

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

Excellence Hubs

Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022

11. Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-04-01: Excellence Hubs

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Managing multi-national and cross-sectoral consortia, writing proposals for EU funding and coordinating large-scale projects that promote tech-enabled entrepreneurship in various sectors such as agrifood, ICT, environment, health, manufacturing, entrepreneurship etc.

Coaching, mentoring and supporting researchers and innovators on issues related to proposal writing for EU funding opportunities, project management of EU funded projects, IPR management and entrepreneurship, in countries such as Greece, Serbia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Tunisia, Poland etc

Experience in EU projects

18yrs

1st position in Serbia in attracting H2020 funds

120+ m€

Total value of projects managed











Demystifying the Call











Specific Conditions- Budget

Торіс	Budget (EUR) - Year : 2022	Stages	Opening date	Deadline
HORIZON-WIDERA- 2022-ACCESS-04-01 - HORIZON-CSA HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions	50 000 000	single-stage	03 November 2021	15 March 2022

- The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 3.00 and 5.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately.
- This does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different











Specific Conditions

Eligibility Conditions

- The conditions are described in General Annex B. •
- The following exceptions apply: •
 - Participation as coordinators to the call is limited to legal ٠ entities established in Widening countries as defined in the Horizon Europe regulation.









B — Elizibilit

D - Award cr F - Procedure







Eligibility Conditions

Widening Countries:

Countries that are low performing in the area of research and innovation

EU Member States	Associated Countries	
 Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czechia Estonia Estonia Greece Hungary Latvia Lithuania Malta Poland Portugal Romania Slovakia Slovenia 	 Albania Armenia Bosnia and Herzegovina Faroe Islands North Macedonia Georgia Moldova Montenegro Serbia Tunisia Turkey Ukraine 	











Specific Conditions- Procedure

Procedure

- The procedure is described in General Annex F.
- The following exceptions apply:
 - The following rules for dealing with ex-aequo applications apply:
 - ex aequo proposals will be prioritized according to geographical diversity criteria
 - The method described in 1,2,3 and 5 will then be applied to the remaining equally ranked proposals in the group.

This rule establishing the priority order serves to better spread the impact of the action and to strengthen the efficiency of the 'Widening participation and spreading excellence' programme











Consortia



Specific Conditions- Other Requirements

Must include:

at least **two different** <u>place-based R&I ecosystems</u> in at least **two different** <u>widening countries</u>

Must include:

Four different categories of actors

1) Academic institutions

3) Public authorities

2) Business Entities

4) Societal Actors



Ecosystem

This quadruple helix approach needs to be presented in the proposal either by: a) one or more umbrella organizations (e.g. clusters)

b) representative individual entities representing each of the four categories











Specific Conditions- Other Requirements

- Large ecosystems to be represented by a limited number of key players
 - at least two

one research
 one business partner

 Proposed activities are open for participation of other members who must confirm their engagement in the project by letters of endorsement

- At least one of the business entities needs to be an established firm
 - no start-ups
 - Significant and proven operational income
 - verifiable by either:
 - balance sheets
 - business reports of at least two consecutive years.
- Consultants and start-ups may participate if duly justified.











Excellence Hubs

What are Excellence Hubs?

Excellence hubs are an initiative to strengthen regional innovation excellence in placed based innovation ecosystems by cross-border collaboration on a common strategy and/or alongside value adding chains.

What are based innovation ecosystems?

Place based innovation ecosystems are interconnected companies, research institutions, governmental bodies and societal actors that are mutually reinforcing each other in a territorial context and together raise the level of innovation excellence in their regional fabric.

Why regions?

- They are the place where innovation and industrial ecosystems breath and develop
- Regionally developed innovation ecosystems connected across Europe will be the driver of new European strategic value chain











Excellence Hubs

Synergies

- Synergies will be sought with the programme parts on European Innovation Ecosystems and the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)
- Individual participants and ecosystems from other EU member states, associated countries and international co-operation partners may join in duly justified cases
 - e.g. given by a specific expertise needed
 - e.g. involvement in a relevant value adding chain.

Teaming projects: Centered around a single beneficiary

Vs.

Excellence hubs: Networks of place based innovation ecosystems in widening countries involving larger communities of actors in a regional context based on the quadruple helix principle











Expected Outcomes

Excellent and sustainable place based innovation ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond in relevant domains of cutting-edge science and innovation



Long term joint R&I strategies underpinned by concrete action plans of European relevance

3

R&I pilot projects alongside a joint strategy and in line with regional and national strategies, notably regional innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3)

4

Common investment plans for R&I including infrastructures leveraging national, regional and European funds as well as private capital in a synergetic manner

5

New competencies and skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in R&I intensive domains











Expected Outcomes

Strengthened linkages between science and business

Poles of attraction for talents in catching up regions and countries

8

Improved knowledge transfer and development of entrepreneurial skills.

Uptake of innovative technologies

New business opportunities especially for SMEs and new employment.











Core Components

Projects should be established around the following core components:

Cross-border joint R&I Strategy aligned with regional smart specialization strategies and/or European policy priorities R&I project consolidating academia business linkages and providing evidence for strategy building and investment

Action and investment plans for implementation of the strategy

Conceptual design and pre-planning for pilots and demonstrators (if applicable) in line with the strategy

Accompanying measures - raise visibility

- citizen engagement
- technology transfer
- entrepreneurship training
- staff exchange/mutual learning











Research Component

The research component should:

- Be developed by joint pilot research projects in a domain covered by the joint strategy
- Facilitate long term cross border and inter-sectoral collaborative links between partners
 - Notably academia and business
 - Advancement in science and technology development with market potential.
- R&I projects should close knowledge gaps and develop evidence to underpin the development of the strategy and the investment plans.
 - E.g. R&I projects lab prototypes might be developed leading to the design of pilot plants or demonstrators











Research Component

The realization of such pilots and demonstrators must be financed by other sources in particular programmes cofinanced by the ERDF.

The approach how to access such co-funding at a later stage should be sketched out in the proposal

For ERDF the proposal should demonstrate the alignment with relevant regional smart specialization











Core Components and the Proposal

Must outline the nexus of collaborative links and applicable competitive relations of commercial actors within each of the ecosystems in a conceptual mode

What does it mean for the proposal?

Demonstrate the win-win effects of the partnership established by the consortium and the benefits for employment and post crisis recovery.

Convincingly demonstrate the relevance of the chosen scientific domain by its alignment with regional (in particular RIS3), national and/or European R&I strategies and policy priorities.











Core Components and the Proposal

For the implementation, proposals should present a coherent package of actions well proportioned in terms of strategy development, research, innovation and outreach activities.

The description of R&I content based on this choice should include a long-term vision beyond the state of the art of the chosen R&I domain

May choose betweena) a more regional orientationb) a more global orientation towards European policy priorities

What does it mean for the proposal?











Destination-Improved Access to Excellence

Customized intervention logic:

- To address different target groups and potential beneficiaries
- Work at multiple scales
 - Individual researchers through career development
 - Focused networks
 - Institutional developmental
 - Systemic impact on national R&I systems

Capacity building

- Management and administrative capacities for the benefit of institutions that are eager to take over consortium leadership roles
- Teaming
 - Create new or modernize existing centers of excellence through very close and strategic partnerships with leading institutions abroad.
- Twinning
 - Focused networks with excellent partners will develop new promising R&I domains and test novel approaches in smaller joint research projects.











Improved Access to Excellence

Once established the centers will function as lighthouses with far reaching impact and role models for attracting the best talents.

- They will demonstrate the success of modern governance and management, and, hence stimulate generalised reforms in the national R&I environment.
- Additional attention on cross-cutting Horizon EU objectives
 - Gender equality
 - Open science practices
- The impacts will be amplified by securing a complementary investment from the structural funds or other sources











Improved Access to Excellence

Connection to National Contact Points (NCP)

- research and innovation performance is correlated with the efficiency of the national research and innovation system and the capacity and the effectiveness of the National Contact Points
- A dedicated support mechanism is envisaged in this Work programme part with the specific objective to strengthen the activities of NCPs to support international networking and to improve the quality of proposals from legal entities from low R&I performing countries.
- The NCP action will include the establishment of an NCP network for the ERA component of this work programme part.











Expected Impacts

Proposals for topics under this Destination should set out a credible pathway to contributing to the following expected impacts:













Expected Impacts

Stronger linkages between academia and business and improved career permeability

Strengthened role of the Higher Education sector in research and innovation

Greater involvement of regional actors in R&I process

Improved outreach to international scale for all actors

A more consistent level of NCP support services across Europe

An improved and professionalised NCPs in the widening countries, that would help simplify access to Horizon Europe calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers, and raising the average quality of proposals submitted.









FAQs



What kind of cost can be funded for the development of pilots and demonstrators?



- The procurement of major equipment
- R&I infrastructure and construction.
- Preparatory actions for the development of pilots and demonstrators can be covered.
- Specification and pre-development of major equipment
 - Pre-planning cost for infrastructures Feasibility studies

What shall be the content of the joint R&I strategy

There is no template Key elements include: - An analysis of research and development needs and gaps in the chosen domain - How the consortium wants to address them in a complementary manner. - The pathway to commercial

- The pathway to commercial exploitation
- How scientific results will be translated into the economy
- How investment needs will be derived from this strategy.

How shall we define the research component and embed it in the work plan?

The research component needs to be presented as a distinct work package broken down to meaningful tasks and sub-tasks in a similar manner -

Convincing work plan Clear reference and link to the R&I strategy

The work package needs to clearly demonstrate that it will strengthen the link between science and business and its results will feed into a commercialization and investment path.









FAQs



Can ecosystems that are not place based participate

Yes BUT only **in addition** to the minimum condition of having two fully fledged (quadruple helix) ecosystems in the consortium

⊦

The added value of the participation of a non placed based ecosystem needs to be clearly demonstrated. Is there any preferred approach for the choice of the R&I domain ?

Two equally valid approaches: **1. Based on regional smart specialization strategies (RIS3):** Identify a common denominator in the RIS3s of all place-based ecosystems involved and set up the project around this topic. Explain the reasoning behind it.

2. Based on European policy priorities:

E.g. green and digital transition.

It is possible to converge both approaches in one project



Will SMEs be privileged over large companies?

Ecosystems = an adequate mix of large and small companies that may differ according to the chosen domain and business sector.

No preference for either type of company is indicated in the call. SMEs are especially encouraged to participate and the call is SME-friendly.







Excellence Hubs- Summary

What are they?

• Teaming up of innovation ecosystems in widening countries and beyond, to create better linkages between academia, business, government and society.

To do what?

- Foster a real placed based innovation culture in widening countries based on a strategic agenda aligned with regional or national smart strategies
- Translating R&I results into the economy
- Support R&I policies aiming at boosting the resilience and competitiveness of our economies and societies
- Improve access to excellence for R&I actors in widening countries













Excellence Hubs Summary

- Joint R&I strategies must be aligned with national, regional (notably RIS3) and/or European strategies or policy priorities (e.g. Green Deal, Digital transition).
- These strategies will be underpinned by:
 - Concrete actions plans
 - Investment strategy
 - Reaching beyond the project's lifetime
 - Will leverage national, regional and European funds as well as private (venture) capital.
 - Investment plans may include pertinent R&I infrastructures as well as demonstrators and pilots











Questions?







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Teşekkür ederim!

Thank you!



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

TÜBİTAK