



#InvestEUresearch



# Horizon 2020 Work Programme for Research & Innovation 2018-2020

Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation  
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## Work Programme 2018 Calls

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Research and  
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# Teaming in H2020

## Objective:

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

## The Partnership: 2 parties in each Teaming project

- (1) the COORDINATOR from the "Widening" country
- (2) an institution 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.

**Phase 2:** Subject to the quality of the proposal for Phase 2, and the financial commitment for the project from other sources, the Commission may provide **substantial financial support** (max. €15 million) for the **first steps of implementation** (5-7 years) of the Centre covering administrative, personnel and operational costs as well as "minor" support for equipment and consumables.

**NOTE:** There are no new Teaming calls in H2020. For the ongoing Teaming Phase 2 (restricted) call no information can be provided. Applicants involved in that competition can contact their Project Officer in the REA for further information.

# Impact of Teaming

The **creation of CoEs** in "Widening" Countries through Teaming is expected to:

- increase the scientific capabilities of these countries and enable them to engage in a **strategic growth path** pointing to long-term opportunities for economic development.

- through improved scientific capabilities allow these countries to improve their chances to **seek competitive funding** in EU and international fora.

- create critical mass through **complementary funding** from other sources (e.g ESIF) also committing national/regional authorities to ensure greater impact and project success.

# 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.

# Some FAQ on: Aim, Objectives & Partnership

## ***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.*

# 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).

## Activities supported:

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

Infrastructure, equipment & research costs (except for training) will **NOT** be funded.

# Twinning: Impact & Call details

## 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**;
- Benefit from/to "**advanced**" **partners** to be demonstrated.

## Twinning Call 2018:

Budget: €30 million

Call publication: 27 October 2017

Call opening: 15 May 2017

Call deadline: 15 November 2018

Project Size: up to €0.8 million (eligibility condition)

Project Duration: up to 3 years (eligibility condition)

Implementation: Coordination and Support Action

(Last Twinning call with deadline in Nov 2019)

## Some FAQ on: Costs & Call 2017 details

### **Can a proposal request a contribution above € 0.8 million and/or a duration of more than 3 years?**

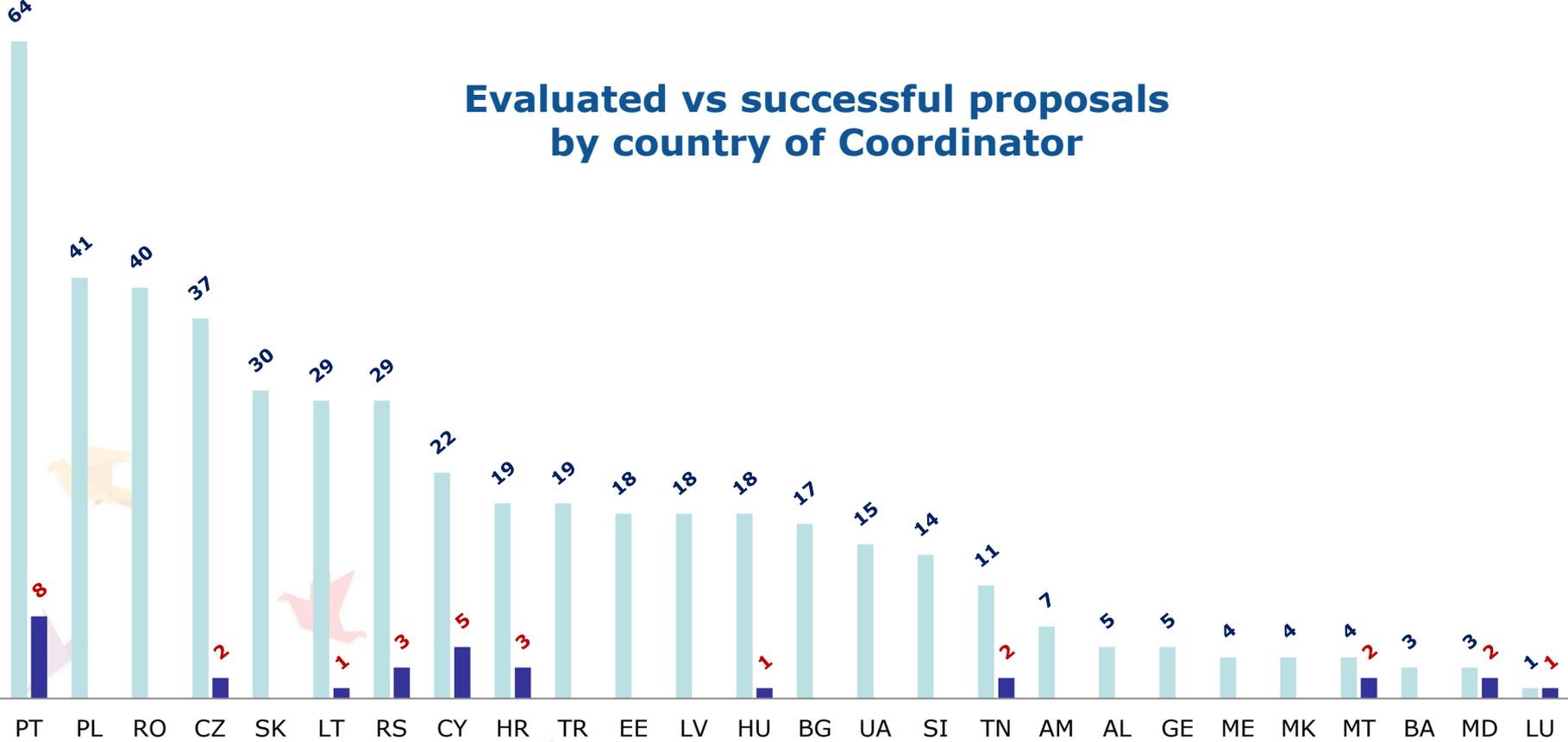
- The requested EU contribution shall not exceed EUR 0.8 million and/or a duration exceeding 3 years. Those are eligibility conditions. However, proposals requiring lower values or with shorter durations are allowed.

### **Are personnel costs (i.e. salaries) eligible in a Twinning project?**

- Twinning is not aimed at hiring new researchers (permanent or temporary).
- However, the hours that the employees of all types (i.e. researchers, administrators or managers) of both the coordinating institution and the internationally-leading (advanced) partner(s) address to project activities (non-research) are eligible costs.

# 2017 Call results - Twinning

Evaluated vs successful proposals by country of Coordinator



# Twinning Lessons learned (1)

## Some points learned from the Interim Evaluation:

- + The establishment of the Twinning **collaborations** was highlighted as the most important result achieved so far.
- + The institution's capabilities in networking and competing for **international funding** have been increased.
- The project coordinators find that **research costs** need to be covered.
- Some of the Twinning institutions are managing for the **first time a large EU project** and the extent of this challenge was not expected.

# Twinning Lessons learned (2)

## Lessons learned for future calls:

- Clear definition of the **scientific strategy** towards excellence in the relevant research field;
- Better illustration of the scientific qualities of "**advanced**" **partners** and their added value to the project;
- Outline the expected impact of the twinning exercise on the institution in the Widening country (and even at the national/regional level) based on **specific indicators**.



# ERA Chairs - Objectives

## 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;
- 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.

# Some FAQ on Proposal design

## Is the SWOT analysis mandatory? ?

- Yes, the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) of the applicant's legal entity should be included in the part B of the proposal. A special format is not required but information to be given here should be concrete and detailed.

## Is 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.

# 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 the E. Framework for Res. 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;

## 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.

# ERA Chairs: Costs & Call 2017 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 equipment);
- The grant will not cover infrastructure costs.

## ERA Chairs Call 2018:

Budget: €30 million

Call publication: 27 October 2017

Call opening: 26 July 2018

Call deadline: 15 November 2018

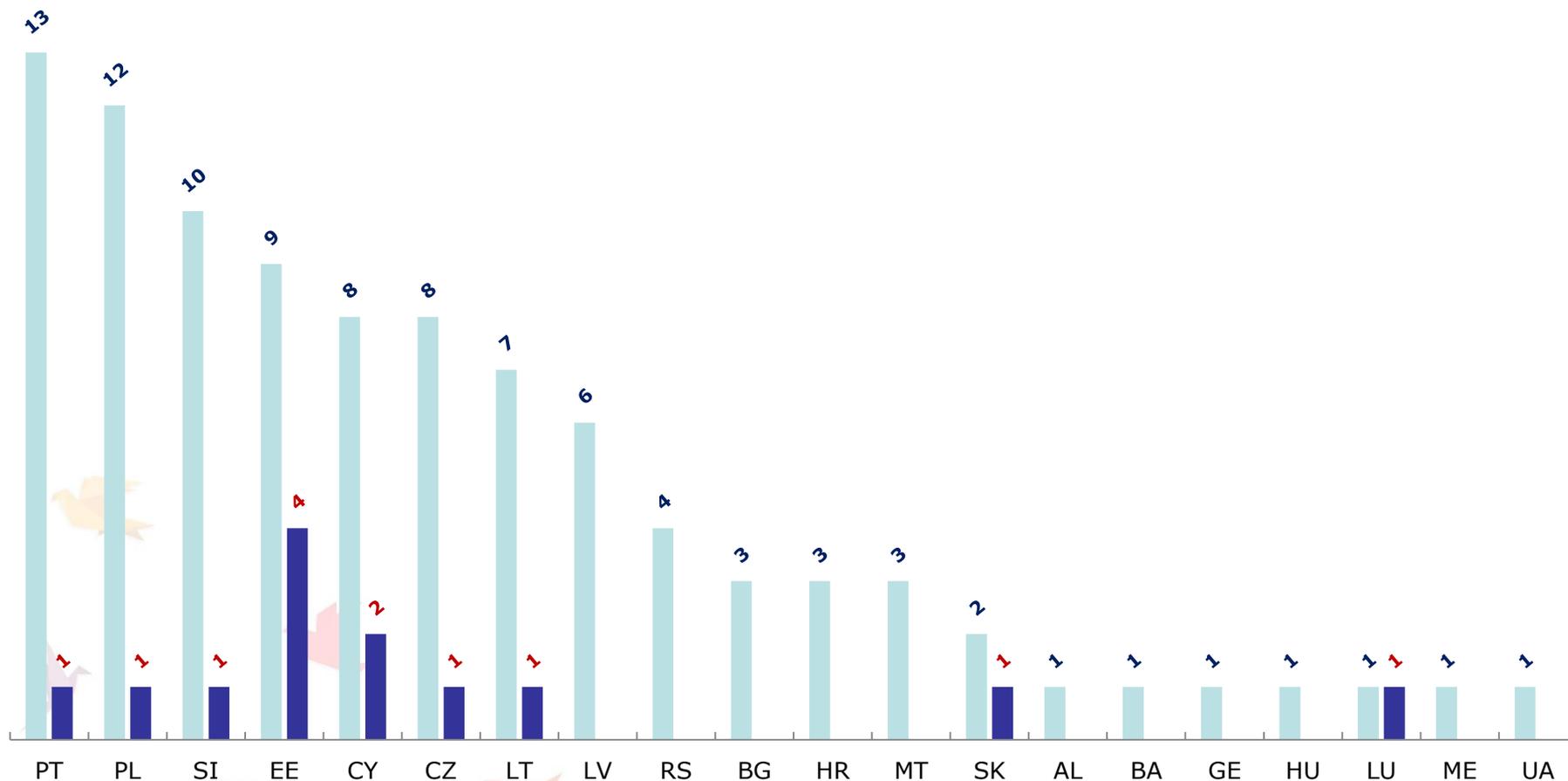
Project Size: up to €2.5 million (eligibility condition)

Project Duration: up to 5 years (eligibility condition)

Implementation: Coordination and Support Action

(Last ERA Chair call with deadline in Nov 2019)

# 2017 Call results – ERA Chairs



# ERA Chairs lessons learned

## Lessons learned for future calls:

- 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**.



# Widening Fellowships (WF)

## What is it?

Specific support to researchers of any nationality to undertake their fellowship in a Widening Country

## Mechanism:

- First step: Regular MSCA IF call & evaluation and selection of IF Fellows
- Proposals above quality threshold but not retained for funding through the MSCA IF call with beneficiaries in widening countries automatically re-assigned to the WF call
- Proposals then selected following the ranked list of the WF until exhaustion of budget

## Widening Fellowships Calls

| Year         | Call opens | Call closes | Budget |
|--------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| <b>2018</b>  | 12/04/2018 | 12/09/2018  | 5 mEUR |
| <b>2019*</b> | 11/04/2019 | 11/09/2019  | 6 mEUR |
| <b>2020*</b> | 08/04/2020 | 09/09/2020  | 7 mEUR |

\* Dates to be confirmed

# Thank you!

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Participant Portal

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/index.html>