

# CZ-SK WEBINÁŘ K VÝZVĚ EXCELLENCE HUBS 2027

**21. září 2026**

09:30 – 12:00 hod.

Online (TEAMS) - odkaz  
na připojení [ZDE](#).

Organizátor:

Technologické centrum  
Praha a Národní  
kancelária Horizontu,  
CVTI SR



## PROGRAM

- Zahájení
- Představení výzvy EXCELLENCE HUBS 2027 (Petra Fedorová, TC Praha)
- Úspěšné projekty z výzev Excellence Hubs 2022/23
  - ❖ Jana De Merlier, HiLASE (LASER-PRO)
  - ❖ Ladislav Čoček a Zuzana Vémolová, Masarykova univerzita (CHESS)
  - ❖ Peter Hošťák, FunGlass – Centre for Functional and Surface Functionalized Glass (GlaCerHub)
- Nejčastější komentáře hodnotitelů (Alexandra Rysul'ová, CVTI SR)
- Diskuze a závěr

## TÉMA AKCE

Akce se zaměří na přípravu projektů do výzvy EXCELLENCE HUBS 2027. Budou představeny základní parametry výzvy, úspěšné (české a slovenské) projekty z předchozích výzev a nejčastější chyby v projektových návrzích.

**Dotazy: SLIDO**



TECHNOLOGICKÉ  
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NÁRODNÁ  
KANCELÁRIA  
HORIZONTU





TECHNOLOGY  
CENTRE PRAGUE

# CZ-SK WEBINAR EXCELLENCE HUBS 2027 CALL

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Petra Fedorová, WIDERA and ERC NCP  
21 September 2026



# HORIZON EUROPE

Current Framework  
Programme for  
Research and  
Innovation (2021 –  
2027) – 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 January 2026) – 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

# 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)
- 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

Call topics are **bottom-up**, but applicants are encouraged to consider key aspects of the **political guidelines of the EC** from July 2024 and the **Competitiveness Compass** (2025).

# WP WIDERA 2026–2027 STRUCTURE

**EC WIDENING INFODAY**

**22 January 2026**

**Presentations,**

**Recording: morning, afternoon**

## ➡ 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) – **(not repeated at the beginning of the calls themselves)**

## ➡ **Destination Widening participation and spreading excellence (pp 23–57)**

- **General introduction and (10) expected impacts** (p 23)
- Individual calls including **expected outcomes** (pp 24–57)

**EXCELLENCE HUBS 2027**

## ▪ **Destination ERA (pp 58–133)**

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)**

# DESTINATION WIDENING – EXPECTED IMPACT

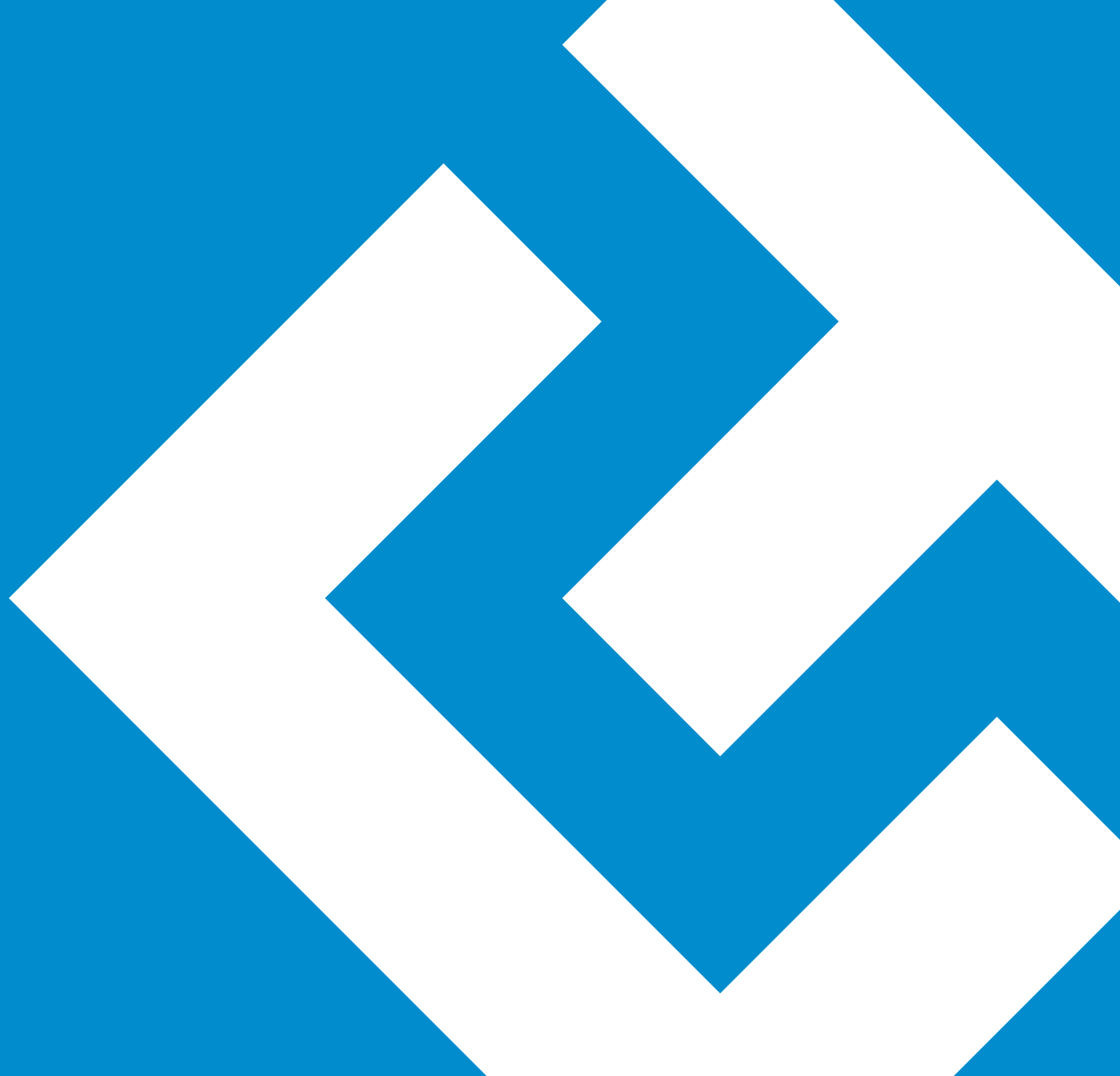
- **Increased R&I capacities** for all actors in the R&I system in Widening countries;
- Structural changes leading to **modernised and more competitive R&I systems** with increased attractiveness and **retention of research talents**;
- **Mobilisation** of national and European resources for strategic 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.

**Choose the most appropriate & check the expected OUTCOMES for the call!**

# EXCELLENCE HUBS 2027

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INTRODUCTION





**Type of action:** CSA

**Funding rate:** 70%

**Project duration:** 5 years

**Indicative number of projects:** 30

**Call budget:** 100 M€

**Project budget:** 1,5 – 4,5 M€

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

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

# EXCELLENCE HUBS 2027

## MAIN OBJECTIVE – to bridge the innovation divide

- ✓ by **connecting the innovation ecosystems** of Widening countries and beyond (if necessary),
- ✓ by creating better links between academia, business, government and society (**quadruple helix**).

Proposals should clearly illustrate the **expected impact**, including new local/international partnerships, institutional changes, increased R&I intensity, etc.

**Legal entities from non-Widening countries may join** if the consortium demonstrates that this is necessary to achieve the expected impacts.

# WHAT ARE EXCELLENCE HUBS

- **Networks of innovation ecosystems in Widening countries**, involving larger communities based on the quadruple helix principle that can drive new European strategic value chains.
- They shall foster a **real place-based innovation culture** in Widening countries based on a strategic agenda aligned with regional or national smart specialisation strategies.
- Action targets **regions as R&I actors**, as they are where innovation and industrial ecosystems thrive, strengthening the connective tissue between higher education institutions, businesses, in particular SMEs and start-ups, research centres, and local communities and citizens.
- Consortia should **seek synergies and avoid overlaps** with relevant initiatives such as European Innovation Ecosystems, EIC Pathfinder, the KICs of the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT), in particular the EIT Community Hubs established in Widening countries, the JRC's 'Partnerships for Regional Innovation' and the Widening Dissemination and Exploitation Facility (**widerAdvance Facility**).

# SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- 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 (universities and/or non-university research centres or labs),
  - b) business entities,
  - c) public authorities or authorised agencies operating at regional or local level,
  - d) societal actors (e.g. civil organisations, citizens, end users, media, cultural actors ...).

# TWO MODES OF INVOLVEMENT

A proposal **may demonstrate involvement of a Widening country R&I ecosystem** by either:

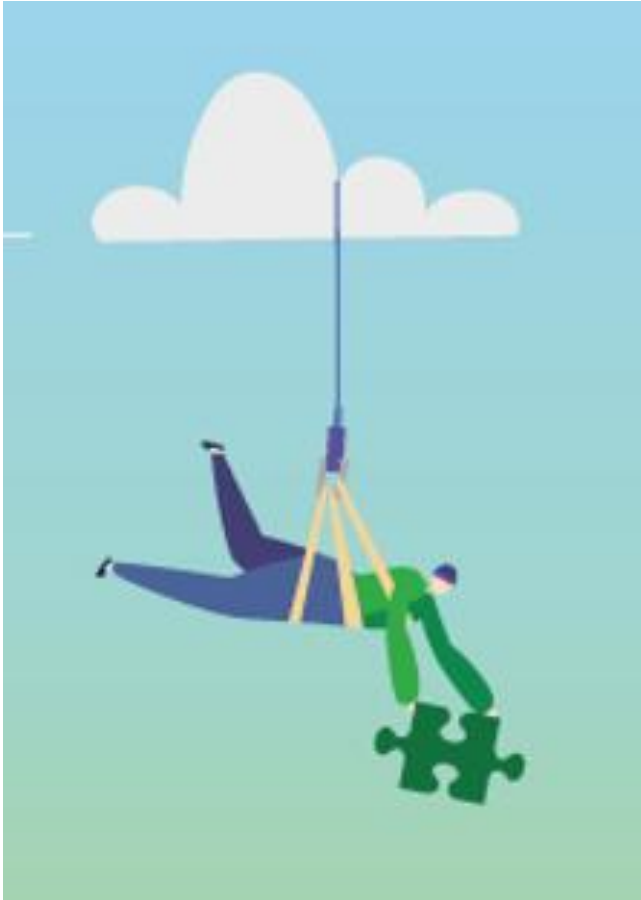
- Participation, as a beneficiary, **by one or more umbrella organisations**, whose membership comprises the four different categories of Widening country R&I actors for the relevant Widening country; or
- Participation, as beneficiaries, of **individual legal entities** representing each of the four categories of actors for the relevant Widening country.
  - **At least one of the business entities per R&I ecosystem needs to be an established firm with turnover.**
  - Such business entities must at the time of the submission of the proposal be **established for already at least two consecutive years** with a proven operational turnover, i.e. by providing balance sheets and/or business reports as annex(es) to the proposal.
  - These documents must be submitted in one of the EU official languages.

# LEGAL AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

- **Financial support to third parties (FSTP)**
  - ✓ Beneficiaries may provide FSTP.
  - ✓ 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**.
- **Project funding rate is 70% of the eligible costs.**
- An explanation should be provided in the proposal on **how the remaining 30% will be secured & shared among the beneficiaries.**



# INCLUDE A WELL-BALANCED PACKAGE COVERING AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES



- Design and implementation of a **cross-border joint R&I strategy** aligned with regional S3 and European priorities;
- **R&I collaboration** strengthening academia-business linkages and providing evidence for strategy building and investment (see next slide);
- **Development of investment plans** to implement the strategy, including business models for commercially sustainable products and services, leveraging private investments, as well as possibly national, regional and European funds
- If applicable, **conceptual design and pre-planning for pilots and demonstrators** in line with the strategy, financed by sources other than the Excellence Hub grants (outline how other financial resources will be accessed at a later stage);
- **Complementary activities** to promote knowledge transfer, visibility, mutual learning, skills development, and engagement with local governments and citizens (**secondments and staff exchanges** should foster long-term collaboration).

# RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMPONENT

- Research and Innovation component should be developed through joint research projects, closing knowledge gaps and advancing science and technology with market potential.
- Description of R&I component should include a long-term vision beyond the state of the art of the chosen R&I domain.
- R&I component must be presented in a distinct work package.
- R&I component should not constitute the dominant part of the project.

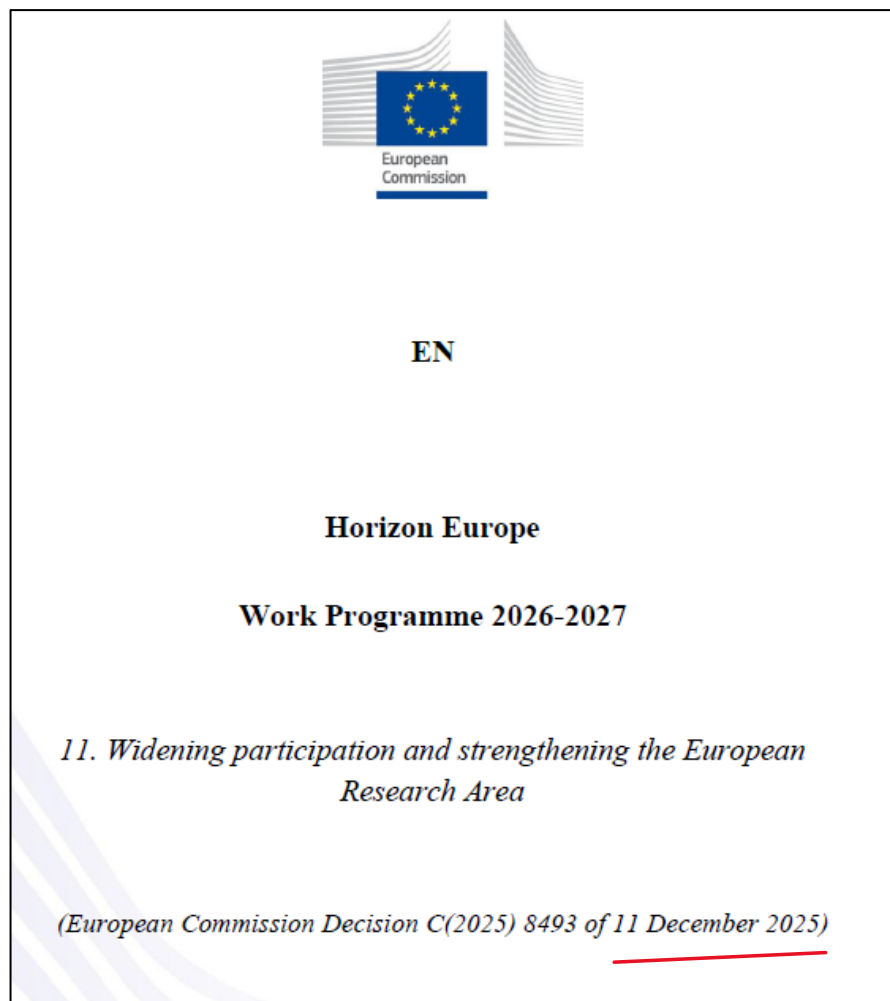
# EXPECTED OUTCOMES (7)

- **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.

# USEFUL DOCUMENTS FOR PROPOSAL WRITING



# WIDERA WORK PROGRAMME & FAQ<sub>s</sub>



The screenshot shows the website of the National Information Centre for European Research. The header includes the Technology Centre Prague logo and the text "NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN RESEARCH". There are language options "CZ EN" and a search icon. The main navigation bar lists "HORIZON EUROPE", "Team", "Services", "News", "Calendar", "Success Stories", "Calls", "Structure of Horizon Europe and ERA", and "E-learning". Below this, there are two tabs: "Widening Participation and Strengthening the ERA" and "Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence". Under the first tab, there is a sub-navigation bar with "Information", "Calls", "National contact", "Calendar", "Documents", "Links", "FAQ", "Linked initiatives", and "Success Stories". The "Documents to download" section is highlighted with a red circle. It contains a list of documents with download icons. The first document, "EXCELLENCE HUBS 2027 CALL - FAQs (as of 17 September 2026)", is circled in red. Other documents include "ERA Chairs 2023 call FAQs", "Excellence Hubs 2023 call - FAQs", and "FAQs for European Excellence Initiative 2023 call (by 8. 2. 2023)".

Source: EU Funding & Tenders Portal - Topic Q&As

# ADMINISTRATIVE FORMS - PART A

[ncpwideranet.eu](http://ncpwideranet.eu)

## Administrative Forms

### Part A



NCP\_  
WIDERA.NET



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the European Union

# CSA **STANDARD** TEMPLATE

## Structure of the Proposal

- **Part A** is generated by the IT system. It is based on the information entered by the participants through the submission system in the **Funding & Tenders Portal**. The participants can update the information in the submission system **at any time before final submission**.
- **Part B** of the proposal is the **narrative part that includes three sections that each correspond to an evaluation criterion**. Part B needs to be uploaded as a PDF document following the templates **downloaded by the applicants in the submission system for the specific call or topic**.

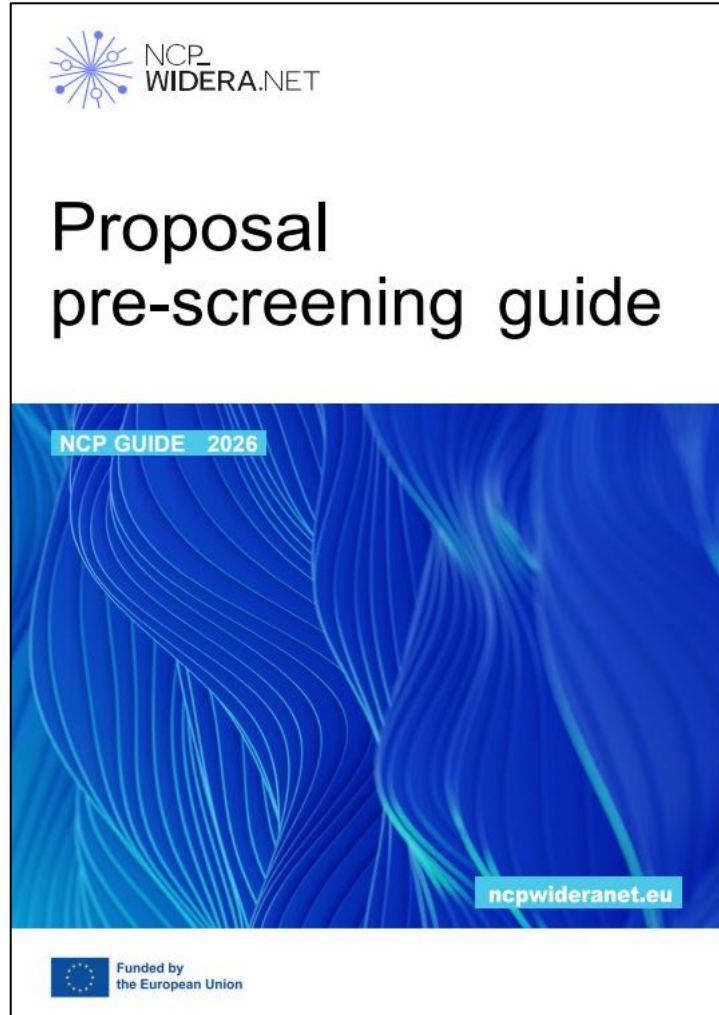


# USEFUL INFORMATION

- EC standard briefing for evaluators (15/4/2026)
- REA recommendations on quality proposal preparation – Dos and Don'ts
- **Communication, exploitation, dissemination:**



# PROPOSAL PRE-SCREENING GUIDE



**Deadline for pre-screening via portal [wideraexperts.eu](https://wideraexperts.eu)**

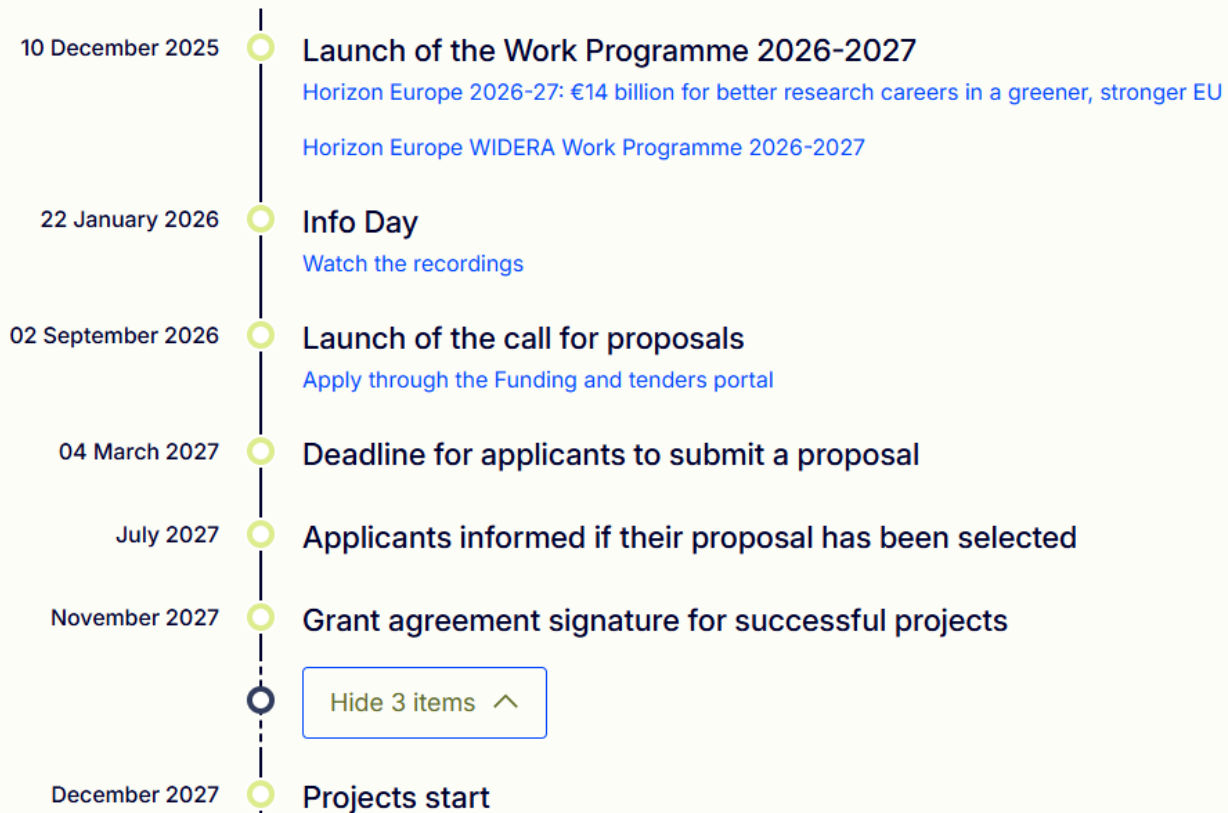
**When: ASAP**  
**[User Guide here](#)**

**Deadline for pre-screening via Czech NCP**

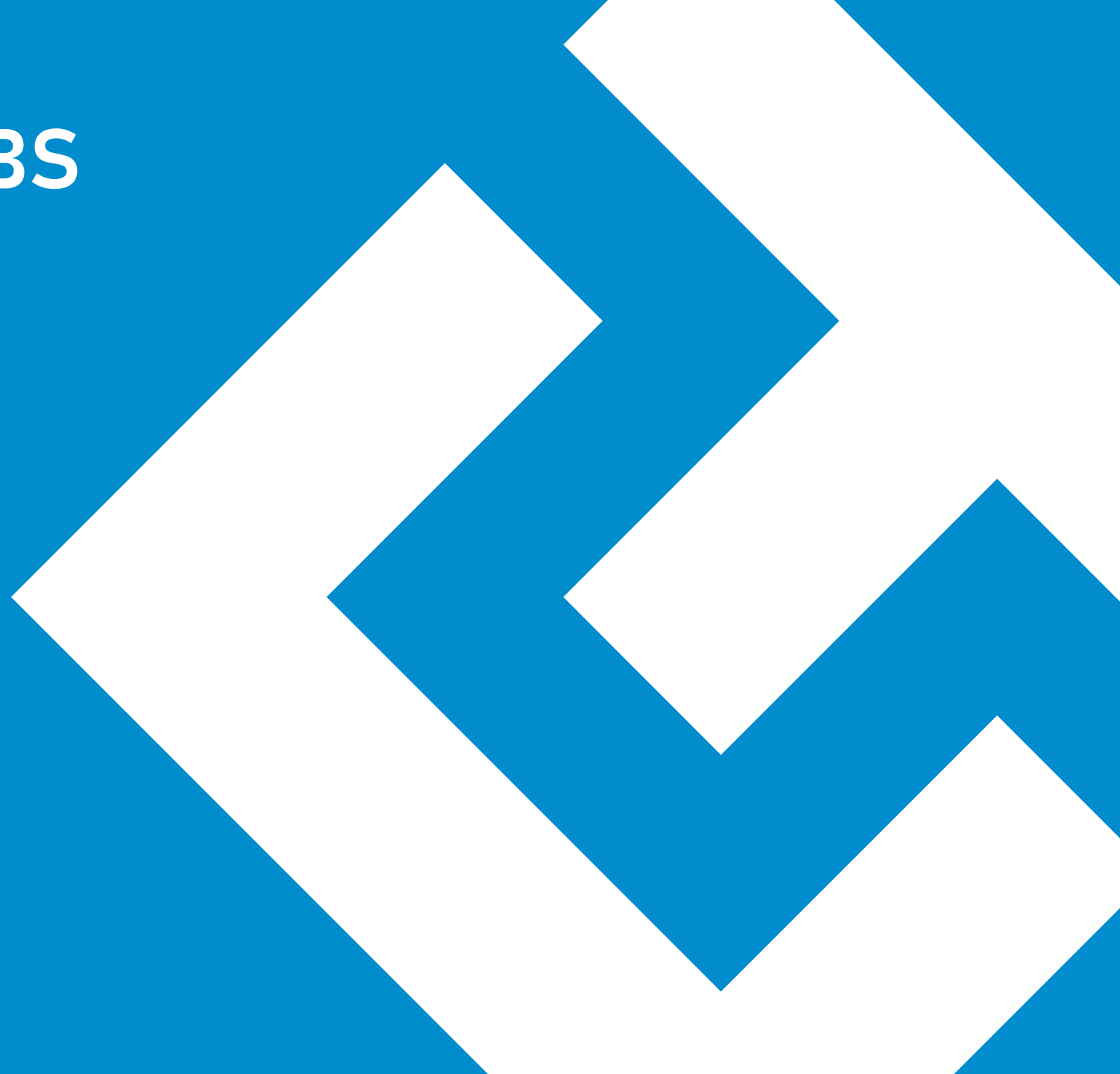
**When: 15 February 2027**

# CALL & EVALUATION TIMEFRAME

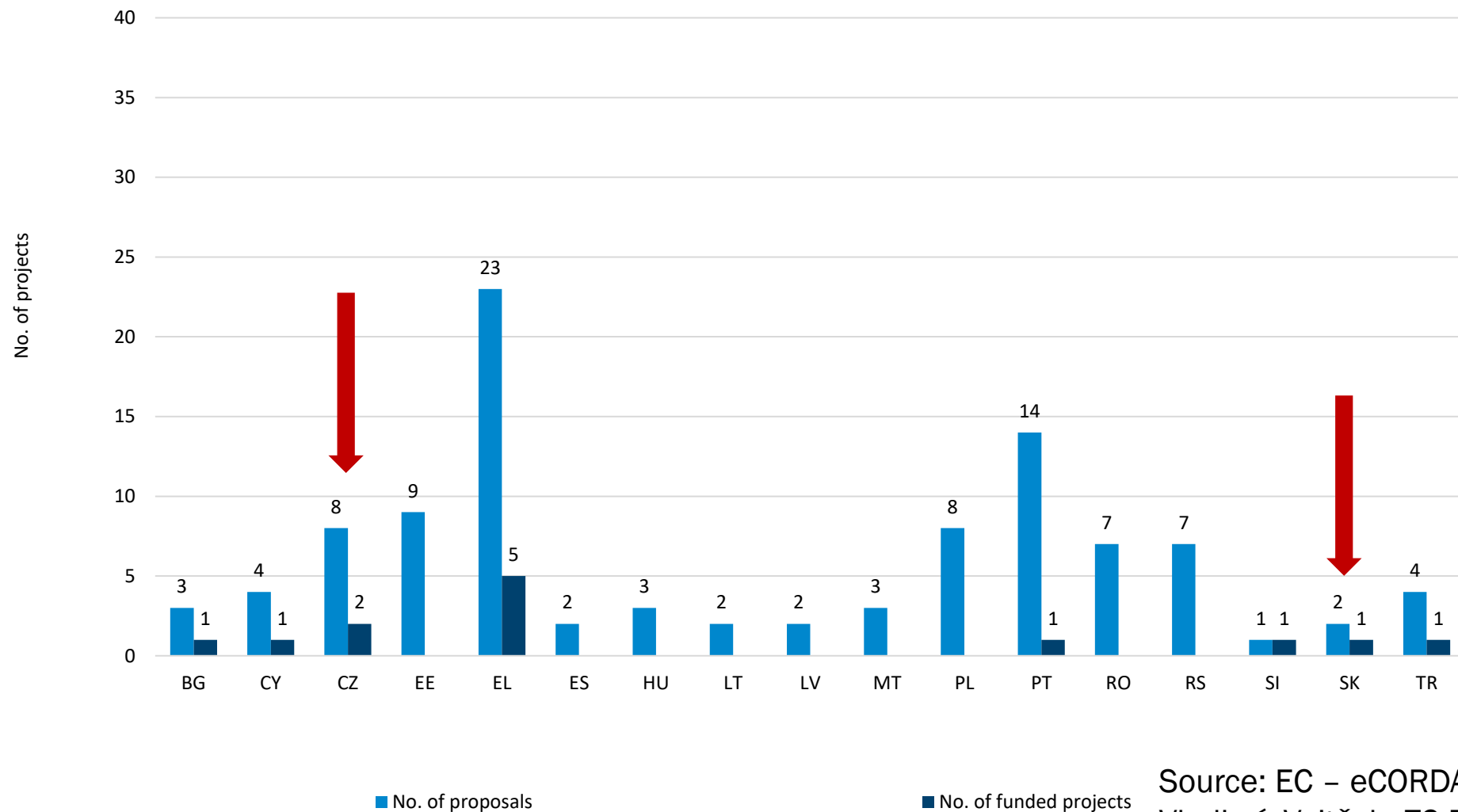
## HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01



# EXCELLENCE HUBS CALLS: 2022 AND 2023 OUTCOMES

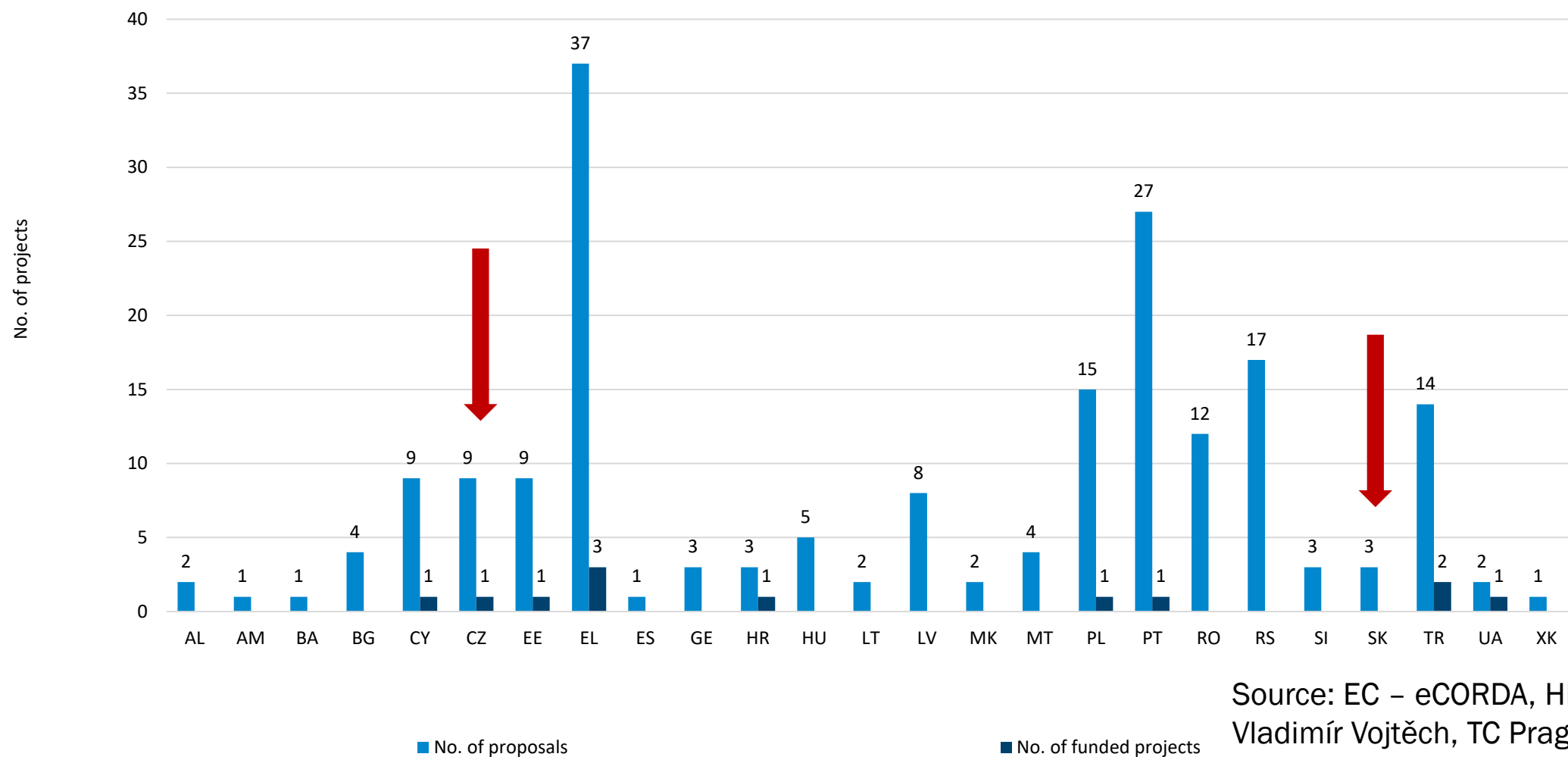


# HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-04 (COORDINATORS, IN ALPHABETIC ORDER)



Source: EC – eCORDA, HE – 18/08/2026,  
Vladimír Vojtěch, TC Prague

# HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07 (COORDINATORS, IN ALPHABETIC ORDER)



Source: EC – eCORDA, HE – 18/08/2026,  
Vladimír Vojtěch, TC Prague



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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](#)

# FUNDED PROJECTS

## CORDIS

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

## 2022 Excellent Hubs projects

## 2023 Excellent Hubs projects

# UPCOMING WIDENING EVENTS

## International Excellence Hubs Week (organised by the NCP\_WIDERA.NET project):

- 23 October 2026 Excellence Hubs Info Day – [JOIN THE EVENT](#)
- 26–27 October 2026 Project presentations via EH Community (EHC)  
[JOIN](#) on 26/10/2026, [JOIN](#) on 27/10/2026
- 28 October 2026 Joint Brokerage Event
- 30 October 2026 Excellence Hubs Projects' Q&As Day (Follow-up to the live streaming of projects' presentations): [REGISTRATION](#)

## Events (co-)organised by the Technology Centre Prague

- 23 November 2026, Prague CZEDER: 23 November 2026, Prague,  
info and registration: [HERE](#)
- April/May 2027 ERA Chairs, ERA Research Managers
- June 2027 EIC Pre-accelerator Widening



# QUESTIONS? DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME!

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