SESSION OUTLINE

• Opening Remarks – José Paulo Esperança, FCT

• FCT and Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network (PERIN) – Luís Mota, FCT

• Horizon Europe – Horizontal Activity (Widening)
  • Rui Munhá/Luis Mota (NCPs)

• Design and Implementation of a Teaming Project
  • Rodrigo Cunha (UC)

• Concluding Remarks
Horizon Europe – Horizontal Activity *(Widening)*

TWINNING, TEAMING, ERA-CHAIRS, COST, and others...
Opening Remarks: Strategic Outline

**Leverage Effect & Complementarity**
- National Funds
- Structural Funds
- European Funds

**Targets**
- Participation Levels & Success Rates
- Internationalisation of the R&I Community
- Institutional Strengthening
- Research Careers
- Leverage and Defragmentation of Funds
- Knowledge: Production, Dissemination and Impact

**Cooperation & Interlinkages**
- Institutional Funding
- R&D Projects
- Advanced Training
- Scientific Employment
- Horizon Europe
- Diaspora
- Cohesion & Regional Development
Horizon Europe: 2021-2027

Pillar 1
Excellent Science
- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2
Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness
- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
- Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3
Innovative Europe
- European Innovation Council
- European innovation ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area
- Widening participation and spreading excellence
- Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

Horizon Europe Budget Breakdown
- Pillar I
- Pillar II
- Pillar III
- Widening
Horizon Europe: 2021-2027

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Horizontal Activity (Widening)

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area: *Empowering People and Institutions*

**PERIN**
Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network

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Horizontal Activity (Widening): Introduction

Problems

- Disparities between national R&I systems (R&I divide is a reality), which translate into low participation levels and below average success rates;
- Information and language barriers;
- Lack of professional contacts and research networks, as well as supporting management/administrative structures;
- Lack of leadership experience and specialised training at research organisations in proposal submission and transnational collaborative projects;
- Low connectivity and little experience in cross-country cooperation;
- Generally, low focus on R&I in policy and in business and few options for exploitation of research results at the national level.

Solutions

- Capitalising on synergies with other policy domains and funding programmes;
- Consider other parts of the Framework Programme and cover also actions to be undertaken by MS and regions themselves;
- Strive towards more excellence and promote a more inclusive approach in which all can participate and from which all can benefit.
## Horizontal Activity (Widening): Introduction

### EU Member States
- Albania
- Armenia
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Faroe Islands
- Georgia
- Iceland
- Israel
- North Macedonia
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Norway
- Serbia
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- Ukraine
- Switzerland

### EU Associated Countries
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Rep.
- Estonia
- Greece
- Hungary
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Poland
- **Portugal**
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia

### Widening Countries
- Albania
- Armenia
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Faroe Islands
- North Macedonia
- Georgia
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Ukraine
Horizontal Activity (Widening): Introduction

Strategic Goals

1. Incite reforms and transformation processes
2. Mobilise national investments
3. Raise the bar for excellence of R&I actors
4. Increase number of participations and success rates.
5. Promote the creation and upscaling of innovation ecosystems
6. Foster brain circulation and inter-sectorial mobility
Horizontal Activity (Widening): Introduction

Synergies
- Regional Policy
- Neighbourhood Policies

Reforms and Transformation
- TEAMING for Excellence
- Excellence UNIVERSITIES
- ERAdvance
- Policy Support Facility

Connectivity
- COST
- TWINNING

Brain Circulation
- ERA Policy Initiative
- ERA-CHAIRS

Linking Science and Business
- Excellence HUBS
- EIC Accelerator (Widening Scale-Up)
- Innovation in HEIs

Capacity Building and Inclusiveness
- NCP Support
- HOP-ON
- SEAL OF EXCELLENCE
- LINK TO ERC, EIT, RIs

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Horizontal Activity (Widening): traditional instruments

**TWINNING**
Institutional Networking
Strengthen Specific Research Field
Widening linked to at least 2 leading RPOs in MS or AC
NEW: 25% of Requested Funding allocated to Research

**ERA-CHAIRS**
Bringing Excellence to Institutions
NEW: Two Parties Applications (coordinator and partner organisations); 10% Requested Funding to Research; Extended Duration

**TEAMING FOR EXCELLENCE**
Institutional Building
Centres of Excellence in a Research Field
NEW: 2 Phases replaced by 1 Phase in a two-stage evaluation

**COST**
Networking Actions
NEW: 50% of the budget will have to directly benefit Widening Countries; 80% of Activities will have significant Widening Dimension; COST Innovator Grant; COST Academy
EXCELLENCE HUBS
At least two widening possibly extended to partners outside and ability to conduct Pilots

EXCELLENCE UNIVERSITIES
Excellence combined with inclusiveness. R&I dimension of the European Universities Initiative; Inclusiveness KPI tbd

BRAIN CIRCULATION
Attract Talent
Succeeds Widening Fellowships Pilot
Similar conditions to MSCA Postdocs
Important: 2 years, implemented through MSCA mechanisms, in view of more permanent positions

HOP ON
Improve Inclusiveness on Collaborative R&I projects
Open Up Closed Networks and Silos
Important: up to 5% top-up to project budget. Maximum of 3% of Widening Budget to this Activity
**TWINNING**

Institutional Networking

Strengthen Specific Research Field

Widening institution linked to at least 2 leading RPOs in MS or AC

**NEW: 25% of Requested Funding allocated to Research**

**AIM OF THE ACTION**

Strengthen a *defined field of research* in a higher education institution 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
Twinning: Institutional Networking

**TWINNING**

Institutional Networking

Strengthen Specific Research Field

- **Project Dimension:** up to 1.5 M€
- **Project Duration:** up to 3 years
- **Coordinator:** institution located in a Widening MS/AC
- **Consortium:** minimum of TWO additional partners from two different MS or AC other than the country of the coordinator

**ACTIVITIES**

- 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;
- NEW! ~25% of requested funding eligible for research, consumables and small equipment.
**TWINNING**

Institutional Networking

Strengthen Specific Research Field

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**IMPACTS**

- increased **level of research excellence** of the coordinating institution in the particular field of research;
- improve the **R&I culture** of the coordinator country;
- enhanced **reputation, attractiveness and networking** channels;
- openness for **creativity**, development of **new approaches** and staff exchanges, which will boost **brain circulation**;
- Improved **capability to succeed** in competitive research funding;
COST: Activities Connecting People and Ideas

AIM OF THE ACTION

Strengthen a **defined field of research** in a higher education institution 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

COST Networking Actions

- **50% of the budget** will have to directly benefit Widening Countries;
- **80% of Activities** will have significant Widening Dimension;
- **COST Innovator Grant; COST Academy**
COST: Activities Connecting People and Ideas

Open spaces where you can grow

COST Networking Activities:
COST Actions (networks on a particular topic, collaborating across borders). Other networking instruments are available for those participating (or not) in COST Actions.

- INNOVATOR GRANT
- ACADEMY
- CROSS CUTTING ACTIVITIES
- CONNECT

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW COST ACTION
EXPRESS INTEREST IN JOINING A RUNNING COST ACTION
COST: Activities Connecting People and Ideas

**Activity Plan:** 4 years to make use of COST tools

- MC & CORE GROUP MEETINGS
- SHORT TERM MISSIONS
- TRAINING SCHOOLS
- WORKSHOP & CONFERENCES
- DISSEMINATION

COST DOES NOT FUND HUMAN RESOURCES*, CONSUMABLES AND EQUIPMENT

* Exception is administrative support to the management of the COST Action
ERA-CHAIRS: Bringing Excellence

**ERA-CHAIRS**

Bringing Excellence to Institutions

**NEW!**

- Two Parties Applications (coordinator and partner organisation);
- 10% Requested Funding to Research; Extended Duration

**AIM OF THE ACTION**

Create the appropriate conditions and attract in a sustainable manner outstanding scientists and team members as game changers to universities or research organisations in catching up countries and regions with the potential for excellence.

**MAIN OBJECTIVES**

- Support for universities or research organisations to **hire an outstanding researcher/research manager and their team**;
- Institutions should **implement structural changes** to achieve excellence on a sustainable basis in the chosen scientific domain and **to modify their R&I landscape**;
- Raise the attractivity of the institution and **promote a healthy and balanced brain circulation**;
ERA-CHAIRS: Bringing Excellence

**ERA-CHAIRS**

Bringing Excellence to Institutions

- **Project Dimension:** up to 2.5 M€
- **Project Duration:** up to 6 years
- **Coordinator:** institution located in a Widening MS/AC
- **Consortium:** additional partner organisation

**ERA-CHAIR HOLDER**

- Position must be **open to all EU and non-EU nationals** (R4 – Leading researcher level)

- **ERA-Chair Holder:**
  - Excellent researcher and research manager in the given field;
  - Proven leadership record;
  - Establishes own team, integrated in the host;
  - Position should allow to make decisions regarding resource allocation, supervise team members, and apply for research funding;
ERA-CHAIRS: Bringing Excellence

ERA-CHAIRS
Bringing Excellence to Institutions

- Project Dimension: up to 2.5 M€
- Project Duration: up to 6 years
- Coordinator: institution located in a Widening MS/AC
- Consortium: additional partner organisation

ACTIVITIES

I. ELIGIBLE COSTS RELATED TO ERA-CHAIR HOLDER AND TEAM
- Salaries
- Recruitment costs
- Administrative costs
- Travel costs

II. ELIGIBLE COSTS RELATED TO STRUCTURAL CHANGES
- Trainings
- Meetings
- Publications & IPR
- Research, Consumables and Small Equipment: up to 10%
ERA-CHAIRS: Bringing Excellence

**ERA-CHAIRS**

*Bringing Excellence to Institutions*

- **Project Dimension:** up to 2.5 M€
- **Project Duration:** up to 6 years
- **Coordinator:** institution located in a Widening MS/AC
- **Consortium:** additional partner organisation

**IMPACTS**

- Institutional changes allowing *full participation and integration in the ERA* (and its priorities);
- Increased *attractiveness of institution* for internationally excellent and mobile researchers;
- “brain gain” and creation of *pockets of excellence*;
- Improved capability to *compete successfully* for international and competitive research funding;
AIM OF THE ACTION
Create new (or significant update of existing) centres of excellence in Widening countries through a coupling process with a leading scientific institution.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

• Engage countries and regions strategically in a path of innovative growth through the Centres of Excellence, building on new developed capabilities;

• Maximise and spread the benefits of research and innovation across the EU, regarded as vital for regions, countries and Europe’s competitiveness;

• Help countries and regions that are lagging behind in R&I performance to attain a competitive position in the global value chains.
TEAMING FOR EXCELLENCE

Institutional Building
Centres of Excellence in a Research Field

- **Project Dimension:** up to 15 M€
- **Project Duration:** 6-8 years
- **Coordinator:** institution located in a Widening MS/AC
- **Consortium:** additional partner with an international reputation in R&I Excellence (EU27 and AC)

**NEW!**
Merger of formerly two phases (Business plan + Implementation of the Centre of Excellence) in a single project evaluated in a two stage evaluation procedure, and the possibility of evaluating the co-financed part
LEARNING LESSONS

- Clear objectives/ vision/ excellence;
- Make clear pointers to integration with medium to long term growth strategies (10-15 years);
- Well-chosen, carefully structured partnership, and strong engagement from parties;
- Broad alignment with national/regional Smart Specialisation Strategies and synergies with Cohesion Funding (need to make appropriate conditional “space” in ESIF OPs to secure the funding for the implementation of the Centre of Excellence);
- Long term financial commitments from relevant authorities from the outset;
- Clear strategy on handling resources and have clear plans on organisational issues;
- COORDINATOR: strong in project management and proven track record in mobilising national/cohesion funding.
Horizon Europe – Horizontal Activity, Widening

• Rodrigo Cunha (UC)
Under construction... (probable) Calls in 2021

- Twinning for the Western Balkans
  (PT cannot be coordinator)
- Teaming
- ERA-Chairs
- Excellence Hubs
- European Excellence Initiative
- Balanced Brain Circulation
  (highly probable to be articulated with MSCA)
- Mobility Programme for Science Managers
Horizon Europe: 2021-2027

FCT: NCPs and National Delegates

Visit us at perin.pt and at the FCT webpage dedicated to Horizon Europe