



#HorizonEU

THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

WIDERA

Widening participation and
Strengthening the European Research Area
(ERA)

MANUEL ALEIXO, Head of unit A2, DG R&I

WIDERA Infoday

12 December 2022

Overview of the agenda - morning

WP 2023-2024. WIDENING (Destinations 1&2)

09:35-09:55: Pathways to Synergies

10:05-10:20: Dissemination and Exploitation Support Facility

10:25-10:45: ERA Talents/ERA Fellowships

10:55-11:05: European Excellence Initiative (EEI)

11:10-11:25: COST actions

11:30-11:35: Teaming

11:40-11:50: Twinning and ERA Chairs

11:55-12:05: Excellence Hubs

12:15-12:30: Hop-on facility

12:40-12:55: Proposal evaluations

13:05-14:00: Lunch break

Overview of the agenda - afternoon

ERA (Destination 3)

14:00-14:15: **Welcome and introduction**

14:15-15:50: **Call – Enhancing the European R&I system – 2023**

Prioritising investments and reforms

Translating R&I results into economy

Deepening the European Research Area

Cross-cutting

15:50-16:55: **Call – Enhancing the European R&I system – 2024**

Improving access to excellence

Deepening the European Research Area

Cross-cutting

16:55 - 17:00: **Closure of the meeting**



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THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

WIDERA

Widening participation and
Strengthening the European Research Area
(ERA)

STEFAN WEIERS, Head of Sector DG R&I A2.1

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12 December 2022

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-04-01:

Pathways to Synergies



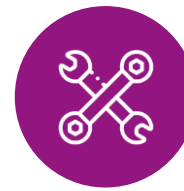
TYPE OF ACTION

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA)



BUDGET

- Total indicative budget for the topic: EUR 20 million
- Expected EU contribution per project: EUR 0.5 – 1.2 million



OTHER CONDITIONS

- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: 20



TIMING

- Call opening: 28 March 2023
- Deadline: 28 September 2023

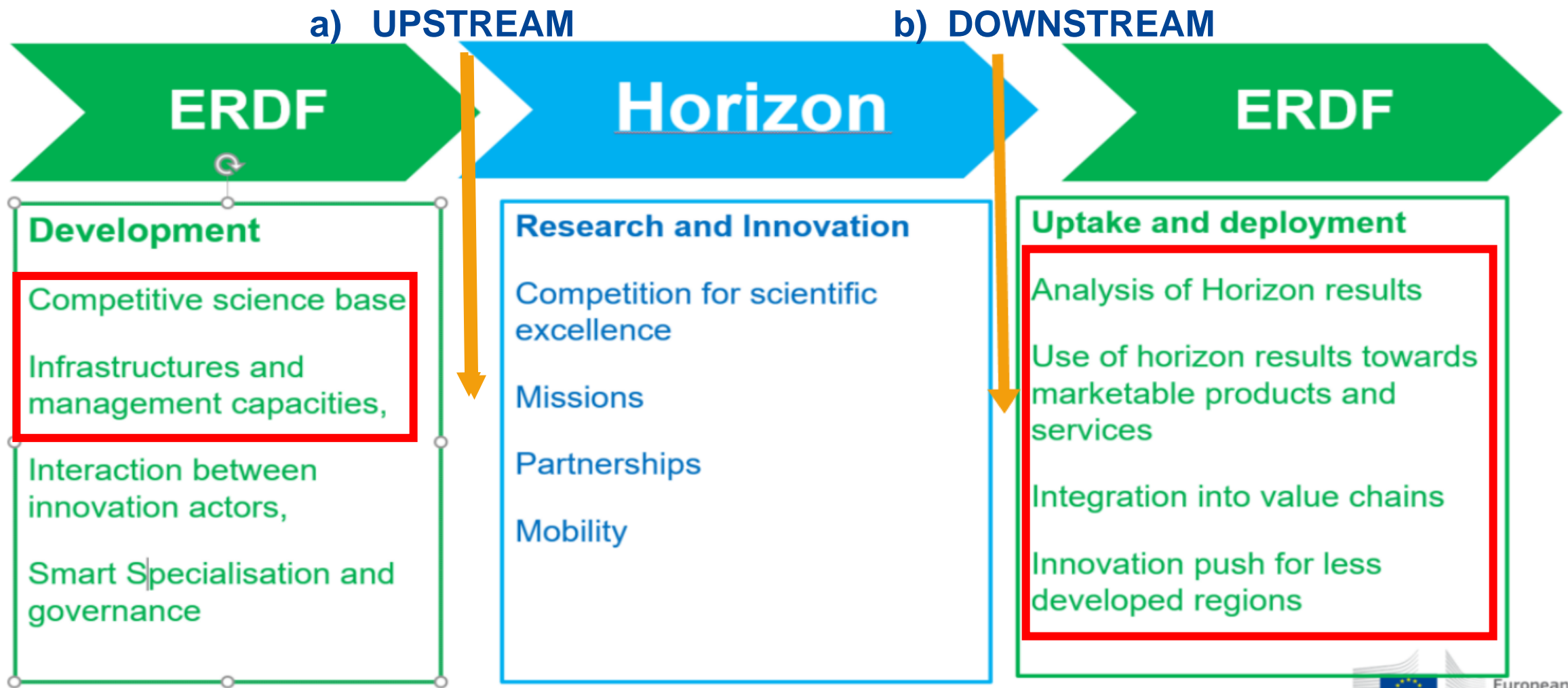
Pathway to Synergies - Rationale

- **Synergies** between Horizon Europe and the cohesion policy programmes, notably the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF), are **instrumental for widening countries** to catch up in their R&I performance and to reduce the innovation divide in Europe
- Synergies often happen **incidentally** without **strategic ambition**
- Regulations for **Horizon Europe and ERDF** provide **new opportunities** for synergies, new guidance document published by EC in July 2022
- However, **centralised and shared funding management systems are** not seamlessly compatible
- Hence, particular efforts and seed funding needed for **‘translational’ work and matchmaking**

Call Objectives:

- Facilitate **downstream or upstream synergies** for successful beneficiaries of regional funds or Horizon (Europe+2020) → **mandatory choice** of either option at proposal level
- Enable **beneficiaries from R&I funds under cohesion policy** to become **competitive** in the Horizon Europe (**upstream pathway**)
- **Set incentives for the valorisation and uptake** of Horizon results by improved access to regional funds (**downstream pathway**) for beneficiaries of Horizon projects with **validated results**

Conceptual Model for Synergies



Source: Guidance Note - COM(2022) 4747 final, Brussels, 5.7.2022

Pathways to Synergies

Expected Overall Outcome:

- Improved and more **systematic synergies** between **Horizon Europe / Horizon 2020** and ERDF, IPA (instrument for pre-accession assistance), Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), INTERREG or similar funding instruments through internationalisation, valorisation and technology uptake;
- Strengthened **competitiveness of R&I actors** in Widening countries;
- Accelerated **knowledge transfer and innovation cycle for beneficiaries** from ERDF and Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe;
- Strengthened innovation capacity and competitiveness of less R&I performing regions

Expected Outcome:

Specific for actions opting for pathway a) on upstream synergies

- joint **internationalisation** strategy for R&I;
- **human resources** development strategy;
- improved **access to** excellent European **R&I networks** and communities;
- increased **competitiveness and reputation** in applications for European and international research funding;
- **overcoming locked-in effects** for former mono-beneficiaries funded under ERDF (or similar)
- acquisition of **new transferable skills for R&I staff** notably in the fields of knowledge transfer, R&I management and communication;
- better use of **R&I infrastructure** funded under ERDF (or similar) by attracting new **talents**

Expected Outcome:

Specific for actions opting for pathway b) on downstream synergies

- **valorisation of results** generated in Horizon Europe/ 2020 projects in a regional context;
- improved **knowledge transfer and technology** uptake in less R&I performing regions;
- **exploitation and diffusion of R&I results** into the market in line with national/regional smart specialisation priorities;
- preparation of **pilots and demonstrators** in the chosen R&I domain for funding under ERDF;
- improved **intellectual asset management** and technology uptake
- activation of **SMEs and regional authorities/agencies**



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HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-05-01:

Dissemination and Exploitation Support Facility



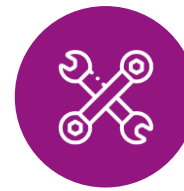
TYPE OF ACTION

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA)



BUDGET

- Total indicative budget for the topic: EUR 5 million
- Expected EU contribution per project: EUR 1-5 million



OTHER CONDITIONS

- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: 1



TIMING

- Call opening: 26 April 2023
- Deadline: 28 September 2023

Dissemination and Exploitation Support Facility

Context:

- Improving **knowledge diffusion**, technology uptake and having spill-over effects is fundamental to ensure that researchers and their institutions build on and valorise the latest available knowledge.

Expected Main Outcomes:

- **Strengthened Dissemination and Exploitation capacities** including through better understanding of the Commission's D&E Strategy and the opportunities it can offer to beneficiaries in need from widening actions;
- Support to beneficiaries in their **dissemination and exploitation of results** through a market-oriented approach;
- **Improved skills and knowledge** on D&E, knowledge transfer and IP management for researchers and management personnel of beneficiaries of widening actions to be able to fulfil their Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement obligations, including after the end of their project;

Motivation for specific call under widening

- **Exploitation of research results and the creation of value** for our economy and society, often depend on the skills and abilities of R&I actors and intermediaries to present and connect to those stakeholders that can help them take the results into the next level.
- **Especially in widening countries**, R&I actors lack sufficient support and information, skills or connections to the right stakeholders
- **Recent survey on SEWP project portfolio** demonstrates room for improvement regarding D&E capabilities amongst beneficiaries needed to ensure **sustainability of the actions**
- **Need for dedicated capacity building** action for widening beneficiaries as main target group
- **Aims at valorization of research results** (not exclusively from widening actions) at TRL 4 to 7
- **Creates links** between traditional academic players and potential market
- Develops necessary **skills and competencies** for researchers and innovators involved in widening actions

Specific Outcome expected

- Support to beneficiaries in their **dissemination and exploitation** of results through a market-oriented approach;
- **Improved skills and knowledge on D&E**, knowledge transfer and IP management for researcher and management personnel of beneficiaries of widening even beyond the project;
- Collected and **shared best practices** for uptake of R&I results and **identified blocking elements** that prevent beneficiaries from valorising further their R&I results;
- Increased **maturity level of key exploitable results** produced by widening beneficiaries;
- **Greater recognition** of beneficiaries based in widening countries at national & regional policy level, as a result of **enhanced visibility of D&E success stories**;
- **Enhanced synergies** between beneficiaries of widening actions in view of networking opportunities and future competitive calls;
- **Improved sustainability** of ongoing widening actions;
- Identified **downstream synergies** with other EU programmes especially **ERDF, ESF, RRF**.



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STIJN DELAURÉ, Policy officer, DG R&I

WIDERA Infoday

12 December 2022

WIDERA 2021-2022, Destination #2 TALENTS

Attracting and mobilizing the best talents

Expected impact:

- Effective institutional reforms in research institutions in widening countries
- Better use of existing research infrastructures
- Excellent talents attracted in institutions and research infrastructures
- Reverted brain drain
- Improved linkages and increased mobility between academic and business, notably by overcoming sectoral barriers
- Free circulation of knowledge and expertise in line with ERA priorities
- Improved gender balance and equal opportunities

Calls:

- **ERA Chairs**
- Fostering Balanced Brain Circulation: **ERA Fellowships**, **ERA Talents**

European Research Area

ERA Policy Agenda: 4 priorities, 20 actions

DEEPENING A TRULY FUNCTIONING INTERNAL MARKET FOR KNOWLEDGE

1. Open sharing of knowledge, incl. EOSC
2. Data legislation fit for research
3. Reform of research assessment
4. [Strengthen research careers](#)
5. Gender equality and inclusiveness
6. Protect academic freedom
7. Better knowledge valorisation
8. Research infrastructures
9. International cooperation, reciprocity

TOGETHER FOR TWIN GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION, AND INCREASING SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ERA

10. R&I Missions and Partnerships for ERA
11. Green energy transformation
12. Transition of industrial ecosystems
13. Empower higher education institutions
14. Bring science closer to society



AMPLIFYING ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE UNION

15. Regional and national R&I ecosystems
16. [EU-wide access to excellence](#)
17. Strategic capacity of public RPOs

ADVANCING CONCERTED R&I INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

18. Coordination national support for ERA
19. ERA monitoring mechanism
20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms

Deepening the ERA:

Action 4 – Strengthen research careers

DEEPENING A TRULY FUNCTIONING
INTERNAL MARKET FOR KNOWLEDGE

Action 4 – Promote attractive and sustainable research careers, balanced talent circulation and international, transdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility across the ERA

3 levels of activity

1. Development of a comprehensive **European Framework for Research Careers**
2. **Exchange of best practices** on skills and mutual learning to support inter-sectoral mobility and more balanced talent circulation (e.g. ResearchComp, ERA4You)
3. **Support measures** to improve attractiveness of research careers within and beyond academia (e.g. Research Careers Observatory, ERA Talent Platform, HRS4R)

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-02-01:

ERA Fellowships



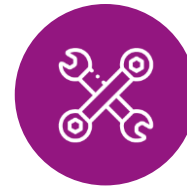
TYPE OF ACTION

- Training & Mobility Action
- Postdoctoral Fellowships / European Fellowships



BUDGET

- Total indicative budget for the topic: EUR 8 million
- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: 50



OTHER CONDITIONS

- Conditions and criteria of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships apply

See specific eligibility conditions in MSCA work programme



TIMING

- Call opening: 12 April 2023 & 10 April 2024
- Deadline: **13 Sept 2023 & 11 Sept 2024**

Context & outcome of 'ERA Fellowships'

Context:

- This action builds on (and is aligned to) the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023 action
- The target group are host organisations located in Widening Countries
 - [Pathways to a more balanced talent circulation](#) (July 2022)
 - [Mobility flows of researchers in MSCA](#) (July 2022)

Expected Outcomes:

- *For supported ERA Fellows:* better skilled, **improved career prospects**, new mind-sets, enhanced networking and broadened R&I impact
- *For participating organisations in Widening Countries:* alignment with Charter & Code for Researchers, better training & supervision, **increased reputation and attractiveness**, better knowledge valorisation
- *For Widening Countries:* inducing **better working and employment conditions**, increased attractiveness for talents, more postdocs

Scope & procedure of 'ERA Fellowships'

Scope:

- **Excellent researchers**, undertaking international mobility either to or between EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries.
- Applications made jointly by researcher and beneficiary in the academic or non-academic sector **in a Widening Country**.
- Open to researchers of any nationality who wish to engage in R&I projects by either coming to the EU from any country in the world or moving within the EU to a Widening Country.

Simplified submission procedure:

- Submission to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) **Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023**. The application to the (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023 will be *automatically resubmitted* to this call in case the proposal fails to reach an adequate place in the MSCA ranking to be funded (possibility to opt out). **MSCA conditions and criteria apply**.
- = *additional funding opportunity for applicants moving to Widening countries*

Specific characteristics of 'ERA Fellowships'

Secondments:

- Secondment possible, up to one third and within duration of fellowship, within project scope

Placements in non-academic sector:

- To **promote career moves**: additional period of six months at end of fellowship to (other) non-academic organization possible; integral part of proposal, explaining added value

Training activities:

- Key transferable skills, including innovation and entrepreneurship, research integrity, Open Science practices

Career Development Plan:

- To be established jointly by researcher and supervisor(s); project deliverable
- Include training and career development needs and way forward

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-TALENTS-03-01:

ERA Talents



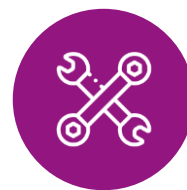
TYPE OF ACTION

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA)



BUDGET

- Total indicative budget for the topic: EUR 40 million
- Expected EU contribution per project: EUR 1-3 million (~20 projects)



OTHER CONDITIONS

- Coordinator from widening country
- ≥ 3 MS/AC, of which ≥ 2 widening country
- Participants from both academic & non-academic sector



TIMING

- Call opening: 11 April 2024
- Deadline: **26 Sept 2024**

Context & aim of 'ERA Talents'

Boost interoperability of careers and employability of research and innovation talents across sectors – *center of gravity in widening countries*

- Cross-sectoral talent circulation and academia-business collaboration for knowledge transfer is requiring systematising and structuring efforts.
- Through ERA Action 4, as one of the ERA Policy Agenda actions, the European Commission aims to support and incentivise such transformations, towards a more balanced circulation of talents, both trans-nationally and across sectors.
- Within this scope, ERA Talents aims to **support training and mobility of researchers, innovators, and other research and innovation talents across sectors** with a particular focus on widening countries.
 - [Pathways to a more balanced talent circulation](#) (July 2022)
 - [Intersectoral mobility](#) (July 2022)

Expected outcome of 'ERA Talents'

Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- **Strengthened human capital base** in R&I of Widening countries, with more entrepreneurial and better-trained researchers, innovators and other R&I talents;
- A **more balanced talent circulation**, both geographical and **cross-sectoral**;
- **Boosted R&I capacity** and R&I support capacity, as well as contribution to increased excellence of the research-performing organisation in widening countries;
- A more structured and **impactful collaboration** between academia and businesses;
- Increased set of research, entrepreneurial and other **transferable skills and competences**;
- Improved employability and **sustainable career prospects** of diverse talents within academia, industry and beyond

Scope & characteristics of 'ERA Talents' (1/2)

What is funded?

- Inter-sectoral mobility of R&I staff within one (or more) of the participating organisations, leading to knowledge transfer and increased employability

Benefit of widening countries

- Develop best practices at the benefit of widening countries
- Demonstrate clear benefit of the proposed secondment methodology for widening countries (incl. perspective to allocate $\geq 70\%$ of the secondments budget)
- Beneficiaries will be invited to collaborate and participate in mutual learning exercises

Participating organisations

- Organisations from the academic AND non-academic sectors
- Joint training and mobility methodology by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members

Scope & characteristics of 'ERA Talents' (2/2)

Seconded staff

- **Methodology** to identify a **diverse audience of research and innovation talents**
- Seconded staff must be actively engaged at least 6 months (FTE) at the sending institution before the (first) period of secondment

Return and reintegration

- Mandatory return phase for every cross-border secondment from a widening country
- Support for return, excluding salaries, allowed for up to 12 months (within grant duration)

Strengthening careers and collaboration

- New skills and career development perspectives. Proper mentoring of seconded staff
- Preference to actions offering **improved/sustainable career prospects**
- Exceptionally also same-country exchanges possible (support for regional ecosystems)
- Attention to gender equality objectives

Intersectoral mobility supported by ‘ERA Talents’

Staff exchanges supported through the action could aim at *(one or more)*:



Academia-industry cooperation

- transfer of researcher knowhow to businesses, talent flow from academia to industry, business, public entities, non-profit organisations, cultural sectors



Training and lifelong learning

- upskilling and reskilling of researchers, talent flow from academia to industry or vice-versa)
 - i. to cover specific skills demand/needs by non-academic sectors in specific areas
 - ii. to build R&I support capacity, such as knowledge brokers, data stewards, research infrastructure operators, etc.



Researchers' entrepreneurship

- focused on development of entrepreneurial skills for researchers (e.g. business economics, business creation, knowledge transfer, intellectual property rights and other relevant legal framework), as well as commercialisation or other valorisation training

Specific conditions of 'ERA Talents'

Applicable contribution

- Expenses related to the participating organisations and individual talents hosted/seconded: *administrative costs, training costs, travel and subsistence costs and salaries for seconded staff, and costs associated with dissemination & communication and transfer of knowledge*
- Expected duration: up to 4 years

Participating organisations

- Consortia of independent legal entities of ≥ 3 MS/AC, of which ≥ 2 from widening country
- Coordinator from widening country
- Partners from both academic and non-academic institutions (incl. umbrella organisations)

Secondments

- Between different sectors, and different legal entities, to include a widening dimension
- Duration: 3-24 months for individual staff member
- Can be split over several stays with one or several beneficiaries



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HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-04-01: European Excellence Initiative (*EEl*)



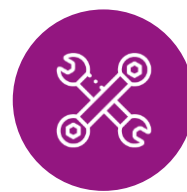
TYPE OF ACTION

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA)



BUDGET

- Total indicative budget for the topic: EUR 54 million
- Expected EU contribution per project: EUR 2-5 million (10-20 projects)



OTHER CONDITIONS

- Coordinator from widening country
- Up to 20% of budget can be allocated to R&I activities



TIMING

- Call opening: 10 Jan 2023
- Deadline: **12 April 2023**

European Research Area

ERA Policy Agenda: 4 priorities, 20 actions

DEEPENING A TRULY FUNCTIONING INTERNAL MARKET FOR KNOWLEDGE

1. Open sharing of knowledge, incl. EOSC
2. Data legislation fit for research
3. Reform of research assessment
4. Strengthen research careers
5. Gender equality and inclusiveness
6. Protect academic freedom
7. Better knowledge valorisation
8. Research infrastructures
9. International cooperation, reciprocity

TOGETHER FOR TWIN GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION, AND INCREASING SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ERA

10. R&I Missions and Partnerships for ERA
11. Green energy transformation
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AMPLIFYING ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE UNION

15. Regional and national R&I ecosystems
16. [EU-wide access to excellence](#)
17. Strategic capacity of public RPOs/RFOs

ADVANCING CONCERTED R&I INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

18. Coordination national support for ERA
19. ERA monitoring mechanism
20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms

ERA Action 13: Empower higher education institutions to develop in line with the ERA, and in synergy with EEA

Cooperation for excellence

- Raise excellence in science and in value creation through integrated and inclusive cooperation of higher education institutions
- *Support implementation of i.a. ERA actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16 by HEI, in particular support digital transition and research careers*

Competitiveness

- Align MS efforts to improve global visibility and competitiveness of Europe's universities
- Create critical mass in research and innovation in key policy areas

See Council Conclusions on Deepening the ERA - strengthening research careers (May 2021), on the future governance of the new ERA, incl. ERA Policy Agenda (November 2021), and on a European strategy for universities (April 2022)

Context & expected outcome of 'EEI' in widening

Context and policy objectives:

- Empower higher education institutions (HEI) to **raise excellence** in science and in value creation
 - Amplifying reform of R&I ecosystems through cross-border collaboration of HEIs, engaging in institutional changes in ERA priorities
 - Increasing attractiveness for talents and accelerating access to excellence
- Improve visibility and **competitiveness** of HEIs at a global scale

Expected outcome:

- Accelerated institutional reform in relevant ERA priorities, through inclusive cooperation between HEIs and with other R&I actors, in particular strengthening research careers and digital transition
- Mainstreamed culture of excellence, in particular in less research-intensive institutions/countries
- Increased competitiveness and critical mass in talent upskilling, knowledge creation & circulation
- Overall contribution to implementation of relevant ERA priorities across the Union

Scope of 'EEI' in widening part (1/3)

Inclusive cooperation:

- Support HEIs to become actors of change in R&I system through deep cooperation
- Exchange practices between HEIs from different capacities, to accelerate institutional change
- Develop closer cooperation with economic and industrial partners, strengthen local ecosystems in terms of strengthening talent training & careers, knowledge valorisation & entrepreneurship
- Creation of critical R&I mass in key areas, implement common R&I agendas (bottom-up)

Participating organisations:

- **Any network or cooperation** of higher education institutions
 - Including alliances of European Universities, supported through Erasmus+ and/or Horizon
 - Partner organisations from other sectors
- Centre of gravity of the activities must be in **Widening countries**
 - Coordinator located in Widening Country
 - Budget allocation of $\geq 70\%$ to participants from Widening Countries

Scope of 'EEI' in widening part (2/3)

Implementation ERA Policy Agenda in HEIs, aiming at:

- Achieving more **balanced circulation of talents**;
- Reinforcing the **role of higher education institutions in innovation ecosystems**;
- Improved links between science and business;
- Mainstreaming practices and tools for open sharing of knowledge and data;
- Advancements towards **reform of the assessment system** for research, including career assessment;
- Promoted **gender equality**, diversity and fostering inclusiveness through e.g., inclusive gender equality plans and policies;
- The acceleration of society's **green and digital transition** to support ERA Policy Agenda;
- Integrated **international cooperation** with entities established in third countries.

Scope of 'EEI' in widening part (3/3)

Activities could include *(examples, not mandatory):*

- Sharing R&I capacities including infrastructures;
- Developing joint interdisciplinary R&I agendas;
- Outreach to and inspiring local/regional innovation ecosystems;
- Strengthening research careers and interdisciplinary upskilling;
- Reforming research assessment;
- Digitisation of institutions and partners;
- Engaging with citizens, cities, regions and other non-academic actors;
- Training and capacity building for research and innovation management including IPR;
- Exchange of academic and non-academic staff for sharing good practices;
- Global outreach and internationalisation;
- Consolidation of cooperation with partners outside EU Member States and Associated Countries.

Specific characteristics of 'EEI' widening part

Research and innovation activities

- Up to 20% of budget can be expended on research and innovation activities, for instance
 - seed funding for collaborative research projects
 - activities linked to joint doctoral and postdoctoral research
 - knowledge valorisation activities
- *Objective: engage (early career) researchers into the collaborative capacity building exercise*

Duration

- The actions should envisage a duration appropriate to the ambition and complexity of the cooperation of higher education institutions, not exceeding 5 years

No call for proposals in 2024



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2021 – 2027

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Widening participation and
Strengthening the European Research Area
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RONALD DE BRUIN, Director, COST association

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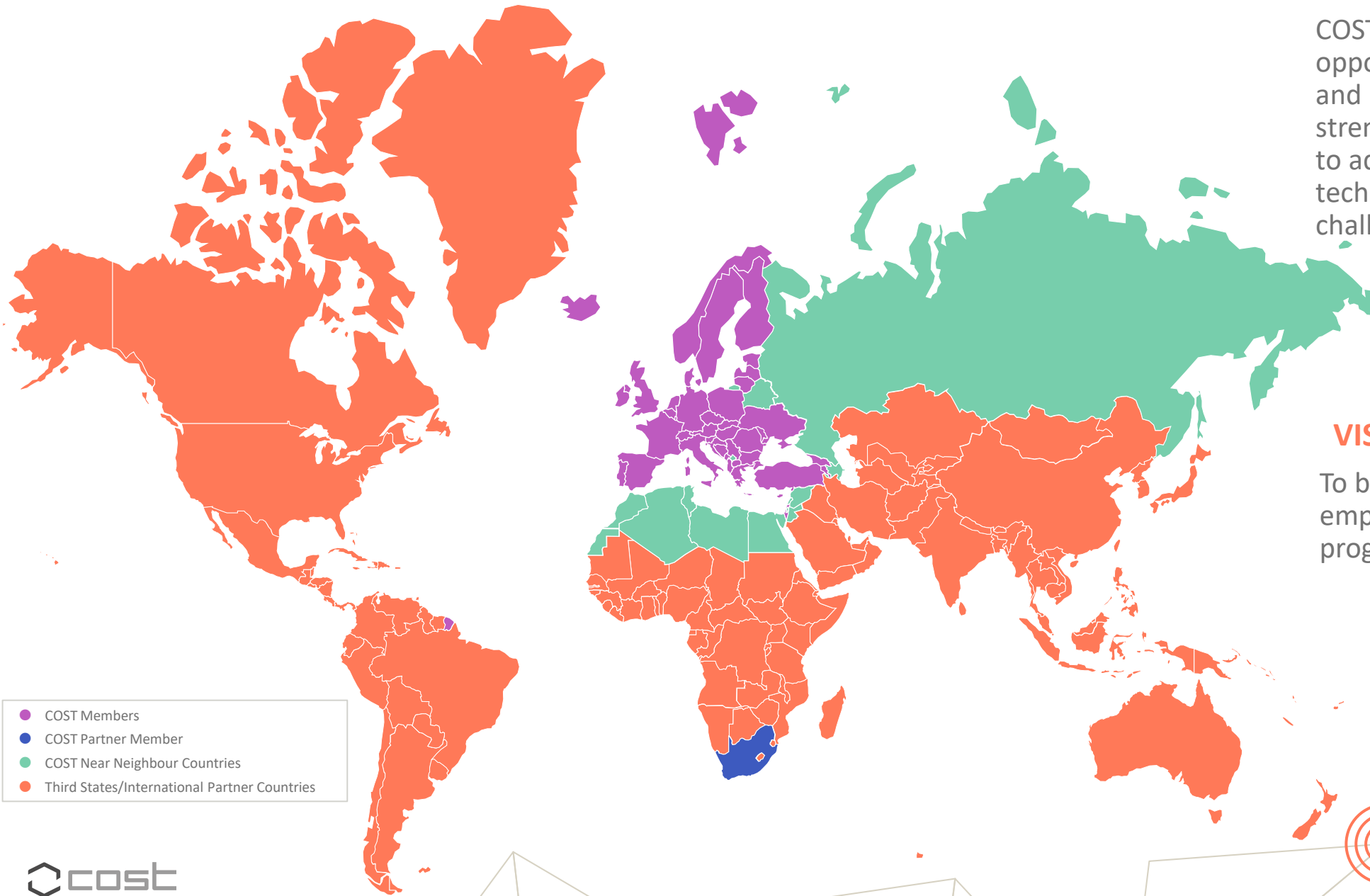
12 December 2022

MISSION

COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges

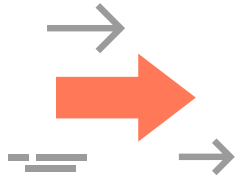
VISION

To become Europe's most empowering research programme

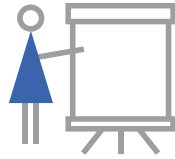


- COST Members
- COST Partner Member
- COST Near Neighbour Countries
- Third States/International Partner Countries

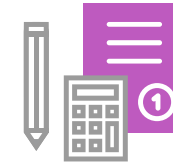
Key figures



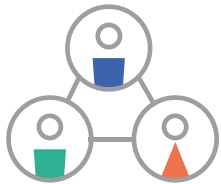
270
Running Actions



203
Training schools



€155,000
Average annual budget
of a COST Action



2,320
Short-term
scientific missions



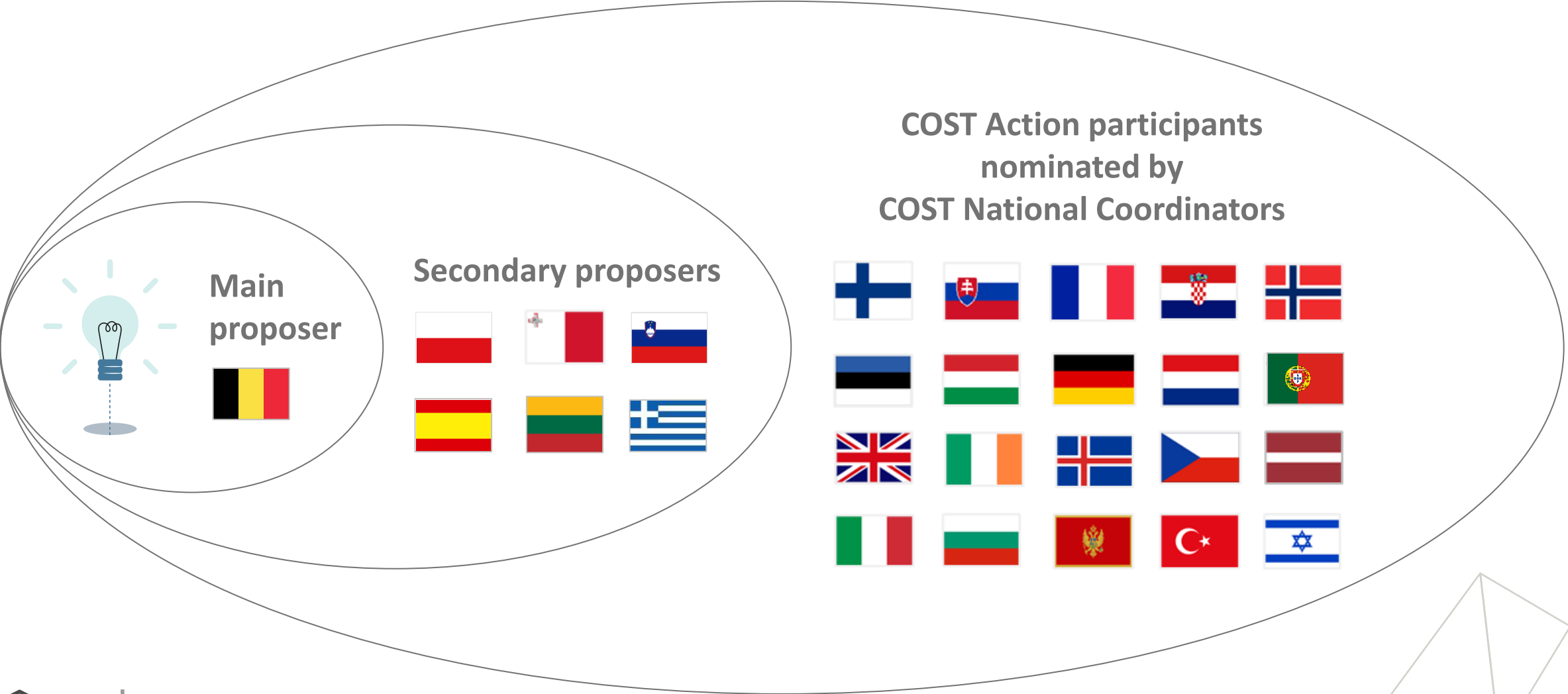
45,000
Researchers involved
in COST Actions

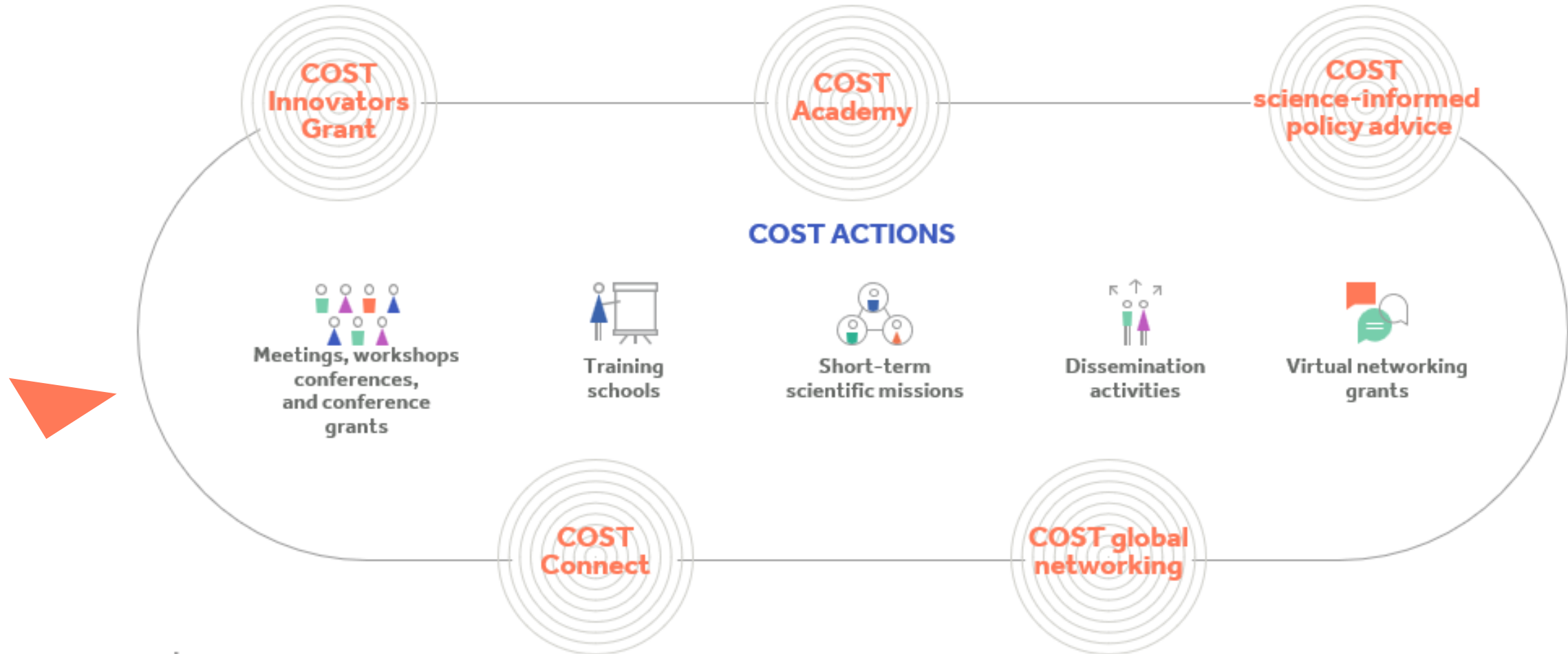


€153 million
COST budget
(in Horizon Europe for a
3-year period)



How it works?





95% of researchers participating in COST Actions indicate that participation has led to career advancement.

In the course of the Actions, co-publications between active COST Action participants see an increase of about 55% compared to general co-publications.

Horizon 2020 reported success rate lies at 37%. Yearly, around €390 million of approved common research projects spin off from ending Actions.

How to engage with COST?





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THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

WIDERA

Widening participation and
Strengthening the European Research Area
(ERA)

KARINA FIRKAVICIUTE, Policy officer, DG R&I

WIDERA Infoday

12 December 2022

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01-01:

Teaming for Excellence (Two Stage) - CSA



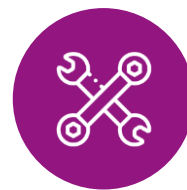
CONSORTIUM STRUCTURE

- main beneficiary + 1 or 2 strategic advanced partners from a different country



BUDGET

- Total indicative budget for the topic: EUR ≈174 million
- Expected EU contribution per project: EUR 8 -15 million



OTHER CONDITIONS

- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: 18
- Complementary funding (obligatory)



TIMING

- Call opening: 10 January 2023
- Deadlines:
 - 12 April 2023 (1st st)
 - 07 March 2024 (2nd st)

Teaming for Excellence

Scope:

- Create or modernise a centre of excellence, relevant at national level, in a chosen scientific domain
- Develop synergies with other funding sources and relevant actors on European, national, regional, private level in pursuing a single goal

Expected (Main) Outcomes:

- Increased scientific capabilities of the beneficiary institution and the host country enabling them to successfully apply for competitive funding in the EU and globally;
- Improved R&I culture of the coordinator country;
- Stimulus for institutional and systemic reforms;
- Mutual learning and two-way benefit from and to the partners from leading scientific institutions from abroad;
- Development of new research strands in relevant domains; enhanced co-operation and synergies.



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#WIDERA



#HorizonEU

THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

WIDERA

Widening participation and
Strengthening the European Research Area
(ERA)

ADELINE KROLL, Policy officer, DG R&I

WIDERA Infoday

12 December 2022

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-01:

Twinning Bottom-Up



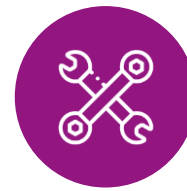
TYPE OF ACTION

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA)



BUDGET

- Total indicative budget for the topic: EUR 113 million
- Expected EU contribution per project: EUR 0.8-1.5 million



OTHER CONDITIONS

- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: 80



TIMING

- Call opening: 25 April 2023
- Deadline: 28 September 2023

Twinning Bottom-Up

Context:

- To prevent further **disparities**, maximise investment in Research and Development and enhance economic growth, Horizon Europe is taking relevant actions under Widening participation and spreading excellence objective.

- **Expected (Main) Outcomes:**

Twinning aims to enhance **networking** activities between the research institutions of the Widening countries acting as co-ordinators and top-class leading counterparts at European Union level by linking it with **at least two research institutions from two different Member States or Associated Countries**. Therefore, building on the potential of networking for excellence through **knowledge transfer and exchange of best practice** between research institutions and partners.

Twinning Bottom-Up

Scope:

- Twinning proposals should clearly outline the **scientific strategy** for stepping up and stimulating scientific excellence and innovation capacity in a defined area of research and innovation as well as the scientific quality of the partners involved in the twinning exercise. This scientific strategy should include arrangements for formulating **new (or ongoing) joint research / innovation project(s)** in the scientific area of choice and describe how Twinning will take this research to a new stage, by enlarging its scope and/or the research / innovation partnerships.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-02:

Twinning Green Deal



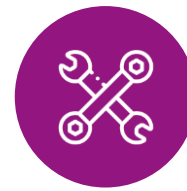
TYPE OF ACTION

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA)



BUDGET

- Total indicative budget for the topic: EUR 27 million
- Expected EU contribution per project: EUR 0.8-1.5 million



OTHER CONDITIONS

- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: 20



TIMING

- Call opening: 25 April 2023
- Deadline: 28 September 2023

Twinning Green Deal

Context:

- To prevent further **disparities**, maximize investment in Research and Development and enhance economic growth, Horizon Europe is taking relevant actions under Widening participation and spreading excellence objective. As regards the Twinning Green Deal, **climate change** is the biggest challenge and the European Green Deal. The **Twinning Green Deal** will focus on a **defined area of research / innovation** directly linked to at least one of the actions listed in the European Green Deal strategy, notably transport, industry, energy, buildings' ecological efficiency, nature and health protection, boosting global climate action.

Expected (Main) Outcomes:

Twinning aims to enhance **networking** activities between the research institutions of the Widening countries acting as co-ordinators and top-class leading counterparts at European Union level by linking it with **at least two research institutions from two different Member States or Associated Countries**. Therefore, building on the potential of networking for excellence through **knowledge transfer and exchange of best practice** between research institutions and partners.

Twinning Green Deal

Scope:

- Twinning proposals should clearly outline the **scientific strategy** for stepping up and stimulating scientific excellence and innovation capacity in a defined area of research and innovation as well as the scientific quality of the partners involved in the twinning exercise. This scientific strategy should include arrangements for formulating **new (or ongoing) joint research / innovation project(s)** in the scientific area of choice and describe how Twinning will take this research to a new stage, by enlarging its scope and/or the research / innovation partnerships.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01-01: ERA Chairs



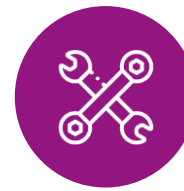
TYPE OF ACTION

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA)



BUDGET

- Total indicative budget for the topic: EUR 50 and 47 million
- Expected EU contribution per project: EUR 1.5-2.5 million



OTHER CONDITIONS

- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: 45



TIMING

- Call opening: 28 Sept 2023
- Deadline: 07 September 2024

ERA Chairs

Context:

- The **leadership of the ERA Chair holder and the creation of a permanent and excellent research group** in the chosen scientific field will ensure excellence, visibility and better integration in the European Research Area, as well as fostering competitiveness in research funding and promoting institutional reforms aligned with ERA priorities.

Expected (Main) Outcomes:

- To foster **brain circulation** for researchers and innovators the intervention point of the ERA Chairs actions is attracting in a sustainable manner outstanding scientists and innovators to universities or research organisations in catching up countries and regions. This measure of “brain gain” and the creation of **pockets of excellence** has an impact on the culture and performance of host institutions.

ERA Chairs

Scope:

- Research organisations located in Widening countries interested in establishing an ERA Chair should submit a proposal with the **prospective ERA Chair holder** who should be an outstanding researcher and/or innovator in the chosen scientific domain. The scientific field can be any domain of research and innovation. The research institution in the Widening country will be the coordinator and submit a proposal as a single applicant (**monobeneficiary**). ERA Chair holders can be citizens of any country in the world.



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THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

WIDERA

Widening participation and
Strengthening the European Research Area
(ERA)

STEFAN WEIERS, Head of Sector, DG R&I

WIDERA Infoday

12 December 2022

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07-01:

Excellence Hubs



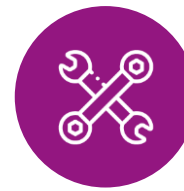
TYPE OF ACTION

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA)



BUDGET

- Total indicative budget for the topic: EUR 60 million
- Expected EU contribution per project: EUR 2-6 million



OTHER CONDITIONS

- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: 12



TIMING

- Call opening: 28 Sept. 2023
- Deadline: 07 March 2024

Excellence Hubs

Rationale:

- **Innovation divide** persists in Europe and risks to broaden as a result of the pandemic crisis.
- Despite some progress many countries and regions **lag behind** in terms of **their R&I investments**.
- Strong **linkages between science and business** are competitive success factors for **R&I performance** in more advanced regions and countries
- Legislators have requested for '**initiatives for excellence**' in the widening component of Horizon Europe → two complementary actions for excellence in innovation and Higher Education
- **Place based innovation ecosystems** are drivers for development, diffusion and uptake of R&I results in catching up countries and regions
- Close collaboration of **academia, business, regional government and societal** actors based on the **quadruple helix** principle is instrumental
- **European added value** by cross-border collaboration of eco-systems alongside **value adding chains, EU policy priorities** and/or **regional smart specialisation strategies**

Excellence Hubs

Policy objectives:

- **Mobilise** national investments in R&I capacity in widening countries
- Develop **innovation excellence** in place based ecosystems including research, business, regional government and societal actors (**quadruple helix**)
- Improved **science business links** and synergies with cohesion funds
- Strengthen European co-operation and **internationalization of regional ecosystems**
- Better involvement of **regional and societal actors** in European R&I activities
- Create **innovation and entrepreneurial culture** in catching up countries and regions
- **Synergies** with the programme parts on European Innovation Ecosystems and the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT).

Excellence Hubs

Key features of placed based innovation ecosystems

- Place based innovation ecosystems are **interconnected companies, research institutions, governmental bodies and societal actors** (quadruple helix) that are mutually reinforcing each other in a territorial context and together the level of innovation excellence in their regional fabric.
- **Quadruple helix ecosystems** described in many scientific articles on knowledge economy and innovation and have inspired a number of funding initiatives in Europe and US
- Inclusion of **societal actors** on top of formerly known triple helix adds the culture- and media-based public and civil society
- **Geographic proximity** of actors (place based approach) facilitates stronger and sustainable collaborative links especially between academia and business
- Ecosystems are **dynamic networks** (different from traditional industry clusters) including co-operation as well as competition ('co-petition')
- Need to **upscale** from regional context to European and International

Excellence Hubs

Consortium structure in practice:

- **Minimum requirement:** Two placed based innovation ecosystems from two different countries, all components of quadruple helix (research institution, business, regional/local government, societal actor) need to be represented
- **Umbrella organisations** may replace individual partners
- Keep consortium at **manageable size** i.e. not overly exceeding 20 partners
- **No advanced partners**, but entities and ecosystems from non-widening countries may participate if justified and center of gravity of the project (budget share +- 70%) remains in widening countries
- Define **thematic scope** of consortium by **common denominator** in related smart specialisation strategies and/or **European policy priorities** such as green and digital transition

Excellence Hubs

Core components of the project:

Coherent and balanced package of actions with the following content:

- 1) Cross-border joint R&I strategy aligned with strategic priorities:
detailed strategy and agenda based on sound analysis of demand and opportunities within the scope of common smart specialization or European policy priorities
- 2) Joint R&I project consolidating academia business linkages: in the scope of joint strategy, active involvement of business partners envisaging marketable solutions
- 3) Action and investment plan for implementation of the strategy: Concrete implementation and finance plan including the mobilization of funds from ERDF, national funds, venture capital etc.
- 4) Conceptual design and pre-planning for pilots and demonstrators (if applicable):
e.g. specification of R&I infrastructure, feasibility and proof of concept studies
- 5) Accompanying measures: e.g. to raise visibility, citizen engagement, technology transfer, entrepreneurship training, staff exchange, mutual learning etc. in view of creating innovation culture

Excellence Hubs

NEW !!

6) Optional Module

- **Mentoring** of an **emerging place-based innovation ecosystem** established in rural areas, Western Balkans or Eastern Partnership Countries including Ukraine
- Legal entities from such countries and regions are encouraged to join the project as participants in order to benefit from **mentoring, training, knowledge transfer**
- ecosystems **without fully developed quadruple helix** structure may join via this module
- mentoring module does **not count for the minimum condition** of having at least two fully-fledged quadruple helix innovation ecosystems
- Consortia opting for this module may claim **up to 1 million € additional budget**
(on top of the 5 million € for regular projects)



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HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06-01:

Hop-on facility



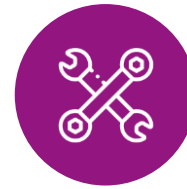
TYPE OF ACTION

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA)



BUDGET

- Total indicative budget for the topic: EUR 40 million
- Expected EU contribution per project: EUR 0.1-0.6 million



OTHER CONDITIONS

- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: 160



TIMING

- Call opening: 10 January 2023
- Cut-off dates: 28 Sept. 2023; 26 Sept. 2024

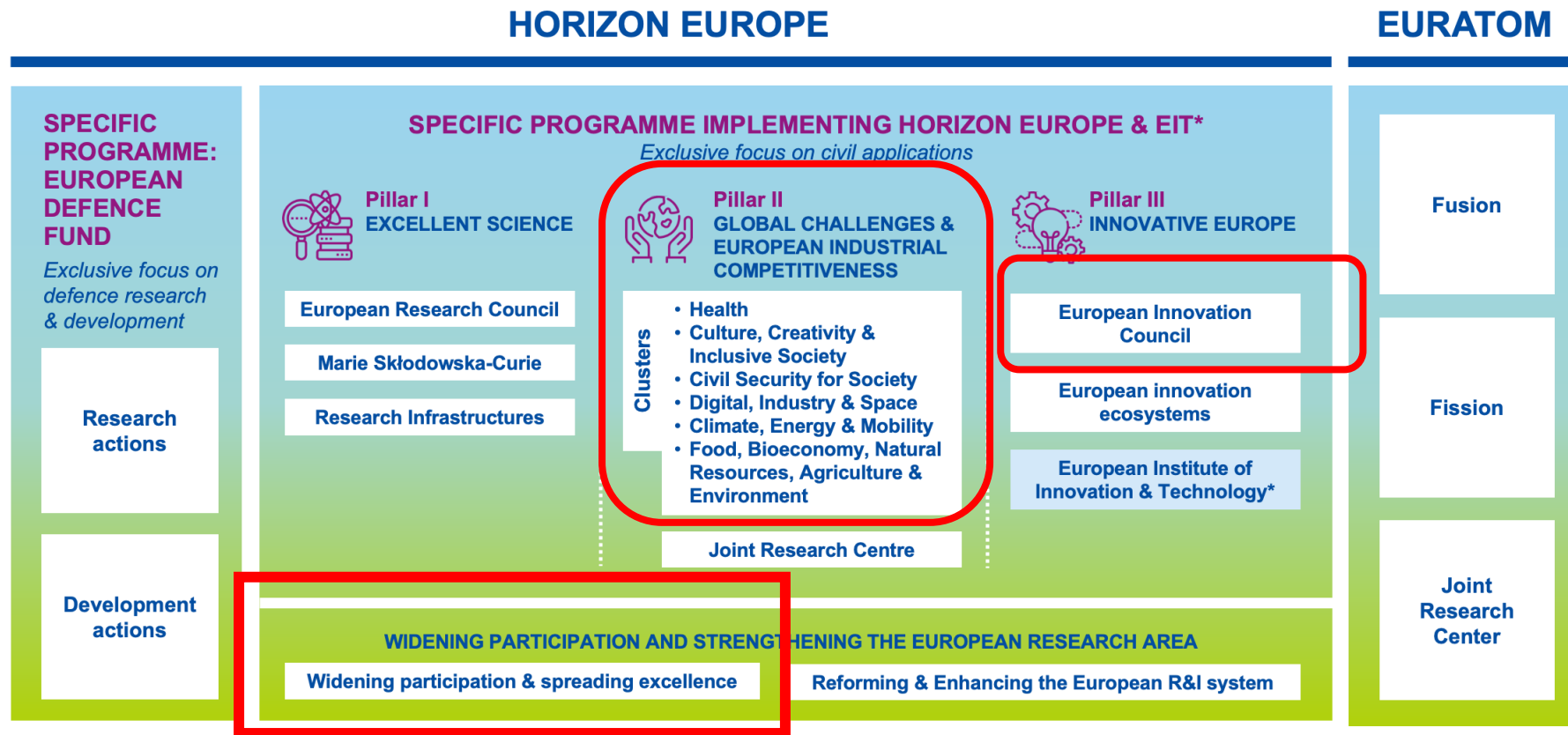
HOP ON FACILITY

Policy objective:

- Improve **Inclusiveness of Horizon Europe** by involving additional research institutions from Widening countries in Horizon Europe Pillar 2 and EIC Pathfinder actions.
- Contribute to the '**advancing Europe package**' negotiated in the legislative process for Horizon Europe
- Open up closed networks and overcome barriers
- Contribute to reducing the **participation gap in Horizon Europe** and closing the innovation divide in Europe

Who?

- A consortium funded under **Pillar 2 or the EIC Pathfinder actions** of Horizon Europe with a valid grant agreement, but with no partner from a Widening country;
- A **legal entity from a Widening Country** wishing to join this collaborative R&I action.



* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

HOP ON FACILITY: EXPECTED IMPACTS

- At system level, **mobilise excellence and increase visibility** of R&I systems of Widening countries, improve knowledge circulation, and **reduce participation gap** for Widening countries in thematic domains (*relates to portfolio of hop on projects not to individual case*).
- At organisation level, **open up silos** of established closed networks and improve research excellence of institutions from widening countries in specific fields.
- At the level of the beneficiary, acquire **new competencies and skills** (from working in transnational projects) e.g. **on research management, dissemination and exploitation of results**.

HOP ON FACILITY: KEY FEATURES (1)

Who:

- A **consortium funded under Pillar 2 or the EIC Pathfinder actions** of Horizon Europe with a valid grant agreement but with no partner from a Widening country;
- A **legal entity from a Widening Country** wishing to join this collaborative R&I action, typically not an individual but rather a research group

How:

- The proposal must be **submitted by the coordinator of the consortium** funded under Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe.
- **All consortium partners need to agree** on the accession of the new partner.
- The proposal should include a detailed description of the **profile of the new partner** and its role in the existing project and the **R&I relevance and complementarity** needs to be demonstrated.
- The additional partner and task should be described in a dedicated proposal template, DoA of parent project to be annexed

HOP ON FACILITY: KEY FEATURES (2)

Implementation:

- Selected consortia will be invited to submit an **amendment request** for accession of a new partner, modification of the description of the action and upgrade of the budget.

Costs:

- The budget increase must be **exclusively for the benefit of the new partner**.
- An additional **coordination fee of up to 10%** of the increased budget can be allocated to the coordinator of the consortium.

HOP ON FACILITY: HOW DOES IT WORK?

The application to include a partner from a widening country needs to be submitted by the **coordinator of the consortium**.

All **consortium partners** need to **agree** with the inclusion of the new partner from a widening country.

The application needs **to describe in detail the profile of the new partner** and the role of this partner in the project and the **R&I relevance and complementarity of this new partner** also needs to be demonstrated in the application.

All the information will have to be added in the customized **application form part B** available in the **submission system** page.

HOP ON FACILITY- ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS



- **1. The coordinator** applying for the Hop-on call must be the COO from a consortium funded under Horizon Europe Pillar 2 or the EIC Pathfinder actions with a valid RIA grant agreement, **but with no partner from a Widening country already onboard;**

***link to a “list of funded projects under HE Pillar 2 and the EIC Pathfinder” is available online**

The screenshot shows the European Commission's 'Funding & tender opportunities' website. The header includes the European Commission logo and the text 'Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)'. A navigation bar contains links: 'SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS', 'HOW TO PARTICIPATE', 'PROJECTS & RESULTS', 'WORK AS AN EXPERT', and 'SUPPORT'. The main content area displays search results for '170 item(s) found'. On the left, there are filters for 'Match whole words only' (checked), 'Topic' (Search by Topic...), and 'Programme part' (Search by Programme part...). The search results are sorted by 'Relevance'. Two results are visible:

ID	Topic	Acronym	Programme part
101046182	HORIZON-HLTH-2021-CORONA-01-01	iMPact	Health
101045989	HORIZON-HLTH-2021-CORONA-01-02	VERDI	Health

Each result has a 'Contact' button with an envelope icon.

- **2. The hop-on partner** (new partner) must be a legal entity from a Widening Country wishing to join this collaborative RIA action

HOP ON FACILITY- ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS 2 & NEW ETHICS ISSUES

- **All consortium partners need to agree on the accession of the new partner.**

For this reason, in template part B there is a specific Y/N question to be answered by the CoO, it is requested to also indicate the acronym and ID of the ongoing HE project;

The coordinator confirms that all consortium partners are aware and agree on the accession of the new hop on partner to the ongoing Horizon Europe project (insert acronym and project number)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
--	--	---------------------------------------

- An **additional mandatory Annex “Project Grant Agreement”** (PDF) is requested to be submitted along with the application in the submission system. This Annex must contain the latest GA, Part A, Part B and Budget table of the ongoing HE project to which the Widening partner will join.

- To cover potential **new Ethical or Security issues**, a dedicated question has been added for the CoO to answer accordingly

The addition of the new partner raises new ethical or security issues compared to those already identified (if any) in the current running project? If Yes, please fill in section 4 “Ethics and Security” in the Application form (Part A) accordingly.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
---	--	---------------------------------------

HOP ON FACILITY: MATCHMAKING MATTERS!

SOME PRACTICAL TIPS FOR HOP ON CANDIDATES

- Become **proactive** in finding a host consortium;
- Liaise with your **NCP** who can help you finding a matching host consortia;
- Do not submit an **alone standing proposal**;
- Convince the coordinator and consortium about **the added value** that **you can bring** to the project;
- Make use of the “living” list of **Hop On** eligible projects !!

List of funded projects under Horizon Europe pillar 2 and the EIC Pathfinder



Disclaimer: This list is indicative and does not give legally binding information on the eligibility for participation in the 'hop-on' call. The list is up to date as of 10/10/2021.



The list of funded projects of this page may assist applicants of the [hop-on call](#).

For further information related to the **eligibility conditions of projects and Widening countries**, please check the call page.

Via the contact function below, potential applicants may contact the coordinators of the projects to express their interests.

Search by keyword, title, project...



☒ Match whole words only

170 item(s) found

Novel, orally available immune modulator MP1032 with anti-SARS-CoV-2 and anti-cytokine activity [↗](#)

ID 101046182

Topic

HORIZON-HLTH-2021-CORONA-01-01

Acronym iMPact

Programme part Health

Contact

Contact the Coordinator Contacts of the project

Dear Coordinator Contact* in the project iMPact,

I am contacting you for the following reason:

Your message...



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THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

WIDERA

Widening participation and
Strengthening the European Research Area
(ERA)

DEIRDRE FURLONG, Research executive agency

WIDERA Infoday

12 December 2022

CONTENT

Widening Calls
Submission process
Evaluation process
Tips for proposal writers



Widening participation 2023-2024

REA C3

Actions	Opening	Closing
Destination Improved access to Excellence		
Teaming: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01-two-stage	10-01-2023	12/04/2023 (1st stage)
Teaming: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01-two-stage	10-01-2023	07/03/2024 (2nd stage)
TWINNING: HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02-01 & 02 (Lump Sum)	25-04-2023	28-09-2023
EEI: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-03-01 (Lump Sum)	10-01-2023	12-04-2023
Synergies: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-04-01	28-03-2023	28-09-2023
Diss & Expl: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-05-01	26-04-2023	28-09-2023
Hop On: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06-01	10-01-2023	28-09-2023 (1st cut-off)
Hop On: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06-01	10-01-2023	26-09-2024 (2nd cut-off)
Excellence Hubs: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07-01	28-09-2023	07-03-2024
Destination Attracting and mobilising the best talents		
ERA chairs: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01-01 (Lump Sum)	28-09-2023	07-03-2024
ERA Talents: HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-TALENTS-03-01 (Lump Sum)	11-04-2024	26-09-2024

HORIZON EUROPE

Submission process

[Funding & tenders \(europea.eu\)](https://europea.eu)





Get prepared

- All managed through the [Funding and Tenders portal](#)
- Your organisation needs to be registered and have a 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC) to submit a proposal
- All explanations provided via the [Online Manual](#) and Registration and Submission Wizards will guide you
- Once call is open, start playing with the system
- Study call documentation on call page (WP & Annexes, FAQs, Call documents etc.....)
- You can use the Portal [Partner Search](#) to find partners



Admissibility & Eligibility checks

- Admissibility & Eligibility is checked by the Commission/Agency
- Only in very clear cut cases will a proposal be deemed ineligible/inadmissible
- Evaluators can flag any issues during the course of the evaluation



Admissibility

General admissibility conditions

- Applications must be submitted before the call deadline, **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal
- Applications must be **complete, readable, accessible and printable**, and include a **plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results**, unless provided otherwise in the specific call conditions.

Proposal page limit

Substantial reduction in maximum length:

- **CSAs**: limit is **30 pages**
- **CSAs (Lump Sum)**: limit is **33 pages**
- **First stage** proposals: limit is **10 pages**
- **Hop-On Facility**: limit is **8 pages**



Eligibility

Consortium composition (CSA)

- by one or more legal entities, which may be established in a Member State or Associated Country
- Coordinator must be from a Widening country/Outermost Region
- Some specificities depending on the call, detailed in the WP

Gender Equality Plan (GEP)

Participants that are public bodies, research organisations (private and public) or higher education establishments (private and public) from Members States and Associated countries **must have a gender equality plan**, covering minimum process-related requirements.

- A self-declaration will be requested at proposal stage (for all types of participants).
- Included in the entity validation process at GAP stage (based on self-declaration)
- Beneficiaries without GEPs can be removed from the consortia
- GA will not be signed if GEP is not in place for all relevant beneficiaries

Associated Countries



For the purposes of the eligibility conditions, applicants established in Horizon 2020 Associated Countries or in other third countries negotiating association to Horizon Europe will be treated as entities established in an Associated Country, if the Horizon Europe association agreement with the third country concerned applies at the time of signature of the grant agreement.

Specific situation of UK

- The UK is expected to become an associated country to Horizon Europe. UK entities can take part in Horizon Europe

[Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#)



Type of Actions - Activities eligible for funding

Coordination
and support
actions (CSA)

Activities that contribute to the objectives of Horizon Europe. This excludes R&I activities, except for 'Widening participation and spreading excellence'

Funding rate: 100%

For research costs see topic in WP for specificities

Activities must **focus exclusively on civil applications** and **must not**:

- aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes;
- intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (except for research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be financed);
- intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research, or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer;
- lead to the destruction of human embryos.



Application form CSA (proposal template)

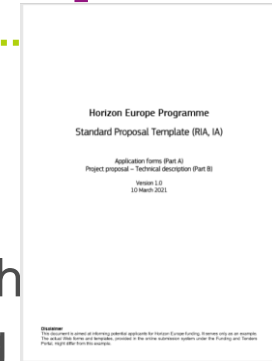
Structure

The proposal contains two parts:

- **Part A** (web-based forms) is generated by the IT system. It is based on the information entered by the participants through the submission system in the Funding Portal.
- **Part B** is the narrative part that includes three sections that each correspond to an evaluation criterion. Part B needs to be uploaded as a PDF document following the templates **downloaded by the applicants in the submission system** for the specific call or topic.

For Lump Sum proposals:

- Additional detailed budget table (Excel file: Annex to Part B) **downloaded by the applicants in the submission system**





Lump Sum proposals

- More simplified approach removes all obligations on actual cost reporting and financial ex-post audits
- More of a focus on content and completion of activities
- Activities covered by each WP must be described in detailed
- Standard templates used with addition of detailed budget excel template to define and justify lump sum
- Cost estimations will automatically generate a breakdown of lump sum shares per work package and per participant
- Standard approach followed in evaluation

[Lump Sum dedicated page on Funding and Tender Portal](#)

New features in the Horizon Europe proposal



NEW FIELDS IN PART A

- Researchers table – needed to follow up researchers careers (HE indicator)
- Role of participating organisation
- Self-declaration on gender equality plan



FIELDS MOVED FROM PART B TO PART A

- Ethics self-assessment
- Security questionnaire (**NEW!** in all HE proposals)
- Information on participants' previous activities related to the call



NEW IN PART B

- Glossary of terms.
- Consistency on the use of terminology is ensured in all project phases (from WP to proposal and reporting)
- Extensive explanations on what exactly should be included in each section.

HORIZON EUROPE

The evaluation process





Evaluation (award) criteria

Same criteria as in H2020

Same three award criteria: '**Excellence**', '**Impact**' and '**Quality and efficiency of the implementation**'. Excellence and part of the Impact only for first stage proposals.

Adapted following lessons learnt

- The number of '**aspects to be taken into account**' have been **reduced**, ensuring that the same aspect is not assessed twice
- **Open Science** practices assessed as part of the scientific methodology in the excellence criterion
- **New approach to impact**: Key Impacts Pathways (KIPs)
- The assessment of the **quality of applicants** is assessed under 'implementation', rather than as a separate binary assessment of operational capacity
- Assessment of **management structures** has been removed.



Standard evaluation process

Individual evaluation

Experts assess proposals **individually**. Minimum of three experts per proposal (but often more than three).

Consensus group

All individual experts discuss together to agree on a **common position**, including comments and scores for each proposal.

Panel review

The panel of experts reach an **agreement** on the scores and comments for all proposals within a call, checking **consistency across the evaluations**.

if necessary, resolve cases where evaluators were unable to agree.

Rank the proposals with the same score

Finalisation

The Commission/Agency reviews the results of the experts' evaluation and puts together the **final ranking list**.



Open Science across the programme

Open Science

Open science is an approach based on open cooperative work and systematic sharing of knowledge and tools as early and widely as possible in the process. Including active engagement of society

Mandatory immediate Open Access to publications: beneficiaries must retain sufficient IPRs to comply with open access requirements;

Data sharing as ‘open as possible, as closed as necessary’: mandatory Data Management Plan for FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) research data

- Work Programmes may incentivize or oblige to adhere to **open science practices** such as involvement of citizens, or to use the **European Open Science Cloud**
- Assessment of open science practices through the **excellence award criteria** for proposal evaluation. Under **quality of participants** previous experience on open sciences practices will be evaluated positively.
- Dedicated support to **open science policy actions**
- **Open Research Europe** publishing platform



Gender dimension in R&I content

Gender Dimension

Addressing the gender dimension in research and innovation entails taking into account sex and gender in the whole research & innovation process.

The integration of the gender dimension into R&I content is mandatory, unless it is explicitly mentioned in the topic description

Why is gender dimension important?

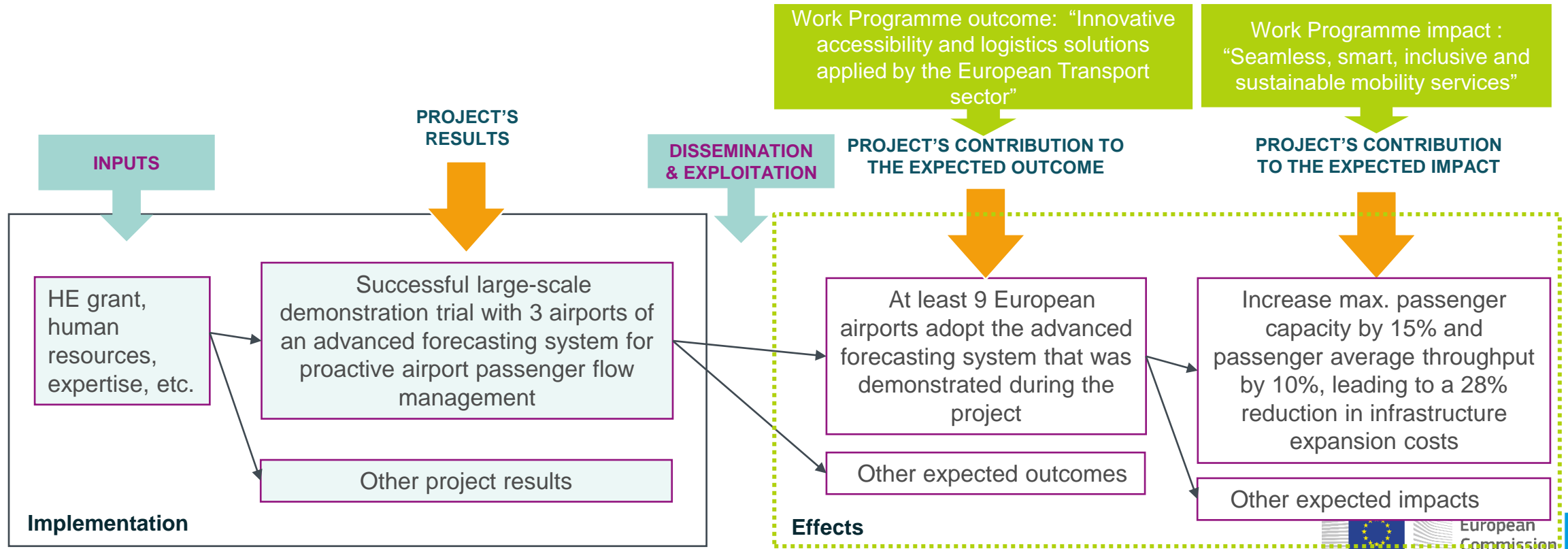
- Why do we observe differences between women and men in infection levels and mortality rates in the COVID-19 pandemic?
- Does it make sense to study cardiovascular diseases only on male animals and on men, or osteoporosis only on women?
- Does it make sense to design car safety equipment only on the basis of male body standards?
- Is it responsible to develop AI products that spread gender and racial biases due to a lack of diversity in the data used in training AI applications?
- Is it normal that household travel surveys, and thus mobility analysis and transport planning, underrate trips performed as part of caring work?
- Did you know that pheromones given off by men experimenters, but not women, induce a stress response in laboratory mice sufficient to trigger pain relief?
- And did you know that climate change is affecting sex determination in a number of marine species and that certain populations are now at risk of extinction?



Describing the impact of your proposal

**Project's
pathway towards
impact**

...by thinking about the specific contribution the project can make to the expected outcomes and impacts set out in the Work Programme.





Measures to maximise impact

Dissemination, exploitation and communication

To include a draft plan in proposal is an admissibility condition, unless the work programme topic explicitly states otherwise.

All measures should be **proportionate** to the scale of the project, and should contain **concrete actions** to be implemented both **during and after** the end of the project

Elements of the D&E&C plan

- **Planned measures** to maximise the impact of projects
- **Target groups** (e.g. scientific community, end users, financial actors, public at large) and **proposed channels** to interact
- **Communication measures** for promoting the project and its findings throughout the full lifespan of the project
- **Policy feedback** measures to contribute to policy shaping and supporting the implementation of new policy initiatives and decisions
- Follow-up plan to foster **exploitation/uptake** of the results
 - Comprehensive and feasible strategy for the **management of the intellectual property** (the provision of a results ownership list is mandatory at the end of the project)
 - If exploitation is expected primarily in non-associated third countries, give a convincing justification that this is still in the Union's interest.



Artificial intelligence

Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence

Due diligence is required regarding the trustworthiness of all AI-based systems/ techniques used or developed in projects funded under Horizon Europe.

Under Horizon Europe, the **technical robustness*** of the proposed AI based systems must be evaluated under the **excellence** criterion.

(*) Technical robustness refers to technical aspects of AI systems and development, including resilience to attack and security, fallback plan and general safety, accuracy, reliability and reproducibility.

AI-based systems or techniques should be, or be developed to become:

- **Technically robust, accurate and reproducible**, and able to deal with and inform about possible failures, inaccuracies and errors, proportionate to the assessed risk posed by the AI-based system or technique.
- **Socially robust**, in that they duly consider the context and environment in which they operate.
- **Reliable and function as intended**, minimizing unintentional and unexpected harm, preventing unacceptable harm and safeguarding the physical and mental integrity of humans.
- Able to provide a suitable explanation of its **decision-making process**, whenever an AI-based system can have a significant impact on people's lives.



Ethics review

Same criteria as in H2020

For all activities funded, ethics is an **integral part** of research from beginning to end, and **ethical compliance** is essential to achieve real research excellence. An ethics review process is carried out systematically in all Horizon Europe proposals, based on a **self-assessment** included in the proposal.

Ethical research conduct implies the application of fundamental ethical principles and legislation in all possible domains of research. This includes the adherence to the highest standards of **research integrity** as described in the **European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity**.

Adapted following lessons learnt

- Focus mainly on complex/serious cases
- Reduce number of ethics requirements in funded projects.



Security scrutiny

New in Horizon Europe

Security issues will be checked **systematically** in all Horizon Europe proposals (in H2020 only proposals submitted to topics flagged as 'security-sensitive' were checked). The checks are based on a **self-assessment** included in the proposal. The focus is on:

- Whether the proposal uses or generates **EU classified information**
- Potential of **misuse** of results (that could be channeled into crime or terrorism)
- Whether activities involve information or materials subject to **national security restrictions**

The checks based on the self-assessment may trigger an in-depth security scrutiny.

HORIZON EUROPE

Tips for proposal writers



Key principles



Your proposed work must be within the scope of a work programme topic



You need to demonstrate that your idea is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art



Your scientific methodology must take into account interdisciplinary, gender dimension and open science practices.



You should show how your project could contribute to the outcomes and impacts described in the work programme (the pathway to impact)



You should describe the planned measures to maximise the impact of your project ('plan for the dissemination and exploitation including communication activities')



You should demonstrate the quality of your work plan, resources and participants

Tips

- Partner search
- Read carefully proposal template and follow template structure and guidance to ensure you address each evaluation sub-criteria
- Respect the page limit (additional pages will be disregarded)
- Consistency between Part A and Part B of proposal
- **Submit on time don't wait until the last day**
- General principles: No negotiation
- Ethics and security scrutiny are based on a self-assessment included in the proposal (Part A), please prepare this section carefully

[#RiDaysEU | Recipe for success: Tips and Tricks while writing your Horizon Europe proposal - YouTube](#)



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