



March 2021



"We can only unlock the full potential of the European Research Area if we come together in support of the excellent researchers and innovators across all countries and regions of Europe."

Mariya Gabriel Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE ACROSS EUROPE

BOOSTING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PERFORMANCE THROUGHOUT THE UNION

[Horizon Europe's Widening actions](#) will support those EU countries that continue to lag behind in research and innovation to increase the performance of their research and innovation systems. Actions will:

- Support centres of excellence
- Establish a vibrant ecosystem
- Enhance capacity to access research networks
- Attract talents
- Improve skills of researchers



Main features

Improve existing [widening instruments](#)

Actions	Consortium structure	Policy objectives
TEAMING	Main beneficiary + 1 or 2 strategic advanced partners	Develop role models to stimulate excellence, new investments and reforms
TWINNING	Main beneficiary and network of partnering organisations	Develop excellence in a chosen domain, increase visibility and upskill staff
ERA CHAIRS	One host organisation to the selected ERA chair with optional partner organisation	Help excellent scientists to become game changers
COST*	Cross-border scientific network	Help excellent researchers and innovators get access to the European and international networks

* European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)

Novelties

New support actions:

- Strengthening the National Contact Point system;
- Proposal pre-checks;
- Possibility for participants from Widening countries to join already existing consortia;
- Matchmaking services;
- Fostering excellence in universities and placed based innovation ecosystems
- Brain circulation grants

Working together to achieve more

The Widening actions receive **3.3% of the total Horizon Europe budget** and play a central role in strengthening the [European Research Area](#).

To maximise impact, synergies will be pursued with the European Regional Development Fund and funding for higher Education sector (Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, European excellence initiative).

Widening actions will also contribute to **achieving the Sustainable Development Goals** related to Quality Education, Gender Equality, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure as well as Partnership for the Goals.

Expected results and impacts Increased scientific and innovation capacities for all research and innovation actors in widening countries:

- Structural changes leading to modernised and more competitive research and innovation system;
- Reformed research and innovation systems and institutions, leading to increase attractiveness for talents;
- Higher participation success in Horizon Europe;
- Stronger linkages between academia and business;
- Strengthened role of the Higher Education sector in research and innovation;
- Better use of existing research infrastructures;
- More and better balanced brain circulation;
- More involvement of regional actors;
- Mobilisation of national and European resources for strategic investments

Next steps

Launch of the first Widening calls



MORE INFORMATION

EU Widening

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/spreading-excellence-and-widening-participation>

#HorizonEU
#InvestEUresearch
#EUResearchArea

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