

International Information Day

"Twinning: general conditions, practical information, project presentation"
(HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-02- WIDENING-01, Horizon Europe)

27 February 2026, online, 10.00-16.00 CET



Twinning success rate statistics

**Analysis of evaluators' remarks
in Evaluation Summary Reports**

Dr. Daniela Dragomir, NCP for Widening & ERA
UEFISCDI - Executive Agency for Higher Education,
Research, Development and Innovation Funding, Romania

Twinning success rate statistics

Twinning success rate statistics

Source: Horizon Europe Dashboard Implementation Figures: R&I Projects, R&I Proposals

Twinning (HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-03)

closed in 18.01.2022

391 proposals submitted

388 proposals evaluated

106 projects funded

27% success rate

Twinning (HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02)

closed in 28.10.2023

848 proposals submitted

- Twinning Bottom Up:
675 proposals
- Twinning Green Deal:
173 proposals

803 proposals evaluated

96 projects funded

76 projects (Twinning Bottom-up)

20 projects (Twinning Green Deal)

12 % success rate

Summary:

- 202 Twinning projects
- 41 countries
- 24 Widening countries as Coordinator
- 546 Unique participants
- Coordinating role in more than one project: 33 organizations



How are Twinning participation and funding distributed across countries and organizations?



How many beneficiaries were involved in a Twinning project?

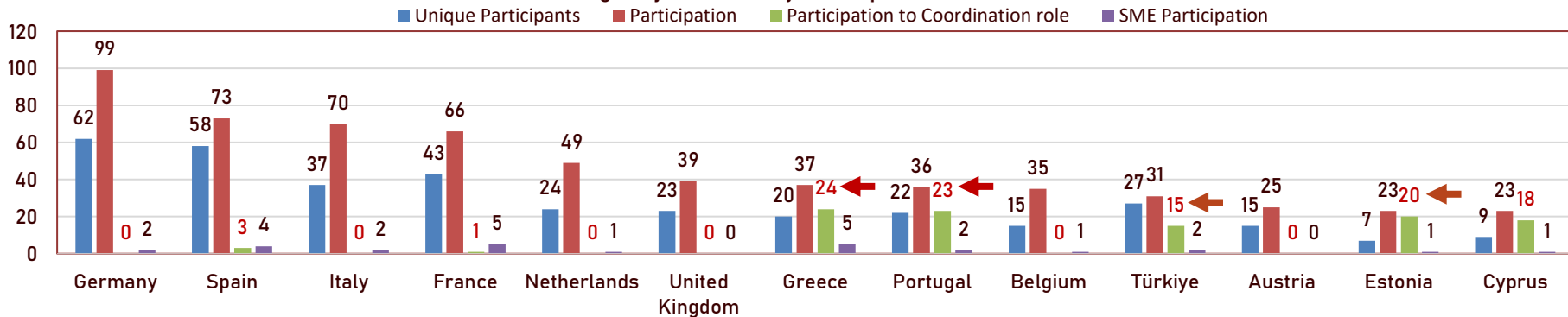


Which thematic fields were most addressed in the Twinning projects?

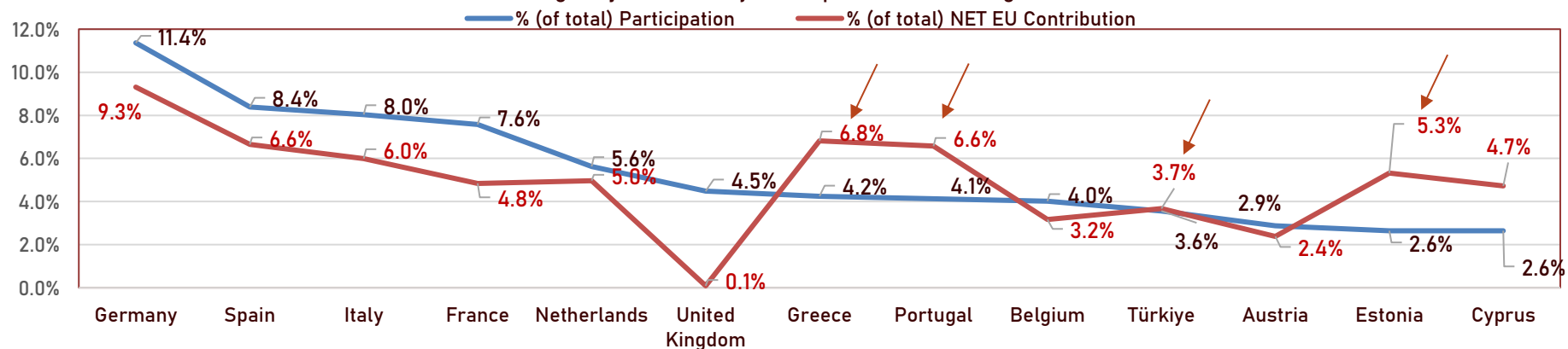
How are Twinning participation and funding distributed across countries and organizations?

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Twinning Projects: Country Participation Overview



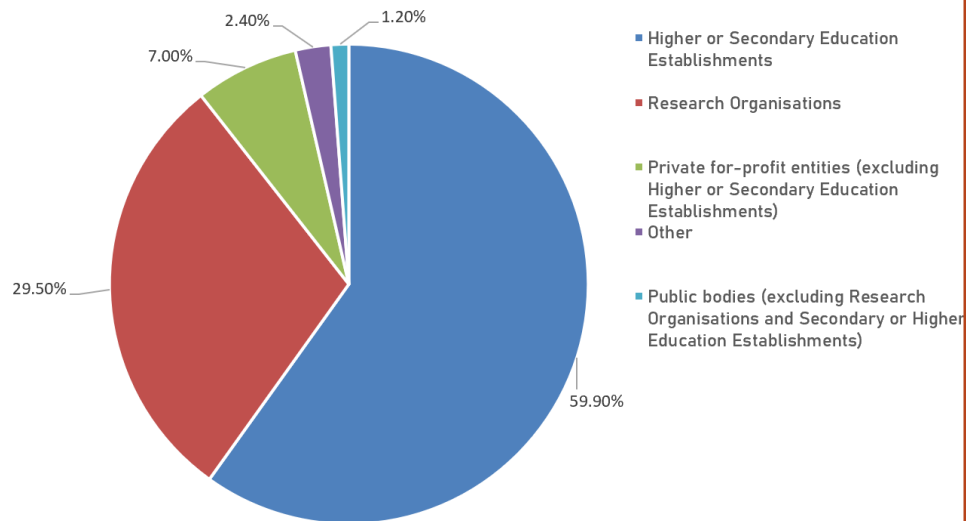
Twinning Projects: Country Participation and Funding Breakdown



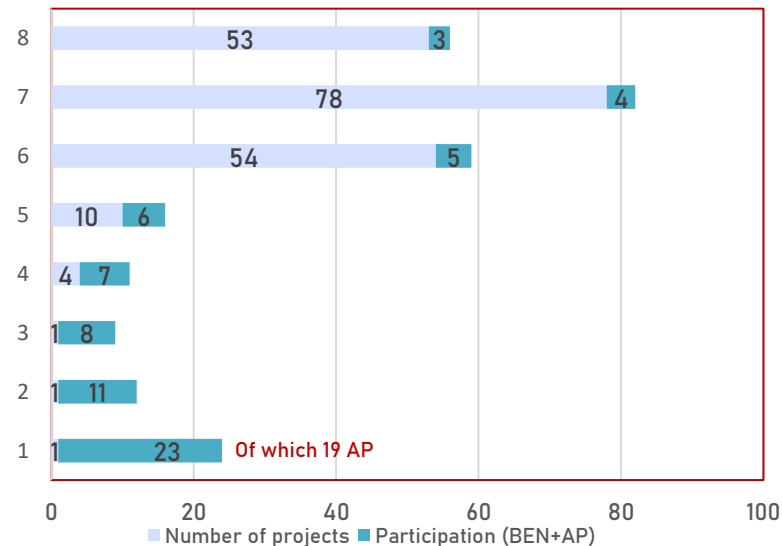
How many beneficiaries were involved in Twinning projects?

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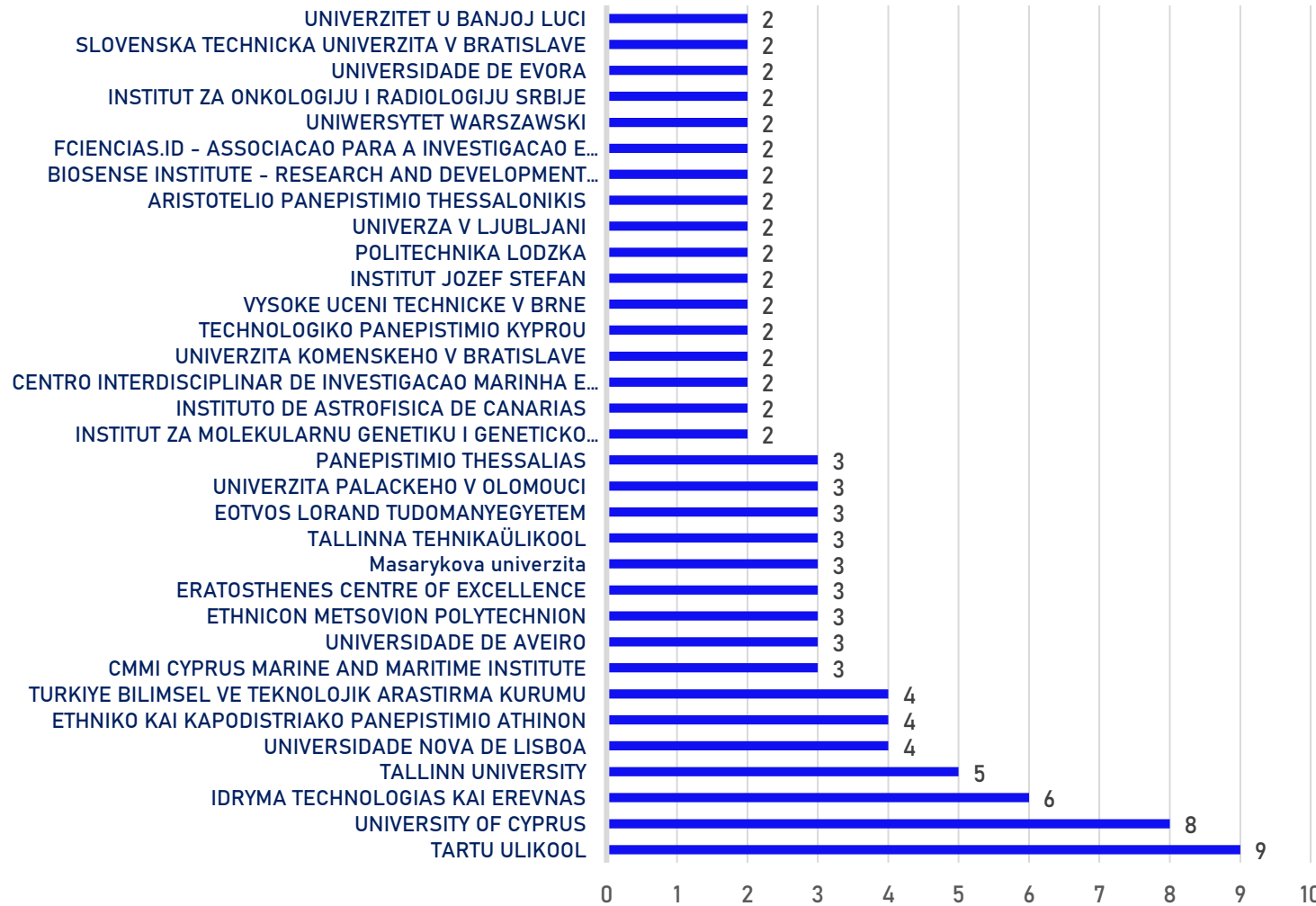
Organisation Type - Participation



Number of projects - Participation



Participation to Coordination role/organization with more than 1 Twinning project coordinated)





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Analysis of evaluators' remarks in Evaluation Summary Reports

What is expected in a Twinning Proposal?

EXCELLENCE

Twinning
Topic and
Work
programme

Specific
Application
Form (HE
CSA)

CSA
Evaluation
Form



- Needs and context
- Clear objectives, aligned with the topic, measurable, verifiable and realistically achievable
- Strategy to step-up and foster the research excellence and innovation in the targeted R&I area, incl joint R&I project(s) beyond soTA, incl comprehensive set of activities
- Both benefits for the CO and leading partners
- Measures to strengthen (RMA) skills at Coordinator
- How leading partners will enable new research directions and promote two-way researcher mobility
- Clear and sound methodology incl concepts, models, assumptions, links/synergies with national, regional and European funds and policy priorities
- Main challenges identified in the chosen methodology/mitigation proposed
- Appropriate open science practices adapted to the nature of the work, where relevant
- Alignment of research data and outputs with FAIR principles where relevant
- Gender dimension in research and innovation content

EVALUATION FORM (CSA)

1. Excellence

The following aspects will be taken into account, **to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:**

1.1. Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives.

1.2 Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures, including soundness of methodology

Key principles:

- Your proposed work must be within the scope of a work programme topic.
- You need to demonstrate that your idea is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art.
- Your scientific methodology must take into account interdisciplinary, gender dimension and open science practices.

Source: EC

- The objectives are too broadly defined and not all of them sufficiently related to the scope.
- The objectives are not described with sufficient clarity, and insufficient measurable and verifiable targets are provided to support their assessment.
- The objectives are not sufficiently aligned with the call outcomes.
- The discussion of pertinence to the Work programme/topic is not sufficiently comprehensive and consists of only relative statements.
- The proposal's strategic vision and ambition are not sufficiently compelling, as it does not clearly address the extent to which it will contribute to developing research and innovation excellence beyond the state of the art in the chosen R&I area.
- The identification and description of the concrete research gaps or current needs for areas of research/innovation lack details.
- It is unclear, what role the joint research/innovation project will play in taking this research to a new level.
- There are no clear plans for increased mobility of researchers.
- There are insufficient details on how leading institutions will contribute to new research avenues and creativity.
- The benefits to the leading partner institutions are insufficiently explained.
- It is unclear described how the project will specifically advance the coordinating institution's research and administrative skills.
- Added value of the proposed coordination and support measures not sufficiently justified.
- The overall methodology including its methods, models, and assumptions is generic and insufficiently detailed, and is therefore not convincing.
- The main challenges in the proposed approach are insufficiently elaborated and the credibility and effectiveness of the mitigation measures appear limited.

Recurring issues in unsuccessful proposals, based on analysis of the evaluator's feedback

What was expected in a Twinning Proposal?

IMPACT

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- Should credible demonstrate that contribute to each of the all of the expected outcomes.
- Should indicate the scale and significance of the project's contribution to the expected outcomes and impacts/quantified estimates where possible and meaningful.
- Should identify any requirements and potential barriers arising from factors beyond the scope and duration of the project/any mitigation measures proposed within or beyond the project
- The dissemination and exploitation plan incl. communication activities should be proportionate to the scale of the project.
- Target groups (e.g. scientific community, end users, financial actors, public at large) for these measures should be identified.

EVALUATION FORM (CSA)

2. Impact

The following aspects will be taken into account, **to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:**

2.1 Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.

2.2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

Key principles:

- You should show how your project could contribute to the outcomes and impacts described in the workprogramme (the pathway to impact)
- You should describe the planned measures to maximise the impact of your project ("plan for the dissemination and exploitation including communication activities")

Source: EC

IMPACT

- The pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work program are not sound and credible.
- The proposal identifies multiple potential impacts, but provide limited detail on their scale and significance, and does not clearly specify the pathways or indicators for achieving and measuring them.
- The enhancement of the strategic networking activities between the Widening country coordinator and the internationally leading partners is not sufficiently demonstrated.
- The factors that could limit the project's impacts and potential obstacles are not sufficiently outlined, and the proposed measures to mitigate them are presented very generic.
- The dissemination and exploitation plan and communication activities and target groups are generally addressed in the proposal however, without clear and credible quantified targets.
- The description of the overall IP strategy is rather broad and does not adequately clarify the types of IP expected to be generated.

Recurring issues in unsuccessful proposals, based on analysis of the evaluator's feedback

What was expected in a Twinning Proposal?

QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION

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- The work plan should be detailed, of good quality, efficient and effective. Should include quantified information so that progress can be monitored.
- Should follow a logical overall structure and respect the topic specific requirements in terms of research component/ budget and RMA component and other activities.
- Should have the resources allocated to the work packages in line with their objectives and deliverables.
- The critical risks, relating to project implementation should have been identified and proper risk mitigation measures proposed.
- Perfect lump sums budget. Note: It is evaluated here, under implementation. See pages 65-83 from [standard-briefing-slides-for-experts_he_en.pdf](#)
- Consortium should match the project's objectives and bring together the necessary disciplinary and inter-disciplinary knowledge
- Consortium should include expertise in open science practices, and gender aspects of R&I, as appropriate.
- Partners should have access to critical infrastructure needed to carry out the project activities
- Participants should complementing one another
- Describe the way each of them contribute to the project
- Each of them should have a valid role, and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role/they have sufficient operational capacity

EVALUATION FORM (CSA)

3. Quality and efficiency of implementation

The following aspects will be taken into account, **to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:**

3.1 Capacity and role of each participant, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

3.2 Capacity and role of each participant, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise

Key principles:

"You should demonstrate the quality of the workplan, resources and participants."

Source: EC

QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION

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- The proposal does not sufficiently detail research tasks to accurately assess the resources dedicated to research and those to training other than research training.
- Beyond some scientific articles and participation to conferences, the proposal does not provide information on which research outputs will generate, therefore the progress beyond the state of the art is not clearly depicted.
- The interdisciplinary nature of the consortium is insufficiently considered.
- Description of the RMA staff and unit is very generic.
- Effectiveness and efficiency of use of equipment and consumables or a clear picture of the travel costs are difficult to be assessed due to limited information provided both in the proposal content and in the lump sums budget.
- Critical risks potentially impacting the activities have been limited discussed.

Recurring issues in unsuccessful proposals, based on analysis of the evaluator's feedback

THANK YOU!

Contact:

Daniela Dragomir, NCP Widening&ERA

dana.dragomir@uefiscdi.ro