
Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

The European Union sees significant internal disparities in terms of research and innovation performance. To tap into Europe's yet unexploited potential in R&I, a stronger participation in Horizon 2020 coupled with greater commitment by the low-performing ("widening") Member States and Associated Countries can be instrumental.

Widening countries:

Member states: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Associated Countries (subject to valid association agreements): Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Teaming projects create new or update existing centres of excellence in Widening countries through a coupling process with a leading scientific institution. The programme has two phases: in Phase 1, funding is provided to develop a business plan for the future centre in line with the host region's smart specialisation strategy. In Phase 2, selected Phase 1 proposals receive financial support to start implementing the future centre.

Twinning will help strengthen a defined field of research in a knowledge institution through linking with at least two internationally-leading counterparts in Europe. Activities like short-term staff exchanges, expert visits, on-site or virtual trainings, workshops, conference attendance, dissemination and outreach are supported.

ERA Chairs will bring outstanding academics to universities and other research organisations, in those countries, that have high potential for research excellence. ERA Chairs will help them attract and maintain high quality human resources and implement the structural changes necessary to achieve excellence on a sustainable basis. (Finnish organizations are not eligible to apply for to host their own ERA Chairs. However, Finnish nationals can apply for open ERA Chair positions in widening countries.)

Widening Fellowships provide an additional opportunity to researchers of any nationality to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on R&I in widening countries. Applications to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions Individual Fellowships (MSCA-IF), where the host organization is located in a widening country and the proposal passes all evaluation thresholds, will be automatically resubmitted to this call in case their proposal fails to reach funding in the regular MSCA-IF call.

The **European Cooperation in Science and Technology COST** provides cross-border scientific networking. COST helps excellent researchers and innovators get access to European and international networks.

Calls for proposals for 2020:

- **WIDESPREAD-05-2020 (CSA): Twinning**
 - call opens 24.07.2019 and closes 14.11.2019
 - budget 69 M€
- **WIDESPREAD-06-2020: ERA Chairs**
 - call opens 24.07.2019 and closes 14.11.2019
 - budget 50 M€
- **WF-03-2020: Widening Fellowships**
 - call opens under the MSCA-IF 08.04.2020 and closes 09.09.2020
 - budget 7 M€
- **COST:** www.cost.eu

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Online Sources of Information:

- EC [Funding and tender opportunities Portal](#):
- EU Research and Innovation Programmes (EUTI's website): www.horisontti2020.fi