#HorizonEU

HORIZON EUROPE

THE EU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

WIDERA

**Widening participation and
Strengthening the European Research Area**

Info Day, Madrid
10 June 2024
Kaia Kert, DG Research
& Innovation

European Commission

Research and Innovation

Content

- The New European Research Area: Policy framework

- WIDERA Work Programme overview

- ERA: Open call

- Widening: Open & upcoming calls

- What's next: Work Programme 2025

European Commission

The New European Research Area: policy framework

European Commission

A new vision for the European Research Area (ERA)

What is the new ERA?

A single, borderless market for research, innovation and technology across the EU…

…where countries come together and improve their research policies and systems…

…and where there is free movement of researchers, knowledge and innovation.

What are the objectives of the new ERA?

Prioritise investments in R&I

Translate R&I results into the economy

Improve access to excellence

Strengthen researchers' mobility and free flow of knowledge and technology

European Commission

ERA governance and policy framework

Pact for research and innovation in Europe

- **10 values and principles**
- **4 priority areas**
  - Deepening ERA
  - Broadening ERA and relevance
  - Amplifying access to excellence
  - Advancing R&I investments and reforms
- **Research and development targets**

ERA Policy Agenda

- Designed to contribute to the priority areas of the Pact for R&I, setting out the voluntary **ERA actions** which are defined and coordinated at Union level.

- **20 actions for 2022-24**
- **ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027**

ERA Governance

ERA Forum (+ subgroups)

Expert group for coordination and implementation of the ERA, together with EU countries, Associated countries and stakeholders

ERAC
high-level strategic policy body, providing advice

Council

Decision making "Owner" of Policy Agenda

ERA Monitoring

- Ensure a proper basis for **evidence informed policy making**
- Provide evidence and analysis **in the context of the European Semester**

ERA Policy Agenda: 4 priority areas and 20 actions

DEEPENING A TRULY FUNCTIONING INTERNAL MARKET FOR KNOWLEDGE

1. Open sharing of knowledge, incl. EOSC
2. Data legislation fit for research
3. Reform of research assessment
4. **Strengthen research careers**
5. Gender equality and inclusiveness
6. Protect academic freedom
7. **Better knowledge valorisation**
8. Research infrastructures
9. International cooperation, reciprocity

TOGETHER FOR TWIN GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION, AND INCREASING SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ERA

10. R&I Missions and Partnerships for ERA
11. Green energy transformation
12. Transition of industrial ecosystems
13. Empower higher education institutions
14. **Bring science closer to society**

AMPLIFYING ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE UNION

15. Regional and national R&I ecosystems
16. **EU-wide access to excellence**
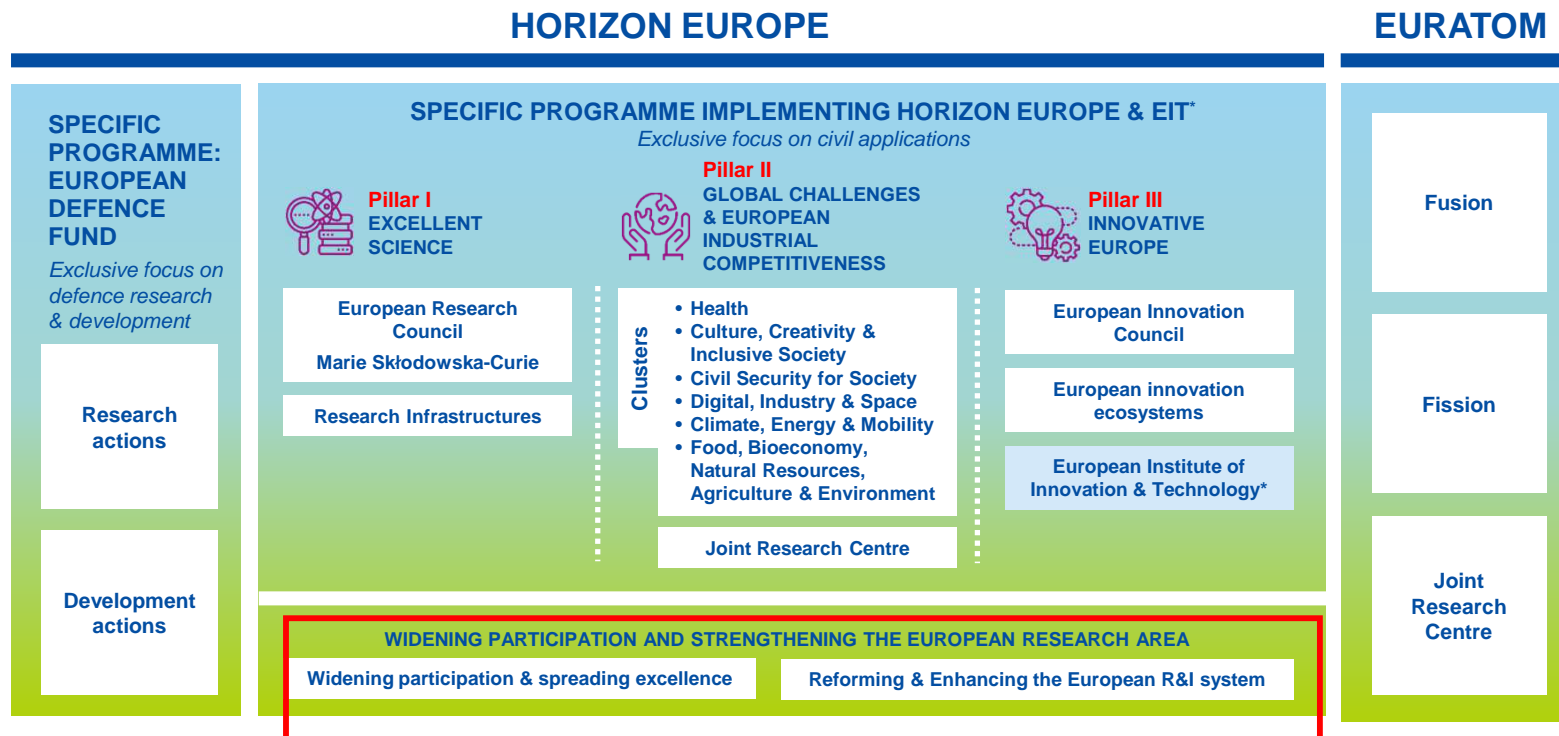17. Strategic capacity of public RPOs

ADVANCING CONCERTED R&I INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

18. Coordination national support for ERA
19. ERA monitoring mechanism
20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms

European Commission

WIDERA Work Programme

Overview

European Commission

Horizon Europe WIDERA – Widening Participation and Strengthening ERA

HORIZON EUROPE

EURATOM

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME: EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND

Exclusive focus on defence research & development

Research actions

Development actions

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT*
Exclusive focus on civil applications

Pillar I
EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Research Infrastructures

Pillar II
GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters
- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre

Pillar III
INNOVATIVE EUROPE

European Innovation Council

European innovation ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation & Technology*

Fusion

Fission

Joint Research Centre

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

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

European Commission

WIDERA Work Programme

I – Widening participation and spreading excellence (Widening)

- Destinations 1: Improved access to excellence
- Destinations 2: Attracting and mobilising the best talents

II – Strengthening the ERA by reforming and enhancing the European R&I system (ERA)

- Destinations 3: Reforming and enhancing the European R&I system

WIDERA Work Programme 2023-2025: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-11-widening-participation-and-strengthening-the-european-research-area_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf

European Commission

New ERA call 2024:
HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02

New ERA call 2024 – topics (CSA)

1. Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation	HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-01	€ 2 mil
2. Science comes to town	HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-02	€ 6 mil
3. Talent ecosystems for attractive early research careers – pilot	HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-03	€ 20 mil

Call opening: 15 May 2024

Call closing: 25 September 2024

European Commission

1. Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation

Translating available scientific knowledge and research results to innovative solutions, including through more **experimentation** and **testing** of new models and **peer learning** and **trying out good practices** in different environments.

Expected outcomes:

- Value creation for economy and society by increased interlinkages and cooperation between knowledge valorisation actors.
- New solutions to societal and economic challenges by stronger uptake and deployment of research results, including through the involvement of citizens and civil society.
- Improvements of structures, strategies, practices and skills for knowledge valorisation through sustainable reforms and new initiatives.

Target groups:

- Academia/Research
- Industry/SMEs
- Public administration/policy-makers
- Society/Citizens

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-01

Call opening / closing:
15 May 2024 / 25 September 2024

Type of action: CSA

Budget: EUR 2 million

Indicative number of projects: 2

ERA Policy Agenda: Action 7

European Commission

1. Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation

Scope: Proposals should address **at least one** of the following challenges:

1. Experimentation in knowledge valorisation:
- Schemes and incentives for researchers to engage with society, and for citizens and citizens' groups to engage in knowledge valorisation, promoting the co-creation of new solutions and uptake of research results.
- Focus on barriers and opportunities in academia-society collaboration.

2. Transfer of best practices in knowledge valorisation in academia-industry linkages or quadruple helix-based innovation:
- Introduce and implement one or several new best practices or reform an existing practice (expected consortia with 'best practice owners' and partners planning to introduce change).
- Create tangible change to strengthen knowledge valorisation capacities in some or all participating entities at strategic and/or investment level and/or through the implementation of new or adapted instruments, tools, guidelines, trainings.
- Possible synergies with cohesion policy.

Principles and best practices to follow:
- The EU Guiding Principles for Knowledge Valorisation, Code of Practice on citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation, Code of practice on industry-academia co-creation for knowledge valorisation
- EU Knowledge Valorisation Platform

European Commission

2. Science comes to town

A **small group of at least 3 cities** that jointly design and implement a **vibrant and engaging year-long programme** of activities, connecting local **R&I communities** with **citizens** and **stakeholders** around the topic of science and its role in society.

Expected outcomes:

- **Programme with a robust concept and brand** promoting R&I in Europe and fostering dialogue and exchange on science and its role in society.
- Improved **science communication** by showcasing the latest R&I developments and through experimentation with connecting citizens and scientists.
- Enhanced **discussion and debate** on the future of science and R&I policy in Europe with stakeholders and citizens.
- Improved appeal of younger generations to **careers in R&I**.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-02

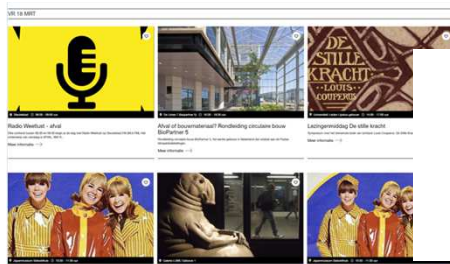**Call opening / closing:**
15 May 2024 / 25 September 2024

Type of action: CSA

Budget: EUR 6 million

Indicative number of projects: 1

ERA Policy Agenda: Action 14

European Commission

2. Science comes to town

1-year programme of events and activities

The European Union Contest for Young Scientists: EUCYS 2026

European Union Contest for early-career researchers: EU TalentOn 2026

European City of Science Leiden2022

European City of Science Katowice 2024

Science comes to town 2026

European Commission

3. Talent ecosystems for attractive early research careers – pilot

Organisational change and **coordination of measures** in **academic and non-academic organisations** to create **talent ecosystems** with a large pool of R&I positions that provide **intersectoral career opportunities** for R&I talents.

Expected outcomes:

- Establishment of **talent ecosystems**, supplying employers with skilled research talents that match labour market needs.
- Wide **implementation of the standards** for attractive researcher careers.
- Improved early careers researchers' **employability** within and beyond academia.

Target groups: Training providers and employers of researchers, incl.

- Universities
- Research and technology organisations and infrastructures
- SMEs/Industry
- Government entities
- Civil society organisations

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-03

Call opening / closing:
15 May 2024 / 25 September 2024

Type of action: CSA

Budget: EUR 20 million

Indicative number of projects: 15

ERA Policy Agenda: Action 4

European Commission

3. Talent ecosystems for attractive early research careers – pilot

Scope:

- **Supporting whole organisations** and innovation ecosystems to implement the standards for attractive research careers laid down in the Charter for Researchers.

- Creation of a **large pool of R&I positions**, providing organisations, particularly businesses, with well-skilled researchers and other R&I talents.

- Support at the organisational level to **improve capacity for training, career development and talent circulation**: e.g., strategies, actions plans, joint trainings, career services (Note: No direct support to researchers' salaries or mobility).

- Provide **policy feedback** on the implementations of the European framework for research careers.

Principles and standards to follow:

- European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe
- Charter for Researchers and/or HR Excellence in Research Award *(Participating organisations are expected to have received the HR Excellence in Research Award or commit to apply the new Charter for Researchers and commit to its implementation (i.e., start the HRS4R process) within the grant duration, as far as relevant for their operations linked to the employment of researchers.)*

European Commission

Widening calls

Widening

Objectives:

- Tackle the innovation divide towards a more inclusive and cohesive European research and innovation ecosystem in the European Union;
- Raise the bar of excellence and visibility for research institutions and teams in catching up countries;
- Existing disparities - to be reduced by institutional and systemic policy reforms.

Countries eligible for coordination:

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia; the Associated Countries and the Outermost regions.

European Commission

Widening calls

Open calls **Closing date**

ERA Fellowships

11 September 2024

ERA Talents

26 September 2024

Hop-on Facility

26 September 2024

Upcoming calls **Opening/Closing date**

Teaming 2025

3 December 2024 / 10 April 2025 (1st stage)

ERA Fellowships 2025

9 April 2025 / 10 September 2025

European Commission

More info and how to apply

Info Days (recordings)

2024 Widening calls:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdK-P91UtSo&t=1s

2024 ERA call:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Prp3pghlpD0

17 June 2024 ERA 2024-02 Knowledge Day and Brokerage Event
www.ncpwideranet.eu

Questions? Contact Research Enquiry Service:
https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/contact-us/research-enquiry-service_en

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What's next: WIDERA Work Programme 2025

Adoption in early 2025

European Commission

Thank you

European Commission