



This project is co-financed by the
European Union and the Republic of Turkey

Bu proje Avrupa Birliđi ve Türkiye Cumhuriyeti tarafından
finanse edilmektedir



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Technical Assistance for Turkey in Horizon 2020 Phase-II
EuropeAid/139098/IH/SER/TR

Turkey in Horizon 2020 II

Developing a successful proposal for the
H2020 WIDESPREAD Twinning Call

Demystifying the Call – Every word counts

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Ankara, 22/07/2019



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H2020-WIDESPREAD-Twinning Call 1/5

What is all about?



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- **Disparities** in research and innovation performance: **barrier to competitiveness, growth and jobs** across Europe
- Some countries experience **low participation** in the EU Framework Programmes because of:
 - **insufficient** national R&D investments
 - **lack of synergies** between national research systems and the EU research landscape
 - system learning **effects**
 - **reduced access** to international networks
 - problems with **information, communication and training**



H2020-WIDESPREAD-Twinning Call 3/5

- The pathway to **economic growth and competitiveness** is largely connected to research and innovation
- Research and innovation performance is correlated with the **efficiency of the national research and innovation systems**
- Participation in the EU Framework Programmes is increasingly dependent on **networking** and staying **connected** with partners across the EU
- 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**.



H2020-WIDESPREAD-Twinning Call 4/5

- **Spreading excellence and widening participation** through engaging organisations of those countries which could commit more towards the EU research and innovation effort
- 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
- Introducing measures for **raising research and innovation performance** in the major part of the catching-up economies of the EU



H2020-WIDESPREAD-Twinning Call 5/5

Contributing to:

- Better **investment** in RTDI
- Structural **reforms** in the Research and Innovation Systems at national and regional level
- **Transforming** the institutional landscape in RTDI towards better performance



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Twinning – Aim of the action

Twinning aims at **significantly strengthening a defined field of research** in a university or research organization from a Widening country **by linking it with at least two internationally-leading research institutions** from two different Member States or Associated Countries



Twinning – Main objectives

- **Enhance the scientific and technological capacity** of the linked institutions with a principal focus on the university or research organization from the Widening Country
- Help **raise the research profile** of the institution from the Widening country as well as the research profile of its staff



General information Twinning

Call WIDESPREAD-03-2018: Twinning

Budget: 30 M€

Publication date: 27 October 2017

Call opening: 15 May 2018

Call deadline: 15 November 2018

Project Size: around €800.000 per proposal (indicative budget)

Project Duration: 36 months

Implementation: Coordination and Support Action

Stages: single-stage



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Twinning - Partnership

Teaming should involve, in principle, at least three (3) parties:

- The main applicant organisation (the coordinator) established in a "**Widening**" **country** that must be established in a Member State or Associated Country
- At least **two internationally-leading research intensive** counterparts that must be **coming from two different Member States or Associated Countries** other than that of the coordinating applicant



Twinning – Who can apply?

The applicant organization (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 Excellence.

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.



Twinning for excellence – 1/2

Proposals need to address within their (single) proposal two distinct, yet complementary aspects:

- Scientific **strategy for excellence and innovation** in a defined area of research.
- Outline the scientific quality of the **partners**.



Twinning for excellence - 2/2

- The 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
- The 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; organization of joint summer school type activities; dissemination and outreach activities



Expected impact (1/2)

- **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.



Expected impact (2/2)

- The expected potential impact of the project illustrated by a **number of indicators**.
- **Indicators:** expected future publications in peer reviewed journals, collaboration agreements with businesses, intellectual property, new innovative products or services



Twinning Call 2018: Key stats

- **459** submitted proposals
- **1** inadmissible proposals
- **2** ineligible proposals
- **318** proposals above threshold
- Total requested budget: **€252.08 M**



Twinning – Potential benefits

For the institutions from a Widening country:

- Improved **capability to succeed** in competitive research funding
- Enhanced **reputation, attractiveness and networking**;
- **Measurable** impact indicators;
- **Long-term sustainability and viability** of the coordinating institutions.

For the leading scientific institutions:

- **Funding**
- **Mobility**
- **New opportunities**



Twinning Call: Lessons learned 1/3

Some points learned from the Interim Evaluation:

- The establishment of the Twinning **collaborations** was highlighted as the most important result achieved so far.
- The institution's capabilities in networking and competing for **international funding** have been increased.
- The project coordinators find that **research costs** need to be covered.
- Some of the Twinning institutions are managing for the **first time a large EU project** and the extent of this challenge was not expected.



Twinning Call: Lessons learned 2/3

For the next call proposers **should**:

- **Clarify** the scientific strategy towards excellence in the relevant research field
- Illustrate better the scientific qualities of "**advanced**" **partners** and their added value to the project;
- Outline the expected impact of the twinning exercise on the institution in the Widening country (and even at the national/regional level) based on **specific indicators**.



Twinning Call: Lessons learned 3/3

General principles: No negotiation

- Proposal is evaluated and funded as it is submitted
- Any shortcomings are reflected in lower scores
- Carefully plan work and budget
- Consistency between task and budget allocation is essential
- Ethics issue table (part A) and self-assessment (part B)



Examples from successful proposal in WIDESPREAD-05-2017 – TWINNING



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Proposal abstract – 1/2

Example from a winning project – first part explains the current status and challenges

Precision Agriculture (PA) is an evolving farming management strategy using digital technologies & techniques **to monitor and optimise** agricultural production processes. **PA methods**, harnessing data streams from satellites, mobile phones, Internet of Things (IoT) and technologies such as cloud computing and artificial intelligence, **have the potential to increase quantity & quality** of agricultural outputs **while reducing input** (water, energy, fertilisers, pesticides, etc.) and waste. One of the **main challenges** facing PA is a **low rate of adoption** of PA technologies & practices, especially concerning the "big data in agriculture". One of the reasons is the **lack of skills** for executing efficient communication and in turn fuel the adoption rate of the data-driven PA innovations. There is also a need **to enhance scientific & technological (S&T) skills** for executing sophisticated data analytics on multiscale/multisource agricultural data, addressing all classes of data source, environment/ region/individual farm/individual animals/plants, in order to extract more accurate and impactful actionable information and knowledge from the combined data.



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Proposal abstract – example 2/2

Example from a winning project – second part focuses on project strategy to overcome the challenges

DRAGON capacity-building strategy will enable expertise and skill transfer from Agri-EPI Centre, the UK and Wageningen University in the Netherlands to BIOS in order to enhance 1) BIOS' researchers' S&T capacity for performing multi-scale/multi-source data analyses; 2) BIOS' researchers' capability to communicate practical big data-related knowledge to various stakeholders across the supply chain and the non-scientific local communities. Specifically, this means that BIOS knowledge technologies research group, currently focused on data analytics only (science-driven research), will be enhanced through DRAGON into BIOS Knowledge & Innovation Group (KIG) concentrating on interdisciplinary innovation-driven R&D within a co-creation environment. Post DRAGON BIOS' KIG will be competitive in the PA sector on European and Global levels



Main objective

Project aims to overcome one of the **main challenges** in precision agriculture (PA) – **low rate of adoption of PA technologies and practices**, especially concerning the “big data in agriculture”.



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Specific objectives

- To **enhance the long-term scientific & technological capacity** of BioSense researchers to perform analyses of multiscale multisource data
- To perform **training and nurturing of young researchers** to develop their career in data-driven PA and promotion of opportunities for further career development within coordinating institution and partner institutions
- To enable **data-driven PA eco-system development** by providing resources to be accessed through agricultural knowledge and information systems
- To enhance researchers' **capability to communicate high-tech knowledge and related legislative matters in the PA sector to various stakeholders and non-scientific local community** in order to achieve better dissemination/diffusion and subsequent adoption of the PA innovative data-driven solutions



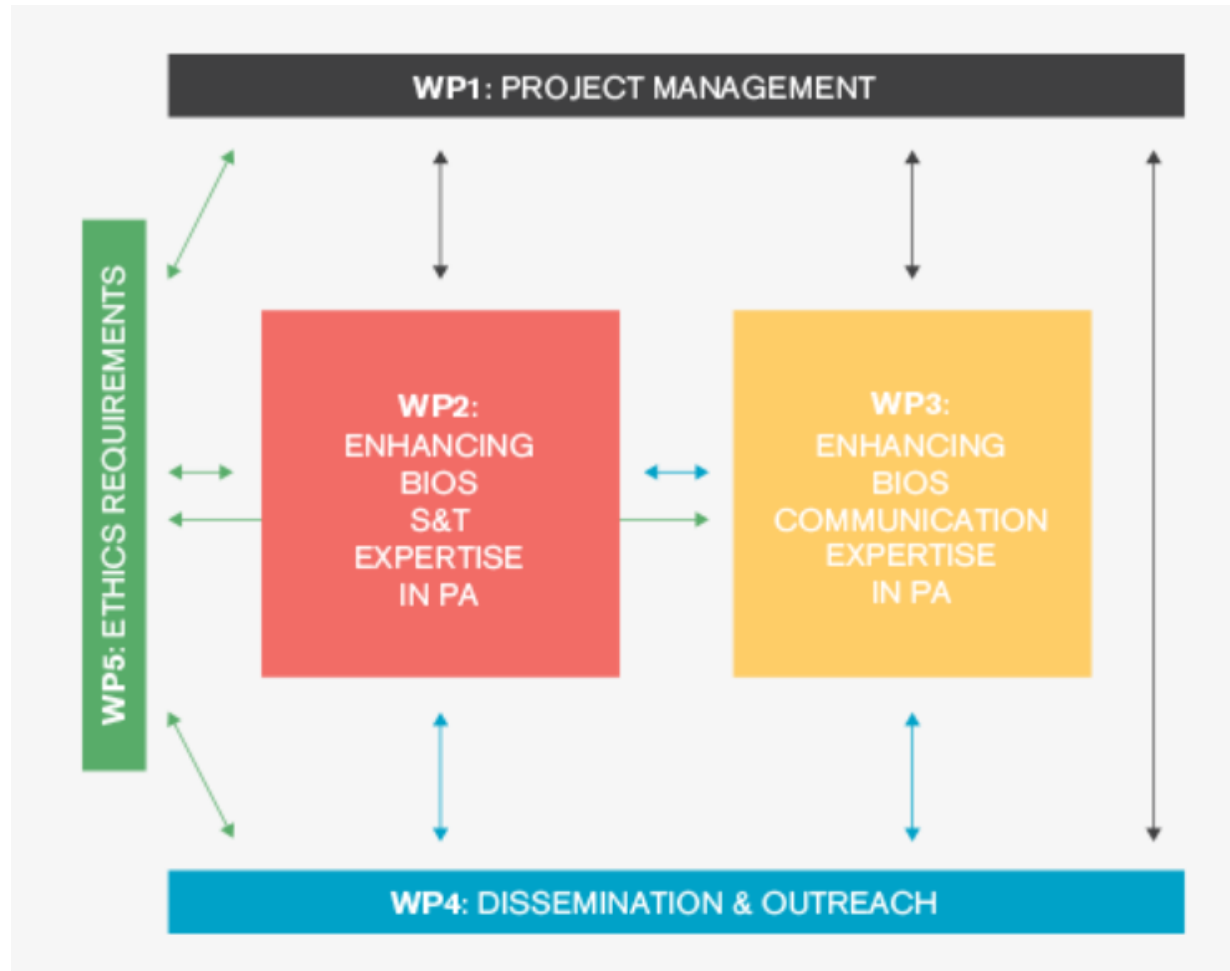
Work plan

Project objectives will be realized through the implementation of five work packages:

- Project management
- Enhancing coordinating institution's S&T expertise in PA
- Enhancing coordinating institution's Communication expertise in PA
- Dissemination & outreach
- Ethics requirements



Pert chart



Useful links 1/2

Support for preparing proposals:

- Horizon 2020 Online Manual http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/applying-for-funding_en.htm and Reference Documents <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=H2020>- work programmes, legal and guidance documents & Annex H (Evaluation Rules)
- For specific questions: Contact your National Contact Point http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html or the Horizon 2020 helpdesk http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/research_enquiry_service.html



Useful links 2/2

Cross-cutting issues:

- Communication and dissemination guide
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/gm/h2020-guide-comm_en.pdf
 - Ethics self-assessment guidance
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf
 - Guidance on Social sciences & Humanities
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ssh_en.htm ,
- Open Research Data Pilot
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf and gender dimension for relevant topics
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/gender_en.htm



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Teşekkür ederim!

Thank you!



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