



Widening Session: TWINNING

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Topics

- **1. Why a Widening package?**
- **2. Horizon Europe**
- **3. Novelties for Widening under Horizon Europe**
- **4. Twinning under Horizon Europe**

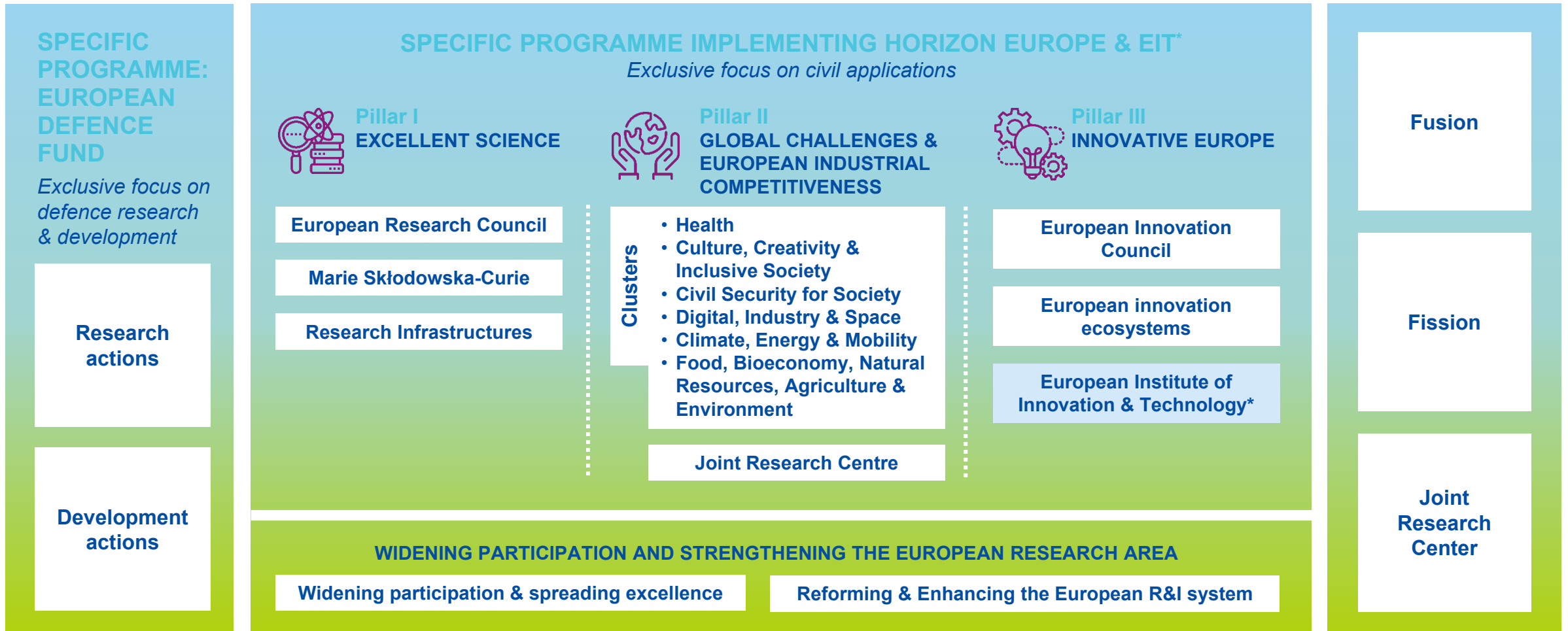
Why a Widening Package?

Main reasons for lower share & success rates of widening countries in FP

Commission's analysis (2011)	High Level Expert Group on the Ex-post evaluation of FP7 (2014), STOA reports (2018, 2020)
➤ Insufficient R&D investments	➤ Relative weakness of national R&I system compared to non widening countries
➤ Lack of synergies between certain countries' national research systems and EU research	➤ Uneven success rates across topics and instruments (e.g. higher in CSA, lower in ERC)
➤ Lagging system learning effects and access to existing networks	➤ Lack of professional contacts and research networks
➤ Differential wage levels between countries	➤ Lack of leading research organisations and universities in proposal matters - lower quality of proposals
➤ Insufficient and ineffective information, communication, advice and training	➤ Quality and quantity of proposals
	➤ Lack of practice in project management
	➤ Low connectivity to excellent research networks
	➤ Generally weak linkages between academia and business
	➤ Few options for exploitation of research results at the national level

HORIZON EUROPE

EURATOM



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

Novelties for Widening under Horizon Europe:

- Full alignment with **new ERA strategic priorities**
- **Continuation of core widening instruments** Teaming, Twinning and ERA Chairs with some improvements in response to lessons learnt
- **Research cost for CSA eligible** under Teaming, Twinning and ERA Chairs
- More emphasis on **developing research management capacities**
- **Full integration of COST** under widening, 80% of actions must have significant widening dimension

Novelties for Widening under Horizon Europe:

- **Fixed list of eligible Member States** to host the main beneficiary (EU13 + PT + EL) + Associated Countries
- **EU Outermost Regions** fully eligible to host the co-ordinator
- Full implementation of “**Advancing Europe**” package with a number of additional support schemes to boost participation of less research performing countries
- More integrated policy approach and **enhanced synergies** with regional policy, transnational missions, regional smart specialisation strategies etc.
- **New instruments**, such as Brain Circulation, Hop on and Excellence Initiative (Excellence Hubs and European Excellence Initiative)

The Widening Package under Horizon Europe:

Actions in HE Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

- Teaming → institution building
- Twinning → institutional networking
- ERA Chairs → bringing excellence to institutions
- NCPs → information, communication, support
- Policy Support Facility → support for R&I Policy design
- COST → stimulating cross border science networks

NEW!

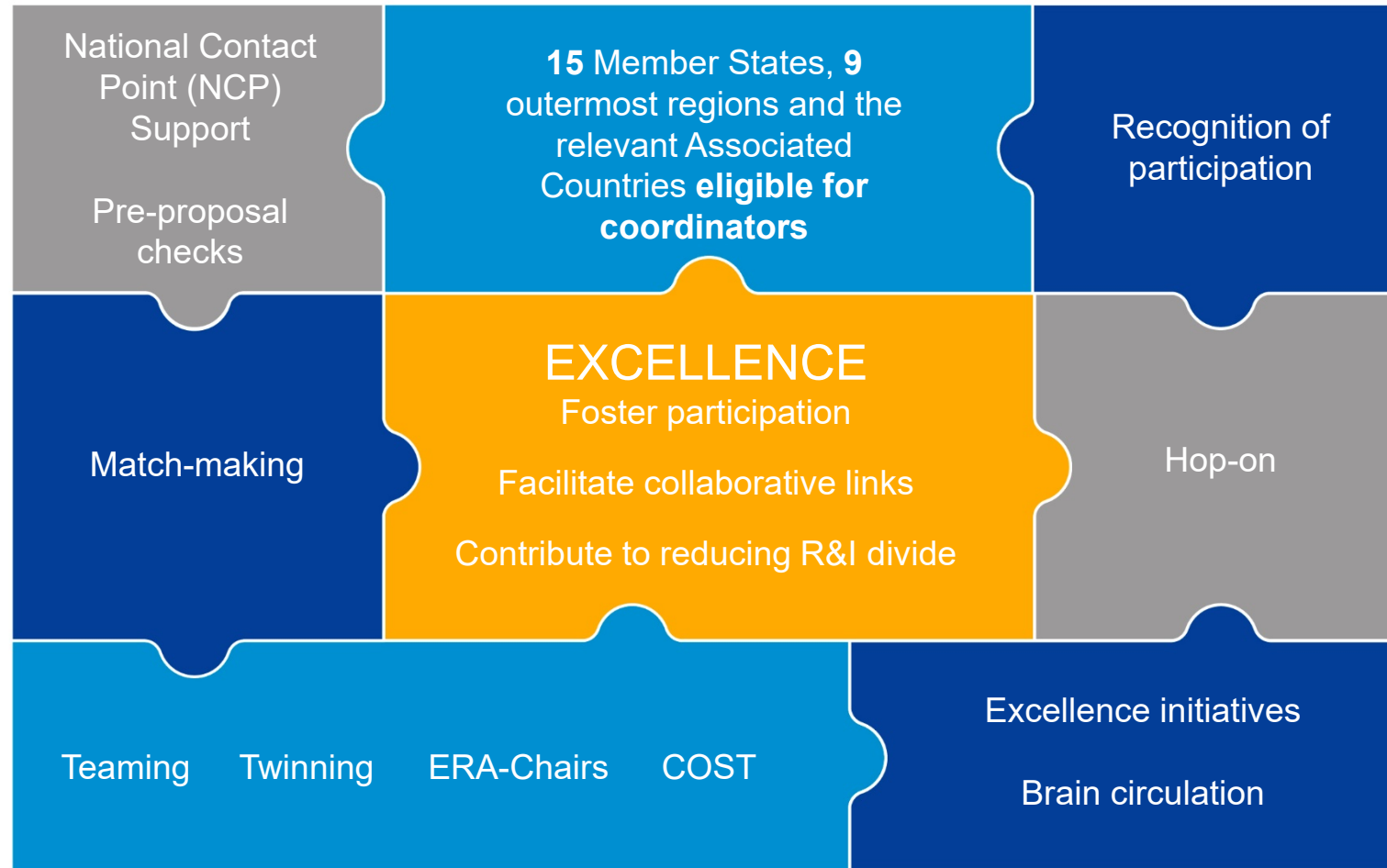
- **Brain circulation**
- **Excellence initiatives (Excellence Hubs and European Excellence Initiative)**
- **“Hop-On“**

Comparison of key characteristics widening actions with other schemes outside widening WP

Actions in WP	Consortium structure	Target group and scale of operation	Policy objectives
Teaming	Main beneficiary + 1 or 2 strategic advanced partners	Single centre of excellence to be modernised or created, relevant at national scale	Develop light houses and role models to stimulate reforms of national R&I system, increase level of excellence of national R&I system, mobilise new investments
Twinning	Main beneficiary and focused network of partnering organisations	Individual institutions and small network of advanced partnering institutions. Institutional scale with European outreach	Develop excellence in a chosen R&I domain for the main beneficiary with the help of twinning partners, increase visibility of main beneficiary and upskill its staff
ERA Chairs	Mono-beneficiary host organisation with optional single partner organisation	Excellent individuals and their teams, institutional scale	Excellent scientists and their teams to become game changers at institutional level, develop new research strands and raise level of excellence
Excellence hubs	Group of 2 or 3 place based innovation ecosystems based on the quadruple helix approach	Research institutions, firms, local/regional government, societal actors, local regional scale with cross border dimension	Foster innovation excellence in place based (local/regional) innovation ecosystems, improve science business linkages, regional dimension of widening, bottom-up approach
Excellence Universities	Network of European Universities, co-ordinates by university from widening country	Universities at European Level	Support transformation of HE institutions towards excellence and international profile



Outlook Horizon Europe: Widening participation



Widening Participation and Strengthening the ERA: optimising strengths & potential for a more innovative Europe

Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

- Teaming
- Twinning
- ERA Chairs
- COST
- Support to NCPs
- Brain circulation
- Excellence initiatives
 - a. Excellence Hubs
 - b. European Excellence Initiative
- “Hop-On“

Reforming and enhancing the European R&I system

- Scientific evidence & foresight
- Open Science
- Policy Support Facility
- Attractive researcher careers
- Citizen science, Responsible Research & Innovation
- Gender equality

➤ **Widening 3,3% of HE budget (€95.5 billion) and ERA 0.46 billion**

Core actions: overall policy expectations

- TEAMING → light house project in national research system, contribute to reform processes
- **TWINNING → development of excellence and research profile in a defined R&I field**
- ERA CHAIRS → game changer in host organisation by excellent individual + his/her team
- COST → wide reaching networks as entry mechanism to EU research, 'leveraging' national R&I funding

Twinning: Aim, Objectives & Partnership

Aim of the action:

Strengthen 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.

Main objectives:

Enhance the **S&T capacity** of the institutions - focus on institution in Widening country
Raise the research profile of the **institution and** of its research **staff**

The Partners: (Minimum Conditions)

ONE institution located in a "Widening" MS/AC (**COORDINATOR**)

A **minimum of TWO** additional partners from two **different** MS or AC other than the country of the coordinator

Twinning: Expected impact

Expected Impact:

- Increased research **excellence of coordinating institution**, in particular, in the selected field of research
- Improved capability to succeed in competitive **research funding**
- Enhanced reputation, **attractiveness** and networking
- The expected potential impact of the project illustrated by a number of **indicators**
- Benefit from/to "**advanced**" **partners** to be demonstrated
- Improved capacity to attract **quality personnel and funding** from other parts of the FP or other EC funding schemes

Twinning: Challenges and key success factors

- Wide range of possibilities offered by Twinning - not always easily understood → **make full use the widening tool-box**
- Collaboration at management level can be challenging → establish solid partnership and strong engagement of the 'advanced partners' and **create 'win-win' situation**
- Sustainability or how to **maintain new networks beyond the end of the project** → both partners ('advanced' and 'widening') should foresee a long term horizon for cooperation
- Focus on strengthening **research management skills** in the coordinating institution

MORE INFORMATION ?

WIDENING INFO DAY : 9 JULY 2021

<https://www.horizon-europe-infodays2021.eu/event/era-widening>



Good luck and thank you!

#HorizonEU

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe>