New ERA Policies: Supporting Research Career, Open Science and Beyond

Workshop, 15 October 2026, 13:00-17:30, Hub UTCN

AGENDA

13:00-13:15	**Opening Remarks** Daniela Dragomir, NCP Widening & ERA, UEFISCDI Camelia Lemnaru, ECROS Coordinator, UTCN

Session 1: ERA Policy Priorities

13:15-13.35	**European Research Area Policy Agenda 2025-2027** Daniela Dragomir, NCP Widening & ERA, UEFISCDI Q&A
13:35-13.55	**Open Science** Alina Irimia, Open Science Projects Coordinator, UEFISCDI Q&A
13:55-14.15	**ResearchComp** Alexandra Roman, Open Science Expert, UEFISCDI Q&A
14:15-14.45	**ECROS: Empowering Early Career Researchers** Camelia Lemnaru, ECROS Coordinator, UTCN Q&A
14:55-15:10	**Networking coffee**

Parallel Sessions

Session 2: Horizon Europe WIDERA Calls 2027

15.10 - 15.40	**Horizon Europe WIDERA Calls 2027** Daniela Dragomir, NCP Widening & ERA, UEFISCDI Q&A
15:40-17:20	**WIDERA one-to-one meetings** (NCP-Applicant)

Hands-on Session: Research Careers and Skills for Open Science

15:10-17:20	**Open Science and Research Careers in the European Research Area** Alina Irimia, Open Science Projects Coordinator, UEFISCDI **Practical Session: FAIR Data and Data Management Plans** Andreea Popa, Open Science Expert, UEFISCDI Raluca Ciobotaru, Open Science Expert, UEFISCDI **Interactive Session: Skills for Open Science** Alexandra Roman, Open Science Expert, UEFISCDI This session will be held in Romanian. Target group: Bachelor's, Master's and PhD students
17:20-17:30	**Conclusions and next steps**

European Research Area Policy Agenda 2025–2027

From Policy Priorities to Actions

Daniela Dragomir, NCP Widening & ERA, UEFISCDI

New ERA Policies: Supporting Research Careers, Open Science and Beyond
Workshop, PROINVENT 2026, 15 October 2026, 13:00-17:30, Hub UTCN

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

unified research and innovation market

Communication „A new ERA for Research and Innovation”(2020)

Four strategic objectives:
I. Prioritising investments and reforms
II. Improving access to excellence
III. Translating R&I results into the economy
IV. Deepening the ERA

Pact for Research and Innovation (2022)

- Principles for R&I in Europe
- R&I four priority areas for MS joint action :
  I. Deepening a truly functioning internal market for knowledge
  II. Taking up together the green transition and digital transformation and other challenges with impact on society
  III. Enhancing access to R&I excellence across the Union and enhancing interconnections between innovation ecosystems across the Union
  IV. Advancing concerted R&I investments and reforms.

ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027

ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024

voluntary activities coordinated at Union level

- **11 structural policies** - longer-term policies (e.g. open science, research infrastructures, research assessment and research careers)
- **8 ERA actions** - filling specific gaps on new or emerging issues

20 ERA actions
(19 implemented)

Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/2122 of 26 November 2021 on a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe
COM_2024_490_Implementation of the European Research Area (ERA)_22-20-2024
Council Recommendation of 24 June 2025 on the European Research Area Policy Agenda 2025-2027

ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024

See : COM_2024_490_Implementation of the European Research Area (ERA)_22-20-2024

- Actions of relevance to Clusters 2, 4 and 5 , e.g.

- Action 11 – Green energy transformation
- Action 12 – Accelerating the green and digital transition of Europe's key industrial ecosystems

e.g. outcomes:

-*Three ERA industrial technology roadmaps (on low-carbon technologies in energy intensive industries; on circular technologies; and on human-centric technology for Industry 5.0)*

- Action 14 – Bring science closer to citizens

- Horizontal ERA actions supporting all clusters, e.g.

- Action 1 – Open access
- Action 3 – Research careers
- Action 5 – Gender equality
- Action 8 – Research infrastructures

- Action for capacity building/enable successful participation in the R&I process

- Action 16 – Access to excellence

!!!159 on-going projects, in 22 Widening Countries, are relevant to the EU Missions in Horizon Europe!!!

https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/8e2b8247-09fc-11f0-b1a3-01aa75ed71a1/language-en

ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027

8 ERA actions

Applying equity in open science

Advancing the European Science for Policy (S4P) ecosystem

Facilitating and accelerating the responsible use of AI in science in the EU

Enhancing research security

Accelerating R&I investments for Europe's industrial transformation and competitive sustainability

Accelerating new approach methodologies (NAMs) to advance biomedical research and testing of medicinal products and medical devices

Developing a coherent and coordinated framework for a European approach to integrity and ethics in R&I in the face of emerging challenges

→ **Empowering R&I: A new era in research management**

11 structural policies

Enabling open science via sharing and re-use of data, including through the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)

Strengthening sustainability, accessibility and resilience of research infrastructures in the ERA

Strengthening gender equality and inclusiveness in the ERA, notably with an intersectional approach

→ **Making research careers more attractive and sustainable, and support mobility**

Reforming research assessment

→ **Upscaling knowledge valorisation capacities and activities**

Implementing the Global Approach to R&I

Making the strategic energy technology (SET) plan a key thematic component of the ERA

Improving the articulation between R&I and higher education within the ERA and unleashing the full potential of European R&I ecosystems

→ **Enhancing trust in science through citizen participation, engagement and science communication**

Improve EU access to excellence

ERA in Horizon Europe



- To see how Horizon Europe WIDERA programme supported the ERA priorities, visit also:

  ERA in Horizon Europe brochure

- To see how ERA aspects are integrated in clusters under 2027 Calls Pillar II "Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness", visit

  ERA_Opportunities_2027.pdf and also F&T Portal

KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION

"Process of creating social and economic value from knowledge by linking different areas and sectors and by transforming data, know-how and research results into sustainable products, services, solutions and knowledge-based policies that benefit society."

ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 Structural Action no.6
Upscaling knowledge valorisation capacities and activities

Objectives

- Strengthen knowledge valorisation and deployment, skills and professional support
- Improve the access and use of intellectual assets and data derived from research and innovation
- Consolidate the culture of knowledge valorisation

Outcomes:

- *Competence framework for knowledge valorisation intermediaries*
- *European scheme on responsible licensing and shared data-governance principles.*
- *"Learning labs for value creation" to train and upskill on valorisation and entrepreneurship.*
- *Policy guidance on accelerating uptake of multidisciplinary R&I results.*
- *Comprehensive measurement framework for monitoring valorisation performance in the ERA*

Knowledge valorisation in Horizon Europe Work Programme for 2026-2027

Horizon Europe support for knowledge valorisation

ERA IN HORIZON EUROPE - Brochure

ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024 Action 7
Upgrading the EU guidance on knowledge valorisation

- **EU Guiding Principles for knowledge valorisation**

- common line on policy principles and measures for national, regional and local policy makers to maximize the transformation of research and innovation results into solutions that benefit society

→ new indicators indicators are needed in order to capture the wider societal value created by R&I results in the Union

- promote the development of the competences, skills and capacities needed to support knowledge valorisation operations involving all stakeholders, from students, researchers and inventors to entrepreneurs and professional intermediaries, and from knowledge users to policymakers

- **Codes of Practices for knowledge valorisation**

-guidance to R&I professionals on the implementation of specific aspects of knowledge valorisation

Council Recommendation (EU) 2022/2415 of 2 December 2022 on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation

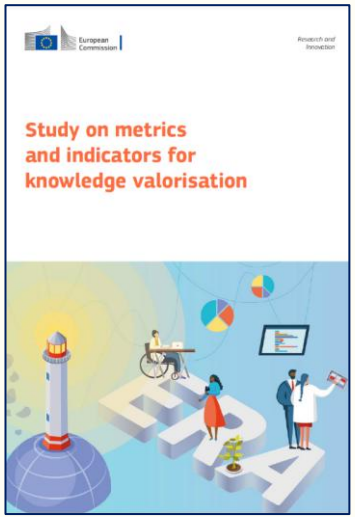
Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/499 on a Code of Practice on the management of intellectual assets for knowledge valorisation in the European Research Area

Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/498 on a Code of Practice on standardisation in the European Research Area

Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/774 on a Code of Practice on industry-academia co-creation for knowledge valorisation

Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/736 on a Code of Practice on citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation

KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION

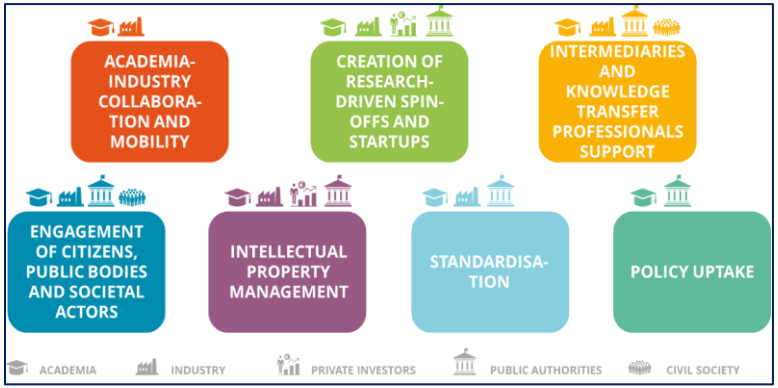


Study on metrics and indicators for knowledge valorisation, supporting ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 Structural Action no.6 Upscaling knowledge valorisation capacities and activities

New framework to measure knowledge valorisation

- new framework to track how research is turned into value in EU MS and AC within the ERA.
- reviews and expands indicators that track the commercialisation of research e.g.
  e.g. co-patents between industry and academia, the use of intellectual property, venture capital investment in spinouts, the number of startups led by PhD holders, other
- develops new indicators for measuring policy uptake, standardisation, and community engagement
- provides policymakers with a hands-on resource to track progress in knowledge valorisation and enhance the impact of European research.
- 16 indicators measured through 41 metrics, covering seven channels of valorisation

Knowledge valorisation channels, enabling R&I results to be translated into practical marketable solutions while fostering stakeholder cooperation.



- help researchers see how different forms of value created by R&I are measured at EU level

KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION



Practical Guidance for the Valorisation of Multidisciplinary R&I Results

Supports researchers, project partners, research organisations and knowledge valorisation intermediaries such as knowledge transfer offices (KTOs) in identifying and implementing pathways to valorise multidisciplinary research and iinovation results, including in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

- To see how Horizon Europe WIDERA programme supported knowledge valorisation during 2021-2027, visit: **ERA in Horizon Europe brochure**

e.g. other Horizon Europe Calls supporting knowledge valorisation

Horizon Europe support for knowledge valorisation

'Proof of market' to improve valorisation and commercialisation of Horizon generated R&I results (IA) for 2027
planned opening date: 13 October 2026 - deadline date: 03 February 2027
HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-49

Unlocking the potential of academic intellectual assets for industry, SMEs and startups
planned opening date: 13 October 2026 - deadline date: 02 February 2027 17:00
HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-42

Towards commercialization of food systems microbiome solutions
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-07
planned opening date: 20 April 2027 - deadline date: 30 September 2027

Strengthening the potential of the EOSC for knowledge valorisation and industry-academia collaboration (EOSC Partnership)
HORIZON-INFRA-2027-01-EOSC-02
planned opening date: 19 March 2027 - deadline date: 15 June 2027

Valorising Horizon project results via innovation ecosystems

HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-06-02
planned opening date: 12 October 2026 - deadline date: 16 February 2027

See also ERA_Opportunities_2027.pdf and also F&T Portal

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Co-design of research agenda, co-creation of research contents and co-assessment of research and innovation (R&I) outcomes with citizen and civil society.

- ERA structural policy on Enhancing Trust in Science through Citizen Participation, Engagement and Science Communication

Objectives

- Boost public engagement in R&I, citizen science and science communication through commonly developed guidelines
- Develop more effective mechanisms for substantial, inclusive public engagement in R&I
- Strengthen science-society links at national/ regional/ local level
- Increase scientific literacy and science capital through closer links between the scientific community and young people and with people not habitually involved in science

Expected outcomes

- Common guiding principles for inclusive public engagement in R&I.
- Activities connecting researchers and young people (best practices, handbooks, guidelines).
- Strengthened local R&I communities through citizen engagement.
- Mutual learning exercise on trust in science and shared knowledge base.
- Mechanism and funding scheme to scale national best practices to the EU level.

- ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024 Action 14 – Bring science closer to citizens

  e.g. outcomes:
  - MLE on citizen science initiatives – policy and practice facilitating the exchange of citizen science information, experiences and lessons learned.
  - MLE on public engagement – policy and practice fostering public participation in R&I policies.

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Horizon Europe support for citizen engagement

Horizon Europe WIDERA – ERA Pillar III: Citizens and science in ERA

Type: coordination and support actions
Focus: **connecting R&I with citizens and other stakeholders**.
Activity types: implementing and promoting participatory approaches, such as **citizen engagement and citizen science.**

Policy areas:
- **Trust in science**
- **Knowledge valorisation**
- **Citizen and societal engagement**

2026
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-05: Fostering citizen engagement for more responsible and democratic R&I
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-06: European Citizens' Hackathon Championship
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-07: Science comes to town 2028

2027
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-03: **Pillar III: Science comes to town 2029**
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-04: **Pillar III: Promoting public engagement in R&I and scientific literacy**

- To see how Horizon Europe WIDERA programme supported citizen science and engagement during 2021-2027, visit:
  ERA in Horizon Europe brochure
- To see how other Horizon Europe calls supported citizen science and engagement, visit:
  ERA_Opportunities_2027.pdf and also F&T Portal

RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

to strengthen the research management profession

ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 Action 8: Empowering R&I: A new era in research management

Objectives

- achieve better recognition of the research manager profession; attractive and clearer career paths for research managers
- ensure broad and easy access to educational material and upskilling activities/tools of research managers, including early careers research managers, including guidance on AI tools
- create a recognised Europe-wide learning and skills development scheme for Research Managers with peer-to-peer learning and mobility components ensuring the integration of ERA priorities and values, e.g., ethics and research integrity, open science and inclusive gender equality
- improve networking with research managers from the public and the private sector; better awareness of schemes for professional development, career path and available training opportunities

Outcomes

RM Comp - European Competence Framework for Research Managers CARDEA, RM Roadmap and RM Framework

- Awareness-raising campaign in Member States and other countries to highlight the value of research management in strengthening Europe's strategic capacity and competitiveness in R&I.
- Co-creating in 2026 a European Charter for Research Managers, creating a triangle approach of research performing organisations, research funding organisations, and European industry, ensuring recognition across sectors
- Analysis of the role of research management in selected actions funded under the "widening" part of Horizon Europe.
- Launching a centralised hub that collects educational and upskilling material.

ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024 Action 17: Enhance public research institutions' strategic capacity
Outcomes (e.g.)
– A set of recommendations for targeted actions at national and European level, to increase recognition of the profession and the range and accessibility of research managers' training activities.
– Horizon Europe key projects on research management (CARDEA, RM Roadmap)/dedicated competence framework – to be developed

https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/documents/factsheet-new-era-research-management

COGNITIVE ABILITIES/ PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Problem solving
- Strategic Planning
- Decision Making
- Stress Management
- Prioritisation, Time Management and Multitasking
- Adaptability and Professional Flexibility
- Conflict Management
- Reliability and Trustfulness

RESEARCH PROJECT OVERSIGHT

- Research Project Management
- Managing Research Project Deliverables
- Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks and Indicators
- Establishing Research Projects Plans

7 competence areas

50 competencies

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE/SPECIALISED KNOWLEDGE

- Pre-Award
- Post-Award
- Managing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (Including Gender, Disability and Racism)
- Data Stewardship
- Knowledge Valorisation (Technology Transfer)
- HR for Research – Employment, Training etc of research staff
- Research Finance
- Research Infrastructure Management
- Clinical Research Management
- Research Ethics and Integrity
- Research, Strategy and Policy Development
- Managing the Research Grant/Support Office

COMMUNICATION

- Building and Maintaining Relationships with Research Funders, Partners, or other Stakeholders
- Designing and Implementing Research Communication Plans
- Media Liaison and Associated Activities
- Preparing and Writing Reports (Including Evaluation Reports and Funder Reports)
- Social Media Engagement

LINE MANAGEMENT AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

- People Management and Managing Team Performance
- Team Building
- Change Management
- Coaching Skills
- Research Talent Indentification and Development

TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY

- Research Data collection and Collation
- Data and Statistical Analysis
- Legal Skills
- IT for Research Activities
- Artificial Intelligence

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Research Outreach
- Academic Community Relationship Collaboration
- Community Engagement with Research
- Engagement with Key Stakeholders
- Building Trust within Relevant Research and Strategic Partnerships
- Diplomacy, Negotiation, and Mediation Skills
- Handling Difficult Conversations and Partnerships
- Business and Commercial Liaison Management



RM Comp - European Competence Framework for Research Managers tool - core skills, proficiency levels, and learning outcomes to support professional development and to standardise practices across Europe

How Horizon Europe support research management

RESEARCH CAREERS

ERA Structural Policy - Making research careers more attractive and sustainable, and support mobility

Objectives: `

- foster recognition of the research professions, and the interoperability and comparability of research careers across sectors and Member States
- improve recruitment and working conditions, including aspects related to open, transparent and merit-based recruitment (OTM-R)
- strengthen researchers' skills to foster inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary careers
- support better career development and progression and shape new investment pathways to reduce precarity and broaden the spectrum of career opportunities
- work towards a more balanced circulation of talents, including intersectoral flows
- ensure effective and reliable data from the R&I Careers Observatory
- create synergies with other related ERA policy actions and related current and future EU initiatives such as the Commission's skills and talent mobility package

Horizon Europe support for research careers

- To see how Horizon Europe WIDERA programme supported research careers during 2021-2027, visit:
  ERA in Horizon Europe brochure
- To see how other Horizon Europe calls supported research careers, visit:
  ERA_Opportunities_2027.pdf and also F&T Portal

RESEARCH CAREERS

ERA Structural Policy - Making research careers more attractive and sustainable, and support mobility

Outcomes:

- Co-created guidelines for implementing the Council Recommendation on research careers.
- Establishment of a community of practice to strengthen research careers at European, national, regional, and organisational level.
- Consolidation of the R&I Careers Observatory (RelCO) with broader stakeholder involvement.
- Recommendations for career development and progression, including tenure-track-like models.
- Co-created investment pathways to reduce precarity and support non-academic careers.

ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024

Council Recommendation on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe, and the new European Charter for Researchers (December 2023).

Horizon Europe WIDERA pilot call on Talent Ecosystems for early-career researchers



ERA Talent Platform | PLATFORM INITIATIVES

ResearchComp (European Competence Framework for Researchers)
Research and Innovation Careers Observatory

Horizon Europe WIDERA Work Programme 2026-2027

	2026	2027
Open science	Strengthening ecosystems for ERA Advancing knowledge for ERA Open access and research assessment reforms Institutional capacities for ERA Non-profit open access publishing Academic intellectual assets	Facilitating development of institutional open access policies through the retention of intellectual property rights
Gender equality	Advancing Knowledge for ERA Building institutional capacities for ERA	
Research careers	Advancing Knowledge of ERA ERA Fellowships	Talent Ecosystems ERA Fellowships
Research assessment	Open access and research assessement reforms	
Knowledge valorisation	Strengthening ERA ecosystems Piloting innovative approaches to support academic startups and spinoffs European Citizens' Hackathon Championship	
Global Approach to RI	Strengthening ERA ecosystems	Upgrading EU's independent knowledge on China's STI
SET Plan		SET Plan renewable fuel SET Plan wave and tidal energy systems
Higher education	Strengthening the role of Technology Transfer Offices	Excellence Hubs
Access to excellence	Teaming Synergies Twinning Hop On Facility ERA Fellowships Research Management Facility | Programme | HORIZON | CORDIS | European Commission	EIC Pre Accelerator ERA Chairs ERA Fellowships Excellence Hubs ERA Research Managers | Programme | HORIZON | CORDIS | European Commission
Citizen engagement	Citizen engagement for responsible and democratic R&I Science comes to town	Science comes to town Public engagement in R&I and scientific literacy
Ethics and integrity	Building institutional capacities for ERA Strengthening ERA ecosystems Advancing knowledge for ERA	
Research management	Research Management Facility	ERA Research Managers

ERA IN HORIZON EUROPE - Brochure

HORIZON EUROPE WIDERA CALLS 2027

Daniela Dragomir, NCP Widening & ERA, UEFISCDI

Horizon Europe WIDERA 2026-2027

Component I. Widening participation and spreading excellence

Destination: Improved access to excellence

To tackle the R&I gap to move towards a truly integrated and cohesive R&I ecosystem in the European Union

contributes to: Priority III of the Pact for R&I: *Enhancing access to R&I excellence across the Union and enhancing interconnections between innovation ecosystems across the Union*

Bottom-up call topics
but, applicants encouraged to consider key aspects:
Europe's choice -Political guidelines of the European Commission in July 2024 EU Compass to regain competitiveness

to build up and strengthen R&I capacities in Widening countries

Coordinating institutions:
- Legal entities established in Widening countries

9 calls with 10 topics, of which **4 calls (5 topics) in 2027**

Component II. Strengthening the ERA by reforming and enhancing the European R&I system

Destination: Reforming and enhancing the European R&I system

To support the implementation of the second **ERA Policy Agenda**, which outlines ERA Structural Policies and ERA Actions for the period 2025-2027

To build knowledge and capacities at the level of institutions and ecosystems to adopt reforms and practices

Strengthen the ERA by promoting freedom of movement of researchers, scientific knowledge, and technology, societal responsibility, gender equality and inclusiveness, new evidence for better-informed policymaking

ERA Platform Explore how Horizon Europe supports ERA priorities

Involvement of SSH experts, institutions, and the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, to enhance the societal impact of project activities - encouraged

2 calls with 13 topics in total, of which **1 call (5 topics) in 2027**

Target groups: e.g., universities, research performing and funding organisations, research evaluation agencies, networks of researchers, publishers, industry and start-ups, policymakers, local authorities, and public bodies, science parks, technology parks, living labs, hubs, and practitioners in citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation, other – See Call text!!

Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system (Horizon Europe WIDERA 2026-27)

Pillar I: Institutional changes for ERA

Type: coordination and support actions
Focus: capacity building and support to foster adoption of ERA policies/practices within institutions.
Activity types: providing tools, resources, training, services, and policy advice.
Policy areas:
- Equity in open science
- Inclusive gender equality
- Research assessment reform
- Research ethics and integrity
- **Open access policies (1 topic 2027)**

Pillar II: Ecosystems for ERA

Type: coordination and support actions
Focus: building and reinforcing networks and partnerships to foster broad uptake of ERA policies/practices.
Activity types: exchanging knowledge and practice, networking and cooperative actions.
Policy areas:
- Research ethics and integrity
- Environmentally sustainable science
- Knowledge valorisation
- Open science practices
- **Research careers (1 topic -2027)**

Pillar III: Citizens and science in ERA

Type: coordination and support actions
Focus: connecting R&I with citizens and other stakeholders.
Activity types: implementing and promoting participatory approaches, such as citizen engagement and citizen science.
Policy areas:
- Trust in science
- Knowledge valorisation
- **Citizen and societal engagement (2 topics 2027)**

Pillar IV: New knowledge for ERA

Type: **research and innovation actions**
Focus: creating new knowledge that supports design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and practices.
Activity types: conducting analyses, developing and testing new methods and practices.
Policy areas:
- Reproducibility in research
- Research ethics and integrity
- Inclusive gender equality
- Research careers
- **Global approach to R&I (1 topic 2027)**

WIDERA Calls 2027

ERA Structural Policy 2025-2027

Excellence Hubs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-01)

Opening date: **02 September 2026**
Deadline date: **4 March 2027**

Improve EU acccess to excellence
Horizon Europe support for access to excellence

ERA Chairs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING 01)

Opening date: **06 April 2027**
Deadline date: **14 September 2027**

Improve EU acccess to excellence
Horizon Europe support for access to excellence

ERA Research Managers (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING 02)

Opening date: **06 April 2027**
Deadline date: **14 September 2027**

Empowering RI:A new ERA in research management
Horizon Europe support for Research management

ERA Fellowships (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-03-WIDENING-01)

Opening date: 07 April 2027
Deadline date: 08 September 2027

Improve EU acccess to excellence
Horizon Europe support for access to excellence

EIC Pre-accelerator – Widening (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-01-WIDENING-01)

Opening date: 05 May 2027
Deadline date: 18 November 2027

Improve EU acccess to excellence
Horizon Europe support for access to excellence

Call
Enhancing the European R&I system (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05)

ERA Structural Policy

Open: 8 Dec. 2026
Deadline: 11 Mar. 2027

HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-01 Pillar I: Facilitating development of institutional open access policies through the retention of intellectual property rights	Enabling open science via sharing and reuse of data, including through the European Open Science Cloud
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-02 **Pillar II: Talent ecosystems for attractive early research careers**	**Making research careers more attractive and sustainable, and support mobility**
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-03 Pillar III: Science comes to town 2029	Enhancing trust in science through citizen participation, engagement and science communication
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-04 Pillar III: Promoting public engagement in R&I and scientific literacy	Enhancing trust in science through citizen participation, engagement and science communication
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-05 Pillar IV: Upgrading the EU's independent knowledge on China's Science, Technology and Innovation system	Implementing the Global Approach to R&I cooperation

HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-02
Pillar II: Talent ecosystems for attractive early research careers

Impact:
"Improved research careers and mobility, based on the European framework for research careers, fostering knowledge flows and career interoperability across sectors and countries"

ERA Structural Policy :
"Making research careers more attractive and sustainable, and support mobility"

Selected Expected outcomes (in brief):
- Creation of talent ecosystems, as integrated networks where RPO (incl.HES) and private organisations, in particular industrial actors and research-intensive businesses
- Implementation of organisational changes by participating organisations to mainstream the principles of the European framework for research careers and of the European Charter for Researchers, with spillover effects on other R&I staff
- Attractive careers for a substantial number of researchers and other R&I staff, incld. attracting international talents and European diaspora scientists.

Planned opening date: 08 December 2026
Deadline date:11 March 2027

CSA
LS funding approach
3 years
2 000 000,00 €/project
Expected: 15 projects to be funded

Pillar II – Ecosystem for ERA

Type	CSA
Focus	Building and reinforcing networks and partnerships to foster broad uptake of ERA policies/practices
Activity type	Exchange of knowledge and practice, networking and cooperative actions
Expected impact	Sustainable ecosystems established around ERA priorities
Policy areas	▪ Research ethics and integrity ▪ Environmentally sustainable science ▪ Knowledge valorisation ▪ Open science ▪ Research careers
2026 call	HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-03: Strengthening ecosystems for open, ethical, and sustainable ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-04: Piloting innovative approaches to support academic startups and spinoffs
2027 call	HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-02:Talent ecosystems for attractive early research careers

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See: Horizon Europe WIDERA Info-day - ERA Calls -11 December 2025

European Commission

HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-02
Pillar II: Talent ecosystems for attractive early research careers

SCOPE:

- Creating 'talent ecosystems' - cohesive and interdependent systems that promote attractive and sustainable careers for researchers, particularly for early-career researchers, tailored to the needs of the research labour market.

- Creating conditions for:
  - interoperable careers for researchers
  - continuous and multidirectional talent circulation across sectors within the ecosystem

Ensure long-term sustainability of talent ecosystems and cooperation benefitting researchers and other R&I staff within and beyond the consortium

PROPOSAL

choose the thematic area
- Area 1. Clean Transition: Energy and transport
- Area 2. Health
- Area 3. Biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy
- Area 4. Digital and AI technologies
- Area 5. Space

specify the precise thematic scope in the selected thematic area/could be also comprehensive in scope

CONSORTIUM (balanced):

Eligibility:

- at east three independent legal entities: Each established in a different Member State or Associated Country; and two of which are established in a Member State.

Composition:

- education and training providers, employers of researchers, especially from the non-academic sector
  - Universities
  - Research and technology organisations and
  - infrastructures
  - SMEs/Industry
  - Government entities
  - Civil society organisations
- AP participation is encouraged
- additional partners to extend the scope of the talents ecosystems

Participating organisations:

- must hold HR Excellence in Research Award or,
- commit to applying and implementing the new Charter for Researchers and (i.e., start the process towards the Award) within the grant duration, where relevant to researcher employment.

SEE FULL TEXT in the CALL!

HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-02
Pillar II: Talent ecosystems for attractive early research careers

ACTIVITIES (e.g.):

- mapping challenges
- developing action plans to align the organisations with the Charter for Researchers
- upskilling (incl. on the basis of ResearchComp and RM Comp), and involving the non-academic sector in the design and implementation of training programmes for researchers and other R&I staff
- establishing career development and mentoring services
- developing services for the well-being of researchers and other R&I staff
- creating conditions for interoperable careers between countries and sectors
- supporting incoming mobile researchers
- networking and relationship-building to connect talent ecosystem partners
- outreach activities to attract international researchers to the ecosystem

SEE FULL TEXT in the CALL!

- Building on relevant ERA Talent Platform initiatives, incl., EURAXESS, RESAVER, ReICO, ResearchComp and RM Comp , ensuring complementarity, interoperability, user signposting and coherent communication.
- Build on outcomes of existing projects under HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-03 and those to be funded under this call.

SEE FULL TEXT in the CALL!

- Align training with business, industry and labour market needs, while also ensuring that latest research findings are included in the curricula of early-career researchers.

ERA Chairs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING 01)

Stronger links between R&I actors across the ERA are essential for Europe to capitalize on excellence

- ❑ To attract outstanding scientists and innovators to the coordinator institution's in Widening countries, fostering brain circulation and international mobility
- ❑ To establish a permanent, high-quality research group, fully integrated in the coordinator's institution

→ Boost excellence → Improved institutional culture and performance

⟶ Implement structural changes at institutional levels

⟶ may also contribute to broader developments at regional or national levels

- 6 April 2027/14 Sep 2027
- CSA
- 1.50 … 2.50 mil.EUR/ project
- 80 funded projects
- Lump sums
- Duration:5 years

Grant covers:

Salaries, recruitment, travel and administrative expenses related to the ERA Chair holder and research team.

Consumables and equipment (up to 10% of the EU contribution) – see call text!!

ERA Chairs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING 01)

Coordinating institution

Sole applicant, mono-beneficiary
Legal entity (established in a Widening country
- Research organisation or research infrastructure

ERA Chairs holder

Outstanding researcher and/or innovator in the chosen field of research (R3 or R4)
- from any country of the world
- any scientific domain
- do not have already a contractual relationship with the CO

Open, transparent and merit-based recruitment process, monitored by European Commission
- International panel chaired by ERA Chairs

- Establishes an excellent and permanent research team fully integrated in the CO's institution
- Drives institutional reforms
- Ensures resource allocation
- Submit funding applications
- Teaching duties, when appropriate

ERA Chairs team
- Min 50% new team
- ERA Chair research team structured for continuity
- beyond Horizon Europe funding
- Research group leader appointed by month 36

Stimulate excellence and improving research performance in the chosen scientific field
Increase visibility and integration within ERA

Improve competitiveness in research funding

ERA Chairs proposals

ERA Chairs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING 01)

ERA Chair holder Contractual arrangements

-time commitment (may relocate temporarily or permanently)
- timeline of on-site presence at the CO
- salary (gross amount), travel and daily allowances and/or other benefits
- contractual details, if employment is the chosen option

Research team/ERA Chair team composition

≥20% of the newly appointed research group members should have permanent positions, in addition to the research group leader

- no more than 50% should have any prior contractual links to the host institution

- description of researchers to be recruited (profiles & levels, salaries and recruitment timelines)
- description of existing or foreseen arrangements for compliance with ERA priorities incl. theEuropean Charter for Researchers & Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers

Coordinator

- How R&I investments in research projects, facilities and infrastructures will be implemented
- How the installed research capacity will be optimally utilised
- Existing or foreseen arrangements for compliance with ERA priorities
- Proposed structural reforms:
  - Improvements in working conditions
  - Career prospects
  - HR policies
  - Research governance
  - Grant management
  - Knowledge transfer
  - Gender equality

Transition phase planning

Description of transition phase between the ERA Chair holder and the research group leader incl. definition each person's share of tasks and role for the remaining project years

Impacts, quantified
incl. new research partnerships, institutional changes, increased research output enhanced, research knowledge and practice, innovative research.

ERA Chairs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING 01)

Commitment letters

- ✓ a letter signed by the prospective ERA Chair holder confirming:
  - ❑ commitment of at least 50% FTE to the proposal until the permanent appointment of a research group leader by M36
  - ❑ acceptance all related tasks, obligations and agreed contractual arrangements (including salary and on-site presence at the host institution)
  - ❑ continued commitment (at least 20%) after recruitment of the research leader for the remaining duration
  - ❑ Support to the research leader to ensure efficient reforms and improved research performance.

- ✓ a letter signed by the head of the coordinator institution confirming:
  - ❑ commitment to the proposal
  - ❑ adequate support for the ERA Chairs holder s duties, including, research facilities access, researchers supervision, teaching duties (if any) and freedom to apply for funding

Curriculum Vitae (CV) in Europass format

-Details also scientific and technical contributions to the CO
-Annex to the proposal

ERA Chairs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING 01)

- OUTCOMES (summary) -

At system level (i.e):

- Increased international mobility of R&I talents towards Widening countries and strengthened human capital with more **entrepreneurial and well-trained researchers** in Widening countries
- Institutional reforms in research institutions and national R&I systems
- Enhanced research capacity, competitiveness, and economic growth

At organisation level:

- Strengthened research excellence in ERA Chair fields
- Increased attractiveness to top international researchers
- Establishment of a lasting, high-performing research group with institutional benefits;
- Improved success in EU and global competitive funding.

ERA Research Managers (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING 02)

Excellent research management capacities are essential for Europe to capitalize on excellence
RM capacities are crucial for RPO

→ Increase efficiency, competitiveness and impact

- To attract experienced research managers to universities, research organisations or research infrastructures in Widening countries, establishing/ upgrading RM institutional capacities to foster excellent research management aligned with ERA priorities
- Brain circulation/Brain gain/Creation of pockets of excellence

⟶ Improved institutional culture and performance

1 proposal per legal entity

- 6 April 2027/14 Sep 2027
- CSA
- 1.50 … 2.50 mil.EUR/ project
- 30 funded projects
- Horizon-AG
- Duration:

ERA Research Managers (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING 02)

Commitment letters

- ✓ a letter signed by the prospective ERA Research Manager confirming, their:
  - ❑ commitment of at least 50% FTE to the proposal until the permanent appointment of a research manager leader by M36
  - ❑ acceptance all related tasks, obligations and agreed contractual arrangements (including salary and on-site presence at the host institution)
- ✓ a letter signed by the head of the coordinator institution confirming:
  - ❑ commitment to the proposal
  - ❑ adequate support for the ERA Research Manager holders duties e.g overseeing institutional and structural reforms, streamlining administrative processes, and facilitating collaboration.

Curriculum Vitae (CV) in Europass format

- -Details also proposed managerial and technical contributions to the CO
- -Annex to the proposal

ERA Research Managers (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING 02)

- self-assessment of the beneficiary's existing institutional capacities and RMA needs
- adaptive, realistic and feasible implementation strategy within project duration with targeted actions and trainings/continuously including necessary measures to introduce institutional changes in RM
- any alternative/additional/other relevant investments in RM capacity building, projects, staffing, facilities and infrastructures and how those will be achieved.

Contractual arrangements – ERA Research Manager

- time commitment (relocate temporarily or permanently)
- timeline of on-site presence at the CO
- salary (gross amount), travel and daily allowances and/or other benefits
- contractual details, if employment is the chosen option

Transition phase planning

Describe transition phase between the ERA Research Manager and the research manager leader incl. definition each person"s share of tasks and role for the remaining project years

ERA Research Managers (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING 02)

ERA Research Manager

- excellent research managers with international experience (advanced or expert level of research managers)
- from any country of the world
- do not have already a contractual relationship with the CO

- **Establishes an excellent and permanent high-quality RM group fully integrated in the CO's institution**
- Boost excellence, visibility and promote integration within ERA
- Improves competitiveness in research funding, resource allocation
- Promote institutional reforms aligned with ERA priorities

Coordinating institution

Sole applicant, mono-beneficiary
Legal entity (established in a Widening country
- Research organisation or research infrastructure

Open, transparent and merit-based recruitment process, monitored by European Commission
- ERA Research Manager can apply

ERA Research Manager team

Min 50% new team
ERA Research Manager team structured for continuity beyond Horizon Europe funding
Research manager leader appointed by month 36

ERA Research Managers (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING 02)

At system level (i.e):

- Increased **international mobility of RM talents** towards Widening countries and strengthened human capital with more **entrepreneurial and well-trained research managers** in Widening countries
- Institutional reforms in research institutions and national R&I systems
- Better communication of R&I results to the society
- Enhanced research capacity, competitiveness, and economic growth

At organisation level:

- Strengthened research management capacities
- Increased attractiveness to top international research managers, and subsequently researchers
- Establishment of a lasting, high-performing research group with institutional benefits
- Improved success in EU and global competitive funding

Excellence Hubs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-01)

Timeline



EH Community and NCP_WIDERA.NET events

- 23 October 2026, EXCELLENCE HUBS INFO DAY (NCBR, NCP_WIDERA.NET), JOIN THE EVENT
- 26 October 2026, Excellence Hubs Community Joint Event: LIVE STREAMING OF PROJECT PRESENTATIONS DAY 1, JOIN THE EVENT
- 27 October 2026 Excellence Hubs Community Joint Event: LIVE STREAMING OF PROJECT PRESENTATIONS DAY 2, JOIN THE EVENT
- 28 September 2026-28 October 2026, Excellence Hubs Brokerage event (NCBR, NCP_WIDERA.NET), https://www.b2match.com/e/foster-place-based-innovation-culture
- 30 October 2026, EXCELLENCE HUBS PROJECTS Q&A DAY: Follow-up to the live streaming of projects' presentations, REGISTER TO THE EVENT

Excellence Hubs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-01)

What is the Excellence Hubs about?

CONTEXT

- Widening countries
- Bridging the innovation divide
- Fragmented regional innovation ecosystems
- Regions as R&I actors
- New European strategic value chains

EXCELLENCE HUB APPROACH

Strengthen regional innovation excellence through innovation ecosystems*

- Engage quadruple helix communities
- Address innovation fragmentation
- Inter-connect R&I actors and innovation and industrial ecosystems
- Foster place-based innovation culture
- Develop skills and talent mobility

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND INNOVATION AREAS

- Cross-border joint R&I strategy and agenda/ Relevant domains of cutting-edge science and innovation
- Regional and smart specialisation strategies & European priorities

COLLABORATION AND ECOSYSTEM STRENGTHENING (e.g.)

- R&I collaboration
  - Science and technology with market potential
- Knowledge transfer and mutual learning
- Staff exchanges and secondments
- Investment plans
  - incl. business models
  - mobilization of various funding sources
- Conceptual design &pilots (if applicable)

VALORISATION AND BUSINESS

- Technology deployment and research-results uptake
- New business opportunities for SMEs, university spin-offs and start-ups

OUTCOMES & IMPACT (e.g.)

- Sustainable innovation ecosystems
- Long-term strategies
- Skilled researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in R&I intensive domains
- Economic & societal impact

Funding rate: 70% of the eligible costs
30% of the eligible costs/secured and shared among the beneficiaries
FSTP grants: EUR 60000/each third party (SMEs and start-ups)

*Innovation ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond

CSA
HORIZON-AG
1.50 ... 4.50 million EUR/project-30 funded projects
Duration: up to 5 years

Excellence Hubs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-01)

Policy

- **Pact for R&I Priority III**: Enhancing access to R&I excellence across the Union and enhancing interconnections between innovation ecosystems across the Union

- **ERA's third priority** of translating R&I results into the economy
  "to reinforce the deployment and uptake of European innovation on the markets by acting **on all aspects of the innovation system at EU, national and regional level**"
  Call EH:....."to enhance European competitiveness"

- Reduce the innovation divide across Europe

Countries eligible for hosting coordinators of widening actions:
MS: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
AC: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, Morocco and Egypt
Outermost Regions (defined in Art. 349 TFEU)

Excellence Hubs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04)

Outcomes

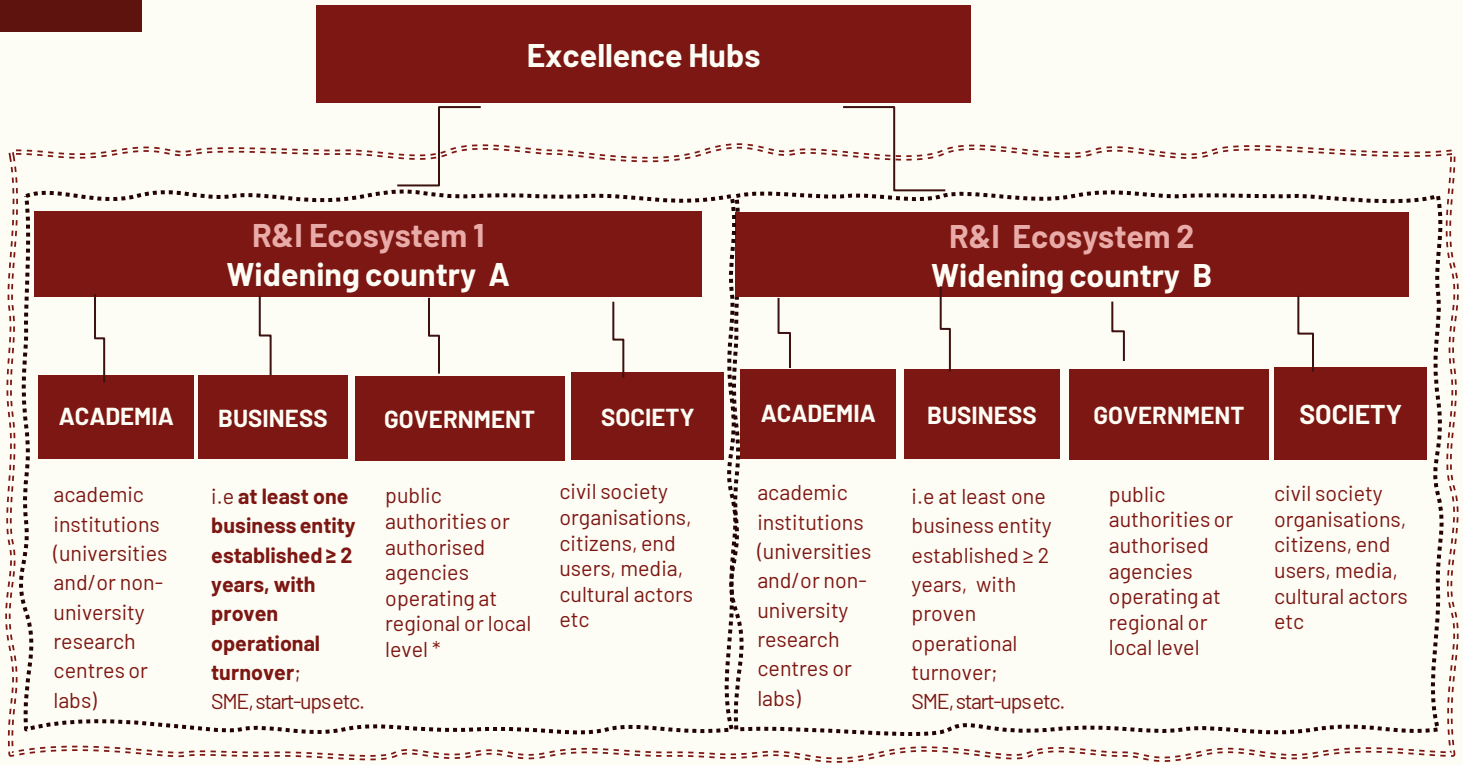
1. **Excellent and sustainable regional R&I ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond**, in relevant domains of **cutting-edge science and innovation**
2. **Long term joint R&I strategies | concrete** action plans of **European relevance**
3. **R&I pilot projects** | alongside a joint strategy | aligned with regional/ national strategies **(RIS3)**
4. **New business opportunities** for SMEs, university spin-offs and start-ups | **especially deep tech areas**
5. **Strengthened linkages between science, businesses and society**
6. **Common investment plans for R&I**, incl. infrastructures, **across funding sources**
7. **New competencies and skills** for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals | **R&I intensive domains**

Destination IMPACT (in brief)

see full text under WP WIDERA 2026-2027!!

- Increased **science and innovation capacities for all actors**
- **Structural changes** leading to modernised and more competitive R&I systems
- Greater **involvement of regional actors** in R&I process
- Stronger **academia–business and quadruple-helix linkages**
- Mobilisation of resources for strategic R&I investments
- Higher **participation** and leadership **in Horizon Europe**
- Free **circulation of knowledge, expertise and talent**

Excellence Hubs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04)



Coordinator: legal entities established in Widening countries ≥ two R&I ecosystems from two different Widening countries

Involvement of a Widening country R&I ecosystem by either:

- one ore more umbrela organisation(s) comprising the four categories of actors **or**
- individual legal entities representing each of the four categories of actors

+ other non-Widening legal entities, if necessary to reach the expected impact (specific expertise, integration of Widening SME in European chains)

* the representative public entities which have clear role in shaping policies and/or ensuring public support for the implementation of national/regional strategies

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe-widening-who-should-apply_en

Beneficiaries examples
(Source: CORDIS)

ECHO - Energy Communities excellence Hubs: catalyzing energy innOvation ecosystems

Türkiye, Greece, and Portugal
24 beneficiaries of which 3 non-widening

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07-01 - Excellence Hubs

CHAngeing - Connected Hubs in Ageing: Healthy Living to Protect Cerebrovascular Function

Greece, Portugal
7 beneficiaries, 1 AP

HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-04

ADDIT-CE - Alzheimer's Disease Diagnostics Innovation and Translation to Clinical Practice in Central Europe

https://addit-ce.ceitec.cz/

ADDIT-CE: to advance AD diagnostics by linking Czech-Slovak research, biotech and clinical practice, supporting innovation and national dementia policies.

11 beneficiaries, 2 AP

Brno ecosystem

Academia: University research (2 faculties and 1 university institute)

Business: biomedical diagnostics company, part of a group, with R&D and manufacturing capability in clinical diagnostics and biomedical research.

GOV/PUB: Regional innovation center

Citizen/end users: University hospital (healthcare institution and R&I center & education) + Alzheimer's society

Academia: Research center for neuroscience + biomedical research center of Academy

Business: 2 biomedical diagnostics companies (R&I in personalized cancer diagnostics; molecular genetics and bioinformatics)

GOV/PUB: Ministry of Health

Citizen/end users: Alzheimer's society+ Dementia care centre

Bratislava ecosystem

Author's own analysis based on CORDIS and the project website. Indicative only and not intended to replace consultation of the cited sources and independent assessment.

Activities

- Design and implementation of **cross-border joint R&I strategy** → aligned with smart specialization strategies and European priorities

  At proposal level: No template or standardised approach. Key elements should be considered:
  - analysis of research and development needs and gaps in the chosen domain/how the consortium will complementary address them
  - pathway to commercial exploitation and how scientific results will be translated into the economy

- **Strengthening academia-business R&I collaboration and links** → generate evidence for strategy building and investments
  ↓ Research component incl. long-term vision beyond SoTA (distinct WP, not dominant)

  → **Joint R&I projects** → advancing science and technology with market potential TRL 3 to 7

  in the scope of joint strategy, active involvement of business partners envisaging marketable solutions

- Development **Investment plans** (incl. business models) → leveraging private, national, regional & EU funding → for implementation of strategy

  At proposal level: No fully fleged investment plan at proposal level. Investment plan should be derived from the joint R&I strategy. Key elements to be outlined in the proposal (i.e.): purpose and type of investment/envisaged funding sources/approach to ensure its sustainability and expected impact.

- **If applicable, Conceptual design & pre-planning for pilots & demonstrators/** other funding sources than EC grants

  specification of R&I infrastructure, feasibility and proof of concept studies

- **Complementary activities** to promote knowledge transfer, visibility, mutual learning and development of engagement with local governments and citizens. Secondments and staff exchanges to foster long-term collaboration within and between ecosystems.

see full text and FAQ under EH Call!!

Not just as a statement!

Consortia: seek synergies and avoid overlaps with relevant initiatives such as: EIE, EIC Pathfinder, the KICs of the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT), in particular the EIT Community Hubs established in Widening countries, the JRC's 'Partnerships for Regional Innovation' and the Widening Dissemination and Exploitation Facility.

HEALTH, MEDICINE & BIOTECHNOLOGY

IFIGENIA, InnoThyroGen, Gene H, DxHub

IFIGENEIA Innovative Facility for Isotope GENeration with Efficient Ion Accelerator

- Ecosystems: Greece + Slovenia + Cyprus
- Mentorship: Bosnia and Herzegovina (Widening)
- International collaboration: Germany + Switzerland
- 22 BEN
- Introduces LINAC (Linear Accelerator) technology as a sustainable, flexible and environmentally friendly alternative to current radioisotope production methods.
- Application areas: Nuclear medicine, including radioisotope production and medical diagnosis and treatment using accelerator-based technologies. Other possible application: cultural heritage/non-destructive analysis.

101186921; Home – IFIGENEIA

InnoThyroGen Innovating Thyroid Health with Genomics and Predictive Algorithms through Collaborative Excellence

- Ecosystems: Croatia + Serbia
- 13 BEN
- Improves the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disorders through advanced technologies such as next-generation sequencing (NGS) and polygenic risk scoring (PRS).
- Precision medicine for thyroid disorders.

101187880, https://www.innothyrogen.eu/

GeneH Excellence Hub for Advancing Innovation in Gene Therapy

- Ecosystems: Portugal + Slovenia
- 16 BEN
- To advance gene-therapy innovation from research towards clinical application. and improve acces to gene therapy across Europe.
- Gene therapy and genomic medicine, focusing on the development of gene therapies for rare genetic disorders with no effective treatment,

101186939; https://www.uc.pt/geneh/

DxHub Connecting Greek and Portuguese Innovation Ecosystems to Develop a Hub for Infectious Diseases Diagnostic Solutions at the Point-of Care – Tackling Cross-border Threats

- Ecosystems: Crete (Greece) + Oeiras (Portugal)
- 15 BEN, 2 AP- Greece + Portugal
- Rapid, accurate, on-site diagnosis of infectious diseases.
- Point-of-care diagnostics for infectious diseases within a One Health approach, covering human, veterinary and agri-food applications.

101186531, https://dx-hub.eu/

Author's own analysis based on CORDIS and the project website. Indicative only and not intended to replace consultation of the cited sources and independent assessment.

HEALTH, MEDICINE & BIOTECHNOLOGY

VELES, CHAngeing, ADDIT-CE

VELES Excellence Hub - Strengthening the South-East Europe Smart Health Regional Excellence and Boosting the Innovation Potential

- ❑ Ecosystems: Bulgaria + Greece + Romania + Cyprus
- ❑ 16 BEN, Non-Widening: Spain + Sweden + Germany
- ❑ Builds a sustainable Smart Health innovation ecosystem, enabled by a Regional Smart Health Data Space, with pilots in cancer treatment, Alzheimer's disease, cerebral tumours and dementia.
- ❑ Smart Health enabled by health data, AI, cloud computing and IoT, supporting predictive, preventive and personalised medicine

101087483, Homepage - VELES Excellence Hub

CHAngeing Connected Hubs in Ageing: Healthy Living to Protect Cerebrovascular Function

- ❑ Ecosystems: Portugal + Greece, centred on Coimbra and Crete
- ❑ 7 BEN
- ❑ 1 AP - Greece
- ❑ Connects and strengthens innovation ecosystems for healthy living and longevity.
- ❑ Promotes healthy lifestyles and the Mediterranean diet for prevention of cerebrovascular disease, together with technology-driven rehabilitation for stroke patients.

101087071, https://www.changeing.eu/

ADDIT-CE Alzheimer's Disease Diagnostics Innovation and Translation to Clinical Practice in Central Europe

- ❑ Ecosystems: Czechia + Slovakia, centred on Brno and Bratislava
- ❑ 11 BEN
- ❑ 2 AP-Czechia
- ❑ Strengthens Alzheimer's disease diagnostics and supports the translate on of novel diagnostic technologies into clinical practice.
- ❑ Modern Alzheimer's diagnostics, clinical management, academia–business cooperation and an innovation ecosystem for dementia care.

101087124; https://addit-ce.ceitec.cz/

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AGRICULTURE, FOOD & BIOECONOMY

CARBONICA , AGRI-BIOCIRCULAR-HUB, EXCEL4MED, Excel4Pro

CARBONICA Carbon Initiative for Climate-resilient Agriculture

- Ecosystems: Cyprus + Greece + North Macedonia
- 14 BEN
- Carbon-farming solutions for climate-resilient agriculture. Technology/approach:cutting-edge technologies (Earth Observation – EO; in situ data; digital agriculture etc.) in carbon farming

101087233,Carbonica - Carbon initiative for climate-resilient agriculture

AGRI-BIOCIRCULAR-HUB EXCELLENCE HUB FOR A SMART AGRICULTURE AND CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AGRIFOOD SECTOR IN WIDENING COUNTRIES (AND BEYOND)

- Ecosystems: Poland + Latvia + Ukraine-emerging ecosystem
- Non-widening: Spain/Catalonia + Belgium
- 21 BEN
- Strengthens R&I capabilities and innovation ecosystems for sustainable agriculture and circular bioeconomy.
- Smart farming, bio circular agricultural technologies, agricultural-waste valorisation, R&I business cases, knowledge transfer, mentoring and SME support.

101186869, https://agri-biocircular-hub.eu/

EXCEL4MED Excellence hub in green technologies: Introducing innovation ecosystems in the Mediterranean food value chain

- Ecosystems: Greece + Malta
- Non-widening: France
- 14 BEN
- Strengthens innovation ecosystems across Mediterranean food value chains, through production of nutritious food products and the valorisation of food industrial side-streams.

101087147, https://excel4med.eu/

Excel4Pro Strengthening the Capacity of Excellence Hubs of Türkiye, Greece, and Ukraine to Support Innovation Ecosystem of Novel Foods Based on Plant Proteins

- Ecosystems: Türkiye + Greece + Ukraine-emerging ecosystem
- 17 BEN
- Strengthens interconnected Excellence Hubs for innovation in plant-protein-based novel foods.
- Plant-protein processing, nutritional and technological functionality, sustainable food systems, training and investment.

101186662,https://excel4pro.eu/

Author's own analysis based on CORDIS and the project website. Indicative only and not intended to replace consultation of the cited sources and independent assessment.

ENERGY & GREEN TRANSITION

SolarHub, COALition, ECHO

SolarHub A Greek-Turkish Solar Energy Excellence Hub to Advance the European Green Deal

- ❑ Ecosystems: Greece + Türkiye
- ❑ 20 BEN, incl. non-Widening: Ireland, Germany, Belgium
- ❑ AP: Türkiye (1)
- ❑ Connects and scales up five Greek and Turkish solar-energy innovation ecosystems into an interconnected Solar Energy Excellence Hub, accelerating the transition to sustainable energy across the Eastern Mediterranean.
- ❑ Solar-energy solutions, with particular emphasis on agriculture applications, joint R&I, research-infrastructure synergies and commercialisation. Solar Food Green Deal

Sources: 101086110; https://horizonsolarhub.eu/

a multi-nodal hub comprising multiple place - based ecosystems across two countries

COALition Promoting Innovation Excellence in Transformation of Coal Regions to Climate-Neutral, Thriving Economies

- ❑ Ecosystems: Western Macedonia (Greece) + Centru Romania + Southeastern Bulgaria (three carbon intensive regions)
- ❑ 16 BEN (incl. non-Widening-Germany)
- ❑ to support the just transition of coal-dependent regions towards climate-neutral economies.
- ❑ Energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy storage/batteries, hydrogen, efficient buildings, decarbonisation, entrepreneurship and reskilling/upskilling

Sources: 101087022; Home | Coalition

ECHO Energy Communities excellence Hubs: catalyzing energy innOvation ecosystems

- ❑ Ecosystems: Türkiye + Greece + Portugal
- ❑ 24 BEN (incl.Spain, Ireland, Germany)
- ❑ Establishes Energy Community and innovative Energy Services Excellence Hubs to accelerate the energy transition.
- ❑ Renewable/citizen energy communities, innovative energy services, energy innovation ecosystems, capacity building, technology transfer, community engagement, and community-based solutions to energy poverty.

Sources: 101185725; https://echo-hubs.eu/

Author's own analysis based on CORDIS and the project website. Indicative only and not intended to replace consultation of the cited sources and independent assessment.

DIGITAL&GREEN TRANSITION/ MARITIME REGIONS

INNO2MARE

INNO2MARE Strengthening the capacity for excellence of Slovenian and Croatian innovation ecosystems to support the digital and green transitions of maritime regions

- ❑ Ecosystems: Western Slovenia + Adriatic Croatia
- ❑ 15 BEN, 2 Non-widening - Belgium
- ❑ 4 AP: Croatia (2)+Belgium (2)
- ❑ Strengthens maritime innovation ecosystems to support the digital and green transition of maritime and connected industries.

101087348;Home - INNO2MARE

BLUE ECONOMY & MARITIME TECHNOLOGIES

MarTe, SeaTecHub

MarTe: Marine technology excellence hub for sustainable blue economy in Baltics

- ❑ Ecosystems: Estonia + Latvia
- ❑ 13 BEN
- ❑ Cross-border marine innovation Excellence Hub for sustainable blue growth in the Baltic region.
- ❑ Marine technology innovation uptake in areas like offshore energy, smart vessels and ports, sustainable use of marine resources and marine ecosystem protection.

101186498, https://marinetechub.eu

SeaTecHub Croatia-Cyprus Excellence Hub on Eco-Innovative Technologies for Healthy and Productive Seas

- ❑ Ecosystems: Croatia + Cyprus
- ❑ 14 BEN
- ❑ Cross-border collaboration on eco-innovative technologies for healthy and productive seas.
- ❑ Key sectors: Aquaculture and fisheries, smart ports, maritime security and protection, research and education, and maritime technologies.

101087162;www.seatechub.eu – SeaTecHub Project

Author's own analysis based on CORDIS and the project website. Indicative only and not intended to replace consultation of the cited sources and independent assessment.

CULTURAL HERITAGE & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

BCThubs, HERIFORGE

BCThubs Blue Culture Technology Excellence Hubs in EU Widening Member States

BLUE ECONOMY

- ❑ Ecosystems: Greece + Malta + Bulgaria
- ❑ Other partner: Italy
- ❑ 5 AP: Portugal (1), Bulgaria (3), Montenegro (1)
- ❑ 15 BEN
- ❑ Connecting Blue Economy and Blue Culture Technologies for underwater cultural heritage and tourism valorization.
- ❑ Sustainable protection, restoration, valorisation, management, accessibility and promotion of UWCH

101087146,https://bcthubs.eu/

HERIFORGE Cultural heritage and immersive technologies for innovation forge

- ❑ Ecosystems: Poland + Cyprus + Türkiye
- ❑ 14 BEN
- ❑ Innovation in the cultural heritage and creative industries with the responsible use of extended reality (XR) technologies and digital cultural heritage assets for the benefit of social resilience.

101186573, https://www.heriforge.eu/

Author's own analysis based on CORDIS and the project website. Indicative only and not intended to replace consultation of the cited sources and independent assessment.

DIGITAL& SMART CITIES

METACITIES

METACITIES MetaCities Excellence Hub in South-Eastern Europe

- Ecosystems: Cyprus + Greece + Bulgaria
- Other partners**:** Netherlands; Denmark – ended
- AP: Cyprus (1)
- 21 BEN
- Digital solutions for future cities and regions using 5G/6G, Digital Twins, AI and Big Data.
  Smart mobility, green city and smart urban planning, including smart buildings and energy-efficiency applications.

Sources:101087257; https://metacities-hub.com/

CYBERSECURITY

CHESS

CHESS Cyber-security Excellence Hub in Estonia and South Moravia

- Ecosystems: Estonia + South Moravia (Czechia)
- 9 BEN (inc.CO)
- 4 AP: Estonia(2) +Czechia (2)
- Cross-border cybersecurity innovation hub and joint R&I strategy to support the EU's safe transition to a safe digital society.
  Six challenges: Internet of Secure Things, security certification, trustworthy software, blockchain security, post-quantum cryptography and human-centric cybersecurity.

Sources:101087529;CHESS – The Cyber-security Excellence Hub in Estonia and South Moravia.

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WATER & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

WaterWise Hub

distributed multi-country hub

THE WATERWISE HUB: AN EXCELLENCE HUB ON WATER IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- ❑ Ecosystems: Greece + Romania + Eastern Partnership countries (MD, SB, AL, NM and UA) – connecting 7 countries
  Additional knowledge-sharing partners: Netherlands (BEN) + United Kingdom (AP)
- ❑ 19 BEN
- ❑ 2 AP UK
- ❑ Circular and descentralized water solutions that use resource efficiently, reduce waste, restore nature and help communities adapt to climate change.

Sources: 101184151; https://waterwisehub.eu/

Author's own analysis based on CORDIS and the project website. Indicative only and not intended to replace consultation of the cited sources and independent assessment.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES & MATERIALS

Author's own analysis based on CORDIS and project website. Indicative. Should be read alongside official sources cited and individual assessment..

GlaCerHub Glass-ceramic innovation ecosystem for implementation of new research directions in applications

- ❑ Ecosystems: South Moravia (Czechia) + Trenčín (Slovakia)
- ❑ 8 BEN incl. non Widening-Spain
- ❑ 6 AP: Slovakia (4), Czechia (2)
- ❑ Sustainable innovation ecosystem for the advanced glass and ceramics sector.

101087154, Glacerhub

LASER-PRO Excellent Laser Technologies for the Sustainable Prosperity of Europe

- ❑ Ecosystems: Central Bohemian Region (Czechia) + Lithuania + Ukraine
- ❑ Connects laser and photonics innovation ecosystems into a cross-border R&I network.
- ❑ 16 BEN
- ❑ 2AP:Czechia
- ❑ Research areas: Sustainable manufacturing, semiconductor technologies, biomedical devices, digital and 3D printing

101186838,https://www.laserpro-eh.eu/

ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY/Transport and Logistics/Aviation technologies

EUSOME Enabling Autonomous Aerial Systems through Operational Methods and Technological Enhancements

- ❑ Ecosystems: Cyprus + Greece + Poland + Serbia, within the South-Eastern Europe/Southeast Mediterranean AAM ecosystem
- ❑ 16 BEN
- ❑ Develops an Excellence Hub to advance research, innovation and adoption of Advanced Air Mobility.

101187121, https://www.eusome.eu/

Author's own analysis based on CORDIS and the project website. Indicative only and not intended to replace consultation of the cited sources and independent assessment.

Key References:

Presentations - EC WIDERA Info-day - 22 January 2026 (Widening Calls)

Horizon Europe WIDERA Info-day - Widening Calls - Morning Sessions _ 22 January 2026

Horizon Europe WIDERA Info-day-Widening Calls - Afternoon Sessions - 22 January 2026

Horizon Europe WIDERA Info-day - ERA Calls -11 December 2025

ERA in Horizon Europe

ERA Structural Policies 2025-2027

ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 Actions

Thank you for your attention!

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HORIZON EUROPE WIDERA CALLS 2027

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