



A New European Innovation Agenda, Innovation Divide and Deep-tech Valleys, Synergies

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New European Innovation Agenda (NEIA) - context

NEIA as an Europe's answer to current challenges



Improve Europe's competitiveness



Contribute the green and digital transition



Narrow the innovation divide



Reinforce Europe's strategic autonomy

New European Innovation Agenda: five flagships



New European Innovation Agenda: key actions

Scale-up gap:

- DEBRA
- Listings Act
- ESCALAR
- Women/diversity actions

Policy making tools:

- Comparable data sets
- TSI, PSI to MS
- EIC Forum

Talents:

- EIT deep tech talent initiative
- Innovation Intern Scheme
- EU Talent Pool
- Support to women
- Employee stock options

Experimentation and public procurement

- Guidance on sandboxes
- Open innovation test bed in hydrogen
- Testing facilities for AI innovation
- Revised State Aid framework for R&I&D
- IP Specialist Advisory Service

Innovation ecosystems and innovation divide

- Regional innovation valleys
- Synergies HE/ERDF
- X2 Hydrogen Valleys
- Innospace
- Scaleup 100



Accelerating & strengthening innovation in European Innovation Ecosystems & addressing the innovation divide

Challenges

- Innovation divide between regions has increased
- Diffusion of innovations and the uptake of breakthrough technologies including through inter-regional linkages remain sub-optimal
- Despite the existing structures and services there is a complex and fragmented European innovation ecosystem, hindering the ability of innovators to leverage the support and opportunities
- Unexploited potential in regional innovation ecosystems

Actions

1. Establish and connect regional deep tech innovation valleys
2. Commission notice on synergies between Horizon Europe and European Regional Development Fund programme
3. Double the number of Hydrogen Valleys
4. Establish Innospace – one stop shop for innovation ecosystems' players
5. Launch Scaleup 100

Fostering connected regional **deep-tech valleys** across the EU

- **Aim:** strengthen innovation ecosystems across the EU, by accelerating the development and deployment of innovation, including deep tech innovation, to address the most burning challenges facing the EU
- **Deliverable:** up to 100 regions committed to enhance coordination and directionality of their R&I investment & policies. It is expected that these regions will prioritise 3-4 inter-regional innovation projects including in deep tech innovation, linked to key EU priorities.
- **Initiative will:**
 - build on Smart Specialisation Strategies and, where applicable, on the participation in the PRI initiative
 - involve regions with aligned areas of specialisation and complementary capabilities
 - include partners from (at least one) less innovative regions and (at least one) more innovative regions
- **Funding**
 - With funding of EUR 100 million from Horizon Europe and EUR 70 million from the Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) instrument under the ERDF
 - It will also 'tap into the support available through their national and regional ERDF programmes' supporting S3 (estimated at 10 billion for R&I)
- **Links to existing efforts:** I3, Startup Villages, Euroclusters, Startup Europe, Widening, Missions, EIT  and RIS  

New European Innovation Agenda - Fostering, attracting & retaining talents

Challenges

- EU appears to be losing the global race for talent with skilled researchers moving to US
- EU's working age population is shrinking due to demographic change
- High concentrations of talents in main cities of EU MS leading to disparity between the needs of the economy and the availability of talent
- Entrepreneurial networks and training is not equally accessible
- Employee ownership remains at low levels across Europe

Actions

1. Launch EIT deep tech talent initiative
2. Launch innovation intern scheme
3. Launch an EU Talent Pool to help businesses, including startups, find non-EU talents
4. Establish Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership scheme
5. Best practice exchange on startup employees' stock options
6. Education and Innovation practice community
7. Launch Erasmus+ Alliances for Innovation
8. Launch Digital Europe call to train experts in future-oriented fields

Widening programme

Horizon Europe, contributing to ERA

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*

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system



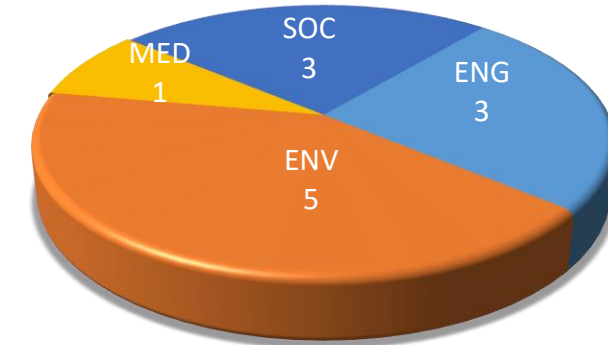
ACTIONS UNDER WIDENING to address the innovation divide

- **Excellence Initiative** -> for increasing excellence in higher education institutions from widening countries
- **ERA talents** -> for empowering brain circulation
- **Excellence hubs** -> for developing place)-base innovation ecosystems
- **Hop-on on facility** -> to increase network capacities
- **Strengthened NCP network** -> fo improving quantity and quality of proposals

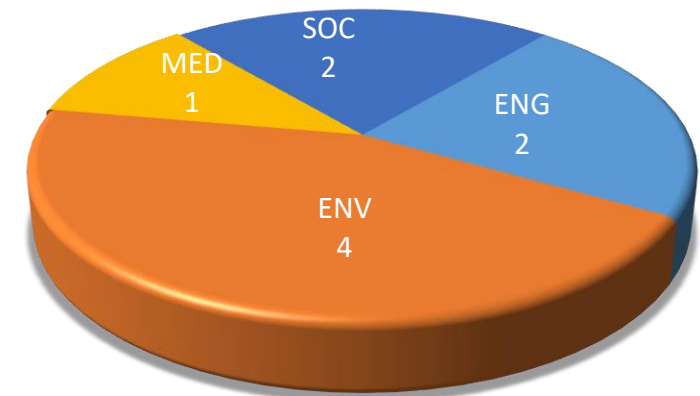
Excellence Initiative (EEI) Call data

- **HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-05**
- **Budget: 30 M€ - max funding per project 2 M€**
- Opening/Closing date: 29/06/2021 - 04/11/2021
- Proposals (CSA):
 - Submitted: **12**
 - Evaluated: **12**
 - Selected: **9**
 - Success rate: **75%**
- TTG: 07/07/2022

Number of Proposals by Thematic Area



Number of projects by Thematic Area



WIDERA Work Programme 2023-2024 (tbc)

Excellence initiative:

Excellence funding for HEIs



- *Coordination and Support Action*
- Aim: to raise excellence in science & value creation in HEIs, and increase global visibility and competitiveness
- Support to implement **ERA priorities**, through inclusive and integrated collaboration in **alliances of HEIs**

Budget EUR 54 million; 10-20 projects (tbc)

**Call closure:
spring**

- Competitive support for inclusive alliances of HEIs, for joint R&I agenda
- Implementation of ERA Policy Agenda, incl. attractive careers, digital transition, sharing resources and infrastructures
- Up to 20% budget for **research activities**
- Emphasis on widening countries

Synergies HE/Cohesion Funds



Synergies between Horizon Europe and Cohesion Policy programmes – Preconditions

- Alignment of strategies
 - ✓ Horizon Europe strategic planning and Work Programmes
 - ✓ ERDF/ESF+ programmes
- Alignment of legal provisions
 - ✓ Horizon Europe/Annex IV
 - ✓ Common Provision Regulation ('CPR')
 - ✓ EU State aid rules – the General Block Exemption Regulation ('GBER')
- Joint support initiatives
 - **COMMISSION NOTICE - GUIDANCE ON SYNERGIES (OJ C 421 of 4/11/2022) available in all languages now!**
 - Seal of Excellence Community of Practice (regular meetings & IT platform)
 - Upcoming joint network research & cohesion community

Key types of Synergies: novelties and their expected positive impact



Seal of Excellence

Pipeline of excellent R&I projects identified for funding

Leverage of Horizon Europe mechanisms and visibility + economic impact at regional level



Support to Partnerships

ERDF as MS contribution in Horizon Europe partnerships

major incentive for participation of regional actors + alignment towards common EU priorities



Transfer possibility

relieves regional ERDF Managing Authorities from setting up a full administrative system for evaluating and following projects + learning effect for firms entering Horizon Europe



SEAL: Novelties and implementation



Seal of Excellence

Pipeline of excellent R&I projects identified for funding

Leverage of Horizon Europe mechanisms and visibility + economic impact at regional level

- ✓ Projects may receive directly, without a new qualitative evaluation, ERDF or ESF+ funding under CPR rules (i.e. only check of specific eligibility criteria, contribution to programme objectives, smart specialisation priorities, financial feasibility – ie: issues not covered by the Seal)
- ✓ The amendment to the General Block Exemption Regulation ('GBER' art 25a) allows such Seal-of-Excellence support to be exempted, under certain conditions, from the State aid notification + managing authorities may apply to these operations the categories, maximum amounts and methods of calculation of eligible costs established under Horizon Europe

Partnerships: Novelties and implementation



Support to Partnerships

ERDF as MS contribution in Horizon Europe partnerships

major incentive for participation of regional actors + alignment towards common EU priorities

- ✓ 'European Partnership' – Union with private and/or public partners jointly support the development and implementation of an R&I-programme:
 - ✓ 'Co-funded European Partnership': Union provides co-funding to an R&I-programme implemented by national entities
 - ✓ 'Institutionalised European Partnership' (Art. 185/187 TFEU): Union provides co-funding to a joint programme implemented by structures created for that purpose
- ✓ ERDF may **be considered as Member State contribution to European Partnerships, provided that the relevant CPR-provisions and fund-specific regulations are complied with.**
- ✓ Bodies implementing the partnership must be designated as ERDF intermediate bodies (CPR)
- ✓ MAs may decide to provide support directly to operations selected under the partnership (CPR)
- ✓ **NB: !! specific administrative steps allow to comply with the requirement of avoiding DOUBLE declaration of costs - Check the 'synergy guidance' (cumulative funding)!**

TRANSFER: novelties and implementation



Transfer possibility

relieves regional ERDF Managing Authorities from setting up a full administrative system for evaluating and following projects + learning effect for firms entering Horizon Europe

Voluntary transfer of Cohesion Policy allocations:

MS may request transfer of up to 5 % of their programme resources to Horizon Europe

- Transferred resources may only concern the future budgetary commitments and the relevant ERDF programme has to be amended, incl. its financing plan
- Investments have to be for the benefit of the transferring Member State/region
- Commission may object to a request for transfer if achievement of ERDF programme's objectives would be undermined
- Rules of the receiving EU Fund/instrument apply to the transferred amounts
- ✓ **Transfer-back**: Where the Commission has not entered into a legal commitment under Horizon Europe by 31 August of n+1, the corresponding uncommitted resources may be transferred back to the respective programmes covered by the CPR.

Thank you!

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/support-policy-making/shaping-eu-research-and-innovation-policy/new-european-innovation-agenda_en

https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/synergies-guidance-out-2022-jul-06_en

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/communications/2022/synergies-between-erdf-programmes-and-horizon-europe

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USEFUL LINKS

- Synergy guidance document: https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/synergies-between-horizon-europe-and-erdf-programmes-draft-commission-notice_en
- European Innovation Agenda: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/support-policy-making/shaping-eu-research-and-innovation-policy/new-european-innovation-agenda_en#documents
- DG RTD: https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/synergies-guidance-out-2022-jul-06_en
- DG REGIO: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/communications/2022/synergies-between-erdf-programmes-and-horizon-europe

[Horizon Results Platform](#) – EU funded results register!

[Horizon Results Booster](#) – support for beneficiaries!

EU mission portfolios – multi-programme clustering of projects and results!

[H2020- Interreg Synergies Mapping Tool](#) – interoperation of EU programmes and matching on potential synergies!

Thank you!