#HorizonEU

**THE EU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME**

2021 – 2027

WIDERA

**Widening participation and
Strengthening the European Research Area
(ERA)**

JÖRG NIEHOFF

WIDERA Infoday

12 December 2022

Research and
Innovation

New European Research Area:
ERA Policy Agenda
2022-2024

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European Commission

A new vision for the European Research Area (ERA)

What is the new ERA?

A single, borderless market for research, innovation and technology across the EU...

...where countries come together and improve their research policies and systems...

...and where there is free movement of researchers, knowledge and innovation.

What are the objectives of the new ERA?

Prioritise investments in research and innovation

Boost market uptake

Widening: Improve access to excellence

Strengthen the mobility of researchers and free flow of knowledge and technology

European Commission

European Research Area 2020 – 2022

2020

Commission Communication "A new ERA for Research and Innovation", September

Council Conclusions on the new ERA , December

January 2021

Establishment of the **ERA Forum for Transition**

- 13 meetings
- Three workshops and R&I Days side event with ERA stakeholder umbrella organisations
- Some covered topics: ERA governance framework, ERA policy agenda, four ERA pilot actions

16 July 2021

Commission adopts proposal for a **"Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe"**

1) Principles for R&I in Europe
2) Priority areas for ERA joint actions
3) Investments and reforms
4) Simplified policy coordination

26 November 2021

Council Recommendation on a "Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe"

Council conclusions on the new ERA governance & the first ERA policy Agenda (2022-2024)

2022

Establishment of the **new ERA Forum** to implement the actions of the **ERA Policy Agenda**

- 11 meetings so far

European Commission

New European Research Area: Policy Framework

Pact for research and innovation in Europe

- **10 values and principles**
- **4 priority areas**
  - Deepening ERA
  - Broadening ERA and relevance
  - Amplifying access to excellence
  - Advancing R&I investments and reforms
- **Research and development targets**

ERA Policy Agenda

- Designed to contribute to the priority areas of the Pact for R&I, setting out the voluntary **ERA actions** which are defined and coordinated at Union level.

- **20 actions for 2022-24**

ERA Governance

ERA Forum (+ subgroups)

Expert group for coordination and implementation of the ERA, together with EU countries, Associated countries and stakeholders

ERAC

high-level strategic policy body, providing advice

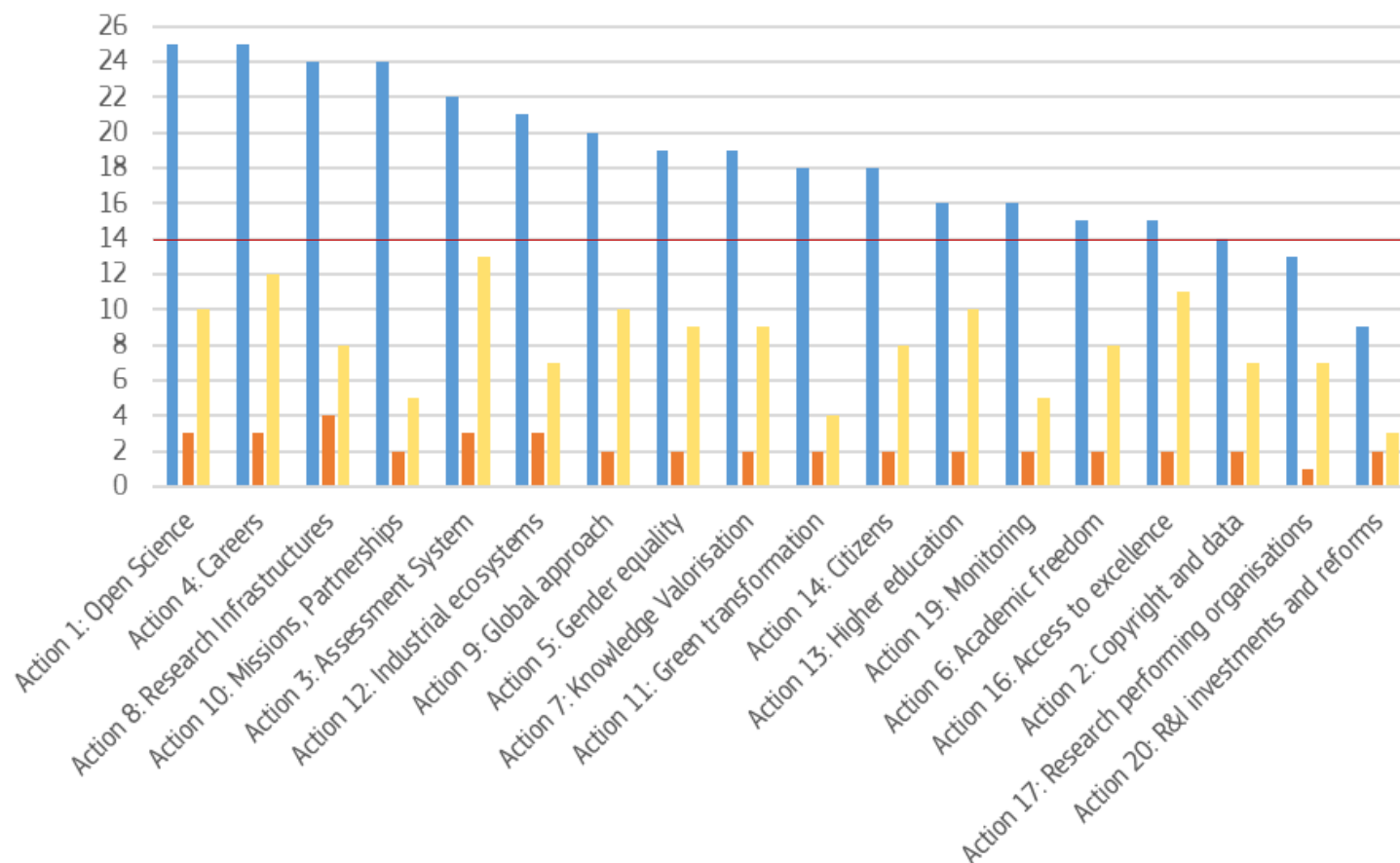**Council**

Decision making
"Owner" of Policy Agenda

ERA Monitoring

- Ensure a proper basis for **evidence informed policy making**
- Provide evidence and analysis

Commitments to ERA Policy Agenda actions

Commitments by Member States, associated countries and stakeholders, 30.11.2022

The Council conclusions on the future governance of the ERA (November 2021) require the commitment of at least half of the Member Statest within the first semester 2022:

16 actions have reached the treshold.

Member States' commitment per action

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	16	17	19	20	Total
Austria (AT)																			15
Belgium (BE)																			18
Bulgaria (BG)																			7
Croatia (HR)																			4
Cyprus (CY)																			11
Czechia (CZ)																			18
Denmark (DK)																			14
Estonia (EE)																			18
Finland (FI)																			11
France (FR)																			18
Germany (DE)																			18
Greece (EL)																			6
Hungary (HU)																			14
Ireland (IE)																			10
Italy (IT)																			14
Latvia (LV)																			8
Lithuania (LT)																			14
Luxembourg (LU)																			6
Malta (MT)																			5
Netherlands (NL)																			16
Poland (PL)																			11
Portugal (PT)																			18
Romania (RO)																			8
Slovakia (SK)																			11
Slovenia (SI)																			13
Spain (ES)																			17
Sweden (SE)																			10
Total	25	14	22	25	19	15	19	24	20	24	18	21	16	18	15	13	16	9	

- Commitment templates from all Member States have been received.

- For action 17, only one additional commitment is needed to reach the treshold.

European Commission

ERA Policy Agenda: 20 actions along four priority areas

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

European Commission

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA

ERA Brokerage Event 2023
19th December 2022

Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system

NCP_WIDERA.NET

HORIZON europe

Funded by the European Union

Online ERA Call 2023 Brokerage Event by the European network of WIDERA National Contact Points - **NCP_WIDERA.NET**

Info & registration: **https://horizon-widera2023.b2match.io/**

NCP_WIDERA.NET

Funded by the European Union

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-01 & HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-01:
Programme level collaboration between national R&I policy makers

Complementary topic to the new approach for European Partnerships: possibility for MS, AC and civil society organisations to maintain existing and establish new collaborations on priorities of their choice.

Expected outcomes

- Identification of common research and innovation priorities at the level of national and regional R&I programmes, taking into account international developments, where relevant, leading to the development of coordinated R&I funding agendas;

- Implementation of multiannual joint calls, resulting in the funding of transnational collaborative R&I projects;

- Implementation of other joint activities supporting the market, regulatory or societal uptake of results;

- Contribution to participating states meeting Global Challenges, including relevant contribution to the SDGs.

Call is open in 2023 and 2024

**Call Opening / closure:
6 Dec 2022 / 9 Mar 2023
6 Dec 2023 / 12 March 2024**

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 10

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 6 + 6

Indicative number of projects: 3

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-01 & HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-01:
Programme level collaboration between national R&I policy makers

Scope

- Maintain existing and establish new collaborations, hence continuing the spirit of the successful ERA-NET scheme, and extending it also to EU missions;

- Pool the necessary resources from the participating national (or regional) research programmes and, where appropriate, leverage other resources to implement calls for proposals, either within the context of this action or in possible follow-up actions;

- Demonstrate potential impact at national, regional and transnational level – no overlaps with actions co-funded by the EU under Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe;

- Duration appropriate to the ambition and complexity of the proposal.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-02: A strong European R&I Foresight Community to better inform R&I policy decisions in the European Research Area about potential futures

Accelerate the development of a European R&I foresight community supporting the development of national R&I foresight communities that are well integrated in national policy systems.

Expected outcomes

- Strengthening the European R&I foresight community, its networks, resources and functions, and its engagement with citizens. Improve the use of foresight in R&I policy and planning across the ERA to support prioritisation, coordination and direction of R&I investments and reforms;

- Building and mobilising joint resources to inform R&I policies at EU and national levels, including through the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation;

- Joining forces on pilot activities and projects on topics of common interest, supporting and "training" the networking within the R&I foresight community including governmental R&I foresight organisations.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2022

Call Closure: 9 Mar 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: horizontal

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 2.0

Indicative number of projects: 1

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-02: A strong European R&I Foresight Community to better inform R&I policy decisions in the European Research Area about potential futures

Scope

- A stocktaking of the organisation of foresight activities informing R&I policy in the ERA, covering institutional, methodological, and analytical practices;

- Networking activities for institutions and people engaged in the R&I foresight community as well as potential users and stakeholders of foresight;

- Development and practical application of the network in pilot foresight projects on topics of common interest;

- Participatory approaches and engaging with citizens for foresight across Europe;

- Based on a network of national agencies on foresight and R&I (including foresight units in ministries and government institutions).

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HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-03 & HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-05
Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation

Translating available scientific knowledge and research results to innovative solutions -_including through more_ _experimentation, peer learning_ _and_ _testing_ _of new models as well as_ _trying out good practices in different environments_

Expected outcomes

- Value creation for economy and society by increased interlinkages and cooperation between knowledge valorisation actors;

- New solutions to societal and economic challenges by stronger uptake and deployment of research results, including through the involvement of citizens and civil society;

- Improvements of structures, strategies, practices and skills for knowledge valorisation through sustainable reforms and new initiatives.

Call in 2023 and Call in 2024

Call Opening / closure:
6 Dec 2022 / 9 Mar 2023
6 Dec 2023 / 12 March 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 7

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 3 + 2

Indicative number of projects: 3 + 2

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-03 & HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-05
Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation

Scope

Proposals should address **at least one of the following challenges:**

Schemes and incentives for researchers to engage with society that promote the uptake of research results (academia–society collaboration);

Incentivising researchers to engage with society, contributing to a stronger translation of research results to the economy and society through better adaptation to citizens' needs and collaboration with industry - what works well and under what conditions and what are the barriers and opportunities in academia-society interaction;

Transfer of best practices in knowledge valorisation in academia-industry linkages or quadruple helix-based innovation (academia /industry/SME linkages or quadruple helix-based innovation)

Consortia are expected to involve partners that implement one or several best practices and partners that plan to introduce a new practice or reform an existing one – leading to tangible change in some or all participating entities, be it at strategic and/or investment level and/or through the implementation of new or adapted instruments, tools, guidelines, trainings.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-04: Development of new approaches to the macroeconomic modelling of research and innovation

Improve the integration of R&I within macro-economic modelling, while at the same time bringing fresh light on the role of R&I to tackle current societal challenges.

Expected outcomes

- Support research at the knowledge frontier of macroeconomic models;

- Contribute to the development of innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to modelling of R&I policy;

- Better integrate R&I activities in macro-economic models, leading to better measurement of their impact;

- Investigate new approaches to R&I macroeconomic models that link R&I-related drivers to economic, scientific and societal outcomes;

- Improve macro-economic modelling for the evaluation of R&I policy on different outcome variables, at different levels of policy intervention (EU, national, regional);

- Produce a novel macro-economic model able to simulate the economy, including the R&I dimension.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2022

Call Closure: 9 Mar 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: horizontal

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 1.0

Indicative number of projects: 1

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-04: Development of new approaches to the macroeconomic modelling of research and innovation

Scope

- Supporting a medium- to long-term agenda to improve the treatment of research and innovation (R&I) in macroeconomic models by supporting and financing cutting edge research on macroeconomic modelling able to attract the best researchers to work and develop new models capable of supporting the rising demand for policy evaluation tools in the EU;

- Need to develop further evidence about the quality, relevance and impact of R&I investments and the role that related policies have in scientific, technological, economic and social development;

- Need for more developed and nuanced tools that would be able to account for the heterogeneity of different economic actors and that would be able to simulate the effects of a wide range of policies along different dimensions relevant for societal wellbeing;

- Proposals, building upon the current state of the art existing in the literature, should develop and provide new macro-economic models with R&I, capable to integrate socio-economic challenges.

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Research and
Innovation

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-05: Exploitation and valorisation of results relevant for the ERA Policy Agenda

Horizontal support to the implementation of the ERA Policy agenda, supporting broad uptake of results, building a community of practitioners, supporting mutual learning and providing expertise and logistical support.

Expected outcomes

- Boosting the dissemination, valorisation and broad uptake of results stemming from the different ERA Policy Agenda actions;

- Supporting mutual learning between Member States and stakeholders on their implementation of ERA Policy Agenda action;

- Building of an ERA community and branding at national and European level;

- Recommendations for policy-makers and stakeholders on how to best implement institutional changes related to ERA policies.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2022

Call Closure: 9 Mar 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: cross-cutting

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 2.2

Indicative number of projects: 1

Duration: up to 3 years

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-05: Exploitation and valorisation of results relevant for the ERA Policy Agenda

Scope

The action consists of four parts, all of which should be addressed:

1. Design and implement a dissemination and valorisation facility covering the relevant actions of the ERA Policy Agenda;

2. Support the coordination, sharing of information, mutual learning and awareness raising, across Member States and stakeholders, with a focus on those ERA Policy Agenda actions where no other configuration support this;

3. Community building, with regular events at European level, and support to coherent communication on ERA Policies, outcomes and results at national and European level;

4. Design a process to develop and share guidance and recommendations for policy-makers and stakeholder organisations, across the European Union and provide recommendations;

   ➔ *Demonstrate that the consortium covers the MS in a geographically comprehensive way, access expertise related to all relevant ERA Policy Agenda actions;*
   ➔ *Describe how they intend to collaborate closely with the Commission services, and build on the ERA Policy Platform in order to avoid additional IT developments.*

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GAIA AIRULO

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European Commission

Research and Innovation

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-06:
Building a virtual European Info Platform on Contemporary China

Collect, select, produce, and disseminate excellent knowledge on Contemporary China across the EU to foster the development of a network of independent knowledge, and mainstream information on China within the civil society.

Expected outcomes

- Create and manage a virtual Info Platform that would become a European key go-to source of independent knowledge on contemporary China and ensure sustainability;

- Disseminate China knowledge, not only produced by the selected consortium, but also filtered/selected from the work of other European knowledge nodes on China;

- Coordination with other initiatives and stakeholders;

- Organise the material into thematic sections with a dedicated one on China's STI system and its implications for the EU;

- Translation of Chinese policy-documents and policy briefs;

- Encouraged participation of excellent knowledge centres on China from Eastern European Member States.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2022

Call Closure: 9 Mar 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no 9:

Promoting a positive environment and level playing field for international cooperation based on reciprocity -

Launching a pilot initiative on the Team Europe approach

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 2.5

Indicative number of projects: 1

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-06:
Building a virtual European Info Platform on Contemporary China

Scope

- Strengthen Europe's capacity to sustain the production of independent knowledge on contemporary China as a key element for evidence-based policy-making;

- Networking existing knowledge nodes and disseminating their work to provide the civil society, researchers, businesses, and policy-makers with the elements to develop a deeper understanding of contemporary China;

  - Result of the discussions within the **EUKNOC – the EU R&I Knowledge Network on China**, and the **SFIC recommendations on China**;

- Contribution to ERA action number 9 on *promoting a positive environment and level playing field for international cooperation based on reciprocity*, on the objective of launching a pilot initiative on the **Team Europe approach**;

  - In line with the policy framework set by the "**EU-China – A Strategic Outlook Communication**" and the "**Global Approach to Research and Innovation Communication**".

- Duration of the project appropriate to the ambition and complexity of the proposal.

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JEAN-EMMANUEL FAURE

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HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-07:
Support to reforms of research assessment in the European Research Area

This action aims at supporting the reform of the assessment of research projects, researchers, research units, and research institutions.

Expected outcomes

- Support and contribute to the implementation of institutional changes for reforming research assessment;
- Connection of existing organisations and initiatives for reforms of research assessment, facilitating the exchange of information and mutual learning, and stimulating consensus building among the stakeholders;
- Recommendations for policy-makers, research funding and performing organisations, higher education institutions and other research and innovation actors on how to best implement institutional changes to research assessment;
- Global outreach of European efforts to reform research assessment and reinforced international cooperation on evolutions in research assessment.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2022

Call Closure: 9 Mar 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 3 (& 1)

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 5

Indicative number of projects: 1

Expected duration: max. 36 months

Legal entities in non-associated third countries may participate & receive Union funding

Financial support to third parties in the form of grant (max 60 k€)

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-07:
Support to reforms of research assessment in the European Research Area

Scope

The action consists of three parts, all of which should be addressed:

1. Support the operation of the Coalition for advancing research assessment (https://coara.eu/), including the sharing of information, mutual learning and awareness raising, across individual organisations, umbrella organisations, and initiatives, involved in the coalition and beyond;

2. 'Cascading grant' mechanism to contribute to institutional changes in a significant number of organisations (e.g., 40-50 individual organisations involved, of different types and across different geographical areas);

3. International cooperation with entities outside the EU Member States and Associated Countries.

➔ Develop close cooperation and build on various institutional, national and international initiatives, including DORA, GRC, UNESCO and the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC);

➔ Build on the results of projects funded under earlier Framework Programme actions.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-08:
Laying the groundwork towards Europe-wide citizen science campaigns

Involving citizens directly in the development of new knowledge or innovations can lead to increased quality and effectiveness of R&I. Higher impact could be achieved if small scale CS initiatives were upscaled to a transnational level, thereby building a multinational community of citizen scientists.

Expected outcomes

- Identification of citizen science initiatives with high potential impact if upscaled to ERA level;

- Establishment of broad societal coalitions/networks of quadruple helix actors organised around promising citizen science initiatives;

- Protocols and working modalities for use of open transnational data repositories and infrastructures;

- Proposals and commitments for mobilising diverse sources of funding to ensure sustainability of citizen science initiatives.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2022

Call Closure: 9 Mar 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 14

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 3

Indicative number of projects: 2

Other Conditions:
- **Legal entities in non-associated country may participate & receive Union funding**
- **Financial support to third parties in the form of grant (max 60 k€)**

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-08:
Laying the groundwork towards Europe-wide citizen science campaigns

Scope

- Conduct preparatory work for the launch of Europe-wide citizen science campaigns under the New ERA and with synergies with Horizon Europe EU Missions;

- Foster the development of broad societal coalitions around the most promising citizen science initiatives for transnational upscaling;

- Conduct a thorough screening of potential CS initiatives to be upscaled, analysing the most promising in terms of synergies with one or more Horizon Europe EU Missions, the potential to advance scientific knowledge, and generation of additional benefits;

- Develop scientific protocols, establish working modalities with open data repositories and infrastructures, prepare training (e.g., for volunteers and volunteer co-ordinators), develop societal engagement and science communication strategies;

- Propose how to mobilise diverse commitments for funding (EU/national/philanthropic/private).

> ➤ *The action will build on the existing knowledge base and experience, work in collaboration with existing networks and actions and develop synergies with the actions supported by HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ERA-01-60 and HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ERA-01-61.*

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#WIDERA

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-09: Policy support to facilitate the implementation of a zero-tolerance approach towards gender-based violence in the ERA

Tackle gender-based violence, incl. sexual harassment in academia and make European R&I systems gender-equal, safe and inclusive working environments

Expected outcomes

- Support to various national R&I entities, including national administrations, with **adopting a zero-tolerance approach towards gender-based violence** (GBV), including sexual harassment at higher education institutions and research organisations;

- Cooperation between national R&I actors from MS and ACs, including with less advanced organisations, to facilitate the exchange of information, mutual learning, and best practice sharing on the implementation of measures to tackle GBV;

- **Training and awareness-raising activities** for research funding and performing organisations, and other research and innovation actors on how to best implement a zero-tolerance approach towards GBV at their organisation;

- **Data collection and monitoring** on the implementation of GBV measures at HEIs and other research organisations, in line with the Ljubljana Declaration on gender equality in R&I.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2022

Call Closure: 9 Mar 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 5

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 2

Indicative number of projects: 1

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-09: Policy support to facilitate the implementation of a zero-tolerance approach towards gender-based violence in the ERA

Scope

- Mutual learning, best practice sharing, training, and awareness raising on tackling GBV in academia
  - particularly in **Widening countries;**
  - Build on Communities of Practice of GENDERACTIONplus and outputs of UniSAFE.

- Facilitate the implementation of an EU baseline **code of conduct on zero-tolerance** towards GBV, including sexual harassment, adapted to a wide range of RPOs, RFOs and other research organisations in Member States and Associated Countries;

- Foster dialogue, awareness-raising and training to counter more subtle forms of **psychological violence**, including cases that result from PhD supervisor/PhD candidate, mentor/mentee dependencies, and other forms of **hierarchical relationships**;

- Particular attention should be given to protection mechanisms for **internationally mobile students** and researchers, as well as **early-career stage researchers** in precarious positions;

- **Monitor and evaluate** the implementation process of the code of conduct on zero-tolerance of GBV at a wide range of higher education institutions, RPOs, RFOs, and other research organisations.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-10: Support to the implementation of an EU Manifesto for STE(A)M education and research and innovation career paths to tackle gender inequalities in the ERA

Addressing the underrepresentation of women in STEM through a STEAM approach, in line with the objectives under the European Strategy for Universities

Expected outcomes

- Common principles and joint commitment on gender-inclusive STEAM education, research and innovation among a **wide range of R&I actors** in Member States and Associated Countries;

- Network of STEM-oriented businesses, secondary and higher education institutions, research organisations, informal science education establishments, and CSOs, supporting knowledge sharing, mutual learning and **structural change towards gender equality and diversity** at their organisations;

- **Increased cooperation** between relevant R&I actors from academia, the private sector, and national administrations to foster women and girls' participation in STEM studies and careers through a STEAM approach.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2022

Call Closure: 9 Mar 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 5

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 2

Indicative number of projects: 1

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-10: Support to the implementation of an EU Manifesto for STE(A)M education and research and innovation career paths to tackle gender inequalities in the ERA

Scope

- Development of a **network of national R&I and education actors**, involved in STEAM education, research and innovation, to support best practice sharing, mutual learning, and transformative actions to tackle gender inequalities at education institutions and R&I organisations;

- Setting-up of **principles and a joint commitment** on gender equality and diversity in STEM education, research and innovation at organisational level, in line with the ERA, EEA and the European Innovation Agenda;

- Communication and awareness-raising on the **deconstruction of gender stereotypes and unconscious biases** in science and the benefit of STEAM education, research and innovation;

- Support **STEM skills-development and learning opportunities for all genders** through the use of arts, social sciences and humanities, including e.g., mentoring sessions, non-cost summer schools, workshops, and traineeship opportunities, and involving inter alia start-ups, incubators, innovative industries, universities, schools, science and technology museums etc;

- Support **teachers' and practitioners' skills development** on gender-responsive STEAM education to increase knowledge and expertise on STEAM approaches and enable them to act as ambassadors for the implementation of the Manifesto and the innovative approaches produced under this action.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-11: Research ethics for environmental and climate technologies

Climate and environmental concerns pose unprecedented challenges for research, both to deliver on the knowledge and technological innovations necessary for the green transition, and to ensure that research is conducted taking into account the demands of protecting our environment and reducing drastically the climate impacts of all human activities.

Expected outcomes

- Design an operational ethics and integrity framework, which preserves and promotes the key ethics principles while supporting a rapid and effective green transition in the European Union;

- Promote awareness, ethics education and training about climate and environmental aspects of research activities, as well as insight in ethical aspects of the development of related knowledge and applications (for example: new agricultural and breeding techniques, environmental protection, geoengineering, tools facilitating energy efficiency and behavioural change).

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2022

Call Closure: 9 Mar 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: horizonal

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 3

Indicative number of projects: 1

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-11:
Research ethics for environmental and climate technologies

Scope

- **Operational research ethics and integrity guidelines**, to support researchers, ethics committee members and integrity experts;
  - Clarifying the implications of **climate ethics, justice and environmental concerns for research**;
  - Offering clear guidance for addressing **ethical challenges** related to **new technologies and applications** for addressing climate and environmental concerns.
- Support **awareness**, **implementation**, and **changes in research culture**, by adopting a **bottom-up and participatory approach**, involving all relevant **stakeholders and networks**, including research management offices, and the **Embassy of Good Science**, as well as citizens and civil society organizations;
- Developing **traditional and online training material** for ethics and research integrity experts (including Horizon Europe ethics experts), students, early career and experienced researchers;
- Ensure **inclusiveness** and **facilitate international dialogues** and **mutual learning**, by cooperating with at least 2 participants from Japan, China, the Republic of Korea and/or African Countries non-associated to Horizon Europe.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-12:
The future of research ethics review in the changing research environments

The traditional ex-ante models of research ethics review faces various challenges, including the rapid emergence of new areas of research and development, the shift of research activities and collaborations to the online digital space, involving a broad variety of non-traditional research actors in an international setting, and the unpredictable and tentative nature of big data research.

Need to prepare research ethics review for 'Europe's Digital Decade', to safeguard fundamental rights and freedoms in the context of digital innovation and new research processes.

Expected outcomes

- Evaluate the effectiveness of current approaches to the ethics reviews in ensuring the embeddedness of **human rights in the development of digital technologies** and promoting adherence to '**digital rights**' and '**digital principles**';

- Develop **new approaches to research ethics review** and assessment, promoting an **ethics by design** culture fostering innovation;

- Enable the ethics processes to better inform policy choices about the uses of new and emerging technologies and support the researchers in incorporating ethical considerations into their research.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2022

Call Closure: 9 Mar 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: horizontal

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 3

Indicative number of projects: 1

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-12:
The future of research ethics review in the changing research environments

Scope

- **To identify gaps** in practice and **formulate proposals** to enhance capabilities of the existing '**ethics infrastructure**', covering ex-ante review as well as processes for monitoring;

- To organise **stakeholder consultations** and interdisciplinary **mutual learning** initiatives, to identify best practices for the ethics oversight of new modes of research, taking into account the cross-border character of cutting-edge research;

- To develop **practical approaches** to support **research funders, governmental bodies** and **research institutions**, including relevant **quality criteria** or **benchmarking tools** to assist in the evaluation and improvement of research ethics oversight mechanisms;

- To develop **guidelines and corresponding training and education materials** to support researchers and ethics experts to apply 'digital rights' and 'digital principles' in the context of research and related international cooperation and partnership.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-03:
Support for the professionalisation of research management

Contribute to improve the European R&I system across the entire ERA by strengthening the capacity for research management in EU's public research performing and research funding organisations

Expected outcomes

- Involvement of a **large number of public RPOs and RFOs** and their research management staff in training and networking programmes for research managers;

- **Improved accessibility** to such programmes for research management staff from regions of lower R&I intensity;

- Improved training, skills and career development of research management staff in the participating organisations;

- Further **professionalisation**, such as through certification of training programmes;

- **Increased awareness and recognition** of the research management profession in Member States, and the important role of research managers across the ERA.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2023

Call Closure: 12 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 17

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR 1.0 million

Indicative number of projects: 1

Expected duration: 2-5y

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-03:
Support for the professionalisation of research management

Scope

- Aim: further develop and implement a methodology to identify, train and **'professionalise' individuals** who are essential support for the 'research enterprise'
  - Research management to be regarded as multi-dimensional.

- Develop **solutions to challenges** of research management:
  - Need for practice exchange between early career & experienced research managers;
  - Need for continuous upskilling, EU-level research management learning and training;
  - Need to increase recognition of the profession and careers;
  - Uneven distribution of research management capacity across the ERA.

- In particular, develop or consolidate:
  - Support for flexible and diverse research management **careers;**
  - Sustainable EU-level **training programmes**, virtual and/or physical;
  - A road to certification or accreditation, thereby improve **awareness and recognition;**
  - **Accessibility** to initiatives for staff from entities from lower R&I intensity.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-06:
European Excellence Initiative: Acceleration services in support of universities

Support universities and other higher education institutions to develop in line with the European Research Area priorities through strategy support and counseling

Expected outcomes

- Access for higher education institutions to a range of tailor-made **coaching services**, expertise, (virtual) meeting platforms or tools, seed funding for institutional change;

- Successful **institutional reform** and upgrade of higher education institutions in **research & innovation**;

- Connection of higher education institutions with peers, other ecosystem actors, investors and public funders;

- Strengthened R&I capacities in higher education institutions, measured through a monitoring mechanism: modernised **research careers**, accelerated digital transition, increased excellence in science and value creation;

- Contribution to implementation of the relevant **ERA Policy Agenda** priorities in higher education sector.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2023

Call Closure: 12 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 13

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR 9.0 million

Indicative number of projects: 4

Expected duration: 2-5y

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-06:
European Excellence Initiative: Acceleration services in support of universities

Scope

- **Overall aim**: support HEIs to make progress in institutional change in ERA priorities
    - Strengthening research careers, gender equality plans, reforming of researcher and research assessment, mainstreaming of open science, etc.

- Activities may include:
    - Creation of a **shared knowledge base** on key ERA priorities for universities;
    - **Coaching services** for strategy and roadmap development in these areas;
    - **Virtual meeting place** for practice exchange and training;
    - **Seed funding** to participation institutions to implement the strategies and roadmaps.

- Specific **points of attention**:
    - Projects should be aligned with assessment tools such as HEInnovate and HRS4R.
    - Complementarity with existing similar tools, such as those funded under WIDERA 2021-2022 and EIT's HEI Initiative needs to be taken into account;
    - Experts, tools and platforms generated by previous projects, such as those supported under Horizon 2020 Science with and for Society, should be taken into account.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-04:
Strengthening researchers' skills for better careers – leveraging the European Competence Framework for Researchers

Researchers are highly skilled, but often not adequately trained in transversal skills that can allow to seize opportunities in the broader labour market, including industry, business, or the creation of own start-ups. This action aims to foster transversal skills for researchers, including by implementing the European Competence Framework for Researchers (ResearchComp) and in cooperation with labour market actors.

Expected outcomes

- Researchers at all career stages equipped with transversal skills based on **ResearchComp**, to foster more open and inter-sectoral research careers, and a better recognition of the researcher profession;

- Exchange of best practices between HEIs, research institutions, and other training providers for the improvement of research and transversal skills training;

- Better meeting of **labour market demands** with jointly developed training programmes;

- Contribution to certification of micro-credentials;

- Improved communication of science to the public.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2023

Call Closure: 12 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 4

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 0.5

Indicative number of projects: 1

Expected duration: 2-5y

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-04:
Strengthening researchers' skills for better careers – leveraging the European Competence Framework for Researchers

Scope

- Important **policy background**:

  - Update of the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (**ESCO**) classification, including skills and occupations relevant for researchers;
  - European Competence Framework for Researchers (**ResearchComp**), including competences for a successful and interoperable career in academia and beyond.

- Projects are expected to **contribute to**:

  - The uptake of ResearchComp by public and private research performing organisations;
  - Strategic interaction with innovation ecosystem actors, for better understanding of labour market skills needs, to close the gap between demand and supply;
  - Exchange of best practices between HEIs and other training provides;
  - More effective science communication, incl. to attract young talents to R&I jobs;
  - Certification and recognition of targeted training opportunities (micro-credentials).

- **Activities** may include:

  - Roadmap development, networking, sector-specific training programme development, seed funding for training developers in academic sector or beyond.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-07:
Capacity building on intellectual property (IP) management to support open science

This action aims to increase the understanding amongst the research community of IP assets and their role as enablers of Open Science

Expected outcomes

- Analysis of how adequate IP management enables and boosts open science and how IP management and open science are complementary in achieving a better dissemination and valorisation of knowledge;

- Providing specific training materials, modules or courses on IP assets and open science, and delivering high-quality training to the trainers and support to them in acting as multipliers;

- Gathering experiences and sharing good practices for the further development of courses on the topic;

- Awareness-raising campaign on how an adequate IP management enables and fosters open science.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2023

Call Closure: 12 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 2

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 2

Indicative number of projects: 1

Expected duration: max. 24 months

Other conditions: early and open sharing –under open licenses- of the outputs resulting from the activities is required.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-07:
Capacity building on intellectual property (IP) management to support open science

Scope

- Improving the understanding of the relationship between open science and IP, in particular how an adequate management of IP lies at the core of open science;

- Greater awareness of researchers´ IP rights and how they can be exercised to allow them to comply with funder open access mandates;

- Supporting education and training in IP management that enables open science

- Capacity building in research organisations and their staff, with the objective to support and equip researchers at all stages of their career with the knowledge they need in this area

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-08:
Global cooperation in not-for-profit open access publishing

A topic to address some inequalities in the everyday practice of research and science: despite the rise of not-for-profit open access publishing solutions, as alternatives to commercially-oriented publishing, some appear not robust enough or reliable.

Expected outcomes

- Coordination of institutional, not-for-profit open access publishing services, between Europe and other areas in the world, at the non-technological level;

- Improvement and implementation of good practices, and training of service providers and scientific journal editors to improve both the quality of their publishing services, and the scientific quality of their publishing venues;

- Knowledge transfer between relevant not-for-profit open access publishing services – among European and other areas in the world;

- Reinforcement of bridges between the EU and other areas of the world to support equity in open access and help empower academics and not-for-profit solutions.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2023

Call Closure: 12 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 1

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 2.5

Indicative number of projects: 1

Expected duration: max 36 months

Legal entities established in non-associated third countries may participate & receive Union funding

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-08:
Global cooperation in not-for-profit open access publishing

Scope

- Help address the many inequalities that Open Science and open access policies have inherited from the everyday practice of research and science: socio-economic background, gender, ethnicity…

- Gather, share, improve and implement good practices in existing not-for-profit open access publishing venues – possibly with training material and/or virtual trainings, so that they can be trusted by researchers across countries and disciplines;

- Focus on non-technological aspects only (i.e. business models, organization of editorial processes, peer review policies, translation…) since this topic is complementary to HORIZON-INFRA-2022-EOSC-01-02 *Improving and coordinating technical infrastructure for institutional open access publishing across Europe* and HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ERA-01-43 *Capacity-building for institutional open access publishing across Europe* (DIAMAS);

- Budget-consciousness: because of the world-wide dimension, most of the activities of the actions to take place online.

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2021 – 2027

WIDERA

**Widening participation and
Strengthening the European Research Area
(ERA)**

PANTELIS TZIVELOGLOU

WIDERA Infoday

12 December 2022

*Research and
Innovation*

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-09: Support to the development and implementation of policies and practices for reproducibility of scientific results

The aim of this action is to facilitate the development and implementation of policies and practices, by research performing organisations, research funding organisations, learned societies and publishers that enhance reproducibility of scientific results

Expected outcomes

- Facilitated development, implementation and monitoring of interventions in research organisations;

- More collaboration, joint actions by stakeholders, and mutual learning, notably between national reproducibility networks;

- Greater alignment of policies and reduction in disparities between research organisations and between countries;

- Facilitated development and implementation of training programmes and awareness raising.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2023

Call Closure: 12 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 1

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 2

Indicative number of projects: 1

Legal entities established in non-associated third countries may participate & receive Union funding.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-09: Support to the development and implementation of policies and practices for reproducibility of scientific results

Scope

- Support research organisations to develop and implement policies and interventions;
- Support the mutual learning and dissemination of good practices between organisations across the European Union and beyond;
- Coordinate efforts between stakeholders, notably between existing European national reproducibility networks; facilitate the development of national networks in additional European countries;
- Support the development of training materials and training programmes, the mutual learning and exchange of practices and tools, and awareness raising, for researchers, reviewers and research organisations;
- Put in place mechanisms to monitor the effects of policies and practices implemented;
- International cooperation encouraged, in particular with third countries active in the development of policies and initiatives on the reproducibility of research results.
  - ➤ *Build on the research results and recommendations from projects selected under call topic HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01-41 and other relevant projects and initiatives*

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-10: Policy coordination to support all aspects of inclusive Gender Equality Plans and policies in the ERA

Develop a sustainable network of national representatives from MS and AC, from national bodies and RFOs, to support the implementation of the gender equality and inclusiveness objectives of the ERA

Expected outcomes

- Advanced and sustainable policy coordination support on ERA objectives on gender equality and inclusiveness among MS and AC and through stakeholder and citizen engagement;

- Improved career paths and working conditions in European R&I organisations, including in the private sector, through enhanced policy dialogue on inclusive gender equality plans and policies;

- Increased research quality, societal responsibility and relevance of knowledge and innovations, through the integration of the gender and intersectional dimension in R&I content;

- Increased geographical inclusiveness by targeting less experienced countries/regions in terms of inclusive gender equality policies in R&I;

- Increased inclusion of underrepresented and socially disadvantaged persons in European R&I, through an intersectional lens on gender equality plans and policies.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2023

Call Closure: 12 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action nº 5

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 3.5

Indicative number of projects: 1

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-10: Policy coordination to support all aspects of inclusive Gender Equality Plans and policies in the ERA

Scope

- Develop knowledge and build capacities, competences and expertise on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of **inclusive gender equality plans and policies in R&I** with a variety of European and national stakeholders. Special consideration will be given to **mutual learning exercises**;

- Further the development of a **transnational Community of Practice of R&I funding organisations** for the promotion of an inclusive and gender-responsive culture change in R&I institutions across the EU;

- Specific focus placed on **developing joint activities with actors from the private, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors**, from across the EU;

- Develop various **innovative engagement activities**, connect citizens, experts and policy-makers, and contribute to policy making on inclusive gender equality in R&I at national and European administration level;

- Ensure **coordination with ERA-related official groups, such as the ERA Forum**, and in collaboration with the European Commission, in line with ERA objectives.

→ National representatives from at least 23 MS + from AC strongly encouraged

→ Cooperate with relevant ERA SHs and build on outputs from related Horizon projects

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-11:
Support to the implementation of inclusive gender equality plans

Peer support scheme to go beyond the minimum GEP requirements as defined in Horizon Europe eligibility criterion and implement inclusive GEPs and policies

Expected outcomes

- Enhance the reputation, attractiveness, inclusiveness and R&I excellence of less advanced organisations as a result of implementing inclusive gender equality plans;

- Transform R&I organisations to advance ERA policy objectives on gender equality and inclusiveness.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2023

Call Closure: 12 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action nº 5

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 3

Indicative number of projects: 4

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-11:
Support to the implementation of inclusive gender equality plans

Scope

- **Methods for exchanging and implementing good practices and materials, tailored to individual organisations' needs** for the development and monitoring of inclusive GEPs;

- **Support for reinforcing their networking** in the area of gender equality and inclusiveness, especially with already existing Communities of Practice;

- **Activities** such as on-site visits, on-site or virtual training; workshops; dissemination and outreach and capacity building activities;

- **Implementation of specific actions in the less advanced institutions** specifically addressing the **opening to intersectionality** and diversity, targeting other underrepresented or socially disadvantaged groups, and **including the integration of intersectional sex and gender analysis into R&I content**.

  → *One organisation (HEI, RPO, Public Body) leading on gender equality and inclusiveness mentoring at least 3 less advanced organisations from widening countries;*

  → *Partners revolving in a specific thematic area, or widening partners with similar national/regional background, for a better contextualization;*

  → *Build on knowledge and expertise from related Horizon projects.*

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MIHALIS KRITIKOS

WIDERA Infoday

12 December 2022

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-12:
Next generation AI and Human Behaviour: promoting an ethical approach

Promote a responsible, trustworthy, and human-centric design and development of the next generation of artificial intelligence (AI).

Expected outcomes

- The operationalisation of available general guidance on the ethics of AI into practical specific guidelines on human cognition and behaviour. The guidelines must also address the ethics dimension of the study of human behaviour and cognition in developing and improving AI systems;

- The guidelines should incorporate ethics into the relevant research and development processes and take into account strategies for ensuring adequate participation of all those affected by the development, deployment and use of the relevant applications;

- Develop and validate education and training material reflecting the produced guidelines. This should be based on participatory processes involving all relevant stakeholders, including citizen groups and industry.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2023

Call Closure: 12 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: horizontal

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 3

Indicative number of projects: 1

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-12:
Next generation AI and Human Behaviour: promoting an ethical approach

Scope

- Review the current ethics landscape to understand the ethical challenges (1) associated with the study of human behaviour and cognition to support the development or improve AI systems and (2) related to the impact of AI on human cognition and behaviour;

- Develop operational guidelines for AI systems that build on the study of human cognition and behavior in collaboration with the networks of experts, and based on findings and case-studies;

- Develop a toolbox for international cooperation in AI research and development in the relevant areas, taking into account the regulatory and ethical landscape in key strategic partners (for example China, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Canada and the US);

- Incorporate principles of benefit sharing in AI research and development in accordance with the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings (TRUST Code);

- Produce innovative training material (reflecting the guidelines), early career and experienced researchers.