I. Overview of the Pillar structure of the Destination "Reforming and enhancing the European research and innovation system", 2026-2027
II. Overview of ERA Call 2026 under Destination "Reforming and enhancing the European research and innovation system", 2026

I. Overview of the Pillar structure of the Destination "Reforming and enhancing the European research and innovation system", 2026-2027

Horizon Europe Programme: Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area 2026-2027

Component II: Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA) by reforming and enhancing the European research and innovation system 2026-2027, ERA work -programme 2026-2027

Destination "Reforming and enhancing the European research and innovation system"

	Pillar I: Institutional changes for ERA	Pillar II: Ecosystems for ERA	Pillar III: Citizens and Science for ERA	Pillar IV: New knowledge for ERA
Type of action	CSA	CSA	CSA	RIA
Focus	Capacity building and support to foster adoption of ERA policies/practices within institutions	Building and reinforcing networks and partnerships to foster broad uptake of ERA policies/practices	Connecting R&I with citizens and other stakeholders	Creating new knowledge that supports design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies & practices
Activity types:	Providing tools, resources, training, services, and policy advice	Exchanging knowledge and practice, networking and cooperative actions	Implementing and promoting participatory approaches, such as citizen engagement and citizen science	Conducting analyses, developing and testing new methods and practices
Expected impact	Effective and sustainable structural institutional changes aligned with ERA priorities	Sustainable ecosystems established around ERA priorities	Increased trust in science and alignment of R&I with society's needs	Strengthened evidence base for advancing the implementation of the ERA
Policy areas	Equity in open science Inclusive gender equality Research assessment reform Research ethics and integrity	Research ethics and integrity Environmentally sustainable science Knowledge valorisation Open science Research careers	Trust in science Knowledge valorisation Citizen and societal engagement	Open science Research ethics and integrity Inclusive gender equality Research careers Global cooperation to R&I

II. Overview of ERA Call 2026 under Destination: Reforming and enhancing the European research and innovation system 2026-2027
1 Call in 2026, 8 topics (5 topics covering 17 areas in total and 3 topics without areas) Opening date: 10 December 2025 | Deadline date: 12 March 2026 | Single-stage

2026 - Pillar I: Institutional changes for ERA
Call: Enhancing the European R&I system (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06)

Topics	Areas			
Pillar I: Accelerating open access and research assessment reforms in ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-01	Area1: Supporting the transition of scholarly societies to non-profit open access publishing models	Area 2: Sustainable institutional reforms to improve research assessment systems		
Pillar I: Building institutional capacities for ethical, equitable, open, and inclusive ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-02	Area 1: Capacity booster for ethics and integrity: addressing digital transition and ensuring digital inclusion for all	Area 2: Mutual learning and mentoring for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of inclusive gender equality plans	Area 3: Address equity and inclusion in capacities for open science	Area 4: Improving quality, efficiency and equity in peer-review for scientific publishing

2026 - Pillar II – Ecosystems for ERA
Call: Enhancing the European R&I system (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06)

Topics	Areas		
Pillar II: Strengthening ecosystems for open, ethical, and sustainable ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-03	Area 1: Equitable, sustainable, and ethical research	Area 2: Global cooperation for the uptake of open science practices	Area 3: Environmentally sustainable science
Pillar II: Piloting innovative approaches to support academic startups and spinoffs HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-04			

2026 - Pillar III – Citizens and Science for ERA
Call: Enhancing the European R&I system (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06)

Topics	Areas		
Pillar III: Fostering citizen engagement for more responsible and democratic R&I HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-05	Area 1: Citizen science for enhancing democratic governance	Area 2: Guiding principles for inclusive engagement in R&I	
Pillar III: European Citizens' Hackathon Championship HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-06			
Pillar III: Science comes to town 2028 HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-07			

2026 - Pillar IV – New knowledge for ERA
Call: Enhancing the European R&I system (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06)

Topics	Areas			
Pillar IV: Advancing Knowledge for ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-08	Area 1: Assessing reproducibility in research by direct replication of scientific findings	Area 2: Ethics of emerging technologies with high socio-economic impact: space exploration/exploitation	Area 3: Mapping and promoting inclusive gender equality and policies in R&D intensive firms	Area 4: Advancing gender-responsive R&I through budgeting, expenditure tracking, and evaluation of the sex and/or gender analysis in R&I content
		Area 5: Assessing trends and effects of research careers in the private sector and of inter-sectoral research careers	Area 6: Mapping international research careers and talent flow	

Overview Policy Area - Expected impact of the topic area - Topic Area

Call: Enhancing the European R&I system (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06)

Related ERA Policy	Expected Impact of the topic area	Topic Area
ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 Action 1: Applying **equity in open science**	"A more open, equitable and inclusive research and innovation ecosystem"	**Pillar I** HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-01** **Area1: Supporting the transition of scholarly societies to non-profit open access publishing models**
		Pillar I HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-02** **Area 3: Address equity and inclusion in capacities for open science**
		Pillar I HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-02** **Area 4: Improving quality, efficiency and equity in peer-review for scientific publishing**
ERA Structural Policy 1: Enabling **open science via sharing and re-use of data**, including through the European Open Science Cloud (**EOSC**)		**Pillar II** HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-03** **Area 2: Global cooperation for the uptake of open science practices**
	"Increased reproducibility, trustworthiness and transparency of scientific research"	**Pillar IV:** Advancing Knowledge for ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-08** **Area 1: Assessing reproducibility in research by direct replication of scientific findings**
ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 Action 7: A coordinated framework responding to emerging challenges for **ethics and integrity in R&I**	"A research ethics and integrity ecosystem continually enhanced with robust methodologies that encourage benefit sharing and prevent ethics dumping"	**Pillar I** HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-02** **Area 1: Capacity booster for ethics and integrity: addressing digital transition and ensuring digital inclusion for all**
		Pillar II HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-03** **Area1: Equitable, sustainable, and ethical research**
	"A research ethics and integrity ecosystem enhanced with robust methodologies and knowledge in the field of space exploration/exploitation"	**Pillar IV:** Advancing Knowledge for ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-08** **Area 2: Ethics of emerging technologies with high socio-economic impact: space exploration/exploitation**
ERA Structural Policy 5: **Reforming research assessment**	"Systemic reform of research assessment through the recognition of the diverse outputs, practices, and activities which maximise the quality and impact of research"	**Pillar I** HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-01** **Area 2: Sustainable institutional reforms to improve research assessment systems**
ERA Structural Policy 3: Strengthening **gender equality and inclusiveness** in the ERA, notably with an intersectional approach	"Enhanced gender equality and inclusiveness, leading to research excellence and more innovative, socially relevant, and economically impactful outcomes"	**Pillar I** HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-02** **Area 2: Mutual learning and mentoring for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of inclusive gender equality plans**
		Pillar IV: Advancing Knowledge for ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-08** **Area 3: Mapping and promoting inclusive gender equality and policies in R&D intensive firm**s
		Pillar IV: Advancing Knowledge for ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-ERA-08 **Area 4: Advancing gender-responsive R&I through budgeting, expenditure tracking, and evaluation of the sex and/or gender analysis in R&I content**
Green transition - a prority of the Pact for research and innovation	"Increased uptake, effectiveness and impact of environmentally sustainable research"	**Pillar II** HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-03** **Area 3: Environmentally sustainable science**
ERA Structural Policy 6: Upscaling **knowledge valorisation** capacities and activities	"Stronger translation of R&I results into society and economy"	**Pillar II:** HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-04** Piloting innovative approaches to support academic startups and spinoffs
		Pillar III: HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-06** European Citizens' Hackathon Championship
ERA Structural Policy 10: Enhancing **Trust in Science** through **Citizen Participation**, **Engagement and Science Communication**	"Increasing trust in science and alignment of R&I with society's needs, expectations and values"	**Pillar III:** HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-05** Fostering citizen engagement for more responsible and democratic R&I **Area 1: Citizen science for enhancing democratic governance**
		Pillar III: HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-05** Fostering citizen engagement for more responsible and democratic R&I **Area 2: Guiding principles for inclusive engagement in R&I**
	"Increased alignment of research with society's needs, expectations and values"	**Pillar III:** Science comes to town 2028 HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-07
ERA Structural Policy 4: Making **research careers** more attractive and sustainable and support mobility	"Improved career research careers and mobility on the basis of the European framework for research careers, fostering knowledge flows and career interoperability across sectors and countries"	**Pillar IV:** HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-08** **Area 5: Assessing trends and effects of research careers in the private sector and of inter-sectoral research careers**
		Pillar IV: Advancing Knowledge for ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-08** **Area 6: Mapping international research careers and talent flows**

Call: Enhancing the European R&I system (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06)

2026 - Pillar I: Institutional changes for ERA

Pillar I: Accelerating open access and research assessment reforms in ERA

Pillar I: Building institutional capacities for ethical, equitable, open, and inclusive ERA

Topics:	Type of action/ Type of MGA	Call Budget/ Project budget/ No.of projects	Project duration	FSTP	No. of Areas
Pillar I: Accelerating open access and research assessment reforms in ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-01	CSA/ HORIZON-AG	6 mil.EUR/ 2-3 mil.EUR/ project/ 2 projects	3 years or longer, if duly justified	max. 60.000 EUR/ each third party (grants)	2
Pillar I: Building institutional capacities for ethical, equitable, open, and inclusive ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-02	CSA/ HORIZON-AG-LS	9 mil.EUR/ 1.5-2.0 mil. EUR/ project/ 6 projects	2-3 years or longer, if duly justified		4

Aim of Pillar I:	Capacity building and support to foster adoption of ERA policies/practices within
Expected impact of Pillar	Effective and sustainable structural institutional changes within R&I organisations aligned
Topics Areas:	one area to be addressed from those specified in the topic HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-01 or HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-02
Topics Scope in very brief:	HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-01 - Through FSTP (cascading grants) implement a variety of capacity-building activities (e.g. provision of tools, training, guidelines, and quality assurance) to foster effective and sustainable structural institutional changes within R&I organisations aligned with ERA priorities
	HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-02 - Implement a variety of capacity-building activities (e.g. provision of tools, resources, recommendations, training and exchange of good practices) to foster effective and sustainable structural institutional changes within R&I organisations aligned with ERA priorities, supporting the adoption of ERA policies and practices within institutions.

Policy Areas	Impact	Topics Area	Target group	Area scope in very brief	
ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 Action 1: Applying equity in open science	"A more open, equitable and inclusive research and innovation ecosystem"	Pillar I: Accelerating open access and research assessment reforms in ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-01 **Area 1: Supporting the transition of scholarly societies to non-profit open access publishing models**	Scholarly societies, research performing and funding organisations, libraries, non-profit scholarly publishers, and other research-relevant organisations.	Area 1 ERA-01 supports the transition of national and/or European scholarly societies (transition of journals/books/ monographs) into non-profit open access publishing models without author fees. Supporting pilot actions for transitioning at least 30 scholarly societies across Europe to open access non-profit publishing models. At least 2/3 of the funding should be allocated as cascading grants to calls for pilot actions, targeting scholarly societies in all six Frascati fields of science and technology. At least 1/3 of the grants should be distributed to scholarly societies in the Humanities/Arts and Social Sciences	**Scholarly societies (also called learned societies)** - organisations dedicated to advancing a specific academic discipline or field of study, set scientific standards, and enable multilingualism and biblio-diversity. - **Frascati fields of science and technology** 1) Natural sciences; 2) Engineering and technology; 3) Medical and health sciences; 4) Agricultural and veterinary sciences; 5) Social sciences; 6) Humanities and the arts. **FTSP:** max.60.000 EUR/each third party (grants)
		Pillar I: Building institutional capacities for ethical, equitable, open, and inclusive ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-02 **Area 3: Address equity and inclusion in capacities for open science**	Research performing and funding organisations, research assessment agencies, research infrastructures, universities, researchers, innovators, and policymakers.	Area 3 supports capacities for open science by prioritising equitable contribution and benefits through actionable toolkits, recommendations, and policy-based institutional practice.	
		Pillar I: Building institutional capacities for ethical, equitable, open, and inclusive ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-02 **Area 4: Improving quality, efficiency and equity in peer-review for scientific publishing**	Editors/editorial boards, scholarly societies, research performing organisations, and national research evaluation agencies.	Considering the recent scrutiny and reimagining of peer-review to strengthen scientific integrity, openess, and fairness, Area 4 aims to enhance its various aspects and explore different peer-review model. Improved peer-review processes for efficiency, transparency, equity and non-bias, and AI considerations.	
ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 Action 7: A coordinated framework responding to emerging challenges for ethics and integrity in R&I	"A research ethics and integrity ecosystem continually enhanced with robust methodologies that encourage benefit sharing and prevent ethics dumping"	Pillar I: Building institutional capacities for ethical, equitable, open, and inclusive ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-02 **Area 1: Capacity booster for ethics and integrity: addressing digital transition and ensuring digital inclusion for all**	Researchers, research integrity/ethics committees, European networks in research ethics, research management/integrity offices, ethics officers in research performing organisations, as well as policymakers.	Area 1 aims to promote research ethics and integrity in a digitalised world by developing ethical guidelines to foster institutional change, helping researchers address ethical challenges, prevent digital exclusion, and protect vulnerable groups, including children.	
ERA Structural Policy 5: Reforming research assessment	"Systemic reform of research assessment through the recognition of the diverse outputs, practices, and activities which maximise the quality and impact of research"	Pillar I: Accelerating open access and research assessment reforms in ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-01 **Area 2: Sustainable institutional reforms to improve research assessment systems**	Higher education institutions, research performing and funding organisations, research evaluation agencies, accreditation and quality assurance agencies, notably those engaged in the CoARA approach.	Area 2 ERA-01 aims to support institutional changes, raise awareness, and assess progress made in research assessment reform (ARRA), with cascading grants expected to impact 40-50 institutions of different types and from different geographical areas.	**FTSP:** max.60.000 EUR/each third party (grants)
ERA Structural Policy 3: Strengthening gender equality and inclusiveness in the ERA	"Enhanced gender equality and inclusiveness, leading to research excellence and more innovative, socially relevant, and economically impactful outcomes"	Pillar I: Building institutional capacities for ethical, equitable, open, and inclusive ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-02 **Area 2: Mutual learning and mentoring for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of inclusive gender equality plans**	Research performing organisations, higher education institutions, and public bodies.	Area 2 ERA-02 supports the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of inclusive GEPs through a peer-mentoring scheme, matching experienced organisations with those needing guidance, especially from emerging or moderare innovator countries. Enhanced gender equality and inclusiveness in R&I through peer-mentoring.	
Synergies/activities linked to:		Synergies with other topics of the Call (see examples from HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-02 Area 1 and from HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-02 Area 3)			
Broad communities, broad participation		Should reach large communities of stakeholders and ensure a wide geographical coverage and broad participation, inclusivity, accessibility over the course of the project. Should promote inclusive gender equality and address gender -specific challenges			
Proposals:		Should describe their target group (scope and size)			

Call: Enhancing the European R&I system (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06)

2026 - Pillar II – Ecosystems for ERA

Pillar II: Strengthening ecosystems for open, ethical, and sustainable ERA

Pillar II: Piloting innovative approaches to support academic startups and spinoffs

Topics:	Type of action/Type of MGA	Call Budget/ Project budget/ No.of projects funded	Project duration	Areas	International cooperation
Pillar II: Strengthening ecosystems for open, ethical, and sustainable ERA - HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-03	CSA/ HORIZON-AG-LS	6 mil.EUR/ around 2 mil/project/ 3 projects	3 years or longer, if duly justified	3	Legal entities established in non-associated third countries may exceptionally participate in this CSA as an associated partner.
Pillar II Piloting innovative approaches to support academic startups and spinoffs - HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-04	CSA/ HORIZON-AG-LS	4 mil.EUR/ around 2 mil/project/ 2 projects	up to 2 years or longer, if duly justified	None	

Aim of Pilar II:	Building and reinforcing networks and partnerships to foster broad uptake of
Expected impact of Pillar II:	Sustainable ecosystems established around ERA priorities
Pillar II activities type:	Exchange of knowledge and practice, networking and cooperative actions
Topics Areas for HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-03	one area to be addressed from those specified in this topic
Topics Scope in very brief:	HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-03 - helps **to create new or enhance existing sustainable ecosystems, established around ERA priorities, to promote the adoption of ERA policies and practices through activities such as networking and cooperative action, knowledge exchange and dissemination, tools, training, and policy advice** (see predefined activities for each area of the topic; other additional activities possible))
	HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-04 - **to strengthen ecosystems for knowledge valorisation and innovation by supporting academic startups and spinoffs to benefit from end-user feedback and links to industry and society.** (see predefined activities of the topic; other additional activities possible)

Policy Areas	Impact	Topic Area	Target groups	Area scope in very brief
ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 Action 7 "A coordinated framework responding to emerging challenges for ethics and integrity in R&I	"A research ethics and integrity ecosystem continuously enhanced with robust methodologies and knowledge that encourage benefit sharing and prevent ethics dumping"	Pillar II: Strengthening ecosystems for open, ethical, and sustainable ERA - HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-03 **Area 1: Equitable, sustainable, and ethical research**	Researchers, local/national research integrity and ethics committees, European networks of (early career) researchers and educators in research ethics, research management and integrity offices, ethics officers in research performing organisations, as well as policymakers.	Safeguarding and promoting equitable, sustainable, and ethical research. Area 1 promotes research ethics and integrity in a digitalised world, preventing breaches and supporting ethical guidelines implementation: reinforcing fair benefit sharing amid AI growth; and addressing research imbalances through due diligence and protections of research participants and local communities.
ERA Structural Policy 1"Enabling open science via sharing and re-use of data, including through the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)"	"A more open, equitable and inclusive research and innovation ecosystem"	Pillar II: Strengthening ecosystems for open, ethical, and sustainable ERA - HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-03 **Area 2: Global cooperation for the uptake of open science practices**	Research organisations and their associations, research community-driven associations, research infrastructures, service providers, and higher education institutions	The main goal is to foster a global ecosystem that promotes cooperation and alignment on open science practices. It will facilitate the development of standards, tools, and services that empower researchers to find, access, re-use, and combine research findings, especially through EOSC.
Green transition -a prority of the Pact for research and innovation	"Increased uptake, effectiveness and impact of environmentally sustainable research"	Pillar II: Strengthening ecosystems for open, ethical, and sustainable ERA - HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-03 **Area 3: Environmentally sustainable science**	Higher education institutions, research performing and funding organisations, industry, policymakers, and grassroots initiatives	Area 3 contributes toward reducing environmental footprint of research. To set up a network dedicated to driving the transformation of research practices and research organisations toward environmental sustainability, considering various measures, such as energy-efficient, low-waste laboratories, and sustainable data storage and computing facilities. Special attention should be given to energy-intensive digital technologies like AI.
ERA Structural Policy 6 "Upscaling knowledge valorisation capacities and activities"	"Stronger translation of R&I results into society and economy"	Pillar II: Piloting innovative approaches to support academic startups and spinoffs HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-04	Intermediaries: science parks, technology parks, living labs, hubs, and practitioners in citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation Academic startups and spinoffs	Supporting academic startups and spinoffs to benefit from end-user feedback and links to industry and society through testing the desirability of products and services. Academic startups and spinoffs need access to excellent support services to commercialise their research and bring their innovations to market.

Synergies/activities linked to:	for HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-04 synergies with synergies with ongoing projects under the topic "Experimentation and exchange of good practices for
Broad communities, broad participation	Should reach large communities of stakeholders and ensure a wide geographical coverage and broad participation, inclusivity, accessibility over the course of the project. Should promote inclusive gender equality and address gender -specific challenges
Proposals:	Should describe their target group (scope and size)
Self-sustainability:	**Pillar 2 HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-03** Propose a viable plan for after the end of the grant agreement with a clear description of a minimum set of activities that will be maintained by the consortium with own or other resources.

2026 - Pillar III – Citizens and Science for ERA
Call: Enhancing the European R&I system (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06)

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

Topics:	Type of action/ Type of MGA	Call Budget/ Project budget/ No. of projects	Project duration	Areas	FSTP
Pillar III: Fostering citizen engagement for more responsible and democratic R&I HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-05	CSA/ HORIZON-AG-LS	2 mil.EUR/ around 1 mil/project/ 2 projects	3 years or longer, if duly justified	2	
Pillar III: European Citizens' Hackathon Championship HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-06	CSA/ HORIZON-AG	3 mil.EUR/ around 3 mil/project/ 1 project	4 years or longer, if duly justified	None	FSTP - prizes. Max.20000 EUR/ each third party.
Pillar III: Science comes to town 2028 HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-07	CSA/ HORIZON-AG	6 mil.EUR/ around 6 mil/project/ 1 project	24-30 months	None	FSTP - prizes. Max. 60000EUR/ each third party.

Aim of Pillar III:	Connecting R&I with citizens and other stakeholders
Expected impact of Pillar III:	Increased trust in science and alignment of R&I with society's
Topics Areas:	one area to be addressed from those specified in the topic HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-05
Topics Scope in very brief:	**HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-05** - Increase public engagement and alignment of R&I with society's needs, expectations and values, therebyenhancing the democratic character and impact of science in the ERA. To connect R&I with citizens and other stakeholders by fostering greater citizen engagement, participation, and science communication. (see predefined activities of the topic; other additional activities possible)
	HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-06 - Accelerate knowledge valorisation with citizen engagement by driving the co-creation of innovative solutions that address citizens' needs, in joint teams of researchers and citizens, thereby supporting their market uptake, through implementing for 3 years (2027- 2029) the "European Citizens' Hackathon Championship". (see predefined activities of the topic; other additional activities possible)
	HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-07 - A small group of 3 to 6 cities jointly design and implement a year-long programme of activities, connecting citizens and science while involving relevant stakeholders around science and its contribution to society. (see predefined activities of the topic; other additional activities

Policy Areas	Impact	Topic Area	Target groups	Scope in very brief
ERA Structural Policy "Enhancing Trust in Science through Citizen Participation, Engagement and Science Communication"	"Increasing trust in science and alignment of R&I with society's needs, expectations and values"	Pillar III: Fostering citizen engagement for more responsible and democratic R&I HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-05 **Area 1: Citizen science for enhancing democratic governance**	Research performing and funding organisations, universities, researchers and innovators, research infrastructures, civil society organisations, and policymakers.	Improve framework conditions with a view to improving the links between citizen science and democratic governance.
		Pillar III: Fostering citizen engagement for more responsible and democratic R&I HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-05 **Area 2: Guiding principles for inclusive engagement in R&I**	Research performing organisations and funding organisations, universities, researchers and innovators, policymakers, science communicators, public engagement professionals, and members of the media	Make the R&I ecosystem more participatory, trustworthy,democratic; improving its capacity to tackle societal challenges.
ERA Structural Policy 7: Upscaling knowledge valorisation capacities and activities	"Stronger translation of R&I results into society and economy"	Pillar III: European Citizens' Hackathon Championship HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-06	Municipalities, regional and city councils, research organisations, business and innovation centres, and other entities.	Accelerate knowledge valorisation with citizen engagement through implementing for 3 years (2027- 2029) the "European Citizens' Hackathon Championship".
	"Increased alignment of research with society's needs, expectations and values"	Pillar III: Science comes to town 2028 HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-07	Min.of 3 and max.of 6 cities located in at least 3 different MS and/or AC, with the majority located in MS. The consortium can include organisations that can represent the host cities and/or join them in designing and implementing the project activities. Local partners that provide a connection to R&I should be	A small group of 3 to 6 cities jointly design and implement a year-long programme of activities, connecting citizens and science while involving relevant stakeholders around science and its contribution to society.

2026 - Pillar IV – New knowledge for ERA

Call: Enhancing the European R&I system (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06)

Pillar IV: Advancing Knowledge for ERA
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-08

Topics:	Type of action/Type of MGA	Call Budget/ Project budget/ No.of projects funded	Project duration	Areas
Pillar IV: Advancing Knowledge for ERA **HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-08**	CSA/ HORIZON-AG-LS	16 mil.EUR/ around 1.5-2.5 mil/project/ 8 projects	3 years or longer, if duly	6

Aim of Pillar III:	Connecting R&I with citizens and other stakeholders
Expected impact of Pillar III:	Increased trust in science and alignment of R&I with society's needs
Topics Areas:	one area to be addressed from those specified in the topic HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA-08
Scope in very brief:	To generate new information and knowledge contributing to strengthening the evidence base for advancing the ERA. Diverse R&I activities that can support the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ERA policies and practices

Policy Areas	Impact	Topic Area	Target group	Scope in very brief
ERA Structural Policy 1: Enabling open science via sharing and re-use of data, including through the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)	"Increased reproducibility, trustworthiness and transparency of scientific research"	**Pillar IV:** Advancing Knowledge for ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-08** **Area 1: Assessing reproducibility in research by direct replication of scientific findings**	Researchers, scientific service and infrastructure providers, and open science experts.	To support the replication of significant findings across different scientific fields, addressing technical and societal challenges related to research
ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 Action 7: A coordinated framework responding to emerging challenges for ethics and integrity in R&I	"A research ethics and integrity ecosystem enhanced with robust methodologies and knowledge in the field of space exploration/	**Pillar IV:** Advancing Knowledge for ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-08** **Area 2: Ethics of emerging technologies with high socio-economic impact: space exploration/exploitation**	Researchers, ethics experts, members of national and local ethics committees/bodies, policy makers, and the general public.	To address the ethical challenges and design a robust framework to address the risks to fundamental rights, human integrity, and environmental harm of space exploration/ exploitation.
ERA Structural Policy 3: Strengthening gender equality and inclusiveness in the ERA, notably with an intersectional approach	"Enhanced gender equality and inclusiveness, leading to research excellence and more innovative, socially relevant, and economically impactful outcomes"	**Pillar IV:** Advancing Knowledge for ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-08** **Area 3: Mapping and promoting inclusive gender equality and policies in R&D intensive firms**	Research performing organisations, higher education organisations, and other R&I stakeholders (networks, etc.). Private sector organisations,	Enhancing knowledge, awareness, and access to actionable strategies to improve gender equality and inclusiveness in R&D firms (small and medium-sized enterprises, start-ups, and scale-ups).
		Pillar IV: Advancing Knowledge for ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-08** **Area 4: Advancing gender-responsive R&I through budgeting, expenditure tracking, and evaluation of the sex and/or gender analysis in R&I content**	Research performing and funding organisations, higher education institutions, research infrastructures, and public bodies.	Provide guidance and tools for gender budgeting and expenditure tracking in R&I, and for comprehensive monitoring and evaluation approach to assess the integration of gender dimension in R&I content, including the intersectional perspective.
ERA Structural Policy 4: Making **research careers** more attractive and sustainable and support mobility	"Improved career research careers and mobility on the basis of the European framework for research careers, fostering knowledge flows and career interoperability across sectors and countries"	**Pillar IV:** HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-08** **Area 5: Assessing trends and effects of research careers in the private sector and of inter-sectoral research careers**	Research performing and funding organisations, universities, researchers, in cooperation with business sector actors.	Generate new knowledge on research careers in the private sector, interoperability of research careers across sectors and countries, and their effects on knowledge diffusion.
		Pillar IV: Advancing Knowledge for ERA HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-**ERA-08** **Area 6: Mapping international research careers and talent flows**	Research performing organisations. Universities. Researchers.	Increase empirical and conceptual knowledge regarding the inter-relation between international stable research collaboration networks, international research careers and knowledge and talent inflow in the EU.

EC Info day ERA 2026-2027 - 11 December 2025

WIDERA_ERA 2026-2027 Info-day_Record
WIDERA _ERA 2026-2027 Info-day_Presentation
WIDERA Work programme 2026-2027

Overview of ERA priorities

ERA Priorities

Research careers	Open science
Gender equality	Research assessment reform
Universities	Research management
Research infrastructures	Citizen engagement
Knowledge valorisation	Ethics and integrity
Science for Policy	Access to excellence

ERA Structural Policies 2025-2027

ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 Actions

ERA in Horizon Europe