

Horizont Európa keretprogram 2026-27-es Widening felhívások

Tóth Orsolya

WIDERA NCP

2026. Február 13.



A WIDERA program a HE keretprogramban

Pillar 1 Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2 Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

Clusters

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

Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3 Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation
ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation
and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system



Widening countries

- Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia;
- Associated Countries with equivalent characteristics in terms of R&I performance (Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, and once associated Morocco);
- Outermost Regions (defined in Art. 349 TFEU).

- *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



Expected impact

- Increased science and innovation **capacities** in the R&I system in Widening countries;
- **Structural changes** leading to modernised and more competitive R&I systems;
- Mobilisation of national and European **resources** for strategic investments;
- Higher **participation in Horizon Europe** and more leadership roles in collaborative projects;
- Stronger **linkages between academia and business** and improved career permeability;
- Greater **involvement of regional actors** in the R&I process;
- Excellent **talents attracted** to institutions including research infrastructures;
- Balanced circulation of R&I talents including intersectoral **mobility**, and improved **gender equality and inclusiveness**;
- Free **circulation of knowledge and expertise** in line with ERA priorities.



Widening calls

2026

- Twinning
- Hop-On Facility
- ERA Fellowships
- Teaming Synergies
- Research Management facility

2027

- Excellence Hubs
- ERA Chairs and Research Managers
- ERA Fellowships
- EIC Pre-Accelerator



Twinning

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-02
- Call opening / closing: **8 January 2026 / 9 April 2026**
- Type of action: CSA
- Budget: EUR 264,5 million
- Indicative number of projects: 210
- Duration: up to 3 years



Twinning

- **Expected outcomes**

Twinning action aims to enhance networking activities, collaboration between the research institutions and research infrastructures of the Widening countries, and top-class leading counterparts at European level.

- Improved research excellence and capacities in Widening countries;
- Enhanced strategic collaboration between the research institutions or higher education establishments of the Widening countries and internationally leading research institutions or higher education establishments at EU level;
- Raised reputation, research profile and attractiveness of the coordinating institution, and its staff;
- Strengthened research management capacities of the coordinating institution;
- Development of new approaches in R&I collaboration with increased mobility of researchers.



Twinning

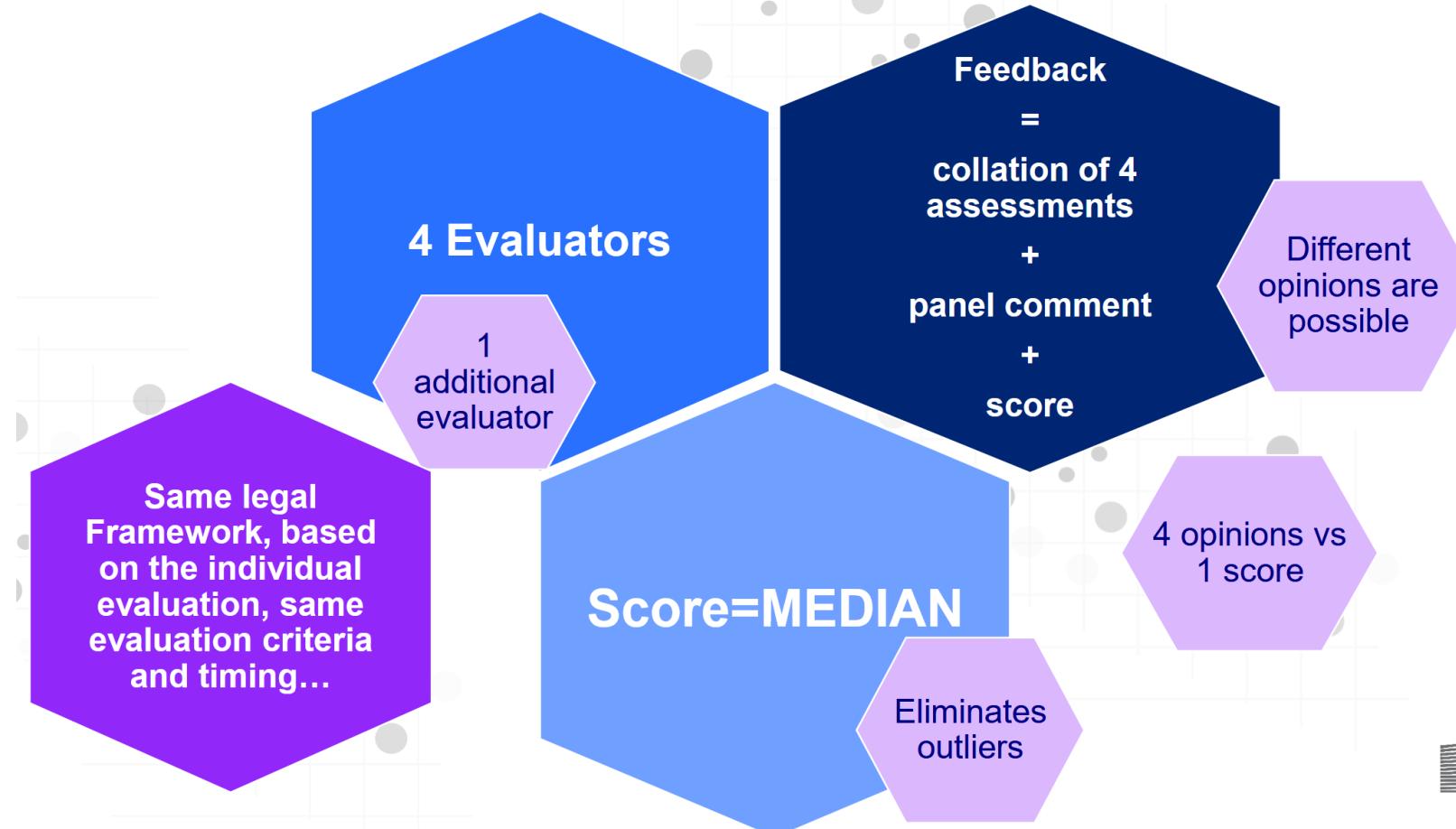
Scope:

- The **strategy** should be outlined in a defined area of R&I, explaining how joint activities will be carried out.
- **Activities:** short-term staff exchanges, expert visits and short term on site or virtual trainings, workshops, conference attendance, organisation of joint summer schools, dissemination and outreach activities; etc. **Proposals** should focus on strengthening research management capacities, through a dedicated work package or task; should demonstrate the expected outcomes based on different indicators, and the contribution of access to new research avenues, creativity, development of new approaches.
- **A research and innovation component not exceeding 30%** of the total grant may be included; at least 50% of this budget is for the coordinator.
- **Eligibility conditions:** research institutions and research infrastructures of the Widening countries, as coordinators, with at least two internationally leading research institutions from two different MS or AC.



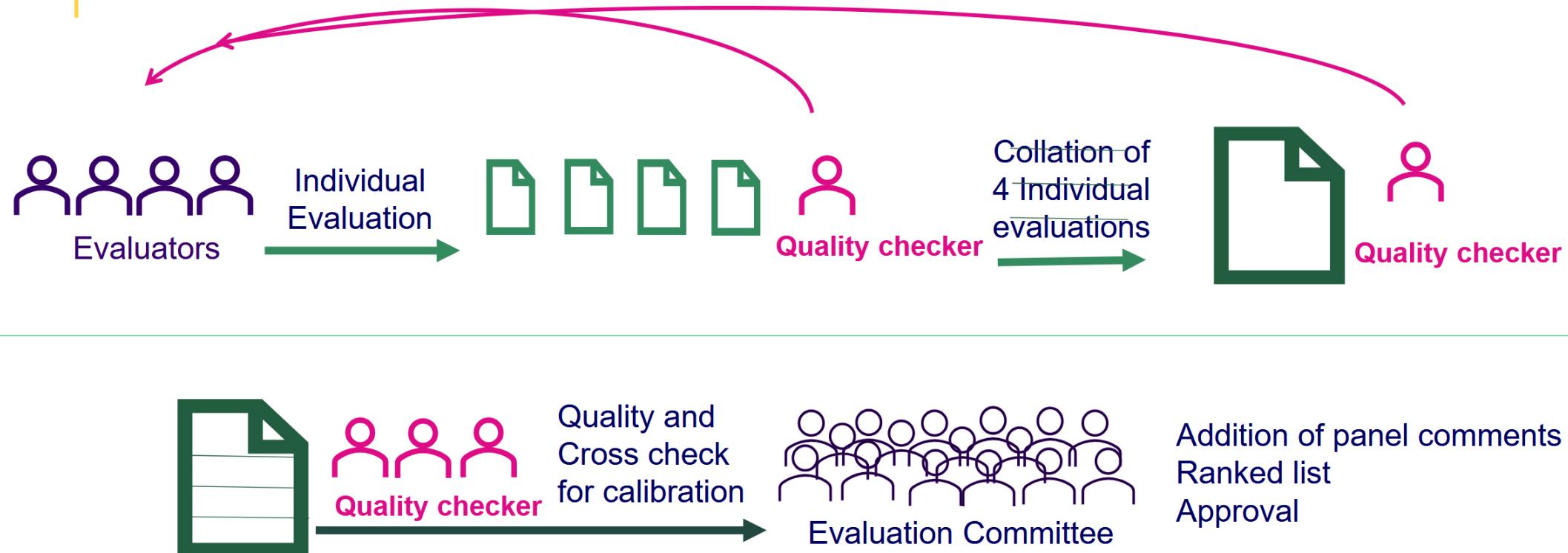
Twinning

Pilot Evaluation Twinning 2026 - Key Principles



Twinning

Pilot Evaluation Twinning 2026 - Process

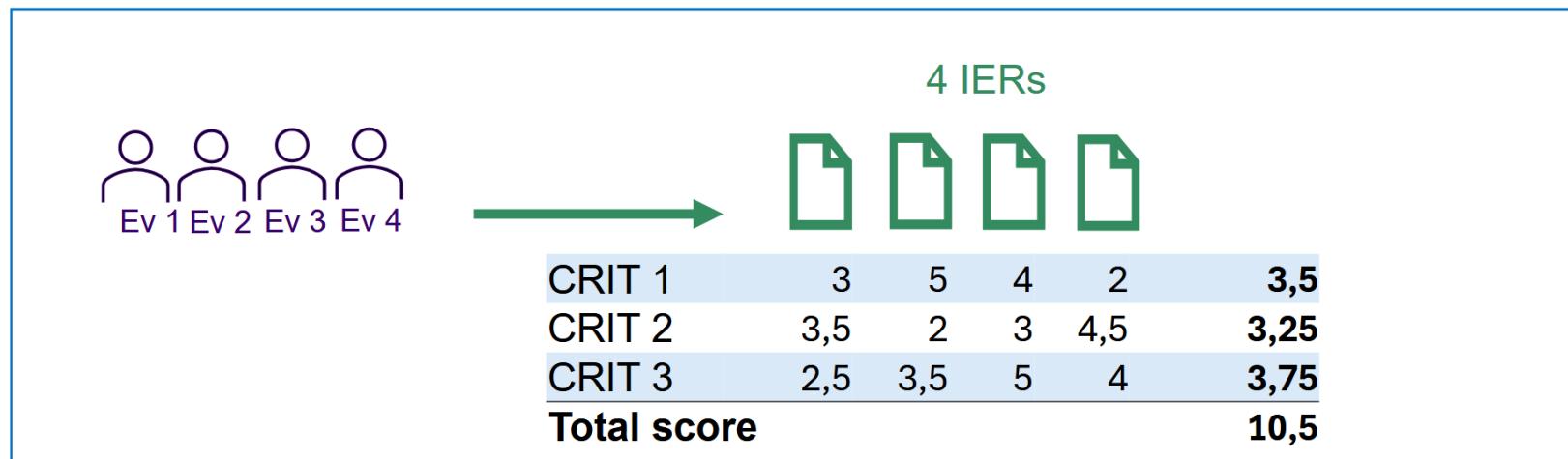


Twinning

Pilot Evaluation Twinning 2026 - Score

The score per criterion will be the median of the individual scores.

The total scores will be the sum of the medians.



Hop-on facility

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-03
- Call opening / closing: **13 January 2026 / 24 September 2026**
- Type of action: RIA
- Budget: EUR 30 million
- Indicative number of projects: 60



Hop-on facility

Expected outcomes:

- The Hop-on Facility allows for legal entities from Widening countries to join already funded Horizon Pillar II ‘main’ WP and EIC Pathfinder collaborative R&I actions, subject to the agreement of the respective consortium and provided that legal entities from such countries are not yet participating as beneficiary, associated partner, or affiliated entity. Selected consortia will be invited to submit a grant agreement amendment request of the eligible already funded action.
- **At system level**, mobilise excellence in Widening countries, increase visibility of the beneficiaries from Widening countries, improve knowledge circulation, and boost their participation in specific thematic domains;
- **At consortium level**, open up established networks to new connections/partnerships, improve research excellence of the Widening country’s institutions in specific fields, enlarge outreach of R&I actions and provide access to new talent pools;
- **At the level of the Widening** beneficiary, develop new competencies and skills for working in transnational projects, including research management, dissemination and exploitation.



Hop-on facility

Scope

- The Hop-on Facility integrates one additional beneficiary from a Widening country to an ongoing project under Pillar 2 or the EIC Pathfinder scheme who contributes a relevant task, work package or another visible and distinguishable activity.

Target groups

- Demonstrate the R&I added value of the new beneficiary for the eligible already selected action. The proposal should include a detailed description of the profile of the new beneficiary and its R&I role and complementarity in the existing project. The additional beneficiary and activities should be presented in a dedicated proposal template with the Description of the Action (DOA) of the ongoing action uploaded as an annex;
- In case of a successful evaluation, the consortia (coordinator) of the eligible already funded action will be invited to submit an amendment request for accession of the Widening beneficiary, modification of the description of the action. If budget is reserved for the coordinator, the proposal should justify the amounts in terms of integration efforts for the new participant.

Timing

- The first reporting period of the HE grant agreement is ongoing at the submission deadline. The ongoing grant agreement is 1-12 months from its starting date by the submission deadline.



Excellence Hubs

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04
- Call opening / closing: **2 September 2026 / 4 March 2027**
- Type of action: CSA
- Budget: EUR 100 million
- Indicative number of projects: 30
- Duration: up to 5 years



Excellence Hubs

Expected outcomes:

Teaming up of innovation ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond; creating better linkages between academia, business, government and society; fostering place-based innovation culture in Widening countries based on strategic agenda aligned with smart specialisation strategies.

- Excellent and sustainable regional R&I ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond;
- Long-term joint R&I strategies underpinned by concrete action plans of European relevance;
- Common investment plans for R&I leveraging other funding;
- R&I pilot projects, in line with regional and national strategies;
- New competences and skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in R&I intensive domains;
- Strengthened linkages in the quadruple helix;
- New business opportunities, especially in deep-tech.



Excellence Hubs

Scope:

- Fostering regional innovation culture in Widening countries, aligned with smart specialisation strategies.
- Legal entities from non-Widening countries may join if necessary to achieve expected impact.

Eligibility:

- **Coordinators:** legal entities established in Widening countries.
- Proposals must involve **at least two R&I ecosystems from two different Widening countries**; each comprising **four different categories of actors**: academic institutions; business entities; public authorities/agencies; societal actors. „Umbrella” organisations or individual legal entities (if individual, at least one business entity per ecosystem is an established firm with turnover).

Legal and financial set-up of GA: funding rate is 70% of eligible costs (explanation needed on the remaining 30%). **FSTP:** grants, limited to SMEs or start-ups; max. 60.000 EUR per third party.

Activities:

- Design and implementation of cross-border joint R&I strategy;
- R&I collaboration strengthening academia-business linkages (R&I component in a distinct work package);
- Development of investment plans to implement the strategy;
- If applicable, conceptual design and pre-planning for pilots and demonstrators (other sources);
- Complementary activities.



Research Management Facility

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-04
- Call opening / closing: **23 April 2026 / 24 September 2026**
- Type of action: CSA
- Budget: EUR 7 million
- Indicative number of projects: 1



Research Management Facility

Expected outcomes:

- The Research Management Facility aims to provide institutions in Widening countries that want to establish or upgrade their research management capacities with tailored support and advise to develop an implementation strategy for the changes in the institutional set-up, in line with the ERA priorities. The action does not support the implementation of the strategy.
- Encourage the establishment of stronger **research management capacities in widening countries**;
- Support **institutional reforms** in research institutions and national R&I systems;
- Strengthen **human capital with entrepreneurial** and well-trained research managers;
- Promote and support **multidisciplinary and transnational cooperation** in the field of research management;
- Promote **practices in agreed ERA priorities** such as ethics, open science and data, gender equality;
- Contribute to the **knowledge-based economy and society**.



Research Management Facility

Scope:

- Create a research management and administration facility to provide services and trainings to institutions and their staff in Widening countries wishing to establish or upgrade existing capacities and competencies in research management. The facility should invite research performing organisations from Widening countries, support them to assess their needs for excellent research management capacities, and develop implementation plans to improve their institutional capacity.

Activities covered by the proposals:

- Support the assessment of **institutional needs in research management, administration and training** with the research performing institutions requesting their services;
- Support the development of **tailor-made implementation plans** to establish or upgrade research management capacities at institutional level;
- Train research managers in Widening countries to improve their **skills**, in line with the **European Competence Framework for Research Managers**;
- Provide research managers from Widening countries with **networking opportunities at European international level** to improve their integration in the broader research management community.
- **Proposals** will: estimate the number of target institutions and individuals during the duration of the action; describe the methods to prioritise their services if demand exceeds the project resources and demonstrate the full geographical coverage for the Widening countries including Outermost Regions.



ERA Research Managers

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-02
- Call opening / closing: **6 April 2027 / 14 September 2027**
- Type of action: CSA
- Budget: EUR 65 million
- Indicative number of projects: 30
- Duration: 5 years



ERA Research Managers

Expected outcomes:

The ERA Research Manager's leadership and the establishment of a permanent, high-quality research management group will boost excellence, visibility, and integration within the ERA, improving competitiveness in research funding and promoting institutional reforms aligned with ERA priorities.

- ERA Research Managers aim to attract **experienced research managers** to universities or research organisations in Widening countries, establishing or upgrading institutional capacities for research management, fostering brain circulation and creating pockets of excellence that enhance institutional culture and performance.
- At **SYSTEM** level: e.g. more R&I talent moving to Widening countries; increased international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral mobility.
- At **ORGANISATION** level: e.g. strengthened research management capacities; increased attractiveness to top international research managers, and subsequently researchers; establishment of a lasting, high-performing research management group with institutional benefits.



ERA Research Managers

- **Scope:** Research organisations in Widening countries to submit a proposal aimed at establishing or upgrading research management capacities in the institution and ensuring that the conditions are in place to foster **excellent research management** aligned with ERA priorities.
- **Self-assessment** of the institutional capacities and needs in research management and administration. An **implementation strategy** enhancing the institutional capacities (actions and trainings, continuously adapted along the project duration, introducing institutional changes in research management, realistic/ feasible strategy along project duration). Description of investments in research management capacity building, projects, staffing, facilities and infrastructures.
- **ERA Research Manager:** An **excellent research manager** with international experience (appointed through open and merit-based recruitment, subject to monitoring by the European Commission).
- **Conditions** to appoint the ERA Research Management team same as for the ERA Chair holder.
- **Grant covers** salaries, recruitment, travel, trainings, and administrative expenses.



ERA Chairs

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-01
- Call opening / closing: **6 April 2027 / 14 September 2027**
- Type of action: CSA
- Budget: EUR 175 million
- Indicative number of projects: 80
- Duration: 5 years



ERA Chairs

Expected outcomes:

The ERA Chair holder's leadership and the establishment of a permanent, high-quality research group will boost excellence, visibility, and integration within the ERA, improving competitiveness in research funding and promoting institutional reforms aligned with ERA priorities.

- ERA Chairs aim to sustainably **attract outstanding scientists and innovators** to universities or research organizations in Widening countries, fostering brain circulation and creating pockets of excellence that enhance institutional culture and performance.
- At **SYSTEM** level: e.g. more R&I talent moving to Widening countries; increased international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral mobility;
- At **ORGANISATION** level: e.g. strengthened research excellence in ERA Chair fields; increased attractiveness to top international researchers.



ERA Chairs

Prospective ERA Chair holder

- Any scientific domain, from any country. The research institution is monobeneficiary. ERA Chair holders may relocate permanently or temporarily, with secondments, sabbaticals, or part-time arrangements possible (minimum 50% full-time equivalent (FTE) commitment, including on-site presence). Contractual arrangements (salary, travel, daily allowances and other benefits) and contractual details if employment is the preferred option to be specified.

Research team

- Established by the ERA Chair holder and integrated in the coordinator's institution to improve its research performance and obtain competitive funding. The team's recruitment led by an international panel chaired by the ERA Chair. The leader of the newly created research group to be appointed on a permanent basis within the institution in the 3 first years (open recruitment process monitored by the European Commission). At least 20% of permanent team members should have tenure (not including the team leader), and no more than 50% having prior contractual links to the institution.

Grant covers

- Consumables and equipment up to 10% of EU contribution. Salaries, recruitment, travel, research costs and administration cost are covered by the grant.



EIC Pre-Accelerator

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-01
- Call opening / closing: **5 May 2027 / 18 November 2027**
- Type of action: CSA
- Budget: EUR 40 million
- Indicative number of projects: 60



EIC Pre-Accelerator

Expected outcomes:

Boost the innovation potential of early-stage deep-tech startups in Widening countries by enhancing their business, investor, and technology readiness to secure funding from the EIC Accelerator or other sources.

- **Increased business, investor, and technology readiness** towards commercialisation and deployment (at least all aspects of TRL 5 completed) **of high potential deep-tech startups** in Widening countries to a level where they will:
- be successful in applying and attracting **the EIC Accelerator funding** and/or;
- manage to secure other **private investment** and/or;
- attract successfully **national or regional funding** as alternative funding sources (e.g. through Seal of Excellence programmes).



EIC Pre-Accelerator

Scope:

Early-stage deep tech startups which:

- have high-impact innovation that could create **new markets or disrupt existing ones** (technology validated in the lab – at least TRL 4 at the proposal stage to 6 at the end of the project);
- possess the necessary IPR to ensure **freedom to operate** and adequate protection of the idea;
- have a clear vision on the intended **pathway to market** (milestones together with concrete and verifiable KPIs to assess progress towards the market);
- have the ambition and commitments **to scale up**.

Specific conditions:

- **Eligibility:** mono-beneficiary projects with legal entities as SMEs established in the Widening countries.
- **Proposal template:** CSA adapted to the EIC Pre-Accelerator evaluation criteria.
- **Evaluation:** single stage.
- **Form of support:** grant, 70% reimbursement = between 500K-1M EUR (lump-sum for max 2 years).

In addition: free access to tailored **EIC Business Acceleration Services** to improve investor readiness; **Fast Track** to the EIC Accelerator; **Seals of Excellence**.



Teaming Synergies

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-01
- Call opening / closing: **23 April 2026 / 24 September 2026**
- Type of action: CSA
- Budget: EUR 7 million
- Indicative number of projects: 1
- Duration: 5 years



Teaming Synergies

Expected outcomes:

The Synergy action for Teaming Centres of Excellence (CoE) responds to the need to ensure the sustainability of CoE funded under the Teaming calls, facilitating stronger collaboration and strategic joint initiatives among them.

- Stronger long-term collaboration through structured joint initiatives and clustering efforts;
- Strategic transformation of R&I systems;
- Promotion of multidisciplinary and transnational cooperation;
- Promotion of ERA priorities (e.g: responsible AI usage, knowledge valorisation, commercialization, SMEs and start-ups activities);
- Stronger visibility of CoE and their recognition at national, regional and European levels;
- Improved synergies between CoE and national and EU programmes.



Teaming Synergies

Scope:

The call aims at fostering collaboration among Teaming CoE, both existing ones and those resulting from ongoing or future calls, in view of supporting their efforts towards sustainability and increased impact at the regional, national and European level.

Activities:

Strategic clustering for thematic collaboration; pilot implementation of thematic clusters; capacity building for knowledge valorisation; networking and matchmaking; Teaming online platform; Teaming conference; entrepreneurship and tech transfer support.

The Consortium has to provide expertise in relation with the activities; a core of the consortium should demonstrate successful implementation of sustainability strategies of the Teaming CoE; complementary members of the consortium can provide specific expertise.



Hasznos linkek

- [Widening Information Day](#)
- [Strategic Plan](#)
- [Work Programme](#)
- [Research Enquiry Service](#)
- [Funding and Tenders Portal](#)
- [Hop-on lista](#)
- [COST](#)



Köszönöm a figyelmet!

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NEMZETI KUTATÁSI, FEJLESZTÉSI
ÉS INNOVÁCIÓS HIVATAL