



TECHNOLOGY
CENTRE PRAGUE

WIDENING CALLS 2025

Anna Vosečková, WIDERA and EIT NCP
30 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 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

BROŽURA WIDENING V HE

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Anna Vosečková

VADEMECUM²⁰²⁵
Horizon Europe

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

CALLS 2025

—
**ALREADY 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:

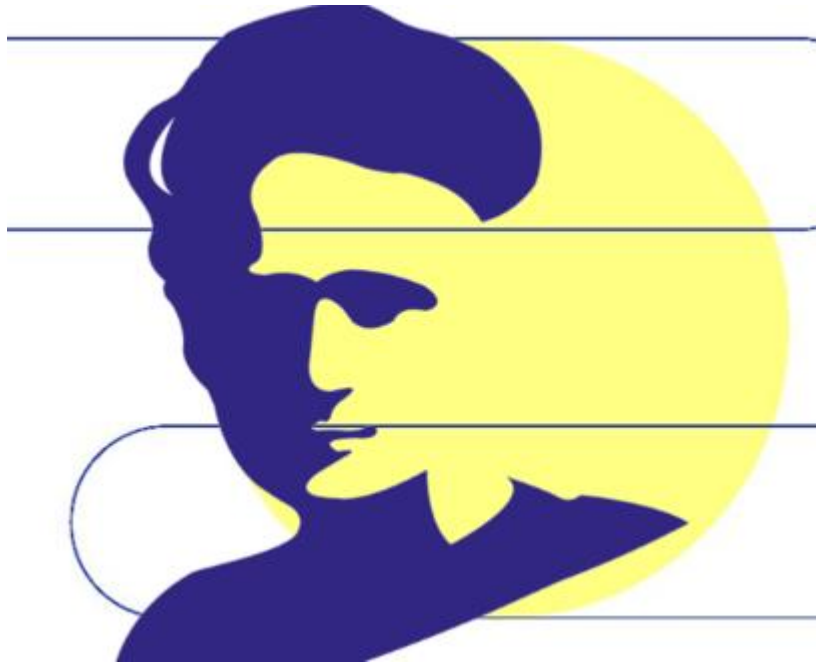
- ✓ help Widening countries to increase their R&I intensity
- ✓ attain a competitive position in the European R&I system and globally
- ✓ stimulate changes on national level

■ **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

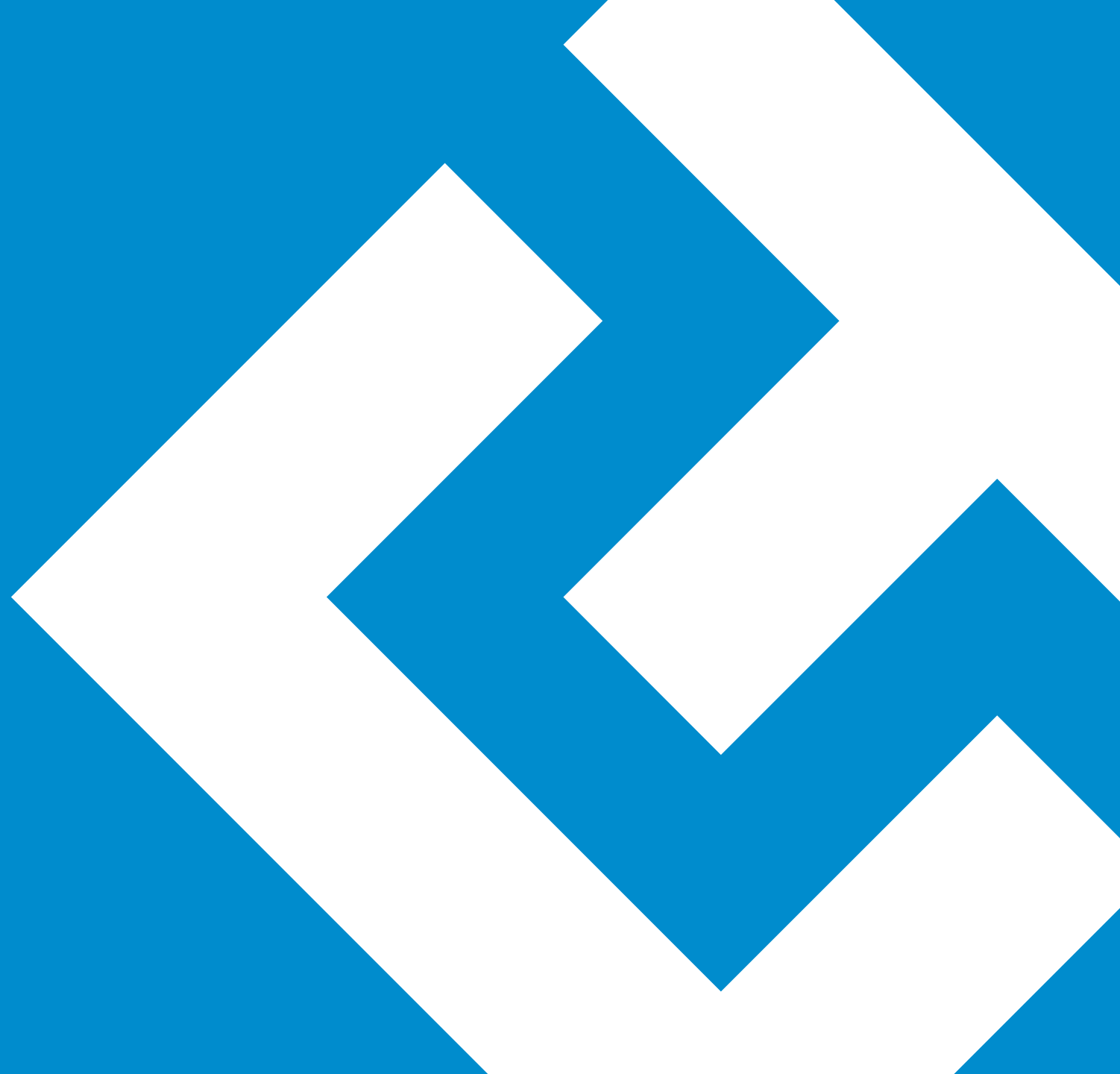
- ✓ carry out their research activities in Widening countries
- ✓ acquire new skills
- ✓ and develop their careers

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

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

WIDENING CALLS 2025

**WORK PROGRAMME
WIDERA PUBLISHED ON
FTOP ON 14 MAY 2025**

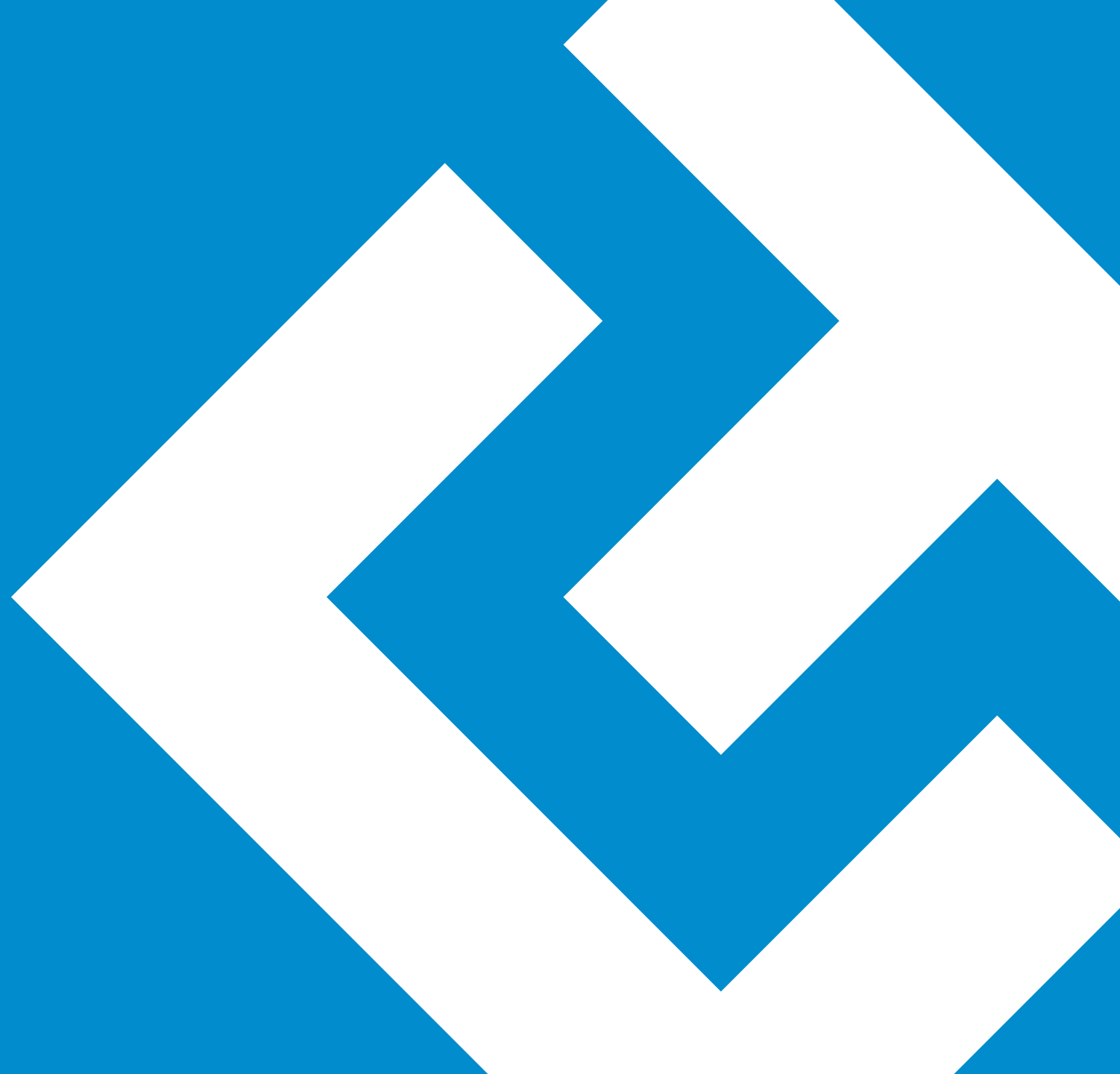


WIDENING WORK PROGRAMME 2025

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 (EEI)**





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 with a particular focus on Widening countries
- ✓ Improve global competitiveness and visibility of Europe's HEIs, especially in key areas such as the green transition and HE mission areas
- ✓ Improve researchers career opportunities, balanced circulation of talents, fair and modern research assessment

MAIN CHANGES FROM THE EEI CALL 2023

- Increased budget up to 80 M€ (54 M€)
- Streamlined objectives and outcomes
- **Widening conditions** changed from formerly 'Applicants have to convincingly demonstrate this geographical focus, for instance, by a budget allocation of at least 70% to participants from Widening countries.' to '**... to convincingly demonstrate this geographical focus conceptually and by allocation of the major share of the budget (at least 51%) to participants from Widening countries**'
- Requirement to present **research activities in distinct WP**
- Modular structure of **activity catalogue**

OUTCOMES AND MODULES OF ACTIVITIES

OUTCOMES (ALL OF THEM)

- Modernisation and upgrade of HEIs in the R&I dimension,
- Mainstreamed culture of excellence in science and knowledge valorisation
- Accelerated institutional reforms in the R&I dimension and R&I capacities
- Strengthened digital skills and capacities including AI of the R&I dimension
- Increased global competitiveness and critical mass of research in the European higher education system
- Contribution to ERA Policy Action 13: Empower HEIs

ACTIVITY MODULES (AT LEAST 4)

- Institutional modernisation and reforms (modern research assessment and improved RMAs practices)
- Upskilling of research, technical and management staff (exchanges, trainings)
- Development of research excellence (share R&I capacities, develop joint strategic R&I agendas, seed projects)
- Digital transformation (AI techniques, digital infrastructure, data science)
- Outreach (links with innovation ecosystems including industries, citizens, cities, regions)

EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-01-ACCES-01

- **Consortium:** coordinator from a 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 and need to be in a specific Work Package** – see activity module 3
 - 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

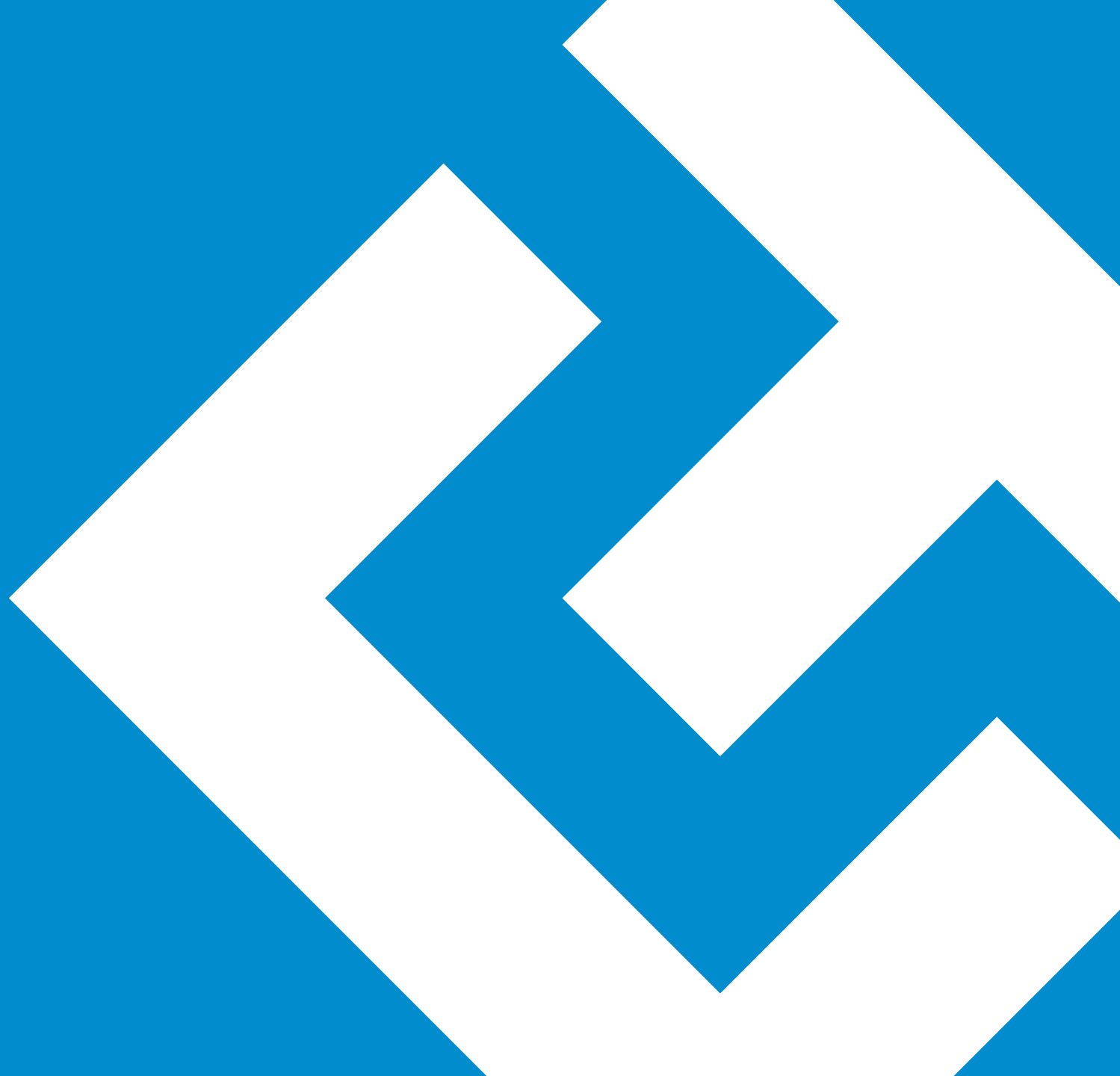
Call budget: 80 M€

Project budget: 2–5 M€

Call opening: 14. 5. 2025

Call closing: 20. 11. 2025

EIC PRE- ACCELERATOR - WIDENING



EIC PRE-ACCELERATOR
AS OF 2 P.M.



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)

SCOPE

Focus on early-stage deep-tech startups which

- 1) have high-impact innovation technology, product, service, or business model that could create new markets or disrupt existing ones, and
- 2) have the ambition and commitments to scale up

SPECIFIC OUTCOME

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

GRANT IS EXPECTED TO BE USED FOR

- addressing the investor and market readiness towards commercialisation and deployment (market research, value proposition, business case and business model, prospects for growth, intellectual property protection, competitor analysis etc.
- maturation and validation of novel technologies beyond proof of concept to viable demonstrators of the technology in the intended field of application (i.e., from minimum TRL 4 up to TRL 6)

AT ITS END, THE PROJECT NEEDS TO

- demonstrate that the technology component of their innovation has been tested and validated in a laboratory and other relevant environment (e.g. at least completed all aspects of TRL 5)
- be ready to apply for EIC Accelerator and/or to seek other investors or sources of funding, to enter licensing or collaboration agreements with third parties, or other routes to market deployment

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

- **Mono-beneficiary action** – one legal entity (SME) from a Widening country
- **Seal of Excellence** awarded to all projects meeting the evaluation thresholds but not funded due to lack of available budget
- **Ex-aequo proposals:** prioritised according to geographical diversity criteria
- Funded projects will have **access to the EIC Accelerator Fast Track for submissions to the Accelerator programme** following a project review in the project's 2nd half
- Successful applicants and those with SoE will have **free access to EIC Business Acceleration Services**

Type of action: CSA

Funding rate: 70%

Type of funding: Lump sum

Project duration: 2 years max.

Indicative number of projects: 50

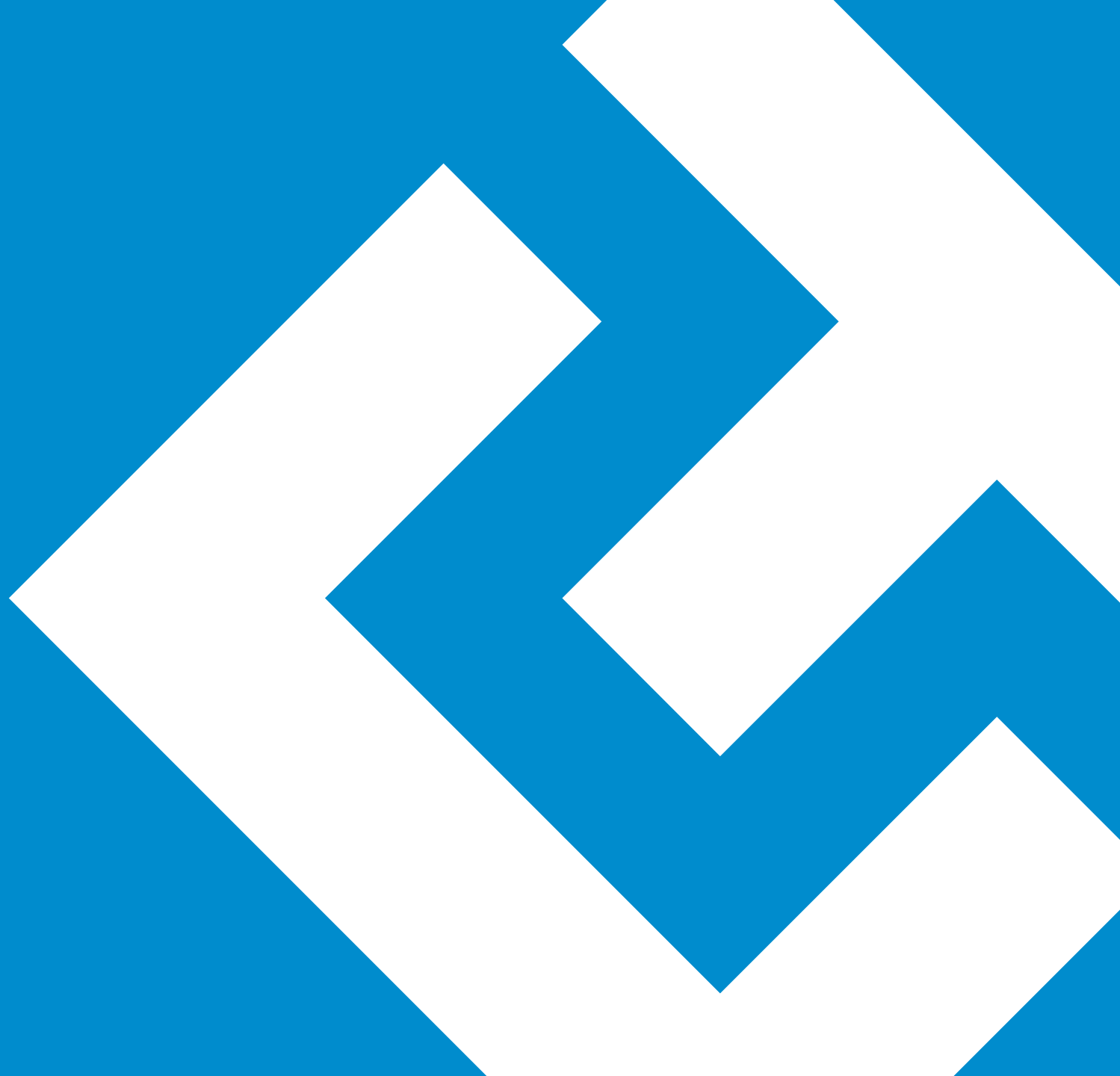
Call budget: 20 M€

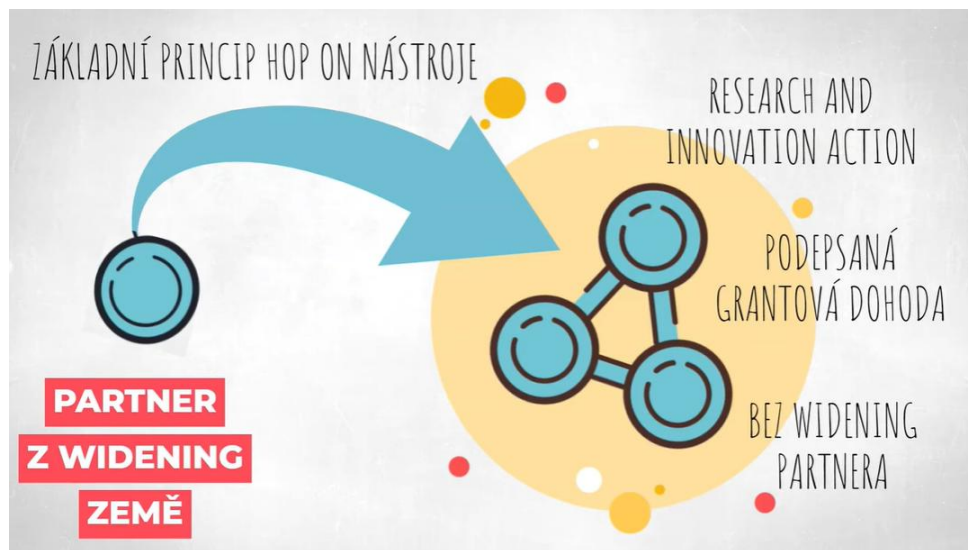
Project budget: 0,3-0,5 M€

Call opening: 12. 6. 2025

Call closing: 18. 11. 2025

HOP ON FACILITY





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

PROPOSAL CONTENT

- demonstrate the R&I added value of the new beneficiary for the eligible already selected RIA project
- include a detailed description of the profile of the new beneficiary and its R&I role and complementarity in the existing project
- additional beneficiary and activities should be presented in a dedicated proposal template with the Description of the Action (DoA) of the ongoing action uploaded as an annex
- if budget is reserved for the coordinator, the proposal should justify the amounts in terms of integration efforts for the new participant.

IN CASE OF SUCCESS

- Coordinator of the relevant RIA project will be invited to submit an amendment request for accession of the Widening beneficiary, modification of the description of the action and budget

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Proposal must**
 - include only one legal entity as a beneficiary (established in a WC) and one legal entity which is the coordinator of an eligible RIA project
 - be submitted by the coordinator
- **Eligible RIA projects have to meet the following conditions**
 1. No legal entity established in a WC is already a beneficiary, affiliated entity or associated partner in the HE grant agreement (GA)
 2. At the time of submission of the proposal (and for any GA signature), the granting authority of the HE GA is the European Commission or an Executive Agency.
 3. HE GA was awarded to Pillar II 'main' Work Programme or EIC Pathfinder collaborative R&I actions
 4. **1st reporting period of the HE GA is ongoing at the submission deadline and the ongoing GA is between 1 to 12 months from its starting date by the submission deadline**



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 new budget can be allocated to the coordinator for integration of a new Widening beneficiary

Type of action: **RIA**

Funding rate: **100%**

Project duration: it depends

Indicative number of projects: 90

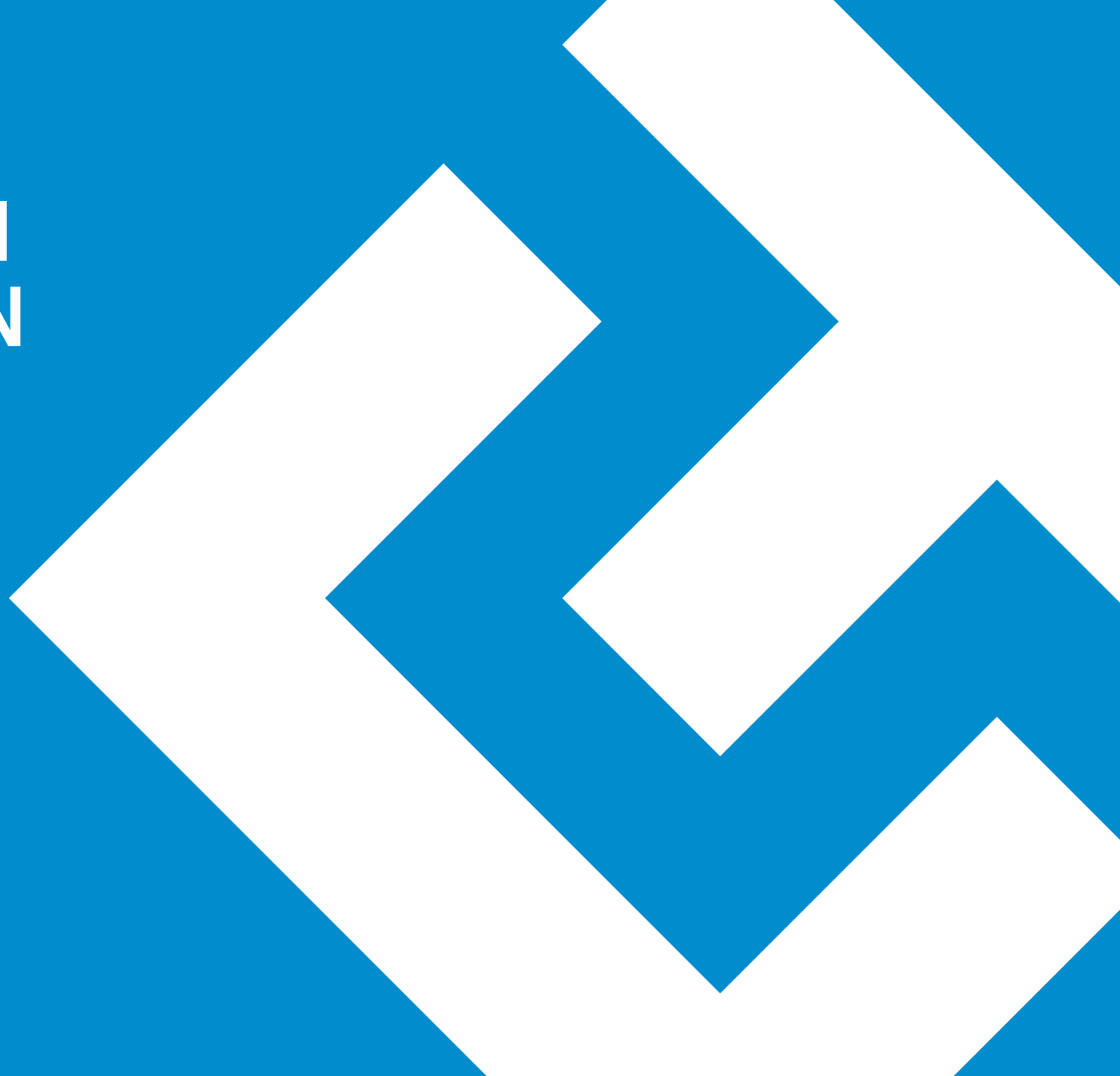
Call budget: **40 M€**

Project budget: **0,2 – 0,6 M€**

Call opening: 14. 5. 2025

Call closing: 4. 9. 2025

**SUPPORT FOR R&I
POLICY MAKING IN
THE EU
ENLARGEMENT
COUNTRIES**



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

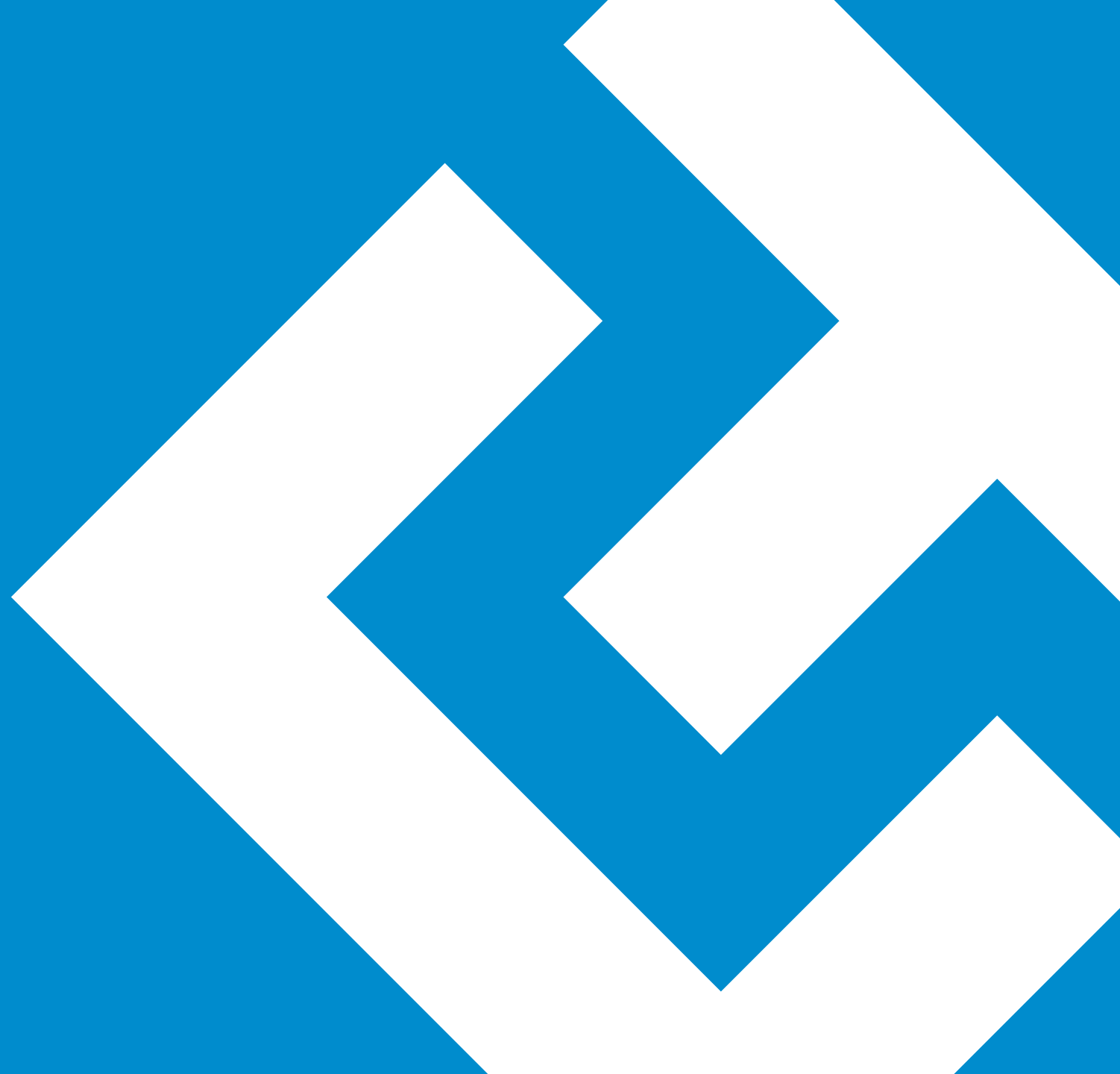
Call budget: 3 M€

Project budget: 3 M€

Call opening: 14. 5. 2025

Call closing: 16. 9. 2025

**IMPLEMENTING
CO-FUNDED
ACTION PLANS
FOR CONNECTED
REGIONAL
INNOVATION
VALLEYS IN
WIDENING
COUNTRIES**



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%)**
- ✓ Financial support to third parties (**FSTP**) and/or **PCP** or **PPI** is obligatory

CONTRIBUTE TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Joint definition of visions and strategies, involving actors from across the quadruple helix, based on their respective national/regional smart specialisation strategies
- Enhanced synergies, complementarities and cooperation among innovation ecosystems around strategic areas, technologies and challenges of common European interest
- Creation of common knowledge assets within regional innovation valleys and support to their cross-border connectedness
- Increased innovation capabilities including in deep tech, allowing innovators to bring their ideas to the market and enable innovations to be scaled up at EU level
- Better links between innovation 'leaders' and 'strong' innovator regions with 'moderate' and 'emerging' innovator regions
- More innovation co-investments, mobilising other funding instruments, including European, national or regional public funds and/or other private funds, to complement HE support;
- Increased participation of all innovation ecosystems actors across EU territories in technology and industrial value chains relevant to the EU twin green and digital transition to achieve broader sustainability

PROPOSAL CONTENT

- Commitment to enhance the coordination and directionality of R&I investments and policies, joint strategic visions, joint innovation programme of activities
- Necessary activities, process that will be followed and the R&I assets
- Explain the need and the reasons for selecting the proposed Annual Work Programmes that should be scalable at European level and demonstrate their strong EU added value
- Include a consistent set of core collaborative activities,
- Explain the reasons for selecting the proposed strategic areas of cooperation
- Present and explain how the consortium plans to design and coordinate the implementation of these joint activities
- Include set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in line with the proposed objectives to measures/activities
- Ensure their long-term commitment towards engaging in the cooperation activities set up in the frame of their projects

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€**
- **Annexes:**
 - Additional information on beneficiaries
 - Letter of intent
 - Annual Work Programme

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€

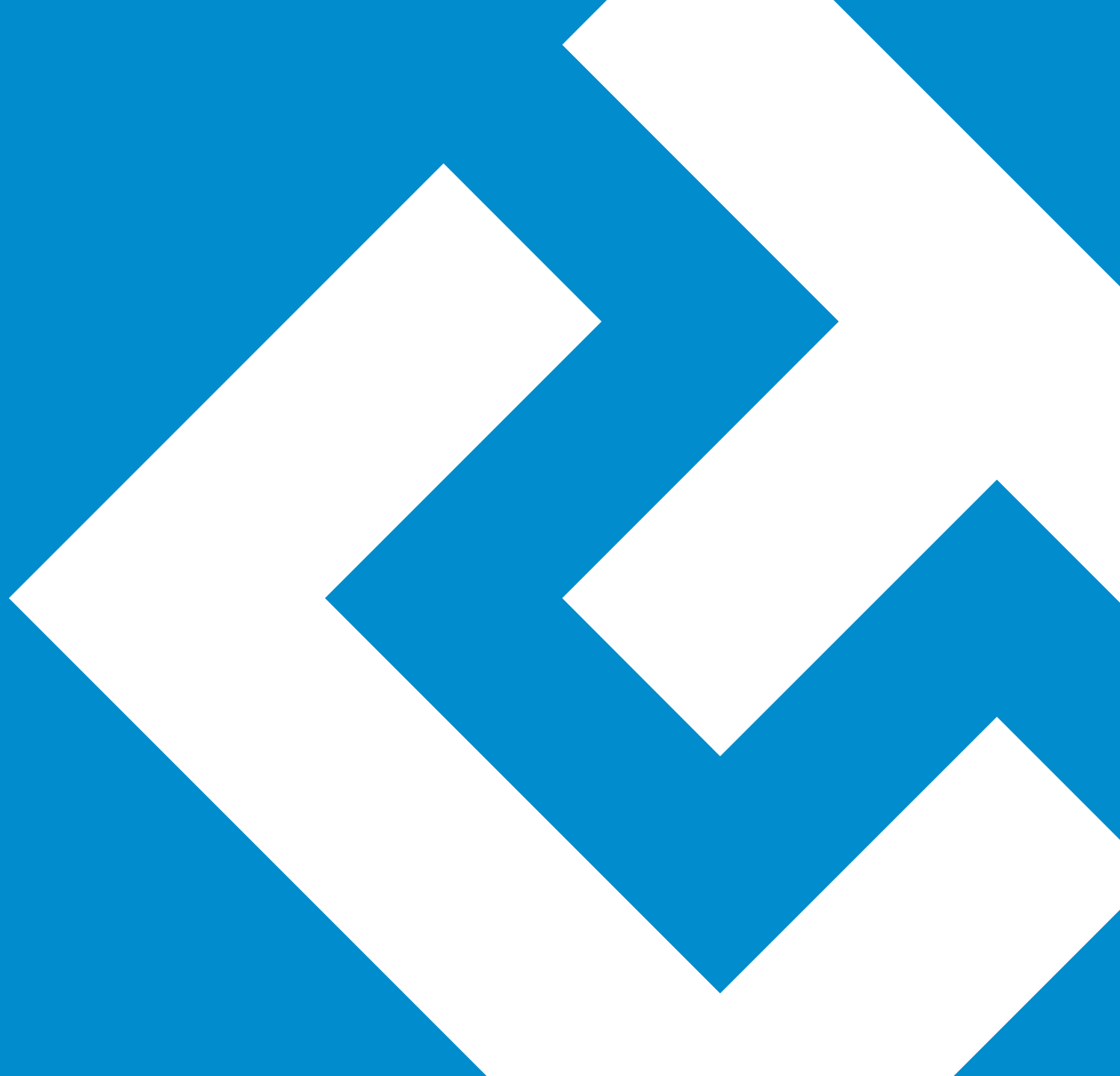
Project budget: 5-8 M€

Call opening: 14. 5. 2025

Call closing: 15. 10. 2025

minimum 3 interregional innovation projects

WIDENING CALLS 2025 - OVERVIEW



WP 2025 – OVERVIEW (WITH CALL DEADLINES)

- **TEAMING for Excellence** (*institution building or CoE modernisation*)
10 April 2025 (closed)
- **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

EVENTS 2025 AND SUPPORT SERVICES



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
Předpokládaný konec webináře: do 12:00 hodin

Probíraná témata:

- Podpora CzechInvestu pro startupy
- Soutěže TA ČR v SIGMA DCI
- Evropské výzvy Pre-Akcelérátor a EIC Akcelérátor
- EIC Akcelérátor 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**

SLUŽBY PROJEKTU WIDERADVANCE FACILITY

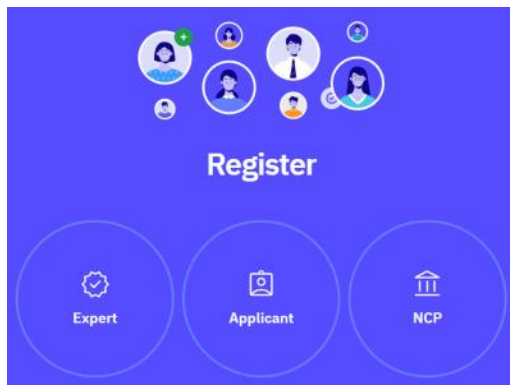
Webinář – služby českým
subjektům pre-award a post-
award

23. června 2025

PREZENTACE

PRVNÍ UZÁVĚRKA PRŮBĚŽNĚ OTEVŘENÉ VÝZVY – 31. ČERVENCE 2025 (a poté každé 3 měsíce)

- Projekt **widerAdvance Facility** (<https://www.wideradvance.eu/>) je nová iniciativa realizovaná v rámci programu HE (část Widening), jejímž cílem je zvýšit dopad výsledků výzkumu a podpořit jejich přenos do praxe (dissemination and exploitation). Zaměřuje se na výzkumné organizace z Widening zemí (včetně Česka), které se účastní nebo se v minulosti účastnily Widening projektů H2020 nebo Horizontu Evropa:
 - COST Actions; ERA Chairs; ERA Talents; Excellence Hubs; European Excellence Initiative; Hop-on facility; Pathways to synergies; Teaming for Excellence (Phase 2 in Horizon 2020); Teaming for Excellence (Stage 2 in Horizon Europe); Twinning; Twinning for Western Balkans; Widening/ERA Fellowship (H2020/HE)
- NA ČESKÉM WEBU HE **ZDE** (včetně kontaktní osoby pro Česko)

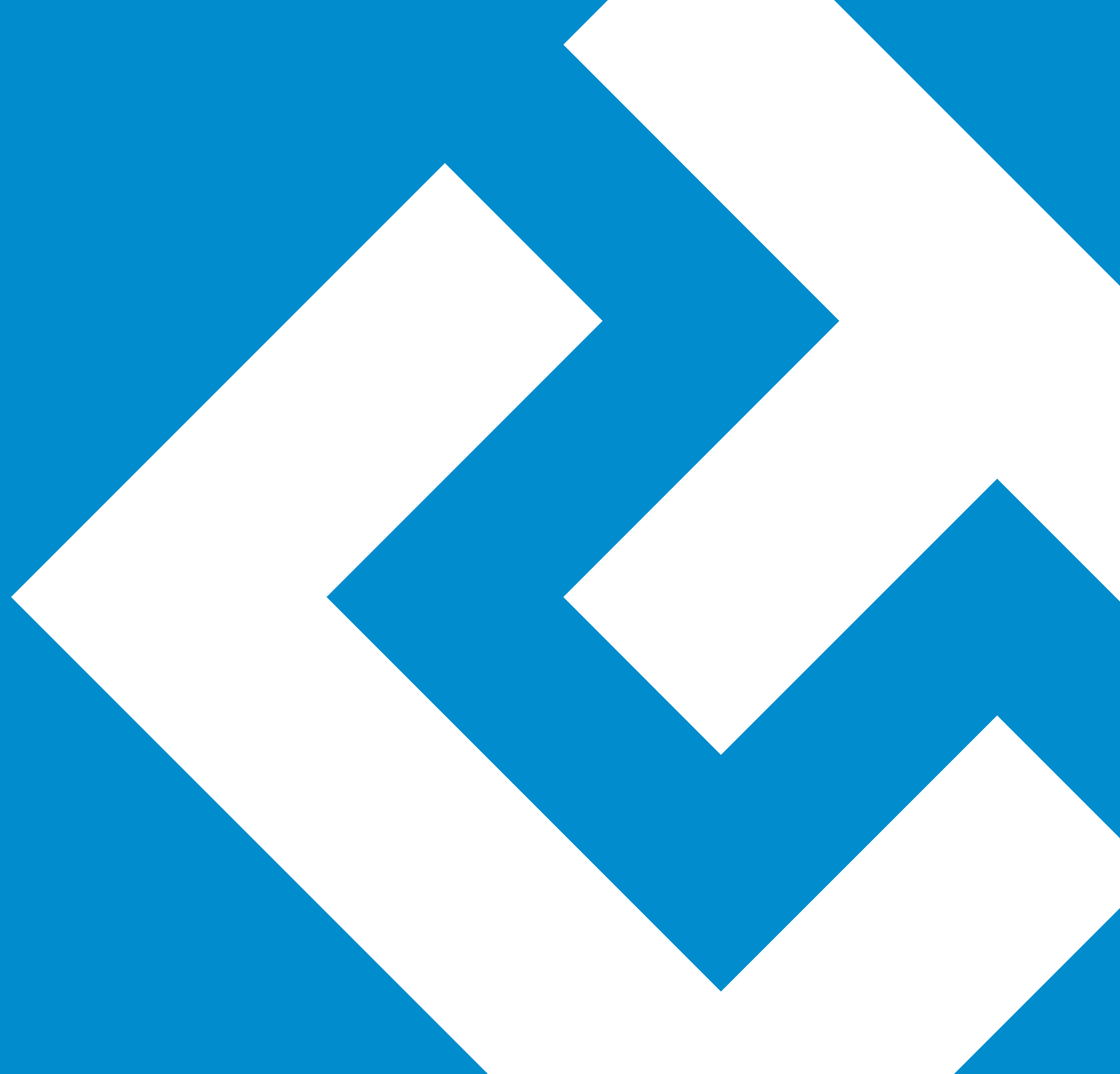


Celkem CZ	71
Využito	47
Zbývá	24

PRE-SCREENING NÁVRHŮ PROJEKTŮ

- [Wideraexperts.eu](https://wideraexperts.eu)
- bezplatný portál, který umožňuje pre-screening návrhů připravených českými koordinátory či vedoucími pracovními balíčků do výzev Widening, ERA, všech klastrů Pilíře 2 a EIC Pathfinder
- **zpětnou vazbu od nezávislých expertů/hodnotitelů českým subjektům bezplatně zajišťuje TC Praha prostřednictvím Portálu**
- Další informace v češtině včetně Průvodce pro uživatele portálu a seznamu způsobilých Widening zemí jsou [zde](#)

PROPOSAL WRITING USEFUL DOCUMENTS



ADMINISTRATIVE FORMS - PART A (HOW TO FILL IN)

ncpwideranet.eu

Administrative Forms

Part A

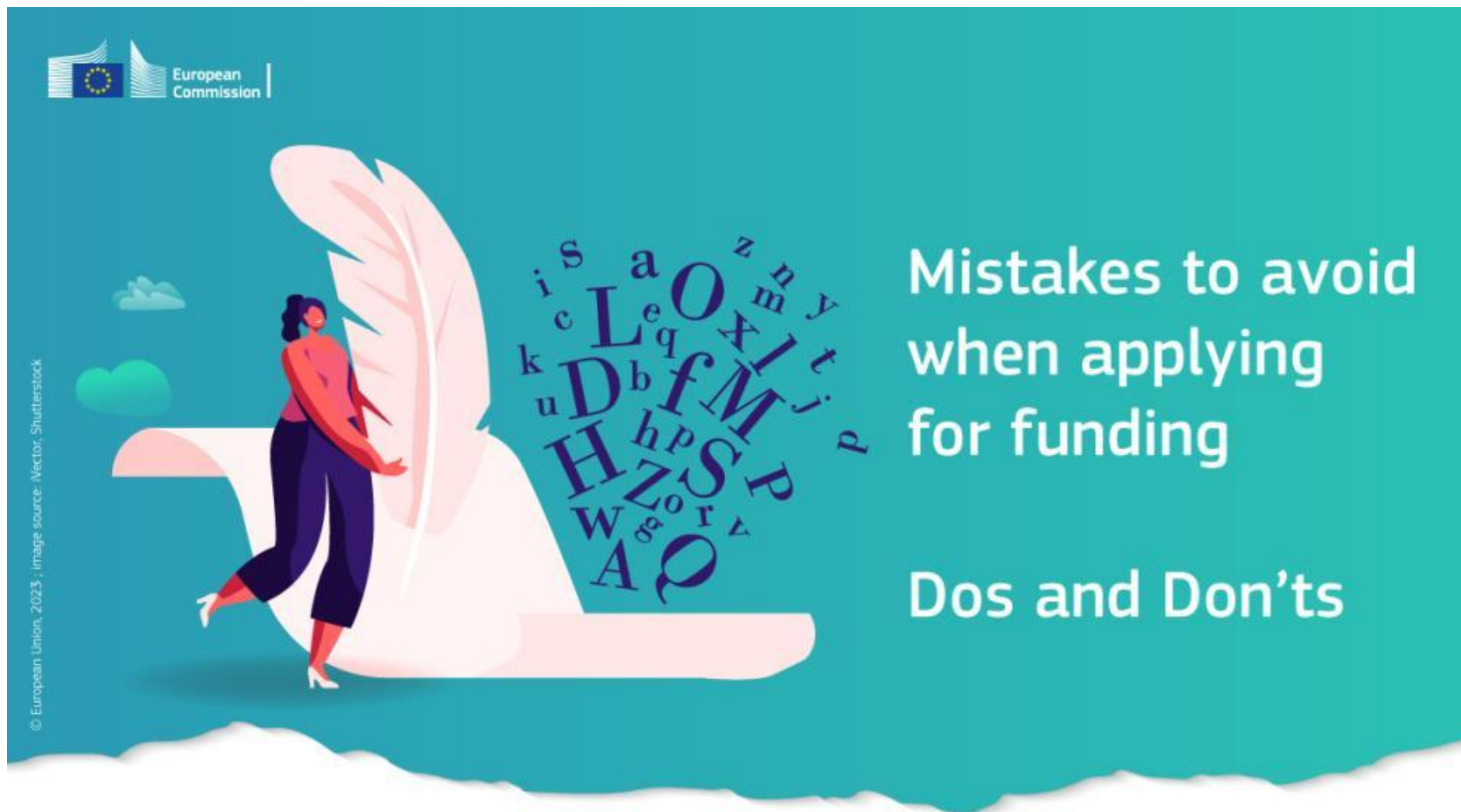


NCP_
WIDERA.NET



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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