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HORIZON EUROPE

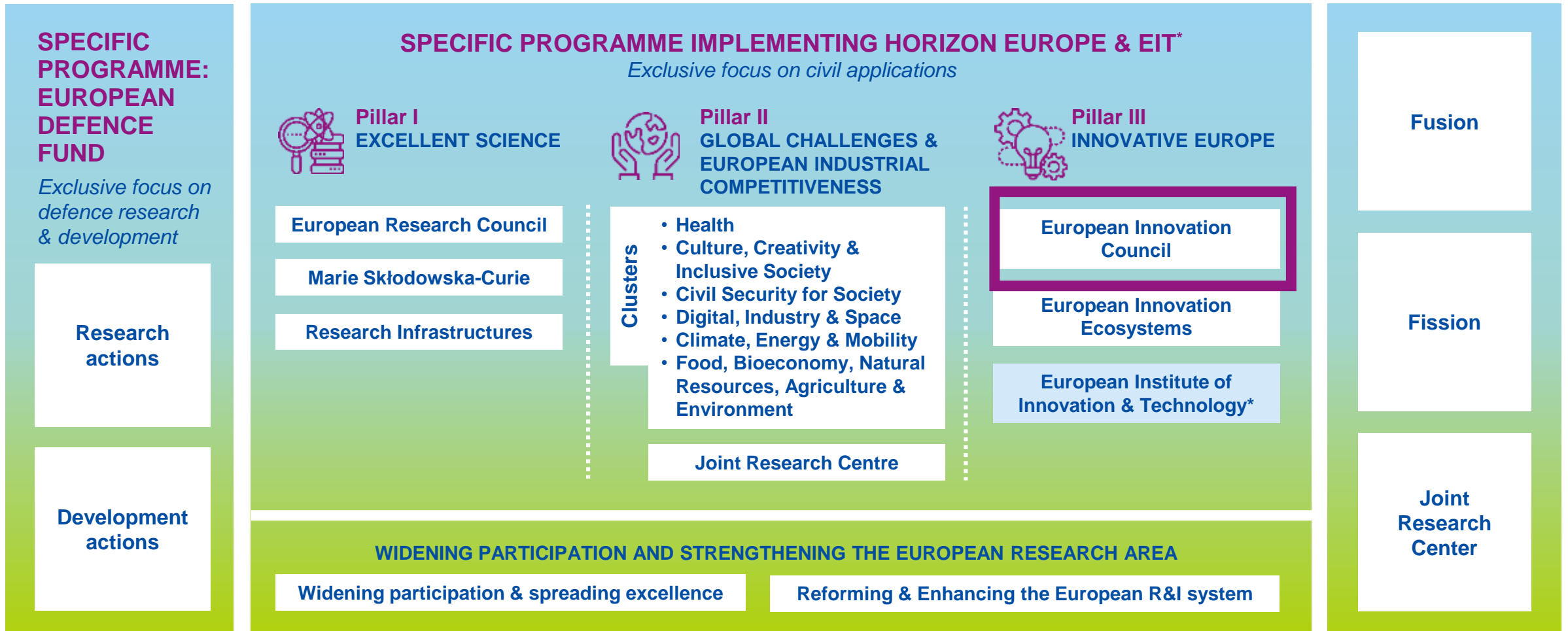
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# The EIC Pathfinder



# HORIZON EUROPE

# EURATOM



\* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme



# European Innovation Council

Support to innovations with breakthrough and disruptive nature and scale up potential that are too risky for private investors (**70% of the budget earmarked for SMEs**)

**European  
Innovation Council –  
a one-stop-shop**

- Helping researchers and innovators create markets of the future, leverage private finance, scale up their companies
- Innovation centric, risk taking & agile, pro-active management and follow up
- Mostly 'bottom up', but also targeting strategic challenges
- EIC Programme Managers to develop visions for breakthroughs and steer portfolios

Complementary instruments bridging the gap from idea to market

## **PATHFINDER**

R&I grants  
(from early technology  
to proof of concept)

## **TRANSITION**

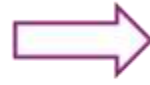
R&I grants  
(proof of concept to  
pre-commercial)

## **ACCELERATOR**

Grants & investment (via EIC Fund) for  
**single SMEs & start-ups**  
(from pre-commercial to market & scale-up)

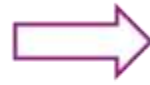
# What is the EIC Pathfinder?

- **EIC Pathfinder Open**



bottom-up approach with  
no predefined topics

- **EIC Pathfinder Challenges**



top-down challenge-driven calls  
for tackling specific technology  
breakthroughs by portfolios of  
projects

# EIC Pathfinder Open

- The EIC Pathfinder programme funds research to develop the scientific basis to underpin breakthrough technologies
- EIC Pathfinder Open to realise an ambitious vision for radically new technology, with potential to create new markets and/or to address global challenges.
- EIC Pathfinder Open supports early stage development of such future technologies (e.g. various activities at low Technology Readiness Levels 1-4), based on high-risk/high-gain science-towards-technology breakthrough research (including 'deep-tech').
- This research must provide the foundations of the technology you are envisioning.
- Collaborative research, up to € 3 million EU contribution, call already closed

# EIC Pathfinder Challenge

- **5 top-down challenges:**

Awareness Inside

Tools to measure and stimulate activity in brain tissue

Emerging Technologies in Cell and Gene therapy

Novel routes to green hydrogen production

Engineered Living Materials

- **ideas for new deeptech:** technology that becomes possible thanks to cutting-edge science in an area of the specific challenge. Seeking new technological solutions at early stage of development that are new and disrupt the standard practice up to this point.

- Collaborative research & mono-beneficiaries, up to € 4 million EU contribution,

**call opening: 15 June 2021 call deadline: 27 October 2021**

# Expected Outcomes

- the expected outcome of a EIC Pathfinder project is the **proof of principle** that the main ideas of the envisioned future technology are feasible, thus **validating its scientific and technological basis**;
- projects are expected to take the necessary **measures to allow future uptake** to take place, for instance through an adequate formal protection of the generated Intellectual Property (**IP**);
- projects are encouraged to involve and empower in their teams key actors that have the potential to become **future leaders in their field such as excellent early-career researchers or promising high-tech SMEs**, including start-ups.

# Links

- [EIC at European Commission](#)
- [Call EIC ACC Open in Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- [EIC-Platform](#)
- [Guide for Applicants](#)
- [EIC-Work Programme](#)
- [Create a PIC](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Apply as expert evaluator](#)
- [Apply as coach](#)



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HORIZON EUROPE

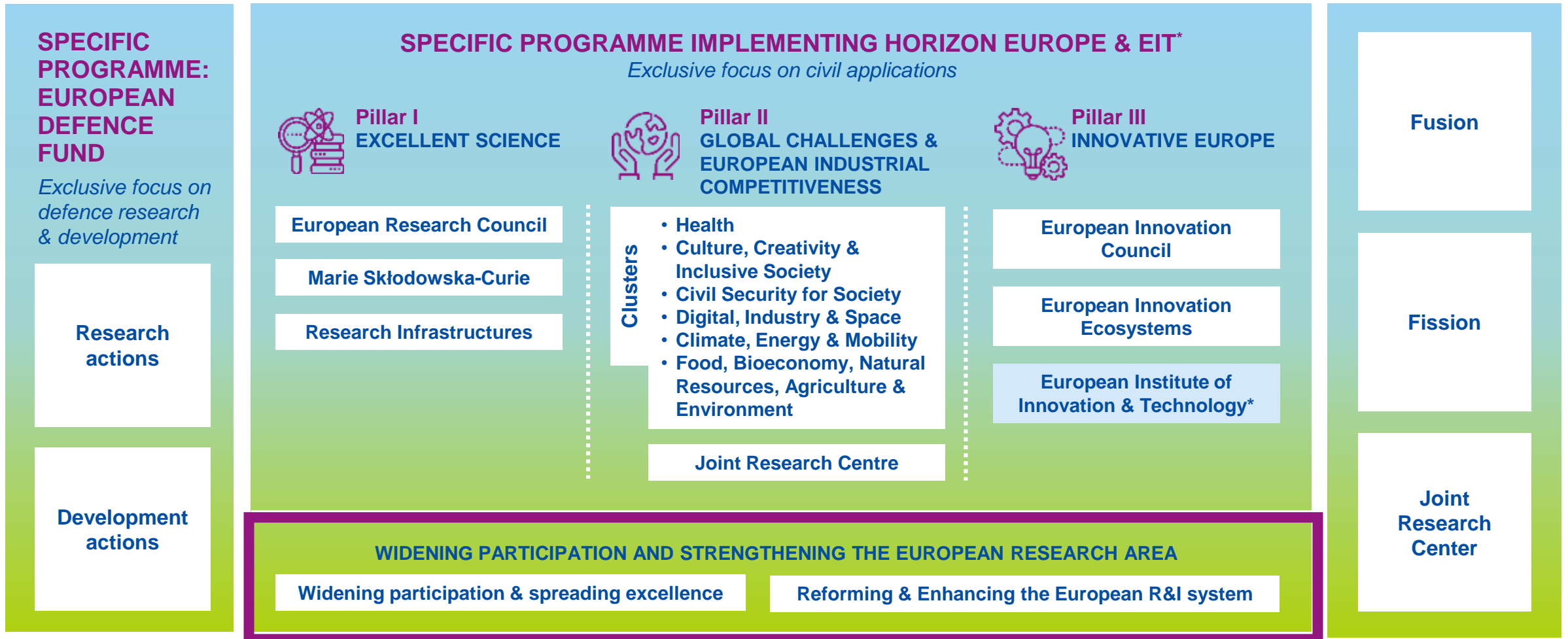
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# Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA)



# HORIZON EUROPE

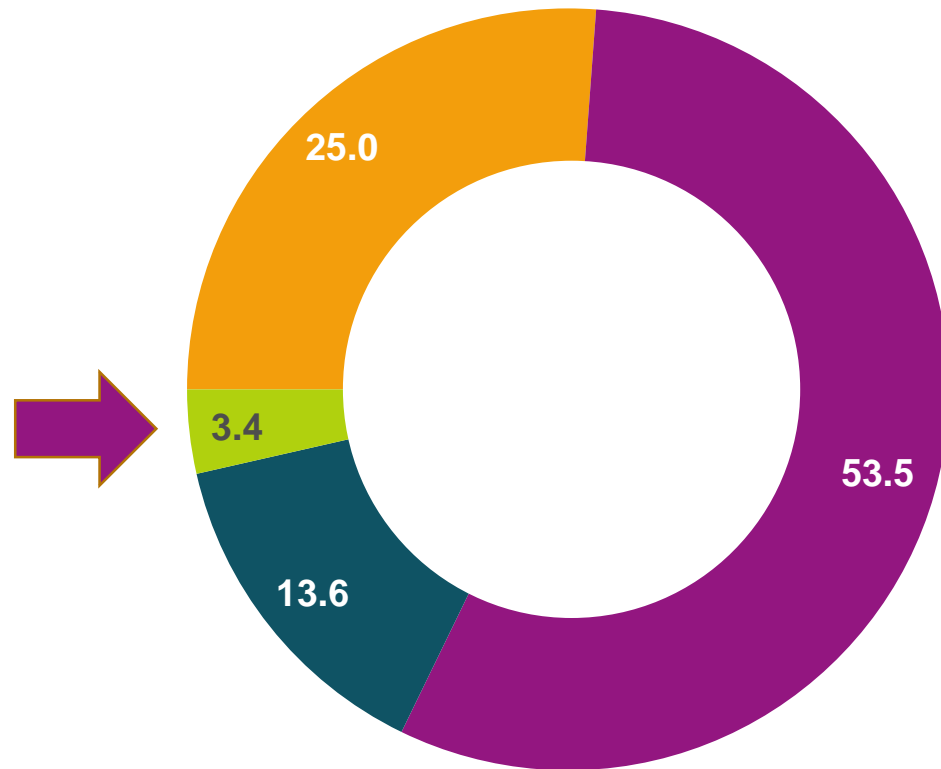
# EURATOM



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# Horizon Europe Budget: €95.5 billion (2021-2027)

(including €5.4 billion from NGEU – Next Generation Europe – programme of EU for Recovery from COVID-19 crisis)



## Political agreement December 2020

€ billion in current prices

- Excellent Science
- Global challenges and European ind. comp.
- Innovative Europe
- Widening Part and ERA

# Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA)

- Objective:
  - Increase support to EU Member States **and AC** in their efforts to make the most of their national research and innovation potential and promote an ERA where researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely

- Two components:

## 1. Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

Destination 1: Improved access to excellence

Destination 2: Attracting and mobilising the best talents

## 2. Reforming and enhancing the EU R&I system

Destination 3: Reforming and enhancing the EU R&I system

One work programme,  
consisting of 3 destinations

# Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA):

## Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

- Teaming, Twinning, ERA Chairs,
- European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)
- Boosting National Contact Points' (NCPs) activities, pre-proposal checks and advice
- Brain circulation
- Excellence initiatives:
- Possibility for entities from widening countries to join already selected collaborative R&I actions
- Recognition of participation
- Matchmaking services

**€2.96 billion**

## Reforming and enhancing the EU R&I system

- Strengthening the evidence base for R&I policy
- Foresight
- Support for policy makers to the ERA development
- Support to national R&I policy reform, including Policy Support Facility
- Attractive researcher careers and links with higher education
- Open science, citizen science and science communication
- Gender equality
- Ethics and integrity
- Support to international cooperation
- Scientific input to other policies
- Support to the Programme implementation
- Support for National Contact Points
- Support to dissemination & exploitation

**€0.44 billion**

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# Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence



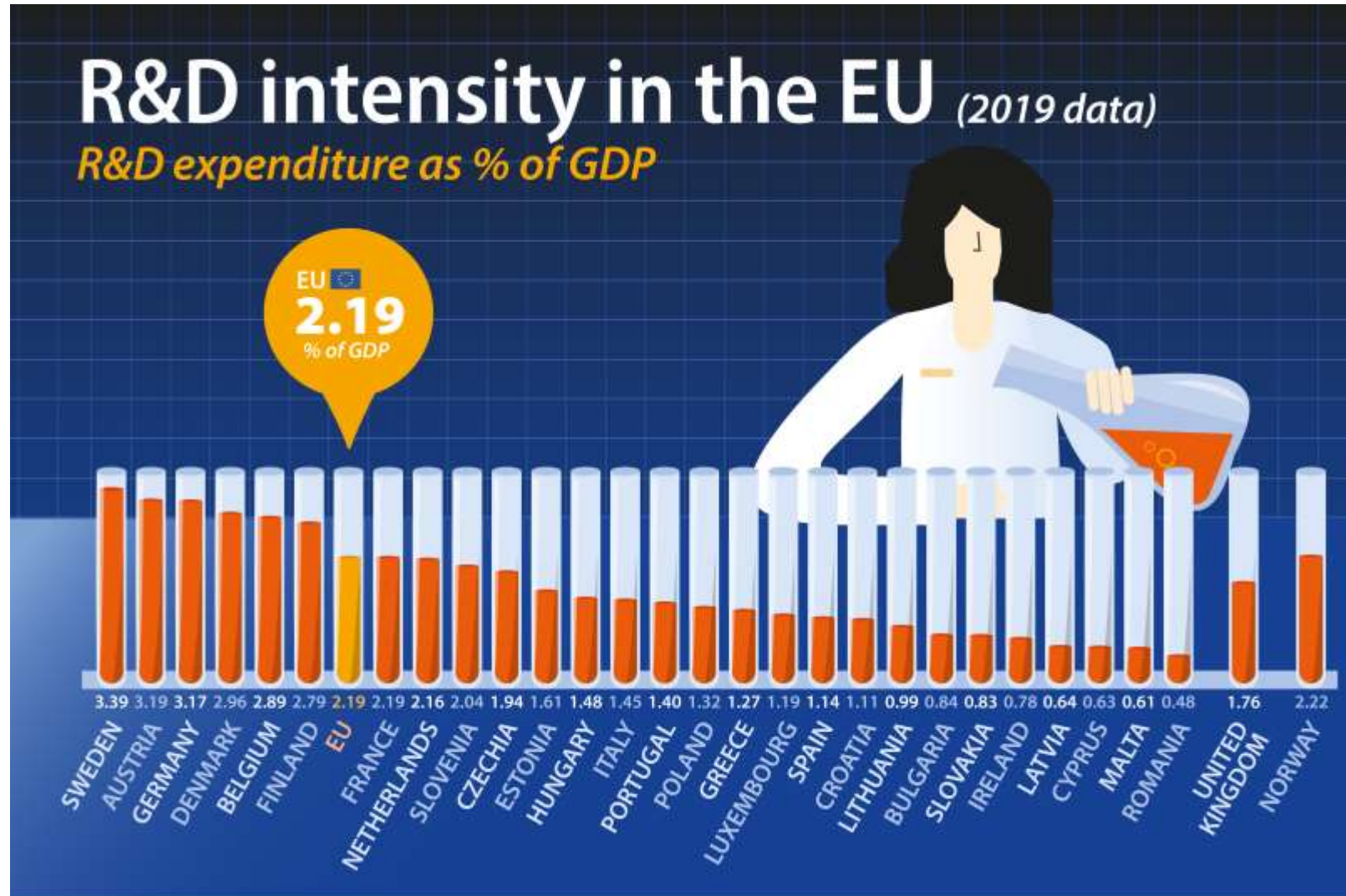
# R&I Intensity (3%-Goal, GERD)

Change in the past 10 years

19 ↑ Belgium  
Poland  
Czech Republic

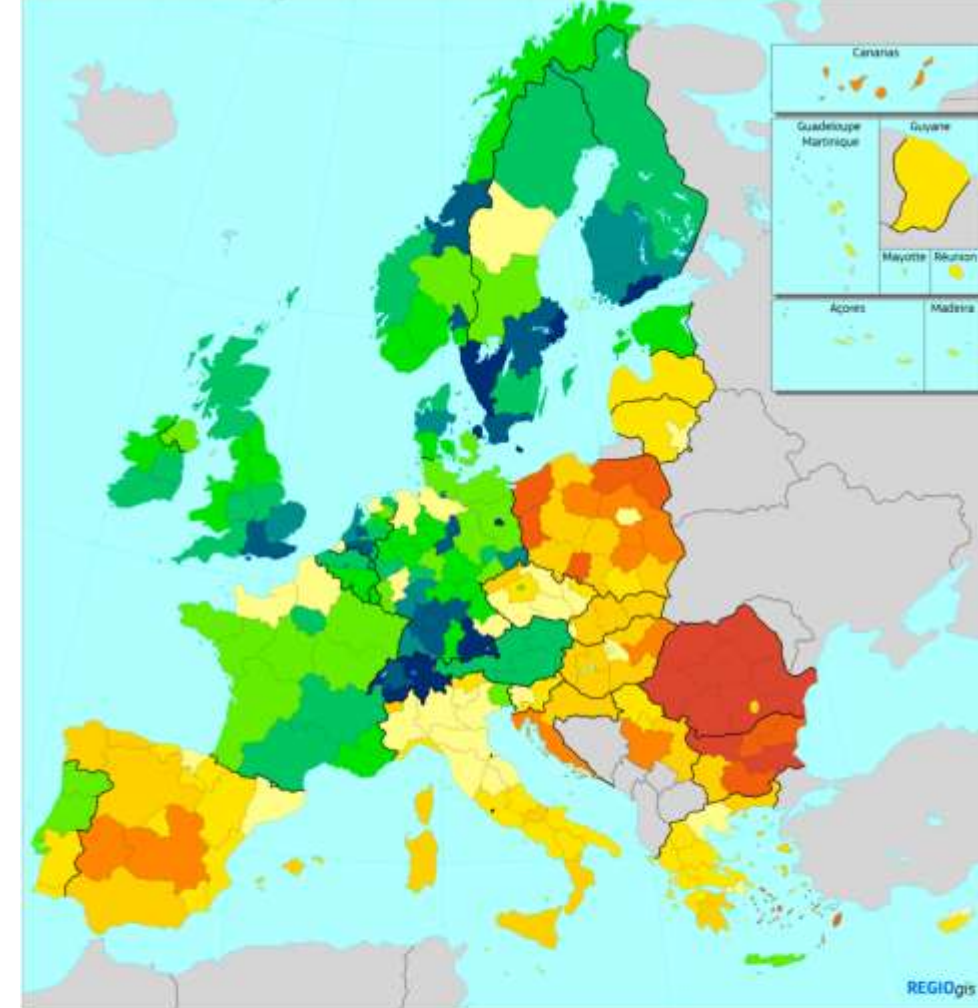
6 ↓ Finland  
Ireland

2 → France, Sweden



# Research and innovation gap

- **Large differences** in scientific and innovation performance in Europe
- Efficient national R&I systems >>> leads to economic development, competitiveness, employment
- **Target countries for the programme:** The countries with less advanced R&I systems, as compared to leading countries in the EU



Regional performance groups



Source: European Commission - Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2019



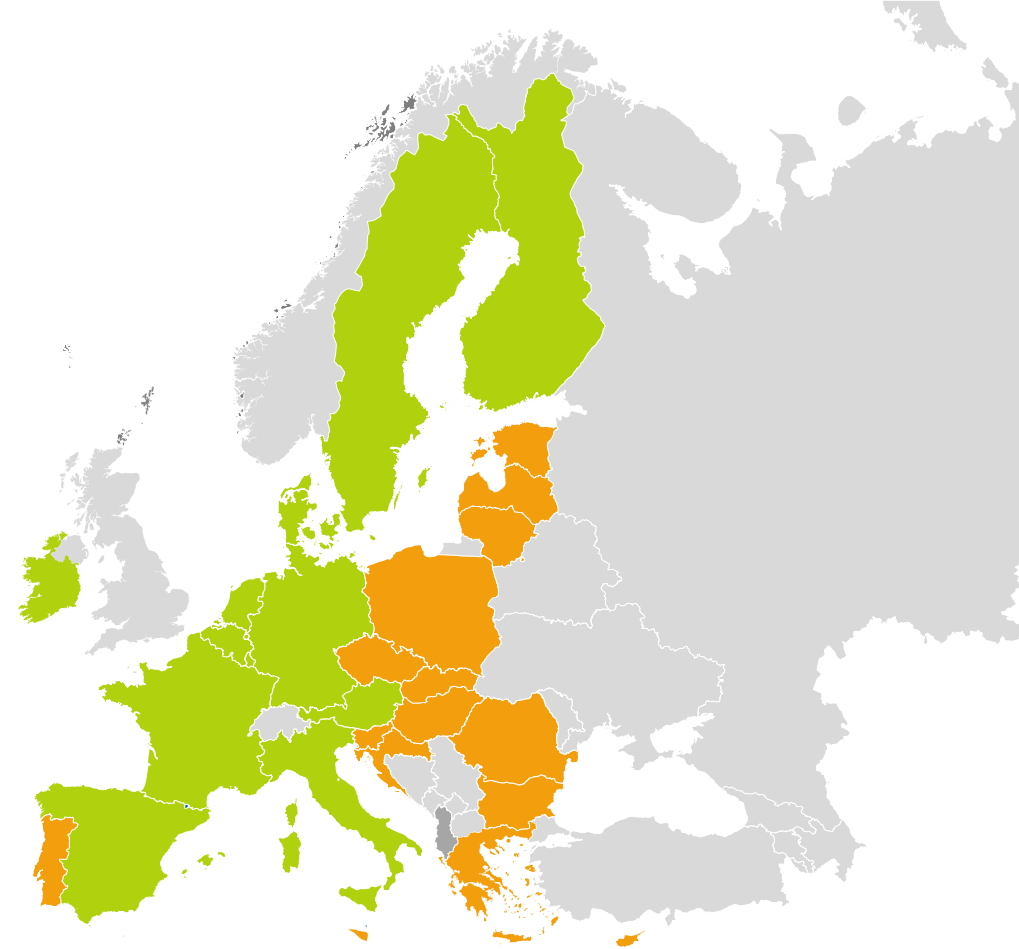
# Applicants / Coordinators

## Eligible Coordinators



## Eligible Countries

EU Member States (EU14)  
+ Associated Countries to HEU; still being negotiated



# Overview: Widening in Horizon Europe

## Budget

**800** m. EUR (H2020)



**2,95** bn. EUR (HEU)

## Advancing Europe Package (Council of the European Union)

- Admission of additional partners from the Widening countries to existing projects (pillar 2)
- Reinforcement of matchmaking services in the search for project partners
- External pre-proposal checks for EU13
- Comprehensive evaluation of the funded projects (network analyses etc.)

# Destination 1: IMPROVED ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE

	2021 (M. EUR)	2022 (M. EUR)
Teaming (two-stage)	-	180
Twinning Western Balkan	21	-
Twinning	149	-
Excellence Hubs	-	50
European Excellence Initiative (EEI)	30	-
Support for R&I policy making in the WBC	5	-
Hop On Facility	-	40
Total Budget in M. EUR / year	205	270

# Teaming

**New:** One Call (**two-stage:** submission and evaluation process)

**Objective:** Establishing or expanding **Centers of Excellence** through partnerships with leading institutions

## Consortium

### Applicant (Coordinator)

- from „underperforming“ state
- Research institution, university, funding agency or regional / national authority \*

\* if not coordinator - involvement:  
financial + structural support

### Partner(s)

- From EU member state or associated country
- One or more public or private R&I excellent institution

# Teaming

HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-01-two-stage

Budget 2022	Per project	Number of projects approx.	Call	Deadline 1	Deadline 2
180 M. €	8-15 M. €	12	08.06.21	30.09.21	20.04.22

Duration: up to 6 years

# Twinning

**Objective:** To strengthen a specific research area of a research institution through partnerships with leading institutions in Europe

## Consortium

### Applicant (Coordinator)

- from „underperforming“ state
- Research university or public / private (non-profit) research institution

### Partner(s)

- From EU member state or associated country
- At least two internationally leading research institutions

# Twinning

HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-03

Budget 2021	Per project	Number of projects approx.	Call	Deadline
149 M. €	0,8-1,5 M. €	100	15.06.21	21.12.21

Duration: up to 3 years

# Excellence Hubs I

## Objective

- Develops excellent innovation in **place-based innovation ecosystems**
- Creates better connections **between science and business** with the involvement of state actors and society
- Adaptation to regional **smart specialisation**, national or European R&I strategies

## Scope

- Cross-border cooperation between at least **two ecosystems** from other countries; mandatory **involvement of companies**
- Develop a **joint R&I strategy** with proven economic and / or societal impact



# Excellence Hubs II

## Scope

- Parts of the R&I strategy can be tested and substantiated through **joint research projects**
- Projects need to develop an **investment plan** for the implementation of the strategy
- **Synergies** from various sources of finance (esp. European Structural Funds)
- Contacts to **society** and/or the **regional economy** are required
- Accompanying measures: training, entrepreneurial skills, communication
- The composition of the actors follows the **quadruple-helix-principle**: with the involvement of science, business, regional government and social actors

# Excellence Hubs

HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-04

Budget 2022	Per project	Number of projects approx.	Call	Deadline
50 M. €	3-5 M. €	10	03.11.21	15.03.22

Duration: up to 4 years

# European Excellence Initiative (EEI)

## Objective

- **Capacity building** to strengthen the networks of higher education institutions and collaboration with the surrounding ecosystems
- Improvement of the **scientific and technological capacity** of the related institutions
- Improvement of the **excellence profile** of the institution and the staff
- **Integrated and long-term cooperation** between the partner universities in the network and with actors in the surrounding ecosystems

# European Excellence Initiative (EEI)

HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-05

Budget 2021	Per Project	Number of projects approx.	Call	Deadline
30 M. €	1,5-2 M. €	15	09.06.21	04.11.21

Duration: up to 4 years

# Hop On Facility

- Start:** 4 January 2022
- Deadlines:** 20 April 2022, 10 November 2022
- Budget:** 40 M. EUR
- Eligibility:** “**Coordination fee**” of up to 10% of the increased budget for the consortium leader.  
Submission by the coordinator of a **funded consortium from Pillar 2**.  
So far **without participation** from Widening countries.
- Evaluation:** Current project is not an issue. The **added value of the new partner** is decisive for the task.  
Equal score: relevance for **green or digital transformation** of the economy decides.  
Applications must demonstrate the **R&I added value of the new partner** and submit a dedicated **work package** for the new partner.

# Hop On Facility

HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-HOPON-01

Budget 2022	Per project	Number of projects approx.	Call	Deadline 1	Deadline 2
40 M. €	0,2-0,5 M. €	80	04.01.22	20.04.22	10.11.22

# Destination 2: ATTRACTING AND MOBILISING THE BEST TALENTS

	2021 (M. EUR)	2022 (M. EUR)
ERA Chairs	-	80
Fostering balanced brain circulation (BBC) - ERA Fellowships	-	8
Fostering balanced brain circulation (BBC) - ERA Talents	-	24
Fostering balanced brain circulation – ERA Fellowships	-	8
<b>Total Budget in M. EUR</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120</b>

# ERA Chairs

**Objective:** To attract outstanding scientists to Institutions with potential for excellent research

**Funding:** ERA Chair holders + team members  
(including remuneration, recruitment costs, travel costs)

## Consortium

### **Applicant (Coordinator)**

- from „underperforming“ state
- Support from national / regional authorities

### **ERA Chair Holder**

- Appointment at the start of the project
- Scientist / research manager  
(no nationality requirements)  
+ team members



# ERA Chairs

HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-TALENTS-01

Budget 2022	Per project	Number of projects approx.	Call	Deadline
80 M. €	1,5-2,0 M. €	32	08.06.21	15.03.22

Duration: up to 5 years

# Fostering balanced brain circulation (BBC) - ERA Fellowships

## Strategic goal:

- Promotion of excellent scientists through cross-border mobility in the widening countries

## Characteristics

- **Target group:** young researchers
- **Focus:** cross-sector mobility and research infrastructures subject to the ESIF
- Same conditions as the regular MSCA postdoc scholarships (for 2021 call)
- ERA fellowships correspond to "Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships"

# Fostering balanced brain circulation (BBC) – ERA Fellowships

HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-TALENTS-02

HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-TALENTS-04

Budget 2022	Number of grants approx.	Call	Deadline
02: 8 M. €	50	08.06.21	15.09.21
04: 8 M. €	50	08.06.22	14.09.22

# ERA Talents

## Objective:

- To attract more **R&I talents** with different specialist knowledge for companies in widening countries

## Scope:

- Grants and attractive work and employment practices
- **Target group:** researchers, experts, operators of research infrastructures, R&I brokers in higher education institutions...

***!!This topic is subject to the conclusions of a study organised by the Commission that will map the brain drain problem across ERA, analyse its causes and identify the most appropriate solutions towards increased attractiveness for talents in Widening Countries and more balanced brain circulation across the ERA.!!***

# ERA Talents

**! HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-TALENTS-03 !**

Budget 2022	Number of grants approx.	Call	Deadline
24 M. €		01.12.21	12.04.22

# Effects / benefits of Widening Measures

Amongst other things

- **Promotion of mobility:** exchange / posting / recruitment of staff
- Building of **new networks** and/or extension of **existing networks**; opening **new research areas** and **new markets**
- **Further development of own research institution**; improving own skills through development/implementation of new research strategies or new forms of cooperation
- In the medium to long term, an improvement in **research and innovation performance** should be achieved in the EU13 countries (+ associated countries)

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# Reforming and enhancing the EU R&I system



# Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

- Strengthening the evidence base for R&I policy
- Foresight
- Support for policy makers to the ERA development
- Support to national R&I policy reform, including Policy Support Facility
- Attractive researcher careers and links with higher education
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- Support to international cooperation
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- Support for National Contact Points
- Support to dissemination & exploitation

**€0.44 billion**



# Implementation of the component

- Annual calls
- Pre-defined topics (top down approach)
- Type of actions: Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) and Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)
  - Be aware that non-associated third countries can participate in a CSA in exceptional cases only
- One stage proposal
- Project budget on average around 2 M. EUR

# Information on the calls for proposals in 2021 and 2022

## 2021 Call

**Opening: 08 Jun 2021 & Deadline: 23 Sep 2021**

**Budget: 61.50 EUR million**

**Number of topics: 18 (13 CSA, 5 RIA)**

**Focus of the topics: policy support, translating R&I results in the economy and the society, open science practices, higher education institutions and researchers, science communication, science education, gender equality, ethics and integrity**

## 2022 Call

**Opening: 19 Jan 2022 & Deadline: 20 Apr 2022**

**Budget: 60.50 EUR million**

**Number of topics: 15 (13 CSA, 2 RIA)**

**Focus of the topics: policy support, translating R&I results in the economy and the society, open science practices, higher education institutions and researchers, science communication, science education, gender equality, ethics and integrity**

## INFORMATION AND ADVICE

For questions and advice please contact your  
National Contact Point Widening Participation and ERA

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/support>

Please find the work programme and calls in the Funding &  
Tenders Portal [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon)

[tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon)



# Contact us!

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# Thank you!

## #HorizonEU

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