



H2020 Info Session: Work Programme 2020 'Spreading Excellence & Widening Participation'

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Twinning and ERA Chairs Calls in 2019

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Statistics call 2018

	Proposals submitted	Projects funded	Call Success Rate	Project Size
Twinning 2018	460	37	8%	€0.8 mil.
ERA Chairs 2018	105	12	11%	€2.5 mil.
Teaming Phase 2 2018	43	14	33%	€15 mil.
AVERAGE SUCCESS RATE			10%	

SEWP calls in 2019

Actions in Horizon 2020 under **Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation** - open calls in 2019:

- **Twinning (institutional networking)**
- **ERA Chairs (bringing excellence to institutions)**
- Widening Fellowships (DL 11 September 2019)

Eligibility criteria for 'Widening' and Associated countries stay the same

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:

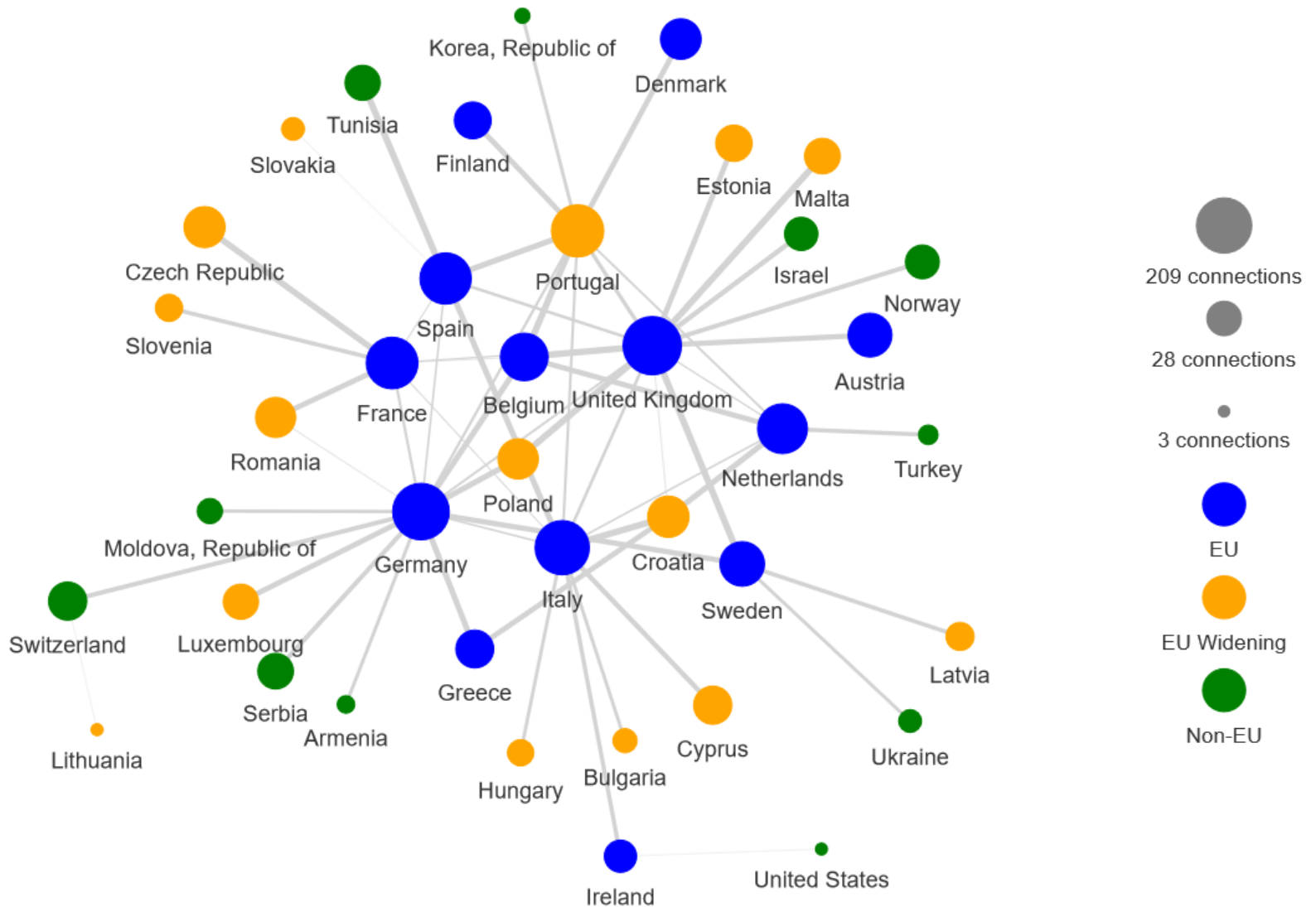
- Enhance the **S&T capacity** of the institutions- Focus on institution in Widening country
- Raise the research profile of the **institution and** of its research **staff**

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 network structure

Twinning Network Structure



Twining: Proposal Design & Activities

Proposals:

- Scientific **strategy for excellence and innovation** with proposed formulation of joint new/ongoing research project(s) in a defined area of research ;
- Outline the scientific qualities of the **partners**;
- Focus on promoting early stage researchers (dedicated Work Package or task), including a special focus on gender equality

Activities supported:

- Short term staff exchanges; expert visits and short-term training; workshops; conference attendance; organisation of joint summer school type activities; dissemination, networking and outreach activities.

Twinning: novelties in WP2020

Bridging to Horizon Europe (fine-tuning)

- Making costs for research and equipment eligible (up to 10% of the total),
- Focus on strengthening research management skills of coordinator (dedicated work package or task + concrete deliverable),
- Contribution of max EUR 0.9 million per project.

Specific requirement for proposers to explain the added value and impact of new proposals compared to previously funded Twinning projects within the same institution.

In the evaluation – among proposals with the same score first the priority will be given (*ex aequo*) to those with coordinators established in 'Widening countries' that are not otherwise covered by more highly ranked proposals.

Last Twinning call under H2020 !

Twining: 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.

Twining Call 2020:

Budget: €69 million

Call opening: 24 July 2019

Call deadline: 14 November 2019

Project Size: up to €0.9 million (eligibility condition)

Project Duration: up to 3 years (eligibility condition)

Implementation: Coordination and Support Action

Some FAQs

How is a university or research organisations defined?

- *Universities can be public or private legal entities. "Research organisation" means a non-profit making organisation which carries out scientific or technical research as its main objective. But no proposal will be non-eligible for having an organisation of an incorrect nature.*

Is there a maximum number of partners in a Twinning proposal?

- *There is no maximum number of partners as long as the minimum eligibility requirements are respected. Additional partners are allowed according to the needs and objectives of each proposal.*

Can a proposal outline several defined areas of research or is it necessary to outline one defined area of research in one proposal?

- *A Twinning proposal must outline one defined area of research.*

ERA Chairs - Scope

Objectives of the action:

- Create the appropriate conditions and 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.

ERA Chairs: Proposal Design & Impact

Proposals:

- Bottom-up approach in the field of research but **connected with the ERA Chair holder expertise** to fully capitalise on his/her presence;
- Measures to foster **structural changes for excellence** including compliance with 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 use of ESIF funding).

Expected Impact:

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

ERA Chairs: The ERA Chair holder

- The ERA Chair should be an outstanding researcher and research manager with a proven record of leadership and must match the profile of "Established" (R3) or "Leading"(R4) Researcher as per European Framework for Researchers Careers;
- 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 must be appointed in a full time position;
- The institution should ensure commitment and the necessary autonomy towards the ERA Chair (e.g. a professor position within the institution and clarity on remuneration through a letter from the head) ;
- ERA Chairs can be of any nationality.

ERA Chairs: novelties in WP2020 (1)

Bridging to Horizon Europe (fine-tuning):

- Increased budget to cover research & equipment costs (up to 10%);
- Focus on strengthening research management skills of institution (dedicated work package or task + concrete deliverable);
- Emphasis given on sustainability after the end of the H2020 funding (e.g. through the inclusion of a sustainability plan) – *how ERA Chair holder/team will continue or transitional arrangements to ensure the continuity of achievements;*
- Project duration extended to 6 years (covering the appointment of the ERA Chair/team).

ERA Chairs: novelties in WP2020 (2)

Specific requirement for proposers to explain the added value and impact of new proposals compared to previously funded ERA Chair projects within the same institution.

In the evaluation – among proposals with the same score first the priority will be given (*ex aequo*) to those with coordinators established in 'Widening countries' that are not otherwise covered by more highly-ranked proposals.

Last ERA Chairs call under H2020 !

ERA Chairs: Costs & Call details

Eligible Costs:

- Salaries of ERA Chairs and his/her team.
- Contribution towards measures aimed at facilitating structural changes at the institution (ERA priorities);
- Costs including training, meetings, publication and patenting costs, minor part of budget for research and equipment;
- The grant will not cover infrastructure costs.

ERA Chairs Call 2019:

Budget: €50 million

Call opening: 24 July 2019

Call deadline: 14 November 2019

Project Size: up to €2.5 million (eligibility condition)

Project Duration: up to 6 years (eligibility condition)

Implementation: Coordination and Support Action

ERA Chairs: some tips

- Clearly define objectives towards **institutional changes**
- Demonstrate the role and **autonomy** of the ERA Chair holder
- Work Packages should be consistent and contribute to an **overall Action Plan**
- Management structures need to be **well defined** and **simple**.



Some FAQ on the ERA Chair

Can the selected organisation or university appoint as ERA Chair someone already working for it?

Internal candidates, though not excluded a priori, are not in line with the objective of the action to attract external talent. Thus, except in duly justified cases, appointment of a candidate with previous contractual links with the institution hosting the grant will not be accepted by the European Commission.

How much time must the ERA Chair devote to the research work?

- The ERA Chair holder **shall** be appointed to a full-time position. Therefore, the Chair must devote their full time to activities connected to the ERA Chair work at the institution.

Does the organisation or university have to employ the ERA Chair? Should employment conditions be already detailed in proposals?

- Yes, it is a requirement that the organisation or university employs, through an employment contract or equivalent, the ERA Chair. Proposals will also need to describe clearly the intended remuneration package of the ERA Chair holder and the criteria on which the level of remuneration has been established, as well as their roles, level of responsibility and obligations allowing for the determination of the feasibility of the ERA Chair tasks.

Some FAQ on the ERA Chair

What is expected to be included in the proposal to facilitate structural change and achieve excellence at the institution applying for the grant?

A coherent set of measures to be implemented (as indicated in the Work Programme) should be clearly described in the proposal. Those should include measures for compliance with ERA priorities, including the European Charter & Code of Conduct, and research capacity building.

There is no need to describe the research work to be undertaken by the researchers to be hired for the ERA Chair team. However, the ***proposal should explain how the ERA Chair and their team, as a whole is expected to contribute to the applicant's research potential increase.***

Thank you!

#InvestEUresearch

www.ec.europa.eu/research

Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>



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Info Day

TWINNING & ERA Chair calls 2020

Lessons Learnt

Deirdre FURLONG

REA B5

*Spreading Excellence, Widening Participation,
Science with and for Society*

Research
Executive
Agency



Content

- ❑ *REA*
- ❑ *Budget and success rates*
- ❑ *General principles*
- ❑ *ERA-chairs*
- ❑ *Twinning*
- ❑ *Evaluation and timing*



**European Commission
DG Research&Innovation**

- **Definition of policies**
- **Drafting of Work Programme**

**Research
Executive Agency**

- **Implementation of calls for proposals**
- **Management of funded projects**



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REA mission

Bridging the Gap

REA unit B5 *Bridges the Gap*:

- **Between countries** by increasing their research capacity and participation in international networks.
- **Between Science & Society** by improving their interaction and thus the lives of European citizens.



Applications and success rates

Action	Year	Budget (M)	Proposals	Size (M)	Projects	Success rate
ERA chairs	2014	33,6	88	2,5	14	16%
ERA chairs	2017	33,9	103	2,5	13	13%
ERA chairs	2019	30	105	2,5	12	11%
ERA Chair	2020	50	??	2,5	Approx. 20	??
Twinning	2015	66,24	553	1	67	12%
Twinning	2017	30	477	1	30	6%
Twinning	2018	30	456	0,8	37	6%
Twinning	2020	69	??	0,9	Approx. 76	??

Funding and Tenders Portal: use all info

- *Work programme and all relevant annexes*
- *Read the description of the action **carefully** and address all*
- *FAQs*
- *Eligibility and Evaluation criteria*
- *Reference documents H2020*
Annotated Grant Agreement has all the answers
- *Submit in advance & Acknowledgement of receipt*

General principles: No negotiation

- *Proposal is evaluated and funded as it is submitted*
- *Any shortcomings/negative aspects are reflected in lower scores*
- *Carefully plan work and budget – consistency between Part A and B & task and budget allocation*
- *Ethics issue table (part A) and self-assessment (part B)*



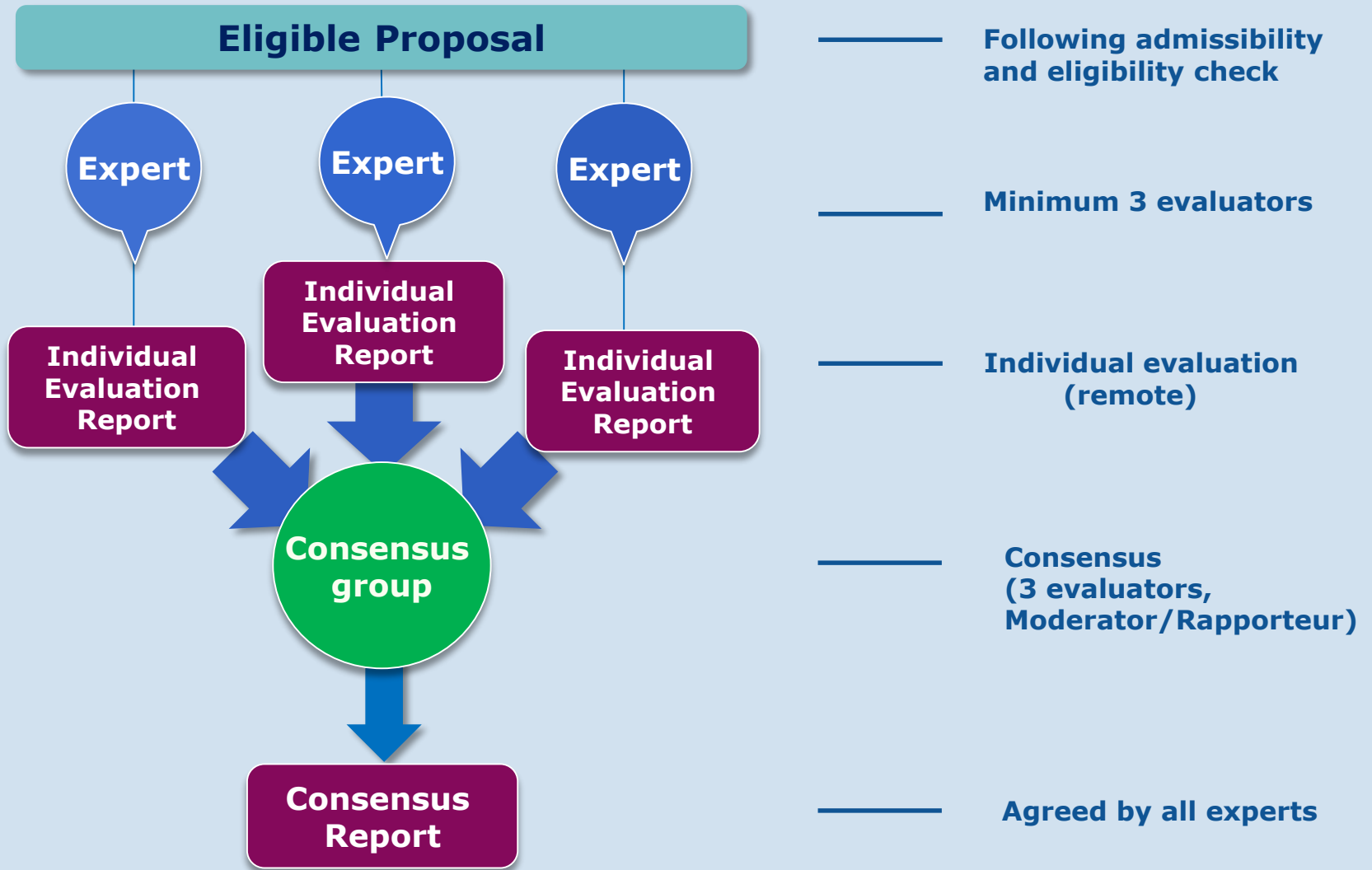
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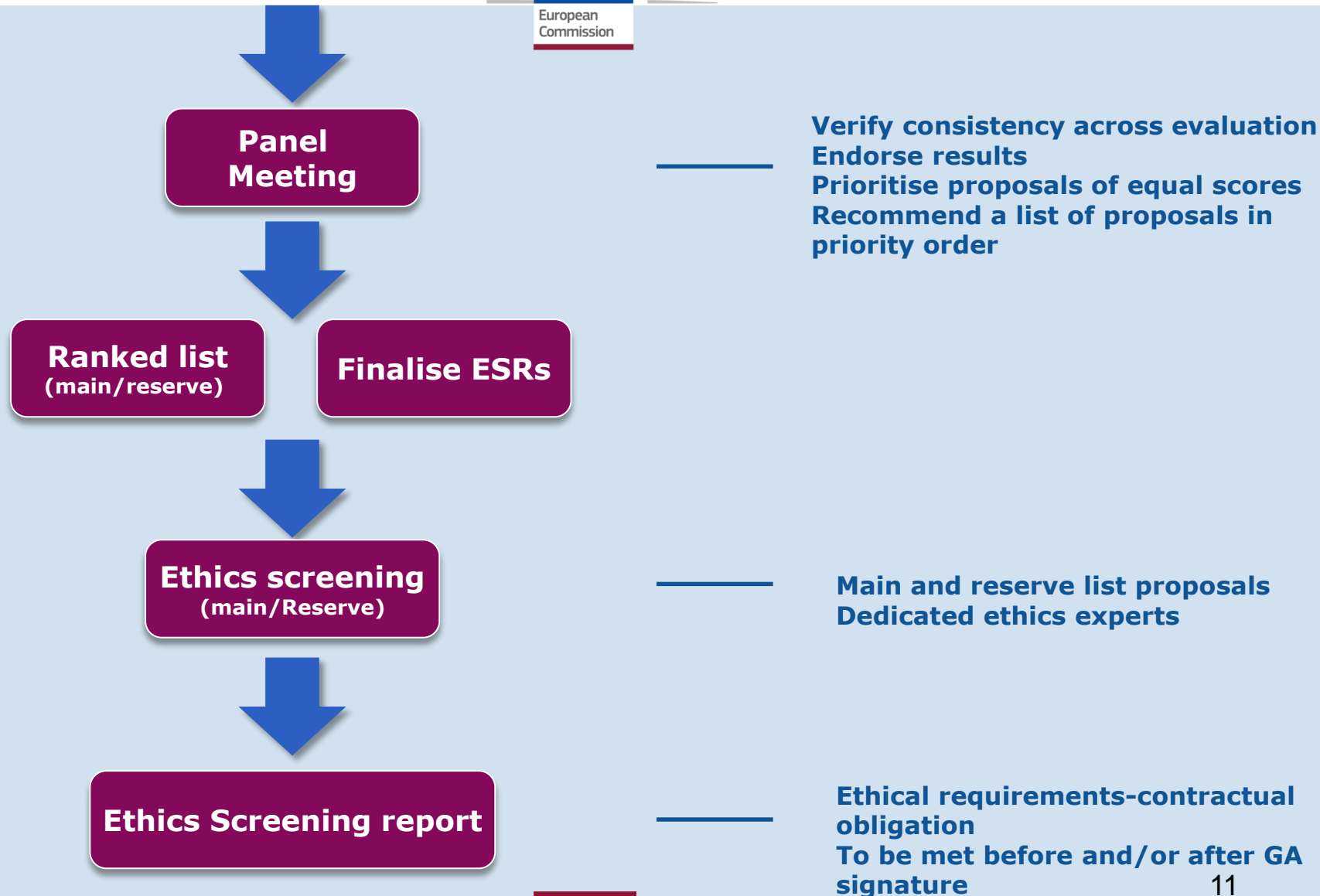
ERA-chairs

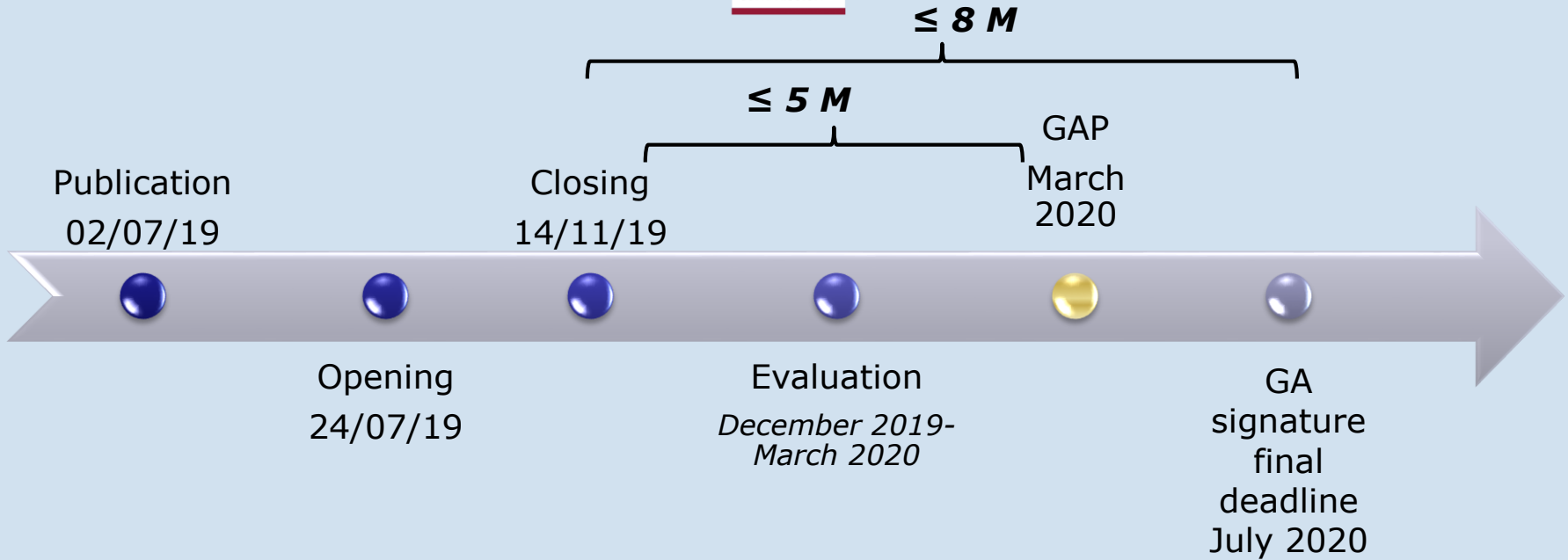
- *Ensure autonomy and strong support from institute management*
- *Demonstrate added value if ERA Chair already in institute*
- *Recruitment of ERA-chair*
- *Impact & Sustainability*
- *Research costs*
- *Resubmissions*
- *KPI: reporting publications*

Twinning

- *Demonstrate added value if ERA Chair already in institute*
- *Early stage researchers*
- *Research costs in proposals*
- *Ethics*
- *KPI: reporting publications*







Links

Support for preparing proposals:

- *Horizon 2020 [Online Manual and Reference Documents](#)
work programmes, legal and guidance documents & Annex H (Evaluation Rules)*
- *For specific questions: Contact your [National Contact Point](#) or the
Horizon 2020 [helpdesk](#)*

Cross-cutting issues:

- *[Dissemination and Exploitation in H2020](#)*
- *[Ethics self-assessment guidance](#)*
- *[Guidance on Open Research Data Pilot and gender equality for relevant topics](#)*



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**Thank you
for your attention**

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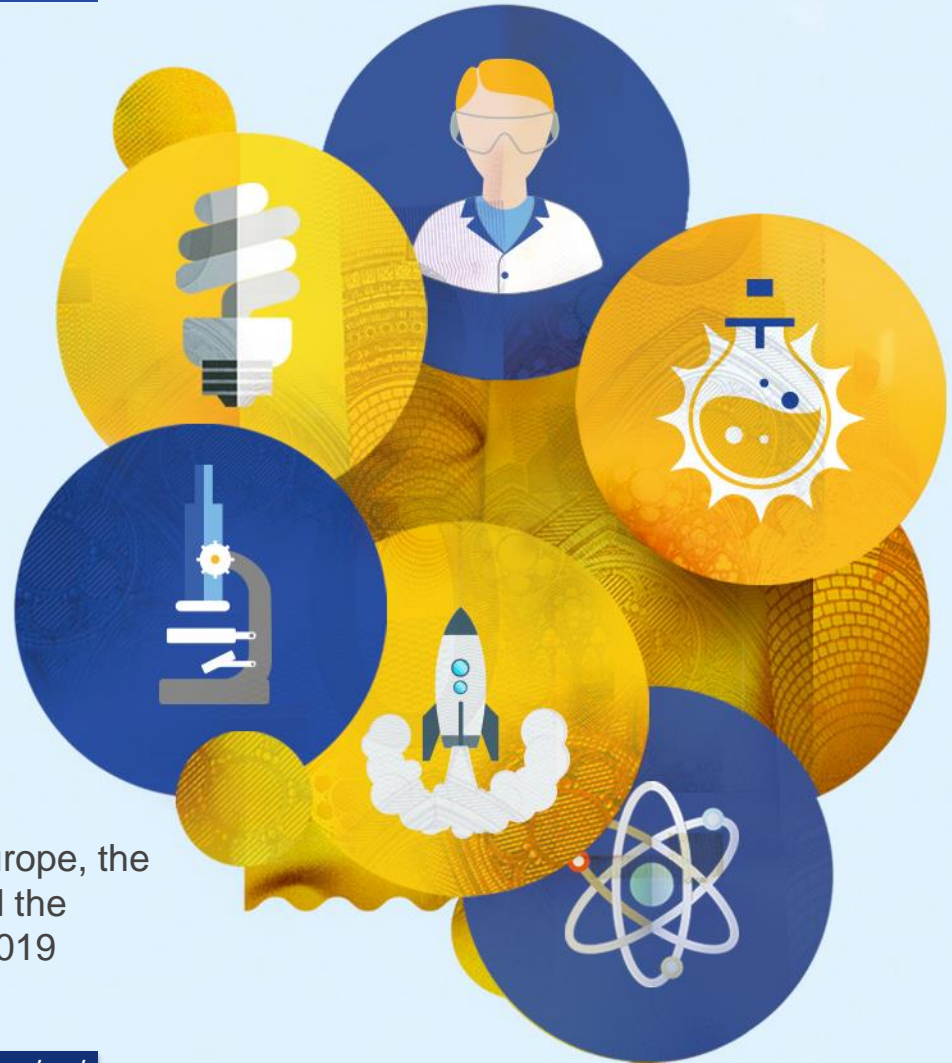
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Horizon Europe

THE NEXT EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION
INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (2021 – 2027)

#HorizonEU

Based on the Commission Proposal for Horizon Europe, the common understanding between co-legislators and the Partial General Approach, both approved in April 2019

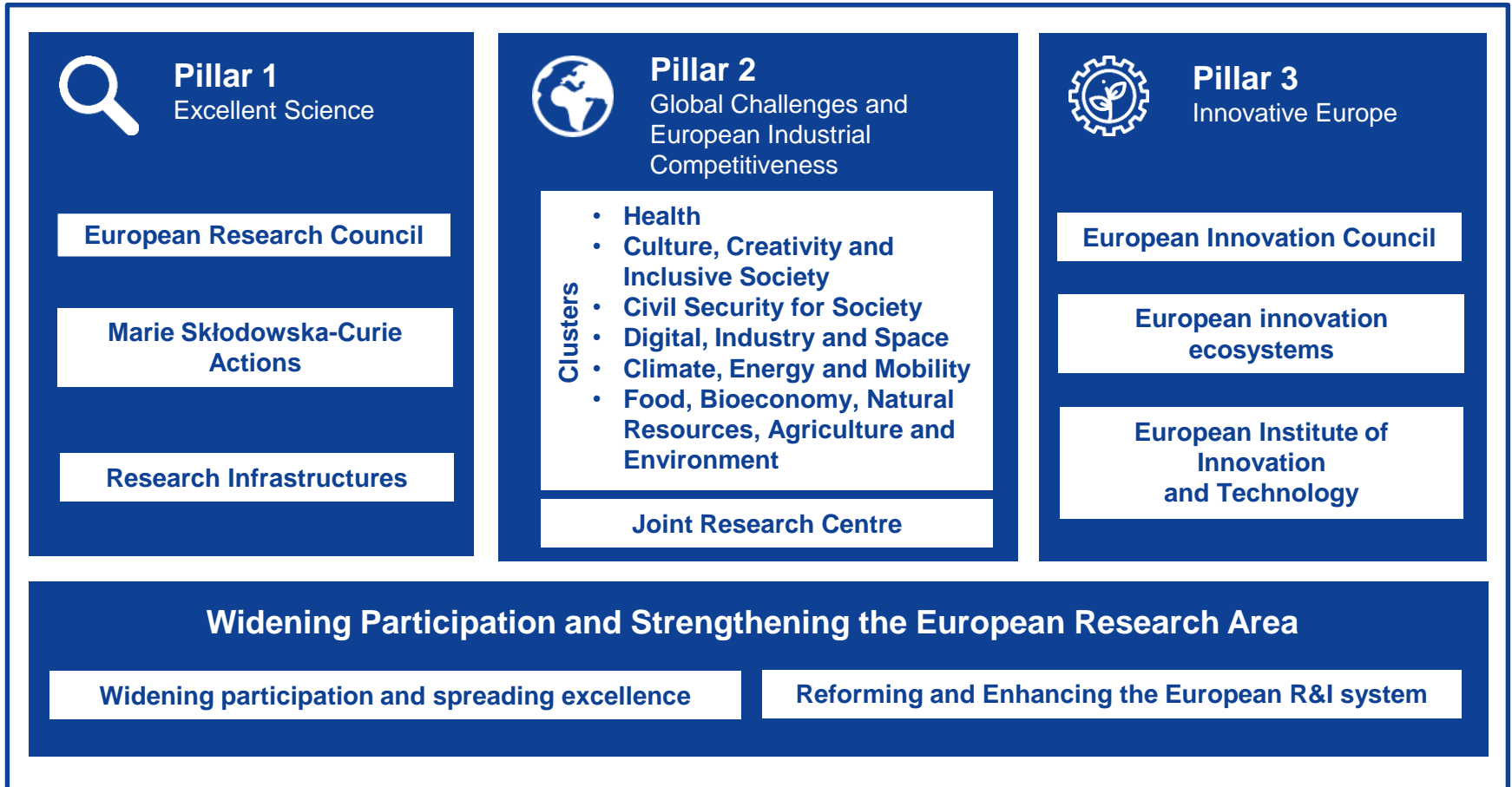


European Parliament and Council reached a common understanding on Horizon Europe on 19 March 2019

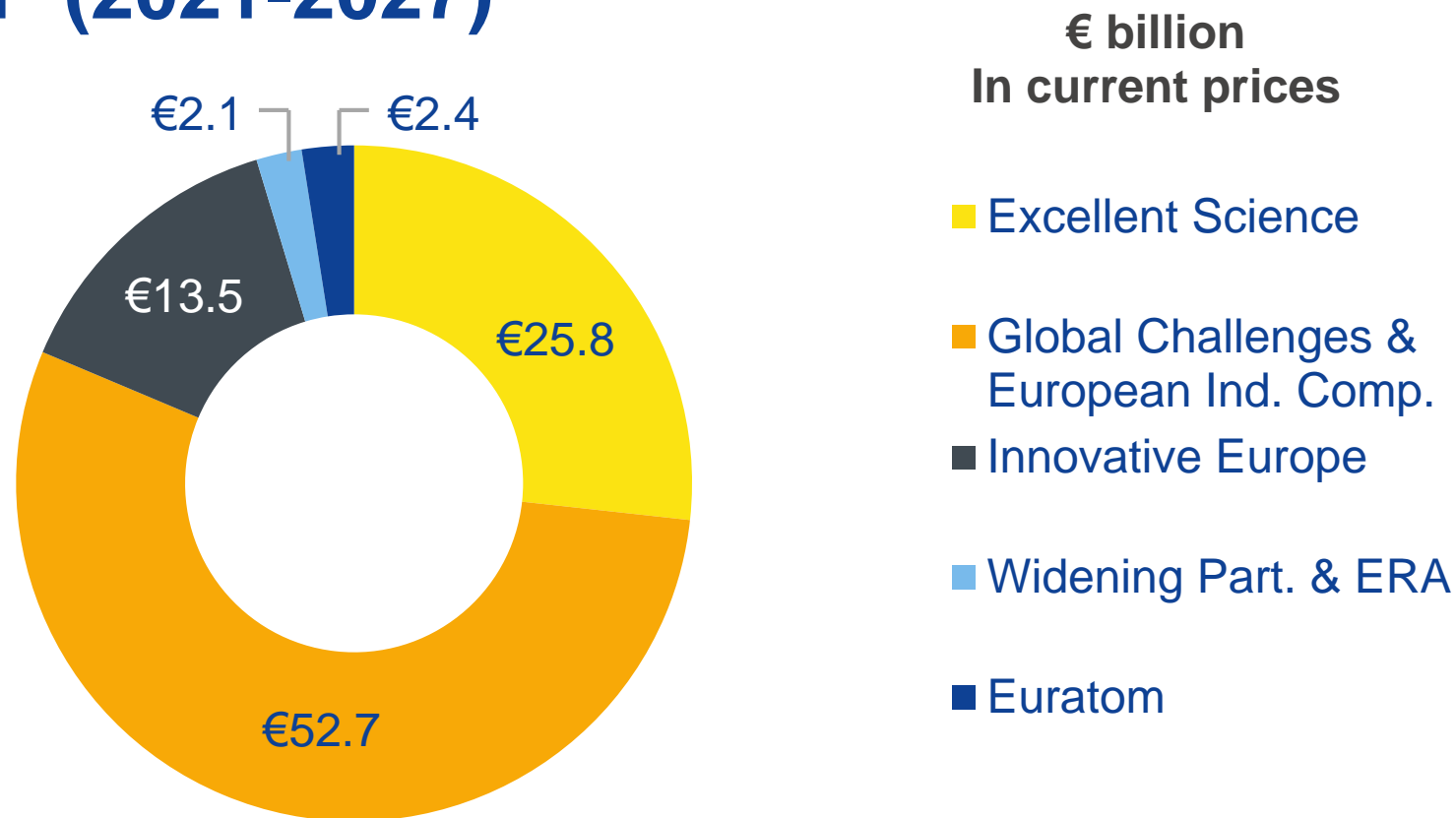
- Budget, synergies and third country association still pending, depending on the overall MFF negotiations
- Commission has started preparations for the implementation of Horizon Europe



Horizon Europe: Preliminary structure



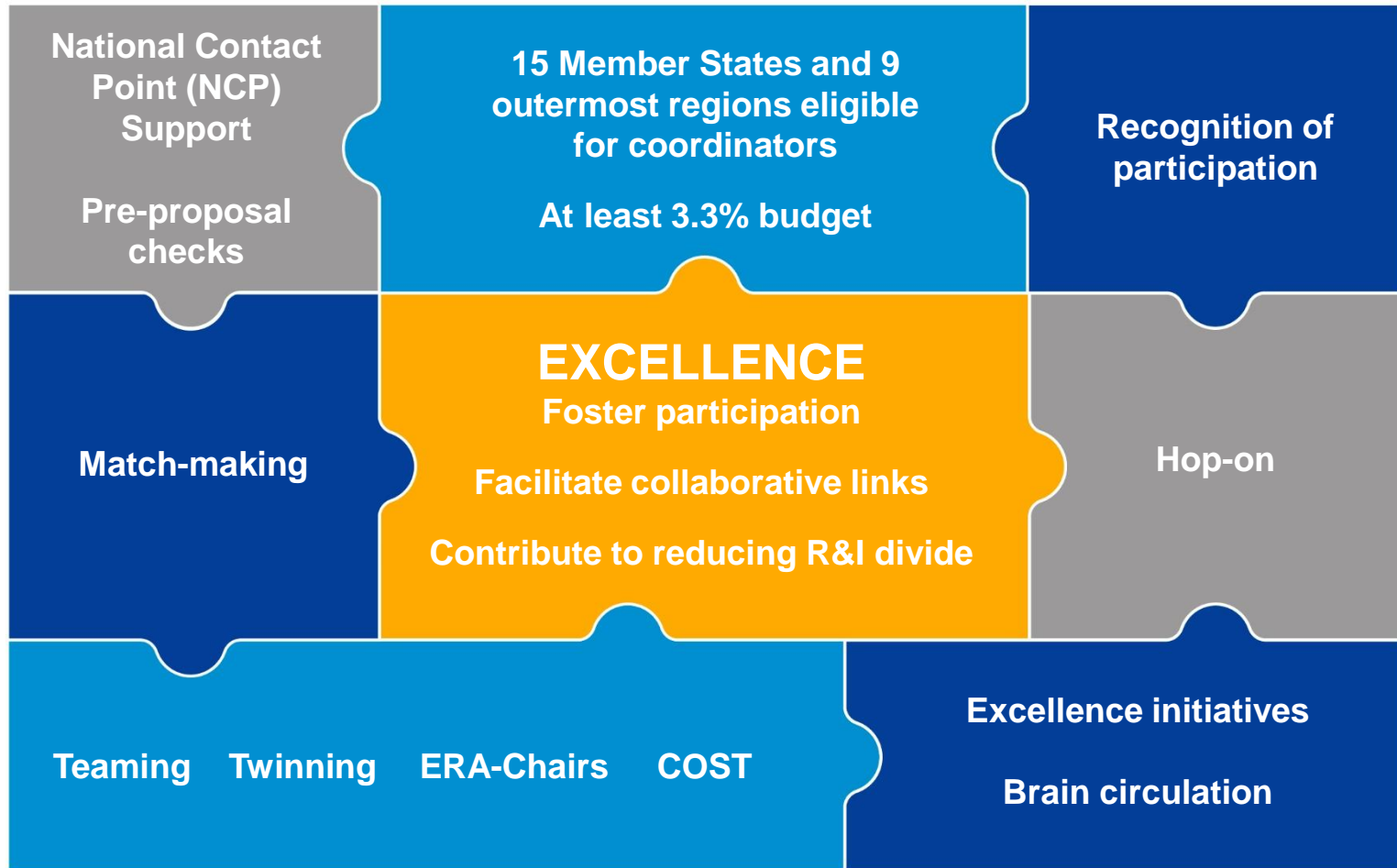
Commission proposal for budget: €100 billion* (2021-2027)



* This envelope includes EUR 3.5 billion allocated under the InvestEU Fund.



Widening participation/spreading excellence



Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area: optimising strengths & potential for a more innovative Europe

Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence, e.g.

- Teaming & twinning
- ERA Chairs
- COST
- Support to NCPs
- Brain circulation and excellence initiatives
- “Hop-on“

Common understanding: At least 3.3 % of Horizon Europe budget

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

Novelties for Widening under Horizon Europe:

- *More integrated policy approach and enhanced synergies with European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), transnational missions, smart specialisation strategies ERA*
- *Further simplification and harmonisation of rules across funding systems*
- *Continuation of core widening instruments with some improvements in response to lessons learnt*
- *Research cost for CSA eligible under widening opening opportunities for integrating smaller research projects into Twinning and ERA Chairs*
- *More emphasis on developing management capacities*
- *Full integration of COST under widening, 80% of actions must have significant widening dimension*
- *Fixed list of eligible countries to host the main beneficiary (EU13 + PT + EL) based on new indicators and internal study*
- *EU outermost regions fully eligible to host the co-ordinator*
- *“Advancing Europe” package with a bunch of additional support schemes to boost participation of less research performing countries*

EUROPEAN RESEARCH & INNOVATION DAYS

24 → 26
SEPTEMBER

20
19

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Thank you!

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