



Eesti Teadusagentuur
Estonian Research Council

Widening participation instruments

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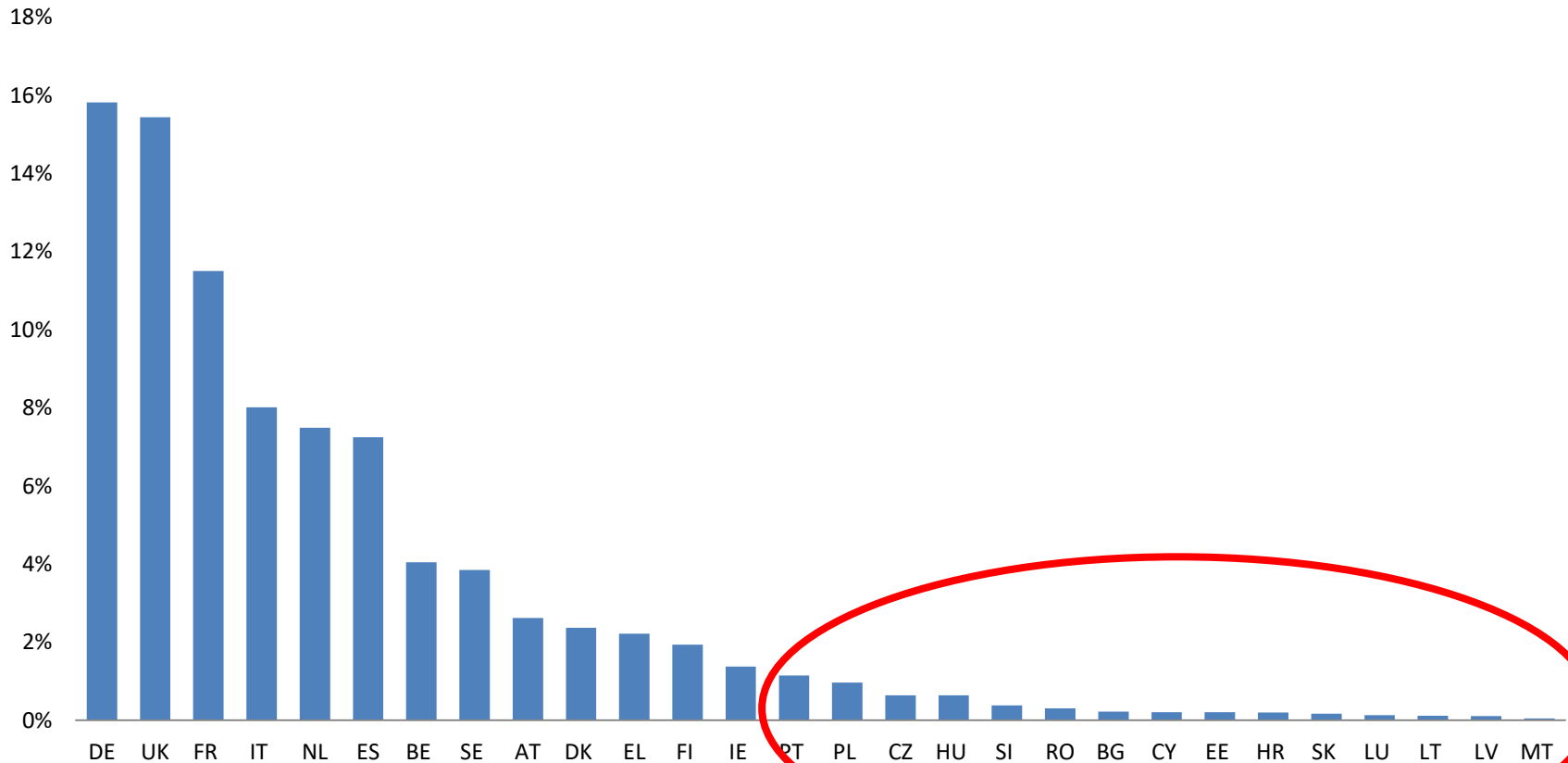
**Associated to H2020: what's next?
'From Association to impact generation'**

Why? Background

- 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

FP7 country participation

FP7 Budget Share per country %



Measures in Horizon 2020 under **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)

Total Budget in H2020 ~ **€ 800 million**

Specific eligibility criteria for WIDENING

Particular political objectives of WIDENING in H2020

- Necessitate a targeted approach to help those participants with low performance in R&I
- H2020 legal text >>"low performing RDI Member States and regions"

Eligibility Criterion: The Composite Indicator of Research Excellence

➤ Threshold: MS below 70% of the EU average

"Low RDI Performing" or "Widening" Countries:

MS: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia

AC: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Turkey, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia

Creation of new (or significant upgrade of existing) Centres of Excellence in low R&I performing or "Widening" countries

The Partnership: 2 parties in each Teaming project

(1) the COORDINATOR from a "Widening" country (must be a national/regional authority, research funding agency, university or res. organisation)

(2) a university or res. organisation with an international reputation in R&I excellence (from all EU28 or AC)

Implementation in 2 Phases

Teaming: Scheme Design

Phase 1: Funding the development of a Business Plan for the new/upgraded Centre of Excellence facilitated by a teaming process with a leading counterpart in Europe

Proposals (Phase 1):

- Demonstrate the long-term science and innovation strategy of the future Centre
- Outline how this strategy broadly fits with the RIS3 of the Widening country
- Demonstrate that the project is based on a true joint venture between the parties

Phase 2: Subject to the quality of the Business Plan, and the financial commitment for the project from other sources, the Commission may provide further substantial financial support for the first steps of implementation of the Centre

Proposals (Phase 2):

- Business Plan (Phase 1 deliverable) with robust financial commitments (national/ESIF/IPA/private funds)

IMPORTANT: Access to Phase 2 is only available to those proposals already supported in Phase 1

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.

Proposals:

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

Activities supported:

Short term staff exchanges; expert visits and short-term training; workshops; conference attendance; dissemination and outreach activities.

Expected Impact:

- Research excellence, 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.

Objectives of the action:

- Bring high quality researchers and managers (**the ERA Chair and his/her team**) to universities and other research organisations with the potential for research excellence.
- Institutions should implement structural changes to achieve excellence on a sustainable basis.

Participants

One single applicant (mono-beneficiary action) located in a **Widening country**.

Proposals:

- Bottom-up approach but connected with the **ERA Chair holder expertise** to fully capitalise on his/her presence;
- Include measures to foster **ERA priorities** (open recruitment, peer review, gender balance, Charter & Code);
- Include a plan to increase **Research Capacity** - if infrastructures foreseen present a strategy for funding (including possible from use of **ESIF funding**).

Expected Impact:

- Increased **attractiveness** of institution and region for excellent researchers;
- Research **excellence** in the fields covered by the ERA Chair;
- Improved capability of the institution to succeed in **competitive** research funding;
- Institutional changes to comply with **ERA priorities**.

- The ERA Chair should be an **outstanding** researcher and research manager with a proven record of **leadership**;
- The ERA Chair appointment must follow an **open and merit-based recruitment process** - to be subjected to monitoring by the European Commission;
- ERA Chair holder should be appointed in a **full time position but part-time arrangements are possible**;
- The institution should ensure **autonomy** for the Chair and his/her team;
- ERA Chairs can be of **any nationality**;

Gives Member States and countries associated to Horizon 2020 practical support to design, implement and evaluate reforms that enhance the quality of their research and innovation investments, policies and systems

Services:

- **Peer Reviews**

of national R&I systems are in-depth assessments of a country's R&I system carried out by a panel of experts and policy peers, leading to operational recommendations to the national authorities on the reforms necessary to strengthen their R&I systems

- **Mutual learning exercises**

focus on specific R&I challenge of interest to several Member States and Associated Countries and draw on a hands-on project-based exchange of good practice. Its aim is to identify good practices, lessons learned and success factors based on robust evidence. Mutual learning exercises have addressed topics such as the Administration and monitoring of R&D tax incentives, Evaluation of business R&D grant schemes and the Evaluation of complex public private partnerships, among others.

- **Specific support**

to countries provide tailored advice, expertise, and good practice to help Member States and Associated Countries in the design or implementation of a specific reform concerning R&I strategies, programmes or institutions. This tailored support provides concrete recommendations on how to tackle a specific R&I policy challenge and how to implement the accompanying reforms.

COST supports the networking of researchers through science and technology networks - '**COST Actions**' - open to:

- **All fields of S&T** (highlight on trans-, multi-, interdisciplinary, new and emergent fields)
- **All partners** (academia, public organisations, SME, industry, NGO, International Organisations)
- **All career stages** (young and experienced researchers)
 - Capacity building, Early Career Investigators
- **All countries**
 - COST Countries (COST Member Countries + Cooperating State (Israel))
 - Global cooperation on the basis of mutual interest (NNC, IPC)
 - Geographical balance

- A network of **researchers, engineers** and **scholars** with **nationally** funded research
- Collaborating in S&T fields of common interest to **at least five** COST Countries
- Answering to the COST Open Call for proposals
- Evaluated and selected via a tailored procedure
- Based on a **4 years** joint work programme
- Expandable to new participants
- Implemented through networking activities: **Meetings, Working Groups, Conferences, Workshops, Short Term Scientific Missions, Training Schools** and **Dissemination Activities**
- Average Annual COST Action Budget EUR 130 000 (Total budget for 7 years M€300)
- Pursuing the fulfilment of the objectives and deliverables described in the approved proposal (Memorandum of Understanding)

COST DOES NOT FUND RESEARCH

International Network of the National Contact Points (NCPs) For Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

www.ncpwidenet.eu