

Widening actions in Horizon Europe

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Widening, ERA & Research Infrastructure Programming

Unit A2 – ERA Governance and Implementation



Horizon Europe contributing towards a renewed ERA

Pillar 1

Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2

Excellent Science Global
Challenges and European Industrial
Competiveness

- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate Energy and Mobility
- Food Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3

Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation
and Technology

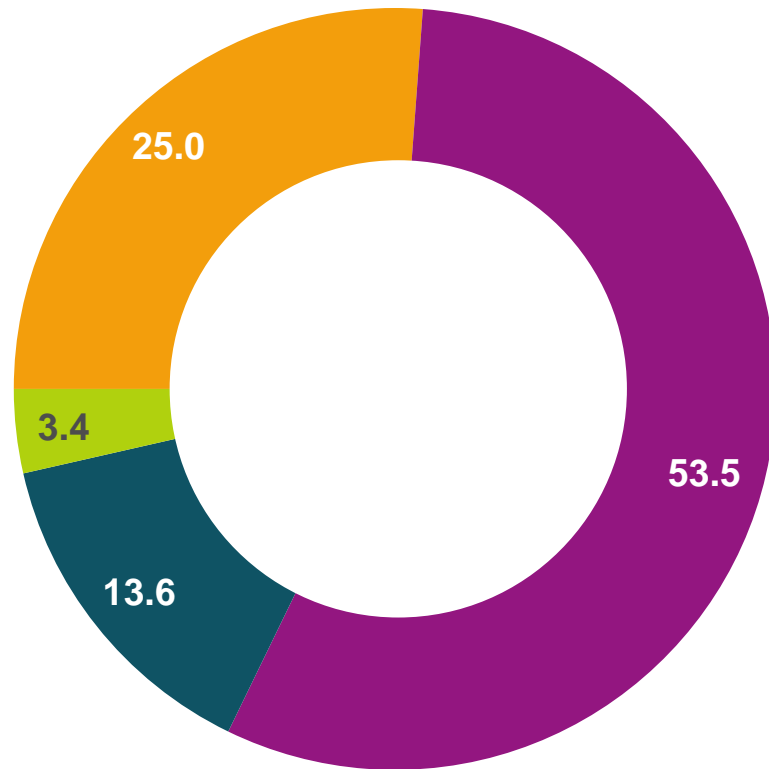
Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

Horizon Europe Budget: €95.5 billion (2021-2027)

(including €5.4 billion from NGEU – Next Generation Europe – programme of EU for Recovery from COVID-19 crisis)



Political agreement December 2020

€ billion in current prices

- Excellent Science
- Global challenges and European ind. comp.
- Innovative Europe
- Widening Part and ERA

Widening under Horizon Europe:

- Full alignment with **new ERA strategic priorities**
- **Fixed list of eligible Member States** to host the main beneficiary (EU13 + PT + EL) + Associated Countries (with equivalent characteristics)
- **EU Outermost Regions** fully eligible to host the co-ordinator
- Full implementation of “**Advancing Europe**” package with a number of additional support schemes to boost participation of less research performing countries
- More integrated policy approach and **enhanced synergies** with regional policy, transnational missions, regional smart specialisation strategies etc.

Widening participation and strengthening the ERA WP

- **Destination #1:** Improved access to excellence
 - Teaming
 - Twinning (incl. special call WBC)
 - Excellence Hubs
 - European Excellence Initiative for Higher Education Institutions
 - Hop-on facility
 - (under other actions) COST and NCP networks

- **Destination #2:** Attracting and mobilising the best talents
 - ERA Chairs
 - Fostering balanced brain circulation: ERA Fellowships
 - Fostering balanced brain circulation: ERA Talents

- **Destination #3:** Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system 2021-2024

Destination #1: Improved access to excellence

Objective: to create a portfolio of complementary actions that will build R&I capacities in Widening countries enabling them to advance to the competitive edge at European and international level.

Main impact:

- Increased science and innovation capacities for all actors in modernised and more competitive R&I systems in widening countries
- Reformed institutions and increased attractiveness for talents
- Higher participation success in Horizon Europe and more consortium leadership roles
- Stronger linkages between academia and business and improved career permeability
- Strengthened role of the Higher Education sector in research and innovation
- Better involvement of regional actors in R&I process
- Improved outreach to international scale for all actors

TEAMING

Policy objective: develop light houses and role models to stimulate reforms of national R&I system, increase level of excellence of national R&I system, mobilise new investments

Scale of operation: single Centre of excellence to be modernised or created, relevant at national level, in a chosen scientific domain

How:

- A large CSA grant (up to 15 million € in Horizon Europe) + equivalent (obligatory) complementary funding,
- a single application in a two-stage evaluation procedure; joint evaluation of all funding sources,
- consortium structure - main beneficiary + 1 or 2 strategic advanced partners (universities or research organisations) from a different country .

Synergies with Cohesion policy funding enabled (new GBER and CPR references):

- Horizon Europe rules on eligible costs, activities and funding rates apply to the aid,
- Total public funding (EU + State aid) up to same funding rate of Horizon Europe,
- Investments costs in project-related tangible and intangible assets shall be eligible,

TWINNING

Policy objective: strengthen a defined field of research in a university or research organisation by linking it with at least two leading research institutions in other Member States or Associated Countries in the chosen scientific domain.

How:

- CSA grant (in Horizon Europe up to 3 years and 1,2 million €) involving the coordinator established in an eligible country,
- comprehensive scientific strategy for stepping up and stimulating scientific excellence and innovation capacity in a defined area of research,
- clear outline of the scientific quality of the partners involved,
- dedicated work package or task focused on strengthening the research management and administration skills of the coordinating institution,
- research, consumables and small equipment costs become eligible

Scale of operation: Set of activities include some of the following: short-term staff exchanges; expert visits and short term on-site or virtual training; workshops; conference attendance; exploratory research project, organisation of joint summer school type activities; dissemination and outreach activities.

Excellence Hubs

Policy objective: Foster innovation excellence in place based (local/regional) innovation ecosystems, improve science business linkages, regional dimension of widening, bottom-up approach

Scale of operation: Research institutions, firms, local/regional government, societal actors, local regional scale with cross border dimension

How:

- a CSA grant,
- consortium structure - group of 2 or 3 place based innovation ecosystems on a quadruple helix approach
- allowing innovation ecosystems in widening countries and beyond, to team up and create better linkages between academia, business, government and society

Excellence hubs are part of the European excellence initiative

Potential synergies with Cohesion policy funding; with European Innovation Ecosystems and the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)

Networks of HEIs - capacity building

Target groups:

- For networks of HEI (and associated partner organisations and businesses) with balanced geographic coverage; HEI not present yet in the 41 European Universities pilot alliances
- Bulk of support to universities, higher education institutions, academies of science, public organisations,... located in widening countries

Purpose:

- Building integrated networks, getting ready for future European Universities initiative
- Supporting institutional transformation in cooperative setting

Towards a European Excellence Initiative in support of universities

- *>2022, currently co-creation with university sector, Member States, stakeholders*
- *Key: excellence in education, research, innovation, global competitiveness*

COST

Policy objective: to give opportunity to widening countries to get involved in European and international research initiatives and to benefit from exposure to leading scientists in their field. In HE COST will become an integral part of the Widening part with ambitious set of KPIs (at least 50% of the budget at the benefit of widening countries, 80% of actions with significant widening dimension); strengthen innovation dimension and better synergies with other widening actions.

Expected impact:

- increased participation of widening countries in European research activities and higher success rates
- networking and brain circulation in line with ERA principles

NCP NETWORK for WIDENING and ERA

Policy objective: Reduce disparities in research performance and facilitate the trans-national co-operation between NCPs, bridge the knowledge gap and help the less experienced entities from widening countries and regions to rapidly acquire know-how, provide better service to applicants taking into account the diversity of actors in both the Widening and ERA parts.

How:

- CSA to named beneficiary it may include financial support for third parties (FSTP)
- Continuation of NCP WIDENET in a significantly up-scaled format
- Effective support structure will be established to assist and support the potential clients in submitting proposals to the widening part of Horizon Europe, including professional pre-proposal checks and advice.

Scale of operation: The implementation will be carried out **in work packages distinguished for Widening and ERA part** of the programme.

HOP ON FACILITY

Based on Article 20.3 of the HE Common Understanding

Policy objective: at system level to mobilise excellence in the Widening countries, to increase visibility of the participants from the Widening countries, to improve knowledge circulation, and to reduce lack of participation of the Widening countries in specific thematic domains. Contributes to achieving the Inclusiveness ambition of the future ERA policy by involving research institutions from Widening countries in Horizon Europe Pillar 2 actions.

How:

- Legal entities from low R&I performing Member States join already selected collaborative R&I actions, subject to the agreement of the respective consortium,
- Main selection criteria are excellence and added value of the new partner performing a relevant additional task in the project,

Destination #2: Attracting and mobilising the best talents

Main impacts:

- Inciting institutional reforms in research institutions in widening countries
- Better use existing research infrastructures and populate them with excellent talents
- Attract first-class talents and turn them into game changers in institutions
- Revert brain drain
- Improved linkages between academic and business, notably by overcoming sectoral barriers
- Free circulation of knowledge and expertise in line with ERA priorities

ERA CHAIRS

Policy objective: to increase in number of R&I talents moving to host organisations in Widening countries and the research excellence of the institution in the specific field covered by the ERA Chair holder

How:

- CSA grant (in Horizon Europe up to 5 years and 2,5 million €) involving the coordinator established in a widening country,
- request for CV of candidates to ERA Chair positions in proposals,
- creation of a research group in the chosen scientific field under the authority of the ERA Chair with open recruitment procedures;
- research, consumables and small equipment costs become). Eligible.

Fostering Balanced Brain Circulation

Policy objective: to attract more R&I talents to Widening countries, part of the wider ERA policy initiative on nurturing talents

Target groups: researchers, research facilitators, innovators,... (diverse audience), moving or returning to host organisation in a widening country and host organisations located in widening countries.

How:

1. ERA Fellowships – follow up of the Widening Fellowships pilot, builds on the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships
2. ERA Talents – providing competitive grants for training and career development, promoting diversity of PhD careers, spreading attractive working and employment practices (*pending outcome of an ongoing study on brain circulation*)

Comparison of key characteristics widening actions

Actions in WP	Consortium structure	Target group and scale of operation	Policy objectives
Teaming	Main beneficiary + 1 or 2 strategic advanced partners	Single centre of excellence to be modernised or created, relevant at national scale	Develop light houses and role models to stimulate reforms of national R&I system, increase level of excellence of national R&I system, mobilise new investments
Twinning	Main beneficiary and focused network of partnering organisations	Individual institutions and small network of advanced partnering institutions. Institutional scale with European outreach	Develop excellence in a chosen R&I domain for the main beneficiary with the help of twinning partners, increase visibility of main beneficiary and upskill its staff
ERA Chairs	Mono-beneficiary host organisation with optional single partner organisation	Excellent individuals and their teams, institutional scale	Excellent scientists and their teams to become game changers at institutional level, develop new research strands and raise level of excellence
Excellence hubs	Group of 2 or 3 placed based innovation ecosystems based on the quadruple helix approach	Research institutions, firms, local/regional government, societal actors, local regional scale with cross border dimension	Foster innovation excellence in place based (local/regional) innovation ecosystems, improve science business linkages, regional dimension of widening, bottom-up approach
Excellence Universities	Network of European Universities, co-ordinates by university from widening country	Universities at European Level	Support transformation of HE institutions towards excellence and international profile



European
Commission

Thank you!

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