EU CONEXUS
ENABLES

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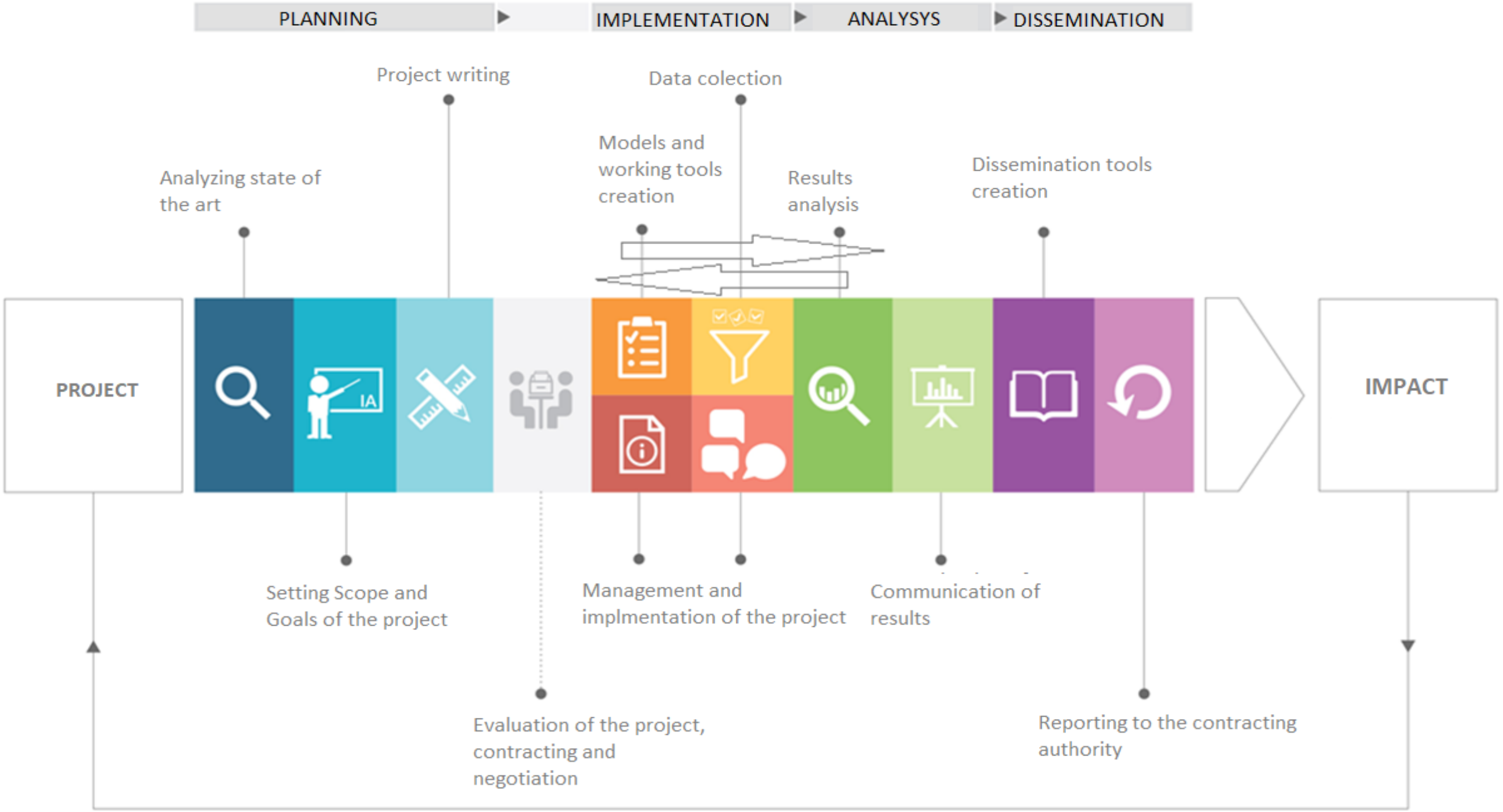
# *Practical tips and tricks for designing and management successful Horizon Europe project proposals*

Prof. Ilinca Nastase – Technical University of Civil Engineering of Bucharest, EU-CONEXUS

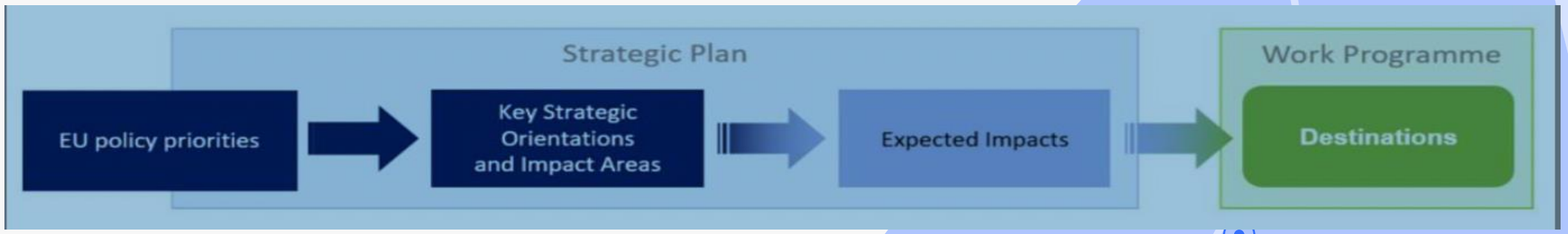
24.09.2024


PLANNING
IMPLEMENTATION
ANALYSYS
DISSEMINATION
Project writing
Data colection
Analyzing state of the art
Models and working tools creation
Results analysis
Dissemination tools creation
PROJECT
IA
IMPACT
Setting Scope and Goals of the project
Management and implmentation of the project
Communication of results
Evaluation of the project, contracting and negotiation
Reporting to the contracting authority

# Identifying the Right Call

**Shift from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe:**

- Horizon Europe is now **impact-driven** compared to the activity-driven approach of Horizon 2020.
- Emphasis is on **Destinations** (expected impacts) and **Topics** (expected outcomes).



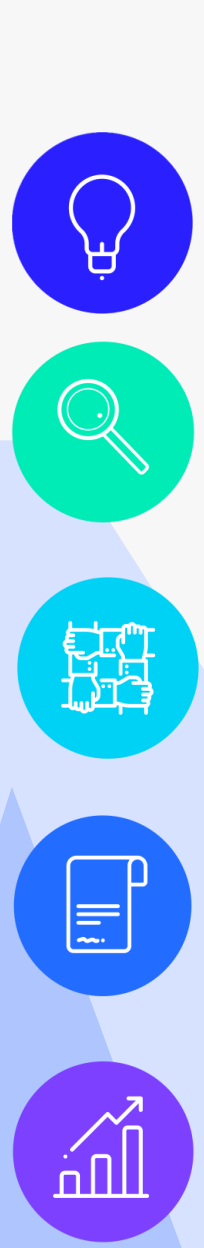
# Identifying the Right Call

**Understanding Call Objectives:**

- Proposals must align with specific **programme objectives** and **strategic planning**.
- Focus on designing interventions that meet both **immediate outcomes** and **long-term impacts**.

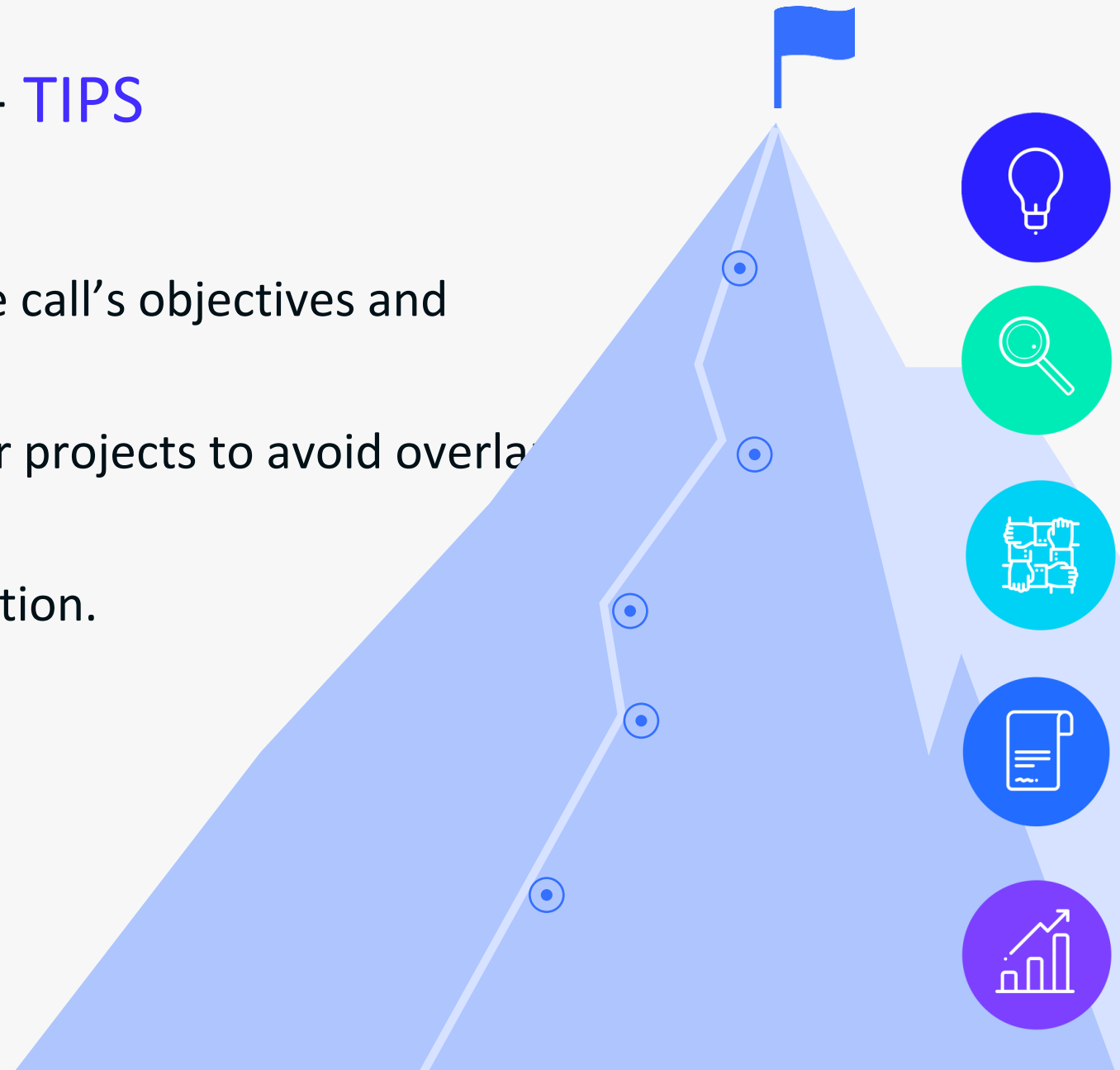
**Evaluation Criteria:**

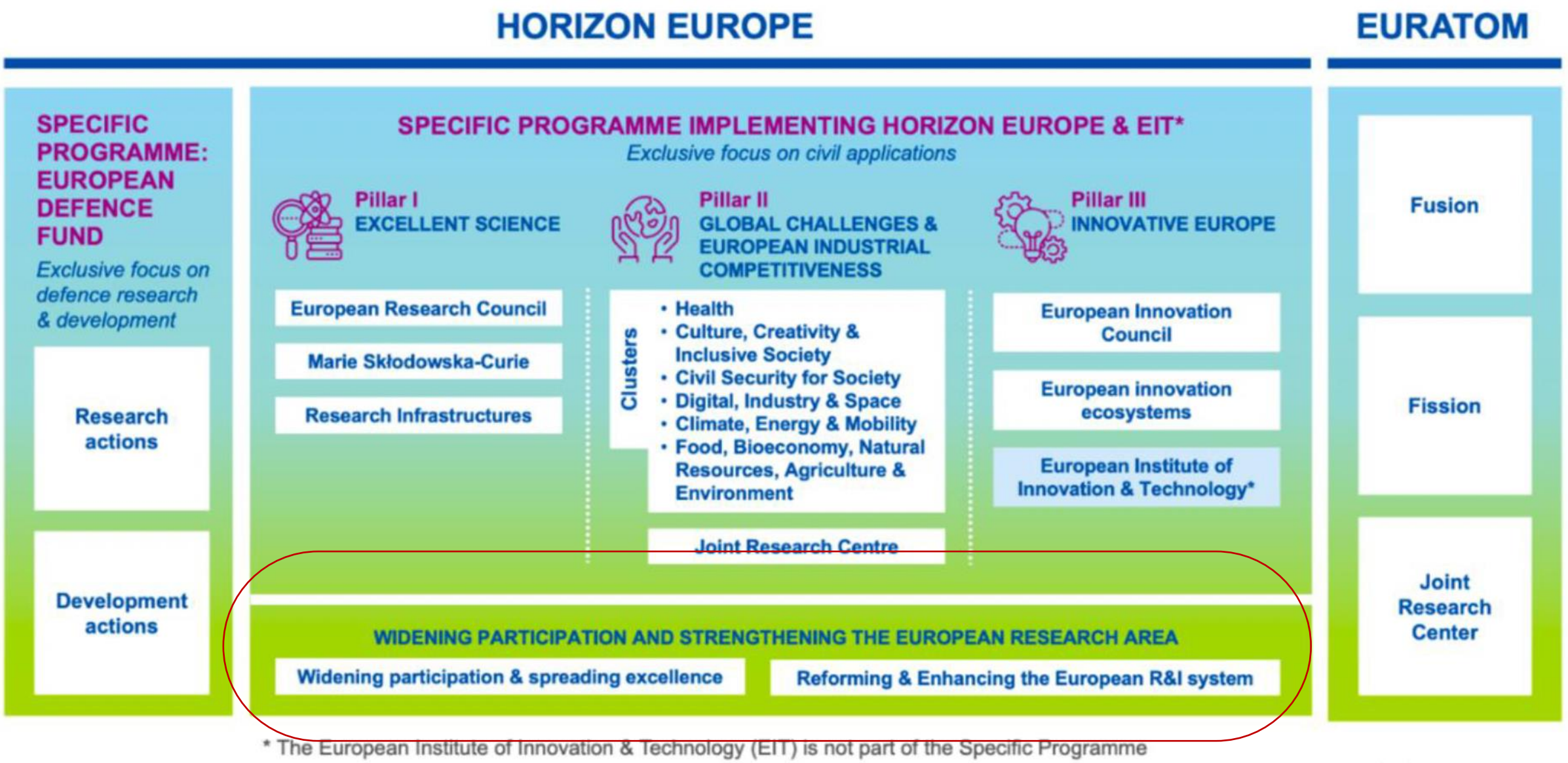
- Evaluators assess based on predefined **evaluation criteria**, focusing on impact and methodological approach.



# Identifying the Right Call - TIPS

- Match your project scope with the call’s objectives and budget.
- Search CORDIS for previous similar projects to avoid overla
  !
- Plan at least 6 months for preparation.
- Avoid last-minute submissions.





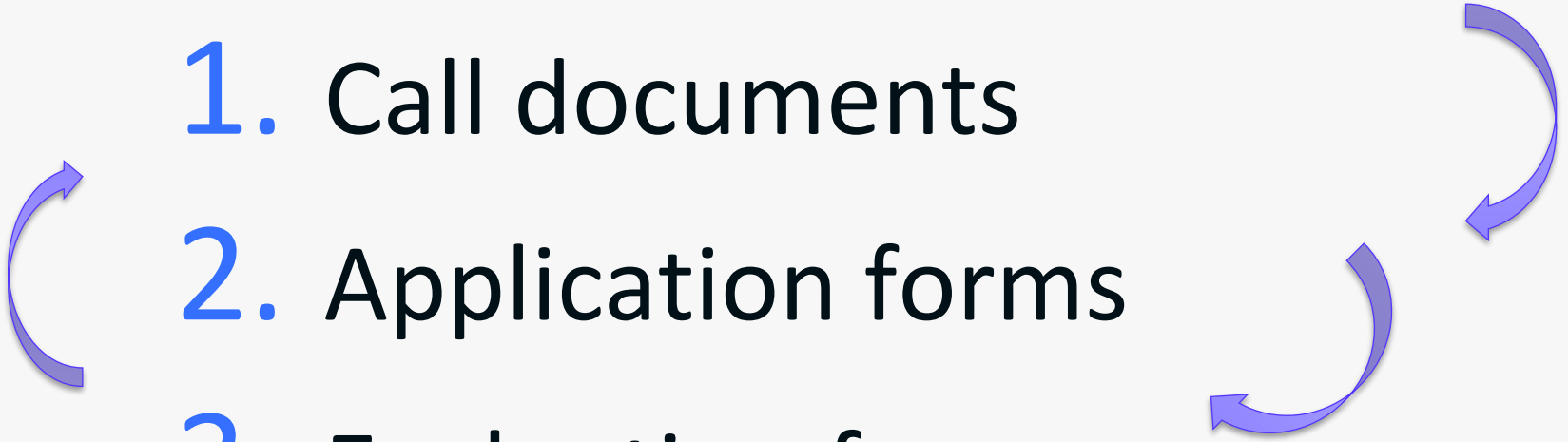

Source: Horizon Europe Engagement Toolkit/ How to write a winning proposal for Horizon Europe - https://unite4horizon.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Write-a-winning-proposal.pdf

European Commission

Identifying the Right Call

# Writing the proposal – where should we start?

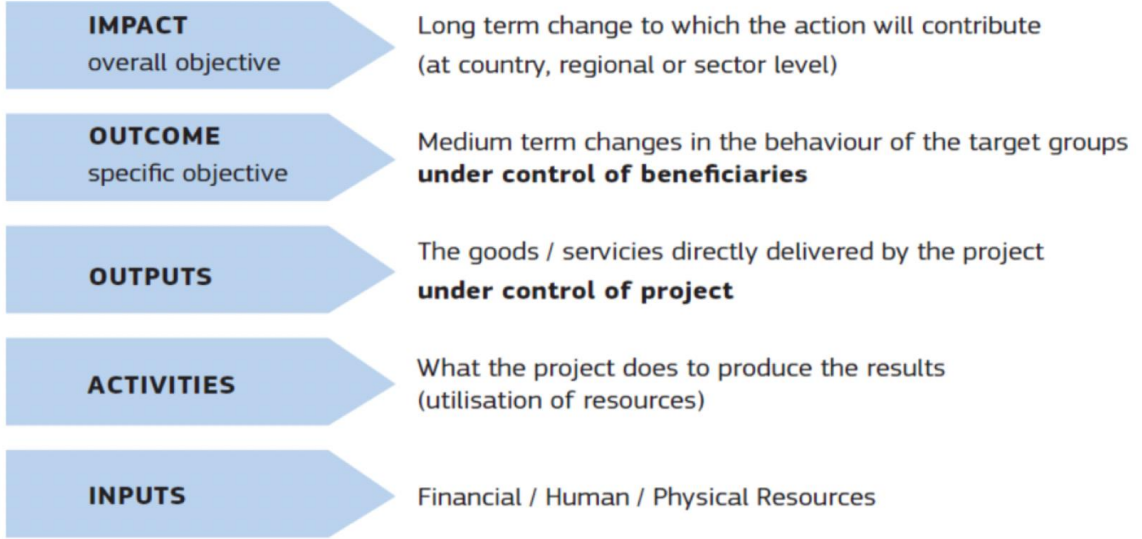
1. Call documents
2. Application forms
3. Evaluation form



# Structuring the Project Methodology

- Outline the general project methodology - ensure all elements of the project are logically structured for cohesion.
- Use tools to ensure alignment - draft the intervention using a logical framework matrix or directly within the concept note.
- Review objectives and evaluation criteria - base your project's design on the specific call's objectives and evaluation metrics.
- Benefits of a logical framework matrix - helps visualize how project elements contribute to the desired outcomes and impacts.

*Logical Framework Approach – link and link (webpages)*
*The Logical Framework Approach is a useful tool when thinking and designing a project as it provides a methodological approach in structuring relationships between planned projects.*

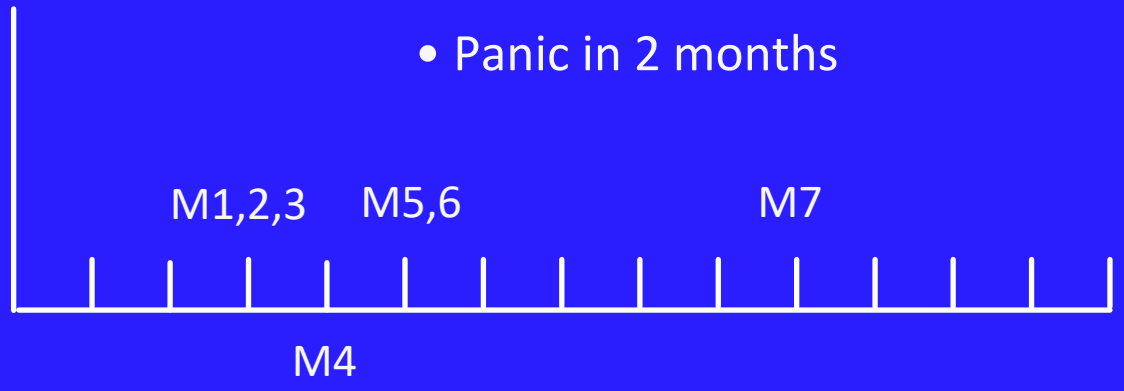


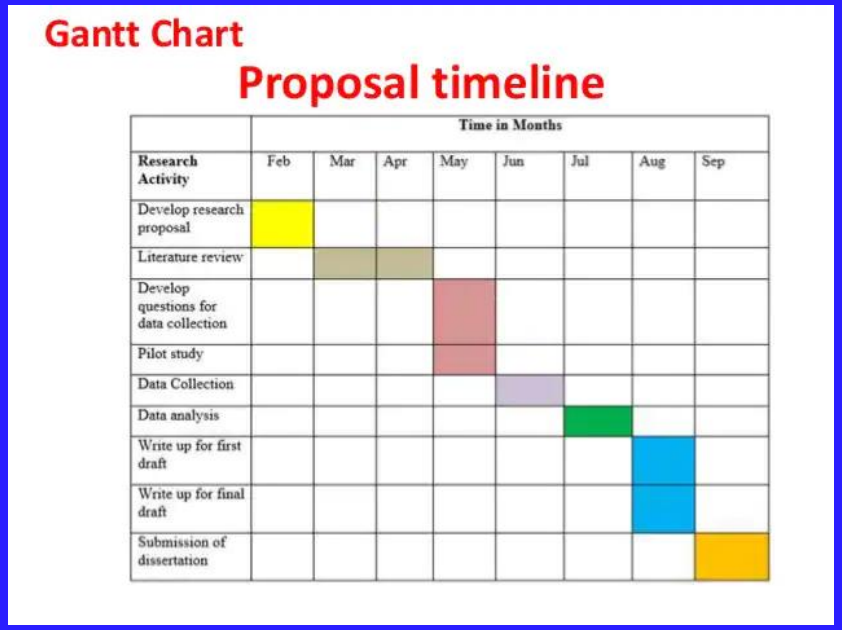
# Structuring the Project Methodology - TIPS

- Designing for impact using result-based management - use a logical framework matrix
- Ensure the project is structured to deliver measurable impact - start with the problem, not the solution
- Focus on identifying the core issue and understanding stakeholders' needs - human-centered solutions
- Develop solutions with stakeholders in mind ask: what do they need? What opportunities exist? Provide value for stakeholders - ensure the project outcomes offer tangible benefits to all involved parties.
- Utilize existing opportunities - leverage ongoing changes and resources to maximize impact.

# Timeline !

- You have searched and found your ideal call text.
- Scope matches your institution and your missions.
- Budget is adequate for your activities and objectives.
- Look for previous past projects in CORDIS to understand what was researched before (avoiding repetitions) but also potential synergies
- Closing submission deadline is realistic ?
  - Ideally 6 months preparation
  - Possible in 3 months – but watch vacation periods
  - Panic in 2 months



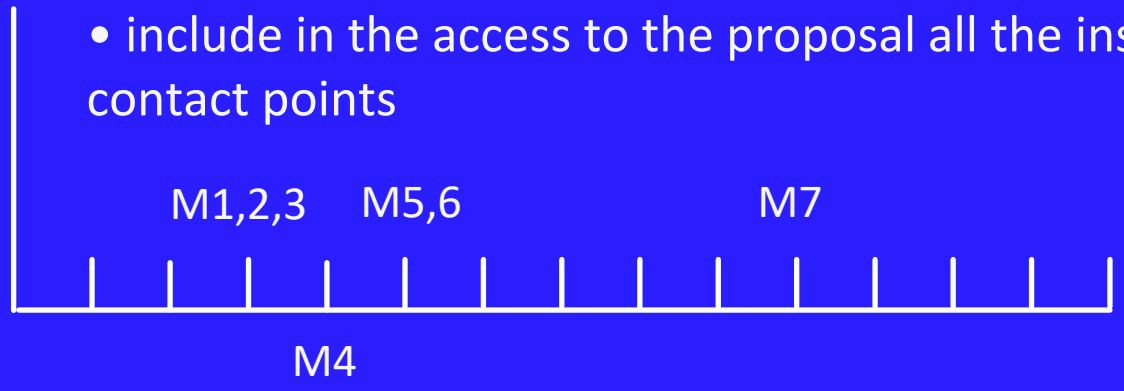
# Timeline !

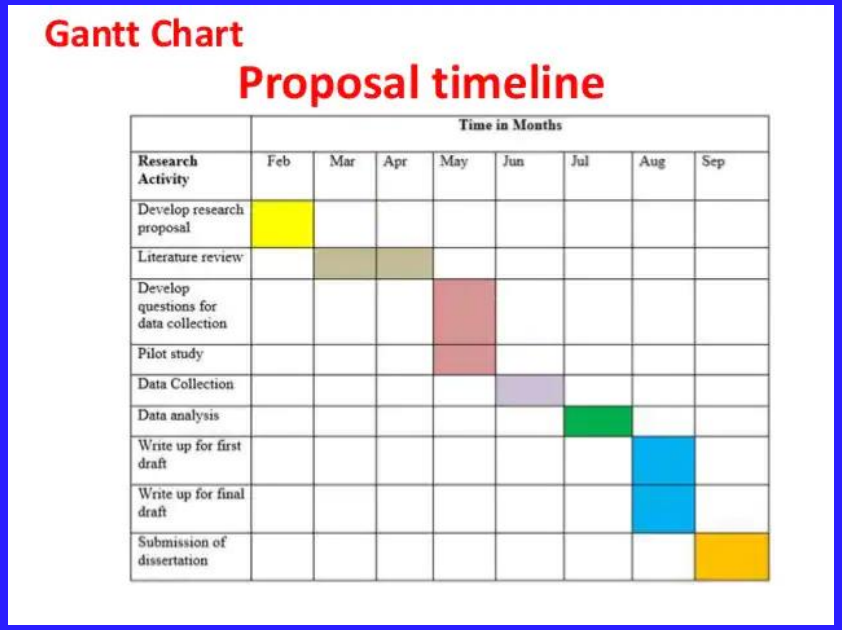
Final weeks - Panic

- Never underestimate stress of last week.
- Give enough space time – CLEAR your calendar.
- Have Part B final edition ready for all partner inspection 1 week

before deadline

- Last minute consortium partner additions
- Last minute budget requests.
- Budget usually only entered in portal in last day
- Part A partners details need to be checked on last day
- include in the access to the proposal all the institutional contact points



# Engaging senior management !

- Inform senior members for creating proposal !
  - Engage the research managers - Ensure alignment with institutional research goals.
  - Involve the technical managers - Discuss any new equipment, testing needs, and project technicalities.
  - Coordinate with the Economic Department - Ensure financial feasibility and accurate budget planning for the proposal.

# TIPS - Talk to NCP !

- You must understand everything in call text.
- Sometimes call texts are not so clearly written or are vague cover enormous range of activities, or cover nothing
- You must ideally include everything in proposal that is in call text.
- If leave out something, have strong justification
- If in doubt – contact NCP relevant to topic - usually very helpful

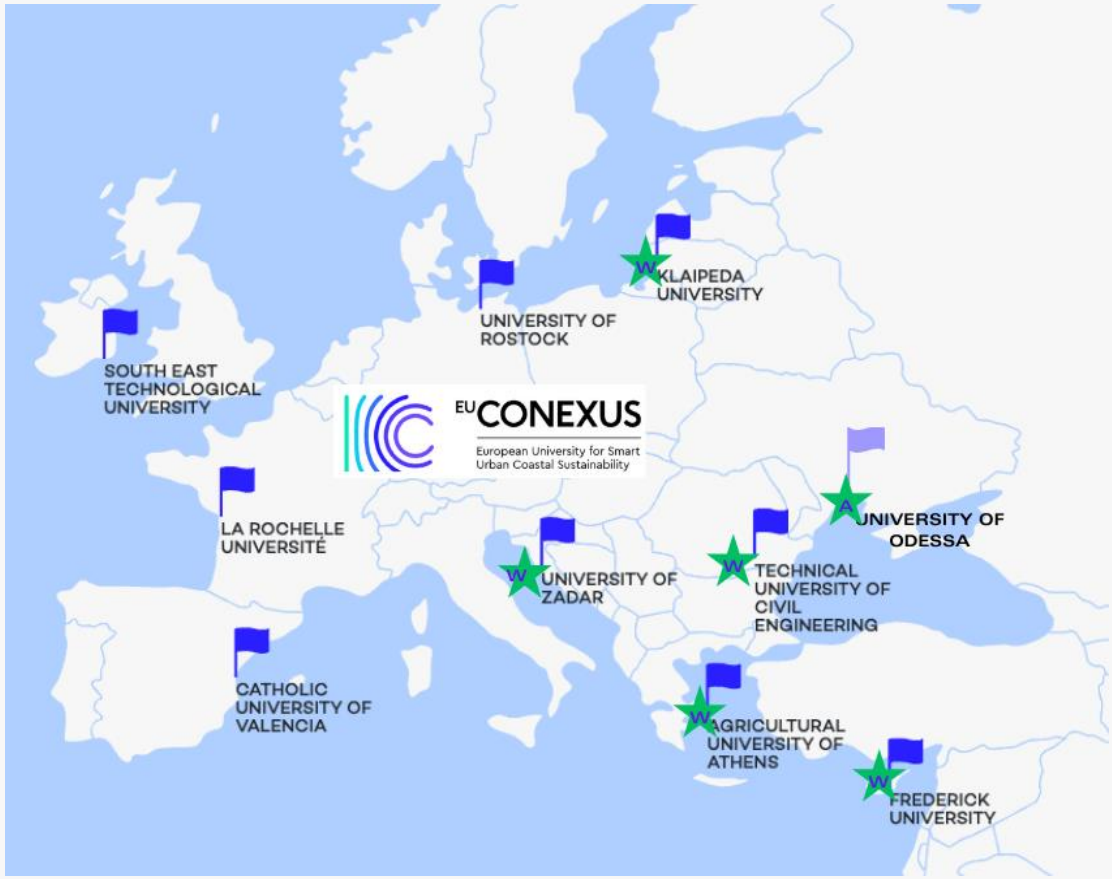
## Consortium build

- **Core partners**: ensure key partners align with the project's main objective, whether technical or social.
- **Social sciences partner(s)**: include expertise for addressing social dimensions of the project.
- **Public engagement**: involve partners to enhance communication with the public.
- **Dissemination & communication (D&C)**: ensure there's a plan to disseminate and communicate project results. Abstract to invite potential partners.

## Consortium build

- **Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI)**: Integrate ethical considerations and stakeholder involvement.
- **Gender Equality**: Address gender dimensions in research activities.
- **Open Science & Data Management**: Include strategies for open-access data and results sharing - The Three Os – Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World
- **Exploitation Partners**: Involve business teams for technological and social exploitation.
- **Issue Invitations**: Use a concept abstract to invite potential partners.

# A strong partnership covering European area




*UK eligible as full partner*
*Could add a Ukrainian partner ?*

## Consortium build - Which partners ?

- Ideally partners are from past projects/ collaborations
- Search past projects – coordinators or key partners
- Especially projects listed in call text
- Recommendations from existing partners
- Tech companies
- Partners listed at the end of the call text page
- EU networking days
- Consortium building can take 50% of your time if new area or more than 50% new partners

# Budget Considerations

- **Lump Sum Option**: Not discussed here.
- **Limited Budget**: "There is never enough budget."
- **CSA and RIA**: 100% funded, including SMEs - **IA Calls**: SMEs/private entities receive 70% funding, with 30% self-funded (equipment costs are challenging).
- **Check Funding**: Verify partner funding (70% or 100%) in budget forms.

# Budget Distribution

- **Coordinator**: Allocate sufficient funds.
- **Core Team + Coordinator**: Assign 50% of the total budget.
- **Consortium Size**: Ideally 10-12 partners; larger consortia may be necessary.

# Budget - TIPS

- **List Budget by Work Package**: Ensure clarity by allocating per WP.
- **Compress Details**: Combine line items, but maintain clarity.
- **Final 15% ODC**: Do not include this in Table 3.1H.
- **Travel**: Detail in Table 3.1H if not part of the 15% non-detailed costs.
- **Complete Budget from the Start**: Include overhead (25%) and funding rates (70%/100%).
- **Stay Within Budget Limits**: Avoid exceeding maximum allowed budget.
- **Cross-Check Systems**: Implement 2-3 error-checking systems in the budget Excel.

# Timelines: Gantt – Budget vs. Objectives vs. Time

- **Allocate sufficient time**: especially for technical or complex projects.
- **Use Gantt  and Pert charts**: track project milestones and align budget, objectives, and time.
- **Plan for delays**: build in buffer time for potential setbacks.
- **Ensure realistic deadlines**: balance time against objectives to avoid rushed deliverables

# Project management
# General errors

Amounts claimed in the financial statement **do not reconcile** with the amounts encoded in the accounting system and /or with real costs incurred;

Declaration of agreed budgets instead of **actual amounts** spent;

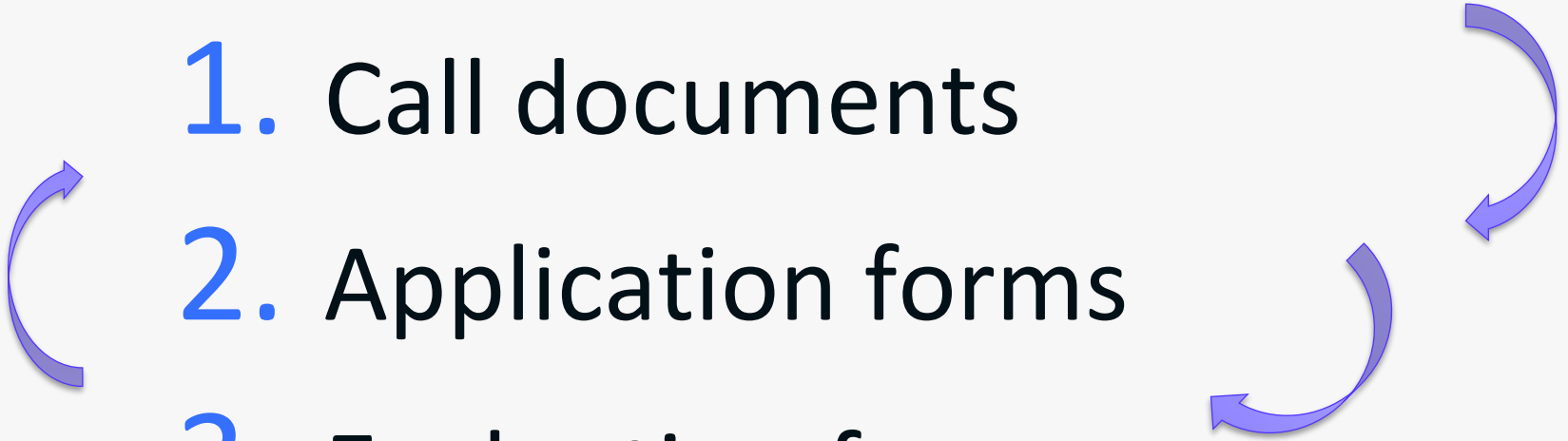
Lack of **supporting documents** to substantiate costs incurred;

Costs were incurred outside the **eligibility period**;

Durable **equipment** is not depreciated / purchase costs not reasonable / no link to the project.

# Writing the proposal – where should we start?

1. Call documents
2. Application forms
3. Evaluation form



# Evaluation criteria

There are three evaluation criteria:

- Excellence
- Impact
- Quality and efficiency of the implementation

For each of the three criteria, 'aspects to take into account' are defined in the Work programme

Example

# EXCELLENCE (RIA/IA)

| Criterion | Aspects to take into account | *Additional guidance** |
|---|---|---|
| **1. EXCELLENCE (1/2)**: The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description in the work programme | **Clarity and pertinence of the objectives** | • *Assess **what** the applicants wants to do and if it is clear?*<br>• *Are objectives consistent with the expected exploitation and impacts of the project?*<br>• *Assess to which extent objectives are **in line with the topic** in the Work Programme* |
| | **Soundness of the concept, and credibility of the proposed methodology** | • *The **idea** that the proponent have in mind, is it solid, i.e. is it **realisable** with the information provided, is it concrete, complete? Are there any gaps?*<br>• *Assess **how** the proponents want to do what they propose (in general terms, relation with the work plan at the meta level)*<br>• *Is the **geographical scope** appropriate to the project idea?* |

# EXCELLENCE (RIA/IA)

| Criterion | Aspects to take into account | *Additional guidance** |
|---|---|---|
| 1. EXCELLENCE (2/2) | **Extent that proposed work is beyond the state of the art, and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts & approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models)** | • *Does the proposal clearly describe the state of the art and does it go beyond it? How the proposal builds on it?*<br>• *What is the potential for further innovative applications, compared to the state of the art?* |
| | **Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge.** | • *Are interdisciplinary approaches taken into account : are other scientific disciplines / sectors taken into account?*<br>• *When relevant: does the proposal foresee the consultation of stakeholders / use of their knowledge (from the sector but not only)?* |

# IMPACTS (RIA/IA)

| Criterion | Aspects to take into account | *Additional guidance** |
|---|---|---|
| **2. IMPACT (1/2)**<br>The following aspects will be taken into account | **The expected impacts listed in the work programme under the relevant topic** | • *Is the proposal going to deliver the **expected impacts listed in the work programme**? Is it credible, clearly written?*<br>• *Are the **impacts justified** by the proposed activities?*<br>• *Are the **impacts quantified and justifications provided**?*<br>• *Could those impacts be limited by barriers /obstacles /framework conditions?* |
| | **Any substantial impacts not mentioned in the WP, that would enhance innovation capacity, create new market opportunities, strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies, address issues related to climate change or the environment, or bring other important benefits for society** | ***Is there any impacts not mentioned in the WP** which would:*<br>• *enhance the **innovation capacity**, i.e. the capacity of the sector (companies, society, etc.) to offer innovative solutions thanks to the project activities*<br>• *create **new market opportunities***<br>• ***strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies**: is the proposed action credibly contributing to increase competitiveness and growth of companies, other than the specific ones directly involved in the project?*<br>• *address **climate** change/environment and **societal benefits** (e.g. impacts of the foreseen activities on the greenhouse gas emissions, use of water etc, other social impacts foreseen, e.g. job creation)* |

# IMPACTS (RIA/IA)

| Criterion | Aspects to take into account | *Additional guidance** |
|---|---|---|
| **2. IMPACT (2/2)**<br>The following aspects will be taken into account | **Quality of the proposed measures to:**<br><br>- **Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant.**<br><br>- **Communicate the project activities to different target audiences** | • *Assessment of the exploitation of the project results (at MICRO-LEVEL, business plan if relevant) and dissemination strategy*<br>• *Assess the management of IPR/patents foreseen*<br>• *Management of research data where relevant*<br>• *Assessment of communication measures for promoting the project and its findings during the period of the grant* |

Dissemination is the public disclosure of the results of the project in any medium. It is a process of promotion and awareness-raising right from the beginning of a project. It makes research results known to various stakeholder groups (like research peers, industry and other commercial actors, professional organisations, policymakers) in a targeted way, to enable them to use the results in their own work. This process must be planned and organised at the beginning of each project, usually in a dissemination plan.

Exploitation is the use of the results during and after the project's implementation. It can be for commercial purposes but also for improving policies, and for tackling economic and societal problems.

Communication means taking strategic and targeted measures for promoting the action itself and its results to a multitude of audiences, including the media and the public, and possibly engaging in a two-way exchange. The aim is to reach out to society as a whole and in particular to some specific audiences.

# QUALITY (RIA/IA)

| Criterion | Aspects to take into account | *Additional guidance** |
|---|---|---|
| **3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation (1/2):** The following aspects will be taken into account | **Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which resources assigned in work packages are in line with objectives /deliverables** | *Quality and effectiveness of the work plan:*<br>• *Clear Work Plan, logical structure of Work Packages, feedback loops and interrelation among WPs, clarity and level of details of the tasks.*<br>• *clear Gantt chart, clarity & effectiveness of the deliverables (table 3.1.c) and milestones proposed, overall duration of the project is justified?*<br>*Appropriateness of allocation of resources per WP:*<br>• *Justification of the requested person-month per WP, in line with objectives and deliverables*<br>• *Justification of the overall budget and costs claimed (other costs, subcontracts etc.) + overall value for money* |
| | **Appropriateness of management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management** | • *Effectiveness/ description of the management structure and procedure: Operational and decision making structure, why this is appropriate in the context of the project?*<br>• *Risk management: Have the possible risks been clearly identified and sufficient risk mitigation measures proposed? (table 3.2.b)*<br>• *Innovation management: does the proponent demonstrates that the understanding of both market and technical problems is ensured?* |

# QUALITY (RIA/IA)

| Criterion | Aspects to take into account | *Additional guidance** |
|---|---|---|
| **3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation (2/2):** The following aspects will be taken into account | **Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise** | • *Assessment of the consortium, the skills covered, the number of participants, the profiles included in the CVs.*<br>• *To which extent the consortium brings together the necessary expertise, including energy efficiency? Complementarity / skills overlapping?. Key actors missing in the consortium?*<br>• *If relevant: funding of countries or organisations non automatically eligible for funding: why the participation of this entity is essential to carrying out the project?* |
| | **Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.** | • *Is the **allocation of tasks to the partners** balanced and responding to the **role defined**?*<br>• *Analysis of the **resources (both person-month and budget) per partner** adequate to fulfil the role defined? (table 3.4.a and table 3.4.b)* |

# Last but not least ….visual impression matters

Don’t be afraid of nice logos and catchy acronyms :)

EU-CONEXUS ENABLES

SAFE

GEMINI

PREPARE

Workflow, Pert, Gantt diagrams should be clear and nice

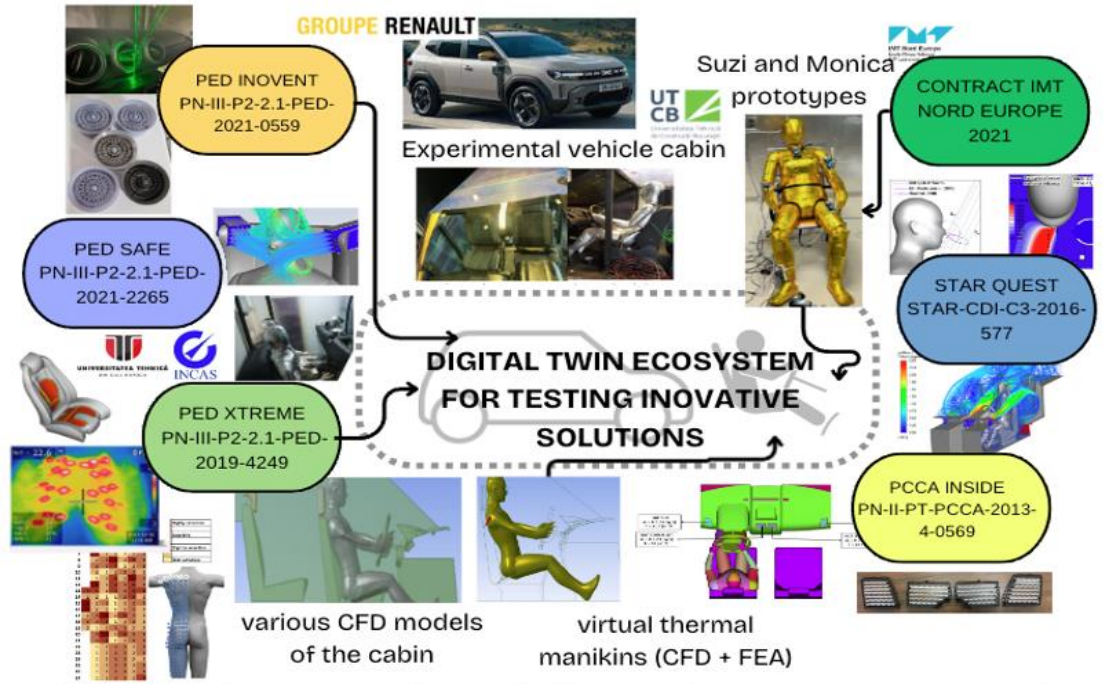



*Fig. 1 - Preliminary results available prior the project application and their contribution to GEMINI project*

EU CONEXUS ENABLES

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# EU-CONEXUS ENABLES

# Promoting excellence through innovative eco-systems

**HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-03-01**

**Project 101136822**

12.03.2024

EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE INIATIVE CALL PROJECT PROPOSAL

# EU-CONEXUS ENABLES: Promoting excellence through innovative eco-systems

## HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-03-01

The objectives of this action are to:

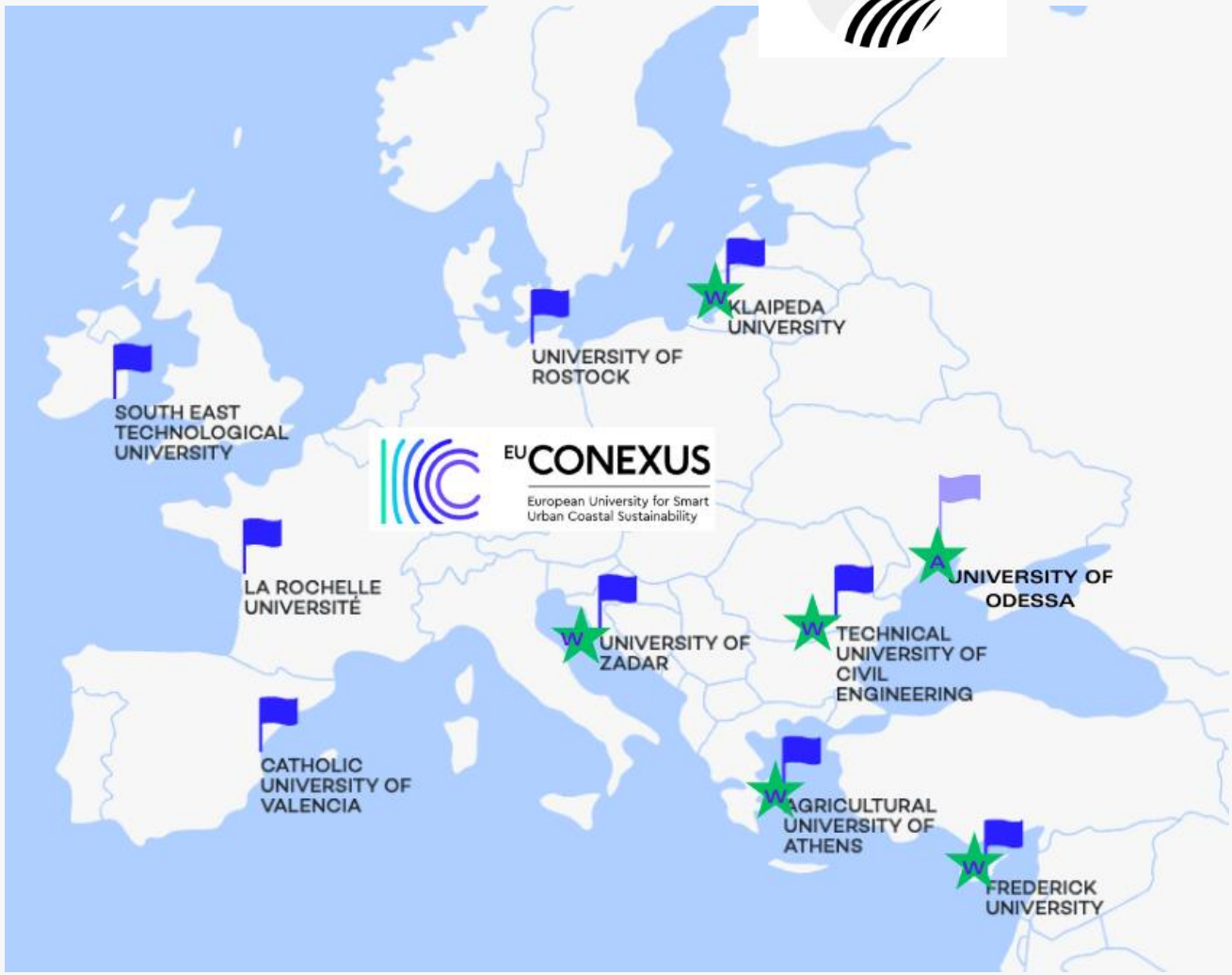
- Raise excellence in science and in value creation through deeper and geographically inclusive cooperation in alliances of higher education institutions, such as – but not limited to – European Universities alliances selected under Erasmus+, with a particular focus on Widening countries;
- Improve global competitiveness and visibility of Europe's higher education institutions, creating critical mass in key areas such as the green transition and Horizon Europe mission areas.

EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE INIATIVE CALL PROJECT PROPOSAL

# EU-CONEXUS ENABLES: Promoting excellence through innovative eco-systems

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-03-01

| Participant No. * | Participant organisation name | Country |
|---|---|---|
| 1 (Coordinator) | UNIVERSITATEA TEHNICA DE CONSTRUCTII BUCURESTI | RO |
| 2 | FREDERICK UNIVERSITY | CY |
| 3 | GEOPONIKO PANEPISTIMION ATHINON | EL |
| 4 | LA ROCHELLE UNIVERSITE | FR |
| 5 | FUNDACION UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA DE VALENCIA SAN VICENTE MARTIR | ES |
| **6** | KLAIPEDOS UNIVERSITETAS | LT |
| **7** | SVEUCILISTE U ZADRU | HR |
| **8** | UNIVERSITAET ROSTOCK | DE |
| **9** | SOUTH EAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY | IE |
| **10** | ODESSA UNIVERSITY | UA |



## HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-03-01

Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Successful institutional reform and upgrade of higher education institutions in the R&I dimension (empowerment to be actors of change), through integrated collaboration between institutions and with other actors in local ecosystems;
- Mainstreamed culture of excellence in science and value creation amongst higher education institutions, and particularly in less research-intensive institutions and countries, in particular Widening countries, through consolidation of geographically inclusive alliances of higher education institutions, achieving long-term collaboration;
- Contribution to accelerated institutional reform in R&I dimension and strengthened R&I capacities in higher education institutions, notably those located in Widening countries, in particular;
  - Modernised research careers in higher education sector, interoperable with other sectors;
  - Accelerated digital transition of the R&I dimension of the higher education sector across the entire ERA;
- Increased global competitiveness of research in higher education institutions by strongly increased critical mass in terms of upskilling, knowledge creation and knowledge circulation in the green transition and other key European policy areas such as European Missions;
- Contribution to implementation of the relevant ERA Policy Agenda actions in higher education sector.

## HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-03-01

- EU-CONEXUS ENABLES results and their contribution to the Expected Outcomes of the Work Programme Topic:
- **EO #1**: Increased science and innovation capacity for all actors in the R&I system in Widening countries;
- **EO #2:** Structural changes leading to modernised and more competitive R&I systems in eligible countries;
- **EO #3:** Reformed R&I systems and institutions leading to increased attractiveness and retention of research talents;
- **EO #4:** Mobilisation of national and EU resources for strategic investments;
- **EO #5:** Higher participation success in Horizon Europe and more consortium leadership roles;
- **EO #6:** Stronger links between academia and business and improved career permeability;
- **EO #7:** Strengthened role of the Higher Education sector in research and innovation;
- **EO #8:** Greater involvement of regional actors in the R&I process;
- **EO #9:** Improved outreach to international level for all actors.

# EU-CONEXUS ENABLES consortium

## LEAD PARTNER

Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest (UTCB)

## WIDENING PARTNERS

Frederick University (FredU)
Geoponiko Panepistimion Athinon (AUA)
Klaipedos Universitetas (KU)
Sveuciliste U Zadru (UniZD)
Odeskiy Nationalniy Universitet Imeni I.I. Mechnikova (ONU)

## NON-WIDENING PARTNERS

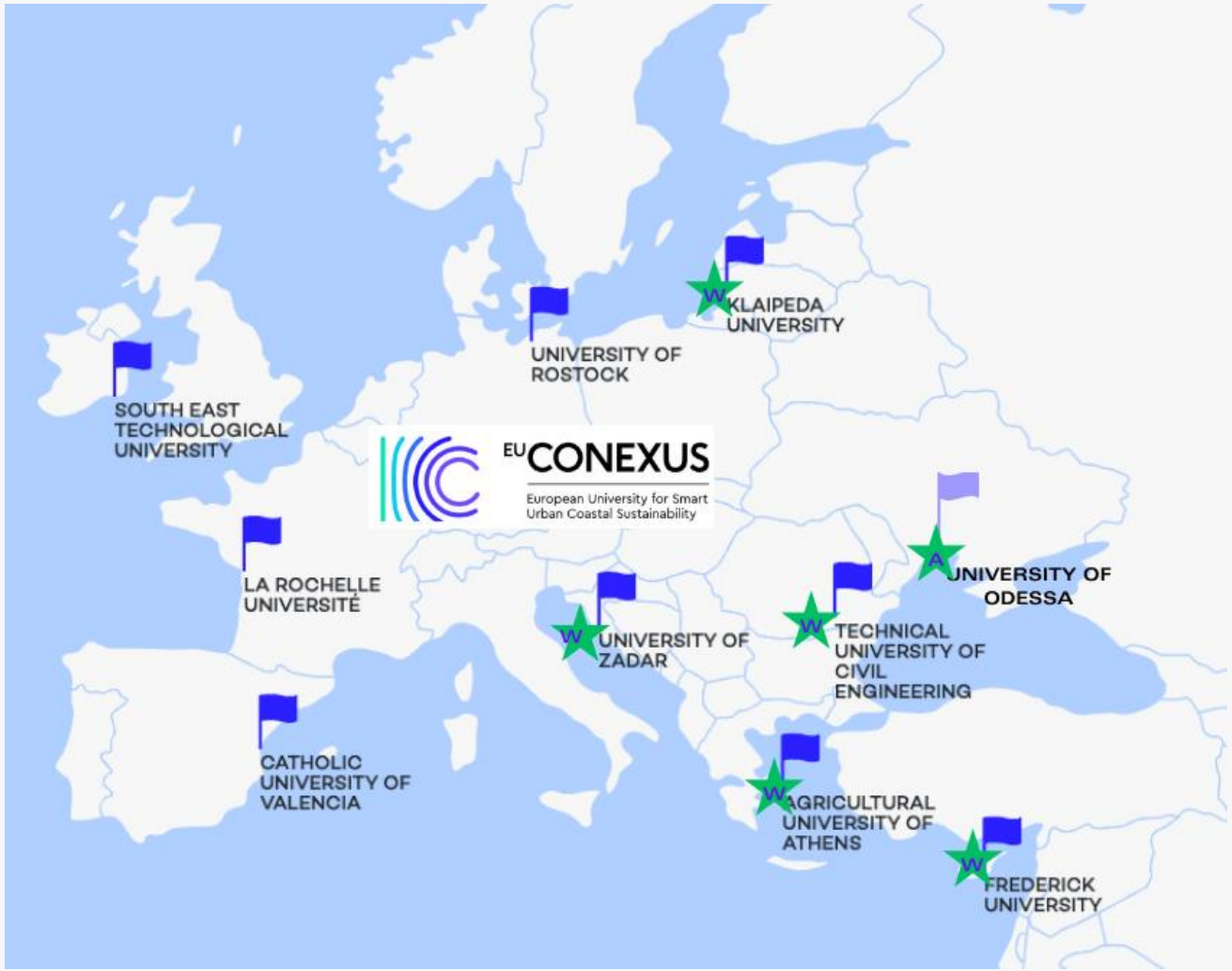
La Rochelle Universite (LRUniv)
Fundacion Universidad Catolica de Valencia San Vicente Martir (UCV)
Universitaet Rostock (UROS)
South East Technological University (SETU)

## ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

Primaria Sectorului 2 București (PS2) RO
Municipality of Limassol / Dimos Lemesos (ML) CY
Smart Agro Hub Anonymi Etairia Leivadia EL
Communaute D'agglomeration de la Rochelle (CDA) FR
Regie du Port de Plaisance de la Rochelle (LRP) FR
City Development Agency / Klaipeda ID LT
Zadar County / Zardarska Zupanija (ZCC) HR
Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) IE

# Vision and mission






## A strong partnership covering European coasts

Addressing 4 Challenges :

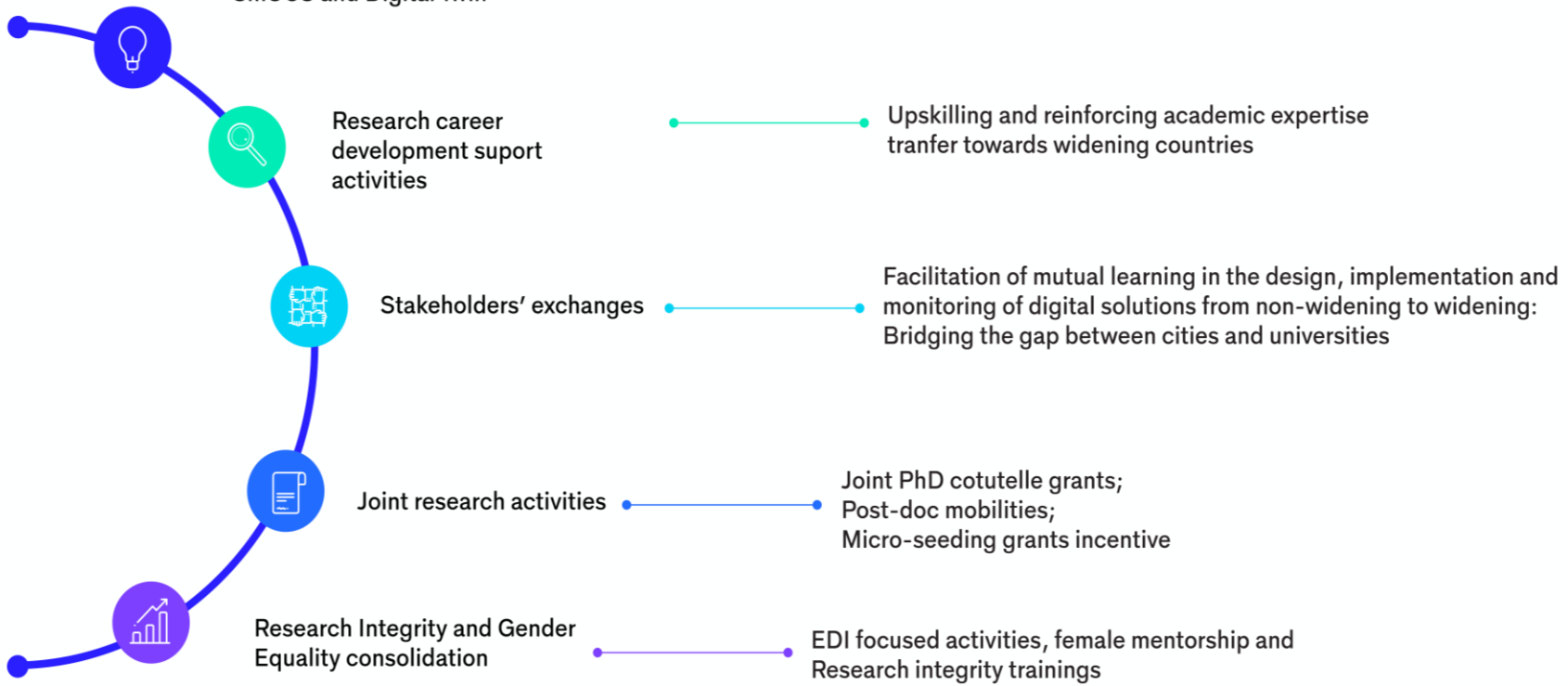
- Challenge 1: How could we improve transdisciplinary work in network across our Alliance ?
- Challenge 2: Which are the right ingredients and recipes for sustainable and smart urban development long-lasting positive impacts within the coastal environment?
- Challenge 3: How to improve the knowledge transfer to and between our partners and stake-holders ?
- Challenge 4: How to improve engagement of students, researchers, and professionals in the Alliance to foster innovation and collaboration?

# Thematic focus – Digital Twin

**The scope** of the EU-CONEXUS ENABLES project is to create the framework of an innovative ecosystem promoting sustainable synergies between the Alliance and its partners such as the fellow municipalities, other stakeholders, in order to develop long term solutions for SmUCS challenges, based on the Digital Twin approach.

EU CONEXUS ENABLES

Promoting excellence through innovative eco-systems



# Main objectives of EU-CONEXUS ENABLES

- Setting the framework of a complex ecosystem based upon the European University and its partners, centred on SmUCS topics and digitalization

  Challenge 1, Challenge 4, Challenge 2, Challenge 3

- Developing habits/skills of highly effective researchers and reinforcing academic expertis towards widening countries

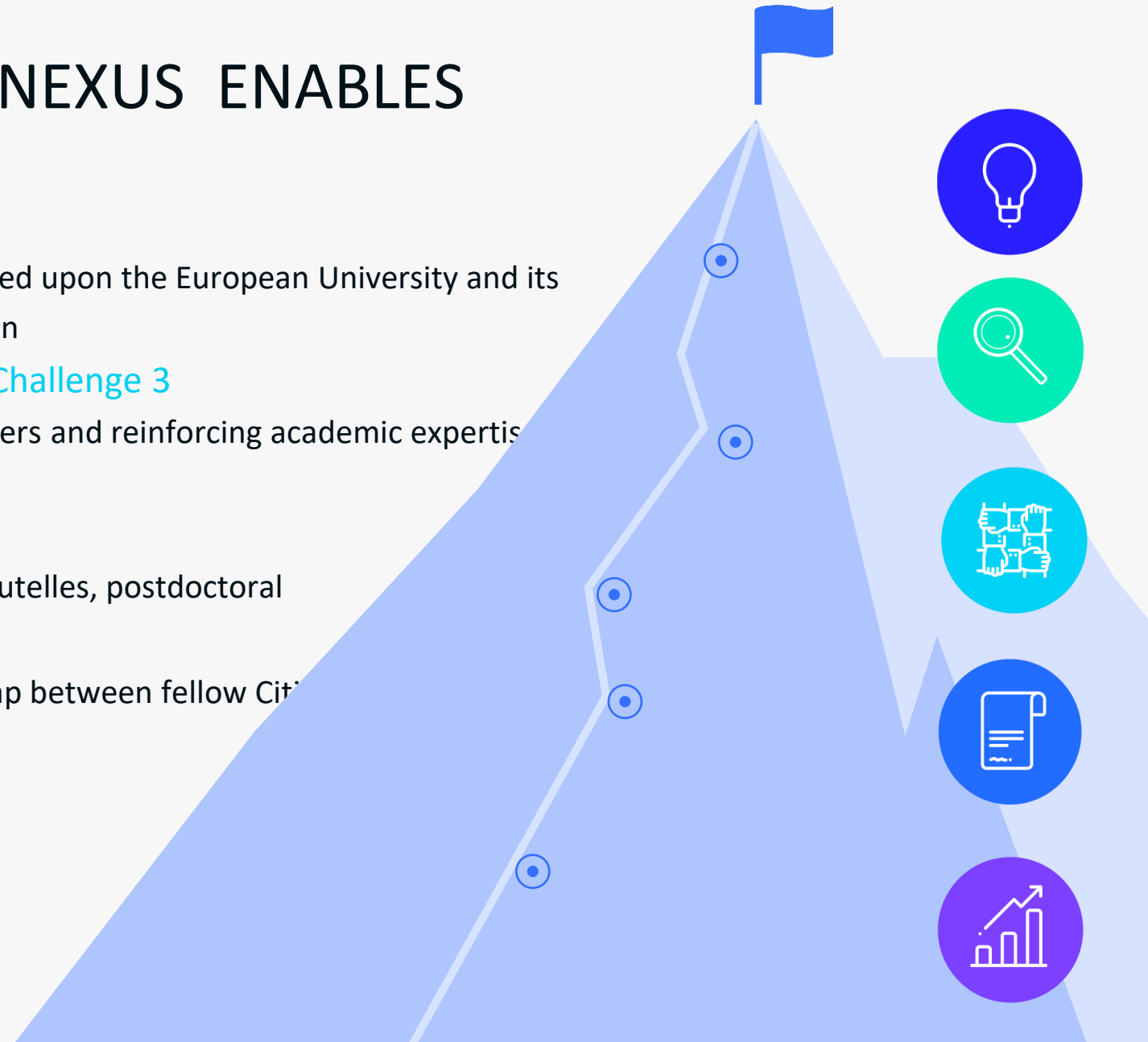
  Challenge 1, Challenge 3

- Supporting joint research activities such as PhD cotutelles, postdoctoral

  Challenge 4, Challenge 3

- Intensifying the exchanges in order to bridge the gap between fellow Cit Universities with focus on the widening countries

  Challenge 4, Challenge 2



# Main objectives of EU-CONEXUS ENABLES

- Research integrity and gender equality strategy consolidation within the entire EU-CONEXUS community

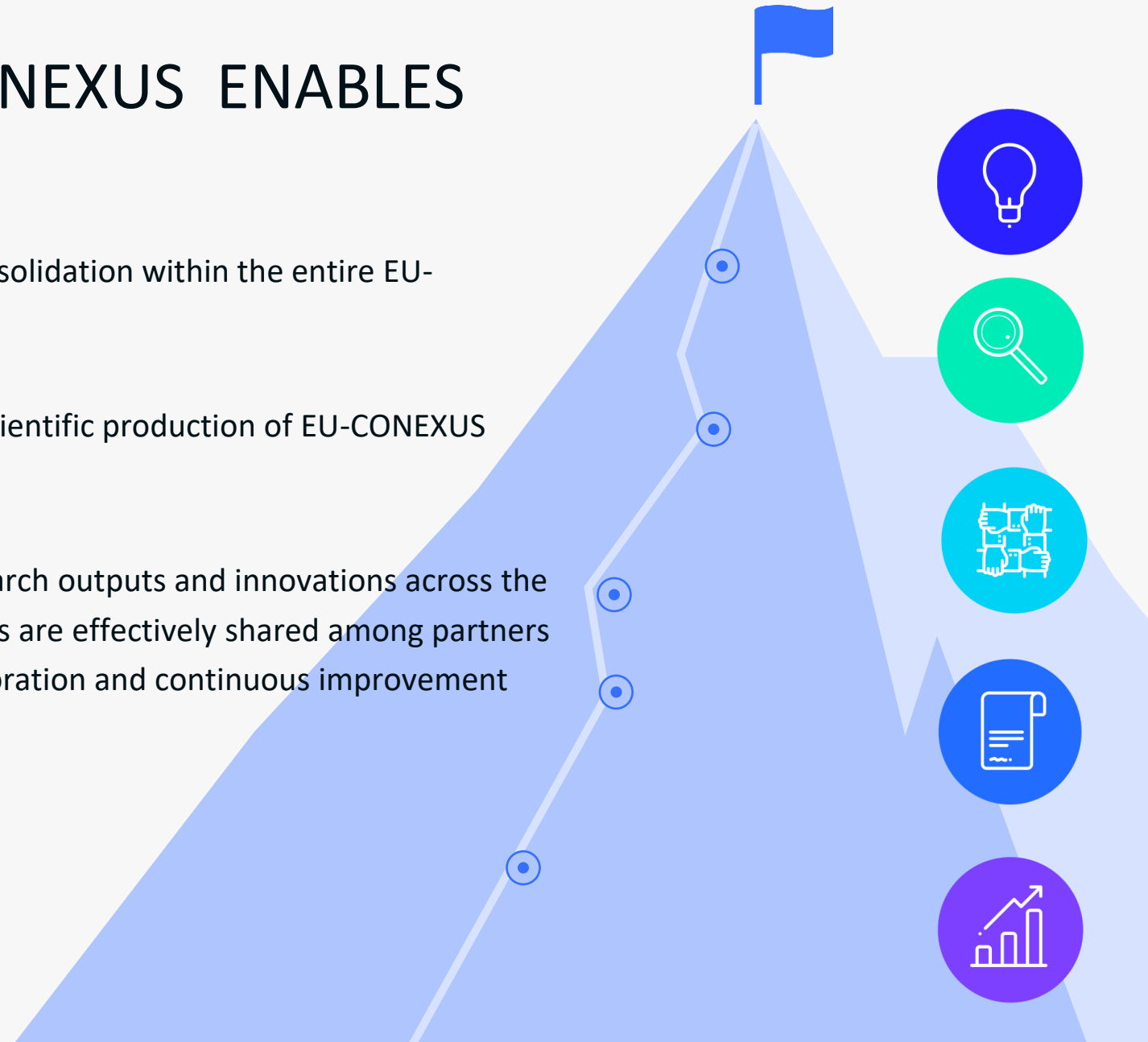
  Challenge 3

- Consolidating Open Data management and Open Scientific production of EU-CONEXUS Alliance

  Challenge 1, Challenge 2, Challenge 3

- Enhance communication and dissemination of research outputs and innovations across the Alliance, ensuring that knowledge and best practices are effectively shared among partners and stakeholders, thus fostering a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement

  Challenge 1, Challenge 2, Challenge 3

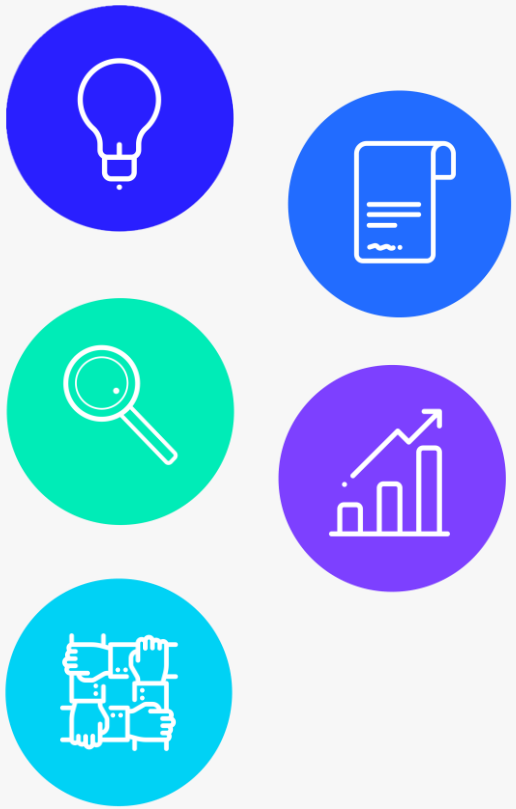


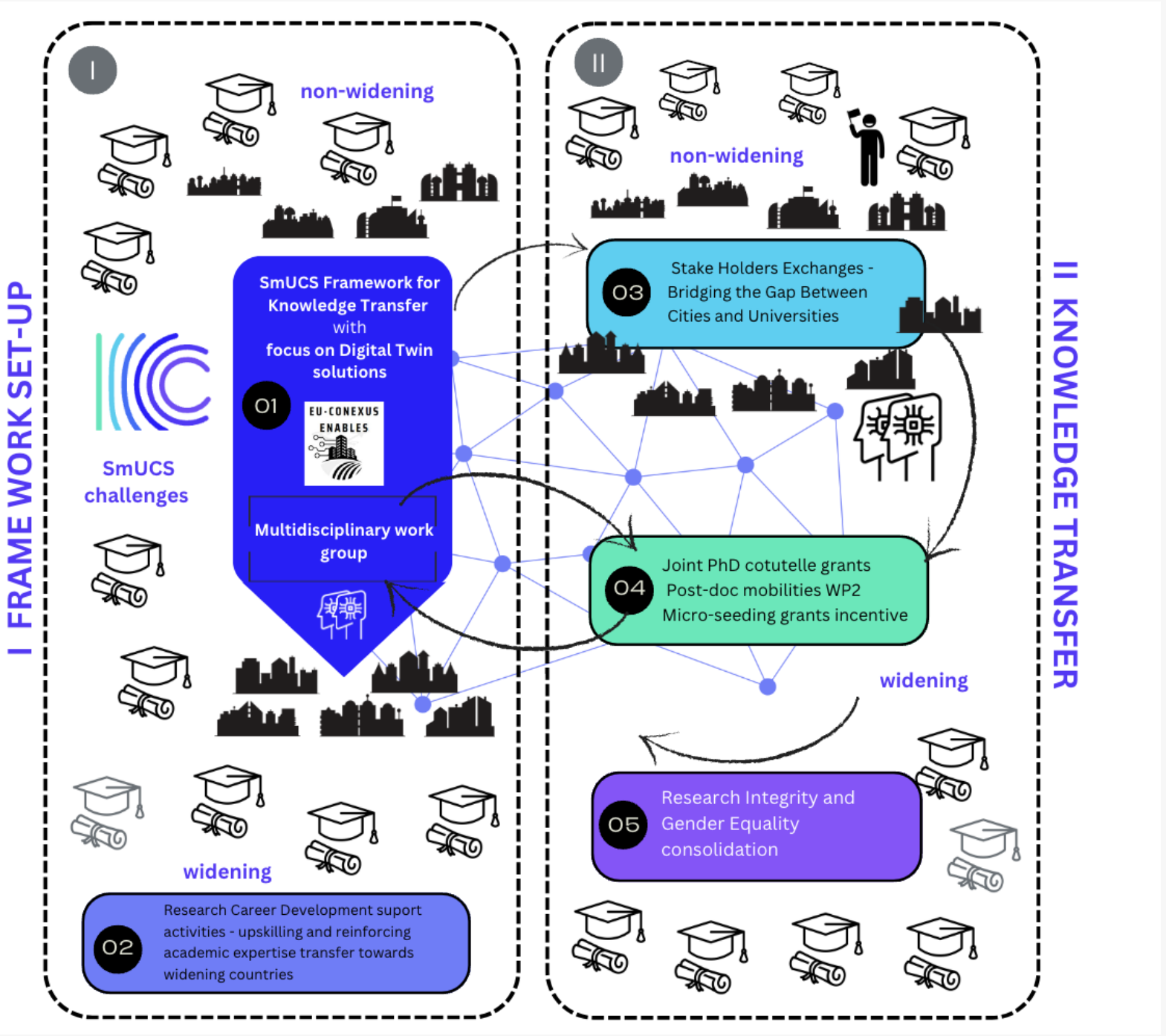
# Impact on society and environment

| | |
|---|---|
| Scientific Impact | I1: Shift of focus from traditional studied SmUCS paradigm to include the local societal needs<br>I2: Supporting a framework for citizen participatory science and co-creation activities<br>I3: An incubator for Digital Twin solutions starting from the Digital Twin of the Building, and up to the Digital Twin of the City and of the Coastal area |
| Societal Impact | I4: Good practices and behaviour changing towards environmentally friendly practices<br>I5: Educating, engaging, empowering citizens and communities from coastal areas |
| Health Impact | I6: Improve health & well-being of citizens and coastal cities and areas |
| Policy impacts | I7: Promoting synergies for co-creation of metamodels that will serve informed policy development |
| Economic Impact | I8: Increased knowledge transfer from the academic environment towards the stakeholders and cities<br>I5: Increased access and uptake of sustainable solutions based on Digital Twins |

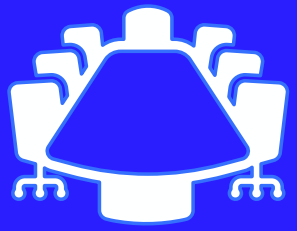

6 ERA objectives,
2 ERA priorities
10 UN SDGs

# Structure of the project





# Timeline



02 2024

M1,2,3 M5,6 M7

M4

04 2025 Reporting 1

04 2025

M9,10

M8

01 2027 Reporting 2

02 2027

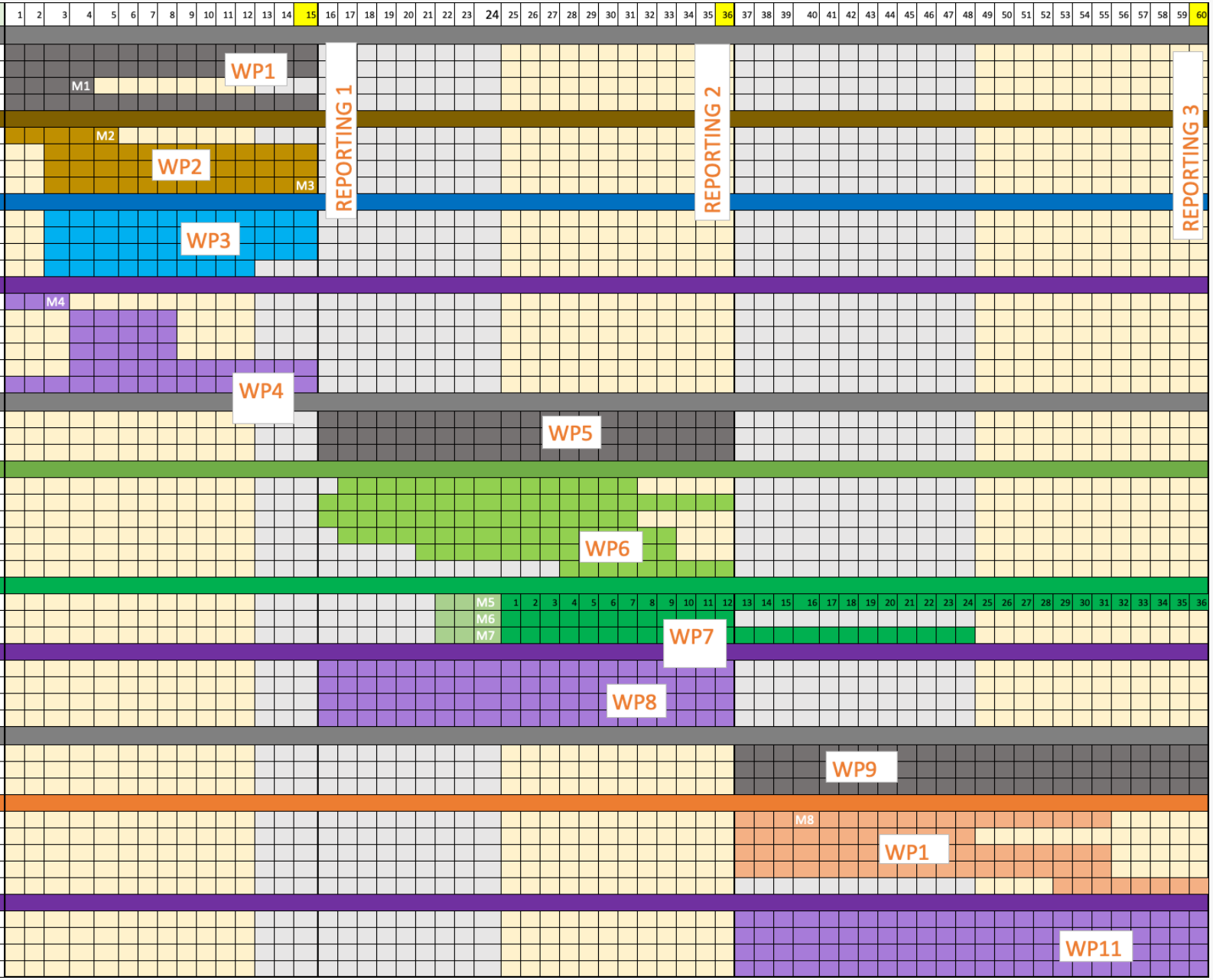
M12

M11

01 2029 Reporting 2

# EU-CONEXUS ENABLES: Promoting excellence through innovative eco-systems

| Activities | Start | End |
|---|---|---|
| WP1 - Management 1 | | |
| T 1.1- Project Coordination | M1 | M15 |
| T 1.2 - Quality Assurance | M1 | M15 |
| T 1.3 - Project Data Management | M1 | M15 |
| T 1.4 - Overall Project Impact assesment | M1 | M15 |
| WP2 - Establishing a Framework for Knowledge Transfer towards Widening partners with focus on Digital Twin | | |
| T 2.1 - Forming a Multidisciplinary Work Group to identify Integrated Challenge Based topics with focus on SmUCS | M1 | M3 |
| T 2.2 - Establishing Challenge Based needs with Digital Twin solutions with focus on SmUCS - based on stakeholders input | M3 | M15 |
| T 2.3 - Selection of existing data-intensive models and tools - Digital Twins existing models selection | M3 | M15 |
| T 2.4 - Selected showcases transfer of knowledge: Digital Twin of Buildings, of City, of Coastal Area | M3 | M15 |
| WP3 – Research Career Development suport activities - upskilling and reinforcing academic expertise transfer towards widening countries | | |
| T3.1 - Developing habits/skills of highly effective researchers | M3 | M15 |
| T3.2 - Training on proposal preparation and post-award management | M3 | M15 |
| T3.3 - Programme promoting mobilities for experience exchange (e.g. job shadowing) | M3 | M15 |
| T3.4 - Programme promoting mobilities For post-docs - to meet their future supervisors - short term mobilities | M3 | M12 |
| WP4 - Dissemination, Communication and Outreach 1 | | |
| T 4.1 - Preparation of Dissemination and Communication Strategy | M1 | M3 |
| T 4.2 - Website and logo creation | M3 | M8 |
| T 4.3 - Communcation Toolset development | M3 | M8 |
| T4.4 - Continuity of the adoption and use of OpenAIRE services | M3 | M8 |
| T 4.5 - Contribution to the publishing of open-access journal of the alliance | M3 | M15 |
| T 4.6 - Project communcation and dissemination activities | M1 | M15 |
| WP2 - Management 2 | | |
| T 5.1- Project Coordination | M16 | M36 |
| T 5.2 - Quality Assurance | M16 | M36 |
| T 5.3 - Overall Project Impact assesment | M16 | M36 |
| WP6 - Stake Holders Exchanges - Bridging the Gap Between Cities and Universities with focus on the Widening countries | | |
| T 6.1 - Hackathons on themes proposed by the Multidisciplinary Work Group | M17 | M31 |
| T 6.2 - Training, Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange; Replication Roadmaps and Coaching of the Fellow Cities | M16 | M36 |
| T 6.3 - Stake holder academy involvement | M16 | M31 |
| T 6.4 - Citizen participatory science activities | M17 | M34 |
| T 6.5 - Facilitation of mutual learning in the design, implementation and monitoring of digital solutions | M22 | M33 |
| T 6.6 - Review the new knowledge and experiences collected | M28 | M36 |
| WP7 - Joint research activities | | |
| T7.1 - Joint PhD cotutelle grants - topics selected within WP2 | M25 | M60 |
| T7.2 - Post-doc mobilities - topics selected within WP2 | M25 | M36 |
| T7.3 - Micro-seeding grants incentive for starting cooperation on topics from WP2 (widening + non-widening) | M25 | M48 |
| WP8 - Dissemination, Communication and Outreach 2 | | |
| T 8.1 - Continuity of the adoption and use of OpenAIRE services | M16 | M36 |
| T 8.2 – Open data management - internal tools | M16 | M36 |
| T 8.3 Contribution to the publishing of open-access journal of the alliance | M16 | M36 |
| T 8.4 - Project communcation and dissemination activities | M16 | M36 |
| WP2 - Management 2 | | |
| T 9.1- Project Coordination; Project meetings etc | M37 | M60 |
| T 9.2 - Quality Assurance | M37 | M60 |
| T 9.3 - Overall Project Impact assesment | M37 | M60 |
| WP10 - Research Integrity and Gender Equality consolidation | | |
| T10.1 Mentoring for female PhD students - one-to one mentoring | M37 | M54 |
| T10.2 Peer mentoring for early career researchers - one-to one mentoring post-doc | M37 | M48 |
| T10.3 Development of an EDI Toolkit for Researchers | M37 | M54 |
| T10.4 - Training programme for researchers on EDI topics | M37 | M54 |
| T10.5 Specific award for women from widening area | M52 | M60 |
| WP11 - Dissemination, Communication and Outreach 3 | | |
| T 11.1 - Continuity of the adoption and use of OpenAIRE | M37 | M60 |
| T 11.2 – Open data management - internal tools | M37 | M60 |
| T 11.3 - Contribution to the publishing of open-access journal | M37 | M60 |
| T 11.4 - Project communcation and dissemination activities | M37 | M60 |



# WP2 Framework for knowledge transfer

WP2 Leading FredU & Co-leading UTCB
FredU: Paris Fokaides, UTCB: Ilinca Nastase

- Develop a structured framework for knowledge transfer and collaboration focusing on Digital Twin technology for coastal area challenges.
- Involve establishing a multi-disciplinary work group for collaboration with Joint Research Institutes of a European University.
- Collaborate with the EU-CONEXUS Think Tank and Innovation Hub.
- Aim to enhance research and innovation capacities in widening universities within the EU-CONEXUS Alliance.
- Focus on replicating best urban coastal area solutions to Fellow Cities.

# WP3 Research career development support activities

WP3 Leading AUA & Co-leading SETU
AUA: Thomas Bartzanas, SETU: Geraldine Canny

- Focuses on upskilling and reinforcing academic expertise transfer towards widening countries.
- Provides support and training for early-career researchers for professional development, networking, and collaboration.
- Targets widening partners as the main beneficiaries, with a focus on early research career development.
- Involves job shadowing opportunities for non-academic staff from the widening universities.
- Offers active support through the Project Development Support Office (PDSO) of the EU-CONEXUS Alliance.

# WP6 Stakeholders exchanges - Bridging the gap between Cities and Universities with focus on widening partners

WP6 Leading FredU & Co-leading UCV
FredU: Paris Fokaides, UCV: Marta Paula Talens Rubio

- Facilitate dialogue and collaboration between universities and city stakeholders in widening countries.
- Identify and address challenges and opportunities for closer cooperation.
- Foster synergies between academia and urban planning and development initiatives, focusing on digital twin solutions.
- Organize citizen participatory activities and consultations with various stakeholders and urban community representatives in each widening city.

# WP7 Joint research activities

WP7 Leading FredU & Co-leading UTCB
UTCB: Loretta Batali, AUA: Manolis Flemetakis

- Fostering joint research initiatives among project partners and researchers from widening countries.
- Opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange, leading to innovative solutions and research outcomes.
- EU-CONEXUS Doctoral School framework for organizing joint PhD cotutelles.
- Doctoral research topics selected to address challenge-based needs of widening urban coastal areas.
- Each cotutelle to involve a PhD advisor from both a widening and a non-widening country, with the candidate selected by the widening university.
- Post-doctoral research topics proposed in a similar advisor and candidate configuration.
- Micro-seeding grants to support multi-disciplinary teams of widening and non-widening researchers.

# WP10 Gender Equality and Research Integrity Consolidation

WP10 Leading FredU & Co-leading UTCB
AUA: Sophie Mavrikou, UROS: Bettina Eichler-Löbermann

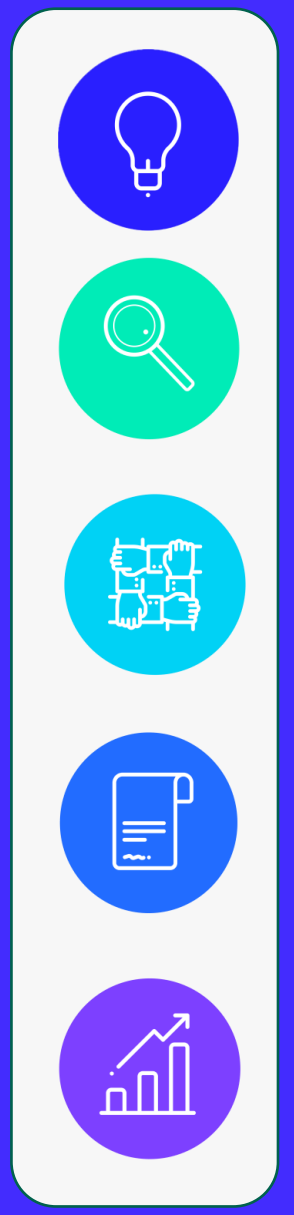
- Aims to develop and consolidate a framework for promoting research integrity and gender equality within the Alliance, focusing on partners from widening countries.
- Involves creating guidelines, training programs, and mentorship initiatives.
- Supports ethical research practices.
- Fosters a more inclusive and diverse research environment.

## Value of colaboration

EU-CONEXUS ENABLES leverages  the diverse expertise of its partners across academia, industry, and public sectors to foster interdisciplinary collaboration. Each partner contributes unique skills, ranging from technical knowledge in digital twin technologies to policy-making and sustainability practices, ensuring a holistic approach to urban coastal challenges

## Engagement strategy

Engagement with stakeholders is multi-faceted, utilizing virtual tools like Microsoft Teams and social media to connect with academics, industry leaders, policy makers, and the public. The project plans to host webinars, workshops, and virtual conferences to facilitate broad participation and dialogue.



# EU-CONEXUS ENABLES in KPIs

## Early career researchers

- 5 Cotutelles fully funded
- 5 Post Docs fully funded
- 10 Short term mobilities for post-doc
- 25 Peer to peer PhD mentees

## Researchers and support staff

- 60 EYH trainees
- 60 Trainees on how to write a project proposal
- 5 + Micro-seeding grants
- 30 Female PhD Mentees
- 60 EDI trainees

## Participative and engagement events

- 5 Hackhatons
- 10 Trainings and coachings
- 5 Participatory science events
- 6 Webinars and workshops

**9+1**
Partners

**4**
JRIs

**218**
Research institutes

# THANK YOU !

Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest

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