
HORIZON EUROPE

Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area (WIDERA)



#ResearchImpactEU
#EUResearchArea

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1. Introduction

- EU-13 countries have participated in FPs since 1998
- There are different patterns in participation, but the difference is more nuanced than EU 13 *versus* EU 15
- No single indicator to describe the patterns of FP participation of widening and non widening countries
- A combination of factors to explain the underperformance of certain countries
- Measures and instruments to bridge the research and innovation divide in Europe exist at national and European levels
- Participation gap in FPs symptomatic for overall innovation divide in Europe
- Evidence for progress made since FP7 e.g. financial return to widening countries increased from 5.5% (FP7) to 7.2% (H2020) of total committed budget for widening countries

Policy Objectives for Widening under Horizon Europe :

1. Encourage **institutional reforms and transformation processes** of the R&I system at national and regional level in Widening countries in line with ERA principles;
2. Mobilise **national investments in R&I** capacity in Widening countries;
3. Raise the bar for **excellence of R&I actors** in Widening countries in partnership with outstanding European and international institutions ('win-win situation');
4. Increase number of **participations and success** rates of widening actors in research and innovation projects in other parts of Horizon Europe (notably in Pillars 2 and 3);
5. Promote the creation of **new innovation ecosystems** and scale up existing ones by a set of measures
6. Foster **brain circulation**, including inter-sectoral mobility for researchers and innovators and turn it into brain gain for Widening countries.

Horizon Europe – WIDERA widening Participation and Strengthening ERA

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

Horizon Europe – WIDERA Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA)

Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

- Teaming, Twinning, ERA Chairs,
- European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)
- Boosting National Contact Points' (NCPs) activities, pre-proposal checks and advice
- Brain circulation
- Excellence initiatives:
- Possibility for entities from widening countries to join already selected collaborative R&I actions ('Hop on')
- Matchmaking services

€2.96 billion

Reforming and enhancing the EU R&I system

- Strengthening the evidence base for R&I policy
- Foresight
- Support for policy makers to the ERA development
- Support to national R&I policy reform, including Policy Support Facility
- Attractive researcher careers and links with higher education
- Open science, citizen science and science communication
- Gender equality
- Ethics and integrity
- Support to international cooperation
- Scientific input to other policies
- Support to the Programme implementation
- Support for National Contact Points
- Support to dissemination & exploitation

€0.44 billion

Novelties for Widening under Horizon Europe (1):

1. Full alignment with new ERA strategic priorities
2. Continuation of core widening instruments Teaming, Twinning and ERA Chairs with some improvements in response to lessons learnt
3. Research cost for CSA eligible under Teaming, Twinning and ERA Chairs
4. More emphasis on developing research management capacities
5. Full integration of COST under widening, 80% of actions must have significant widening dimension

2. Novelties for Widening under Horizon Europe (2):

6. Fixed list of eligible Member States to host the main beneficiary (EU13 + PT + EL) + Associated Countries

7. EU Outermost Regions fully eligible to host the coordinator

8. Full implementation of “Advancing Europe” package with a number of additional support schemes to boost participation of less research performing countries (e.g. NCP WIDERAnet)

9. More integrated policy approach and enhanced synergies with regional policy, transnational missions, regional smart specialisation strategies etc.

WIDERA work programme 2021-22 structure

➤ Destination #1: Improved access to excellence

- Teaming
- Twinning (incl. special call WBC)
- Excellence Hubs
- European Excellence Initiative for Higher Education Institutions
- Hop-on facility
- (under other actions) COST and NCP networks

➤ Destination #2: Attracting and mobilising the best talents

- ERA Chairs
- Fostering balanced brain circulation: ERA Fellowships
- Fostering balanced brain circulation: ERA Talents

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

Comparison of key characteristics widening actions with other schemes outside widening WP

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

WIDERA work programme 2023-24 - outlook

➤ **Points under discussion**

- Stronger reference to ERA policy agenda and forthcoming European Innovation agenda
- Continuity for Teaming actions (concept and implementation)
- Excellence Hubs with additional module for lagging regions and countries
- Strengthening synergies with regional funds by a dedicated action
- Improved capacity for valorization of R&I results by dedicated training and service actions
- Continuity with slight adjustments for COST, ERA Chair and hop on





Thank you!

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