Horizon 2020
Work Programme
for Research & Innovation
2018-2020
Spreading Excellence and
Widening Participation

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Background

- Disparities in research and innovation performance: barrier to competitiveness, growth and jobs across Europe
- Some countries experience low participation in the EU Framework Programmes because of:
  - insufficient national R&D investments
  - lack of synergies between national research systems and the EU research landscape
  - system learning effects
  - reduced access to international networks
  - problems with information, communication and training
FP7 country participation

FP7 Budget Share per country %

"Widening" MS
The Widening Package under H2020

Measures in Horizon 2020 under Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation:

- Teaming (institution building)
- Twinning (institutional networking)
- ERA Chairs (bringing excellence to institutions)
- NCPs (information, communication, support)
- Policy Support Facility (support for R&I Policy design)
- COST (stimulating cross border science networks)

Total Budget in H2020 ~ € 900 million
Specific eligibility criteria for WIDENING

- Particular political objectives of WIDENING in H2020
- Necessitate a targeted approach to help those participants with low performance in R&I
- H2020 legal text >> “low performing RDI Member States and regions”

Eligibility Criterion: **The Composite Indicator of Research Excellence**

- **Threshold**: MS below 70% of the EU average

"Low RDI Performing" or "Widening" Countries:

**MS**: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia

**AC**: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine
Teaming in H2020

Objective:

• Creation of new (or significant upgrade of existing) Centres of Excellence (CoE) in low R&I performing or "Widening" countries

The Partnership: 2 parties in each Teaming project

• (1) the COORDINATOR from the "Widening" country
• (2) an institution with an international reputation in R&I excellence (from all EU28 or AC)

➢ Implementation in 2 Phases
Teaming: Scheme Design

**Phase 1:** Funding the development of a Business Plan for the new/upgraded Centre of Excellence facilitated by a teaming process with a leading counterpart in Europe.

**Phase 2:** Subject to the quality of the proposal for Phase 2, and the financial commitment for the project from other sources, the Commission may provide substantial financial support (max. €15 million) for the first steps of implementation (5-7 years) of the Centre covering administrative, personnel and operational costs as well as "minor" support for equipment and consumables.

**NOTE:** There are no new Teaming calls in H2020. For the ongoing Teaming Phase 2 (restricted) call no information can be provided. Applicants involved in that competition can contact their Project Officer in the REA for further information.
Impact of Teaming

The creation of CoEs in "Widening" Countries through Teaming is expected to:

- increase the scientific capabilities of these countries and enable them to engage in a strategic growth path pointing to long-term opportunities for economic development.

- through improved scientific capabilities allow these countries to improve their chances to seek competitive funding in EU and international fora.

- create critical mass through complementary funding from other sources (e.g. ESIF) also committing national/regional authorities to ensure greater impact and project success.
Twinning: Aim, Objectives & Partnership

**Aim of the action:**
Strengthen a **defined field of research** in a **university or research organisation from a Widening country** by linking it with at least two internationally-leading research institutions in other Member States or Associated Countries.

**Main objectives:**
- Enhance the **S&T capacity** of the institutions - Focus on institution in Widening country
- Raise the research profile of the **institution and** of its research **staff**

**The Partners:** (Minimum Conditions)
- **ONE** institution located in a "Widening" MS/AC (**COORDINATOR**)
- A **minimum of TWO** additional partners from two **different** MS or AC other than the country of the coordinator.
Twinning: Proposal Design & Activities

Proposals:

• Scientific **strategy for excellence and innovation** with proposed formulation of joint new/ongoing research project(s) in a defined area of research;

• Outline the scientific qualities of the **partners**;

• Focus on promoting **early stage researchers** (dedicated Work Package).

Activities supported:

• **Short term staff exchanges**; expert visits and short-term training; workshops; conference attendance; dissemination, networking and outreach activities.

Infrastructure, equipment & research costs (except for training) will **NOT** be funded.
Twinning: Impact & Call details

**Expected Impact:**

- Research **excellence**, in particular, in the selected field of research;
- Improved capability to succeed in competitive **research funding**;
- Enhanced reputation, **attractiveness** and networking;
- The expected potential impact of the project illustrated by a number of **indicators**;
- Benefit from/to "**advanced**" partners to be demonstrated.

**Twinning Call 2018:**

- **Budget:** €30 million
- **Call publication:** 27 October 2017
- **Call opening:** 15 May 2017
- **Call deadline:** 15 November 2018
- **Project Size:** up to €0.8 million (eligibility condition)
- **Project Duration:** up to 3 years (eligibility condition)
- **Implementation:** Coordination and Support Action
  (Last Twinning call with deadline in Nov 2019)
Twinning Lessons learned (1)

Some points learned from the Interim Evaluation:

+ The establishment of the Twinning collaborations was highlighted as the most important result achieved so far.

+ The institution's capabilities in networking and competing for international funding have been increased.

- The project coordinators find that research costs need to be covered.

- Some of the Twinning institutions are managing for the first time a large EU project and the extent of this challenge was not expected.
Twinning Lessons learned (2)

Lessons learned for future calls:

• Clear definition of the scientific strategy towards excellence in the relevant research field;

• Better illustration of the scientific qualities of "advanced" partners and their added value to the project;

• Outline the expected impact of the twinning exercise on the institution in the Widening country (and even at the national/regional level) based on specific indicators.
ERA Chairs - Objectives

Objectives of the action:

• Create the appropriate conditions and bring high quality researchers and managers (the ERA Chair and his/her team) to universities and other research organisations with the potential for research excellence.

• Institutions should implement structural changes to achieve excellence on a sustainable basis.

Participants

• One single applicant (mono-beneficiary action) located in a Widening country.
ERA Chairs: Proposal Design & Impact

Proposals:

• Bottom-up approach in the field of research but connected with the ERA Chair holder expertise to fully capitalise on his/her presence;

• Measures to foster structural changes for excellence including compliance with ERA priorities (open recruitment, peer review, gender balance, Charter & Code);

• Include a plan to increase Research Capacity - if infrastructures foreseen present a strategy for funding (including possible use of ESIF funding).

Expected Impact:

• Increased attractiveness of institution and region for excellent researchers;

• Research excellence in the fields covered by the ERA Chair;

• Improved capability of the institution to succeed in competitive research funding;

• Institutional changes with increased research capacity and ERA priorities compliance.
ERA Chairs: The ERA Chair holder

• The ERA Chair should be an outstanding researcher and research manager with a proven record of leadership and must match the profile of "Established" (R3) or "Leading"(R4) Researcher as per the E. Framework for Res. Careers;

• The ERA Chair appointment must follow an open and merit-based recruitment process - to be subjected to monitoring by the European Commission;

• ERA Chair holder must be appointed in a full time position;

• The institution should ensure commitment and the necessary autonomy towards the ERA Chair (e.g. a professor position within the institution and clarity on remuneration through a letter from the head);

• ERA Chairs can be of any nationality;
ERA Chairs: Costs & Call 2017 details

**Eligible Costs:**

- Salaries of ERA Chairs and his/her team.
- Contribution towards measures aimed at facilitating structural changes at the institution:
  - ERA priorities;
  - Costs including training, meetings, publication and patenting costs, (minor part of budget for equipment);
- The grant will not cover infrastructure costs.

**ERA Chairs Call 2018:**

**Budget:** €30 million

**Call publication:** 27 October 2017

**Call opening:** 26 July 2018

**Call deadline:** 15 November 2018

**Project Size:** up to €2.5 million (eligibility condition)

**Project Duration:** up to 5 years (eligibility condition)

**Implementation:** Coordination and Support Action

(Last ERA Chair call with deadline in Nov 2019)
ERA Chairs lessons learned

Lessons learned for future calls:

• Clearly define objectives towards institutional changes

• Demonstrate the role and autonomy of the ERA Chair holder

• Work Packages should be consistent and contribute to an overall Action Plan

• Management structures need to be well defined and simple.
Widening Fellowships (WF)

What is it?
Specific support to researchers of any nationality to undertake their fellowship in a Widening Country

Mechanism:
- First step: Regular MSCA IF call & evaluation and selection of IF Fellows
- Proposals above quality threshold but not retained for funding through the MSCA IF call with beneficiaries in widening countries automatically re-assigned to the WF call
- Proposals then selected following the ranked list of the WF until exhaustion of budget
## Widening Fellowships Calls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Call opens</th>
<th>Call closes</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>12/04/2018</td>
<td>12/09/2018</td>
<td>5 mEUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020*</td>
<td>08/04/2020</td>
<td>09/09/2020</td>
<td>7 mEUR</td>
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* Dates to be confirmed
WIDENING AND HORIZON EUROPE

Adoption of Commission’s proposals for Horizon Europe on 07 June, 2018

Sharing Excellence:
The budget has been doubled for ERA CHAIR, TWINING, TEAMING and COST: 1,7 Billion EUR

You can find the texts here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/designing-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/what-shapes-next-framework-programme_en
Thank you!

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www.ec.europa.eu/research

Participant Portal