



EU Research Security: Member State Implementation

Based on information available as of June 2026

RESEARCH SECURITY CENTRE

The European Commission sets common principles for research security across the European Union (EU), while implementation is led by Member States. National approaches vary widely, reflecting different systems and priorities, but there is a clear and growing trend toward stronger governance, coordination, and institutionalization of research security across the region.

MEMBER STATE IMPLEMENTATION AT A GLANCE

Although there is wide variation in the maturity of research security frameworks among Member States, there is a growing shift across the EU from voluntary guidance toward more structured or mandatory measures, alongside increasing coordination between research institutions, governments, and security actors. Research security is also becoming more closely integrated with export controls, investment screening, and broader national security frameworks.

NATIONAL APPROACHES

The examples below, taken from the [2025 EU Research Security Monitor](#), highlight how Member States are implementing research security across different levels of development and governance structures:



Austria has a performance-based implementation model, with research security embedded in formal agreements with research institutions. This is supported by strong central coordination and national networks for training, guidance, and trusted exchange. Universities have committed to develop and implement research security measures, including appointing contact points by 2025, conducting risk analyses by 2026, and implementing and evaluating security measures by 2027.



Belgium has a highly decentralized system, reflecting various federal, regional, and community-led initiatives. A national coordination mechanism was established in 2023 through an interministerial research security group. Approaches vary across regions, with structured risk assessment tools in Flanders and more informal, cybersecurity-focused initiatives in French-speaking Belgium.



Czechia has a rapidly developing framework, transitioning from voluntary measures to mandatory reporting on research security practices at all universities starting in 2025. This shift is supported by detailed guidance materials and funding incentives that embed research security requirements into a Czech EU-funded program, helping to raise awareness and build institutional capacity.



Denmark follows a guidelines-based model anchored in its 2022 framework for international research and innovation cooperation, which covers requirements for risk identification and partner screening. A National Research Security Office was established in 2024 to provide intelligence-based guidance and oversee implementation across universities and funding organizations. Research security is increasingly embedded in university governance, with a strong role for institutions.



France has a highly institutionalized, law-based system centred on the dispositif de protection du potentiel scientifique et technique de la nation (PPST) (protection of the nation's scientific and technical potential framework) governing sensitive research facilities since 2011. This includes strong central oversight, involvement of intelligence services, and designated institutional security officers. The system has been reinforced since 2024, with increased sanctions for non-compliance and the elevation of research security in the Revue nationale stratégique 2025 (2025 National Strategic Review).



Germany builds on strong foundations in export controls and research ethics, including ethics commissions for security-relevant research, and is increasingly moving toward national coordination following a formal stakeholder process launched in 2024. In 2025, agreement was reached to establish a National Platform for Research Security.



Italy is developing its national framework following a nationwide survey on research security conducted in 2024. Since then there has been rapid institutionalization, including interministerial coordination, a draft national action plan, a voluntary self-assessment tool for researchers, and stakeholder working groups. New governance structures are being established, with a new Directorate-General for Research Evaluation and Security and plans for a national Research Security Centre by 2026.



The Netherlands has developed a whole-of-government approach since 2020, with strong coordination across ministries and research institutions. National guidelines were developed jointly with the academic sector, and a National Contact Point for Knowledge Security launched in 2022. Clear governance structures are in place, including research security advisors at all universities including research security advisors at all universities, and the country is currently moving toward targeted screening of individuals in high-risk knowledge domains.



Spain is developing a national action plan through a phased and consultative process involving strategic and sectoral working groups and exchanges with peer countries, which began in 2025. In 2026, the plan will be drafted, establishing guidelines, a national contact point, and a national portal on research security. The implementation of these measures are planned to take place from 2027 to 2030.



Sweden has recently released national guidance on responsible internationalization for research institutions. Implementation is supported by strong initiatives from the research sector, including practical tools, and plans are underway to establish a national hub for coordination and support.



Romania's framework is at an early stage, but is expanding based on existing security and cybersecurity legislation. Coordination is led by education and research authorities, with links to security and intelligence services. There is growing policy momentum, supported by a 2025 concept note with policy recommendations on research security and discussions on establishing a national support hub.

RESOURCES

<https://op.europa.eu/publication-detail/-/publication/7348956d-1389-11f1-8870-01aa75ed71a1>

CONTACT US

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