A definition of 'research management' / 'research manager' is expected to fulfil following criteria:

- -inclusive, taking into account the multiple dimensions and variety of roles
- attractive
- clear and understood by policy makers, by the leadership of research performing and research funding organisations, and by stakeholders
- leveraging the profession
- forward looking

Research management takes various shapes across the ERA, and therefore, its **scope is multi-dimensional**:

- research policy advice, evidence-based policy making, foresight and strategy development
- research coordination, research development, research project and funding management, financial support
- evaluation and assessment support
- research and complementary training programme management
- data-based research support, such as data stewards and data analysts, exploitation of research data, data protection
- specialised research infrastructure operation
- scientific integrity and ethics expertise, legal support
- science communication support
- knowledge transfer and innovation support, knowledge brokering, incubator coordination and business development