



# Widening actions under “Widening participation and strengthening the ERA” of Horizon Europe

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# HORIZON EUROPE

# EURATOM

**SPECIFIC PROGRAMME: EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND**  
*Exclusive focus on defence research & development*

Research actions

Development actions

**SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT\***  
*Exclusive focus on civil applications*

**Pillar I  
EXCELLENT SCIENCE**



European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Research Infrastructures

**Pillar II  
GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS**



**Clusters**

- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre

**Pillar III  
INNOVATIVE EUROPE**



European Innovation Council

European innovation ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation & Technology\*

**WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA**

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

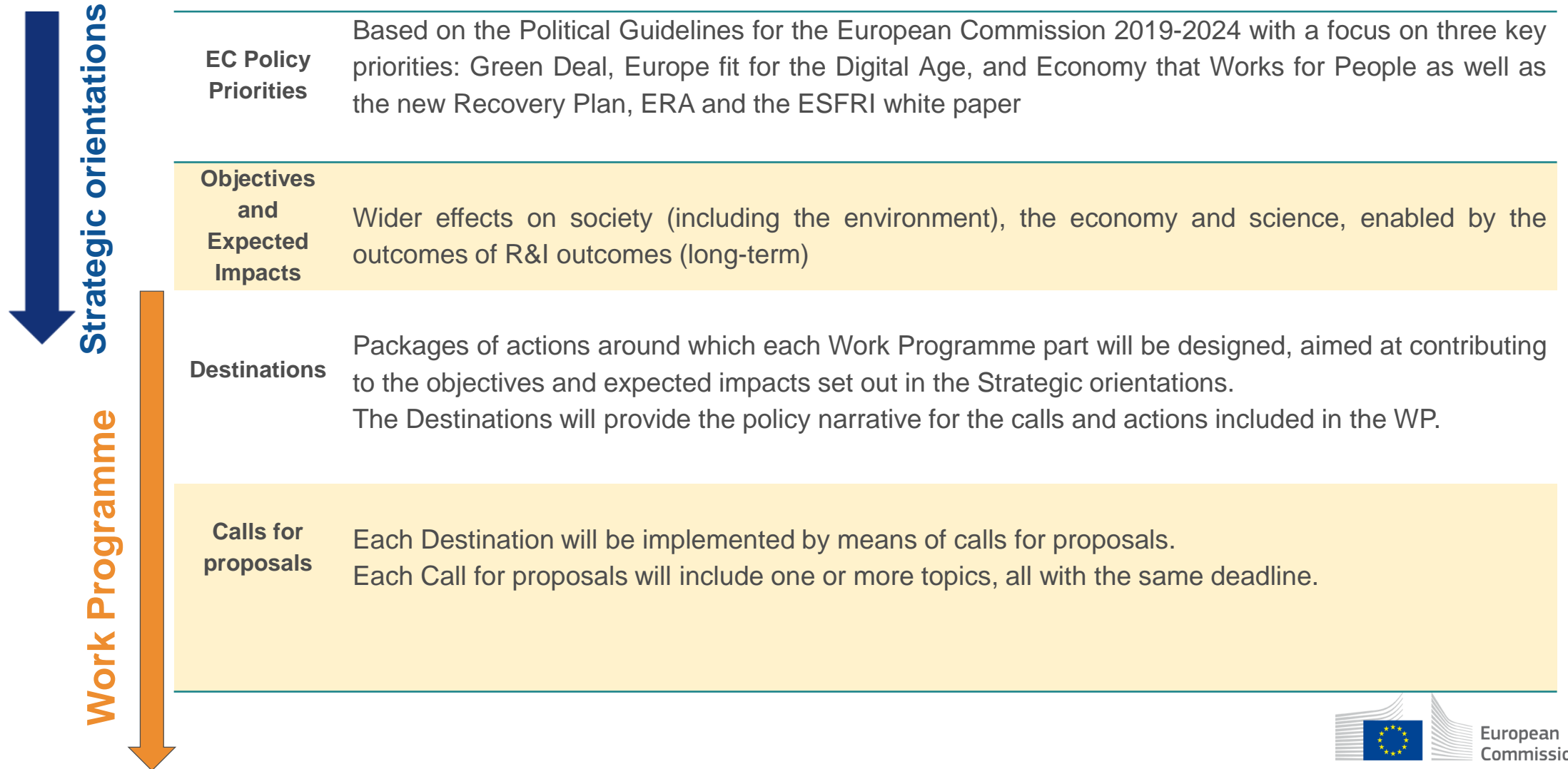
Fusion

Fission

Joint Research Center

\* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

# Horizon Europe - Towards the first HE WP: definitions and approach



# Horizon Europe – Work Programme 2021-2022

- Funding opportunities of €14.7 billion
- MSCA Actions and Research Infrastructures (Pillar 1), Clusters (Pillar 2)
- The first calls are open as of 22 June. Already in the Funding Portal
  
- Other components of Horizon Europe implemented through separate work programmes:
  - European Research Council
  - European Innovation Council
  - Joint Research Centre
  
- 36% of funds will contribute to climate action; and 6.6% to biodiversity related policy objectives.

# Horizon Europe – Work Programme 2021-2022

## Novelties in Rules of Participation

- Gender equality plan
- Open science practices under the excellence section
- Do no significant harm principle
- Hop-on facility
- Staff cost for Universities

# Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area:

## optimising strengths & potential for a more innovative Europe

### Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

- Teaming
- Twinning
- ERA Chairs
- COST
- Support to NCPs
- Brain circulation
- Excellence initiatives:
  - a. Excellence Hubs
  - b. European Excellence Initiative for HEIs
- Hop-on

### Reforming and enhancing the European R&I system

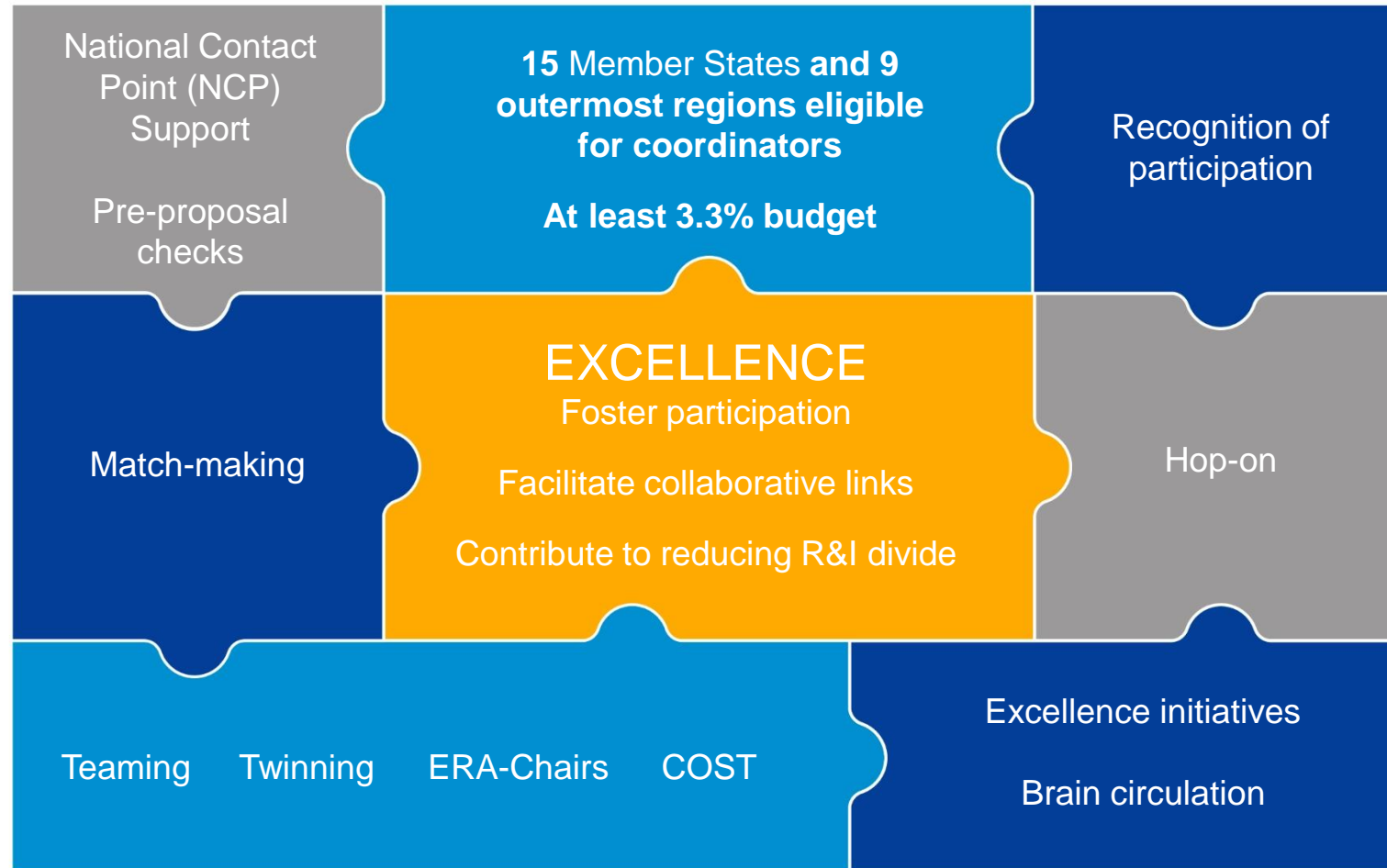
- Scientific evidence & foresight
- Open Science
- Policy Support Facility
- Attractive researcher careers
- Citizen science, Responsible Research & Innovation
- Gender equality

# Novelties for Widening under Horizon Europe:

- Full alignment with **new ERA strategic priorities**
- **Continuation of core widening instruments** Teaming, Twinning and ERA Chairs with some improvements in response to lessons learnt
- **Research cost for CSA eligible** under 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
- **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
- Full implementation of “**Advancing Europe**” package with a number of additional support schemes to boost participation of less research performing countries
- More integrated policy approach and **enhanced synergies** with regional policy, transnational missions, regional smart specialisation strategies etc.



# Widening participation/spreading excellence





## Comparison of key characteristics of widening actions

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

# 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

# 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

# Widening participation and strengthening ERA - foreseen actions

## Destination #1: Improved access to excellence

- Teaming
- **Twinning (incl. special call WBC)**
- Excellence Hubs
- European Excellence Initiative for Higher Education Institutions
- R&I Policy making in Western Balkans
- Hop-on facility
- (under other actions) COST

# Widening participation and strengthening ERA - foreseen actions

- **Destination #2:** Attracting and mobilising the best talents
  - ERA Chairs
  - Fostering balanced brain circulation: ERA Fellowships
  - Fostering balanced brain circulation: ERA Talents

# Call - Twinning Western Balkans - *HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02*

## Objectives:

- Raise the bar for excellence of all R&I actors in the region
- Enhance networking activities between the research institutions of the Western Balkan countries and leading counterparts at EU level
- Enhance the S&T capacity of the WB institutions

# Call - Twinning Western Balkans - *HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02*

## Activities to be supported:

- a) short-term staff exchanges;
- b) expert visits and short term on-site or virtual training;
- c) workshops;
- d) conference attendance;
- e) organisation of joint summer school type activities;
- f) dissemination and outreach activities.

*As far as appropriate these activities should take into account the gender equality plans of the participants.*

# Call - Twinning Western Balkans - *HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02*

## **Expected outcomes of project results:**

- Improved excellence capacity and resources.
- Enhanced strategic networking activities between WB research institutions and at least two internationally-leading counterparts at EU level.
- Raised reputation, research profile and attractiveness.
- Strengthened research management capacities and administrative skills of the staff.
- Improved creativity and increased mobility (inwards and outwards)



# Call - Twinning Western Balkans - *HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02*

## The Twinning proposals:

- should include arrangements for formulating joint research project(s) in the scientific area of choice and describe how Twinning will take this research to a new stage.
- Explain how the leading scientific institutions in the partnership will to new research avenues, creativity and the development of new approaches, as well as acting as a source of increased mobility of qualified scientists.
- Substantiate the benefits for the leading scientific institutions and how they would materialise through the partnership.
- Pay attention to gender equality objectives.
- The research part of the project should be presented through a dedicated work package and plan including the scientific objectives, tasks and roles of the partners.

# Call - Twinning Western Balkans - *HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02*

## Admissibility:

- Applications must be submitted **electronically** before the **call deadline** via the Funding and tenders Portal.
- Applications must be **complete** and contain all parts and mandatory Annexes and supporting documents.
- Applications must include **a plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities**, unless provided otherwise in the specific call conditions.
- Page limits will be clearly shown in the provided templates in the portal – for CSA the limit is 30 pages.

# Call - Twinning Western Balkans - *HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02*

## Entities eligible to participate:

To be eligible for funding, applicants must be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:

- the Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions;
- the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States
- eligible non-EU countries:
- countries associated to Horizon Europe;
- low and middle income countries

# Call - Twinning Western Balkans - *HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02*

## Consortium composition:

Legal entities forming a consortium are eligible to participate in actions provided that the consortium includes:

- At least one independent legal entity established in a Member State; and
- At least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries.

## Exceptions:

The coordinator must be a legal entity established in one of the following countries: AL, ME, BiH, KO, MK and RS.

Furthermore, at least **70%** of the budget for research activities must be allocated to the coordinator from the above stated eligible countries.

# Call - Twinning Western Balkans - *HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02*

## Entities eligible for funding:

Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organisations *is eligible to participate provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call topic.*

A 'legal entity' means any natural or legal person created and recognised as such under national law, EU law or international law, which has legal personality and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity without legal personality.

# Call - Twinning Western Balkans - *HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02*

## Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

### *Applicants must have:*

- **Stable and sufficient resources and capacity** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.
- **Know-how, qualifications and resources** to successfully implement their tasks in the project and contribute their share.
- Applicants that are subject to **EU administrative sanctions** (i.e. exclusion) or are in one of the **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU grants can NOT participate.

# Call - Twinning Western Balkans - *HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02*

## Award Criteria:

### **Excellence**

- Clarity and pertinence of objectives
- Quality of the proposed coordination/support action and methodology

### **Impact**

- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes
- Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise the impact

### **Quality and efficiency of implementation**

- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan and resources
- Capacity and role of each participant and consortium as a whole

# Call - Twinning Western Balkans - *HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02*

## Scores and weighting:

- Evaluation scores will be awarded for the criteria.
- For full applications, each criterion will be scored out of 5. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10.
- Proposals that pass the individual threshold AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding, within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.



# Call - Twinning Western Balkans - *HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02*

## Procedure:

The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following **exceptions**, rules for dealing with ex-aequo applications apply:

- In the first place, ex aequo proposals will be prioritised according to geographical diversity criteria, as indicated in Point 4) of General Annexes Part F (Procedure/Evaluation procedure and ranking).
- The method described in 1), 2), 3) and 5) will be applied to the remaining equally ranking proposals in the group.
- This rule establishing the priority order serves to better spread the impact of the action and to strengthen the efficiency of the 'Widening participation and spreading excellence' programme



# Thank you!

#HorizonEU

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