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Widening Participation & Spreading Excellence and its contribution to the European Research Area



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Horizon Europe – at a glance



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

Programme principles

The Programme shall assist widening countries to increase participation in Horizon Europe and to promote broad geographical coverage in collaborative projects, including through spreading scientific excellence, boosting new collaborative links, stimulating **brain-circulation** as well as through the implementation of Articles 20(3) and 45(4). Those efforts shall be mirrored by proportional measures by Member States, including on setting attractive salaries for researchers, with the support of Union, national and regional funds. **Particular attention shall be paid to geographical balance**, subject to the situation in the field of research and innovation concerned, evaluation panels and in bodies such as boards and expert groups, without undermining the excellence criteria.

HE Common Understanding Regulations - Art. 6a Principles of the Programme

Widening countries in HE

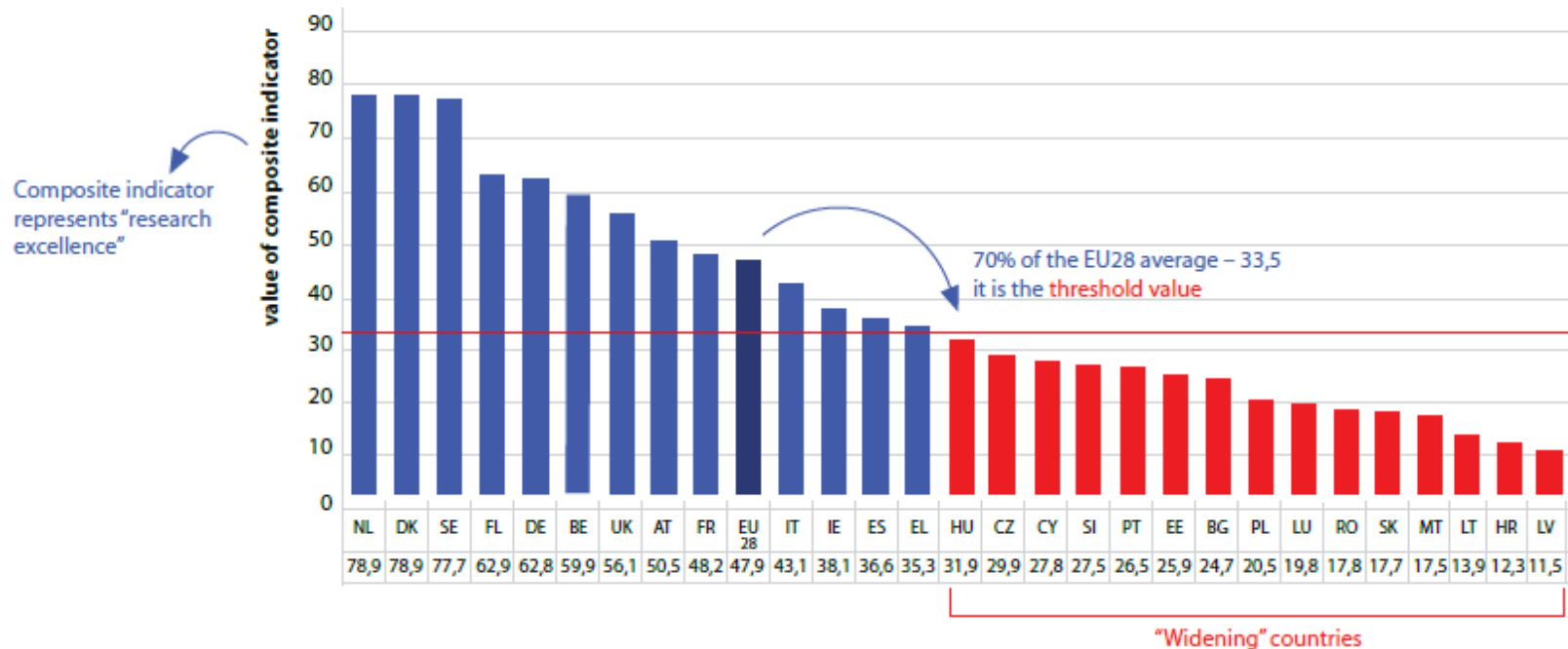
Widening countries”/ “low R&I performing countries” means those countries where legal entities need to be established in order to be **eligible as coordinators** under ‘widening participation and spreading excellence’ strand of the Widening Participation and Strengthening ERA’ part of Horizon Europe. From the EU Member States, these countries are **Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia**, for the whole duration of the Programme. For associated countries, the list of eligible countries will be defined based on an indicator and published in the Work Programme. On the basis of Article 349 TFEU, legal entities from **Outermost Regions** will be also fully eligible as coordinators under this strand.

HE Common Understanding Regulations - Art. 2 Definitions

The Widening Countries in H2020

GRAPH 2 Performance in the composite indicator "research excellence".

Source: NCP_WIDE.NET Project



CSA under Widening package R&I activities eligible

Coordination and support action' means an action contributing to the objectives of the Programme, *excluding research and innovation activities, except when undertaken under the component "widening participation and spreading excellence" of the part "Widening Participation and strengthening the European Research Area";* and bottom-up coordination without co-funding of research activities from the EU that allows for cooperation between legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries in order to strengthen the European Research Area;

HE Common Understanding Regulations - Art. 2 Definitions

Widening package – bigger budget

The overall budget for the Widening participation and spreading excellence strand of the "Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area" part of Horizon Europe should be **at least 3.3% of the overall Horizon Europe budget**. This budget should mainly benefit legal entities in the widening countries.

HE Common Understanding Regulations - Art. 32 Eligible costs

Results of the Widening Package under H2020

Wydano z budżetu H2020 [€]

1,01 mld

L. projektów

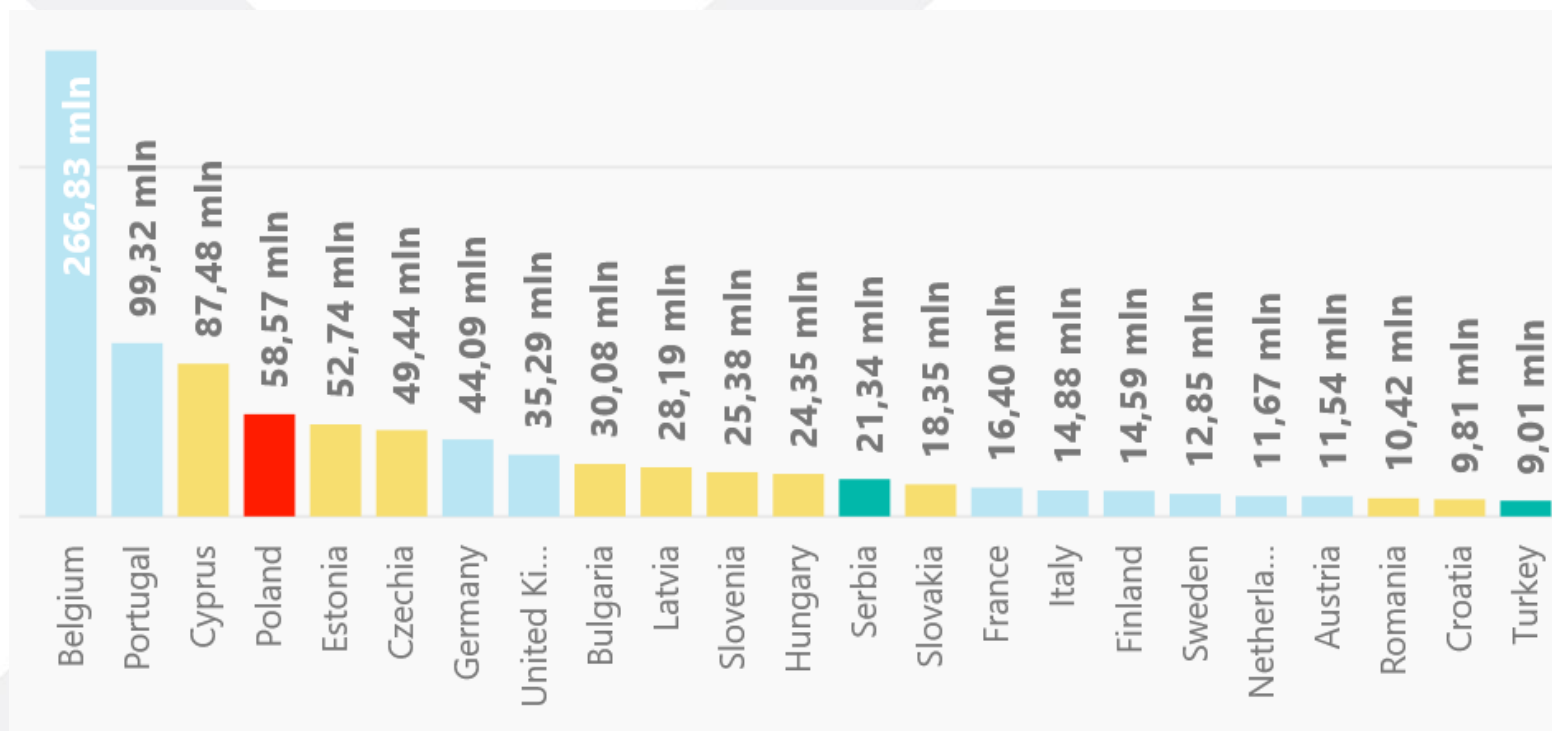
432

L. organizacji

743

L. krajów

43



E-Corda data on 03.08.2020

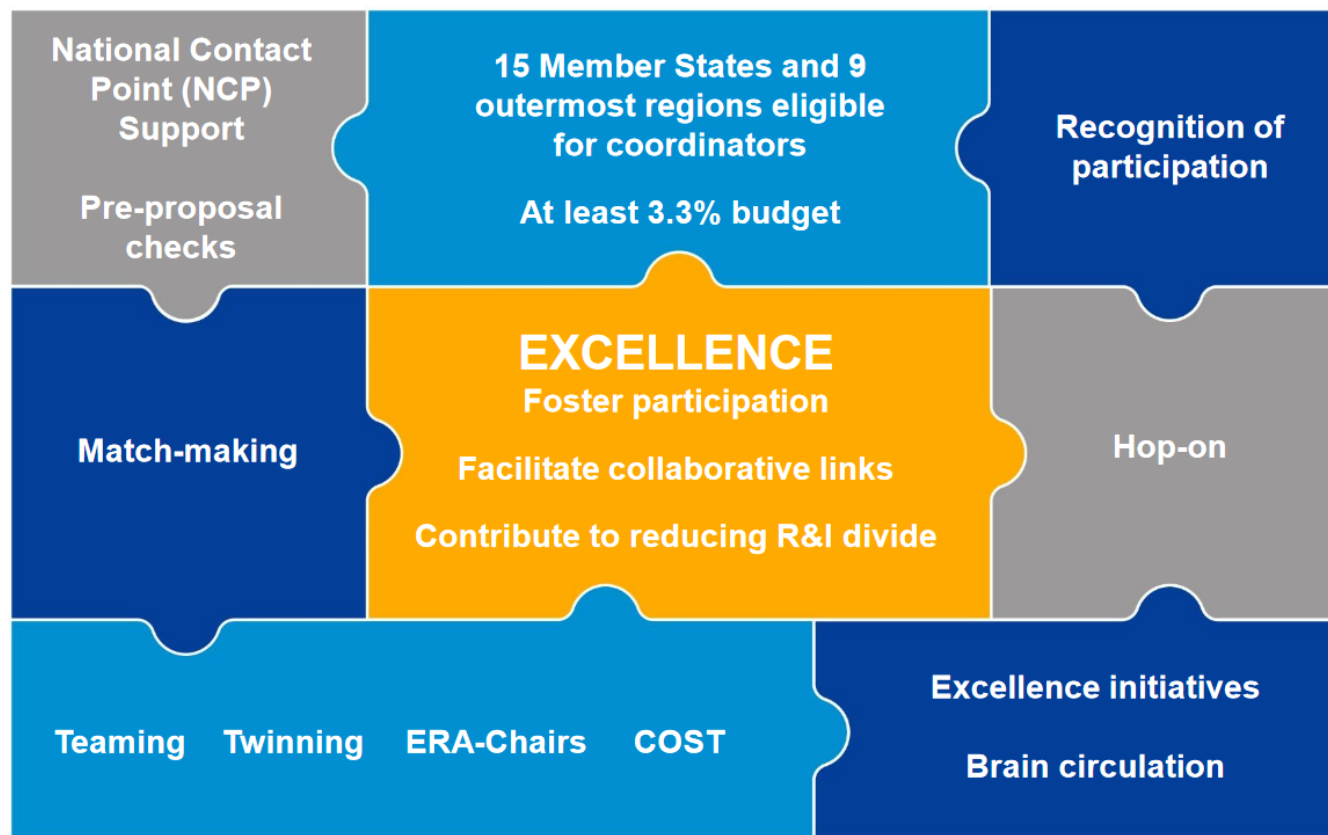
Horizon Europe Widening package should...

- ❑ contribute to attracting talent, fostering **brain circulation** and preventing brain drain,
- ❑ **improve the quality of proposals** from legal entities from low R&I performing Member States, such as **professional pre-proposal** checks and advice,
- ❑ **boost the activities of National Contact Points** to support international networking,
- ❑ **support legal entities from low R&I performing Member States joining already selected collaborative projects in** which legal entities from such Member States are not participating.

Horizon Europe – Widening package



Widening participation/spreading excellence



Synergies - simplifications

- ❑ **General Block Exemption Regulation** (art. 25d) – aid provided to the co-funded **Teaming** actions will be exempted from state aid notification. Horizon Europe eligible activities, rules on eligible costs and funding rates shall apply to the aid.
- ❑ **Seal of Excellence for mono-beneficiary proposals** – projects may receive directly, without qualitative evaluation, ERDF or ESF+ funding, the cost eligibility rules can be aligned to HE, the co-financing rate applies;

Synergies - novelty

Voluntary transfer of Cohesion Policy allocations: MS may request transfer of up to 5 % of their programme resources to any other EU Fund or instrument under shared, direct or indirect management (Art. 21 CPR):

- ☐ Transferred resources may only concern the future budgetary commitments
- ☐ The relevant ERDF programme has to be amended, incl. its financing plan
- ☐ **Investments have to be for the benefit of the transferring Member State**
- ☐ Commission may object to a request for transfer if achievement of ERDF programme's objectives would be undermined
- ☐ Rules of the receiving EU Fund/instrument apply to the transferred amounts
- ☐ **Not replacing, but mutual benefits, simplification and facilitating involvement in Horizon Europe**

Horizon Europe - the partial agreement

Widening instruments:

1. **At least 3.3%** of the budget for **Widening package**
2. Ex-aequo selection criterion based on **geographical diversity**

Article 25

Award criteria and selection

*3. The work programme shall lay down further details of the application of the award criteria laid down in paragraph 1 including any weighting, thresholds and where relevant rules for dealing with ex-aequo proposals, taking into consideration the objectives of the call for proposals. **The conditions for dealing with ex-aequo proposals may include, but not limited to, the following criteria: SMEs, gender, geographical diversity.***

NEW ERA objectives

- ☐ Be wholly inclusive and collaborative, and increase research quality throughout Europe.
- ☐ Be seamless and connected, and drive Europe's competitiveness.
- ☐ Be inspiring and open, and contribute to wider European policy objectives.

ERAC Opinion on the future of the ERA, adopted on 17.12.2019



NEW ERA broad inclusiveness

*ERA actions and initiatives have to better ensure that European and national, including regional, R&I policies are coherent and inclusive in the broadest sense. Open and transparent engagement of all relevant actors, including the most vulnerable ones, should strengthen ERA policy to enhance quality and excellence across disciplines and reduce fragmentation. **ERA actions should facilitate collaborative links between researchers, institutions and citizens, encompassing the geographical dimension,** human capital, gender and minority-groups-related issues, as well as both public and Private institutions in all sectors.*

ERAC Opinion on the future of the ERA, adopted on 17.12.2019

How to catalyse the whole potential of ERA?

- Excellent research teams
- Excellent innovators
- Excellent new research infrastructures
- Other resources (raw materials, potential of bio-mass etc.)

Better cooperation between EU13/EU15.

NCP_WIDE.NET

- ❑ Think-tank on Widening
- ❑ Reports, e-Bulletin, success stories, guideliness
- ❑ Events, webinars, seminars, workshops
- ❑ Join our e-Bulletin, follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn, visit our web

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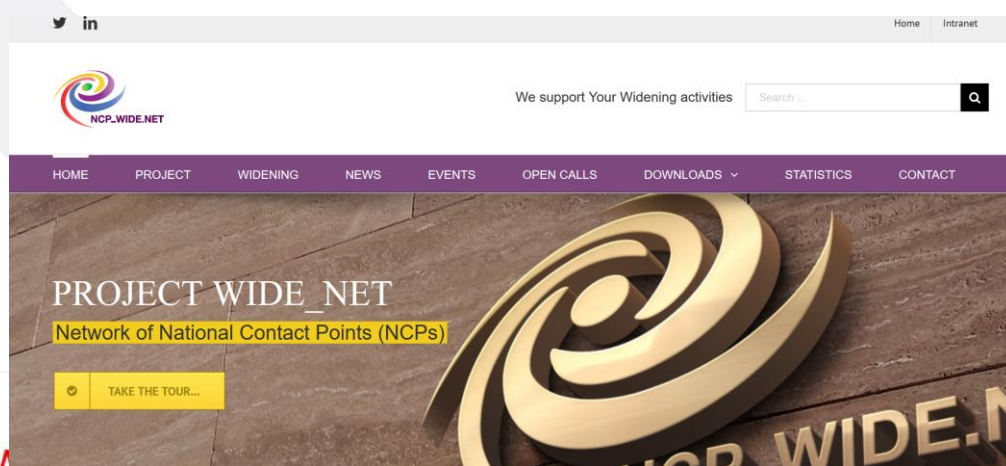
Widening participation at the crossroads of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe

*Foreword by Jean-Eric Paquet,
Director-General DG Research and Innovation*



I am delighted to address the readers of the NCP_WIDE.NET newsletter at this critical juncture for the widening community of the EU. Critical because not only have we recently published the results of the latest Twinning, ERA Chairs and Teaming Phase 2 calls, but we have also made progress in the Horizon Europe negotiations: last month, the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission agreed to an **ambitious widening package**.

www.ncpwidenet.eu



NCP_WIDE.NET

European Research and Innovation Days

September 22, from 16h00 to 17h00 workshop

“Widening: learning from the past and creating the future”

For the future...

Success is not a trophy you get.

It is a story you write constantly.

CONTACT

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