



TECHNOLOGY  
CENTRE PRAGUE

# SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR WIDENING COUNTRIES TO INCREASE THEIR PARTICIPATION

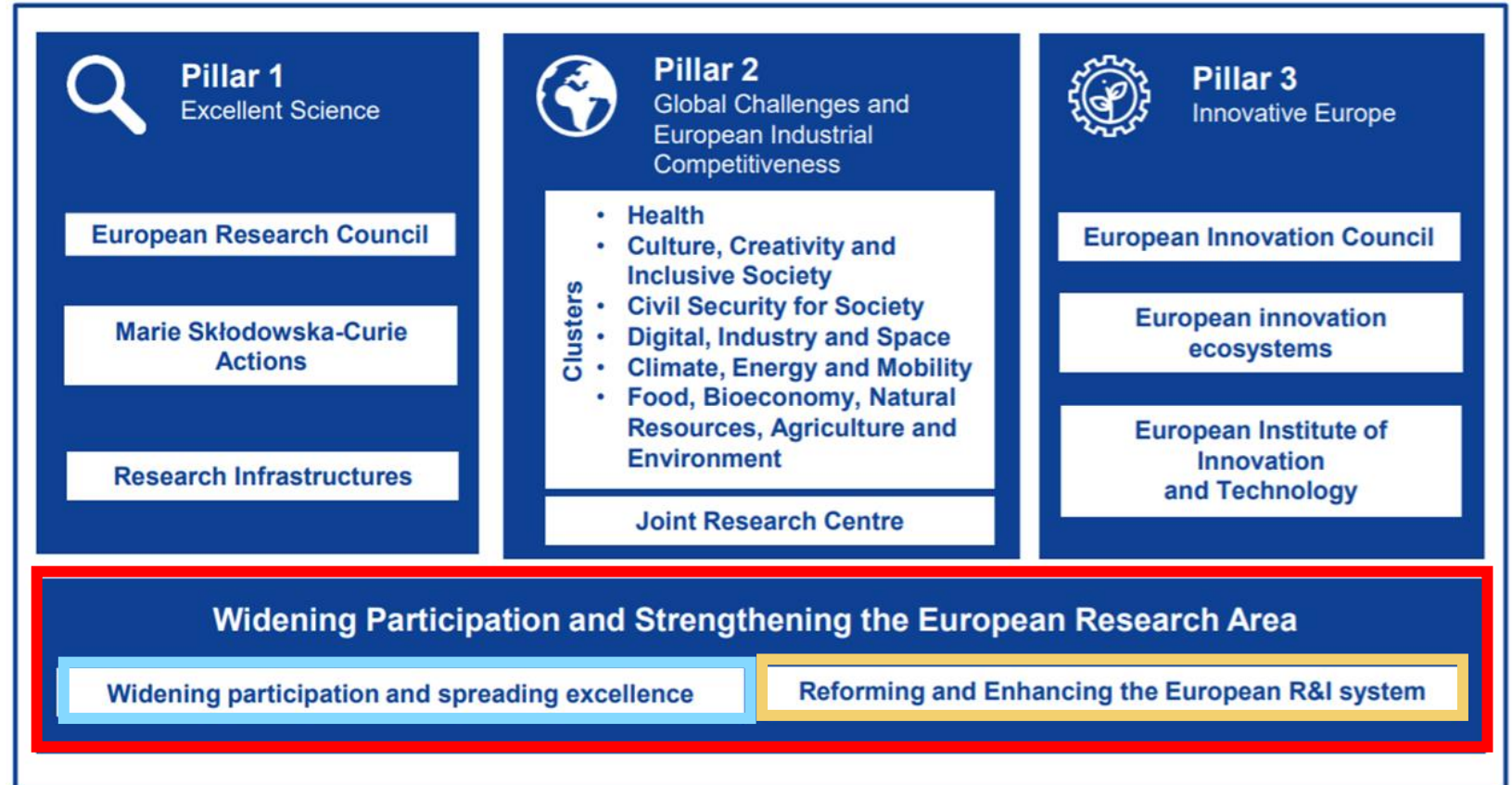
---

Anna Vosečková, WIDERA and EIT NCP  
RAFA 2024 Workshop „Opportunities to collaborate in a  
European research and innovation area“, Prague  
5 November 2024



# HORIZON EUROPE


Current Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021 – 2027) has almost 3 billion EUR on Widening and 0,5 billion on ERA



# WIDENING COUNTRIES IN HE

- **15 Member States** – Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- **14 countries associated to the HE** (as of 1 April 2024) – Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine
- **9 EU Outermost regions** (as defined in [Art. 349 TFEU](#)), – French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion, Saint-Martin, The Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands.

**Only institutions from these countries can coordinate the Widening projects**



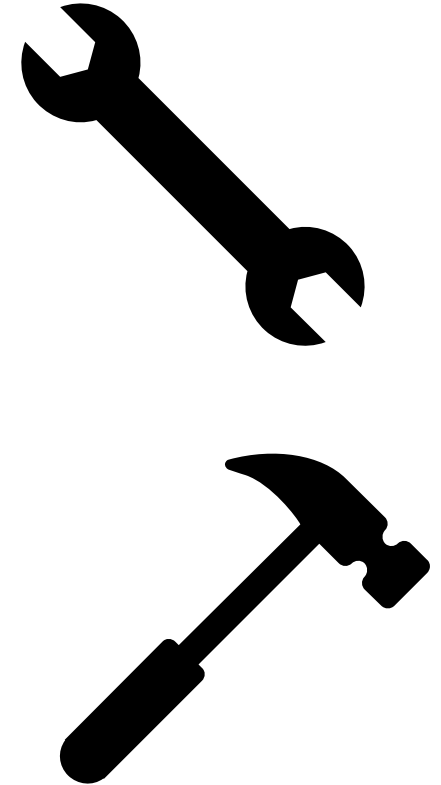
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Estonia  
Greece  
Hungary  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Malta  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia

# WIDENING INSTRUMENTS

## TYPE OF PROJECTS: CSA (COORDINATED AND SUPPORT ACTIONS)

Each instrument has its own specifics

- **DESTINATION 1 (BETTER ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE) - ACCESS**
  - TWINNING
  - TEAMING
  - EXCELLENCE HUBS
  - EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE
  - PATHWAYS TO SYNERGIES
  - HOP ON
- **DESTINATION 2 (ATTRACTING AND MOBILISING THE BEST TALENTS) - TALENTS**
  - ERA CHAIRS
  - ERA TALENTS
  - ERA FELLOWSHIPS



**CALLS 2025**

**—  
ALREADY PUBLISHED  
IN WP 2023-2025**





# TEAMING

**MAIN OBJECTIVE – institution building (creation of a new CoE or substantial modernisation of the exiting one) with the aim to:**

- ✓ help Widening countries to increase their R&I intensity
- ✓ attain a competitive position in the European R&I system and globally
- ✓ stimulate changes on national level

# TEAMING FOR EXCELLENCE 2025

CZ-SK Workshop on  
proposal writing  
20/11/2024

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-ACCESS-01-01-two-stage
- **Opening: 3 December 2024**
- **Deadlines: 10 April 2025 (First Stage)**  
**20 January 2026 (Second Stage)**
- Total budget M€ 270.00
- Project budget M€ 8.00 - 15.00
- **Complementary funding – at least the same as the requested budget from the EU**
- **Expected no. of grants: 18**
- Project duration: up to six years
- **CoE already supported by TEAMING grant are excluded**







HANDBOOK FOR MSCA  
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS



AVAILABLE NOW

## ERA FELLOWSHIPS

**MAIN OBJECTIVE** – individual grants for researchers holding a PhD who wish to

- ✓ carry out their research activities in Widening countries
- ✓ acquire new skills
- ✓ and develop their careers

**This action builds on the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships**

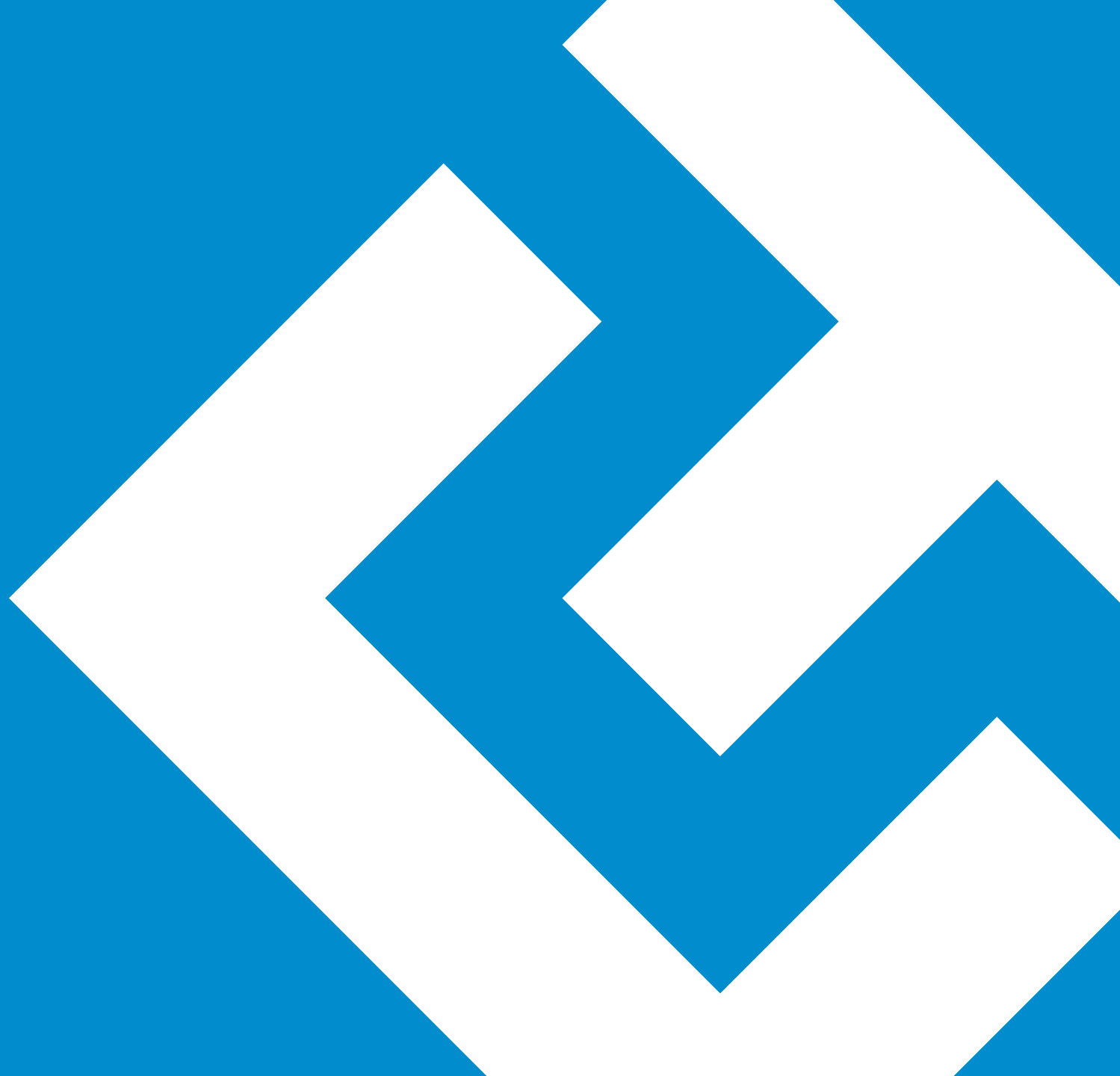


# ERA FELLOWSHIPS (HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-TALENTS-01)

- applications are submitted to MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships calls HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF
- applications must be made jointly by the researcher together with a legal entity in the academic or non-academic sector located in a Widening Country
- applications not receiving an MSCA grant will be automatically moved to ERA Fellowships call (there is the possibility to opt out during the application stage)
- **Opening: 09 April 2025**
- **Deadline: 10 September 2025**
- Total budget for ERA Fellowships 2025 – M€ 8
- Expected no. of grants: 50

# **CALLS 2025 (NOT PUBLISHED YET)**

**In preparation –  
anything can change**



# WORK PROGRAMME 2025

- European Excellence Initiative (EEI)
- Hop-on facility
- Support for R&I policy making in the EU enlargement countries
- EIC pre-accelerator
- Action plans for connected RIVs in Widening countries

# EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE



**MAIN OBJECTIVE – capacity building for strengthening HEIs networks and cooperation with surrounding ecosystems:**

- ✓ Raise excellence in science and in value creation through deeper and geographically inclusive cooperation in alliances of HEIs, such as European Universities alliances in Erasmus+, with a particular focus on Widening countries
- ✓ Improve global competitiveness and visibility of Europe's HEIs, creating critical mass in key areas such as the green transition and HE mission areas

## HOP ON FACILITY



**MAIN OBJECTIVE – accession of one new additional partner from a Widening country to already implemented RIA project funded from**

- ✓ Any of the six Clusters of HE Pillar 2
- ✓ EIC Pathfinder instrument

**with the aim to**

- ✓ Improve Inclusiveness of HE by involving additional research institutions from Widening countries
- ✓ Open up closed networks and overcome barriers

## SUPPORT TO ENLARGEMENT COUNTRIES

**MAIN OBJECTIVE – bridge the R&I gap between the EU Member States and enlargement countries through e.g.**

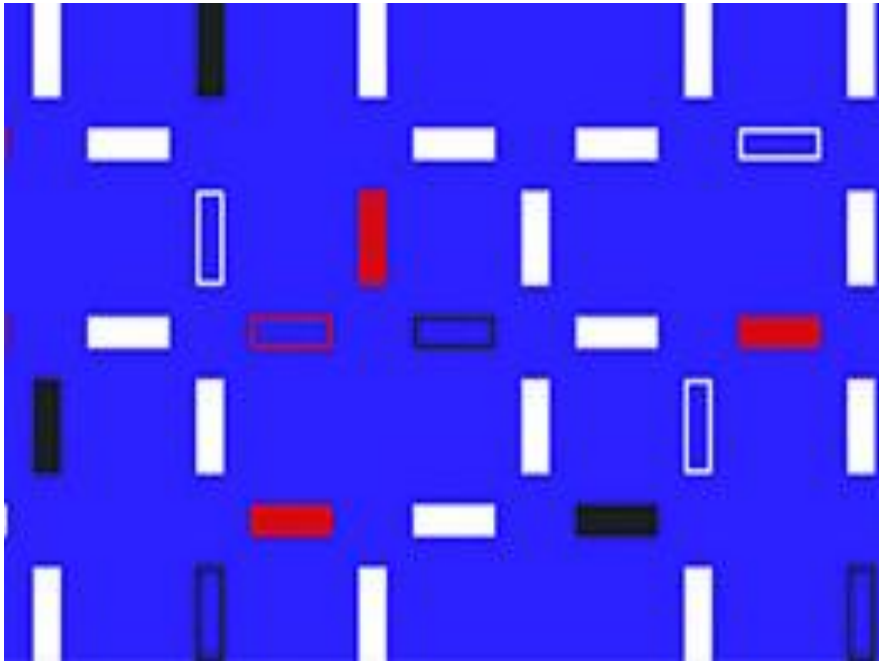


- ✓ fostering capacity building
- ✓ promote networking and access to excellence
- ✓ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine

## EIC PRE-ACCELERATOR

**MAIN OBJECTIVE – increase the innovation potential of deep-tech startups in the widening countries in order to:**

- ✓ enable them to better attract private investments and scale up
- ✓ increase business, investor, and technology readiness
- ✓ develop further their innovations (from TRL 4 to TRL 5/6)





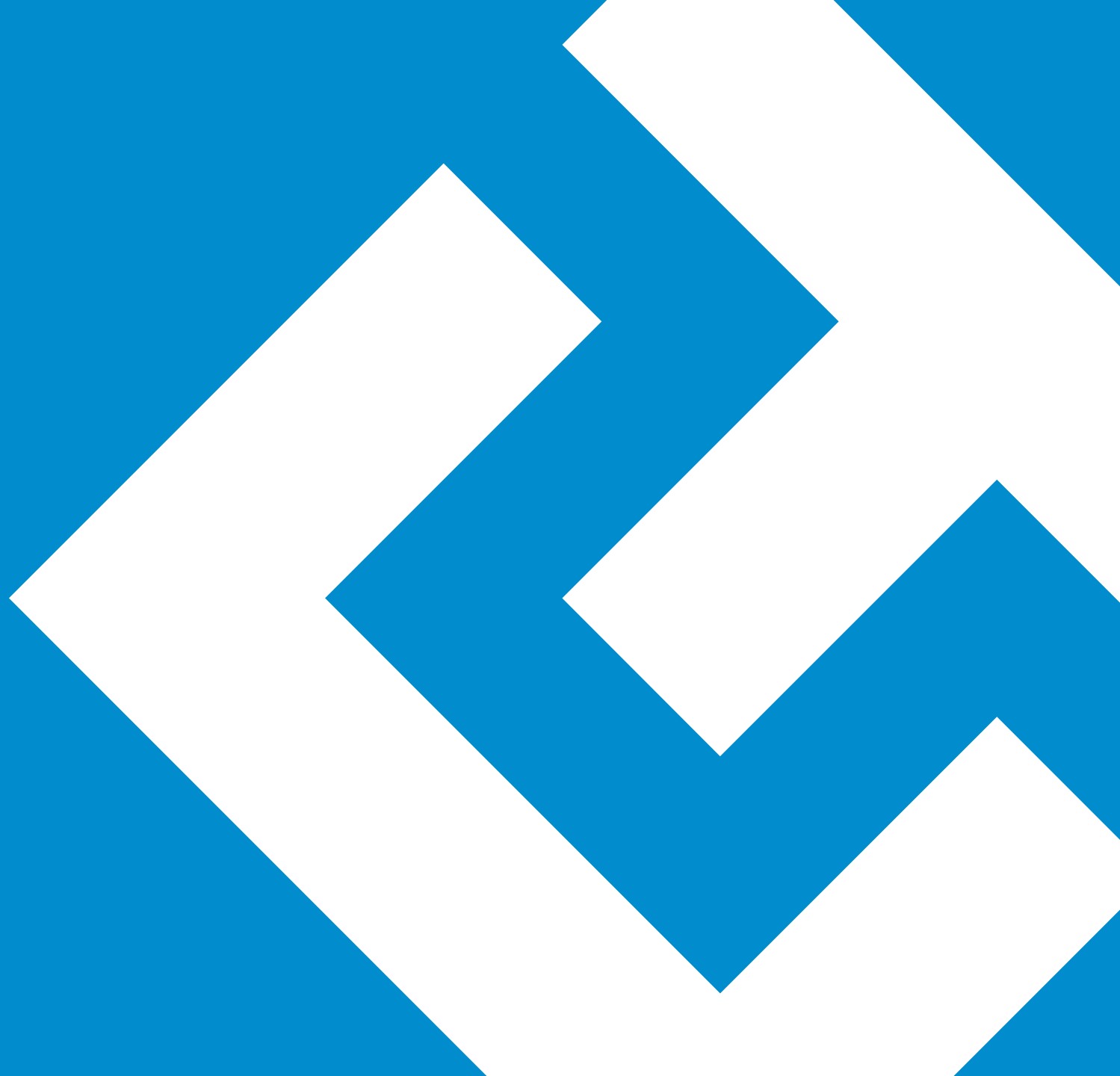
## REGIONAL INNOVATION VALLEYS

**MAIN OBJECTIVE – to foster the creation of efficient, open, inclusive and interconnected European innovation ecosystems in line with the New European Innovation Agenda,**

- ✓ Consortium of at least 3 national or regional authorities
- ✓ CO-FUND action (50% : 50%)
- ✓ Financial support to third parties (FSTP) is obligatory



**PLANNED FOR  
2026-2027**



# TWINNING



- **MAIN OBJECTIVE – institutional networking enabling:**
  - ✓ transfer of knowledge and skills and exchange of best practices
  - ✓ raising the research profile of the institution and its staff
  - ✓ special focus on strengthening research management and administrative skills

# ERA TALENTS



**MAIN OBJECTIVE - to increase the interoperability of careers in the academic and non-academic sectors and to improve the employability of R&I talent with a focus on Widening countries**

- ✓ supports training and mobility of researchers, innovators and/or other R&I talent across sectors
- ✓ a more geographically balanced talent circulation
- ✓ involve organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors

# EXCELLENCE HUBS

**MAIN OBJECTIVE – bridge the innovation divide**

- ✓ by connecting the innovation ecosystems of Widening countries and beyond
- ✓ by creating better links between academia, business, government and society



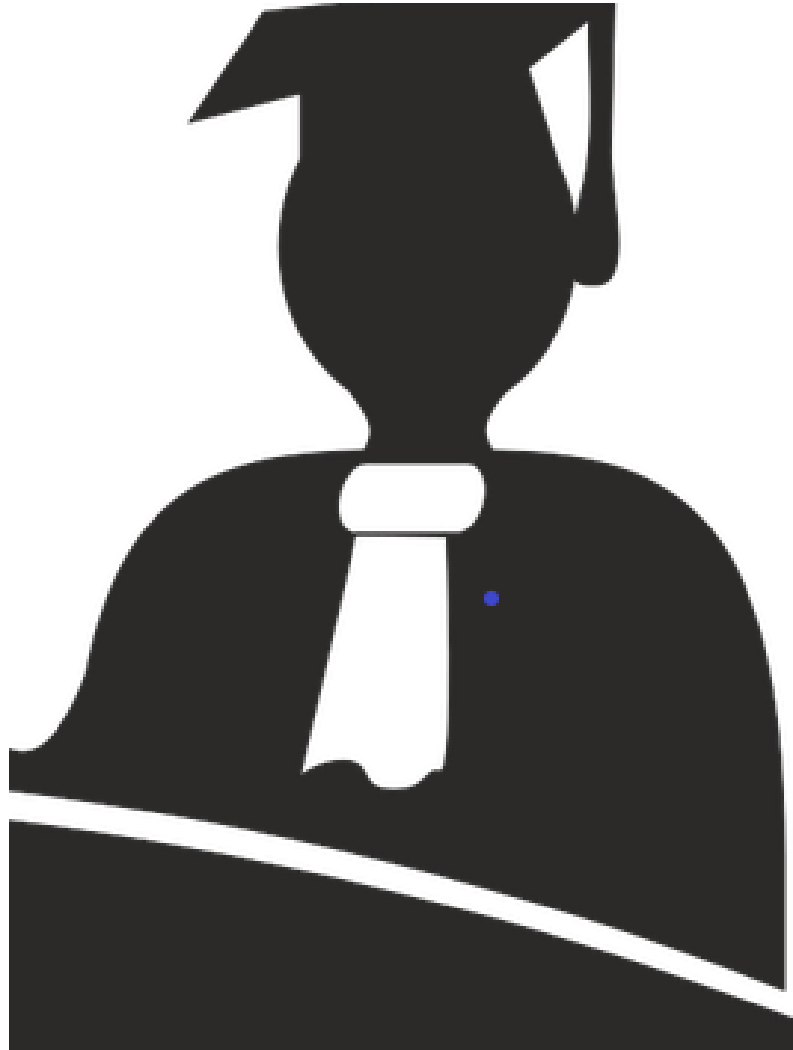
## HOP ON FACILITY



**MAIN OBJECTIVE – accession of one new additional partner from a Widening country to already implemented RIA project funded from**

- ✓ Any of the six Clusters of HE Pillar 2
- ✓ EIC Pathfinder instrument
- ✓ Calls opened every year

## ERA CHAIRS



**MAIN OBJECTIVE - bring outstanding academic with proven research excellence and management skills to universities and research institutions (brain gain)**

- ✓ Promising or cross-cutting area of research
- ✓ Experienced researcher and innovator
- ✓ Setting up of a permanent top research team



## ERA FELLOWSHIPS

**MAIN OBJECTIVE – individual grants for post-docs implemented in Widening countries**

- ✓ applications are submitted to MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships calls
- ✓ automatically transferred ERA Fellowships in case not receiving the MSCA grant
- ✓ calls opened every year



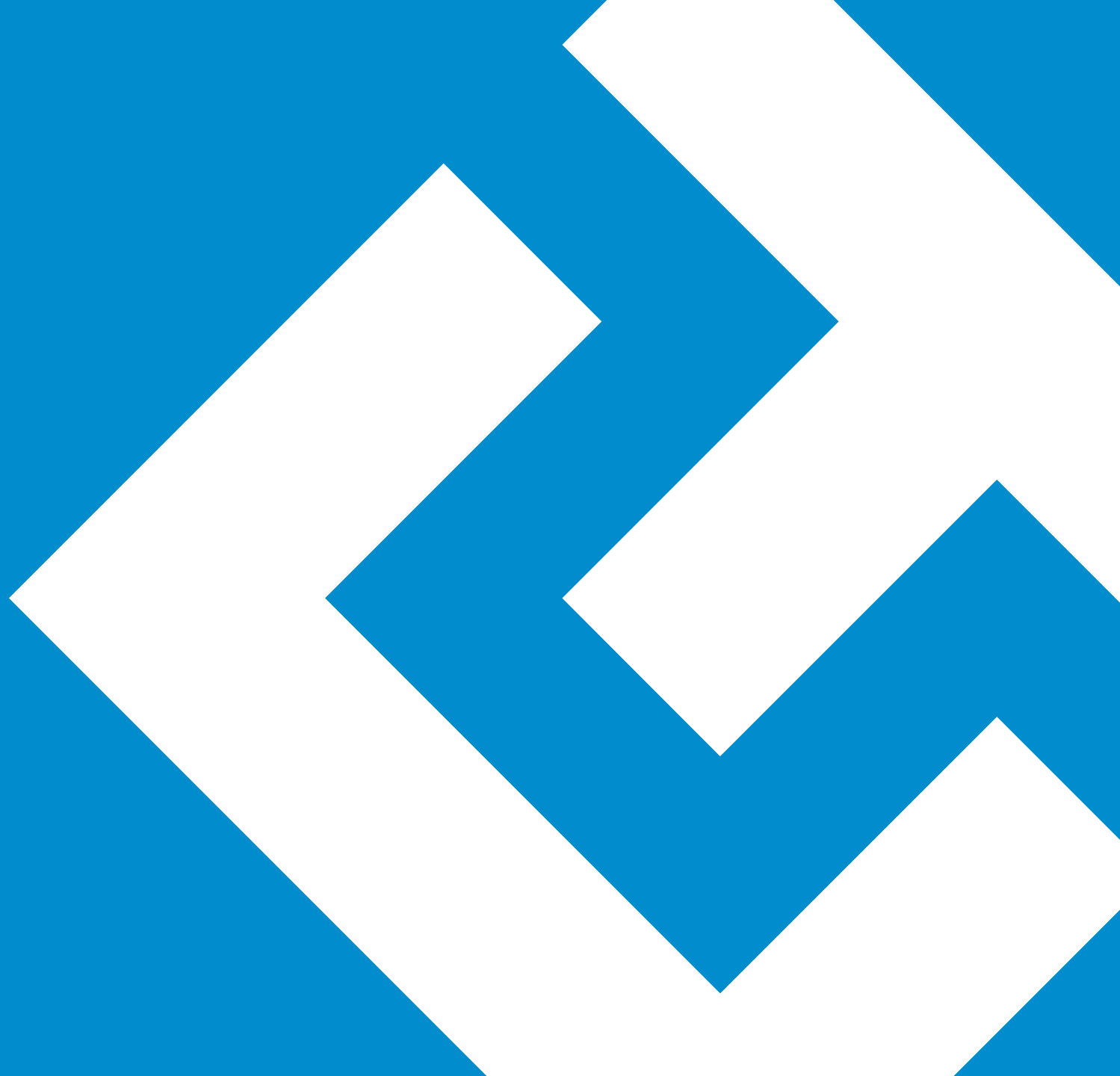
**HANDBOOK FOR MSCA  
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS**

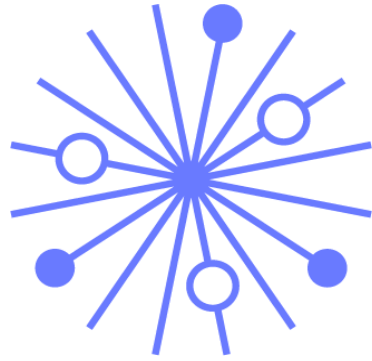


**AVAILABLE NOW**

# NCP\_WIDERA.NET PROJECT SERVICES

—





# NCP\_ WIDERA.NET



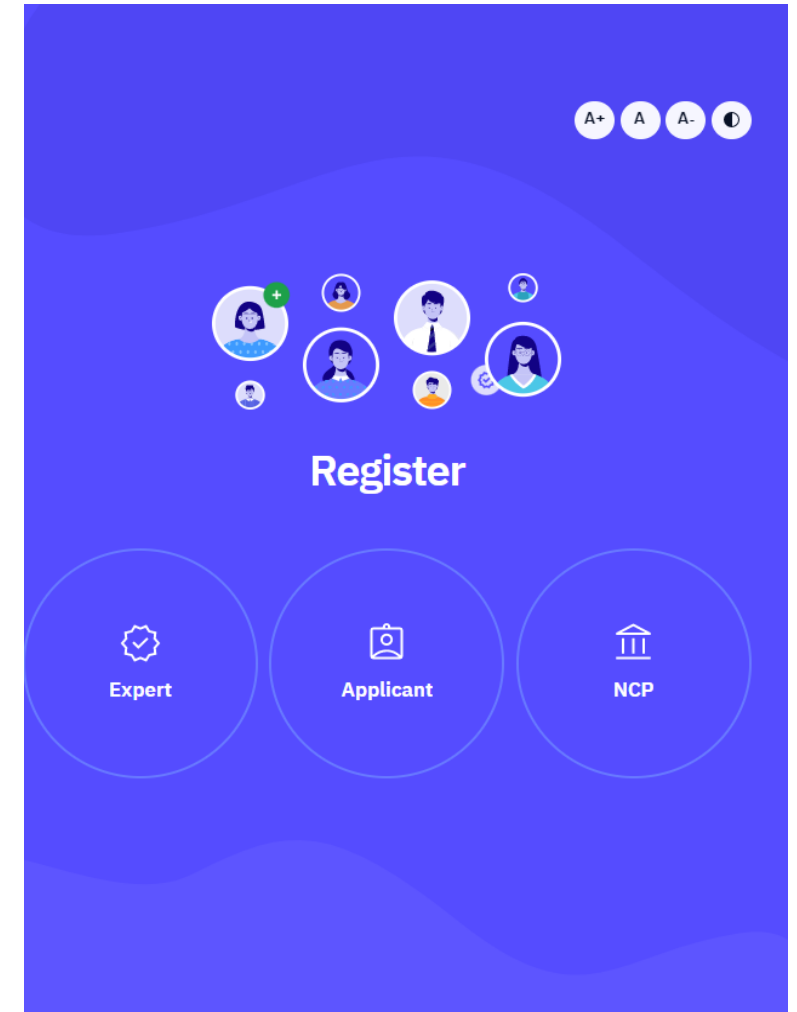
Funded by  
the European Union

## NCP\_WIDERA.NET: TRANSNATIONAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS (NCPS) FOR WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

- NCP\_WIDERA.NET supports the capacity and effectiveness of the WIDERA NCPs in low performing Member States and Associated Countries
- The project aims to support **international networking and coordination**, and to **improve the quality of proposals** through better access to services provided by the NCPs during the application process, in particular with regard to Widening Participation and Strengthening the ERA, as well as Pillar II actions
- NCP\_WIDERA.NET identifies and **shares good practices** within the NCP community and **raises the standard of support** provided by NCPs to applicants.

# PROJECT PROPOSAL PRE-SCREENING

- **Wideraexperts.eu** is a free-of-charge portal that facilitates the matchmaking of experts with applicants preparing proposals (as Coordinator or WP Leader) to the following HE calls: Widening, ERA, Pillar II clusters and EIC Pathfinder schemes
- **The aim is to ensure the quality of proposals thanks to the feedback from independent experts / evaluators.** Anyone from an eligible Widening country preparing a project can register as an applicant. **The service of independent experts for Czech applicants is provided by the Technology Centre Prague through the Portal**
- A summary description of this service including the User Guide is [here](#)



# COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR PRE-SCREENING

Project partners		
Albania	Greece	Poland
Armenia	Hungary	Portugal
Bulgaria	Latvia	Serbia
Croatia	Lithuania	Slovakia
Cyprus	Macedonia	Slovenia
Czechia	Malta	Spain
Estonia	Moldova	Tunisia
FST beneficiaries		Bosnia & Herzegovina
France OR	Georgia	Kosovo
Montenegro	Morocco	Romania

# TRAVEL GRANTS



## Continuous call for applications for travel grants to support the participation of Widening entities in brokerage / matchmaking events of Horizon Europe Pillar 2 Clusters including Institutionalised European Partnerships

Grants of maximum amount of €1,000 are reimbursed to the applicants by project partners (and by the coordinator as FSTP) on the basis of application (+ short CV and confirmation of registration), signed contract and reimbursement request (follow-up form, hotel and flight invoice, flight ticket etc.).

### Come join us at the upcoming Pillar II clusters brokerage events

Are you interested in connecting with individuals and organizations who share your goals for collaborative partnerships? Look no further – join us at the upcoming brokerage events. Travel grants are available for attendees from eligible countries.



#### NCP\_WIDERA.NET Application for Brokerage Event participation

##### 1. Applicant

First name:	
Surname:	
Organization:	
Position:	
Address of the organization:	
E-mail address:	

##### 2. Event information (please attach the confirmation / validation of your registration and the programme of the event)

Name of the event:	
Horizon Europe thematic area:	



## COUNTRIES IMPLEMENTING THE TRAVEL GRANT SCHEME

<b>Armenia</b>	<b>Greece</b>	<b>Poland</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>Hungary</b>	<b>Romania</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	<b>Latvia</b>	<b>Serbia</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>Slovakia</b>
<b>Czechia</b>	<b>North Macedonia</b>	<b>Spain – Canary Islands</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>Moldova</b>	<b>Tunisia</b>
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>Montenegro</b>	<b>Türkiye</b>



# Our newsletter

We run a monthly newsletter about policy developments, events, and publications related to the WIDERA programme. We also keep our readers posted about the outcomes of our project and share news and insights from other NCP networks. [You can subscribe here.](#) You can also have a look at our past issues below.

## 2024



September



August



June



May



April



March



February



January

### Horizon Europe Widening and ERA programs

#### Applicant's success rate

Widening & ERA Program

Cost DESF EEI ERA ERA Chairs ERA Fellowships

ERA Talents Excellence Hubs Other R&I Policy Synergies Teaming

Twinninn

Call Deadline Year

2021 2023

2022

Applicant Role

Affiliated Coordinator

Associated Partner

Financial Applicants Proposals Beneficiaries Calls

#### Applicant's Success rate (%) - Beneficiaries vs Applicants by Country

● Applicants ● Beneficiaries ● Applicant's Success rate (Beneficiaries vs Applicants), %

Country Group	Applicants	Beneficiaries	Applicant's Success rate (Beneficiaries vs Applicants), %
EU-Non-Widening	5 164	1 188	23.0%
Widening	4 601	917	19.9%
AC-Widening	1 141	229	20.1%
Other	758	220	29.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 664</b>	<b>2 554</b>	<b>21.9%</b>

Country Code	Country	Applicants	Beneficiaries	Applicant's Success rate (Beneficiaries vs Applicants), %
DE	Germany	954	212	22.2%
ES	Spain	794	170	21.4%
EL	Greece	835	164	19.6%
IT	Italy	836	159	19.0%
FR	France	577	138	23.9%
BE	Belgium	363	132	36.4%
PT	Portugal	638	118	18.5%
NL	Netherlands	469	111	23.7%
UK	United Kingdom	349	98	28.1%
CZ	Czechia	373	84	22.5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>11 664</b>	<b>2 554</b>	<b>21.9%</b>



# QUESTIONS?

---

**Anna Vosečková**  
WIDERA and EIT NCP

+420 606 062 739

voseckova@tc.cz

[www.tc.cz](http://www.tc.cz)