



TECHNOLOGY  
CENTRE PRAGUE

# WIDENING INSTRUMENTS IN 2026–2027 WORK PROGRAMME

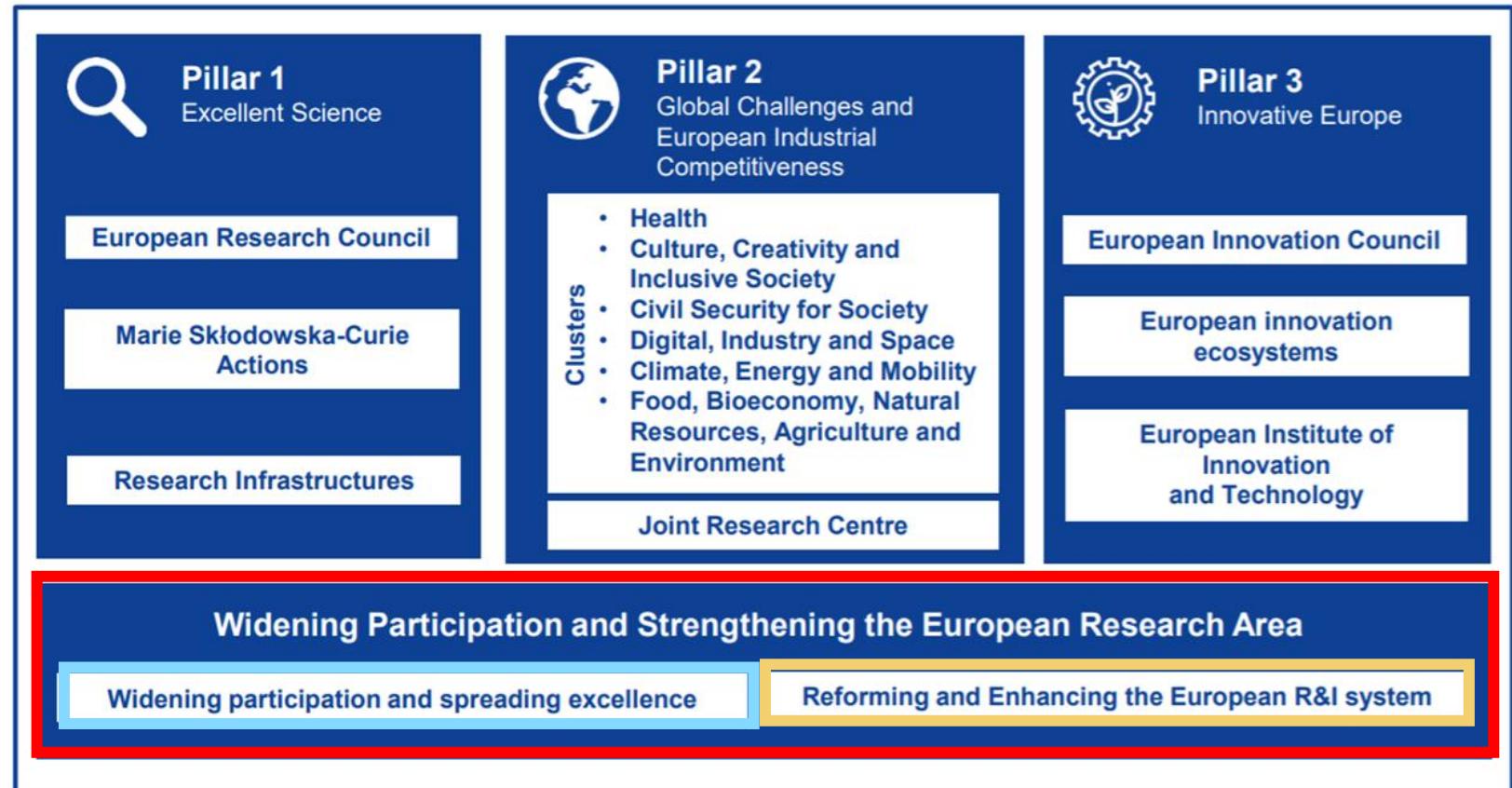
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Anna Vosečková, WIDERA and EIT NCP  
17 December 2025



# 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, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- **15 countries associated to the HE** (as of 1 December 2025) – Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, 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

VADEMECUM 2025  
Horizon Europe

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



# WIDENING CALLS 2026-2027

WORK PROGRAMME  
WIDERA PUBLISHED  
ON 11 DECEMBER 2025

OVERALL BUDGET 955 M€

# WP WIDERA 2026-2027 STRUCTURE

EC WIDENING  
INFODAY

22 January 2026

- **Introduction (pp 5-7)**
  - Policy background and general description of the 2 parts – Widening participation and spreading excellence (Widening) and Strengthening the ERA by reforming and enhancing the European R&I system (ERA)
- **Calls – Widening and ERA (pp 8-22)**
  - Opening/deadlines, type of action, call budget, budget per project, indicative no. of funded projects, general conditions (common to all the calls)
- **Destination Widening (pp 23-56)**
  - General introduction and Expected impacts (p 23)
  - Individual calls (pp 24-56)
- **Destination ERA (pp 57-133)**
  - General introduction. Four-pillar structure and Expected impacts (57-59)
  - Individual call topics (59-104)
- **Prizes (pp 105-108), Grants to identified beneficiaries, GIBs (pp 109-119), Public procurement (pp 120-126), External expert actions (pp 127-128), Other actions without a call, COST (pp 129-130)**
- **Budget (131-133)**



# POLICY BACKGROUND



**Horizon Europe strategic plan  
2025-2027**  
Key strategic orientations

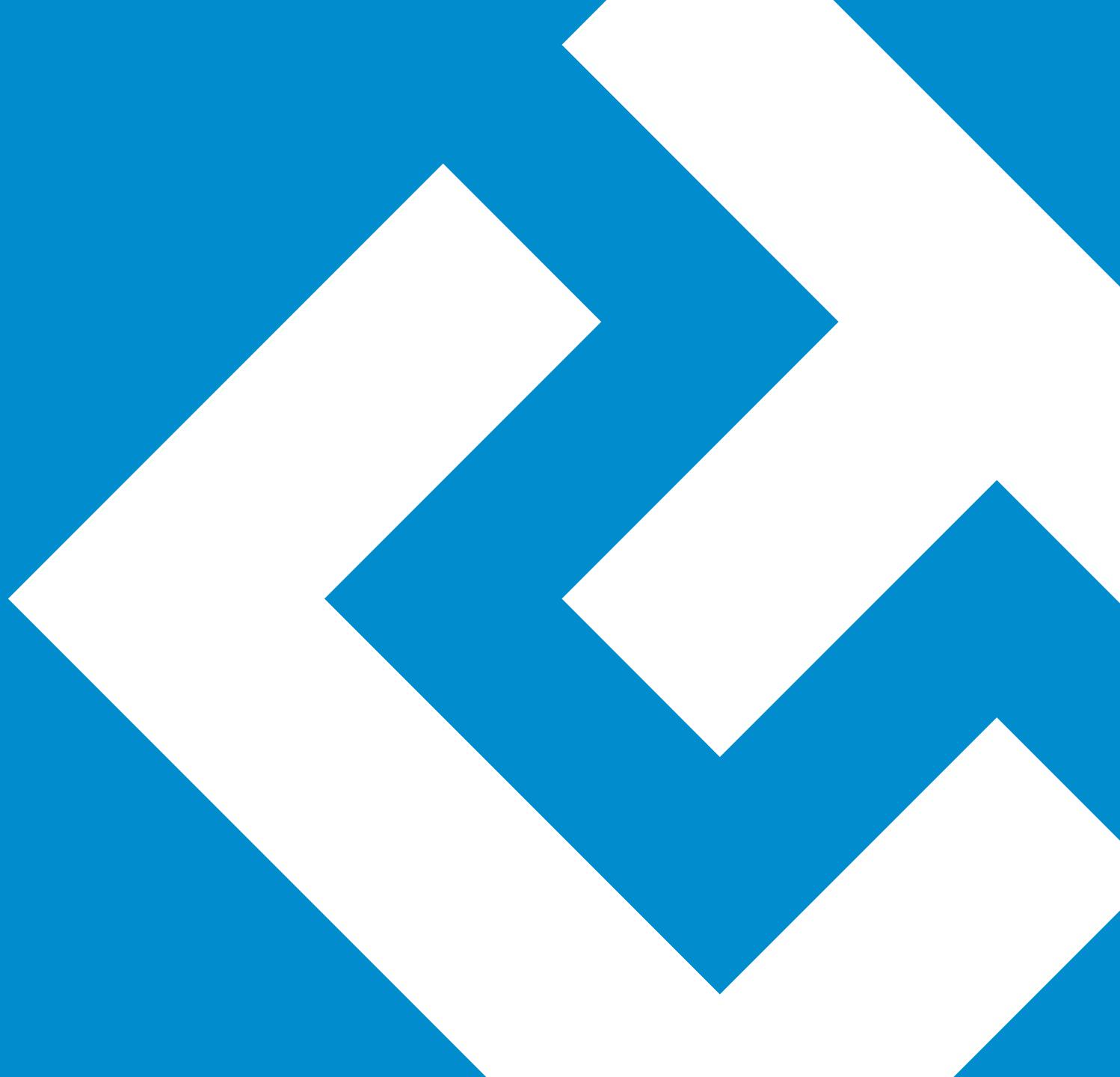
- Communication on a New ERA for R&I (2020)
- Communication on the implementation of the ERA (2024)
- Competitiveness Compass (2025)
- Pact for R&I in Europe (2021)
- WP WIDERA 2026-2027 contributes toward the implementation of the **Pact's four priority areas**:
  - I. Deepening a truly functioning internal market for knowledge
  - II. Green transition and digital transformation and other challenges with impact on society, and increasing society's participation in the ERA
  - III. Enhancing access to R&I excellence and enhancing interconnections between innovation ecosystems across the Union
  - IV. Advancing concerted R&I investments and reforms

# DESTINATION WIDENING

## EXPECTED IMPACTS (10) – choose the most appropriate

- **Increased R&I capacities** for all actors in the R&I system in Widening countries;
- Structural changes leading to **modernised and more competitive R&I systems** with increased attractiveness and **retention of research talents**;
- **Mobilisation** of national and European resources for strategic investments;
- Higher participation in HE and **more leadership roles in collaborative projects**;
- Stronger **linkages between academia and business** and improved career permeability;
- Greater involvement of **regional actors in the R&I process**;
- **Excellent talents attracted** to institutions including research infrastructures;
- **Balanced circulation of R&I talents** including intersectoral mobility, and improved **gender equality and inclusiveness**;
- Improved linkages and **increased mobility between academic and business**, notably by overcoming sectoral barriers;
- **Free circulation of knowledge and expertise** in line with ERA priorities.

# WIDENING CALLS 2026



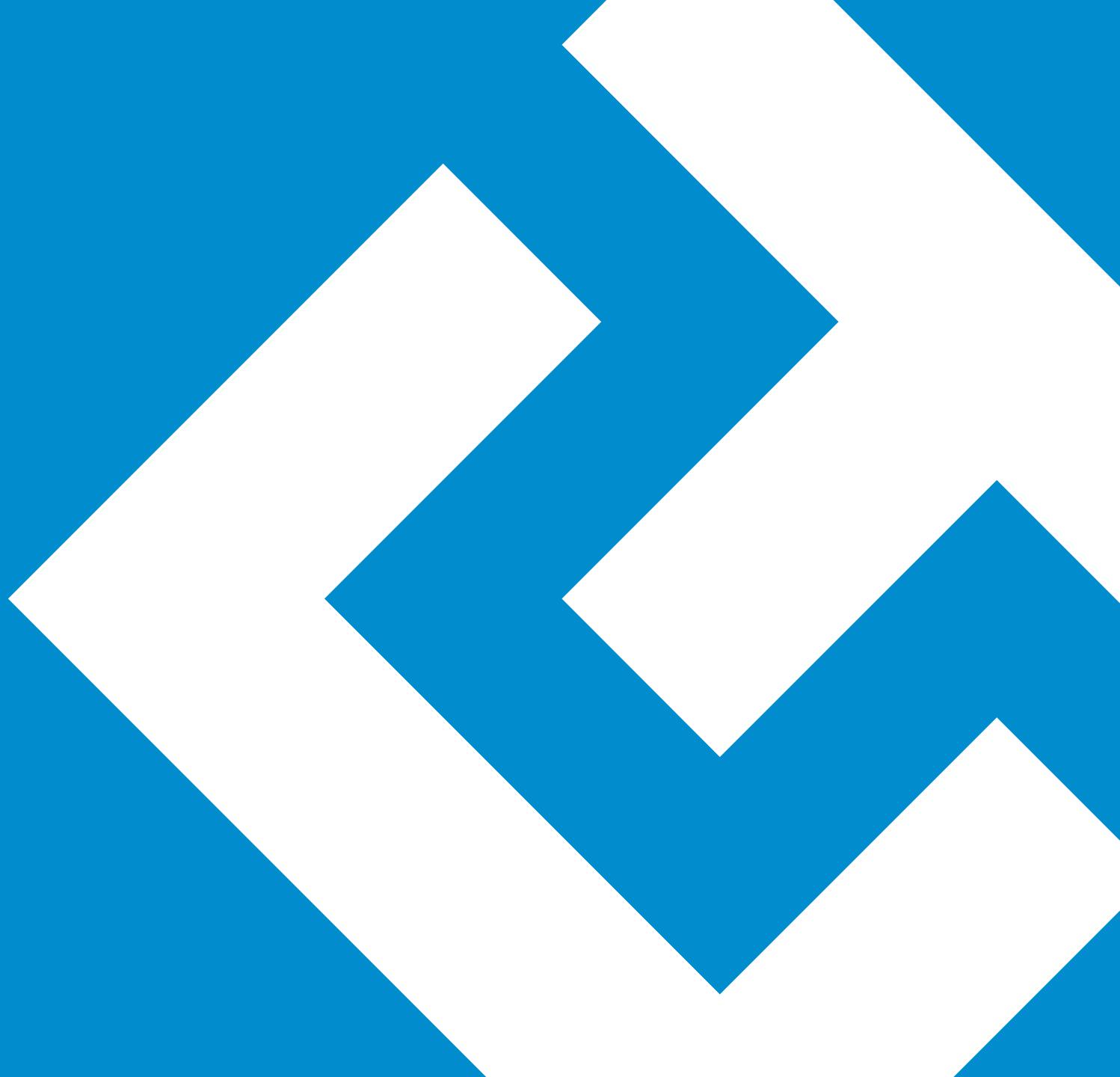
# WIDENING CALLS 2026

SPECIFIC  
APPLICATION  
FORMS

CODE / TITLE	OPENING DEADLINE	CALL BUDGET (M€)	PROJECT BUDGET (M€)	INDICATIVE NO. OF PROJECTS
WIDERA-2026-01-WIDENING-01 <b>Teaming Synergies</b>	23/04/2026 24/09/2026	7	7	1
WIDERA-2026-02-WIDENING-01 <b>Twinning</b>	08/01/2026 09/04/2026	264,50	0,8-1,5	210
WIDERA-2026-03-WIDENING-01 <b>Hop-On Facility</b>	13/01/2026 24/09/2026	30	0,2-0,6	60
WIDERA-2026-04-WIDENING-01 <b>Research Management Facility</b>	23/04/2026 24/09/2026	7	7	1
WIDERA-2026-05-WIDENING-01 <b>ERA Fellowships</b>	09/04/2026 09/09/2026	8	cca 0,19 M€ for Czechia	50



# TEAMING FOR SYNERGIES



# TEAMING SYNERGIES 2026

## BASIC INFORMATION

- **MAIN AIM - fostering collaboration among Teaming CoEs**, both existing ones and those resulting from ongoing or future calls, to support their efforts towards sustainability and increased impact at the regional, national and European level
- **Core of the consortium** should be able to demonstrate successful implementation of sustainability strategies of a Teaming CoEs
- **Complementary members** can provide specific expertise on e.g. communication, training, knowledge valorisation and IPR issues
- Consortium should demonstrate a **geographical coverage of its activities** – to reach all past, existing and future Teaming CoEs that wish to participate in the activities and benefit from the services offered by the consortium

## CALL OVERVIEW

- WIDERA-2026-01-WIDENING-01
- **Opening: 23 April 2026**
- **Deadline: 24 September 2026**
- Type of action: CSA
- Overall indicative budget: M€ 7
- Budget per project: M€ 7
- Project duration: 5 years
- Consortium: core and complementary members
- **Expected no. of projects: 1**



# TWINNING

## CORDIS brings you the results of EU research and innovation

Welcome to CORDIS, where you can access comprehensive information about EU Research & Development projects.

Whether you're a researcher, innovator, or just curious, here you'll find information on projects, topics, and publications funded by the EU's research programs - in multiple languages.

CORDIS belongs to the [Research and Innovation community platform of the European Commission](#) and complements the [Funding and tender opportunities](#) website, where you can apply for funding and search for partners.

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 Thematic Packs

Keep up with the latest breakthroughs enabled by EU funding with our multilingual collections of the articles focusing on a specific theme.



2 October 2025

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23 September 2025

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Dive into some of the key scientific solutions being developed by EU-funded researchers to address the major societal challenges that we all face today.



3 October 2025



## CORDIS

- Projects' basic data including abstracts and objectives, reporting and results

 Results in Brief

Read general public summaries of the main outcomes at the end of each project, explaining the achievements and highlighting the next steps.



AI-powered robots transform road repairs in Europe

 News

Discover ongoing projects with our news articles based on media reports or project announcements.



SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES Climate change and its effects

 HORIZON dashboard

Learn key facts & figures on Horizon proposals, projects and participants with an interactive tool with filter options by theme, geography, organisation profile, and more.



EU Research and Innovation data at your fingertips

## 2021 TWINNING projects

## 2023 TWINNING projects

# AIM

- To enhance networking activities **between the research institutions and research infrastructures of the Widening countries** by linking it with **at least two internationally leading research institutions** from two different Member States or Associated Countries
- To raise the **research profile of the institution from the Widening country and its staff**, including strengthening the **research management capacity**



# SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

## ELIGIBILITY

- Participation as **coordinators** is limited to legal entities established in **Widening countries**
- **Gender equality plan** is an eligibility criterion

## FINANCIAL AND LEGAL

- Eligible costs take the form of a **lump sum** – BUT: there will be only **ONE reporting period (after the project completion)**, so no need for more Work Packages

## OTHER

- Open for **participation of the JRC** that can contribute specific expertise where relevant, for the **development of R&I strategies** depending on the R&I domain chosen by the project, technology transfer and IPR management as well as linking up to **regional smart specialisation strategy**



# EXPECTED OBLIGATORY OUTCOMES

1. **Improved research excellence and capacities** in Widening countries closing the research and innovation gap within the European Union;
2. **Enhanced strategic collaboration** between the research institutions or higher education establishments of the Widening countries and at least two internationally leading research institutions or higher education establishments at European Union level;
3. **Raised reputation, research profile and attractiveness** of the coordinating institution, and improved research profile of its staff;
4. **Strengthened research management capacities** of the coordinating institution;
5. **Development of novel approaches in R&I collaboration** with increased mobility (inwards and outwards) of researchers.



# WORK PACKAGE: RESEARCH COMPONENT

- A research and innovation component **not exceeding 30%** of the total Horizon Europe grant (including the indirect costs) may be included, which should be presented in a **dedicated work package (WP1)** entitled 'Research component'
- At least **50% of the budget for this component should be allocated to the coordinator**
- A research and innovation component may involve:
  - ❖ development and implementation of **new ideas, methods, or technologies**
  - ❖ advances the current state of the art in a particular field by pushing the **boundaries of knowledge and creating novel solutions**
- **All trainings related to R&I that advances beyond the state of the art should be budgeted and included in this work package**





**Type of action:** CSA

**Funding rate:** 100% (lump sum)

**Project duration:** 3 years

**Indicative number of projects:** 210

**Call budget:** 264.5 M€

**Project budget:** 0,8 – 1,5 M€

**Call opening:** 8. 1. 2026

**Call closing:** 9. 4. 2026

## 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
  - ✓ 30% of total budget can be spent on R&I, out of which 50% goes to coordinator

# HOP-ON FACILITY



**Type of action: RIA**

**Funding rate: 100%**

**Project duration: it depends**

**Indicative number of projects: 60**

**Call budget: 30 M€**

**Project budget: 0,2 – 0,6 M€**

**Call opening: 13. 1. 2026**

**Call closing: 24. 9. 2026**

## HOP ON FACILITY 2026

**MAIN OBJECTIVE – accession of one new additional partner from a Widening country to already implemented RIA project (without any Widening partner) funded from**

- ✓ Any of the six Clusters of HE Pillar 2
- ✓ EIC Pathfinder instrument
- Choose only from the list of eligible RIA projects available on [FTOP](#)
- **Proposal must be submitted by a coordinator of the relevant project**
- 10% of the proposed budget can be allocated to the coordinator

# INFORMATION ON HOP ON

## LEAFLET

**NÁSTROJ HOP ON**

**E**TECHNOLOGICKÉ  
CENTRUM AV ČR

**Nástroj Hop On je jedním ze čtyř nových  
prázezových opatření balíčku Advancing  
Europe Package, který v rámovém  
programu Horizont Evropa (HE) doplnil  
čtyři hlavní nástroje z předchozího  
programu H2020 (TEAMING, TWINNING,  
ERA Chairs a program COST). Společně  
cílí na snižování pětivájících rozdílů  
ve výkonnosti výzkumu a inovaci  
prostřednictvím sdílení znalostí  
a odborných poznatků napříč EU. Nástroj  
umožňuje přístoupen jednoho partnera  
ze skupiny tzv. Widening zemí ke  
konsorciu kolaborativnímu projektu HE.**

**ZPŮSOBILÉ PROJEKTY**

O nového partnera z Widening zemí se mohou  
ucházet projekty financované v kategoriích Pilíře 2  
(globální výzvy a konkurenční schopnost) a v EIC  
Pathfinder v Pilíři 3 (inovativní Evropa) programu  
HE s již podepsanou gramotou dohody a bez partnera  
z jakékoli Widening země. Jedná se vždy výhradně o kolaborativní projekty typu RIA – Research and Innovation Action. Seznam způsobilých  
projektů je zveřejněn na Portálu pro finanční pří-  
ležitosti a veřejné zakázky (FTOP) u výzvy Hop On  
a je Evropskou komisí aktualizován každý týden.  
Subjekty z Widening zemí se zájemem o přistoupe-

ni mohou oslovit primo koordinátora relevantního  
projektu vyplňáním kontaktního formuláře po při-  
hlášení do FTOP (tačítko Contact u každého pro-  
jektu).

**SKUPINA WIDENING ZEMÍ**

- 13 tzv. nových členských států EU  
(včetně České), Portugalska a Řecka,
- 9 nejvzdálenějších regionů EU,
- země přidružené k programu Horizont Evropa  
spadající do kategorie zemí s nízkými  
a středními příjmy (v H2020 jich bylo 12).

Imenový výčet Widening zemí je uveden u výzvy  
v kolonce Call updates.

**CHARAKTERISTIKA VÝZVY 2022**

Identifikátor:  
**HORIZON-WIDENING-2022-ACCESS-07-01**  
Rozpočet celkem: 40 mil. €  
Rozpočet na nového partnera: 0,2–0,5 mil. €  
Typ: Jednotkový  
Datum otevření: 27. 1. 2022  
Termíny uzavření: 20. 4. a 10. 11. 2022  
Předpokládaný počet projektů: 80

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

## E-LEARNING

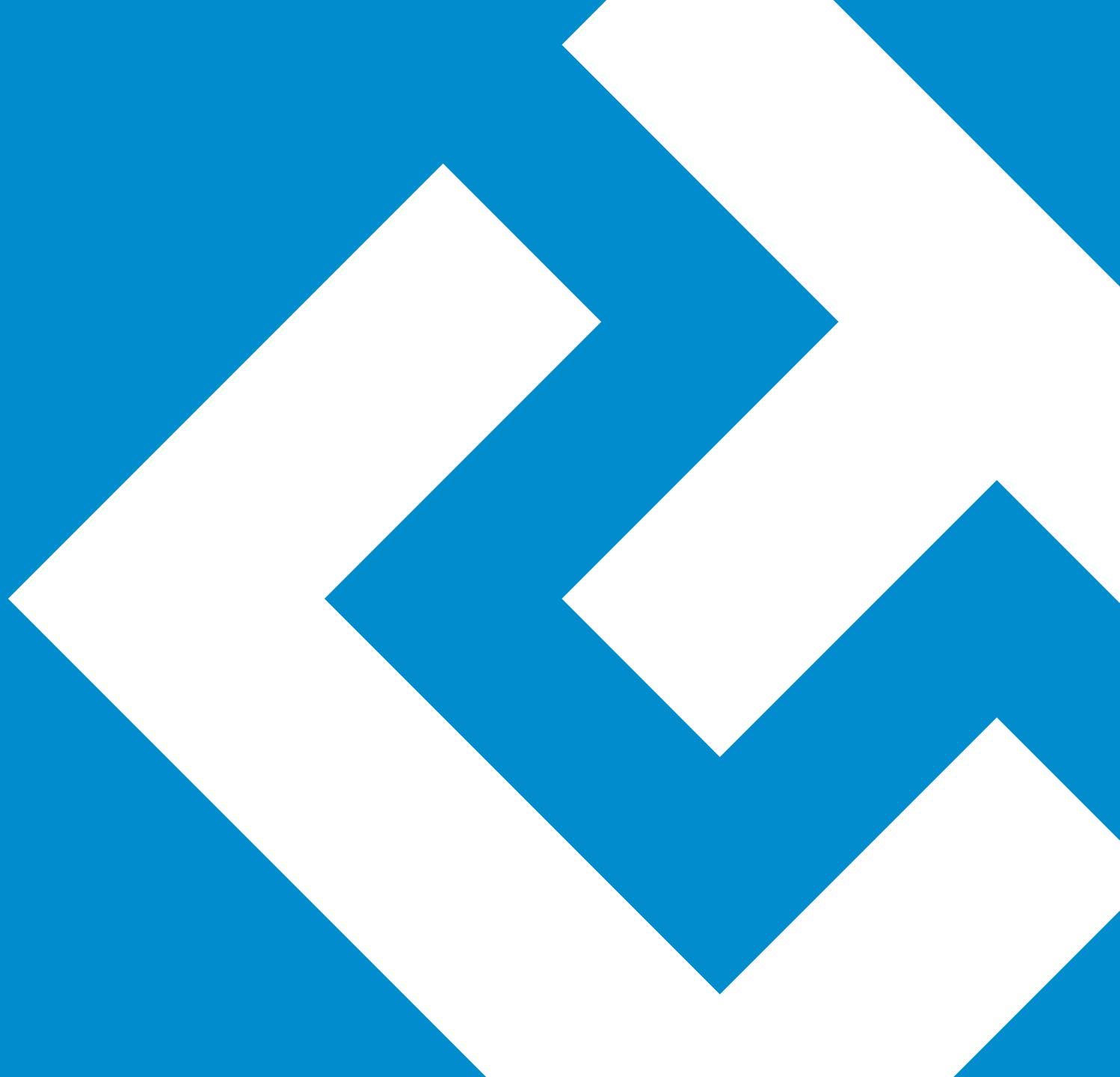
**Nástroj Hop On: pilotní výzva 2022**

**KAPITOLA**

**Nástroj HOP ON**  
**pilotní výzva 2022**

**Technologické  
centrum AV ČR**

# RESEARCH MANAGEMENT FACILITY





## 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: 23/04/2026 – 23/09/2026**

# ERA FELLOWSHIPS

# ERA FELLOWSHIPS 2026

HANDBOOK FOR MSCA  
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS



AVAILABLE NOW

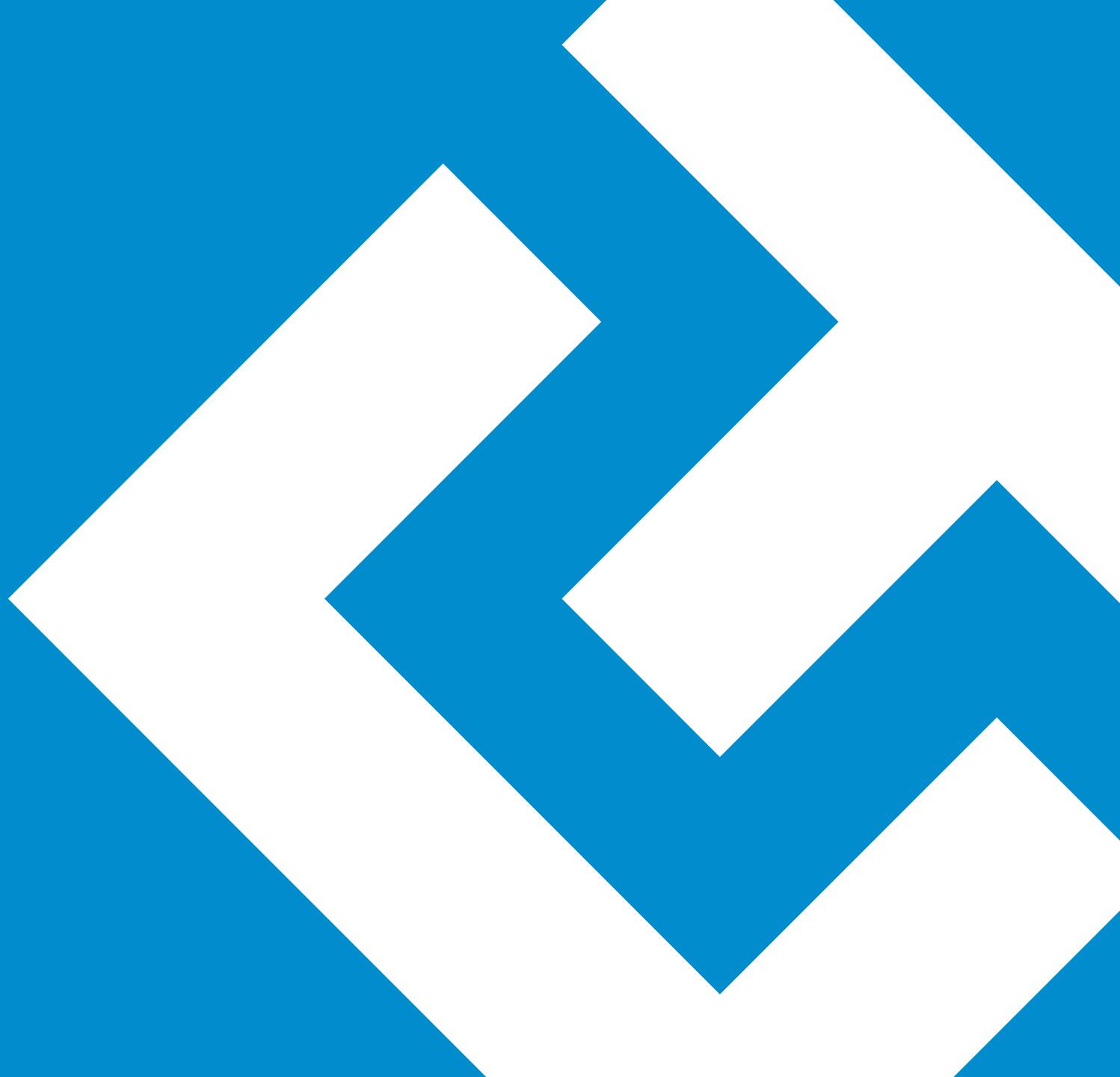
- **MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026 (HORIZON-MSCA-PF-2026)**
  - **9/4 - 9/9/2026**
  - Call budget: 8 M€
  - Projects to be funded: 50

**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**
- Automatically transferred to ERA Fellowships in case not receiving the MSCA grant

# WIDENING CALLS 2027



# WIDENING CALLS 2027

SPECIFIC  
APPLICATION  
FORMS

CODE / TITLE	OPENING DEADLINE	CALL BUDGET (M€)	PROJECT BUDGET (M€)	INDICATIVE NO. OF PROJECTS
WIDERA-2027-01-WIDENING-01: <b>EIC Pre-accelerator - Widening</b>	05/05/2027 18/11/2027	40	0,5-1,0	60
WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-01: <b>ERA Chairs</b>	06/04/2027 14/09/2027	175	1,5-2,5	80
WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-02: <b>ERA Research Managers</b>	06/04/2027 14/09/2027	65	1,5-2,5	30
WIDERA-2027-03-WIDENING-01: <b>ERA Fellowships</b>	07/04/2027 08/09/2027	8	cca 0,19 M€ for Czechia	50
WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01: <b>Excellence Hubs</b>	02/09/2026 04/03/2027	100	1,5-4,5	30



# EIC PRE-ACCELERATOR - WIDENING

---

CALL TEXT MIGHT CHANGE DUE  
TO THE CALL 2025 EVALUATION  
RESULTS



**O WEBINÁŘI**

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

Probíraná téma:

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

**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-2027-01-WIDENING-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:** **60**

**Call budget:** **40 M€**

**Project budget:** **0,5-1,0 M€**

**Call opening:** **5. 5. 2027**

**Call closing:** **18. 11. 2027**

# ERA CHAIRS

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3 October 2025



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## 2023 ERA CHAIRS projects

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# AIM

- To bring **outstanding academic** with proven research excellence and management skills to universities, research institutions or research infrastructures (brain gain)
  - ✓ Choosing a **promising or cross-cutting area of research**
  - ✓ **ERA Chair**: experienced researcher and innovator from any country in the world identified and committed
  - ✓ Setting up a **permanent top research team**



# SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

## ELIGIBILITY

- Participation as **coordinators** is limited to legal entities established in **Widening countries**
- **Proposals must include:**
  1. **a letter signed by the prospective ERA Chair holder** expressing his commitment corresponding to at least 50% full time equivalent (FTE) until the permanent appointment of a research group leader by M36; Following the recruitment of the research leader, the ERA chair should remain committed (at least 20%) for the remaining duration of the project in support to the research leader to ensure efficient reforms and improved research performance.
  2. **a letter signed by the head of the coordinator institution** committing to the proposal and stating that the ERA Chair holder will receive adequate support for their tasks and duties

## FINANCIAL AND LEGAL

- Eligible costs take the form of a **lump sum**

## PROCEDURE

- Seals of Excellence will be awarded to applications exceeding all evaluation thresholds but which cannot be funded due to lack of budget available to the call



# EXPECTED OUTCOMES (CHOOSE SOME OF THEM OR USE ALL)

## At system level:

- Increased international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral **mobility of R&I talent towards Widening countries**;
- **Institutional reforms** in research institutions and national R&I systems;
- Strengthened human capital with **more entrepreneurial and well-trained researchers**;
- **Better communication** of R&I results to society;
- **Enhanced research capacity**, competitiveness, and economic growth.

## At organisation level:

- **Strengthened research excellence** in ERA Chair fields;
- **Increased attractiveness** to top international researchers;
- Establishment of a **lasting, high-performing research group** with institutional benefits;
- **Improved success** in EU and global competitive funding.



# PAY ATTENTION TO:

- Proposals should **include a CV** in Europass form of the prospective ERA Chair (CV should be uploaded as an Annex to the proposal)
- **Recruitment of the research team** must follow an open, transparent and merit-based process and should be conducted by an international panel chaired by the ERA Chair;
- **Leader of the newly created research group** should be appointed on a permanent basis within the first 3 years of the project through an open recruitment process monitored by the EC, and to which the ERA Chair holder may apply.
- **ERA Chair holders** may relocate permanently or temporarily to the coordinating institution, with secondments, sabbaticals, or part-time arrangements also possible.
- **Grant covers** salaries, recruitment, travel and consumables and equipment (up to 10% of the EU contribution), as well as administrative expenses
- **Proposed structural reforms** should be outlined, such as improving working conditions, career prospects, HR policies, research governance, grant management and knowledge transfer; Gender equality should be addressed





## ERA CHAIRS

**SCOPE** – ERA CHAIR holder's leadership and the establishment of a permanent, high-quality research group will boost excellence, visibility, and integration within the ERA, improving competitiveness in research and promoting institutional reforms aligned with ERA priorities

**Type of action:** CSA (mono-beneficiary)

**Funding rate:** 100% (lump sum)

**Project duration:** 5 years

**Indicative number of projects:** 80

**Call budget:** 175 M€

**Project budget:** 1,5 – 2,5 M€

**Call opening:** 6. 4. 2027

**Call closing:** 14. 9. 2027

- ✓ At least 50% full time equivalent (FTE) at least until the appointment of a research group leader by M36
- ✓ Need to quantify expected impacts, including new research partnerships, institutional changes, increased research output enhanced, research knowledge and practice, innovative research

# ERA RESEARCH MANAGERS (NEW)

# AIM

- Improve capacities in research management as they are essential for institutions and national R&I systems to capitalize on their R&I activities, and
  - ✓ to attract experienced research managers to universities, research organisations or research infrastructures in Widening countries,
  - ✓ establishing or upgrading institutional capacities for research management,
  - ✓ fostering brain circulation
  - ✓ and creating pockets of excellence that enhance institutional culture and performance



# SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

## ELIGIBILITY

- Participation as **coordinators** is limited to legal entities established in **Widening countries**
- As the ERA Research Manager and team is expected to operate at the level of the institute, **only one proposal per legal entity can be submitted**
- **Proposals must include:**
  1. **a letter signed by the prospective ERA Research Manager** committing to the proposal corresponding to at least 50% full time equivalent (FTE) at least until the appointment of a research management leader on a permanent basis by M36
  2. **a letter signed by the head of the coordinator institution** committing to the proposal and confirming that the ERA Research Manager will receive adequate support for their tasks and duties

## PROCEDURE

- Seals of Excellence will be awarded to applications exceeding all evaluation thresholds but which cannot be funded due to lack of budget available to the call



# EXPECTED OUTCOMES (CHOOSE SOME OF THEM OR USE ALL)

## At system level:

- Increased international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral **mobility of R&I talent towards Widening countries**;
- **Institutional reforms** in research institutions and national R&I systems;
- Strengthened human capital with **more entrepreneurial and well-trained researchers**;
- **Better communication** of R&I results to society;
- **Enhanced research capacity**, competitiveness, and economic growth.

## At organisation level:

- **Strengthened research management** capacities;
- **Increased attractiveness** to top international research managers, and subsequently researchers;
- Establishment of a **lasting, high-performing research management group** with institutional benefits;
- Improving the **institution's global visibility** and success in securing competitive funding;
- Promote **best practices in agreed ERA priorities** such as ethics, open science and data, gender equality, thus strengthening the institution's overall research ecosystem.



# PAY ATTENTION TO:

- Proposals should **include a CV** in Europass form of the prospective ERA Research Manager (CV should be uploaded as an Annex to the proposal) – ERA Research Manager may be from any country but may not already have a contractual relationship with the research institution
- Need to include a **self-assessment of the beneficiary's existing institutional capacities and its needs in research management and administration**
- **Recruitment of the research management team** must follow an open, transparent and merit-based process and should be conducted by an international panel chaired by the ERA Research Manager;
- **Leader of the newly created research management group** should be appointed on a permanent basis within the first 3 years of the project through an open recruitment process monitored by the EC, and to which the ERA Chair holder may apply.
- **ERA Research Managers** may relocate permanently or temporarily to the coordinating institution, with secondments, sabbaticals, or part-time arrangements also possible;
- outline all contractual arrangements including salary, travel, daily allowances and other benefits; if employment is the preferred option, contractual details must be provided.





**Type of action: CSA (mono-beneficiary)**  
**Funding rate: 100%**  
**Project duration: 5 years**  
**Indicative number of projects: 30**  
**Call budget: 65 M€**  
**Project budget: 1,5 – 2,5 M€**  
**Call opening: 6. 4. 2027**  
**Call closing: 14. 9. 2027**

## ERA RESEARCH MANAGERS

**MAIN OBJECTIVE – bring excellent research manager with international experience (RM Comp) to the institution in order to:**

- ✓ establish or upgrade research management capacities including research management team
- ✓ ensure that the conditions are in place to foster excellent research management aligned with ERA priorities
- ✓ A minimum 50% full-time equivalent (FTE) commitment, including on-site presence, must be ensured, at least until the appointment of a research management leader on a permanent basis

# ERA FELLOWSHIPS

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HANDBOOK FOR MSCA  
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS



AVAILABLE NOW

**MSCA Postdoctoral  
Fellowships 2027 (HORIZON-  
MSCA-PF-2027)**

- **7/4 – 8/9/2027**
- Call budget: 8 M€
- Project to be funded: 50

## ERA FELLOWSHIPS 2027

**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**
- Automatically transferred to ERA Fellowships in case not receiving the MSCA grant

# EXCELLENCE HUBS

## CORDIS brings you the results of EU research and innovation

Welcome to CORDIS, where you can access comprehensive information about EU Research & Development projects.

Whether you're a researcher, innovator, or just curious, here you'll find information on projects, topics, and publications funded by the EU's research programs - in multiple languages.

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3 October 2025



## CORDIS

- Projects' basic data including abstracts and objectives, reporting and results

## 2022 Excellent Hubs projects

## 2023 Excellent Hubs projects

 Results in Brief

Read general public summaries of the main outcomes at the end of each project, explaining the achievements and highlighting the next steps.



AI-powered robots transform road repairs in Europe

 News

Discover ongoing projects with our news articles based on media reports or project announcements.



SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES Climate change and its effects

 HORIZON dashboard

Learn key facts & figures on Horizon proposals, projects and participants with an interactive tool with filter options by theme, geography, organisation profile, and more.



EU Research and Innovation data at your fingertips

# AIM

- Allow innovation ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond, **to team up and create better linkages** between academia, business, government and society in order to
  - ✓ **foster a place-based innovation culture** in Widening countries based on
    - **a strategic agenda** aligned with regional or national smart specialisation strategies, and
    - **clearly identified expectations** for economic and societal impacts.



# SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

## ELIGIBILITY

- Participation as **coordinators** is limited to legal entities established in **Widening countries**
- Proposals must involve **at least two R&I ecosystems from two different Widening countries**
- Each Widening country R&I ecosystem must comprise **four different categories of actors**: a) academic institutions, b) business entities, c) public authorities or authorised agencies operating at regional or local level and d) societal actors
- **Two modes of involvement** of a Widening Country R&I ecosystem in the project:
  - participation, as a beneficiary, by **one or more umbrella organisations**, whose membership comprises the four different categories of Widening Country R&I actors for the relevant country
  - participation, as beneficiaries, of **individual legal entities** representing each of the four categories of actors for the relevant Widening country

## LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

- **Funding rate is 70 %** of the eligible costs – An explanation should be provided in the proposal on **how the remaining 30% will be secured and shared among the beneficiaries**
- Beneficiaries may provide **financial support to third parties**. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants and is **limited to SMEs and start-up companies**; maximum amount to be granted to each third party is **EUR 60 000**.



# EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Excellent and sustainable regional R&I ecosystems** in Widening countries and beyond in relevant domains of **cutting-edge science and innovation**;
- **Long term joint R&I strategies** underpinned by concrete action plans of European relevance;
- **Common investment plans for R&I**, including infrastructures, leveraging national, regional and European funds as well as private capital in a synergetic manner;
- **R&I pilot projects** alongside a joint strategy and in line with regional and national strategies, notably **regional innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3)**;
- **New competencies and skills** for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in R&I intensive domains;
- **Strengthened linkages between science, businesses and society**;
- **New business opportunities for SMEs, university spin-offs and start-ups, especially in deep tech areas**.



# PAY ATTENTION TO:

- **Seek synergies with relevant initiatives** such as European Innovation Ecosystems, EIC Pathfinder, EIT KICs, in particular EIT Community Hubs, JRC's 'Partnerships for Regional Innovation' and the Widening Dissemination and Exploitation Facility
- Projects support the ERA's third priority of translating R&I results into the economy, aiming to enhance European competitiveness in the global technology race.
- **Legal entities from non-Widening countries** may join if the consortium demonstrates that this is necessary to achieve the expected impacts.
- **Include at least the following activities (possible Work Packages):**
  - ✓ Design and implementation of a **cross-border joint R&I strategy**
  - ✓ **R&I collaboration** strengthening academia-business linkages and providing evidence for strategy building and investment – **must be in a distinct Work Package**
  - ✓ Development of **investment plans** to implement the strategy, including business models for commercially sustainable products and services
  - ✓ **Conceptual design and pre-planning for pilots and demonstrators** in line with the strategy (if applicable)
  - ✓ **Complementary activities** to promote knowledge transfer, visibility, mutual learning, skills development, and engagement with local governments and citizens





**Type of action: CSA**

**Funding rate: 70%**

**Project duration: 5 years**

**Indicative number of projects: 30**

**Proposal page limit: 40 pages**

**Call budget: 100 M€**

**Project budget: 1,5 – 4,5 M€**

**Call opening: 2. 9. 2026**

**Call closing: 4. 3. 2027**

## EXCELLENCE HUBS

**MAIN OBJECTIVE** – create networks of innovation ecosystems in Widening countries, involving larger communities based on the quadruple helix principle

**R&I collaboration (distinct Work Package): R&I component**

- ✓ should be developed through joint research projects, closing knowledge gaps and advancing science and technology with market potential
- ✓ its description should include a long-term vision beyond the state of the art of the chosen R&I domain
- ✓ should not constitute the dominant part of the project; strengthening academia-business linkages and providing evidence for strategy building and investment

# EVENTS

# EVENTS

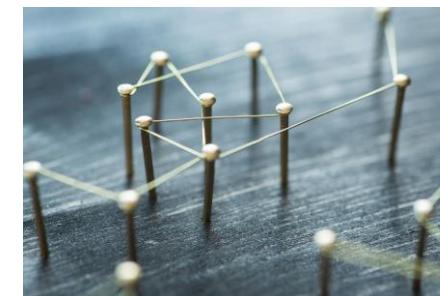
- **EC Infoday on Widening 2026 – 2027**

When: **22 January 2026 09:30 – 15:30**  
Where: **Brussels online**  
[Presentations and recording here](#)



- **CZ-SK workshop on TWINNING 2026 Call**

When: **5 February 2026 9:30 – 12:00**  
Where: **online Bratislava-Praha**  
[Presentations and recording on the web](#)



## Preliminary timetable of Widening instruments events organised by TC Prague

✓ April/May 2027	ERA Chairs, ERA Research Managers
✓ June 2027	EIC Pre-accelerator Widening
✓ September/October 2027	Excellence Hubs



# QUESTIONS?

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