

European Defence Research Centres: linking Research providers

Linking Research providers

The European Defence Research Centres' (EDRC) initiative follows on from the 2008 Franco-German proposal for a joint promotion of national defence research centres as well as the leverage of knowledge of research competences in Europe.

The European Defence Agency has supported the EDRC initiative following the objectives of promoting the establishment of R&T centres of excellence while using them for research cooperation, as laid down in the European Defence Research and Technology (EDRT) Strategy.

The EDRC Working Group supported by the R&T Points of Contact decided to launch the European Defence Research Centres' (EDRC) initiative in the format of a database that is available as an EDA Portal through its website. The concept of the tool was designed by EDA with the support of participating Member States using the EDA Technology Taxonomy as the basis for identifying competences in different domains.

The EDRC portal is an important contribution from the defence arena to the European Research Area (ERA) whose goal is to promote knowledge, networking and mobility among researchers. It can also have an impact on the 2020 Strategy as it contributes to fostering knowledge of domains where technology development and innovation is sought while providing closer interaction with the user and proximity to the market. In collaboration with EDRC, solutions to global security can be achieved quicker and at a lower cost due to the synergies stimulated through networking.

The Portal has currently around 200 entries from all 26 participating Member States plus Norway.

Principles

The basic principles governing the EDRC concept are the identification and mapping of technological competences in Europe, within the EDA remit, promoting networking and cooperation among research centres (government laboratories, academia, SMEs and industry).

Moreover, it provides updated information on research opportunities; allows for discrete communication between centres and allows the launch of calls for development of innovative technologies or partnerships of expertise. Additionally, it can be used by EDA and participating Member States for calls for tender by recognised research providers in different technology domains.



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Way ahead

European research centres generally see the EDRC database as a useful instrument to booster cooperation. The upgraded version, expected soon, will be more interactive and in that sense certainly an incentive to research providers to update their data with information relevant to the R&T community.

The concept as it is and with the new functionalities allows it to be used and explored as desired. EDA, together with the support of participating Member States, will be able to use it as a daily working tool in the search for external scientific advice or to extract entities, for example, when launching joint investment programmes. Research providers wishing to work in the EDA remit are encouraged to make their competences available through EDRC.

