



EU Research Security: Key Policy Developments, Initiatives, and Tools

Based on information available as of June 2026

RESEARCH SECURITY CENTRE

The European Union (EU) is strengthening research security in response to growing global competition and geopolitical risks. As research and innovation (R&I) become increasingly strategic assets, the EU is seeking to strike a new balance between openness and resilience to better safeguard European innovation. To support these objectives, the EU has recently announced a range of new research security policies, initiatives, and tools aimed at supporting Member States and the R&I sector.

EU RESEARCH SECURITY AT A GLANCE

The EU's approach to research security aims to protect R&I while respecting academic freedom. It is based on strong self-governance by the R&I sector, supported by public authorities through guidance, advice, and information-sharing, with research performers holding primary responsibility for managing risks in international collaboration.

This approach forms part of the EU's broader effort to strengthen economic and security resilience under the European Economic Security Strategy. It complements existing tools such as export controls, investment screening, and sanctions. Implementation is jointly overseen by the European Commission and Member States.

The Council Recommendation on enhancing research security (May 2024) established shared principles and guidance, creating political momentum and accelerating the development of research security policies and initiatives across the EU.

KEY POLICIES, INITIATIVES, & TOOLS

The following initiatives have been introduced to strengthen research security across the EU:

- **Tackling R&I Foreign Interference Toolkit (2022)**
 - ✓ Best practices and mitigation measures for research institutions to protect their research against foreign interference.
- **European Flagship Conference on Research Security (first held October 2025)**
 - ✓ Biennial research security forum for policymakers, experts, and practitioners.
- **Research Security Monitor 2025**
 - ✓ Annual EU-wide report on national research security approaches and case studies to support peer learning and capacity building.
- **EU Framework for Science Diplomacy (2026)**
 - ✓ Strategic framework to strengthen and support coordinated international R&I engagement.

In addition, the EU has announced several new measures and tools that are currently in development to further support research security:

- **European Research Area (ERA) Act 2026**
 - ✓ Legal backing for the implementation of research security measures across the EU and incentive for Member States to create a single market for research.
- **European Centre of Expertise on Research Security**
 - ✓ EU hub for research, tools, guidance, training, and capacity building.
- **Resilience Testing**
 - ✓ Voluntary EU-wide resilience testing methodology to assess research institutions and enable comparability across Member States.
- **Due Diligence Platform**
 - ✓ Secure IT platform to compile reliable information on foreign research institutions to support safe international partnerships.
- **Interpretative Guidance**
 - ✓ Practical guidance on key research security-related topics.
- **Critical Technologies Risk Assessment**
 - ✓ Risk assessment process to identify sensitive technologies and key vulnerabilities.
- **Safeguards in EU Funding Programmes**
 - ✓ Proposed protections to strengthen research security in EU-level funding programs.

RESOURCES

- <https://op.europa.eu/publication-detail/-/publication/7348956d-1389-11f1-8870-01aa75ed71a1>
- https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/eu-strengthens-science-diplomacy-and-research-security-support-global-research-cooperation-2026-02-27_en
- https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/europe-world/international-cooperation/strategic-autonomy-and-european-economic-and-research-security_en

CONTACT US

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