



European
Commission

Widening measures under Horizon 2020

Colombe WARIN

Project Adviser

European Commission

Research Executive Agency

*B5 - Spreading Excellence, Widening Participation,
Science with and for Society*

Research
Executive
Agency

Content

- Widening measures
- Teaming
- ERA-chairs
- Twinning
- Future calls





Horizon 2020

Framework Programme for Research & Innovation

Budget: 86 billions € - Duration: 2014-2020

Following an intensive political debate on widening participation in the Framework Programme, a new set of measures was introduced in Horizon 2020 under the separate specific objective:

"Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation" (WIDESPREAD)

Budget: 816 millions €

Widening measures

Ensuring that benefits of R&I are maximised and widely distributed across the European Union...

... The '**Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation**' programme aims at strengthening research and innovation performance, encouraging stronger participation in Horizon 2020 and facilitating partnering opportunities among EU Member States.

Why **WIDESPREAD** measures?

Disparities in R&I excellence and performance >>> barrier to competitiveness, growth and jobs across Europe

Some countries are experiencing low participation in the EU Framework Programmes;

Disparities due to structural issues, such as:

- insufficient national RDI investment
- lack of synergies between certain countries national research systems and EU research landscape
- insufficient capacities
- reduced access to international networks.

Countries eligible for WIDESPREAD

- The "low RDI performing" member states are **15 within the EU**:

Latvia Croatia Lithuania Malta
Slovakia Romania Luxembourg Poland
Estonia Portugal Slovenia Cyprus
Bulgaria Hungary Czech Republic

- Among **Associated countries**, **8** are eligible to submit proposals as coordinators: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

Composite Indicator of Research Excellence => Threshold: member states below 70% of the EU average

Management of WIDESPREAD

* **Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission**, Unit B.5 – Spreading Excellence, Widening Participation, Science with and for Society

- **Responsible for implementing the Horizon 2020 Work Programme dedicated to projects in its fields.**
 - Organising the evaluation
 - Preparing grant agreements
 - Monitoring projects progress, dealing with contractual issues
 - Checking on the use of resources and making payments
 - Implementing audit results

* **European Commission - DG Research and Innovation**

- Unit B5 – Spreading excellence and Widening Participation
- **Responsible for policy related issues including the Work Programme**

Coordination and Support actions

Actions consisting primarily of accompanying measures such as:

- **standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, networking**, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure,

And

- may also include **complementary activities of strategic planning**, networking and coordination between programmes in different countries

Teaming

What? Creation of new (or significant upgrade of existing) Centres of Excellence in low performing Member States and regions

How? Need to demonstrate the long-term science and innovation strategy of the future Centre based on a SWOT analysis

Stage 1: Funding for the development of a **Business Plan** for the new Centre of Excellence facilitated by a teaming process with a leading counterpart in Europe (200-500,000 €)

Stage 2: Subject to the quality of the Business Plan, and a commitment of the Member State (e.g. support via Cohesion Policy Funds), the Commission will provide further substantial financial support for the first steps of **implementation of the Centre of Excellence** (15-20 millions € for 5-7 years)



ERA Chairs

What? To bring high quality researchers to universities and research organisations (in **low performing member states**) with the potential for research excellence to help them implement structural changes to achieve excellence on a sustainable basis.

How? Recruiting an outstanding **ERA Chair holder** and his/herteam

Funding for:

- Salaries of ERA Chair and his/her team.
- Support for measures aimed at structural changes in the institution (i.e. trainings, meetings, publication and patenting costs, equipment)

Project Size: max €2.5 M per proposal

Project Duration: 5 years

Twinning

What?

Strengthening a defined field of research of a knowledge institution in a **low performing Member State** through linking with at least two internationally-leading counterparts in Europe.

How? outline the scientific strategy for stimulating scientific excellence and innovation capacity in a defined area of research **as well as the scientific quality of the partners** involved in the twinning exercise

Funding for:

- expert visits and short-term on-site or virtual training;
- workshops & conference attendance;
- organisation of joint summer school type activities;
- dissemination and outreach activities.

Project Size: €1 M per proposal

Project Duration: 3 years

NB. Equipment & researchers' salaries will NOT be funded.

Current projects

- ***Teaming 1***
 - Evaluated in 2nd semester 2014
 - Projects all started on 1 June 2015 (end June 2016)
 - 31 projects
- ***ERA-chairs***
 - Evaluated in 2nd semester 2014
 - Projects started July – October 2015 (duration 60 months)
 - 14 projects
- ***Twinning***
 - Evaluated mid 2015
 - Projects start November 2015 – February 2016 (duration 36 months)
 - 66 projects



Example: SUPREME

TWINNING (H2020-TWIN-2015)– SUPREME (692197)

Twinning for a Sustainable, Proactive Research partnership in distributed Energy systems planning, Modelling and management

This Polish project, in partnership with Denmark, The Netherlands and Austria, aims to develop critical knowledge in modelling, planning, integrating and managing large-scale renewable energy systems in a flexible and effective manner. The project will develop staff exchanges, joint work, summer schools and other events to create a long-lasting and effective partnership on Poland's energy systems infrastructure.

Budget: 1.047.551 € - Start date: 1st November 2015

Example: System

ERA Chair (H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2)– Cystem (667942) **Cyprus Solar Thermal Energy for the Mediterranean**

This Cypriot project aims to attract and install a cluster of outstanding researchers, led by a professor of international stature to maximally utilize and upgrade the existing facilities. The principal focus will be on Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) technologies for electricity production, desalination, air conditioning and heating, either in isolation or in multi-generation modes. The Chair shall be embedded in CyI's Energy Environment and Water Research Centre (EEWRC), a Centre with intense activity in climate change (and adaptation strategies), water management, and sustainability.

Budget: 2.500.000 € - Start date: 1st July 2015



Future calls

Teaming 1 (WIDESPREAD-4-2017)

Opening: 11 May 2016 – Deadline: 15 November 2016

ERA Chairs (WIDESPREAD-3-2017)

Opening: 12 April 2017 – Deadline: 5 October 2017

TWINNING (WIDESPREAD-5-2017)

Opening: 11 May 2017 – Deadline: 15 November 2017

Useful links

Participant portal:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/>
(Funding opportunities => Widespread)

Horizon 2020:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

Research Executive Agency:

<http://ec.europa.eu/rea/>



European
Commission



Thank you for your attention

colombe.warin@ec.europa.eu

Research
Executive
Agency