



HORIZON EUROPE

THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

WIDERA

Widening participation and
Strengthening the European Research Area
(ERA)

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New European Research Area: Policy Framework



Pact for research and innovation in Europe

- **10 values and principles**
- **4 priority areas**
 - Deepening ERA
 - Broadening ERA and relevance
 - Amplifying access to excellence
 - Advancing R&I investments and reforms
- **Research and development targets**



ERA Policy Agenda

- Designed to contribute to the priority areas of the Pact for R&I, setting out the voluntary **ERA actions** which are defined and coordinated at Union level.
- **20 actions for 2022-24**



ERA Governance

ERA Forum (+ subgroups)

Expert group for coordination and implementation of the ERA, together with EU countries, Associated countries and stakeholders

ERAC

high-level strategic policy body, providing advice

Council

Decision making
“Owner” of Policy Agenda



ERA Monitoring

- Ensure a proper basis for **evidence informed policy making**
- Provide evidence and analysis

ERA Policy Agenda: 20 actions along four priority areas

DEEPENING A TRULY FUNCTIONING INTERNAL MARKET FOR KNOWLEDGE

1. Open sharing of knowledge, incl. EOSC
2. Data legislation fit for research
3. Reform of research assessment
4. Strengthen research careers
5. Gender equality and inclusiveness
6. Protect academic freedom
7. Better knowledge valorisation
8. Research infrastructures
9. International cooperation, reciprocity

TOGETHER FOR TWIN GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION, AND INCREASING SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ERA

10. R&I Missions and Partnerships for ERA
11. Green energy transformation
12. Transition of industrial ecosystems
13. Empower higher education institutions
14. Bring science closer to society



AMPLIFYING ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE UNION

15. Regional and national R&I ecosystems
16. EU-wide access to excellence
17. Strategic capacity of public RPOs

ADVANCING CONCERTED R&I INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

18. Coordination national support for ERA
19. ERA monitoring mechanism
20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms

Member States' commitment per action

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	16	17	19	20	Total	
Austria (AT)																				15
Belgium (BE)																				18
Bulgaria (BG)																				7
Croatia (HR)																				4
Cyprus (CY)																				11
Czechia (CZ)																				18
Denmark (DK)																				14
Estonia (EE)																				18
Finland (FI)																				11
France (FR)																				18
Germany (DE)																				18
Greece (EL)																				6
Hungary (HU)																				14
Ireland (IE)																				10
Italy (IT)																				14
Latvia (LV)																				8
Lithuania (LT)																				14
Luxembourg (LU)																				6
Malta (MT)																				5
Netherlands (NL)																				16
Poland (PL)																				11
Portugal (PT)																				18
Romania (RO)																				8
Slovakia (SK)																				11
Slovenia (SI)																				13
Spain (ES)																				17
Sweden (SE)																				10
Total	25	14	22	25	19	15	19	24	20	24	18	21	16	18	15	13	16	9		

- Commitment templates from all Member States have been received.
- For action 17, only one additional commitment is needed to reach the threshold.



HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA

Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area: Policy narrative

Widening component

- Tackle the innovation divide towards a more inclusive and cohesive European research and innovation ecosystem in the European Union;
- Raise the bar of excellence and visibility for research institutions and teams in catching up countries;
- Existing disparities between R&I leading and lagging countries and regions should be reduced by institutional and systemic policy reforms.

ERA component

- Support the four objectives set out in the ERA Communication, and the implementation of the 20 actions in the ERA Policy Agenda (*Prioritising investments and reforms, Improving access to excellence, Translating R&I results into the economy, Deepening the ERA*)

Synergies with other funding programmes/work programme parts

- Horizon Europe including thematic clusters and R&I missions, in relation to the relevant actions in the ERA Policy Agenda, and of the ambition of the Pact for R&I in general;
- Cohesion policy and other similar community funding such as RRF, IPA (in particular for Widening);
- Erasmus+ (European Strategy for Universities);
- ... and of course the national investments and reforms, including those supported by RRI

WIDERA WP part 2023-2024 in a nutshell

3 Destinations:

- **Improved access to Excellence, 7 calls, 8 topics**
call deadlines 12/4/2023, 28/9/2023, 7/3/2024 and 26/9/2024
- **Attracting and mobilising the best talents, 4 calls**
call deadlines 7/3/2024 and 26/9/2024, and 2 aligned to MSCA 13/9/2023 and 11/9/2024
- **Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system,**
2 calls, 24 topics, call deadlines 9/3/2023 and 12/3/2024
- **Other actions:**
 - 2 Prizes: Horizon Impact Award, EU Award for (Academic) Gender Equality Champions;
 - 7 GIB: RESAVER, EUCYS; COST, presidency events etc.;
 - 10 Procurements and 4 groups of expert contract actions;
 - 1 Contribution Agreement with OECD.
- **~EUR 900 million total budget:** ~EUR 445 million on topics/actions 2023,
~EUR 455 million on topics/actions 2024



Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system: Calls 2023

- ERA-01-01: Programme level collaboration between national R&I policy makers
- ERA-01-02: A strong European R&I Foresight Community to better inform R&I policy decisions in the European Research Area about potential futures
- ERA-01-03: Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation
- ERA-01-04: Development of new approaches to the macroeconomic modelling of research and innovation
- ERA-01-05: Exploitation and valorisation of results relevant for the ERA Policy Agenda
- ERA-01-06: Building a virtual European Info Platform on Contemporary China
- ERA-01-07: Support to reforms of research assessment in the European Research Area
- ERA-01-08: Laying the groundwork towards Europe-wide citizen science campaigns
- ERA-01-09: Policy support to facilitate the implementation of a zero-tolerance approach towards gender-based violence in the ERA
- ERA-01-10: Support to the implementation of an EU Manifesto for STE(A)M education and research and innovation career paths to tackle gender inequalities in the ERA
- ERA-01-11: Research ethics for environmental and climate technologies
- ERA-01-12: The future of research ethics review in the changing research environments

Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system: Calls 2024

- ERA-01-01: Programme level collaboration between national R&I policy makers
- ERA-01-02: Emerging needs of the ERA Policy Agenda
- ERA-01-03: Support for the professionalisation of research management
- ERA-01-04: Strengthening researchers' skills for better careers – leveraging the European Competence Framework for Researchers
- ERA-01-05: Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation
- ERA-01-06: European Excellence Initiative: Acceleration services in support of universities
- ERA-01-07: Capacity building on intellectual property (IP) management to support open science
- ERA-01-08: Global cooperation in not-for-profit open access publishing
- ERA-01-09: Support to the development and implementation of policies and practices for reproducibility of scientific results
- ERA-01-10: Policy coordination to support all aspects of inclusive Gender Equality Plans and policies in the ERA
- ERA-01-11: Support to the implementation of inclusive gender equality plans
- ERA-01-12: Next generation AI and Human Behaviour: promoting an ethical approach

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-01 & HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-01: Programme level collaboration between national R&I policy makers

Complementary topic to the new approach for European Partnerships: possibility for MS, AC and civil society organisations to maintain existing and establish new collaborations on priorities of their choice.

Expected outcomes

- Identification of common research and innovation priorities at the level of national and regional R&I programmes, taking into account international developments, where relevant, leading to the development of coordinated R&I funding agendas;
- 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;
- Contribution to participating states meeting Global Challenges, including relevant contribution to the SDGs.

Call is open in 2023 and 2024

Call Opening / closure:

6 Dec 2022 / 9 Mar 2023

6 Dec 2023 / 12 March 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 10

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 6 + 6

Indicative number of projects: 3

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-03 & HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-05

Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation

Translating available scientific knowledge and research results to innovative solutions *-including through more **experimentation, peer learning and testing of new models as well as trying out good practices in different environments***

Expected outcomes

- Value creation for economy and society by increased interlinkages and cooperation between knowledge valorisation actors;
 - New solutions to societal and economic challenges by stronger uptake and deployment of research results, including through the involvement of citizens and civil society;
 - Improvements of structures, strategies, practices and skills for knowledge valorisation through sustainable reforms and new initiatives.
- ➔ Schemes and incentives for researchers to engage with society that promote the uptake of research results (academia–society collaboration); and/or
- ➔ Transfer of best practices in knowledge valorisation in academia-industry linkages or quadruple helix-based innovation

Call in 2023 and Call in 2024

Call Opening / closure:

6 Dec 2022 / 9 Mar 2023

6 Dec 2023 / 12 March 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 7

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 3 + 2

Indicative number of projects: 3 + 2

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-06:

European Excellence Initiative: Acceleration services in support of universities

Support universities and other higher education institutions to develop in line with the European Research Area priorities through strategy support and counseling

Expected outcomes

- Access for higher education institutions to a range of tailor-made **coaching services**, expertise, (virtual) meeting platforms or tools, seed funding for institutional change;
- Successful **institutional reform** and upgrade of higher education institutions in **research & innovation**;
- Connection of higher education institutions with peers, other ecosystem actors, investors and public funders;
- Strengthened R&I capacities in higher education institutions, measured through a monitoring mechanism: modernised **research careers**, accelerated digital transition, increased excellence in science and value creation;
- Contribution to implementation of the relevant **ERA Policy Agenda** priorities in higher education sector.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2023

Call Closure: 12 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 13

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR 9.0 million

Indicative number of projects: 4

Expected duration: 2-5y

Widening participation: Policy Objectives 2023/4

1. Encourage **institutional reforms and transformation processes** of the R&I system at national and regional level in Widening countries in line with ERA principles;
2. Mobilise **national investments in R&I** capacity in Widening countries;
3. Raise the bar for **excellence of R&I actors** in Widening countries in partnership with outstanding European and international institutions ('win-win situation');
4. Increase number of **participations and success** rates of widening actors in research and innovation projects in other parts of Horizon Europe (notably in Pillars 2 and 3);
5. Promote the creation of **new innovation ecosystems** and scale up existing ones by a set of measures
6. Foster **brain circulation**, including inter-sectoral mobility for researchers and innovators and turn it into brain gain for Widening countries.

Widening participation: Calls 2023/4

Destination 1 – Improved Access to Excellence

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01-01 - Teaming for Excellence
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 – Twinning
 - HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-01 - Twinning - Bottom up
 - HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-02-2 - Twinning - Green Deal
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-03-01 - European Excellence Initiative (EEI)
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-04-01 - Pathways to Synergies
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-05-01 - Dissemination and Exploitation Support Facility
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06-01 - Hop-on facility
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07-01 - Excellence Hubs

Destination 2 – Attracting and mobilising the best talents

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01-01 - ERA Chairs
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-02-01 - ERA Fellowships
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-03-01 - ERA Talents

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01-01-two-stage

Teaming for Excellence

Expected outcomes

To create or modernise a centre of excellence, relevant at national level, in a chosen scientific domain

- Increased scientific capabilities of the beneficiary institution and the host country enabling them to successfully apply for competitive funding in the EU and globally;
- Improved R&I culture of the coordinator country;
- Stimulus for institutional and systemic reforms;
- Mutual learning and two-way benefit from and to the partners from leading scientific institutions from abroad;
- Development of new research strands in relevant domains;
- Developed and enhanced research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies;
- Enhanced innovation and integration of planned processes, services and products of the centre,
- Enhanced co-operation and synergies with other (community) funding programmes

Call Opening: 10 Jan 2023

Call Closure stage 1: 13 Apr 2023

Call Closure stage 2: 07 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: 174 Mio. €

Indicative number of projects: up to 18

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-01: Twinning - Bottom up

Twinning aims to enhance networking activities between the research institutions of the Widening countries and top-class leading counterparts at EU level

Expected outcomes

- Improved excellence capacity and resources in Widening countries enabling to close the still apparent research and innovation gap within Europe.
- Enhanced strategic networking activities between the research institutions of the Widening countries and at least two internationally-leading counterparts at EU level.
- Raised reputation, research profile and attractiveness of the coordinating institution from the Widening country and the research profile of its staff.
- Strengthened research management capacities and administrative skills of the staff working in institutions from the Widening country.
- Improved creativity supported by development of new approaches in R&I collaboration, increased mobility (inwards and outwards) of qualified scientists.

Call Opening: 25 Apr 2023

Call Closure: 28 Sep 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: 113 Mio. €

Indicative number of projects:

80

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-02: Twinning - Green Deal

Twinning Green Deal adds in directionality to the general twinning action. All the conditions remain the same except for the choice of the research topic. The latter will have to be in line with the European Green Deal strategy actions

Expected outcomes

- Improved excellence capacity and resources in Widening countries enabling to close the still apparent research and innovation gap within Europe;
- Enhanced strategic networking activities between the research institutions of the Widening countries and at least two internationally-leading counterparts at EU level;
- Raised reputation, research profile and attractiveness of the coordinating institution from the Widening country and the research profile of its staff;
- Strengthened research management capacities and administrative skills of the staff working in institutions from the Widening country;
- Improved creativity supported by development of new approaches in R&I collaboration, increased mobility (inwards and outwards) of qualified scientists.

Call Opening: 25 Apr 2023

Call Closure: 28 Sep 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: 27 Mio. €

Indicative Number of Projects:

20

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-03-01

European Excellence Initiative

Cooperation of universities to create critical R&I mass and pursue specific objectives

Expected outcomes

- Successful institutional reform and upgrade of higher education institutions in the R&I dimension;
- Mainstreamed culture of excellence in science and value creation amongst higher education institutions;
- Accelerated institutional reform in R&I dimension and strengthened R&I capacities in higher education institutions, modernised research careers in higher education sector, accelerated digital transition of the R&I dimension;
- Increased global competitiveness of research in higher education institutions by strongly increased critical mass in terms of upskilling, knowledge creation and knowledge circulation.

Call Opening: 10 Jan 2023

Call Closure: 12 Apr 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: 54 Mio. €

Indicative Number of Projects:

20

HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-04-01

Pathways to Synergies

Incentivize sequential synergies between Horizon Europe and other community funds notably ERDF in two optional pathways (upstream, downstream)

Expected outcomes

General

- Improved and more systematic synergies between Horizon Europe & 2020 and ERDF through internationalisation, valorisation and technology uptake;
- Strengthened competitiveness of R&I actors in widening countries;
- Accelerated knowledge transfer and innovation cycle for beneficiaries from ERDF and Horizon;
- Strengthened innovation capacity and competitiveness of less R&I performing regions.

Call Opening: 28 Mar 2023
Call Closure: 28 Sep 2023
ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16
Type of Action: CSA
Budget: EUR Million 20
Indicative number of projects: 20

HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-04-1

Pathways to Synergies (2)

Incentivize sequential synergies between Horizon Europe and other community funds notably ERDF in two optional pathways (upstream, downstream)

Expected outcomes

Pathway 1: upstream

- Joint **internationalisation** strategy for R&I;
- **Human resources** development strategy;
- Improved **access to** excellent European **R&I networks** and communities;
- Increased **competitiveness and reputation** in applications for European and international research funding;
- **Overcoming locked-in effects** for former mono-beneficiaries funded under ERDF;
- Acquisition of **new transferable skills for R&I staff** notably in the fields of knowledge transfer, R&I management and communication;
- Better use of **R&I infrastructure** funded under ERDF by attracting new **talents**;
- Less R&I performing regions.

HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-04-1

Pathways to Synergies (3)

Incentivize sequential synergies between Horizon Europe and other community funds notably ERDF in two optional pathways (upstream, downstream)

Expected outcomes

Pathway 2: downstream

- **Valorisation of results** generated in Horizon Europe/ 2020 projects in a regional context;
- Improved **knowledge transfer and technology** uptake in less R&I performing regions;
- **Exploitation and diffusion of R&I results** into the market in line with national/regional smart specialisation priorities;
- Preparation of **pilots and demonstrators** in the chosen R&I domain for funding under ERDF;
- Improved **IPR management** and technology uptake;
- Activation of **SMEs and regional authorities/agencies.**

HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-05-01

Dissemination and Exploitation Support Facility

Support to beneficiaries in their dissemination and exploitation of results through a market oriented approach and service package

Expected outcomes

- Improved skills and knowledge on D&E, knowledge transfer and IP management;
- Collected and shared best practices for uptake of R&I results and identified blocking elements that prevent beneficiaries from valorising further their R&I results;
- Increased maturity level of key exploitable results;
- Greater recognition of beneficiaries at national & regional policy level, as a result of enhanced visibility of D&E success stories;
- Enhanced synergies between beneficiaries of widening actions;
- Improved sustainability of ongoing widening actions;
- Identified downstream synergies with other EU programmes especially ERDF, ESF, RRF.

Call Opening: 26 Apr 2023

Call Closure: 28 Sep 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 5

**Indicative number of projects:
1 or more**

HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-06-01

Hop on Facility

Research institutions from Widening countries joining Horizon Europe Pillar 2 and EIC pathfinder actions

Expected outcomes

- Unlocked excellence and increased visibility of the participants from the Widening countries, improved knowledge circulation, and reduced lack of participation of Widening countries in thematic domains;
- Opened up silos of established closed consortia, improved research excellence of the Widening country's institutions in specific fields, enlarged outreach of the participants' R&I actions and provided access to new talent pools;
- New competencies and skills for working in transnational projects including research management and dissemination and exploitation acquired.

Call Opening: 10 Jan 2023

Call Closure: 28 Oct 2023, 26 Oct 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 40 + 40

Indicative number of projects: 160

HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-07-1

Excellence Hubs

Collaboration of place-based innovation ecosystems using the quadruple helix model

Expected outcomes

- Excellent and sustainable place-based innovation ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond in relevant domains;
- Long term joint R&I strategies underpinned by concrete action plans;
- Common investment plans for R&I including infrastructures;
- R&I pilot projects alongside a joint strategy and in line with regional and national strategies;
- New competencies and skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in R&I intensive domains;
- Strengthened linkages between science and business, poles of attraction for talents;
- Improved knowledge transfer and development of entrepreneurial skills, uptake of innovative technologies, new business opportunities especially for SMEs and new employment.
- **Optional:** Inclusion of emerging innovation ecosystems from rural areas, Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries including Ukraine by optional mentoring module

Call Opening: 28 Sep 2023

Call Closure: 07 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 60

Indicative number of projects: 12

NEW

24



Thank you!

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