



TECHNOLOGY
CENTRE PRAGUE

WIDERA WP 2025 OUTLOOK TO 2026-2027 EVENTS

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Webinář Služby českým účastníkům, Praha online
23 June 2025



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, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- **14 countries associated to the HE** (as of 1st 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

BROŽURA WIDENING V HE

1. Úvod (co je Widening, výčet způsobilých zemí, typy nástrojů a opatření)	4
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Anna Vosečková

VADEMECUM²⁰²⁵
Horizon Europe

Rozšiřování účasti a šíření excelence
Widening participation and spreading excellence
(WPSE, Widening)

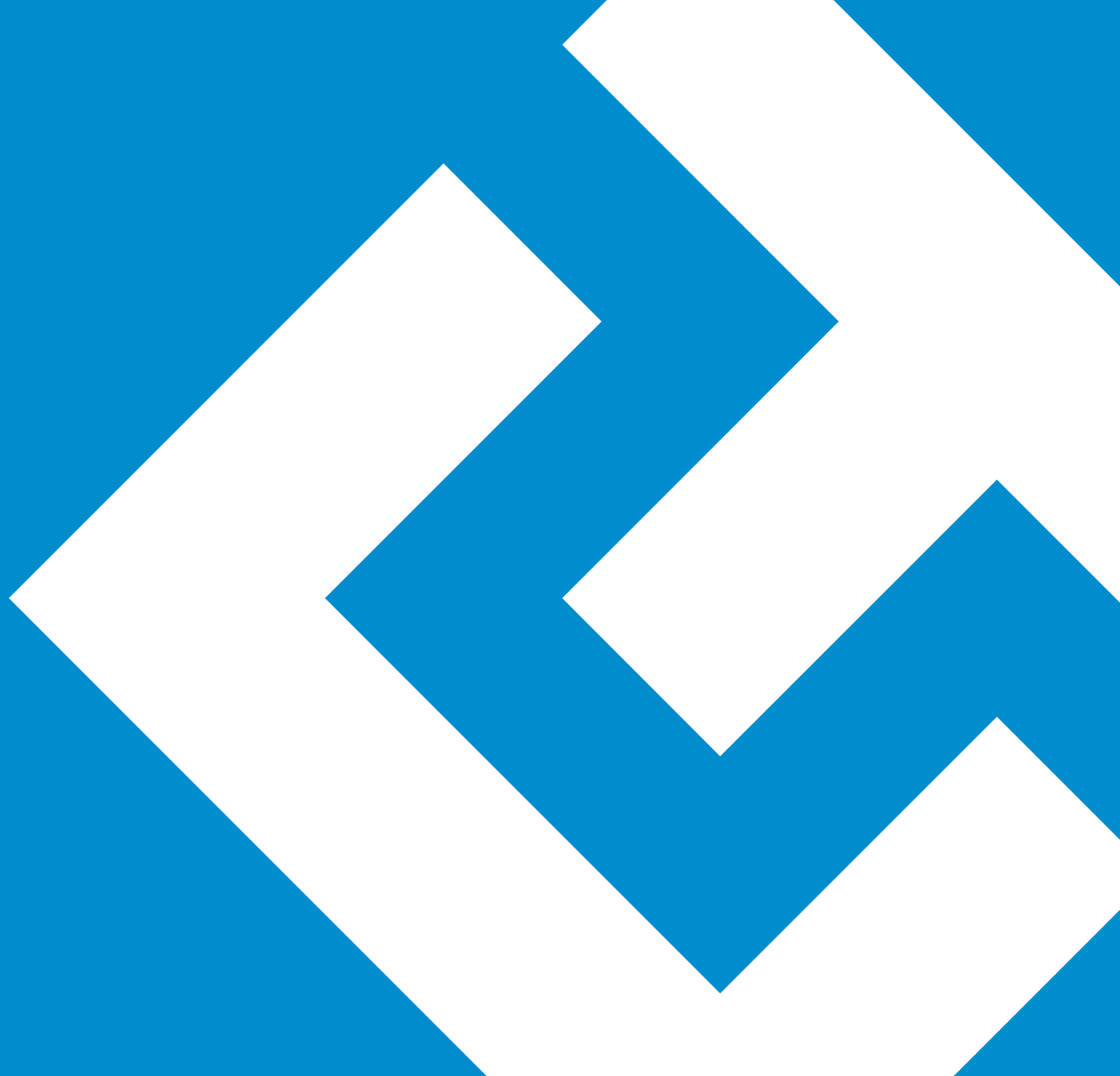
 TECHNOLOGICKÉ
CENTRUM PRAHA



CALLS 2025

—

**PUBLISHED
IN WP 2023–2025**





TEAMING FOR EXCELLENCE HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-ACCESS-01-01- two-stage

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

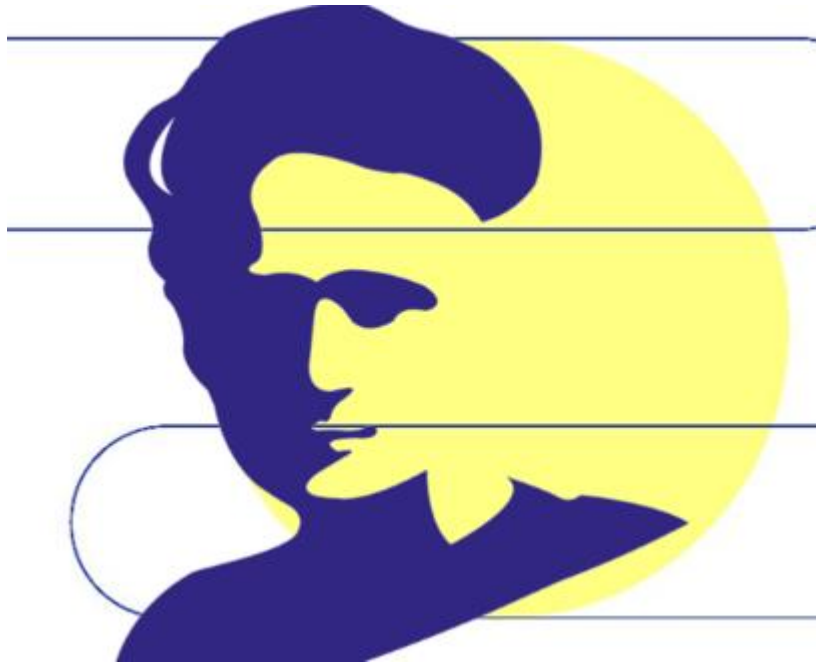
- ✓ help Widening countries to increase their R&I intensity
- ✓ attain a competitive position in the European R&I system and globally
- ✓ stimulate changes on national level

■ **Deadlines: 10 April 2025 (First Stage)**

20 January 2026 (Second Stage)

Expected: 18 grants

340 PROJECTS
SUBMITTED



HANDBOOK FOR MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS



AVAILABLE NOW

ERA FELLOWSHIPS

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

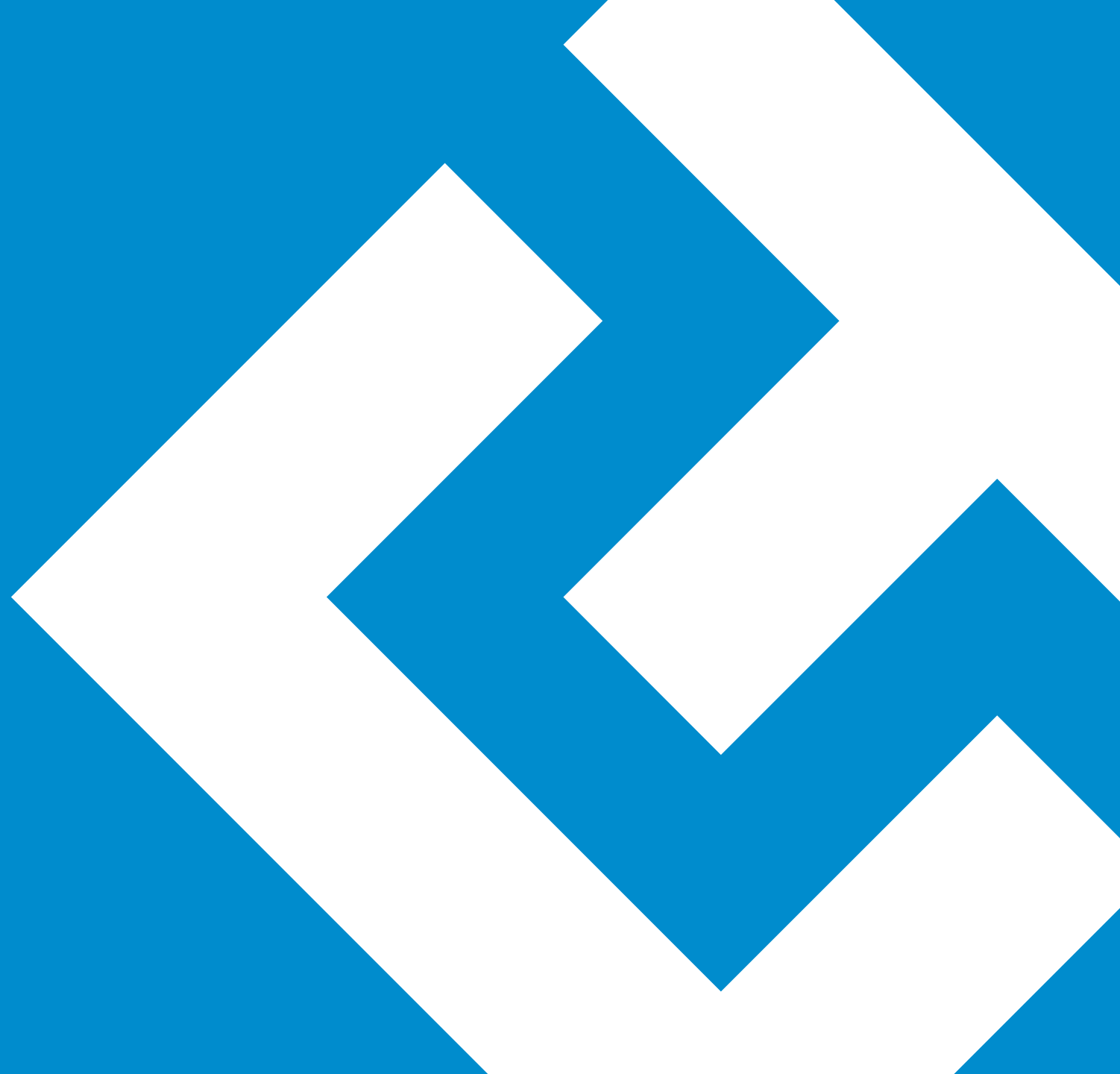
- ✓ carry out their research activities in Widening countries
- ✓ acquire new skills
- ✓ and develop their careers

Applications are submitted to MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships calls **HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF**

- **Opening:** **08 May 2025**
- **Deadline:** **10 September 2025**

WIDENING CALLS 2025

WORK PROGRAMMES
PUBLISHED ON FTOP
ON 14 MAY 2025



WIDENING WORK PROGRAMME 2025

SPECIFIC
APPLICATION
FORMS

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

EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-01-ACCES-01

- **Consortium:** coordinator from Widening country and min. 2 partners from other EU Member States or Countries associated to HE
- **Cost for R&I activities** cannot exceed **20% of the total budget** – see point 3 of the activities catalogue:
 - 3. development of research excellence**
 - Sharing R&I capacities including infrastructures
 - Developing joint strategic R&I agendas
 - Seed R&I projects to test R&I agendas, explore new joint strands and consolidate partnership
- **Educational activities are excluded**

Type of action: CSA

Funding rate: 100%

Project duration: 3–5 years

Indicative number of projects: 27

Call budget: 80 M€

Project budget: 2–5 M€

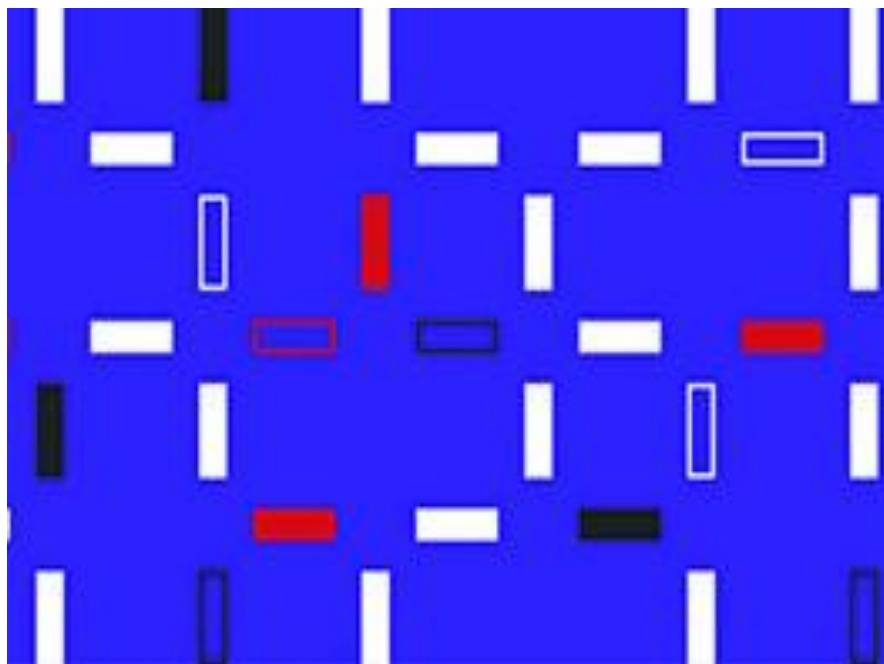
Call opening: 8. 5. 2025

Call closing: 20. 11. 2025

EIC PRE-ACCELERATOR – WIDENING

MAIN OBJECTIVE – increase the innovation potential of early-stage 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)



EIC PRE-ACCELERATOR – WIDENING HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-02-ACCES-01

- **Mono-beneficiary action** – one legal entity (SME) from a Widening country
- Each proposals evaluated by 3 experts following the evaluation criteria of EIC Transition Open (1st evaluation step)
- **Seal of Excellence** awarded to all projects meeting the evaluation thresholds but not funded due to lack of available budget
- Successful applicants and those with SoE will have **free access to EIC Business Accelerator Services**

Type of action: CSA

Funding rate: 70%

Type of funding: Lump sum

Project duration: 2 years max.

Indicative number of projects: 50

Call budget: 20 M€

Project budget: 0,3–0,5 M€

Call opening: 12. 6. 2025

Call closing: 18. 11. 2025

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

HOP ON FACILITY (HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-03-ACCES-01)

- Additional partner and his tasks or Work Package should be described in a dedicated proposal template (available on the call page)
- Choose only from the list of eligible RIA projects available on [FTOP](#)
- **Proposal must be submitted by a coordinator of the relevant project**
- No more than 10% of the proposed budget can be allocated to the coordinator for integration of a new Widening beneficiary

Type of action: **RIA**

Funding rate: **100%**

Project duration: **depends**

Indicative number of projects: 90

Call budget: **40 M€**

Project budget: **0,2 – 0,6 M€**

Call opening: 6. 5. 2025

Call closing: 4. 9. 2025

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

SUPPORT TO ENLARGEMENT COUNTRIES

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-04-ACCES-01

- Coordinator must be from a Widening country + min. two partners from other EU MS or AC
- **At least 50% of the budget must be allocated to Widening beneficiaries**
- Provide support to
 - national and regional R&I and education initiatives
 - development and implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies and macro-regional strategies
- **FSTP may be provided in form of grants of max. amount 60 000 EUR**

Type of action: CSA

Funding rate: 100%

Project duration: n/a

Indicative number of projects: 1

Call budget: 3 M€

Project budget: 3 M€

Call opening: 6. 5. 2025

Call closing: 16. 9. 2025

WIDENING 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%)**
- ✓ Either Financial support to third parties (FSTP), PCP or PPI is obligatory

IMPLEMENTING CO-FUNDED ACTION PLANS FOR CONNECTED RIVS IN WIDENING COUNTRIES (WC)

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-05-ACCESS-01

- Mirroring the call HORIZON-EIE-2025-02-CONNECT-02 in the **EIE WP 2025** adapted to WC
- Coordinator from a WC and at least 2 national or regional authorities from 2 other different MS or AC, out of which 1 must be from WC and 1 from non-WC
- **FSTP max. grant – 0,6 M€**
- **Letters of commitment** for the sources of co-funding must be attached
- **First annual work plan** has to be part of the proposal

Type of action: CO-FUND

Funding rate: 50% of the total eligible costs

Project duration: 3-5 years

Indicative number of projects: 4

Call budget: 24 M€

Project budget: 5-8 M€

Call opening: 14. 5. 2025

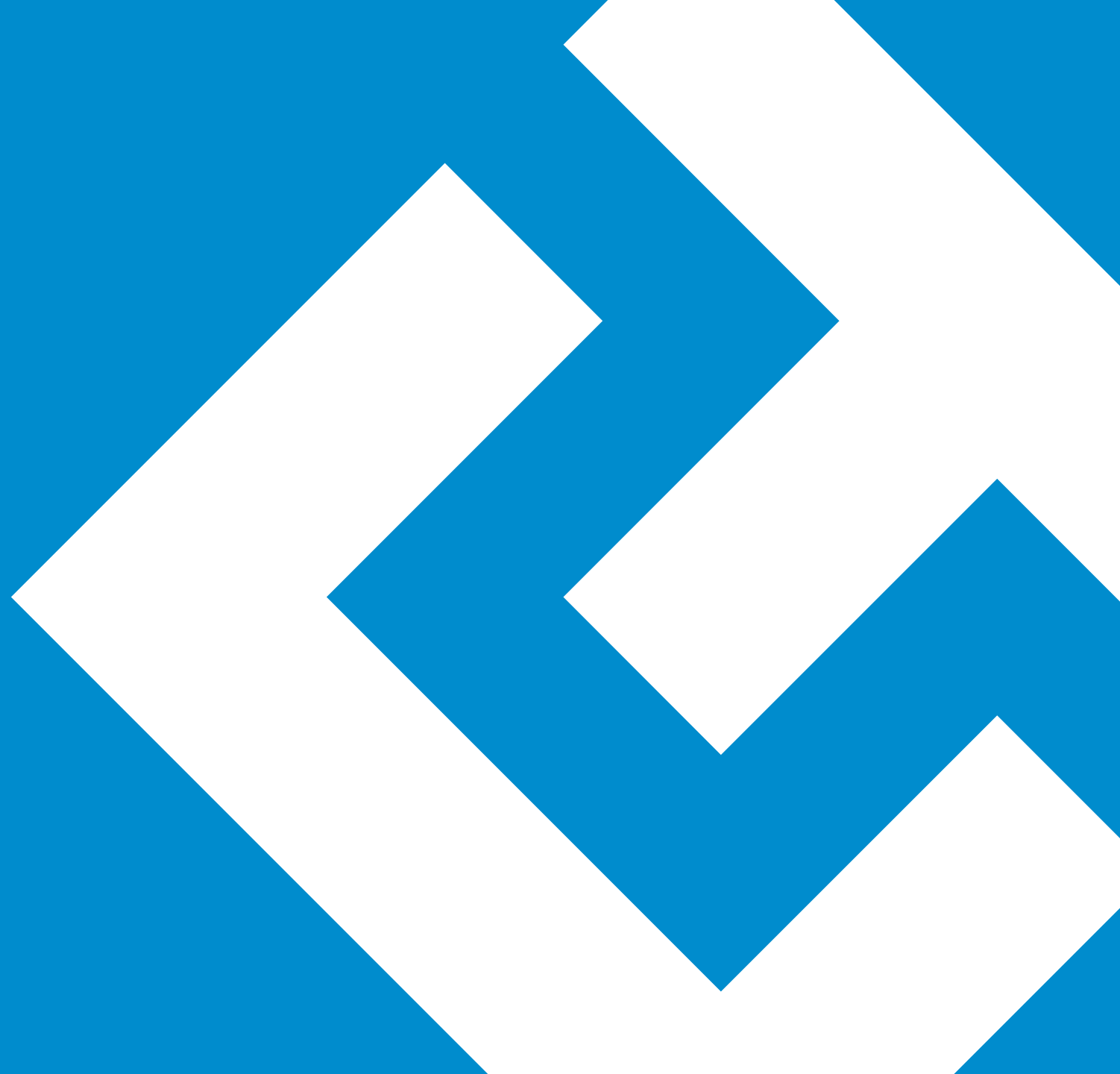
Call closing: 15. 10. 2025

minimum 3 interregional
innovation projects

WP 2025 – OVERVIEW (WITH CALL DEADLINES)

- **TEAMING for Excellence** (*institution building or CoE modernisation*)
10 April 2025
- **Hop on Facility** (adding one Widening partner to funded RIA project)
4 September 2025
- **ERA Fellowships** (within the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call)
10 September 2025
- **Action plans for Regional Innovation Valleys in Widening countries**
15 October 2025
- **EIC Pre-accelerator for Widening SMEs**
18 November 2025
- **European Excellence Initiative, EEI** (strengthening HEIs networks and surrounding ecosystems)
20 November 2025

**PLANNED FOR
2026-2027**



EXCELLENCE HUBS 2026

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 (quadruple helix)

Funding rate reduced to 70%

TWINNING 2026

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

FULLY BOTTOM UP

ERA FELLOWSHIPS 2026 and 2027

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

HOP ON FACILITY 2026

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
- ✓ Call not planned for 2027



RESEARCH MANAGEMENT FACILITY 2026

MAIN OBJECTIVE – address research management and its multiple dimensions

- Provide training and consulting services to institutions in Widening countries that
 - Lack such capacities
 - Do not have sufficient expertise for
 - ✓ Setting up a grant office
 - ✓ And / or research management teams
 - To empower them to take over the consortium leadership tasks
 - FSTP may be provided (grants up to 60 000 EUR)

ONE PROJECT

EIC PRE-ACCELERATOR WIDENING 2027

MAIN OBJECTIVE – increase the innovation potential of early-stage 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)

Text might be updated reflecting the results of 2025 call

ERA CHAIRS 2027

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 a permanent top research team

+ NEW: ERA RESEARCH MANAGERS

PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WIDENING 2025



INFORMATION DAYS (LINKS IN THE PICTURES)



TA ČR

Zveme Vás na webinář
**Aktuální příležitosti
pro podporu inovativních
startupů a malých
a středních podniků**

pořádaný Technologickou agenturou
České republiky, Technologickým
centrem Praha a agenturou
CzechInvest.

O WEBINÁŘI

Termín: 22. 5. 2025 v 9:30 hodin
Předpokládáný konec webináře: do 12:00 hodin

Probíraná témata:

- Podpora CzechInvestu pro startupy
- Soutěže TA ČR v SIGMA DCI
- Evropské výzvy Pre-Akcelerator a EIC Akcelerator
- EIC Akcelerator Plug-in schéma
- Možnosti investic do startupů v ČR

REGISTROVAT SE

Registrovaným pošleme link a upřesněný obsah
webináře pár dnů před akcí.

**EIC PRE-
ACCELERATOR
WIDENING**

**CZ-SK WEBINAR ON PROPOSAL
WRITING - EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE
INITIATIVE (EEI) 2025**
4. září 2025 (9:30-12:00)

Registrace **[zde](#)**



 **EUROPEAN UNION**

 **#HorizonEU**

EUROPEAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS
Online Info Session

3 June 2025
10:00-12:00 CEST

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THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME 2021 - 2027

**REGIONAL
INNOVATION
VALLEYS**

PROPOSAL WRITING USEFULL DOCUMENTS



ADMINISTRATIVE FORMS - PART A

ncpwideranet.eu

Administrative Forms

Part A

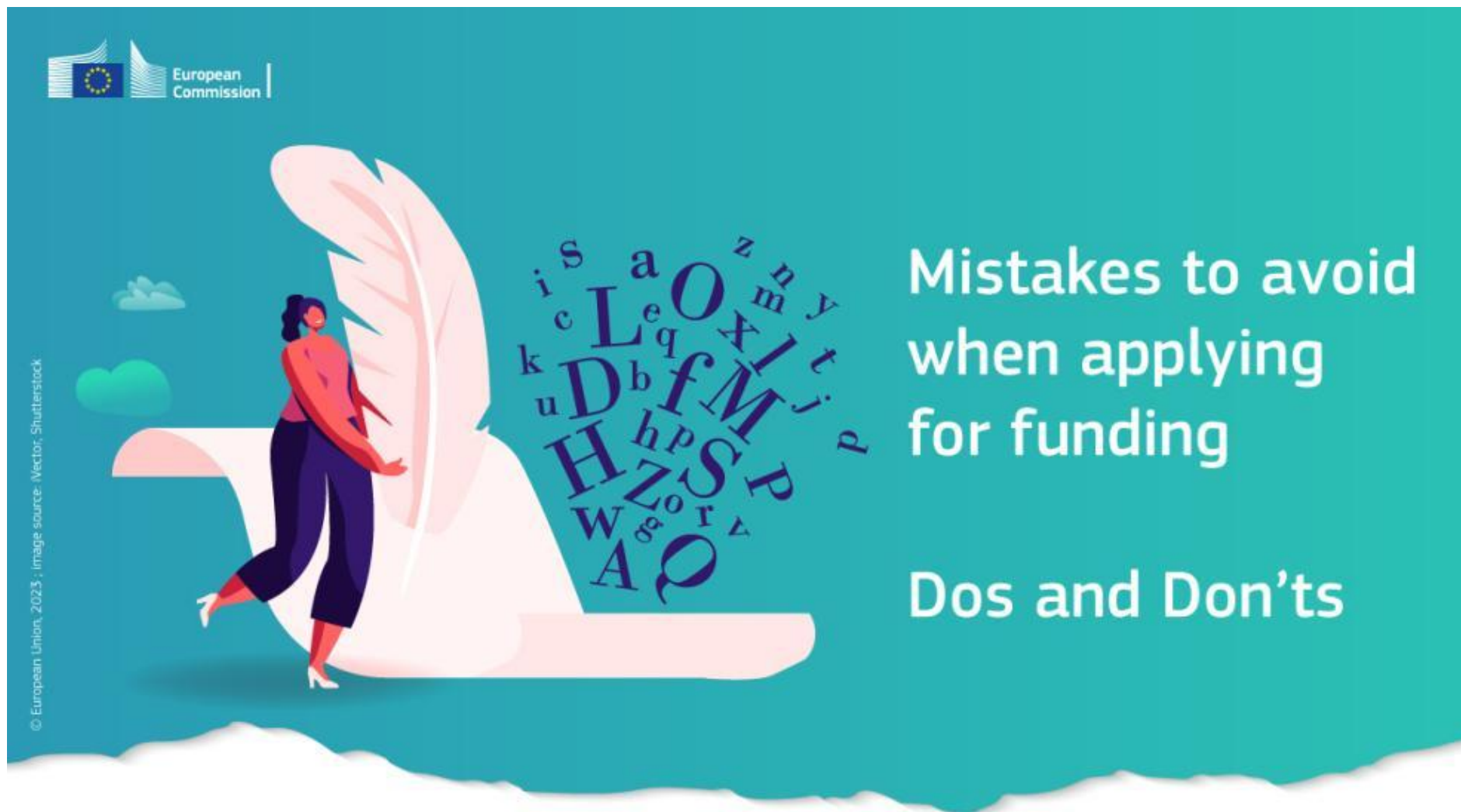


NCP_
WIDERA.NET



Funded by
the European Union

EC REA RECOMMENDATIONS ON QUALITY PROPOSALS PREPARATION (LINKS TO BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS INCLUDED)





QUESTIONS? DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME!

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DĚKUJEME ZA ZPĚTNOU VAZBU 😊 😊 😊

