THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME
2021 – 2027

Widening Participation and Strengthening the ERA

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**Pillar 1**
Excellent Science
- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

**Pillar 2**
Excellent Science Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness
- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate Energy and Mobility
- Food Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
- Joint Research Centre

**Pillar 3**
Innovative Europe
- European Innovation Council
- European Innovation ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area
- Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence
- Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system
A stronger ERA for the future

What is needed

- Leading the twin transitions & recovery
- Exploiting all ERA capacity in full
- Competitiveness via breakthrough R&I
- Effective and creative knowledge single market

ERA objectives

- Prioritising Investments and reforms
- Improving access to excellence
- Translating R&I results into economic value
- Deepening the ERA

ERA tools

- Joint Programmes, Missions & Partnerships
  - 3% R&D 5% in joint actions
- Reforms (PSF, TSI, RRF), cohesion policy mobility
- EIC, InvestEU, industrial roadmaps, pro-innovation regulation, ERA Hubs, IP
- ERA4You, FAIR data, open platforms, gender plans, careers framework

ERA outcomes

- Joined up national-EU R&I investments & reforms
- Upwards convergence in R&I, EU as talent magnet
- Crowded-in business R&D, robust ecosystems
- Better careers, open science, world-class infrastructures, less gender gaps

Governance

- Pact for R&I
- ERA Forum for Transition
- ERAC
Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA):

Part I: Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

- Reducing the R&I divide
- Encourage institutional reforms and transformation processes of the R&I system
- Mobilise national investments in R&I capacity
- Raise the bar of excellence
- Increase participation
- Promote the creation of new innovation ecosystems and upscaling of existing
- Foster brain circulation

Part II: Reforming and enhancing the European R&I system

- Sets out to reform and enhance the EU R&I system in line with the four priorities of the ERA Communication
- Support to national R&I policy reform
- Promote researchers careers and open science policy
- Share research output effectively
- Promote ERA principles
- Citizens science and science communication

€ 2,96 billion

€ 0,44 billion
## Horizon Europe - Towards the first HE WP: definitions and approach

### EC Policy Priorities
Based on the Political Guidelines for the European Commission 2019-2024 with a focus on three key priorities: Green Deal, Europe fit for the Digital Age, and Economy that Works for People as well as the new Recovery Plan, ERA and the ESFRI white paper.

### Objectives and Expected Impacts
Wider effects on society (including the environment), the economy and science, enabled by the outcomes of R&I (long-term).

### Destinations
Packages of actions around which each Work Programme part will be designed, aimed at contributing to the objectives and expected impacts set out in the Strategic orientations. The Destinations will provide the policy narrative for the calls and actions included in the WP.

### Calls for proposals
Each Destination will be implemented by means of calls for proposals. Each Call for proposals will include one or more topics, all with the same deadline.
Widening actions in HE
Widening participation/spreading excellence

- National Contact Point (NCP) Support
- Pre-proposal checks
- 15 Member States and 9 outermost regions eligible for coordinators
  - At least 3.3% budget
- Recognition of participation
- Match-making
  - Foster participation
  - Facilitate collaborative links
  - Contribute to reducing R&I divide
- Hop-on
- Excellence initiatives
  - Brain circulation
- Teaming
- Twinning
- ERA-Chairs
- COST
Novelties for Widening under Horizon Europe:

• Increased **budget** (3.3% of Horizon Europe)
• Full alignment with **new ERA strategic priorities**
• Full implementation of “Advancing Europe” package with a number of additional support schemes to boost participation of less research performing countries (increased support to NCPs, pre-proposal checks, matchmaking)
• Fixed list of eligible Member States to host the main beneficiary (EU13 + PT + EL) + Associated Countries
• EU Outermost Regions fully eligible to host the co-ordinator
• Continuation of core widening instruments Teaming, Twinning and ERA Chairs
• More emphasis on **developing research management capacities**
• **Full integration of COST** under widening, 80% of actions must have significant widening dimension
• More integrated policy approach and **enhanced synergies** with regional policy, transnational missions, regional smart specialisation strategies etc.
Destination #1: Improved access to excellence

**Objective:** to create a portfolio of complementary actions that will build R&I capacities in Widening countries enabling them to advance to the competitive edge at European and international level.

**Main impact:**
- Increased science and innovation capacities for all actors in modernised and more competitive R&I systems in widening countries
- Reformed institutions and increased attractiveness for talents
- Higher participation success in Horizon Europe and more consortium leadership roles
- Stronger linkages between academia and business and improved career permeability
- Strengthened role of the Higher Education sector in research and innovation
- Better involvement of regional actors in R&I process
- Improved outreach to international scale for all actors

**ACTIONS**
- Teaming
- Twinning (incl. special call for Western Balkan Countries)
- Excellence Hubs
- European Excellence Initiative for Higher Education Institutions
- R&I Policy making in Western Balkans
- Hop-on facility
- COST
Destination #2: Attracting and mobilising the best talents

Main impacts:
• Inciting institutional reforms in research institutions in widening countries
• Better use existing research infrastructures and populate them with excellent talents
• Attract first-class talents and turn them into game changers in institutions
• Revert brain drain
• Improved linkages between academic and business, notably by overcoming sectoral barriers
• Free circulation of knowledge and expertise in line with ERA priorities

ACTIONS
• ERA Chairs
• Fostering balanced brain circulation: ERA Fellowships
• Fostering balanced brain circulation: ERA Talents
## Comparison of key characteristics of Widening actions

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<th>Actions in WP</th>
<th>Consortium structure</th>
<th>Target group and scale of operation</th>
<th>Policy objectives</th>
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<tr>
<td>Teaming</td>
<td>Main beneficiary + 1 or 2 strategic advanced partners</td>
<td>Single centre of excellence to be modernised or created, relevant at national scale</td>
<td>Develop light houses and role models to stimulate reforms of national R&amp;I system, increase level of excellence of national R&amp;I system, mobilise new investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twinning</td>
<td>Main beneficiary and focused network of partnering organisations</td>
<td>Individual institutions and small network of advanced partnering institutions. Institutional scale with European outreach</td>
<td>Develop excellence in a chosen R&amp;I domain for the main beneficiary with the help of twinning partners, increase visibility of main beneficiary and upskill its staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERA Chairs</td>
<td>Mono-beneficiary host organisation with optional single partner organisation</td>
<td>Excellent individuals and their teams, institutional scale</td>
<td>Excellent scientists and their teams to become game changers at institutional level, develop new research strands and raise level of excellence</td>
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<td>Excellence hubs</td>
<td>Group of 2 or 3 placed based innovation ecosystems based on the quadruple helix approach</td>
<td>Research institutions, firms, local/regional government, societal actors, local regional scale with cross border dimension</td>
<td>Foster innovation excellence in place based (local/regional) innovation ecosystems, improve science business linkages, regional dimension of widening, <strong>bottom-up approach</strong></td>
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<td>Excellence Initiative for Higher Education Institutions</td>
<td>Network of European Universities, co-ordinated by university from widening country</td>
<td>Universities at European Level</td>
<td>Support transformation of HE institutions towards excellence and international profile</td>
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European Research Area
Destination 3: Reforming and enhancing the European Research & Innovation system

2. Improving access to excellence
   • Networking & training for research managers

3. Translating R&I results into economic value
   • Standardisation booster, Innowide Bridging, IP mgmt
   • ERA Hubs for interconnected ecosystems, future resilience
   • Innovation scoreboard, industrial technology roadmaps

1. Prioritising investments & reforms
   • Support for policy makers, Policy Support Facility, ERA Scoreboard, Support SI presidency

4. Deepening the ERA
   • Open Science, reform assessment
   • Acceleration services for HEI
   • Strengthening R&I talents/careers
   • Citizen Science
   • Science education
   • Gender
   • Ethics and integrity
Strand 1: Support for policy makers – Programme level collaboration between national R&I programmes

Rationale:
• coordinate national and regional R&I programmes by pooling national resources and contributing to the alignment of national research and innovation policies.

Objective:
• provides the possibility for Member States, Associated Countries and civil society organisations such as foundations, to maintain existing and establish new collaborations on priorities of their choice.

Expected Outcome:
• Identification of common research and innovation priorities agreed among the participating national and regional R&I programmes
• Implementation of multiannual joint calls, resulting in the funding of transnational collaborative R&I projects
• Implementation of other joint activities supporting the market, regulatory or societal uptake of results
Strand 2: Network for research managers

Rationale:
• Entities and regions who are proven strong and excellent hubs in knowledge creation and innovation usually rely on a strong population of ‘research managers’: expand across ERA

Objective:
• Improving training and skills development of research management staff
• Develop better research and innovation management capacity and guidance for researchers

Expected Outcome:
• Increased capacity and compatibility of cooperation and funding systems throughout the ERA for research management, and support to scientists
• Improved knowledge for policy making about the networking patterns of support staff
• Appropriate “fit for purpose” skills in EU research management for EU R&I system
• Clear career path for research manager, enhancing role in ERA
Strand 3: ERA Hubs
promoting knowledge creation, circulation, use

Rationale for action:
• Strengthen territorial cohesion, place-based growth and regional development
• Stimulate excellence and incentivize less developed ecosystems
• Create a networking framework to collaborate and exchange of best practice
• Interconnect ecosystems to make them interoperable and compliant with common criteria
• Better attract and retain talent in countries/regions.

Activities towards ERA Hubs:
• Mapping knowledge ecosystems, identify regional gaps
• Identify success factors of ecosystems (often at its core HEI, RTO, research infrastructures)
• Develop and interconnect knowledge ecosystems across the entire ERA; improve access to talents and investments
Strand 4: Acceleration services for HEI

Rationale:
• Empowering higher education sector in its institutional transformations
• Implementing a collective vision on the future of universities
• Key synergy initiative between ERA, EEA, DEAP, Skills Agenda

Actions:
• Coaching/counselling services for higher education institutions to pursue institutional transformations
• Facilitate access to support for higher education institutions and surrounding ecosystem to deliver on the transformations
• Monitor progress in the transformation efforts

“Transformations” such as:
• Creating critical mass, joining forces
• Sharing of capacity and resources
• Open Science & digitalisation
• Researcher careers & assessment reforms
• Strengthened knowledge transfer capacity
• Reinforced cooperation within ecosystem
• Engaging citizens
Thank you!

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http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe