



EN

Horizon 2020

Work Programme 2018-2020

15. Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

Important notice on the Horizon 2020 Work Programme

This Work Programme covers 2018, 2019 and 2020. The parts that relate to 2019 and 2020 are provided at this stage on an indicative basis. Such Work Programme parts will be decided during 2018 and/or 2019.

(European Commission Decision C(2017)7124 of 27 October 2017)

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Introduction

Despite serious efforts deployed at national and European level, the Union sees significant internal disparities in terms of research and innovation performance.

There is significant evidence pointing to the fact that the pathway to economic growth and competitiveness is largely connected to research and innovation. To tap into Europe's yet unexploited potential in research and innovation a stronger participation in Horizon 2020 coupled with greater commitment by the low-performing Member States and Associated Countries can be instrumental. This focus will enable the European Research Area to function in a more streamlined and homogeneous way, where the individual strengths of every Member State and Associated Country may be optimised.

Furthermore, research and innovation performance is correlated with the efficiency of the national research and innovation systems. Technical assistance and expertise is needed for those low performing Member States and Associated Countries to improve their research and innovation systems and policies.

In addition, participation in the EU Framework Programmes is increasingly dependent on networking and staying connected with partners across the EU. It is imperative for those pockets of excellence in Europe to enter and remain on the "framework programmes grid", thus facilitating access to networks and partnering opportunities.

In order to address the above challenges of research and innovation (R&I) investments, efficiency of national research and innovation systems and networking, Horizon 2020 introduces specific measures for spreading excellence and widening participation through engaging organisations of those countries which could commit more towards the EU research and innovation effort. This will be done in complementarity with the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds), including support for Smart Specialisation Strategy implementation and related pilot actions.¹

The Work programme is in line with the Horizon 2020 Responsible Research and Innovation² (RRI) cross-cutting issue, engaging society, integrating the gender and ethical dimensions, ensuring the access to research outcomes and encouraging formal and informal science education.

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) is the on-going process of aligning research and innovation to the values, needs and expectations of society which allows to identify and to deliver new solutions to the societal challenges. In this process it is not only matter to engage the traditional stakeholders and partners but to engage wider the civil society and citizens to participate to definition and implementation of research and innovation policy agenda and activities. Therefore RRI policy approach is to be taken into account as well, at local and

¹ See http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/com_2017_376_2_en.pdf and <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

² http://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/pdf/rome_declaration_RRI_final_21_November.pdf

regional levels, when relevant, in the processes on how to improve and optimise the outcomes of the research and innovation activities presented in the submitted proposals.

The ethical dimension of the activities undertaken should be analysed and taken into account, including relevant socioeconomic implications. This implies the respect of ethical principles and related legislation during the implementation. Whenever possible, the activities should also include in their objectives a better understanding and handling of the ethical aspects as well as the promotion of the highest ethical standards in the field and among the actors and stakeholders. The most common issues to be considered include: personal data protection and privacy, protection of participants and researchers, ensuring informed consent, dual use and potential misuse of the research results, fair benefit sharing when developing countries are involved, environment protection, etc.

The specific policy requirements, scope and perspectives of the actions covered under the Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation Part necessitate specific geographical eligibility conditions, in order to maximise their real value and impact.

In particular, it is considered that research excellence is a key factor for research and innovation performance and for successful participation in Framework Programmes. Therefore, to serve the ultimate objectives of these actions it is necessary to target those which are low performing in terms of research excellence.

The Composite indicator of Research Excellence³ (with a corrective threshold of 70% of the EU average) has been selected to distinguish those countries identified as "**low R&I performing**" or "**Widening**" countries. These are:

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 of third countries with Horizon 2020): Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

The actions funded through this work programme are therefore mostly targeting organisations and institutions in the above countries and are described below:

Teaming will invest in Europe's research and innovation potential through supporting the creation of new (or upgrading of existing) Centres of Excellence in low R&I performing Member States and Associated Countries on the basis of partnerships with internationally leading institutions.

Twinning aims to build on the huge potential of networking for excellence through knowledge transfer and, exchange of best practice between research institutions and leading partners.

³ The detailed scores of the composite indicator can be found in p. 5 (Excellence in S&T 2010) of the "Research and Innovation Performance in EU Member States and Associated Countries 2013" at http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/state-of-the-union/2012/innovation_union_progress_at_country_level_2013.pdf

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ERA Chairs will bring outstanding researchers to universities and other research organisations, in those countries, that have high potential for research excellence to help them attract, maintain and increase high quality human resources and implement the structural changes necessary to achieve excellence on a sustainable basis.

Efforts to improve the international experience and networking capacities of peripheral institutions will be made by stimulating their participation with cross-border science networks through dedicated *COST* activities, connecting unexploited pockets of excellence throughout Europe.

JPI Urban Europe enhances the knowledge and capacities in order to support urban transition towards sustainability in Europe and beyond. Under this Work Programme, efforts to extend the participation of Member States in *JPI Urban Europe* will be undertaken further.

The results from the first years of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in Horizon 2020 also revealed the existence of a mobility gap across Europe and discrepancies between European countries in their ability to attract funding. To specifically address this gap in participation the new *Widening Fellowships* call will provide an additional opportunity to researchers of any nationality to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on research and innovation in Widening countries.

The results of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 have been taken into consideration in this Work Programme. The main instruments (Teaming, Twinning, ERA Chairs, COST) that contribute to the strengthening of research and innovation institutions in Widening countries, producing in parallel important structuring effects at national level and synergies with other EU programmes continue to be implemented in this Work Programme.

Open research data

Grant beneficiaries under this work programme part will engage in research data sharing by default, as stipulated under Article 29.3 of the Horizon 2020 Model Grant Agreement (including the creation of a Data Management Plan). Participants may however opt out of these arrangements, both before and after the signature of the grant agreement. More information can be found under General Annex L of the work programme

Call - WIDESPREAD

H2020-WIDESPREAD-2018-2020

Activities under this section are expected to contribute to the realisation of the research and innovation potential in all parts of Europe by promoting the creation of Centres of Excellence, reinforcing urban transition towards sustainability across Europe, bringing high quality human resources to institutions to implement structural change and further promoting networking actions for sustained excellence.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

WIDESPREAD-01-2018-2019: Teaming Phase 2

Specific Challenge: Despite efforts to reduce disparities in country research and innovation performance in the EU, sharp differences among Member States still remain. These disparities are due to, among other reasons, the insufficient critical mass of science and lack of centres of excellence having sufficient competence to engage countries and regions strategically in a path of innovative growth, building on newly developed capabilities. Exploiting the potential of Europe's talent pool by maximising and spreading the benefits of research and innovation across the Union is vital for Europe's competitiveness and its ability to address societal challenges in the future. This could help countries and regions that are lagging behind in terms of research and innovation performance to attain a competitive position in the global value chains.

Teaming will support the creation of new centres of excellence or upgrading the existing ones in low R&I performing countries, building on partnerships between leading scientific institutions and partner institutions in low R&I performing countries, that display the willingness to engage together for this purpose.

Scope: Teaming involves in principle, two (2) parties:

- (1) The main applicant organisation (the coordinator) established in a "Widening" country that must be either a national/regional authority or a research funding agency or a university or a research organisation.
- (2) A university or research organisation with an international reputation in research and innovation excellence.

The proposal for Teaming Phase 2 must:

- Illustrate the scientific and innovation potential of the future Centre of Excellence
- Demonstrate the growth potential and expected socio-economic outreach of the Centre of Excellence for the benefit of the country or region
- Elaborate on the structure of the partnership and on the strong engagement of the partners

- Demonstrate how the newly established/upgraded Centre will have full autonomy in decision making. In particular, the Centre of Excellence should have the maximum degree of autonomy in terms of taking its own decisions, being in legal, administrative, operational, personnel and academic matters. The Centre should be able to set and pay competitive salaries for its personnel.
- Elaborate on the steps that will be taken to ensure long term self-sustainability after the end of the Horizon 2020 project.
- Propose a robust human resource strategy (also encouraging gender equality), ensuring appropriate administrative and management capacities for the effective and efficient running of the Centre of Excellence.
- Include the letter(s) of commitment for complementary funding from the interested national/regional authorities or other private sources to commit financial resources (e.g. resources coming from the European Structural and Investment Funds or Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) funds as appropriate) for implementing the future Centre, in particular regarding investment in infrastructure and equipment. The letter(s) of Commitment for complementary funding (a template will be provided by the Commission in due time) of the project will be an integral part of the evaluation of the proposal taking into consideration:
 - the nature of the commitment,
 - the legal form of the commitment (what kind of legal scheme supports the financial commitment),
 - the specific amount of the commitment and its expected impact on the establishment of the centre (the total amount of the complementary funding must be at least at the same level or more than the total Horizon 2020 funding requested),
 - the level of certainty that the relevant funds would be indeed available to that specific Centre.

How the complementary funding will be spent during the project has to be explained in detail in the proposal, both in the budget table of Part A as well as with a clear and detailed cost breakdown of the activities funded in Part B.

Procedure for Teaming Phase 2:

Teaming Phase 2 is a restricted call open only to:

- a. Applicants successfully funded under the topic WIDESPREAD-04-2017: Teaming Phase 1.
- b. Applicants who have concluded a Framework Partnership Agreement under the topic WIDESPREAD-1-2014: Teaming, of the call H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014 but have not concluded a Specific Grant Agreement under the topic WIDESPREAD-01-2016-2017: Teaming Phase 2.

For both points a. and b. above, in order not to put in doubt the result of the initial evaluation (Teaming Phase 1), the internationally leading ("advanced") institution(s) partners in the proposal must remain the same as in Phase 1.

A change of the partners from the widening country for Phase 2 is only allowed in clear-cut cases for instance where there might be a conflict of interest or a new legal entity for the Centre of Excellence is created. A detailed explanation for such a change has to be elaborated as part of the proposal for Phase 2.

Successful applicants under topic WIDESPREAD-1-2014: Teaming, of the call H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014 and topic WIDESPREAD-04-2017: Teaming Phase 1 of the call H2020-WIDESPREAD-2016-2017 have received a grant to produce an extensive, detailed and robust Business Plan within a timeframe of 12 months for the setting-up/upgrading of a Centre of Excellence. Based on the business plan developed during Phase 1, applicants are expected to submit a separate proposal for Teaming Phase 2. The proposal is expected to reflect all key elements of the business plan.

Nevertheless, it is emphasised that the Business Plan is the deliverable of Teaming Phase 1 and will not be subject to evaluation under Phase 2 (neither it will be made available to evaluators).

Applicants to this call will have to submit a proposal, following the template that will be made available to applicants through the submission tool. The submitted proposals under this restricted call will undergo an independent evaluation, and those selected for funding will be awarded a CSA grant (Teaming Phase 2).

This new grant for Teaming Phase 2 will provide substantial support for the start-up and implementation phase of the future Centre of Excellence. This will cover mainly administrative and operational costs as well as personnel costs of the future Centre of Excellence. While the action does not focus on equipment and consumables, these could be accepted if they constitute only a minor part of the total Horizon 2020 funding requested and may be deemed necessary to fulfil the action's specific scope and objective.

It is to be noted, that Horizon 2020 under the Teaming action will not support infrastructure costs associated with the new or upgraded centre. Such costs are expected to be supported by other types of funding, including where relevant by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) or the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) funds.

For grants awarded under this topic and type of action the following cost categories will be ineligible costs:

- infrastructure costs.

The respective option of Article 6.5.C of the Model Grant Agreement will be applied. Such costs are expected to be supported by other types of funding, including where relevant by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) or the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) funds.

The duration of a Teaming Phase 2 project will be between 5 to 7 years.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of EUR 15 million, would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting lower amounts.

Expected Impact:

The creation of new (or significant upgrades of existing) Centres of Excellence in "Widening" Countries through the Teaming partnerships is expected to:

- increase the scientific capabilities of these countries and enable them to engage in a strategic growth path pointing to long-term opportunities for economic development.
- through improved scientific capabilities allow these countries to improve their chances to seek competitive funding in international fora (including the EU Framework Programmes).
- over the medium to long term achieve a measurable and significant improvement in terms of research and innovation culture (as shown through indicators such as research intensity, innovation performance, values and attitudes towards research and innovation) of those countries.
- reinforce the potential impact of the new/upgraded Centre of Excellence in terms of sustained excellence through projected measurable key performance and output related indicators.

It should be explained how the leading scientific institutions in the partnership will contribute in terms of provision of access to new research avenues, creativity and the development of new approaches, as well as acting as a source for increased mobility (inwards and outwards) of qualified scientists.

The benefits for the internationally leading scientific institutions and the way they would materialise through the partnership should be substantiated.

Type of Action: Coordination and support action

The conditions related to this topic are provided at the end of this call and in the General Annexes.

WIDESPREAD-02-2018: Support to JPI Urban Europe⁴

Specific Challenge: In tackling societal challenges in the area of sustainable urbanisation, fragmented national research and innovation programmes represent an obstacle for European collaboration. In some countries, the situation has led to an underrepresentation of such countries in transnational collaboration. The different national research and innovation systems, approaches and instruments in these countries also add to the challenge.

⁴ This activity directly aimed at supporting public-public partnerships with Member States and associated countries is excluded from the delegation to REA and will be implemented by the Commission services.

Furthermore, urban policy-making is often hampered by the limited cross-sector cooperation which does not allow a strong policy support that is based on scientific evidence.

Following the implementation of the actions foreseen by the Commission's Communication on Joint Programming to tackle Europe's major societal challenges of 2008, the Competitiveness Council has launched altogether ten Joint Programming Initiatives so far, among which is the Joint Programming Initiative 'Urban Europe - Global Urban Challenges, Joint European Solutions' (JPI Urban Europe)⁵. The initiative enhances the knowledge and capacities to support urban transition towards sustainability in Europe and beyond. In doing so, it develops innovative solutions and reduces the fragmentation of urban-related research and innovation funding as well as builds critical mass and visibility. Several Council Conclusions on Joint Programming⁶ invite the Commission to support JPIs via Coordination and Support Actions.

The development of the JPI Urban Europe is driven by a strong group of countries but as to the overall country participation, the initiative is seeking to widen the participation. Although efforts are taken by the JPI Urban Europe in this sense, the results can only be expected in a longer-term as this challenge is of the structural nature.

The use of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) is seen as an essential element to strengthen the implementation of new urban solutions and concepts in Europe. The Urban Agenda⁷ sets out a policy agenda for this and for EU urban policy in the wider sense. Many smart specialisation strategies include urban and smart cities related priorities and chart out the use of ERDF funding to develop and test new solutions for them. The Urban Innovative Actions identify and test innovative solutions for sustainable urban development.⁸ Also the JPI Urban Europe aims to create, validate and demonstrate knowledge and solutions. The ESI Funds could provide for both investments and implementation support. The challenge is how to create synergies, complementarities and coherence as well as alignment between the activities of the JPI Urban Europe and other existing resources such as the ESI Funds.

The outreach and opening of the JPI Urban Europe to third country partners is increasingly raising interest among the latter. Building on this momentum, the challenge is to further enhance the opening of the JPI to international cooperation and thus contribute to creating a coherent European Research Area that is open to international cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development. The challenge is how to consolidate the alignment of national, EU and international research and innovation programmes, which is one of the key objectives of Joint Programming Initiatives. In that regard, there is also a need to support the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, in particular the Sustainable Development Goal on

⁵ Council Conclusions of 8 December 2011

⁶ Council Conclusions of 12 October 2010, of 26 November 2010 and of 8 December 2011

⁷ See: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/themes/urban-development/agenda/

⁸ See: <http://www.uia-initiative.eu/en>

sustainable cities and urban settlements⁹, building on related international activities taking place at United Nations level.

Scope: Proposals should aim to implement a solid opening-up strategy of the JPI Urban Europe, for enlarging participation of more European partner countries getting involved in the JPI initiative, including from Widening countries, and to further enhancing the commitment and broader participation of countries. Proposals should build on the coordination action ‘EXPAND – Enhancing co-creation in JPI Urban Europe through widening Member State and stakeholder participation’¹⁰ that is expected to establish a Stakeholder Involvement Platform for the widening of participation and capacity building in terms of countries, regions, stakeholders and urban actors. In that regard, proposals should ensure the sustainability of the Stakeholder Involvement Platform. Proposals should engage a wide variety of countries in the activities of the JPI Urban Europe with the support of existing complementary resources such as the ESI Funds. In doing so, the proposal should build on the pilot activities implemented¹¹ and establish further test beds for new instruments and for scaling up innovative solutions. Proposals should further professionalise the JPI Urban Europe programme management and further diversify various instruments for creating scientific evidence, innovations and the impact. Proposals should support the strategic processes of the JPI Urban Europe beyond 2020 and also establish mechanisms for the implementation of the future internationalisation strategy of the JPI Urban Europe¹² that is under preparation. In doing so, proposals should investigate activities to align with and support the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, in particular, the Sustainable Development Goal on sustainable cities and urban settlements.

All participants in proposals must be legal entities which finance or manage publicly funded national or regional programmes in the urban-related research and innovation domains or which are institutions mandated to represent the country/region in JPI Urban Europe activities.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of EUR 1.5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting lower amounts.

Expected Impact:

- Increased scale and scientific quality of urban-related research and innovation activities as well as the overall coherence, complementarity and efficiency of the use of European research and innovation resources in this area including from Widening countries. In this context, relevant geographical spread is expected (medium to long term impact);

⁹ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-11-sustainable-cities-and-communities.html>

¹⁰ Grant Agreement number 726744 awarded under Horizon 2020 - part 15. Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

¹¹ This task has to develop further the outcomes of the two pilot actions initiated in connection with the ERA-NET Cofund ‘Smart Cities and Communities’ and the Coordination action ‘EXPAND – Enhancing co-creation in JPI Urban Europe through widening Member State and stakeholder participation’

¹² Provided that the internationalisation strategy of the JPI Urban Europe will be adopted by 2019

- Further professionalised programme management and more diversified instruments supporting implementation of the JPI Urban Europe Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda corresponding to the conditions of all types of countries as well as the JPI Urban Europe strategy development beyond 2020 (short to medium term impact);
- Increased synergies, complementarities and alignment between the strategies, activities and related resources of the JPI Urban Europe and other existing resources such as the ESI Funds, mostly present in Widening countries (medium term impact);
- More efficient valorisation and take-up of research findings both in terms of policy and innovation, including test beds for piloting new urban solutions (short to medium term impact);
- Improved exchange of know-how on urban R&I solutions across the EU, including Widening countries, and at global level (short to medium term impact);
- Strengthened role of the JPI Urban Europe for underpinning knowledge and scientific evidence for supporting the implementation of related EU policies, also in the context of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (medium to long term impact);
- Enhanced positioning of the JPI Urban Europe as a privileged and attractive partner for global cooperation in the urban-related research and innovation (medium to long term impact).

Type of Action: Coordination and support action

The conditions related to this topic are provided at the end of this call and in the General Annexes.

WIDESPREAD-03-2018: Twinning

Specific Challenge: The specific challenge is to enhance networking activities between the research institutions of the Widening countries and internationally-leading counterparts at EU level. Driven by the quest for excellence, research intensive institutions tend to collaborate increasingly in closed groups, producing a crowding-out effect for a large number of promising institutions. This is the challenge that a specific Twinning action will try to address.

Scope: Twinning aims at significantly strengthening a defined field of research in a university or research organisation from a Widening country by linking it with at least two internationally-leading research institutions in other Member States or Associated Countries. Twinning will:

1. Enhance the scientific and technological capacity of the linked institutions with a principal focus on the university or research organisation from the Widening Country;
2. Help raise the research profile of the institution from the Widening country as well as the research profile of its staff.

Successful Twinning proposals will have to clearly outline the scientific strategy for stepping up and 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. This scientific strategy should include arrangements for formulating new (or ongoing) joint research project(s) in the scientific area of choice and describe how Twinning will take this research to a new stage, by enlarging its scope and/or the research partnership. If relevant, any links with sustainable development objectives are to be outlined.

Such a strategy should include a comprehensive set of activities to be supported. These should include at least a number of the following: short term staff exchanges; expert visits and short-term on-site or virtual training; workshops; conference attendance; organisation of joint summer school type activities; dissemination and outreach activities.

A dedicated focus towards promoting the involvement of early stage researchers (as per the MSCA definition¹³) in the coordinating institution from the Widening country is expected. This should take the form of a dedicated work package in the proposal describing activities dedicated to early stage researchers from the coordinating institution that could include training, mentoring and networking measures within the Twinning exercise.

In general, costs relating to administration, networking, coordination, training, management, travel costs are acceptable under a Twinning project.

Therefore, for grants awarded under this topic and type of action the following cost categories will be ineligible costs:

- infrastructure costs;
- equipment;
- research costs (including consumables).

The respective option of Article 6.5.C of the Model Grant Agreement will be applied.

The duration of a Twinning project can be up to 3 years.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of EUR 0.8 million, would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting lower amounts.

Expected Impact:

¹³ Early stage researchers shall, at the time of recruitment by the host organisation, be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him or her to embark on a doctorate, (either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited) even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged. Part-time research experience will be counted pro-rata.

- Increased research excellence of the coordinating institution in the particular field of research as a result of the twinning exercise.
- Enhancing the reputation, attractiveness and networking channels of the coordinating institution.
- Improved capability to compete successfully for national, EU and internationally competitive research funding.
- Illustrate quantitatively and qualitatively the expected potential impact of the twinning exercise within the coordinating institution (and possibly at regional/national level) based on indicators like expected future publications in peer reviewed journals, collaboration agreements with businesses, intellectual property, new innovative products or services.
- It should be explained how the leading scientific institutions in the partnership will contribute in terms of provision of access to new research avenues, creativity and the development of new approaches, as well as acting as a source for increased mobility (inwards and outwards) of qualified scientists.
- The benefits for the internationally leading scientific institutions and the way they would materialise through the partnership should be substantiated.

Type of Action: Coordination and support action

The conditions related to this topic are provided at the end of this call and in the General Annexes.

WIDESPREAD-04-2019: ERA Chairs

Specific Challenge: With adequate institutional support outstanding researchers can have a decisive and positive impact on the culture and performance of research institutions. Yet issues such as the availability of research funding, institutional rigidities and access to resources can hamper their mobility to promising institutions, particularly in low R&I performing countries. ERA Chairs actions will address the specific challenge of creating the appropriate conditions for high quality researchers and research managers to move and engage with institutions willing to achieve excellence in the scientific domain of choice and modify their research and innovation landscape.

Scope: The ERA Chairs actions will support universities or research organisations with the objective of attracting and maintaining high quality human resources under the direction of an outstanding researcher and research manager (the "ERA Chair holder") and in parallel implement structural changes to achieve excellence on a sustainable basis.

The scientific field can be any domain of research and innovation addressed under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union¹⁴, however it needs to be closely connected with the activities of the ERA Chair holder and fully capitalise on his/her presence and expertise.

Research organisations interested in establishing an ERA Chair shall submit a proposal based on a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis, aimed at structural change in the institution and ensuring that the conditions are in place to foster excellent research. Proposals should include arrangements for compliance with ERA priorities¹⁵ including the European Charter for Researchers & Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers¹⁶, a description of the necessary investments in research projects, facilities and infrastructures and how those will be achieved as, for example, through the use of Cohesion Policy funds, and/ or a better use of the installed research capacity (in particular of EU co-funded research infrastructures & facilities). Proposals should outline how the proposed activities will positively induce a change in current practices.

ERA Chair holders should be excellent researchers and research managers in the given field of research, with a proven record of effective leadership. They should establish their own research team fully integrated in the coordinator's institution to significantly improve its research performance in the scientific domain of choice and to be more successful in obtaining competitive funding. The ERA Chair holder should have a position within the organisation/university, professor or similar, that will allow her/him to make appropriate resource allocation decisions, supervise team members and freely apply for research funding. A letter of the head of the institution clearly describing the intended remuneration package of the ERA Chair holder and the criteria on which the level of remuneration¹⁷ has been established, as well as his/her roles, level of responsibility and obligations should be included within the proposal. This will allow for the determination of the commitment of the institution and feasibility of the ERA Chair tasks.

The position of the ERA Chair holder must be open to all EU and non-EU nationals but shall match the profile of an "Established Researcher (R3)" or "Leading Researcher (R4)" as set out in the European Framework for Research Careers¹⁸. Moreover, given the objectives of the action, internal mobility within the institution hosting the grant is excluded except in exceptional and duly justified cases. The appointment of an ERA Chair holder will be undertaken by the host institution at the beginning of the action and must follow an open, transparent and merit-based recruitment process that will be monitored by the European Commission.

¹⁴ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT&from=en>

¹⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2012:0392:FIN>

¹⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2005/251/oj>

¹⁷ see page 40 of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement (AGA) at http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

¹⁸ https://cdn5.euraxess.org/sites/default/files/policy_library/towards_a_european_framework_for_research_careers_final.pdf

It is expected that the Chair holder commits him/herself for the full duration of the grant. The ERA Chair holder is to be appointed in a full-time position (permanent or non-permanent) in accordance with the national legislation of the institution hosting the grant.

The grant that can have a duration of five years maximum will cover the appointment of the ERA Chair holder and a number of team members (e.g. their salaries, recruitment costs¹⁹, administrative costs, travel and subsistence costs).

The grant will also provide a contribution towards measures aimed at facilitating structural changes in the institution (e.g. costs for trainings, meetings, publications and managing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). While the action does not focus on equipment and consumables, these could be accepted if they constitute only a minor part of the total Horizon 2020 funding requested and are deemed necessary to fulfil the action's specific scope and objective). For grants awarded under this topic and type of action, the following cost categories will be ineligible costs:

- Infrastructure costs;

The respective option of Article 6.5.C of the Model Grant Agreement will be applied.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of EUR 2.5 million, would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting lower amounts.

Expected Impact:

- Institutional changes within the ERA Chair host institution allowing for its full participation in the European Research Area.

- Increased attractiveness of the institution for internationally excellent and mobile researchers (including a policy of compliance to the European Research Area priorities like (an open recruitment policy, gender balance, peer review and innovative doctoral training).

- Increased research excellence of the institution in the specific fields covered by the ERA Chair holders illustrated quantitatively and qualitatively through indicators such as expected future publications in peer reviewed journals, collaboration agreements with businesses, intellectual property, new innovative products or services.

- Improved capability to compete successfully for internationally competitive research funding.

Type of Action: Coordination and support action

The conditions related to this topic are provided at the end of this call and in the General Annexes.

¹⁹ That can be considered under the category of "other direct costs".

Conditions for the Call - WIDESPREAD

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):²⁰

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)		Deadlines
	2018	2019	
Opening: 15 May 2018			
WIDESPREAD-01-2018-2019 (CSA)	103.00	111.00	15 Nov 2018
WIDESPREAD-02-2018 (CSA)	1.50		15 Nov 2018
WIDESPREAD-03-2018 (CSA)	30.00		15 Nov 2018
Opening: 26 Jul 2018			
WIDESPREAD-04-2019 (CSA)		30.00	15 Nov 2018
Overall indicative budget	134.50	141.00	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The conditions are described in General Annexes B and C of the work programme. The following exceptions apply:

WIDESPREAD-01-2018-2019	1. This is a restricted call for proposals open <u>only</u> to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Applicants successfully funded under the topic WIDESPREAD-04-2017: Teaming Phase 1.
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²⁰ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The deadline(s) in 2019 are indicative and subject to a separate financing decision for 2019.

The budget amounts for the 2018 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2018 after the adoption of the budget 2018 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

The budget amounts for the 2019 budget are indicative and will be subject to a separate financing decision to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2019.

	<p>b. Applicants who have concluded a Framework Partnership Agreement under the topic WIDESPREAD-1-2014: Teaming, of the call H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014 but have not concluded a Specific Grant Agreement under the topic WIDESPREAD-01-2016-2017: Teaming Phase 2.</p> <p>For both points a. and b. above, in order not to put in doubt the result of the initial evaluation (Teaming Phase 1), the internationally leading ("advanced") institution(s) partners in the proposal must remain the same as in Phase 1.</p> <p>A change of the partners from the widening country for Phase 2 is only allowed in clear-cut cases such as where there might be a conflict of interest or a new legal entity for the Centre of Excellence is created. A detailed explanation for such a change has to be elaborated as part of the proposal for Phase 2.</p> <p>2. The requested EU contribution shall not exceed a maximum of EUR 15 million for a period between 5 to 7 years.</p>
<p>WIDESPREAD-02-2018</p>	<p>1. All participants in a proposal must be legal entities which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finance or manage publicly funded national or regional programmes in the urban-related research and innovation domains or - Institutions mandated to represent the country/region in JPI Urban Europe activities. <p>2. The requested EU contribution shall not exceed a maximum of EUR 1.5 million.</p>
<p>WIDESPREAD-03-2018</p>	<p>1. The applicant organisation (coordinator) where a defined field of research aims to be strengthened as a result of the Twinning action should be established in a Member State or Associated Country that is ranked below 70% of the EU27 average of the composite indicator on Research Excellence²¹.</p> <p>The selected corrective threshold of 70% of the EU average has been chosen in line with the particular policy requirements of the measure, to ensure the greatest possible impact through targeting only the lowest performing Member States, and thereby</p>

²¹ The detailed scores of the composite indicator can be found in p. 5 (Excellence in S&T 2010) of the "Research and Innovation Performance in EU Member States and Associated Countries 2013" at http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/state-of-the-union/2012/innovation_union_progress_at_country_level_2013.pdf

	<p>maximising the real value of these actions.</p> <p>Based on the above threshold, applicant organisations from the following Member States and Associated Countries (subject to valid association agreements of third countries with Horizon 2020) will be eligible to submit proposals as coordinators (the "low R&I performing" or "Widening" countries):</p> <p><u>Member States:</u> Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.</p> <p><u>Associated Countries:</u> Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.</p> <p>2. Twinning proposals must involve a minimum of <u>three</u> participants:</p> <p>a. The applicant organisation must satisfy the condition set out in point 1 above, and must be the coordinator of the proposal.</p> <p>b. At least two internationally-leading research intensive counterparts that must be coming from a Member State or Associated Country other than that of the coordinating applicant.</p> <p>3. The requested EU contribution shall not exceed a maximum of EUR 0.8 million for a period of up to 3 years.</p>
<p>WIDESPREAD-04-2019</p>	<p>1. The applicant organisation where the ERA Chair holder will be hosted should be established in a Member State or Associated Country that is ranked below 70% of the EU27 average of the composite indicator on Research Excellence²².</p> <p>The selected corrective threshold of 70% of the EU average has been chosen in line with the particular policy requirements of the measure, to ensure the greatest possible impact through targeting only the lowest performing Member States, and thereby maximising the real value of these actions.</p> <p>Based on the above threshold, applicant organisations from the following Member States and Associated Countries (subject to</p>

²² The detailed scores of the composite indicator can be found in p. 5 (Excellence in S&T 2010) of the "Research and Innovation Performance in EU Member States and Associated Countries 2013" at http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/state-of-the-union/2012/innovation_union_progress_at_country_level_2013.pdf

	<p>valid association agreements of third countries with Horizon 2020) will be eligible to submit proposals (the "low R&I performing" or "Widening" countries):</p> <p><u>Member States:</u> Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.</p> <p><u>Associated Countries:</u> Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.</p> <p>2. ERA Chairs proposals must be submitted by a single applicant as they are a mono-beneficiary action. The applicant organisation must satisfy the condition set out in point 1 above.</p> <p>3. The requested EU contribution shall not exceed a maximum of EUR 2.5 million for a period of up to 5 years.</p>
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Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The criteria, scoring and threshold are described in General Annex H of the work programme. The following exceptions apply:

<p>WIDESPREAD-01-2018-2019</p>	<p>Hearings are expected to take place for all proposals that will pass all individual evaluation thresholds.</p> <p>A two-step evaluation process will be organised. The first step will consist of the remote individual evaluation and consensus group/panel review, followed by a second step with hearings.</p> <p>After the consensus group/panel review, those proposals that passed all individual criteria thresholds will be invited to hearings, whereas those proposals that did not pass one or more of the individual thresholds will receive a rejection letter.</p> <p>Hearings will take place in Brussels. As an outcome of this exercise, comments and scores obtained at the consensus group might be modified.</p>
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Evaluation Procedure: The procedure for setting a priority order for proposals with the same score is given in General Annex H of the work programme. The following exceptions apply:

<p>WIDESPREAD-01-2018-2019</p>	<p>The specific policy requirements, scope and perspectives of this topic aim at spreading excellence and widening participation in</p>
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	<p>Europe by creating Centres of Excellence in the different "low R&I performing" or "Widening" countries²³. Therefore, to serve the objectives of the programme and to better spread the impact of the action the following is set relating to <i>ex aequo</i> proposals:</p> <p>For proposals with the same score, any further prioritisation will be based on the following factors applied in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approach as described in Annex H, paragraph 3b; -proposals with coordinators established in "low R&I performing" or "Widening" countries²⁴ not otherwise covered by more highly-ranked proposals; - approach as described in Annex H, paragraphs 3c to 3e; <p>This approach will be applied successively for every group of <i>ex aequo</i> proposals requiring prioritisation, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order.</p>
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The full evaluation procedure is described in the relevant [guide](#) published on the Participant Portal.

Grant Conditions:

WIDESPREAD-01-2018-2019	<p>For grants awarded under this topic for coordination and support actions the following cost categories will be ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - infrastructure costs <p>The respective option of Article 6.5(c) of the Model Grant Agreement will be applied.</p>
WIDESPREAD-03-2018	<p>For grants awarded under this topic for coordination and support actions the following cost categories will be ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - infrastructure costs; - equipment;

²³ Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Associated Countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

²⁴ Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Associated Countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

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	<p>- research costs (including consumables).</p> <p>The respective option of Article 6.5(c) of the Model Grant Agreement will be applied.</p>
WIDESPREAD-04-2019	<p>For grants awarded under this topic for coordination and support actions the following cost categories will be ineligible costs:</p> <p>- infrastructure costs</p> <p>The respective option of Article 6.5(c) of the Model Grant Agreement will be applied.</p>

Consortium agreement:

WIDESPREAD-04-2019	<p>There is no requirement to conclude a consortium agreement for this topic since this is a single beneficiary action aimed at supporting individual institutions.</p>
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Call - Widening Fellowships

H2020-WF-2018-2020

The goal of the Individual Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers, wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced training, international and intersectoral mobility. Widening fellowships, in particular, provide specific support to researchers to undertake their fellowship in a widening country. This will help spread excellence and close the still apparent research and innovation gap within Europe.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

WF-01-2018: Widening Fellowships

Specific Challenge: The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) contribute to boosting jobs, growth and investment by equipping researchers with the new knowledge, skills and international and inter-sectorial exposure to fill the top positions of tomorrow and solve current and future societal challenges. They are based on the principle of mobility, and researchers can receive funding on the condition that they move from one country to another to acquire new knowledge. The results from the first years of MSCA in Horizon 2020 also revealed the existence of a mobility gap across Europe and discrepancies between European countries in their ability to attract funding. To specifically address this gap in participation Widening Fellowships will provide an additional opportunity to researchers of any nationality to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on research and innovation in Widening countries.

Scope: Support is foreseen for individual, trans-national fellowships awarded to researchers of any nationality, in Widening countries. Applications to the 2018 call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions Individual Fellowships (MSCA-IF), where the host organisation is located in an eligible widening country, will be automatically resubmitted to this call in case their proposal fails to reach an adequate place in the ranking to be funded in the regular MSCA-IF call²⁵. Applicants who do not wish to be considered for this funding opportunity may opt out during the application stage.

The proposals submitted under the Widening Fellowships must fulfil all the admissibility and eligibility conditions of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions Individual Fellowships and pass all the thresholds for that call.

The award criteria, scoring and threshold for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply to eligible proposals. Proposals will be ranked according to the 2018 MSCA-IF call scores and evaluation procedure and will retain scores and comments included in the Evaluation

²⁵ The following "Types of Action" under MSCA-IF are eligible for resubmission: CAR – Career Restart panel, RI – Reintegration panel, SE - Society and Enterprise panel, Standard EF.

Summary Report (ESR) of the MSCA-IF call . The MSCA-IF model grant agreement and the unit costs applicable to MSCA-IF will also apply to the Widening Fellowships.

Expected Impact:

The expected impact indicated for the MSCA-IF-2018 Individual Fellowships call under the MSCA Work Programme will apply to this call.

In addition, the Widening Fellowships are expected to lead to the following:

- Enhanced cooperation and stronger networks including widening countries.
- Boosting of R&I capacity among participating organisations.
- Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers in Widening countries.

Type of Action: Career Restart panel, Reintegration panel, Society and Enterprise panel, Standard European Fellowships

The conditions related to this topic are provided at the end of this call and in the General Annexes.

WF-02-2019: Widening Fellowships

Specific Challenge: The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) contribute to boosting jobs, growth and investment by equipping researchers with the new knowledge, skills and international and inter-sectorial exposure to fill the top positions of tomorrow and solve current and future societal challenges. They are based on the principle of mobility, and researchers can receive funding on the condition that they move from one country to another to acquire new knowledge. The results from the first years of MSCA in Horizon 2020 also revealed the existence of a mobility gap across Europe and discrepancies between European countries in their ability to attract funding. To specifically address this gap in participation Widening Fellowships will provide an additional opportunity to researchers of any nationality to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on research and innovation in Widening countries.

Scope: Support is foreseen for individual, trans-national fellowships awarded to researchers of any nationality, in Widening countries. Applications to the 2019 call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions Individual Fellowships (MSCA-IF), where the host organisation is located in an eligible widening country, will be automatically resubmitted to this call in case their proposal fails to reach an adequate place in the ranking to be funded in the regular MSCA-IF call²⁶. Applicants who do not wish to be considered for this funding opportunity may opt out during the application stage.

²⁶ The following "Types of Action" under MSCA-IF are eligible for resubmission: CAR – Career Restart panel, RI – Reintegration panel, SE - Society and Enterprise panel, Standard EF.

The proposals submitted under the Widening Fellowships must fulfil all the admissibility and eligibility conditions of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions Individual Fellowships and pass all the thresholds for that call.

The award criteria, scoring and threshold for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply to eligible proposals. Proposals will be ranked according to the 2019 MSCA-IF call scores and evaluation procedure and will retain scores and comments included in the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) of the MSCA-IF call . The MSCA-IF model grant agreement and the unit costs applicable to MSCA-IF will also apply to the Widening Fellowships.

Expected Impact:

The expected impact indicated for the MSCA-IF-2019 Individual Fellowships call under the MSCA Work Programme will apply to this call.

In addition, the Widening Fellowships are expected to lead to the following:

1. Enhanced cooperation and stronger networks including widening countries.
2. Boosting of R&I capacity among participating organisations.
3. Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers in Widening countries.

Type of Action: Career Restart panel, Reintegration panel, Society and Enterprise panel, Standard European Fellowships

The conditions related to this topic are provided at the end of this call and in the General Annexes.

Conditions for the Call - Widening Fellowships

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):²⁷

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)		Deadlines
	2018	2019	
Opening: 12 Apr 2018			

²⁷ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The deadline(s) in 2019 are indicative and subject to a separate financing decision for 2019.

The budget amounts for the 2018 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2018 after the adoption of the budget 2018 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

The budget amounts for the 2019 budget are indicative and will be subject to a separate financing decision to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2019.

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WF-01-2018 (MSCA-IF-EF-CAR)	5.00		12 Sep 2018
WF-01-2018 (MSCA-IF-EF-RI)			
WF-01-2018 (MSCA-IF-EF-SE)			
WF-01-2018 (MSCA-IF-EF-ST)			
Opening: 11 Apr 2019			
WF-02-2019 (MSCA-IF-EF-CAR)		6.00	11 Sep 2019
WF-02-2019 (MSCA-IF-EF-RI)			
WF-02-2019 (MSCA-IF-EF-SE)			
WF-02-2019 (MSCA-IF-EF-ST)			
Overall indicative budget	5.00	6.00	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The conditions are described in General Annexes B and C of the work programme. The following exceptions apply:

WF-01-2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicants must not have opted out from having their proposal automatically resubmitted to the Widening Fellowships call when applying to the MSCA-IF-2018 call. 2. The proposal must have obtained a score of 70% or above in the 2018 call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships, within the types of action CAR – Career Restart panel, RI – Reintegration panel, SE - Society and Enterprise panel or Standard EF but failed to reach an adequate place in the ranking to be funded under that call. 3. The beneficiary must be established in a Member State or Associated Country that is ranked below 70% of the EU27 average of the composite indicator on Research Excellence²⁸.
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²⁸ The detailed scores of the composite indicator can be found in p. 5 (Excellence in S&T 2010) of the "Research and Innovation Performance in EU Member States and Associated Countries 2013" at

	<p>The selected corrective threshold of 70% of the EU average has been chosen in line with the particular policy requirements of the measure, to ensure the greatest possible impact through targeting only the lowest performing Member States, and thereby maximising the real value of these actions.</p> <p>Based on the above threshold, applicant organisations from the following Member States and Associated Countries (subject to valid association agreements of third countries with Horizon 2020) will be eligible to submit proposals (the "low R&I performing" or "Widening" countries):</p> <p>Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.</p> <p>Associated Countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.</p>
WF-02-2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Applicants must not have opted out from having their proposal automatically resubmitted to the Widening Fellowships call when applying to the MSCA-IF-2019 call.2. The proposal must have obtained a score of 70% or above in the 2019 call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships, within the types of action CAR – Career Restart panel, RI – Reintegration panel, SE - Society and Enterprise panel or Standard EF but failed to reach an adequate place in the ranking to be funded under that call.3. The beneficiary must be established in a Member State or Associated Country that is ranked below 70% of the EU27 average of the composite indicator on Research Excellence²⁹. <p>The selected corrective threshold of 70% of the EU average has been chosen in line with the particular policy requirements of the measure, to ensure the greatest possible impact through targeting only the lowest performing Member States, and thereby</p>

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/state-of-the-union/2012/innovation_union_progress_at_country_level_2013.pdf

²⁹ The detailed scores of the composite indicator can be found in p. 5 (Excellence in S&T 2010) of the "Research and Innovation Performance in EU Member States and Associated Countries 2013" at http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/state-of-the-union/2012/innovation_union_progress_at_country_level_2013.pdf

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	<p>maximising the real value of these actions.</p> <p>Based on the above threshold, applicant organisations from the following Member States and Associated Countries (subject to valid association agreements of third countries with Horizon 2020) will be eligible to submit proposals (the "low R&I performing" or "Widening" countries):</p> <p>Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.</p> <p>Associated Countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.</p>
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Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The criteria, scoring and threshold are described in General Annex H of the work programme. The following exceptions apply:

WF-01-2018, WF-02-2019	The selection criteria are described in part H of the General Annexes to the work programme. The award criteria, scoring and threshold for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply to proposals automatically resubmitted to this call. Please refer to the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.
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Evaluation Procedure: The procedure for setting a priority order for proposals with the same score is given in General Annex H of the work programme. The following exceptions apply:

WF-01-2018, WF-02-2019	The procedure for setting a priority order for proposals with the same score is given in the MSCA 2018-2020 Work Programme.
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The full evaluation procedure is described in the relevant [guide](#) published on the Participant Portal.

Consortium agreement:

WF-01-2018, WF-02-2019	Not applicable - this is a single-beneficiary action.
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Other actions³⁰

1. External Expertise

This action will support the use of appointed independent experts for the monitoring of actions (grant agreements, grant decisions, procurements, financial instruments).

Type of Action: Expert Contracts

Indicative timetable: 2018 and 2019

Indicative budget: EUR 0.07 million from the 2018 budget and EUR 0.20 million from the 2019 budget

2. COST³¹

Scene-setter: COST was established as an intergovernmental framework in 1971 for promoting cooperation among researchers across Europe. Within COST, research carried out at national level is funded by the COST Member States, while the EU funds central administration, coordination and networking.

COST has established its own dedicated implementation structure (COST Association, an AISBL under Belgian law) under the direct governance of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) in order to handle directly EU support to COST activities. It is therefore through this entity that support to COST under Horizon 2020 is channelled. Such governance is expected to lead to increased efficiency in management and lower administrative expenditure levels.

Support to COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)

COST, as an integral part of the Innovation Union and the European Research Area shall contribute to the delivery of the Europe 2020 agenda and the Innovation Union goals through efficient implementation of the COST networking activities.

COST has a long experience in networking European researchers and a high leverage power. Furthermore, through its openness and inclusiveness policies, COST has a significant role in bringing new partners, notably outstanding younger researchers or researchers from less research-intensive countries, into contact with excellent researchers elsewhere in Europe.

³⁰ The budget amounts for the 2018 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2018 after the adoption of the budget 2018 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

The budget amounts for the 2019 and 2020 budget are indicative and will be subject to separate financing decisions to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2019 and for 2020.

³¹ This activity directly aimed at supporting the promotion of coherent and effective cooperation with third countries is excluded from the delegation to REA and will be implemented by the Commission services.

During Horizon 2020, COST will receive EU funding from two Work Programme parts, but shall manage it in an integrated manner to consistently contribute to both:

A) Scientific and Technological Cooperation:

COST will reinforce its networking activities carried out by COST actions. This part will be funded under “Societal Challenge 6 – Inclusive Societies”.

B) Widening Activities:

COST will contribute to fostering inclusive research and innovation policy by bringing together "pockets of excellence", outstanding researchers who are not yet well integrated in European and global research, also enhancing capacity building. Moreover, COST will include a set of measures aimed at providing structural support to ERA, widening the European research base and promote S&T cooperation with other countries, beyond COST current membership³². This second component will be funded under the “Widening Participation” heading.

It is expected that both components are implemented in an integrated manner whereby at least half of the overall COST budget available under Horizon 2020 will be spent at the benefit of participants from Widening countries. For all new COST actions submitted under this work programme, the eligibility condition at proposal stage is that at least half of the participants in each proposal are from widening countries. The COST Association will check this condition for each proposal submitted by a third party before the evaluation.

Legal Entity: COST Association AISBL, Belgium

ToA text: 7- year Framework Partnership Agreement number: 633054 – COST H2020 with identified beneficiary and specific grants awarded to identified beneficiary for Coordination and Support Action under the Framework Partnership Agreement.

The standard evaluation criteria, thresholds, weighting for award criteria and the maximum rate of co-financing for this type of action are provided in General Annexes D and H or the work programme.

Type of Action: Specific Grant Agreement

Indicative timetable: 2018 and 2019

Indicative budget: EUR 20.28 million from the 2018 budget and EUR 20.28 million from the 2019 budget

³² Current COST members are: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Israel is a Cooperating State, non-voting member of COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO).

3. WIRE IX Conference³³

A two-day conference (WIRE IX) will be organised during the EU Austrian Presidency (Presidency Conference) in Innsbruck (Tyrol region). It will focus on connecting basic research with lively start-up, in the context of a vibrant ecosystem.

Expected impact: The conference will showcase concrete experiences of well- functioning R&I ecosystem and will inspire new practices to stimulate R&I collaboration and co-creation. The participants will have an opportunity to have in-depth knowledge and discussions on the innovative approaches adopted by the quadruple helix stakeholders on the main themes of the conference.

Legal entities:

Tiroler Zukunftsstiftung - Standortagentur Tirol, Ingenieur-Etzel-Straße 17, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary - Coordination and support actions

Indicative timetable: 3rd Quarter 2018

Indicative budget: EUR 0.25 million from the 2018 budget

4. WIRE X Conference³⁴

A two-day conference (WIRE X) will be organised during the EU Romanian Presidency (Presidency Conference) in Iași (North-East Region). The event will gather actors active in the innovation and education ecosystem with the aim of improving science-based competitiveness.

Expected impact: The conference will debate knowledge based regional development and will offer potential solutions of streamlining resources aimed for this. Representatives of education organizations, research organizations, start-ups, clusters, policy makers and other related interested parties will exchange views and best practices that could lead to a higher impact of innovation across users and society at large. Best practices, trends and visions will be

³³ This grant will be awarded without call for proposals in line with Article 190(1)(e) of the Rules of applications of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 966/2012, Regulation No 1268/2012 and Article 11(2) of the Rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)", Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013.

This activity directly aimed at supporting the development and implementation of evidence base for R&I policies and supporting various groups of stakeholders is excluded from the delegation to REA and will be implemented by the Commission services.

³⁴ This grant will be awarded without call for proposals in line with Article 190(1)(e) of the Rules of applications of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 966/2012, Regulation No 1268/2012 and Article 11(2) of the Rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)", Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013.

This activity directly aimed at supporting the development and implementation of evidence base for R&I policies and supporting various groups of stakeholders is excluded from the delegation to REA and will be implemented by the Commission services.

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considered, including: “Regional development by networking and sharing research and education facilities and infrastructures”, “Smart regional specialization – the way forward through innovative educational policies”, “Distributed (Regional) research infrastructures – driving force for education, HR policies and territorial development”.

Legal entities:

North-East Regional Development Agency (Agenția pentru Dezvoltare Regională Nord-Est – ADR Nord-Est), 9, Lt. Draghescu Street, Piatra Neamț, Județul Neamț, Romania

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary - Coordination and support actions

Indicative timetable: 2nd Quarter 2019

Indicative budget: EUR 0.25 million from the 2019 budget

CALLS and OTHER ACTIONS for 2020³⁵

Call - WIDESPREAD

H2020-WIDESPREAD-2018-2020-continued

Indicative budget for 2020:

EUR 119 million

Topics

WIDESPREAD-05-2020: Twinning

WIDESPREAD-06-2020: ERA Chairs

³⁵ The budget amounts for the 2020 budget are indicative and will be subject to a separate financing decision to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2020.

Call - Widening Fellowships

H2020-WF-2018-2020-continued

Indicative budget for 2020:

EUR 7 million

Topics

WF-03-2020: Widening Fellowships

Other actions for 2020

1. External Expertise

Type of Action: Expert Contracts

Indicative timetable: 2020

Indicative budget: EUR 0.20 million from the 2020 budget

2. COST

Type of Action: Specific Grant Agreement

Indicative timetable: 2020

Indicative budget: EUR 20.28 million from the 2020 budget

3. WIRE XI Conference³⁶

WIRE XI will be organised in Split, Croatia.

Legal entities:

University of Split, Livanjska 5, 21000 Split, Croatia

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary - Coordination and support actions

Indicative timetable: 2nd Quarter 2020

Indicative budget: EUR 0.25 million from the 2020 budget

³⁶ This grant will be awarded without call for proposals in line with Article 190(1)(e) of the Rules of applications of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 966/2012, Regulation No 1268/2012 and Article 11(2) of the Rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)", Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013.

This activity directly aimed at supporting the development and implementation of evidence base for R&I policies and supporting various groups of stakeholders is excluded from the delegation to REA and will be implemented by the Commission services.

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Budget³⁷

	Budget line(s)	2018 Budget (EUR million)	2019 Budget (EUR million)	2020 Budget (EUR million)
Calls				
H2020-WIDESPREAD-2018-2020		134.50	141.00	
	<i>from 08.020400</i>	<i>134.50</i>	<i>141.00</i>	
H2020-WF-2018-2020		5.00	6.00	
	<i>from 08.020400</i>	<i>5.00</i>	<i>6.00</i>	
H2020-WIDESPREAD-2018-2020-continued				119.00
	<i>from 08.020400</i>			<i>119.00</i>
H2020-WF-2018-2020-continued				7.00
	<i>from 08.020400</i>			<i>7.00</i>
Other actions				
Expert Contracts		0.07	0.20	0.20
	<i>from 08.020400</i>	<i>0.07</i>	<i>0.20</i>	<i>0.20</i>
Specific Grant Agreement		20.28	20.28	20.28
	<i>from 08.020400</i>	<i>20.28</i>	<i>20.28</i>	<i>20.28</i>
Grant to Identified beneficiary		0.25	0.25	0.25
	<i>from</i>	<i>0.25</i>	<i>0.25</i>	<i>0.25</i>

³⁷ The budget figures given in this table are rounded to two decimal places.

The budget amounts for the 2018 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2018 after the adoption of the budget 2018 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

The budget amounts for the 2019 and 2020 budget are indicative and will be subject to separate financing decisions to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2019 and for 2020.

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	08.020400			
Estimated total budget		160.10	167.73	146.73