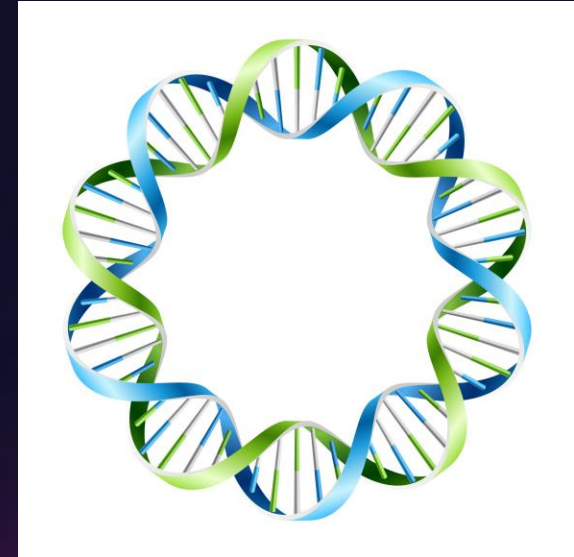


**International Information Day**  
**"Twinning:**  
**general conditions, practical information,**  
**project presentation"**  
**(HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-02- WIDENING-01,**  
**Horizon Europe)**



**27.02.2026 10:00 – 16:00 CET**  
**online, MS Teams platform**



***Karina Barantseva*, NCP for WIDERA**  
**National Contact Point Department, NCBR, Poland**

**New demands,  
new proposal template,  
new evaluation procedure**

# Changes in technical demands

1. Page limit in CSA Part B – 25 pages for budget based projects (~~not 30~~), 28 pages for lump sum projects (~~not 33~~).
2. No hashtags!!!
3. Changes in the indicative number of pages included in each section of the template:
  - 2.1 Project's pathways towards impact [e.g. 3 pages; ~~not 4 pages~~]
  - 2.2 Measures to maximise impact - Dissemination, exploitation and communication [e.g. 3 pages, excluding section 2.3] [~~e.g. 5 pages, including section 2.3~~]
  - 2.3 Summary (OPTIONAL)
    - 3.1 Work plan and resources [e.g. 8 pages (11 pages for topics using lump sum funding) – including tables] [~~e.g. 10 pages (13 pages for topics using lump sum funding) – including tables~~]

# Generative AI tools

## Cancelled:

~~⚠️ If you plan to use, develop and/or deploy artificial intelligence (AI) based systems and/or techniques you must demonstrate their technical robustness. AI based systems or techniques should be, or be developed to become:~~

- ~~• technically robust, accurate and reproducible, and able to deal with and inform about possible failures, inaccuracies and errors, proportionate to the assessed risk they pose~~
- ~~• socially robust, in that they duly consider the context and environment in which they operate~~
- ~~• reliable and function as intended, minimizing unintentional and unexpected harm, preventing unacceptable harm and safeguarding the physical and mental integrity of humans~~
- ~~• able to provide a suitable explanation of their decision making processes, whenever they can have a significant impact on people's lives.~~

# Generative AI tools

## *Guidance on the use of generative AI tools for the preparation of the proposal:*

When considering the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the preparation of the proposal, it is imperative to exercise caution and careful consideration. The AI-generated content should be thoroughly reviewed and validated by the applicants to ensure its appropriateness and accuracy, as well as its compliance with intellectual property regulations. Applicants are fully responsible for the content of the proposal (even those parts produced by the AI tool) and must be transparent in disclosing which AI tools were used and how they were utilized.

Specifically, applicants are required to:

- Verify the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness of the content and any citations generated by the AI tool and correct any errors or inconsistencies.
- Provide a list of sources used to generate content and citations, including those generated by the AI tool. Double-check citations to ensure they are accurate and properly referenced.
- Be conscious of the potential for plagiarism where the AI tool may have reproduced substantial text from other sources. Check the original sources to be sure you are not plagiarizing someone else's work.
- Acknowledge the limitations of the AI tool in the proposal preparation, including the potential for bias, errors, and gaps in knowledge.

# “Do no significant harm”

## Cancelled:

~~Where relevant, include how the project methodology complies with the ‘do no significant harm’ principle as per Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2020/852 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (i.e. the so-called ‘EU Taxonomy Regulation’). This means that the methodology is designed in a way it is not significantly harming any of the six environmental objectives of the EU Taxonomy Regulation.~~

# Pathways to Impact

## Cancelled:

~~⚠ The outcomes and impacts of your project may be:~~

- ~~• **Scientific**, e.g. contributing to specific scientific advances, across and within disciplines, creating new knowledge, reinforcing scientific equipment and instruments, computing systems (i.e. research infrastructures);~~
- ~~• **Economic/technological**, e.g. bringing new products, services, business processes to the market, increasing efficiency, decreasing costs, increasing profits, contributing to standards' setting, etc.~~
- ~~• **Societal**, e.g. decreasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, decreasing avoidable mortality, improving policies and decision making, raising consumer awareness.~~

*Only include such outcomes and impacts where your project would make a significant and direct contribution. Avoid describing very tenuous links to wider impacts. However, include any potential negative environmental outcome or impact of the project. Where relevant, explain how the potential harm can be managed.*

# Pathways to Impact

## Cancelled:

~~Give an indication of the scale and significance of the project's contribution to the expected outcomes and impacts, should the project be successful. Provide quantified estimates where possible and meaningful.~~

~~⚠ *'Scale' refers to how widespread the outcomes and impacts are likely to be. For example, in terms of the size of the target group, or the proportion of that group, that should benefit over time; 'Significance' refers to the importance, or value, of those benefits. For example, number of additional healthy life years; efficiency savings in energy supply.*~~

~~⚠ *Explain your baselines, benchmarks and assumptions used for those estimates. Wherever possible, quantify your estimation of the effects that you expect from your project. Explain assumptions that you make, referring for example to any relevant studies or statistics. Where appropriate, try to use only one methodology for calculating your estimates: not different methodologies for each partner, region or country (the extrapolation should preferably be prepared by one partner).*~~

# Budget tables and explanations

*Shortening the number of budget tables in Part B (Lump Sum)!!!*

**In Part B we can find:**

**Table 3.1f: Summary of staff effort**

**Table 3.1g: 'Subcontracting costs' items**

**Table 3.1h: 'Purchase costs' items (major equipment costs)**

**We cannot find:**

**Table 3.1h: 'Purchase costs' items (travel and subsistence, equipment and other goods, works and services)**

**Table 3.1i: 'Other costs categories' items (e.g. internally invoiced goods and services)**

**Table 3.1j: 'In-kind contributions' provided by third parties**

**Table 3.1k: Research Component**

# Budget tables and explanations

## (Topic updates, 16 February 2026)

- If your lump sum budget contains any cost items in cost category C and/or D, please make sure to justify these items in the 'Any comments' sheet of the Excel detailed lump sum budget table.
- The reason is that we simplified the proposal template, removing this information from Part B and bringing it closer to the relevant budget items.
- Specifically, you must include justification in the 'Any comments' sheet if you are in any of the following situations:
- If the sum of the costs for 'travel and subsistence', 'equipment', and 'other goods, works and services' (i.e. the purchase costs) exceeds 15% of the personnel costs for a participant. If this is the case, justify the most expensive cost item(s) up to the level that the remaining costs are below 15% of personnel costs.
- If other cost categories (e.g.: internally invoiced goods and services) are used.
- If in-kind contributions are used (non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties, which must be included as direct costs in the corresponding cost category, e.g.: personnel costs or purchase costs for equipment).

# Implementation: WP Description

**⚠** *Structure each work package by breaking it down into tasks. If tasks are not appropriate, work packages can be organised according to other criteria (e.g., according to the type of work or thematically). For each task or element of the work package, describe all activities to be carried out and quantify them (e.g., number of protocols, tests, measurements, combinations, study subjects, conferences, publications, etc.). Provide enough detail to clarify who will do this work and why it is needed for the project, (e.g., the level of qualification and number of person-months for personnel, as well as the requested equipment, consumables, meetings, etc.), to justify the proposed resources and so that progress can be monitored, including by the Commission*

3. Additional explanations, for example, in WP table:

*Description of work (where appropriate, broken down into tasks), lead partner and role of participants. For each task, quantify the amount of work. **Provide enough detail to justify the resources requested and clarify why the work is needed and who will do it.** Deliverables linked to each WP are listed in table 3.1c (no need to repeat the information here).*

## General remarks and changes [1]:

- The 30% budget cap in new Twinnings does not apply to all trainings, but only to trainings linked to research and innovation which advances the state of the art.
- It was already visible for Widening projects evaluators that in quite a few cases there were research costs hidden across work packages via 'trainings' (e.g. training through scientific experiments linked to the research component).

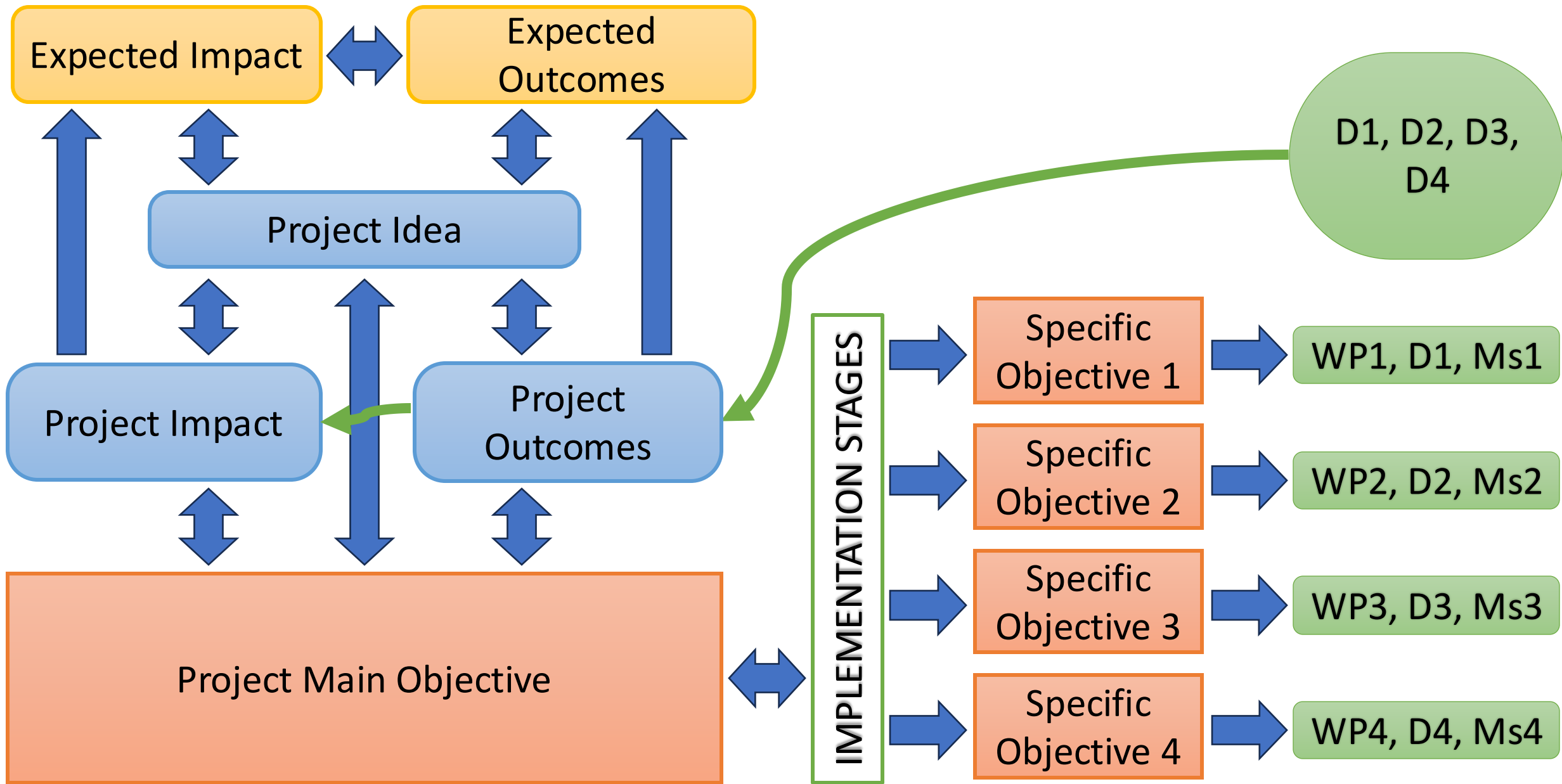
## General remarks and changes [2]:

- There are too many recruitments in Widening projects which are organized only for the project implementation (postdocs, part-time researchers etc.). So, the EC stresses again that any recruitments carried out should be for the benefit of the Widening institution and go beyond the duration of the Widening project. Otherwise, it is difficult to see how are the best practice/ knowledge/ know-how kept in the Widening Institute once the project has ended.
- It is important to remember that the main objective of Widening is not to carry out research but really to focus on enhancing networking activities between Widening institutes and leading international institutes at EU level ensuring an exchange of best practice, raising the research profile of the institute and its staff in particular, strengthening the research management and administration skills.

## Evaluation and award procedure (brand new):

- ***Evaluation process by the evaluation committee:*** Proposals will be first evaluated and scored individually by at least four expert evaluators with respect to the award criteria. The score for each award criterion will be the median of the evaluators' scores. The overall score from this individual evaluation phase will be the sum of the three median scores from the three award criteria.
- These individual assessments/reports of the 4 evaluators will then be quality checked and, if necessary, further discussed at the panel review.
- The Evaluation Summary Report will comprise the final score, ***a collation of the comments from the four individual assessments/ reports, including a comment that summarises the assessment*** by the evaluation committee.

# Tips and tricks for proposal preparation



## Q&A Session



**Thank you  
for your attention!**

*Karina Barantseva,*  
+48 502 052 236  
karina.barantseva@ncbr.gov.pl

*Maria Szlachta,*  
+48 509 597 323  
maria.szlachta@ncbr.gov.pl



National Contact Point Department, NCBR (Poland)