-setting; nat. governments: allocation of funds</li> <li>• Specialised RIS/ clusters: research performers, influence agenda setting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bottom-up principle: regional and national RTDI governments retain strengths of their individual approaches and share good practice at EU-level</li> <li>• Distributed, transparent and societally robust RTDI in Europe ⇒ 2 new forms emerge: ERA-Policy forum, ERA knowledge-exchange</li> <li>• Global RTDI governance: Interlinked but diverse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforced EU RTDI governance</li> <li>• Value of RTDI with regards to sustainability</li> <li>• Stronger cooperation of EC's DGs</li> <li>• Public-private cooperation for sustainability lead market</li> <li>• EU: coordination and support of European RTDI for sustainability</li> <li>• Interregional global networks on shared sustainability issues</li> </ul>

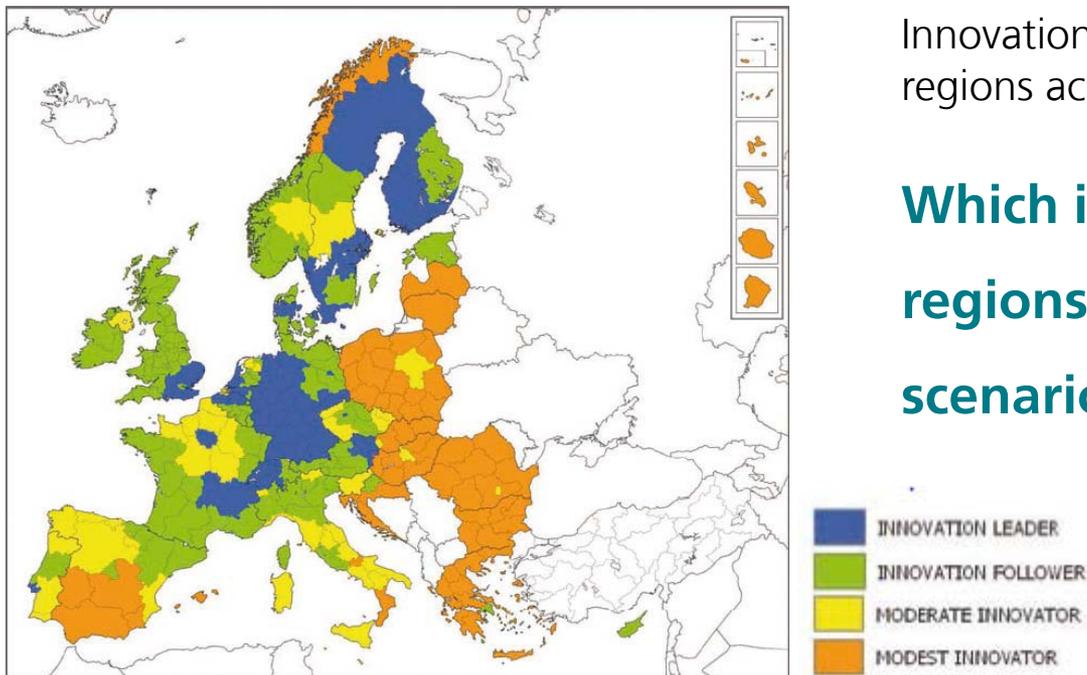
# The 4 VERA scenarios

## Selected features: RTDI landscape

 <b>1. Global market coordination for jobs and growth</b>	 <b>2. Inter-governmental action for Grand Challenges</b>	 <b>3. Public participation for human well-being</b>	 <b>4. Integrated expertise for sustainability</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research as entrepreneurial activity</li> <li>• EU: limited public funds, limited to domains like security research</li> <li>• Research is specialised and globally distributed, Global Innovation Area</li> <li>• Universities: focus on applied research</li> <li>• Europe: Private research providers, firm joint ventures, PPP</li> <li>• Closed-door research, IPR, competition for jobs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research as growth and jobs driver and to solve Grand Challenges</li> <li>• Continued rel. Growth of RTDI spending</li> <li>• Less public funds available, but efficient trans-nat. coordination</li> <li>• Specialised RTDI capacities in EU regions</li> <li>• Research performers: universities, new organisations</li> <li>• Bottom-up identification of research topics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research topics: “excellence in relevance for human- well-being”</li> <li>• New research topics: Healthcare (personalized medicine) and ICT (cyber-security)</li> <li>• Increased participation of citizens</li> <li>• More private-public, transdisciplinary, transnational research networks ⇒ critical mass</li> <li>• New forms of organising RTDI progress in new research domains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key: useful outcomes</li> <li>• Research intensity of sustainable development (RTDI system, changes in economy and society)</li> <li>• Technical innovations, socio-technical and non-technical innovations important</li> <li>• RTDI in globally interconnected hubs</li> <li>• A wide range of stakeholders funds research (governments, cities, NGOs, foundations, citizens,...)</li> </ul>

# Discussion

## The 4 scenarios and European regions

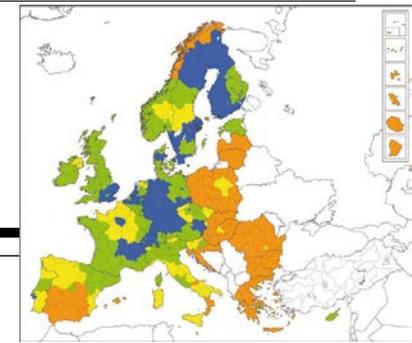


Innovation performance: different types of regions across EU

**Which impact on European regions could result from these 4 scenarios?**

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry (ed.) (2012): Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2012.  
Prepared by Hugo Hollanders, Lorena Riviera León, Laura Roman

# Discussion



## The VERA scenarios: Which regional impact in 2030?

Type of region	Examples (D/F)	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
Innovation leaders	BaWü, Bavaria (D), Paris, Rhône-Alpes (F)	+++	+	-	+ (?)
Innovation followers	Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holst. (D), Alsace, Midi-Pyrén. (F)	+	+	++	?
Moderate innovators	Bassin Parisien, Nord-Pas-de-Calais (F)	- (?)	+	+	?
Modest innovators	Overseas regions (F)	-	+	0	?

### Arguments

*Private actors in strong, globally interconnected regions as drivers of research*

*Specialisation in competitive domains, "hot spots" -> a chance for every region?*

*"Average" regions are most flexible towards new approaches and organisation of research*

*Globally interconnected actor (groups) decisive -> rather dispersed relations than regional coherence*

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# Thank you for your attention!

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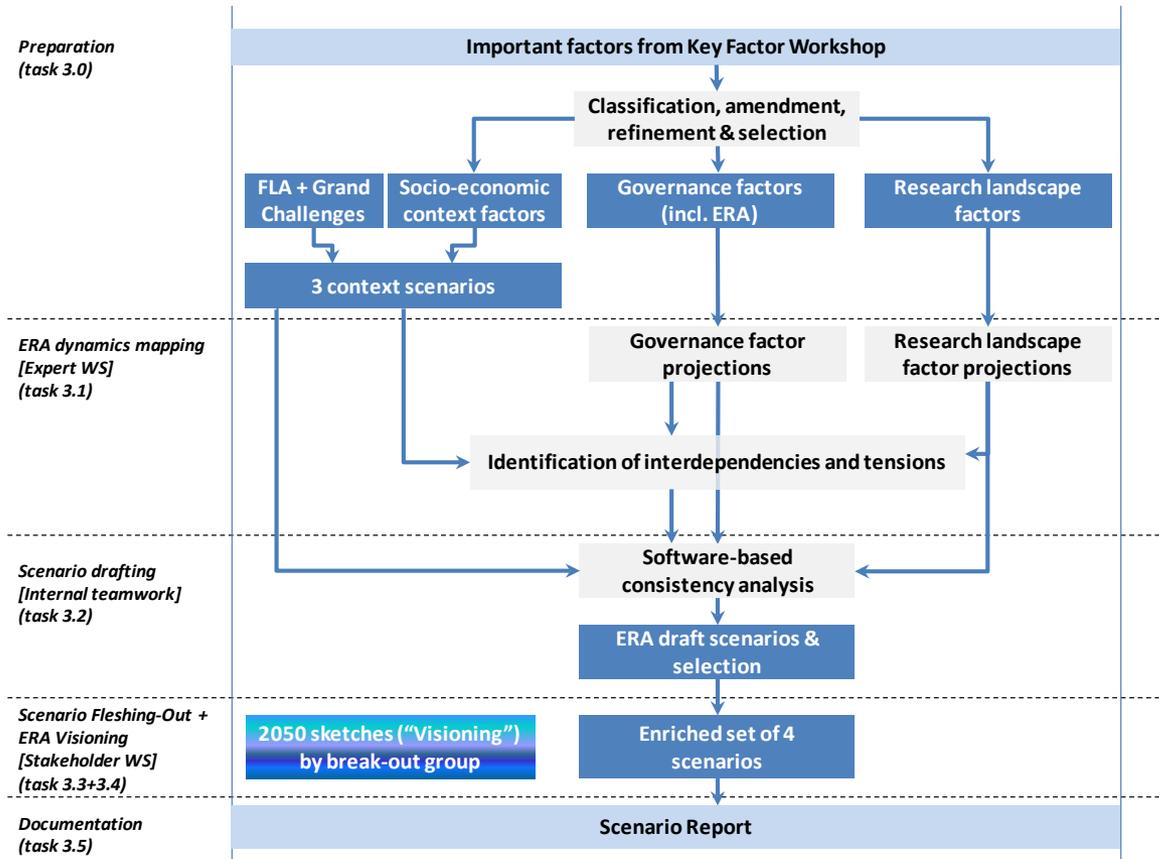
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# Back-up

# The VERA project - Forward Visions on the ERA: Scenario building

The scenario building process



# The VERA project - Forward Visions on the ERA: Scenario building

Factors and factor projections:  
Example

No.	Factor name	Factor projections
<b>European RTDI governance (including ERA)</b>		
6	RTDI policy-making at different speeds	<p>6A: ERA parallels: Research is increasingly organized outside the European Union framework in addition to ERA. Groups of Member States form institutional arrangements such as DACH or ORA.</p> <p>6B: Polarization within EU/ERA: Within the European Union framework, groups of Member States form institutional arrangements to coordinate their RTDI policy.</p> <p>6C: MNE driven ERA inc. capturing regions: ERA is shaped by Multinational Enterprises and oriented towards (trans)regional cooperation and integration.</p> <p>6D: Federal ERA</p>
7	Representation of stakeholders in ERA policy-making	<p>7A: Business-as-usual: partnership approach</p> <p>7B: ERA [policy] making: ideas and micro experiments</p> <p>7C: Republic of science</p> <p>7D: Real societal challenges: public participation/demand-based</p>