



WIDERA Work Programme 2025: ERA and Widening calls

WIDERA Info Day

20 May 2025

ERA call 2025

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06

Joerg Niehoff
*RTD.A.2 - ERA, Spreading Excellence
and Research Careers*

Call opening: 15 May 2025

Call closing: 18 September 2025

Agenda: ERA call 2025

10:00	Rolling out the ERA Policy Agenda results	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-01
	Enable sustained coordination and guidance at the European level on institutional non-profit open access publishing	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-02
	Research and innovation to provide evidence that support reforms of research assessment	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-03
11:15	Investigating and addressing career barriers faced by underrepresented and marginalised researchers	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-04
	Programme-level collaboration	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-05
	Strengthening of the European Science for Policy Ecosystem	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-06
	Science comes to town	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-07

European Research Area (ERA)

What is the 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 ERA?



Prioritise
investments in
research and
innovation



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



Improve access
to excellence



Boost market
uptake

More information

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#WIDERA



[Horizon Europe | WIDERA Work Programme 2025](#)

For questions about research and Horizon Europe, you can contact [Research Enquiry Service \(europa.eu\)](#)

Explore how Horizon Europe funded projects support the European Research Area:
[ERA & Horizon Europe | European Research Area](#)

APPLY: [Funding & Tenders Portal | European Commission](#)

Rolling out the ERA Policy Agenda results

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-01

Joerg Niehoff, RTD.A.2 - ERA, Spreading Excellence and Research Careers

Pantelis Tziveloglou, Georgios Papanagnou, RTD.A.4 - Open Science and Research Infrastructures

Dario Capezzuto, RTD.A.2 - ERA, Spreading Excellence and Research Careers

Iphigenia Pottaki, RTD.E.2, Valorisation Policies & IPR

Context

Increasing uptake by broad communities of R&I stakeholders of results developed under the first ERA Policy Agenda, addressing specific policy areas

ERA Policy Agenda (2022-2024) → tools, practices, recommendation, and guidelines that support implementation of ERA policy priorities.

Key principles:

- **Openness:** Select one area and develop pre-defined activities and additional activities that contribute to the expected outcomes.
- **Broad reach:** Large communities of stakeholders with broad geographical reach; involve actors who have not yet partaken in the ERA work programme.
- **Synergies:** Coordinate and collaborate with other projects funded under this topic.

Call opening / closing:

15 May 2025 / 18 September 2025

Type of action: **CSA**

Budget: **EUR 26 million**

Indicative number of projects: **13**

Financial support to third parties:
EUR 60 000

Evaluation: **Ensure balanced portfolio**

Area 1: Strengthen uptake of solutions for the reproducibility of scientific results

Uptake of state-of-the art tools, practices and methodologies that can increase the reproducibility of research results

Expected outcomes:

- Wider implementation of interventions in research performing organisations to increase the reproducibility of research results;
- Better understanding by researchers, policymakers, research institutions and scientific service providers of the effectiveness of policies, practices and tools for increasing the reproducibility of research results;
- Higher proportion of reproducible results from publicly funded research.

Target groups:

- Research performing organisations, research funding organisations;
- Researchers, scientific publishers, scientific service and infrastructure providers.

Area 1: Strengthen uptake of solutions for the reproducibility of scientific results

This topic supports ERA Policy Agenda Action 1.

Key elements:

- Deploy and demonstrate interventions in real-life environments over sufficient duration and scale allowing to assess their effects
- May include the application of policies, engagement in practices, or mainstreaming the utilisation of tools, services and infrastructures
- Monitor and analyse the projected effects of the interventions and develop evidence-based recommendations.
- Support mutual learning and exchange and dissemination of best practices across organisations in Europe.
- Build on the results of previous Horizon projects and other relevant projects and initiatives and engage in cooperation with ongoing projects.

Area 2: Advance reforms to research assessment

Support reform of research assessment toward recognising the diversity of research practices, activities and outputs to achieve higher quality and impact of research

Expected outcomes:

- Increased awareness and trust among researchers and research organisations about reforms of research assessment;
- Increased uptake of good practices and recommendations from the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) and other initiatives by researchers and research organisations;
- Increased knowledge by researchers, research organisations and policymakers about limiting factors and enablers of research assessment reforms.

Target groups:

- The project activities should involve diverse research organisations like:
 - Universities, RPOs, RFOs, academies and learned societies, researchers' organisations, researchers and support staff from diverse disciplines and at various career stages.

Area 2: Advance reforms to research assessment

This topic supports ERA Policy Agenda Action 3.

Key elements:

- Identify how to reach out to the research community (as well as support staff) and raise awareness about good practices and reforms;
- Develop and coordinate actions for awareness raising and reforms uptake, including through workshops, training and associated materials, and/or dedicated conference(s) targeting the research community;
- Support the development of change management strategies, to facilitate the implementation of reforms and the building of trust towards reformed research assessment systems;
- Support CoARA Working Groups and National Chapters and other communities of practice to discuss barriers and enablers to reform at national level, identify shared implementation avenues, and maximise the roll-out of reforms.

Area 3: Establish communities of practice to strengthen research careers

A **cooperative approach** to support stakeholders in **implementing the European framework for research careers and the Charter for Researchers**, towards more attractive research careers

Expected outcomes:

- Inventory of good practices and lessons learnt for stakeholders at organisational level on the implementation of the European framework for research careers (+ Charter for Researchers);
- Increased number of academic and non-academic organisations implementing the new framework for research careers, resulting in stronger research careers for researchers;
- Better working conditions and employability for researchers, with a special focus on early-career researchers.

Target groups:

- Universities and other research performing organisations
- Research funding organisations
- Researchers' organisations
- Governmental organisations
- Other employers of researchers in the public and private sector

Area 3: Establish communities of practice to strengthen research careers

- Supports the implementation of the outcomes of ERA Policy Agenda Action 4;
- Fosters the implementation at organisational level of the Council Recommendation on research careers and the European Charter for Researchers;
- Builds on the results and recommendations of the PSF Mutual Learning Exercise on research careers, and on other relevant projects and initiatives at European or national level.

Key elements:

- Intersectoral consortium of at least 15 partners;
- Create an inclusive community of practice that supports cooperation and exchange of good practices to implement the new framework and strengthen research careers;
- Demonstrate to what extent stakeholders outside the consortium will be involved in the community of practice;
- Activities to include at least mapping of challenges, exchange good practices, organization of mutual learning events, networking, development and dissemination of recommendations for peers and for policymakers.

Area 4: Establish a European network of knowledge valorisation intermediaries

EUROPEAN NETWORK of organisations that promote knowledge valorisation as *intermediaries*, and strengthens their skills and capacities to support the implementation of the Guiding Principles and Codes of Practice for knowledge valorisation

Expected outcomes:

- A **network** of European intermediaries is established, connecting academia, industry, society and policymakers, that provides **increased recognition of the various profiles and different roles** of knowledge valorisation intermediaries;
- New or improved **shared resources and tools** for knowledge valorisation intermediaries to support the uptake of the **EU Guiding Principles for Knowledge Valorisation** and **codes of practice**;
- Enhanced **capacities and skills** of knowledge valorisation intermediaries to connect industry, academia, society and policymakers.

Target groups:

Broad range of institutions that can act as *intermediaries* for knowledge valorisation

Area 4: Establish a European network of knowledge valorisation intermediaries

Supports ERA Policy Agenda Action 7.

Guiding Principles for knowledge valorisation and four Codes of Practice covering: [Management of intellectual assets](#); [Standardisation in the European Research Area](#); [Citizen-engagement](#); [Industry-academia co-creation](#).

***Info notice: open survey on the awareness and uptake of the Codes of Practice**

Access the survey in this [link](#)

Key elements:

- Setting up European network of intermediaries to activate intensive and inclusive multi-actor collaboration and networking.
- Develop trainings and a knowledge valorisation toolbox based on the codes of practice, to be made freely available for all R&I actors.
- Support mobility and outreach, including cross-border secondments between intermediary organisations, replication of best practices, and novel awareness and outreach activities.

Area 5: Upgrade capacities of knowledge and technology transfer professionals in universities and RPOs

UPGRADING SERVICES of knowledge and technology transfer professionals in universities and research performing organisations for market, societal and policy uptake

Expected outcomes:

- Enhanced **capacities and skills** for knowledge transfer professionals in Knowledge Transfer Offices/Technology Transfer Offices (KTO/TTO) (or similar) in universities and research performing organisations to detect the potential market and societal value of R&I results;
- **Upgraded services** of KTO/TTOs in universities and research performing organisations made freely available for R&I actors to facilitate multi-stakeholder business development activities, knowledge transfer and valorisation, including societal and policy uptake;
- New **curricula and training modules** for students and researchers by KTO/TTOs to be offered in universities and research performing organisations across Europe to facilitate greater uptake of R&I results, including for skills development and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset.

Target groups:

KTO/TTOs – and include other stakeholders (societal and industrial actors, and policymakers...)

Area 5: Upgrade capacities of knowledge and technology transfer professionals in universities and RPOs

Supports ERA Policy Agenda Action 7.

Guiding Principles for knowledge valorisation and four Codes of Practice covering: [Management of intellectual assets](#); [Standardisation in the European Research Area](#); [Citizen-engagement](#); [Industry-academia co-creation](#).

Key elements:

- Develop and coordinate actions for expanding and strengthening skills and capacities of KTO/TTOs;
- Develop new services and adaptation of existing services in line with the Guiding Principles, as well as support new training needs designing and delivering high quality curricula for greater knowledge valorisation;
- Engage societal and industrial actors, as well as policy makers while developing appropriate links with other parts of the work programme.

Area 6: Strengthen capacities and recognition for research management

Establish a network for research management, fostering collaboration, harmonising practices, and enhancing the recognition of research management across the ERA

Expected outcomes:

- Collaborative network that results in better quality and more consistent research management practices across the ERA;
- Enhanced professional recognition and career progression and mobility for research managers;
- Increased availability and access to training and good institutional practices on research management, with a focus on providing support to those that lack resources.

Target groups:

- Current and aspiring research managers and their employers;
- HR departments, career advisors;
- Educational institutions;
- Policymakers.

Area 6: Strengthen capacities and recognition for research management

- Addresses **ERA Action 17** that aims to enhance capacities and professional recognition of research managers and to address their challenges;
- Supports the uptake of good practices, recommendations and results stemming from any relevant projects (incl. WIDERA projects) and initiatives.

Key elements:

- Create a centralised online hub for networking, collaborative learning and information sharing;
- Tailored training programmes (aligned with RM Comp) and career guidance services for research managers;
- Strategic communication plan with outreach activities, promotional campaigns, support to evidence-based policymaking, recommendations for RPOs and policymakers, and advocacy efforts to raise the profile and recognition of research management.

Enable sustained coordination and guidance at the European level on institutional non-profit open access publishing

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-02

Victoria Tsoukala
*RTD.A.4 - Open Science and
Research Infrastructures*

Expected outcomes

Centralised support to improve quality of services, technical and editorial/publishing, of institutional open access non-profit publishers across Europe

Expected outcomes:

- Broader range of services for developing skills and competencies of institutional non-profit open access publishers, centrally offered at European and national level;
- Increased alignment of institutional non-profit open access publishing services across Europe to commonly agreed quality standards;
- Well-connected and effective European network focused on institutional non-profit open access publishing with broad recognition across academic disciplines.

Target groups:

- Research performing organisations/universities
- Research funding organisations
- Learned societies
- Research Infrastructures

Call opening / closing:

15 May 2025 / 18 September 2025

Type of action: CSA

Budget: EUR 2 million

Indicative number of projects: 1

Financial support to third parties: EUR 60 000

Context and scope

- This topic supports ERA Policy Agenda Action 1
- Council Conclusions on ‘high quality, transparent, open, trustworthy and equitable scholarly publishing’ 23 May 2023, 9616/2
- DIAMAS; CraftOA; ALMASI, PALOMERA projects

Key elements:

- Develop and provide services to institutional publishers including guidance and support for quality assessment, access to tools and technology and support in meeting technological standards;
- Organise training programmes for all stakeholders in institutional/non-profit open access publishing to support the further development of skills and competences and facilitate exchanges of expert staff across the ERA;
- Coordinate services and practices exploiting synergies and creating efficiencies, including the pooling of resources at European level. Developed resources should be available to all who manage institutional open access publishing services in Europe.

Research and innovation to provide evidence that support reforms of research assessment

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-03

*Georgios Papanagnou
RTD.A.4 - Open Science and
Research Infrastructures*

Expected outcomes

Provide the evidence needed for the practical implementation of research assessment reforms

Expected outcomes:

- Increased scientific knowledge on assessment tools and methods, their potential biases and limitations, and corresponding solutions;
- Increased scientific knowledge on methods to reform research assessment;
- Evidence supporting the implementation of the commitments of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment available to policy makers and research organisations involved in research assessment.

Call opening / closing:

15 May 2025 / 18 September 2025

Type of action: RIA

Budget: EUR 2 million

Indicative number of projects: 1

Target groups:

- Universities, RPOs, RFOs, academies and learned societies, researchers organisations, researchers, quality assurance and accreditation agencies.
- This action may require the effective contribution of SSH disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts

Scope

This topic supports ERA Policy Agenda Action 3.

Key elements:

- Review existing literature, data and evidence on research assessment practices and evaluate their validity and robustness;
- Identify gaps in knowledge and prioritise the fields and questions that require further research activities, to support reforms of research assessment in line with the Agreement for Reforming Research Assessment. In areas such as:
 - Assessment tools and methods: peer review less bias prone; narrative CVs; uses of metrics and alternatives; indicators (that are open) in new assessment frameworks; infrastructures and tools for assessment, etc.;
 - Reform methods: readiness and engagement of the scientific community to changes; different disciplinary perspectives; support to new assessment practices, etc.;
- Implement research activities on the fields and questions prioritised.

Investigating and addressing career barriers faced by underrepresented and marginalised researchers

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-04

Hana Tenglerova
RTD.D.4 - Democracy, Equality & Culture

Expected outcomes

Increase the knowledge about intersectional barriers and challenges researchers from underrepresented groups and marginalised communities face in their careers and support their overcoming

Expected outcomes:

- Improved awareness of the barriers faced by researchers from underrepresented groups and marginalised communities and more knowledge about this issue in general;
- Availability of concrete tools and measures to support fair career advancement of disadvantaged researchers from underrepresented and marginalised groups.

Call opening / closing:

15 May 2025 / 18 September 2025

Type of action: RIA

Budget: EUR 2 million

Indicative number of projects: 1

Target groups:

- Policy makers
- Research funding organisations
- Higher education and research performing organisations
- Researchers

Context and scope

- This topic supports the ERA Policy Agenda actions 4 and 5.
- It relates closely to the [Union of Equality Strategies](#), including Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, as well as to the [Pact for R&I in Europe](#) and the [Council Recommendation research careers](#).
- Projects should build on existing knowledge and data sources, including e.g. [Equality data collection](#), [Compendium of Practices on Equality Data](#), and related actions funded under [Horizon 2020](#) and Horizon Europe WIDERA programme and explore potential synergies with projects funded under Horizon Europe Cluster 2 and by the European Research Council.

Key elements:

- Investigate from a gender perspective the specific barriers faced by researchers from underrepresented and marginalised groups at different careers stages;
- Develop tools and deliver recommendations on how to design and implement inclusive, intersectional, and human-centred GEPs and policies at the level of academic and RPOs, RFOs, and national and EU R&I policy-makers;
- Disseminate project outcomes and materials to all relevant ERA stakeholders.

Programme-level collaboration

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-05

Ursula Tubli
*RTD.G.4 - Common Missions and
Partnerships Service*

Expected outcomes

Align and coordinate national and regional R&I funding to define new collaborations through **transnational joint priorities, calls, and activities**, boosting public R&I investment in **European Partnerships and EU Missions**

Expected outcomes:

- Identification of common R&I priorities among national and regional R&I programmes, with consideration given to relevant international R&I policy developments and trends, and leading to coordinated R&I funding agendas;
- Implementation of multiannual joint calls, resulting in the funding of transnational collaborative R&I projects;
- Implementation of additional joint activities supporting technology and regulatory policy, and societal and market uptake;
- Contribution to participating states meeting global challenges, including relevant contributions to SDGs.

Target groups:

- MS, AC, and non-associated third country organisations, including civil society organisations and regional authorities and agencies.

Call opening / closing:

15 May 2025/ 18 September 2025

Type of action: **CSA**

Budget: **EUR 4 million**

Indicative number of projects: **2**

Context and scope

Scope:

- Contributes to the objectives of the Pact for R&I in Europe;
- **Maintain existing and establish new collaborations**, hence continuing the spirit of the successful ERA-NET scheme. Complementary topic to the new approach for **European Partnerships and EU Missions**;
- **Pool the necessary resources** from the participating national or regional R&I programmes, and where appropriate leverage other resources;
- **Demonstrate potential impact at national, regional and transnational level** – no overlaps with actions co-funded under Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe;
- Duration appropriate to the ambition and complexity of the proposal.

2021-2024, 8 projects funded

Green ERA-Hub, SD-WISHEES,
ForestValue2, CASRI,
FUTURE4PRIMA, EUPHRESCO III,
LUKE, HDHL, F4H

Involved beneficiaries

from all EU Member States + AL,
CH, EG, GE, IL, JO, KE, MA, ME,
MD, NO, NZ, RS, TN, TR, UA, UK

Key documents:

- [European Partnerships website](#): partnership proposals and contact points, reports, infographics, latest news and [Biennial Monitoring Report 2024](#).
- [EU Missions website](#) and EU Missions Implementation Platforms: Climate Adaptation Mission [Climate ADAPT](#), Cities Mission [Net Zero Cities](#), Ocean & Waters Mission [Prep4Blue](#), Soil Mission [Mission Soil Platform](#), Cancer Mission [Cancer Mission Implementation](#).

Strengthening of the European Science for Policy Ecosystem

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-06

Fara Lledó San Mauro
RTD.02 - Science Policy, Advice and Ethics

Expected outcomes

A more robust and interconnected European Science for Policy (S4P) ecosystem that better supports evidence-informed policymaking across sectors and governance levels

Expected outcomes:

- Increased connectivity of S4P actors and networks:
 - Facilitating exchange and mutual learning;
 - Enhancing capacity building opportunities and promotion of S4P practices and knowledge;
- Promotion of the development and adoption of the concept of “Science for Policy” among S4P stakeholders and actors through identification of best practices, guides and frameworks;
- Mainstreaming of S4P approaches in national R&I policy institutions at all levels of governance across Europe.

Target groups:

- S4P actors and stakeholders: scientists, academia, intermediaries and knowledge brokers, science advisors, policymakers/political authorities, civil society organisations, etc.

Call opening / closing:

15 May 2025 / 18 September 2025

Type of action: CSA

Budget: EUR 2 million

Indicative number of projects: 1

Context and scope

Policy context:

- Contributes to the objectives of the Pact for R&I in Europe.
- The need for a structured scientific support to policymaking at EU, national, and subnational levels, is underscored in several recent EU policy documents and initiatives.
- Council conclusions (Dec 2023) “Strengthening the role and impact of R&I in the policymaking process in the European Union” call upon the EC to play a key role in coordinating actions to strengthen S4P in Europe.

Key elements:

- Nurturing and animating a Science for Policy Community of Practice.
- Providing operational support to the Network of National S4P Correspondents, to be set up by the EC.
- Creating an observatory to map the European S4P landscape and showcase good practices, including a repository and toolkit.
- Regularly convening the network, the community of practice, and other interested stakeholders to discuss how to create the necessary conditions to enable effective engagement between research and policy.

Science comes to town

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-07

Maria Mecenero

*RTD.A.2 - ERA, Spreading Excellence and
Research Careers*

Julie Nuyts, Matthieu Chave

City of Brest

Science comes to town – Expected outcomes

A **small group of 3-6 cities** jointly design and implement a **year-long programme** of activities, connecting **R&I communities** with **citizens & stakeholders** around science and its role in society

Expected outcomes:

- Participating cities having **stronger capacity, networks** and being **more involved** in science communication and citizen engagement in science, engaging **diverse social and age groups** in R&I activities;
- Enhanced discussion and debate on the **future of science and R&I policy in Europe**, emphasising inclusive and participatory approaches involving stakeholders within and outside the EU;
- Improved attractiveness of **careers in R&I for younger generations** (academia, industry or entrepreneurship) by organising EU-wide science competitions and other initiatives.

Call opening / closing:

15 May 2025 / 18 September 2025

Type of action: **CSA**

Budget: **EUR 6 million**

Indicative number of projects: **1**

Financial support to third parties: **EUR 60 000**

Science comes to town – Scope

Make-up of the consortium:

- Min **3** and max **6 cities of 3 different Members States and/or Associated Countries**, with the majority being in Member States.
- **Consortium partners:** Legal entities that can represent the host cities and/or join them in designing and implementing the activities.
- **City authorities:** Cities' commitment letters from cities.
- **R&I dimension:** Local partners providing the link to science and R&I should be included.

Important aspects to keep in mind:

- **Link** with other editions of SCTT fostering **coherence with the initiative's brand**.
- **Innovative and engaging** formats promoting citizen science, science education and public engagement.
- **Synergies** with European Researchers' Night and Researchers at School initiative.
- Inclusion of **'satellite' events** to reach further communities and increase impact.
- Mobilise **substantial resources** beyond the grant to support and broaden the programmed activities.

Science comes to town – Programme

Overall concept for the annual programme in the proposal, including:

- Focus, scope of activities, preliminary programme
- Outreach strategy
- Contribution to long-term vision for the cities

Co-design of the **detailed draft programme** of activities will be a priority deliverable, due no later than 3 months before the launch of the programme.

Programmed activities & resources

1

Events (EUCYS, EU TalentOn, etc.) and activities (e.g., the overall coordination and communication activities) funded partially or fully by the Union contribution

2

Activities and events financed by the participating cities, 'satellite' cities, sponsorships and other resources (not funded by the Union contribution)

Reporting:

- Implementation: All programmed activities
- Related costs: **Only** activities financed by the grant

Science comes to town – Key components

One-year programme of activities engaging citizens in the cities and beyond



The European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS) 2027: an international science fair awarding prizes and awards, for 14- to 20-year-olds who are first prize winners of national science contests for school science projects.



European Union Contest for early-career researchers (EU TalentOn) 2027: hackathon-style science contest awarding prizes bringing together early-career researchers aged 21-35 to work on scientific solutions to societal challenges.

Science comes to town – Tips and tricks

Preparing the proposal:

- ✓ **Get more familiar with EUCYS and EU TalentOn:** more information and the events' specific guidelines for all organisational aspect can be found on the contest websites.
- ✓ Creating **links with previous and subsequent editions of Science Comes to Town** ensure the coherence of the brand.
- ✓ Engaging with different types of legal entities (local authorities, public and/or private stakeholders) that can ensure a wide representation of actors.

Proposal's checklist:

- ✓ **Commitment letters** from the public authorities of each participating city, signed by the highest authorities, demonstrating a strong commitment for the activities included in the proposal.
- ✓ Demonstration of the ability of the consortium to **mobilise substantial resources beyond the Union contribution**, including monetary or in-kind sponsorships, to support and broaden the programmed activities.
- ✓ Inclusion of key components: one-year programme, EUCYS, EU TalentOn.

Science comes to town

Tips & tricks

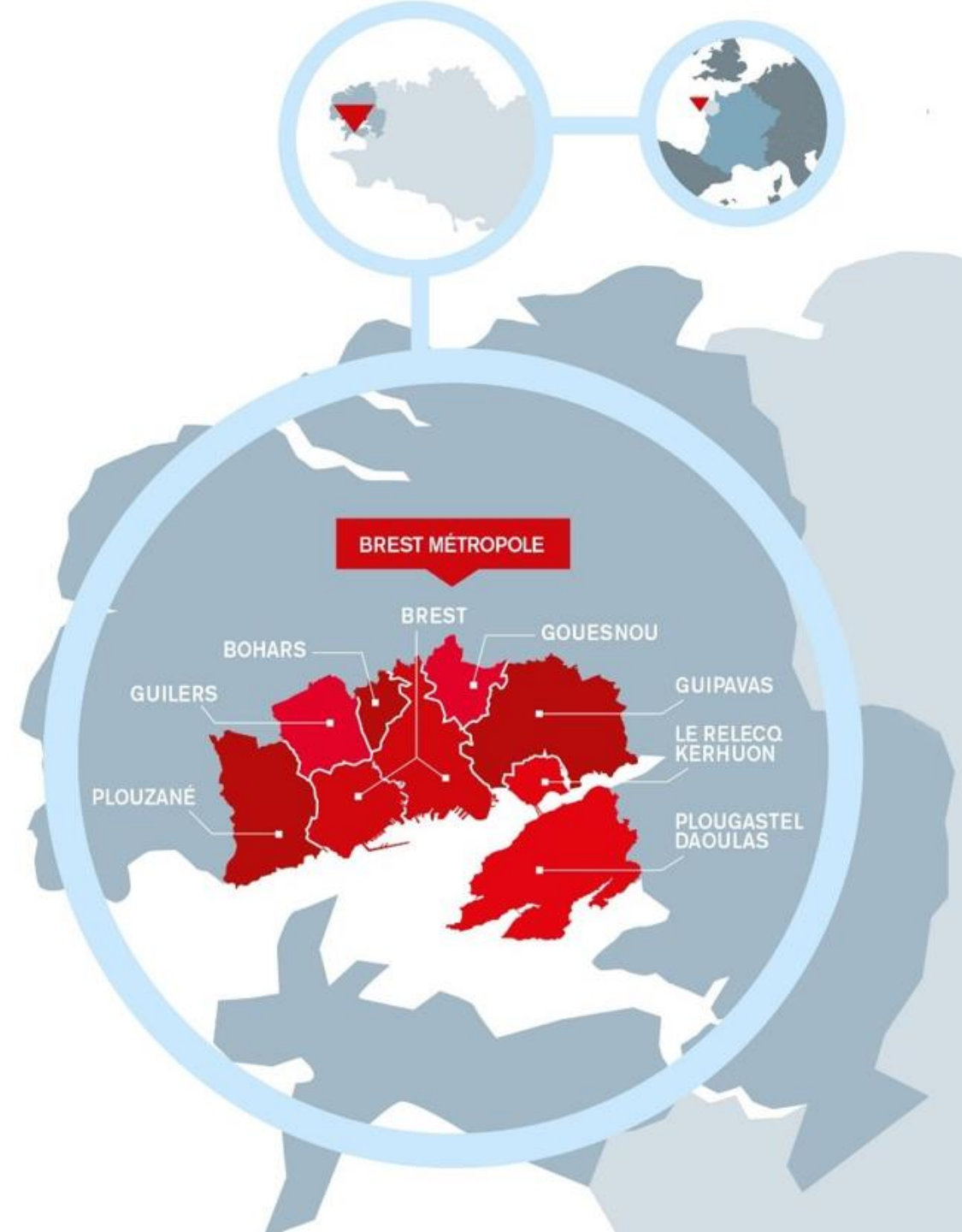
Julie Nuyts, Head of International Relations

Matthieu Chave, International Relations Officer

Brest métropole

The westernmost metropolis!

- 8 founding municipalities
- 211,156 inhabitants over an area of 220 km²
- At the heart of a dynamic living and employment area over 455,000 inhabitants
- 2nd largest metropolis in Brittany



Our background

- European University alliance SEA-EU
- Twinnings > Kiel and Cadiz
- Science and technology of the sea

Les partenariats de la ville de Brest et de Brest métropole





SCTT call

- Small number of cities
- 2 competitions
- One-year program including ERN
- Citizens involvement is key
- All kinds of science to all kind of targets, especially children

Our application

- Rely on SEA-EU and Kiel-Brest twinning for partnerships and commitment
- Spread the responsibilities of the 3 required events according to each territories strengths
- Focus our themes on our territories specificities: sea, cultural heritage, health, attractiveness and Europe & ODD (transversal)





Obstacles

- Horizon Europe is not initially geared towards local authorities.
- Administrative constraints of local authorities
- How local authorities work \neq univ & research labs
- Recruitment > the payroll
- Critical size of a partner to manage the budget and be the leader

Widening calls 2025

Joerg Niehoff
*RTD.A.2 - ERA, Spreading Excellence
and Research Careers*

More information

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For questions about research and Horizon Europe, you can contact [Research Enquiry Service \(europa.eu\)](#)

APPLY: [Funding & Tenders Portal | European Commission](#)

Agenda: Widening calls 2025

14:10	EIC pre-accelerator – Widening	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-02
	Implementing action plans for connected regional innovation valleys in widening countries	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-05
15:00	European Excellence Initiative (EEI)	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-01
	Hop-on facility	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-03
	Support for R&I policy making in the EU enlargement countries	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-04

EIC pre-accelerator – Widening

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-02

*Ewa KOCIŃSKA-LANGE, RTD.A.3 -
European Innovation Council*

*Nancy HERRERA ORTIZ, EISMEA.E.03 -
EIC Open Accelerator*

Expected outcomes

Boost the innovation potential of early-stage deep-tech startups in widening countries by enhancing their business, investor, and technology readiness to secure funding from the EIC Accelerator or other sources

Increased business, investor, and technology readiness (at least all aspects of TRL 5 completed) **of high potential deep-tech startups** in widening countries to a level where they will:

- be successful in applying and attracting **the EIC Accelerator** funding and/or;
- manage to secure other **private investment** and/or;
- attract successfully **national or regional funding** as alternative funding sources (e.g. through Seal of Excellence programmes).

Call opening / closing:
12 June 2025 / 18 November 2025

Type of action: **CSA**

Budget: **EUR 20 million**

Indicative number of projects: **50**

Context and scope

Scope:

Early-stage deep tech startups which:

- have high-impact innovation that could create **new markets or disrupt existing ones** (technology validated in the lab – at least TRL 4);
- possess the necessary Intellectual Property Rights to ensure **freedom to operate** and adequate protection of the idea;
- have a clear vision on the intended **pathway to market** (milestones together with concrete and verifiable KPIs to assess progress towards the market);
- have the ambition and commitments **to scale up**.

Funding targeted at:

- actions addressing the **investor and market readiness** towards commercialisation and deployment;
- maturation and validation of the novel technology **from TRL 4 to 6**.

Specific conditions

- **Eligibility:** mono-beneficiary projects with legal entities as SMEs established in the widening countries.
- **Proposal template:** CSA adapted to the EIC Transition evaluation criteria
- **Evaluation:** single stage, EIC Transition open criteria (first step)
- **Form of support:** grant, 70% reimbursement; between 300K-500K EUR (lump-sum for max 2 years)

In addition:

- Free access to tailored EIC **Business Acceleration Services** to improve investor readiness
- **Fast Track** to the EIC Accelerator;
- **Seals of Excellence** to be awarded, accompanied by free access to BAS.

Implementing action plans for connected regional innovation valleys in widening countries

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-05

*Jekaterina Novikova, RTD.A.5 - Innovation Policy &
Access to Finance*

*Christine Kriza, EISMEA.I.01 - EU Innovation
Ecosystems (EIE)*

Expected outcomes

Regional Innovation Valleys: open, inclusive, interconnected innovation ecosystems

Expected outcomes:

- Joint definition of visions/strategies towards development and deployment of innovation (incl. deeptech)
- Synergies / complementarities /collaboration thematic/tech areas of joint/EU interest
- Common knowledge assets, increased innovation capabilities
- Better links of territories and innovation actors
- Innovation co-investments (50% COFUND)

Target groups:

- Regional and national authorities (less and more innovative regions)
- In collaboration with Q-helix actors:
- Academia/Research/RTOs
 - Industry, business associations, clusters, SMEs, startups
 - End-users, citizens

Call opening / closing:

15 May 2025 / 15 October 2025

Type of action: **COFUND**

Budget: **EUR 24 million**

Indicative number of projects: **4**

Context and scope

Present joint strategic visions, commitment and Annual Work Programmes

Key elements:

Coordination and Support Action (CSA)

- Collaboration of R&I actors and regions (trainings, staff exchange)
- Access to cross border infrastructure and expertise
- Developing standards and regulations

Innovation Action - Joint open calls (FSTP)

- At least 3 interregional projects in specific thematic area(s)
- Grants
- Innovation Actions (IA) – TRL 6-8
- Research & Innovation actors from participating regions
- Max EUR 600 k (per recipient for all calls/sub-projects)
- May involve PCP/PPI activities (up to TRL 8 for PCP and up to TRL 9 for PPI)

European Excellence Initiative (EEI)

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-01

*Francesca Cervelli, RTD.A.2 - ERA, Spreading
Excellence and Research Careers*

Ioanna Stavridou, REA.C.3 - Widening Participation

Expected outcomes

Aims at the transformation of the higher education sector and its close ecosystems, including non-university research centres

Expected outcomes:

- Modernisation and upgrade of higher education institutions through integrated collaboration;
- Mainstreamed culture of excellence in science and knowledge valorisation;
- Accelerated institutional reforms, leading to better research careers;
- Strengthened digital skills and capacities including AI;
- Increased global competitiveness and critical mass of research;
- Contribution to implementation of the ERA policy agenda 2022-24.

Target groups:

- Academia/Research;
- European Universities alliances selected under Erasmus + and/or any other network or alliance of higher education institutions;
- Economic and industrial partners.

Call opening / closing:

15 May 2025 / 20 November 2025

Type of action: **CSA**

Budget: **EUR 80 million**

Indicative number of projects: **27**

Context and scope

Contributes to the implementation of the European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe and the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24, in particular ERA action 13.

Key elements:

- **Eligibility Condition:** at least 3 independent legal entities in 3 different countries.
- The centre of gravity must be in Widening countries: demonstrate the geographical focus conceptually and by budget allocation (**at least 51%**) to participants from Widening countries.
- Implement a coherent package of activities: institutional modernisation and reforms (NEW); exchange of academic and non-academic staff for sharing good practices; development of research excellence; digital transformation; outreach.
- !! Educational activities such as Master or doctoral programmes are out of scope.
- !! Expenditures for research and innovation activities cannot exceed a maximum of 20% of the total budget and need to be presented in a dedicated Work Package.
- NOT a Lump Sum Call.
- Duration of the project should not exceed 5 years.

Hop-on facility

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-03

*Adeline Kroll, RTD.A.2 - ERA, Spreading
Excellence and Research Careers
Costanza Conte, REA.C.3 - Widening Participation*

Expected outcomes

The scheme aims to improve the inclusiveness of Horizon Europe

Expected outcomes:

- 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;
- Open up silos of established closed networks;
- Provide new competencies and skills (from working in transnational projects) e.g., on research management, dissemination and exploitation of results.

Target groups / Eligible projects:

- Academia/Researcher;
- 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.

Call opening / closing:

15 May 2025 / 4 September 2025

Type of action: **RIA**

Budget: **EUR 40 million**

Indicative number of projects: **80**

Context and scope

Key elements:

- The proposal must be **linked to an ongoing project** funded under Pillar 2 or the EIC Pathfinder of Horizon Europe in its first reporting period. The ongoing project is between M 1 to M 12 from its starting date by the submission deadline.
- **All consortium partners need to agree** on the accession of the new partner.
- The proposal should include a detailed description of the **widening partner profile** and its role in the existing project and the **R&I relevance and complementarity** needs to be demonstrated.

Implementation:

- Selected consortia are invited to submit an amendment request for the accession of a new partner, the modification of the description of the action and the upgrade of the budget.
- The **indicative expected EU contribution** per project is between (EUR million) 0,2 to 0,6.
- The **budget increase** must be exclusively for the benefit of the widening partner. An additional coordination fee of up to 10% of the increased budget can be allocated to the coordinator of the consortium. The coordinator may request the coordination fee and provide an explanation on the additional integration efforts for the new partner.

Support for R&I policy making in the EU enlargement countries

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-04

*Ágota DAVID, RTD.03 - International
cooperation - Europe and Americas*

Expected outcomes

Providing **support** to national and regional R&I and education initiatives in **enlargement countries**

Expected outcomes:

- Integration of enlargement countries into the ERA
- Providing support to the accession process
- Contribution to/creation of joint research and innovation activities
- Support for the Western Balkans Steering Platforms
- Implementation of the Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, the Western Balkans Growth Plan and Country Reform Agendas

Target groups:

- Policy; Innovation/funding agencies; Academia
- **Eligibility condition:** Coordinator from Widening country + 50% of budget in widening countries

Call opening / closing:

6 May 2025 / 16 September 2025

Type of action: **CSA**

Budget: **EUR 3 million**

Financial support to third parties: **EUR 60 000**

Indicative number of projects: **1**

Context and scope

westernbalkans-infohub.eu – Western Balkan Countries Research Technology Innovation

Key elements:

- Coordination of support instruments/opportunities available for enlargement countries
- Skills development & capacity building
- Organisation of events with and for enlargement countries
- Strengthening links with EU MSs, networking activities
- Supporting creating policy frameworks (e.g. S3) and their implementation
- Advancing R&I ecosystems and tech transfer activities

Thank you



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