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ERA-ARD II - Promoting collaboration in European Agriculture R4D for the world's poor

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Agricultural Research for Development

GCARD definition of a well-functioning AR4D system is one that is committed to action for impact and that:

1. Inclusively defines key AR4D **priorities and actions**, driven by evolving national, regional and global development needs
2. Invests in ensuring **equitable partnership and accountability** among all stakeholders in agricultural innovation and developmental change
3. Actively **achieves increased investments** in human, institutional and financial resources for AR4D **systems to meet demands in development**;
4. Develops required **human and institutional capacities** for generation, access and effective use of agricultural knowledge in development;
5. Effectively **coordinates linkages relating innovation to development programmes** and policies;
6. Demonstrates its value and gains recognition by society through **involvement of stakeholders in effective demonstration and reporting of outcomes**.





ERA-ARD (phase II)

ERA-ARD II is a EUR 1 000 000 project funded under the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme:

- running from 2010 to 2013
- Constituted by a partnership of 17 organisations involved with funding agricultural research for development in 15 European countries.
- Divided into 6 Work packages: 1. Knowledge sharing; 2. Activities towards joint programming; 3. Capacity strengthening; 4. Joint activities; 5. Transnational calls; 6. Coordination and communication

Points of departure:

- Agriculture is motor of economic growth of DC, and contributes to
 - food security (availability, access, consumption)
 - global issues such as bio-energy, climate change, etc.
- Agricultural research responds to the needs to feed growing populations and to drive economic growth in a sustainable manner.





Challenges

Nutrition security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to food, which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs, allowing for a healthy and active life.

For nutritional security, the world in 2050 needs to have

- more food available
 - A higher production (***two times more***)
 - A sustainable production (***two times less***)
 - A more efficient use of food (***two times better***)
- Access for all
- A balanced utilization

Therefore, we need to start now to

- align and integrate national activities
- balance between African and EU interests





ERA-ARD phase I

ERA-ARD phase I and II have collectively generated the following results, some of which are still being developed and refined:

European stakeholders:

- Documented ARD research policies in partner countries
- Developed recommendations to improve Europe's impact for achieving the MDG's
- Tested mechanisms for European transnational programming of ARD
- Contributed to the SCAR/EIARD/ERA-ARD task force on bridging the gap between AR and ARD

Developing country stakeholders:

- Built a network of national ARD partners from both European and southern countries.
- Developed mechanisms for mobilising and articulating southern advice in European ARD programming via its Southern and Emerging economies Advisory Group (SEAG)
- Experimented with a *modus operandi* to coordinate research demand and offer in a flexible manner, through investment in regional and thematic multi-stakeholder platforms in the South.





Overview of projects (ERA-ARD I)

1. Prospects for sustainable biofuel production in developing countries: A Case study of Kenya, East Africa (PROBIOFUEL)
2. Bioenergy in Ukraine – possibilities of rural development and opportunities for local communities (BIOPLUS)
3. Reduction of impact of biofuel production to food stock (BIODIESELFEEED)
4. Impacts of tropical land use conversion to jatropha and oil palm on rural livelihoods and ecosystem services in India and Mexico (JATROPHABILITY)
5. Bioenergy in Africa and Central America – Opportunities and Risks of Jatropha and Related Crops (Bioenergy in Africa)





The MDG-tool: From analysis to action

ERA-ARD I&II study identity **5 consistent choices** :

- o target the **Poor**
- o target the **gender equity issue**
- o use the **concept of Agricultural Innovation System (AIS)**
- o ensure that the process of **programming is consistent**
- o develop programme **Evaluation & Impact assessment**

→ Build a tool box to address the programming issue using ARD main drivers and principles





Tool Box structure: MDGs, Goals, questions

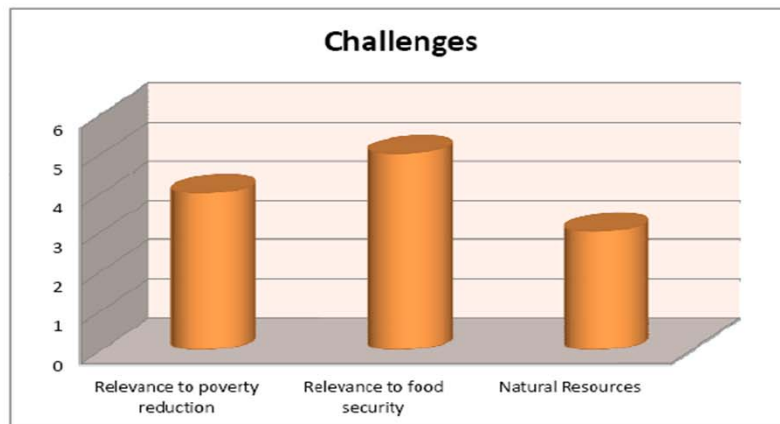
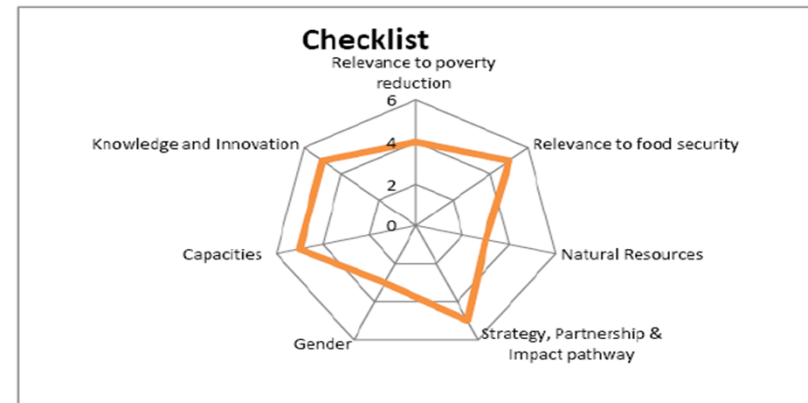
MDG/GFAR	GOALS	
MDG 1	Relevance to Poverty Reduction	6 questions ?
MDG 1	Relevance to Food Security	6 questions ?
MDG 7	Natural Resources	6 questions ?
GFAR A& B	Strategy, Partnership & Impact pathway	6 questions ?
GFAR C	Gender	6 questions ?
GFAR C	Capacities	6 questions ?
GFAR B	Knowledge and Innovation	6 questions ?





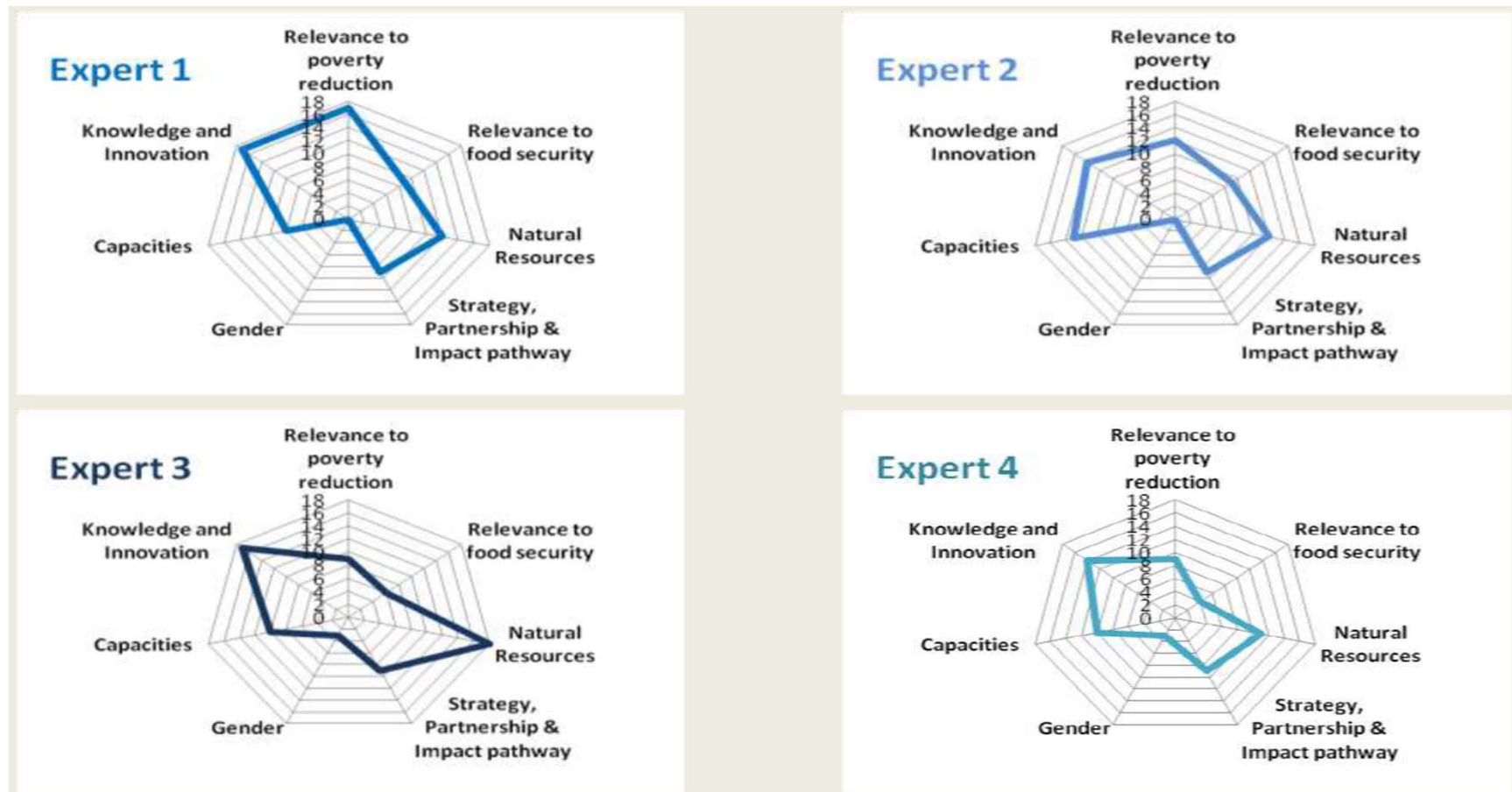
Check-list analysis for designing an ARD proposal

Goals		Checklist	scaling
Challenges	Relevance to poverty reduction	4	7 goals 6 questions for each goal
	Relevance to food security	5	
	Natural Resources	3	
Strategic Goals	Strategy, Partnership & Impact pathway	5	yes=1, no=0 goal: from 0 to 6
	Gender	3	
	Capacities	5	
	Knowledge and Innovation	5	
Total		30	
Score/100		71	





Test on project applications – a tool to solve experts controversies





Overview of projects (ERA-ARD-II)

1. Impact of conservation agriculture on macro-fauna diversity and related ecosystem services for improved farmers' cropping systems and livelihoods in highlands of Madagascar
2. Woody amendments for Sudano-Sahelian agriculture
3. Sustainable exploitation of wild silks in Sub-Saharan Africa
4. Providing sustainable field-to-market strategies on production intensification of selected key crops
5. Developing and evaluating sustainable integrated farming systems for improvement of smallholder dairy production while optimizing crop production in milk shed areas of Malawi and Zambia
6. Comprehensive analysis of subsurface irrigation in SSA for an optimisation and adaption of an environmental friendly irrigation practice





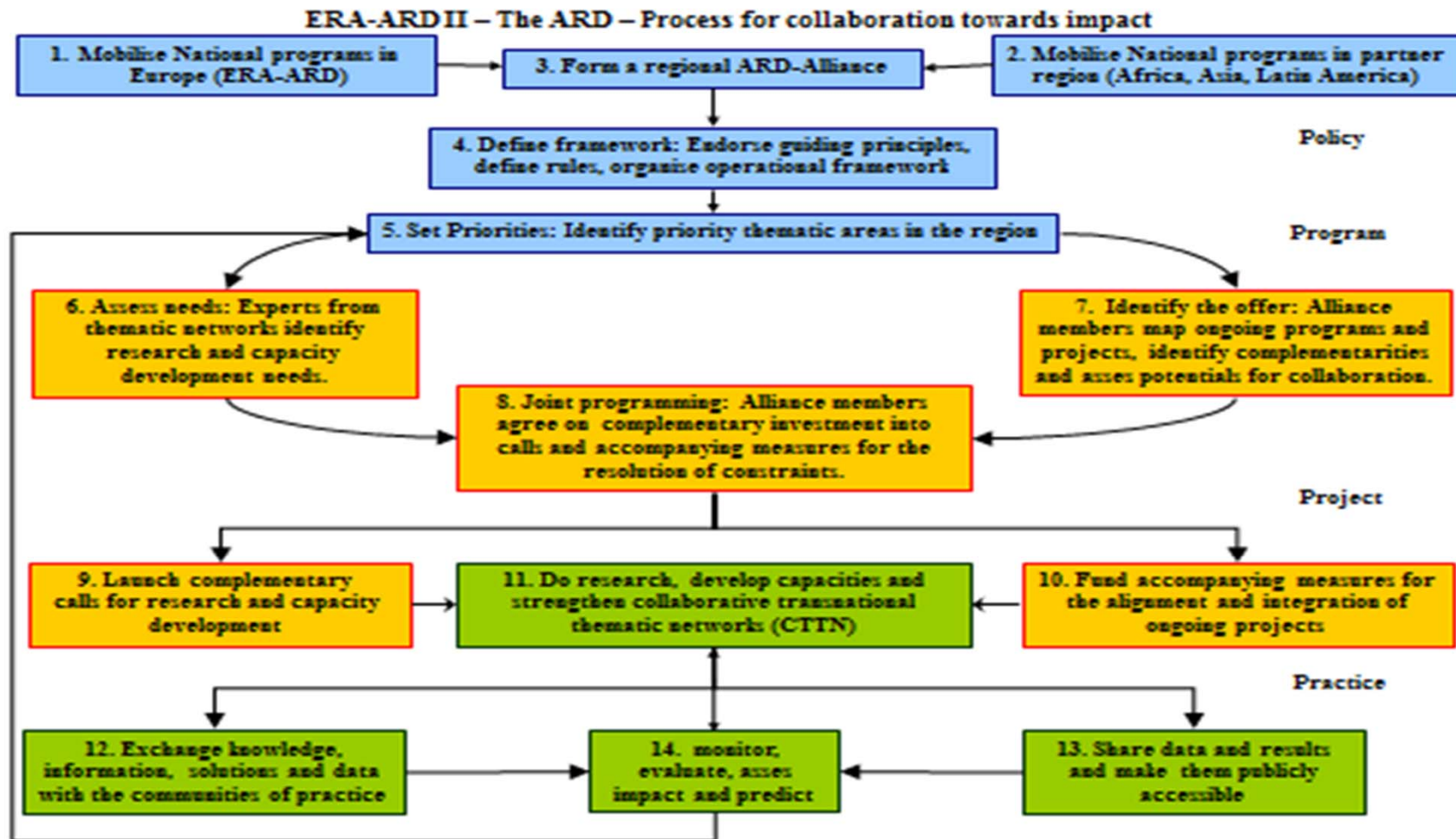
The Alliance Concept

- to meet the challenge of primarily structural constraints to collaboration, and
- to capitalise on the high diversity of actors characterising the ARD landscape
- Multi-stakeholder workshops, organised jointly with the federation of the sub-Saharan research organisation FARA, then worked on establishing a common priority list on a thematic and geographic area
 - A first WS, held in East Africa (Seeta, 2011) translated this exercise into a joint call for proposals, in which 7 EU-Member States created a virtual common pot to finance 6 projects on “Sustainable agricultural intensification through increased productivity and commodity value of major food crops”
 - the second WS, held in W-Africa (Ouagadougou, 2013) repeated the exercise in view of installing a “Centre of Excellence” in sub-Saharan Africa, in order to maintain the dynamic of the Alliance concept
- The following diagram shows the complete structure of the process of creating a regional thematic Alliance





The ERA-ARD Alliance Concept





Guiding principles for all regional ARD-alliances

- I. Focus on impact on MDGs and the improvement of livelihoods of the rural poor.
- II. Contribute to the formation and strengthening of impact oriented collaborative transnational thematic networks (CTTN)
- III. Advocate capacity development in the partner region
- IV. Follow recommendations of international conferences (GCARD, etc.).
- V. Shared program ownership, implementing National Development Plans (NDPs).
- VI. Complementary investment according to the needs identified during joint programming.
- VII. Use a value-chain approach in implementation
- VIII. Address the research, capacity development and innovation continuum from basic research to farmer training.
- IX. Data and solutions are considered common goods (*share-ware*) and are made publicly accessible
- X. Joint M&E and Impact Assessment.





Expectations from ERA-ARD partnership by Burkinabé Partners

Development of facilities and mechanisms for a better coordination of programming European research for ARD among donors and the willingness of shared responsibility with Africa Institutions is highly valued

Key factors of the successful workshop on Water Management

- participatory approach
- balanced representation of the stakeholders
- shared information on the main on-going research initiatives on water management
- identification of complementary research themes

Constraints

- Weakness of ERA-ARD in building on past achievements (when new projects are started),
- driving Africa in the endless pilot projects mode, missing the true development of scientific cooperation between European and African Science teams





Beyond ERA-ARD-II

1. Continuation of the European network with Southern partners, particularly the SEAG – apply the Alliance concept
 - Involve specific stakeholders especially farmer organisations and the private sector from early programming stages on via the Strategic Working Group to be installed at the SCAR (Standing Committee for Agricultural Research at the EC)
2. Develop strategy for integrating AR and ARD, national and international research & capacity development via existing fora
 - Disseminate the MDGs tool box among EIARD & ERAARD community for adoption
3. Scaling up joint programming on food and nutrition security
 - Improving efficiencies: Flexible funding instruments and catalysing existing initiatives
 - Focus on being catalytic with funding, rather than generate new initiatives
 - Ensure better articulation between project sizes and issues to resolve
4. Intensified collaboration in sustainable intensification (IntensAfrica)
5. (ERA-)ARD project outputs into use
 - Translate rhetoric into action





Conclusions

- **Shared vision:** AR – ARD linking -> Strategic Working Group under EIARD and SCAR

TORs for SWG specify:

- Improved coordination between countries leading to more synergy
- Greater impact on solving global issues
- Improved efficiency of use of research funding

- **Better cooperation:** Building multi-stakeholder partnerships – national, regional and global

- Building multi-stakeholder communities takes time and effort, involvement start – end
- Alignment required, building on existing strategies
 - Global: GCARD
 - Regional: e.g. CAADP
- Southern consultation needs to be listened to





Benefits of ERA-ARD

for Developing Countries

- strengthened networks, sustainable and equal partnerships
- improved understanding of opportunities
- better access to knowledge

for Europe

- more coherent view of best practices in managing ARD programmes
- stronger coordination of national actions by transparency of country profiles
- making use of complementary expertise and networks





Other initiatives (1/2)

FARA (www.fara-africa.org)

FARA is the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, an umbrella organization bringing together major stakeholders in agricultural research and development in Africa. FARA complements the innovative activities of national, international and sub-regional research institutions to deliver more responsive and effective services to its stakeholders. It plays advocacy and coordination roles for agricultural research for development, while the national agricultural research systems (NARS), advanced research institutions (ARIs) and international agricultural research centres (IARCs) develop improved technologies along the research-to-development continuum in their respective countries and coverage areas.





Other initiatives (2/2)

EIARD (<http://www.eiard.org>)

The European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD) is a **permanent informal ARD policy coordination platform** between the EC, MS of the EU, Switzerland and Norway.

Initiated in 1995, EIARD's effectiveness is ensured through its country representatives and by the endorsement of its role by the European Council and Parliament.

EIARD's **goal is to promote and implement coherent European policies** at international, regional and sub-regional levels in order to increase the impact of agricultural research for development (ARD) on poverty reduction, food security and sustainable management of natural resources in developing countries.

EIARD is implemented by a **European Coordination Group**, which meets annually, and a smaller **Working Group**, which ensures the continuing activities of EIARD.





On-going Projects (1/2)

ERAfrica (www.erafrica.eu)

is a new European Union (EU) 7th Framework Programme project aimed at promoting a **unified European approach** to collaborating with Africa in the field of science and technology **research for innovation** and sustainable development.

Objective: the creation of a “European Research Area Network” for the African continent, similar to other “ERA-Nets” operating in relation to areas as diverse as Russia (ERA.Net RUS), India (New INDIGO) and the Far East (KorA-Net).

PAEPARD (www.paepard.org)

Objectives: Build joint African-European multi-stakeholder partnerships in ARD contributing to achieving the MDGs

Specific: Enhanced, more equitable, more demand-driven, and mutually beneficial collaboration of Africa and Europe on ARD with the aim of attaining the MDGs.

Examples of Multi-stakeholder innovation partnerships from the User-Led Processes

EAFF: Extensive Livestock value chains in Eastern Africa with Specific focus on Kenya and Uganda; with focus on only one value chain: Beef production;

PROPAC: Urban horticulture value chain in Central Africa (CAM, CONGO, RDC);

ROPFA: Rice value chain in Benin, Burkina Faso & Mali;

FANRPAN/SACAU: Groundnut value chain in Malawi & Zambia;

COLEACP: Adding value to Mango non-food uses in West Africa (BF, Cd'I, SEN)





On-going Projects (2/2)

WASCAL (<https://icg4wascal.icg.kfa-juelich.de/>)

WASCAL (West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use) is a large-scale research-focused program designed to help tackle this challenge and thereby enhance the resilience of human and environmental systems to climate change and increased variability. It does so by strengthening the research infrastructure and capacity in West Africa (Bénin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sénégal, Togo) related to climate change and by pooling the expertise of ten West African countries and Germany.

Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), WASCAL is coordinated by the Center for Development Research (ZEF, Bonn University), and is implemented in a collaborative effort by West African and German partners.

WASCAL is organized around three principle components:

- Competence Center
- Core Research Program
- Graduate Studies Program





Thank you for your attention!



www.era-ard.org

