European Commission

#HorizonEU

THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

WIDERA

Widening participation and Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA)

MANUEL ALEIXO

26 January 2023

Research and Innovation

HORIZON EUROPE

Investing to shape our future

European Commission

Horizon Europe - the Vision

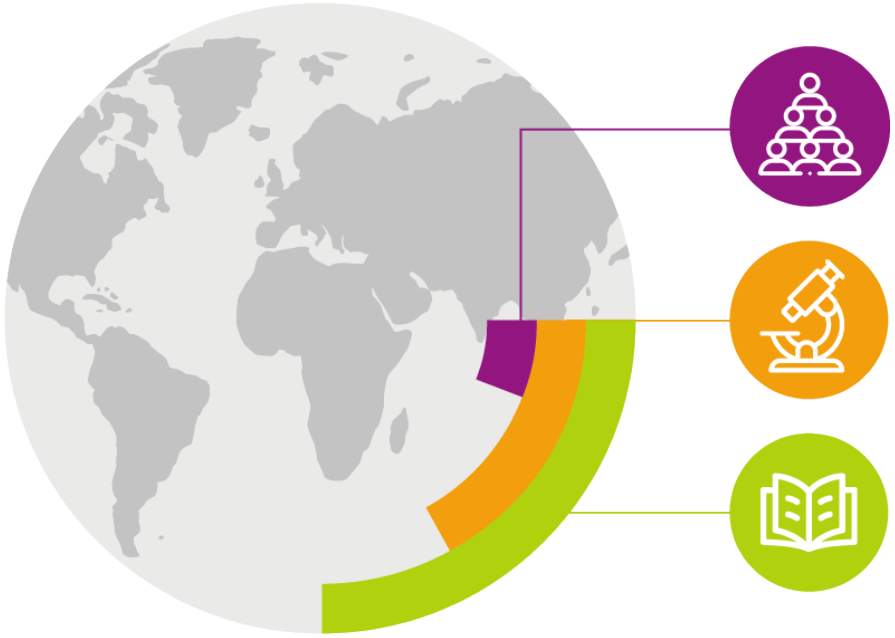
The EU's key funding programme for research and innovation:

- Tackles climate change
- Helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals
- Boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth
- Facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges
- Supports the creation and better diffusion of excellent knowledge and technologies
- Creates jobs, fully engages the EU's talent pool, boosts economic growth, promotes industrial competitiveness and optimises investment impact within a strengthened European Research Area.

Credits: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

European Commission

While benefiting from world-class research and strong industries… Our knowledge and skills are our main resources

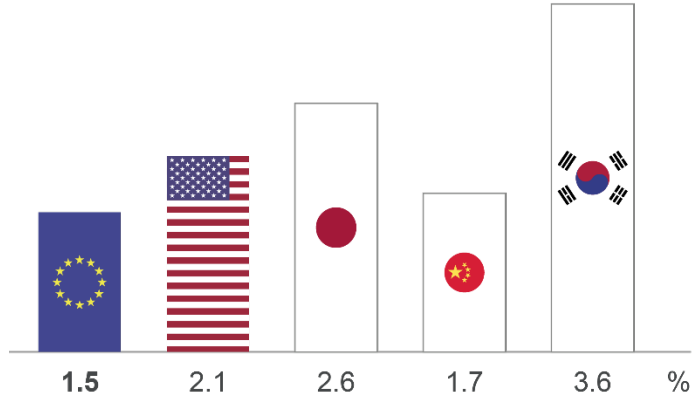


6% of the world's **population**

17% of global **R&D**

25% of all high-quality **scientific publications**

1.5% EU business **R&D investment**



EU figure is for 2019
Figures for USA, Japan, China and South Korea are for 2018. Figures represent R&D as % of GDP

…Europe can do better at transforming this into **leadership in innovation** and **entrepreneurship**

European Commission

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EURATOM

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME: EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND

Exclusive focus on defence research & development

- Research actions
- Development actions

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

EURATOM

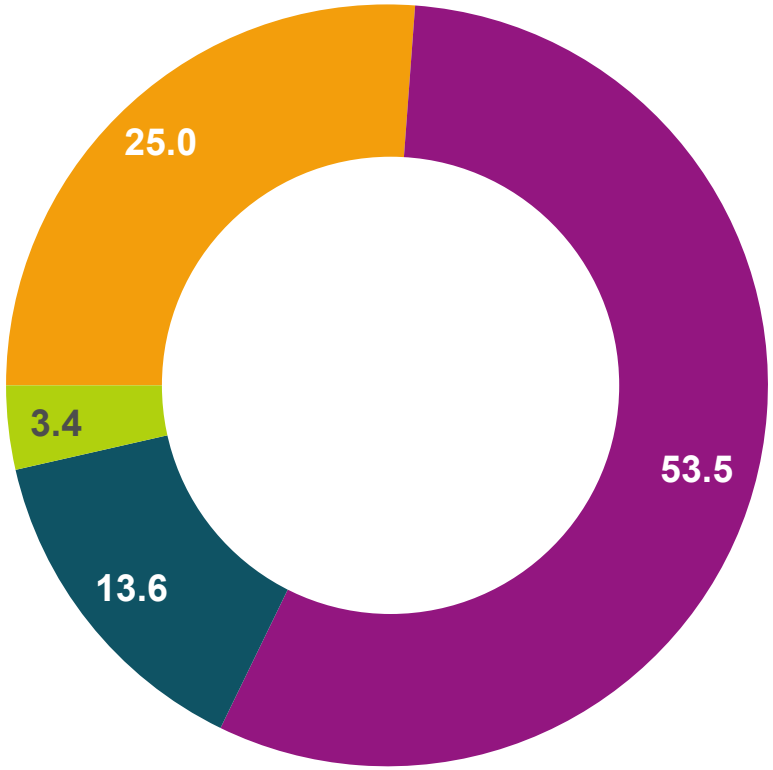
- Fusion
- Fission
- Joint Research Center

* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

European Commission

Horizon Europe Budget: €95.5 billion (2021-2027)

(including €5.4 billion from NGEU – Next Generation Europe – programme of EU for Recovery from COVID-19 crisis)



Political agreement December 2020

€ billion in current prices

- Excellent Science
- Global challenges and European ind. comp.
- Innovative Europe
- Widening Part and ERA

European Commission

Lessons Learned

from Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation

Key Novelties

in Horizon Europe

Support breakthrough innovation	European Innovation Council
Create more impact through mission-orientation and citizens' involvement	EU Missions
Rationalise partnerships' landscape	New approach to partnerships
Reinforce openness	Open science policy
Strengthen international cooperation	Extended association possibilities
Encourage participation	Spreading Excellence

European Commission

Work Programme 2023-2024 in a nutshell

- Total budget ca. **€13.5 billion** for research and innovation (R&I)
-
- Support to the **green and digital transitions**:
  - climate objectives and biodiversity
  - digital transition in a wide range of sectors and core digital technologies

- Investment in EU's **safety, security** and **resilience**:
  - recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
  - clean energy transition and reducing energy dependency
  - pandemic preparedness
  - fighting physical and cyber threats

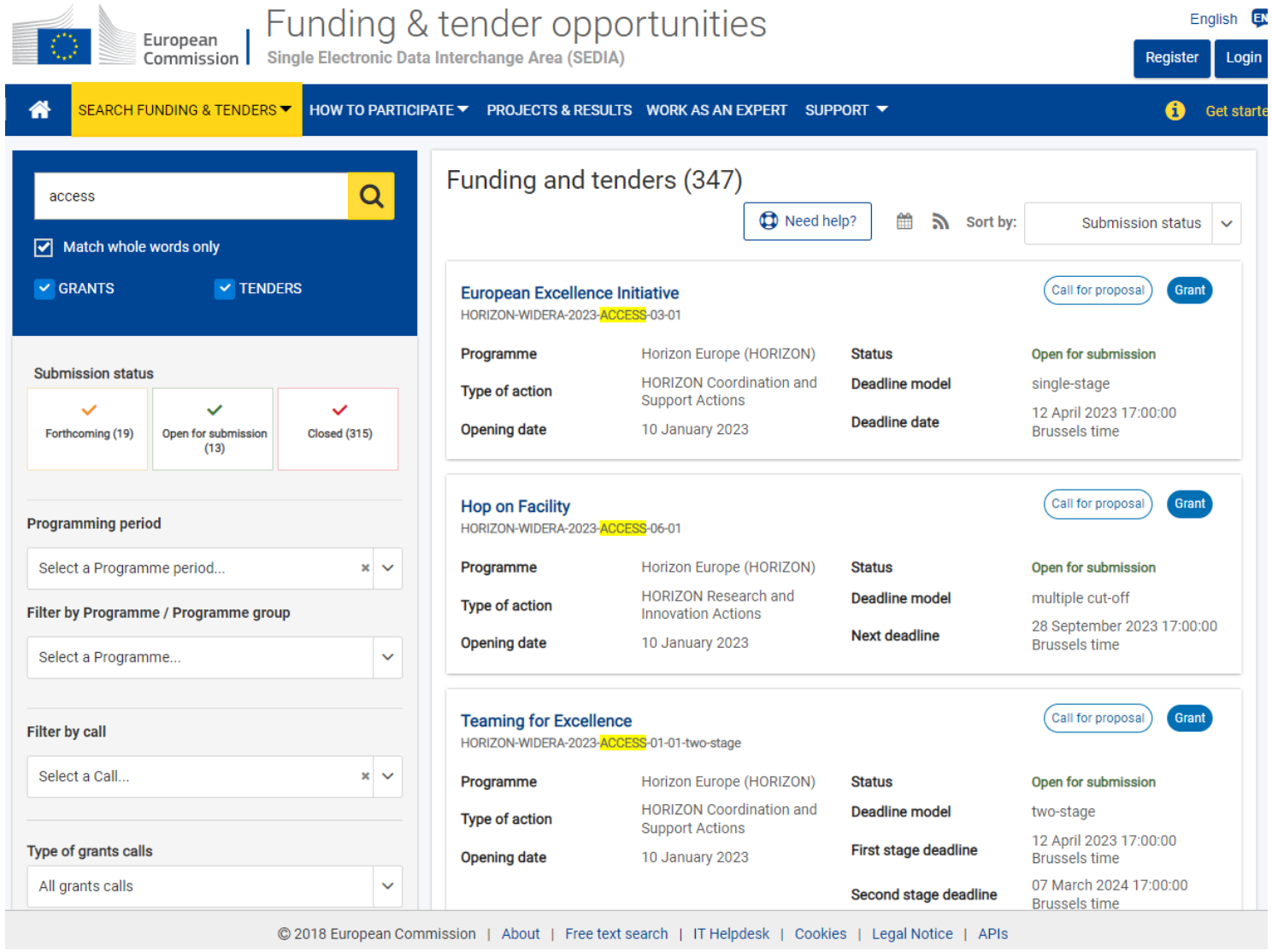
- Targeted support for **Ukraine**

European Commission

International Cooperation in the Work Programme 2023-2024

- Open to the World: any consortium can include international partner(s) for almost all topics
- 22% of topics specifically encourage International Cooperation
- Africa initiative/ Mediterranean initiative/ China flagships
- Balance openness with safeguarding European strategic autonomy and assets (Article 22.5 of HE Regulation): 31 topics restrict participation

Easy access: Funding & tenders (europa.eu)



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The New European Research Area: Policy Framework

European Commission

A new vision for the European Research Area (ERA)

What is the new ERA?

What are the objectives of the new ERA?

- Prioritise investments in research and innovation
- Boost market uptake
- Strengthen the mobility of researchers and free flow of knowledge and technology
- Widening: Improve access to excellence

European Research Area 2020 - 2022

2020

Commission Communication "A new ERA for Research and Innovation", September

Council Conclusions on the new ERA , December

January 2021

Establishment of the **ERA Forum for Transition**

- 13 meetings
- Three workshops and R&I Days side event with ERA stakeholder umbrella organisations
- Some covered topics: ERA governance framework, ERA policy agenda, four ERA pilot actions

16 July 2021

Commission adopts proposal for a **"Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe"**

1) Principles for R&I in Europe
2) Priority areas for ERA joint actions
3) Investments and reforms
4) Simplified policy coordination

26 November 2021

Council Recommendation on a "Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe"

Council conclusions on the new ERA governance & the first ERA policy Agenda (2022-2024)

2022

Establishment of the **new ERA Forum** to implement the actions of the **ERA Policy Agenda**

- 11 meetings so far

ERA Policy Agenda: 20 actions along four priority areas

DEEPENING A TRULY FUNCTIONING INTERNAL MARKET FOR KNOWLEDGE

1. Open sharing of knowledge, incl. EOSC
2. Data legislation fit for research
3. Reform of research assessment
4. Strengthen research careers
5. Gender equality and inclusiveness
6. Protect academic freedom
7. Better knowledge valorisation
8. Research infrastructures
9. International cooperation, reciprocity

TOGETHER FOR TWIN GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION, AND INCREASING SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ERA

10. R&I Missions and Partnerships for ERA
11. Green energy transformation
12. Transition of industrial ecosystems
13. Empower higher education institutions
14. Bring science closer to society

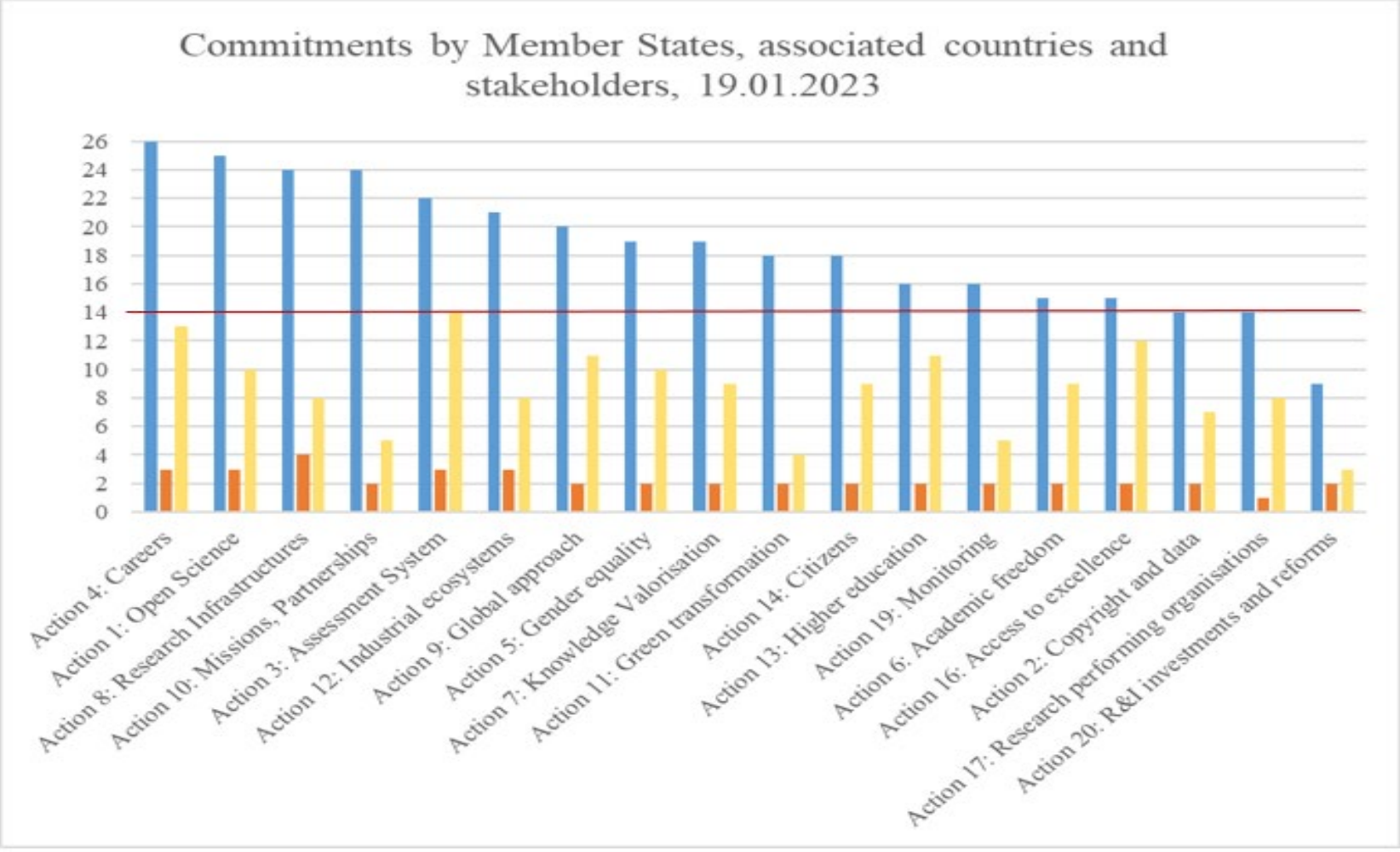
AMPLIFYING ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE UNION

15. Regional and national R&I ecosystems
16. EU-wide access to excellence
17. Strategic capacity of public RPOs

ADVANCING CONCERTED R&I INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

18. Coordination national support for ERA
19. ERA monitoring mechanism
20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms

Member States‘ commitment per action



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Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area

Infoday videos:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdK-P91UtSo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbuDOB_oukQ

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Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area: Policy narrative

Widening component

- Tackle the innovation divide towards a more inclusive and cohesive European research and innovation ecosystem in the European Union;
- Raise the bar of excellence and visibility for research instiutions and teams in catching up countries;
- Existing disparities between R&I leading and lagging countries and regions should be reduced by institutional and systemic policy reforms.

ERA component

- Support the four objectives set out in the ERA Communication, and the implementation of the 20 actions in the ERA Policy Agenda (*Prioritising investments and reforms, Improving access to excellence, Translating R&I results into the economy, Deepening the ERA)*

Synergies with other funding programmes/work programme parts

- Horizon Europe including thematic clusters and R&I missions, in relation to the relevant actions in the ERA Policy Agenda, and of the ambition of the Pact for R&I in general;
- Cohesion policy and other similar community funding such as RRF, IPA (in particular for Widening);
- Erasmus+ (European Strategy for Universities);
- … and of course the national investments and reforms, including those supported by RRF

WIDERA WP part 2023-2024 in a nutshell

3 Destinations:

- **Improved access to Excellence, 7 calls, 8 topics**
  call deadlines 12/4/2023, 28/9/2023, 7/3/2024 and 26/9/2024
- **Attracting and mobilising the best talents, 4 calls**
  call deadlines 7/3/2024 and 26/9/2024, and 2 aligned to MSCA 13/9/2023 and 11/9/2024
- **Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system,**
  2 calls, 24 topics, call deadlines 9/3/2023 and 12/3/2024
- **Other actions:**
  - 2 Prizes: Horizon Impact Award, EU Award for (Academic) Gender Equality Champions;
  - 7 GIB: RESAVER, EUCYS; COST, presidency events etc.;
  - 10 Procurements and 4 groups of expert contract actions;
  - 1 Contribution Agreement with OECD.
- **~EUR 900 million total budget:** ~EUR 445 million on topics/actions 2023,
  ~EUR 455 million on topics/actions 2024

European Commission

Widening participation: Policy Objectives 2023/4

1. Encourage **institutional reforms and transformation processes** of the R&I system at national and regional level in Widening countries in line with ERA principles;
2. Mobilise **national investments in R&I** capacity in Widening countries;
3. Raise the bar for **excellence of R&I actors** in Widening countries in partnership with outstanding European and international institutions (‘win-win situation’);
4. Increase number of **participations and success** rates of widening actors in research and innovation projects in other parts of Horizon Europe (notably in Pillars 2 and 3);
5. Promote the creation of **new innovation ecosystems** and scale up existing ones by a set of measures
6. Foster **brain circulation**, including inter-sectoral mobility for researchers and innovators and turn it into brain gain for Widening countries.

Widening participation: Calls 2023/4 (EUR 686 ME)

Destination 1 – Improved Access to Excellence

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01-01 - Teaming for Excellence
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 – Twinning
  - HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-01 - Twinning - Bottom up
  - HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-02 - Twinning - Green Deal
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-03-01 - European Excellence Initiative (EEI)
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-04-01 - Pathways to Synergies
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-05-01 - Dissemination and Exploitation Support Facility
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06-01 - Hop-on facility
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07-01 - Excellence Hubs

Destination 2 – Attracting and mobilising the best talents

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01-01 - ERA Chairs
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023 & 2024 -TALENTS-02-01 - ERA Fellowships
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-TALENTS-03-01 - ERA Talents

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01-01-two-stage
Teaming for Excellence

To create or modernise a centre of excellence, relevant at national level, in a chosen scientific domain

Expected outcomes

- Increased scientific capabilities of the beneficiary institution and the host country enabling them to successfully apply for competitive funding in the EU and globally;
- Improved R&I culture of the coordinator country;
- Stimulus for institutional and systemic reforms;
- Mutual learning and two-way benefit from and to the partners from leading scientific institutions from abroad;
- Development of new research strands in relevant domains;
- Developed and enhanced research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies;
- Enhanced innovation and integration of planned processes, services and products of the centre;
- Enhanced co-operation and synergies with other (community) funding programmes.

Call Opening: 10 Jan 2023

Call Closure stage 1: 13 Apr 2023

Call Closure stage 2: 07 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: 174 Mio. €

Indicative number of projects: up to 18

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-02: Twinning - Green Deal

Twinning Green Deal adds in directionality to the general twinning action. All the conditions remain the same except for the choice of the research topic. The latter will have to be in line with the European Green Deal strategy actions.

Expected outcomes

- Improved excellence capacity and resources in Widening countries enabling to close the still apparent research and innovation gap within Europe;
- Enhanced strategic networking activities between the research institutions of the Widening countries and at least two internationally-leading counterparts at EU level;
- Raised reputation, research profile and attractiveness of the coordinating institution from the Widening country and the research profile of its staff;
- Strengthened research management capacities and administrative skills of the staff working in institutions from the Widening country;
- Improved creativity supported by development of new approaches in R&I collaboration, increased mobility (inwards and outwards) of qualified scientists.

Call Opening: 25 Apr 2023

Call Closure: 28 Sep 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: 27 Mio. €

Indicative Number of Projects:

20

HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-04-01
Pathways to Synergies

Incentivize sequential synergies between Horizon Europe and other community funds notably ERDF in two optional pathways (upstream, downstream)

Expected outcomes

General

- Improved and more systematic synergies between Horizon Europe & 2020 and ERDF through internationalisation, valorisation and technology uptake;
- Strengthened competitiveness of R&I actors in widening countries;
- Accelerated knowledge transfer and innovation cycle for beneficiaries from ERDF and Horizon;
- Strengthened innovation capacity and competitiveness of less R&I performing regions.

Call Opening: 28 Mar 2023

Call Closure: 28 Sep 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 20

Indicative number of projects: 20

HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-05-01
Dissemination and Exploitation Support Facility

Support to beneficiaries in their dissemination and exploitation of results through a market oriented approach and service package

Expected outcomes

- Improved skills and knowledge on D&E, knowledge transfer and IP management;
- Collected and shared best practices for uptake of R&I results and identified blocking elements that prevent beneficiaries from valorising further their R&I results;
- Increased maturity level of key exploitable results;
- Greater recognition of beneficiaries at national & regional policy level, as a result of enhanced visibility of D&E success stories;
- Enhanced synergies between beneficiaries of widening actions;
- Improved sustainability of ongoing widening actions;
- Identified downstream synergies with other EU programmes especially ERDF, ESF, RRF.

Call Opening: 26 Apr 2023

Call Closure: 28 Sep 2023

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 5

Indicative number of projects: 1 or more

HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-06-01
Hop on Facility

Research institutions from Widening countries joining Horizon Europe Pillar 2 and EIC pathfinder actions

Expected outcomes

- Unlocked excellence and increased visibility of the participants from the Widening countries, improved knowledge circulation, and reduced lack of participation of Widening countries in thematic domains;
- Opened up silos of established closed consortia, improved research excellence of the Widening country's institutions in specific fields, enlarged outreach of the participants' R&I actions and provided access to new talent pools;
- New competencies and skills for working in transnational projects including research management and dissemination and exploitation acquired.

➔ **List of eligible projects:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon/hop-on

Call Opening: 10 Jan 2023

Call Closure: 28 Sep 2023, 26 Sep 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 40 + 40

Indicative number of projects: 160

HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-07-1
Excellence Hubs

Collaboration of place-based innovation ecosystems using the quadruple helix model

Expected outcomes

- Excellent and sustainable place-based innovation ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond in relevant domains;
- Long term joint R&I strategies underpinned by concrete action plans;
- Common investment plans for R&I including infrastructures;
- R&I pilot projects alongside a joint strategy and in line with regional and national strategies;
- New competencies and skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in R&I intensive domains;
- Strengthened linkages between science and business, poles of attraction for talents;
- Improved knowledge transfer and development of entrepreneurial skills, uptake of innovative technologies, new business opportunities especially for SMEs and new employment.

NEW

- **Optional:** Inclusion of emerging innovation ecosystems from rural areas, Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries including Ukraine by optional mentoring module

Call Opening: 28 Sep 2023

Call Closure: 07 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 60

Indicative number of projects: 12

Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system: Calls 2023 (34,70 EUR million)

- ERA-01-01: Programme level collaboration between national R&I policy makers
- ERA-01-02: A strong European R&I Foresight Community to better inform R&I policy decisions in the European Research Area about potential futures
- ERA-01-03: Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation
- ERA-01-04: Development of new approaches to the macroeconomic modelling of research and innovation
- ERA-01-05: Exploitation and valorisation of results relevant for the ERA Policy Agenda
- ERA-01-06: Building a virtual European Info Platform on Contemporary China
- ERA-01-07: Support to reforms of research assessment in the European Research Area
- ERA-01-08: Laying the groundwork towards Europe-wide citizen science campaigns
- ERA-01-09: Policy support to facilitate the implementation of a zero-tolerance approach towards gender-based violence in the ERA
- ERA-01-10: Support to the implementation of an EU Manifesto for STE(A)M education and research and innovation career paths to tackle gender inequalities in the ERA
- ERA-01-11: Research ethics for environmental and climate technologies
- ERA-01-12: The future of research ethics review in the changing research environments

Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system: Calls 2024 (40,80 EUR million)

- ERA-01-01: Programme level collaboration between national R&I policy makers
- ERA-01-02: Emerging needs of the ERA Policy Agenda
- ERA-01-03: Support for the professionalisation of research management
- ERA-01-04: Strengthening researchers' skills for better careers – leveraging the European Competence Framework for Researchers
- ERA-01-05: Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation
- ERA-01-06: European Excellence Initiative: Acceleration services in support of universities
- ERA-01-07: Capacity building on intellectual property (IP) management to support open science
- ERA-01-08: Global cooperation in not-for-profit open access publishing
- ERA-01-09: Support to the development and implementation of policies and practices for reproducibility of scientific results
- ERA-01-10: Policy coordination to support all aspects of inclusive Gender Equality Plans and policies in the ERA
- ERA-01-11: Support to the implementation of inclusive gender equality plans
- ERA-01-12: Next generation AI and Human Behaviour: promoting an ethical approach

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-01 & HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-01: Programme level collaboration between national R&I policy makers

Complementary topic to the new approach for European Partnerships: possibility for MS, AC and civil society organisations to maintain existing and establish new collaborations on priorities of their choice.

Expected outcomes

- Identification of common research and innovation priorities at the level of national and regional R&I programmes, taking into account international developments, where relevant, leading to the development of coordinated R&I funding agendas;
- Implementation of multiannual joint calls, resulting in the funding of transnational collaborative R&I projects;
- Implementation of other joint activities supporting the market, regulatory or societal uptake of results;
- Contribution to participating states meeting Global Challenges, including relevant contribution to the SDGs.

Call is open in 2023 and 2024

Call Opening / closure:
6 Dec 2022 / 9 Mar 2023
6 Dec 2023 / 12 March 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 10

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 6 + 6

Indicative number of projects: 3

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-03 & HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-05
Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation

Translating available scientific knowledge and research results to innovative solutions -*including through more experimentation, peer learning and testing of new models as well as trying out good practices in different environments*

Expected outcomes

- Value creation for economy and society by increased interlinkages and cooperation between knowledge valorisation actors;
- New solutions to societal and economic challenges by stronger uptake and deployment of research results, including through the involvement of citizens and civil society;
- Improvements of structures, strategies, practices and skills for knowledge valorisation through sustainable reforms and new initiatives.

➔ Schemes and incentives for researchers to engage with society that promote the uptake of research results (academia–society collaboration); and/or

➔ Transfer of best practices in knowledge valorisation in academia-industry linkages or quadruple helix-based innovation

Call in 2023 and Call in 2024

Call Opening / closure:
6 Dec 2022 / 9 Mar 2023
6 Dec 2023 / 12 March 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 7

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 3 + 2

Indicative number of projects: 3 + 2

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-06:
European Excellence Initiative: Acceleration services in support of universities

Support universities and other higher education institutions to develop in line with the European Research Area priorities through strategy support and counseling

Expected outcomes

- Access for higher education institutions to a range of tailor-made **coaching services**, expertise, (virtual) meeting platforms or tools, seed funding for institutional change;
- Successful **institutional reform** and upgrade of higher education institutions in **research & innovation**;
- Connection of higher education institutions with peers, other ecosystem actors, investors and public funders;
- Strengthened R&I capacities in higher education institutions, measured through a monitoring mechanism: modernised **research careers**, accelerated digital transition, increased excellence in science and value creation;
- Contribution to implementation of the relevant **ERA Policy Agenda** priorities in higher education sector.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2023

Call Closure: 12 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 13

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR 9.0 million

Indicative number of projects: 4

Expected duration: 2-5y

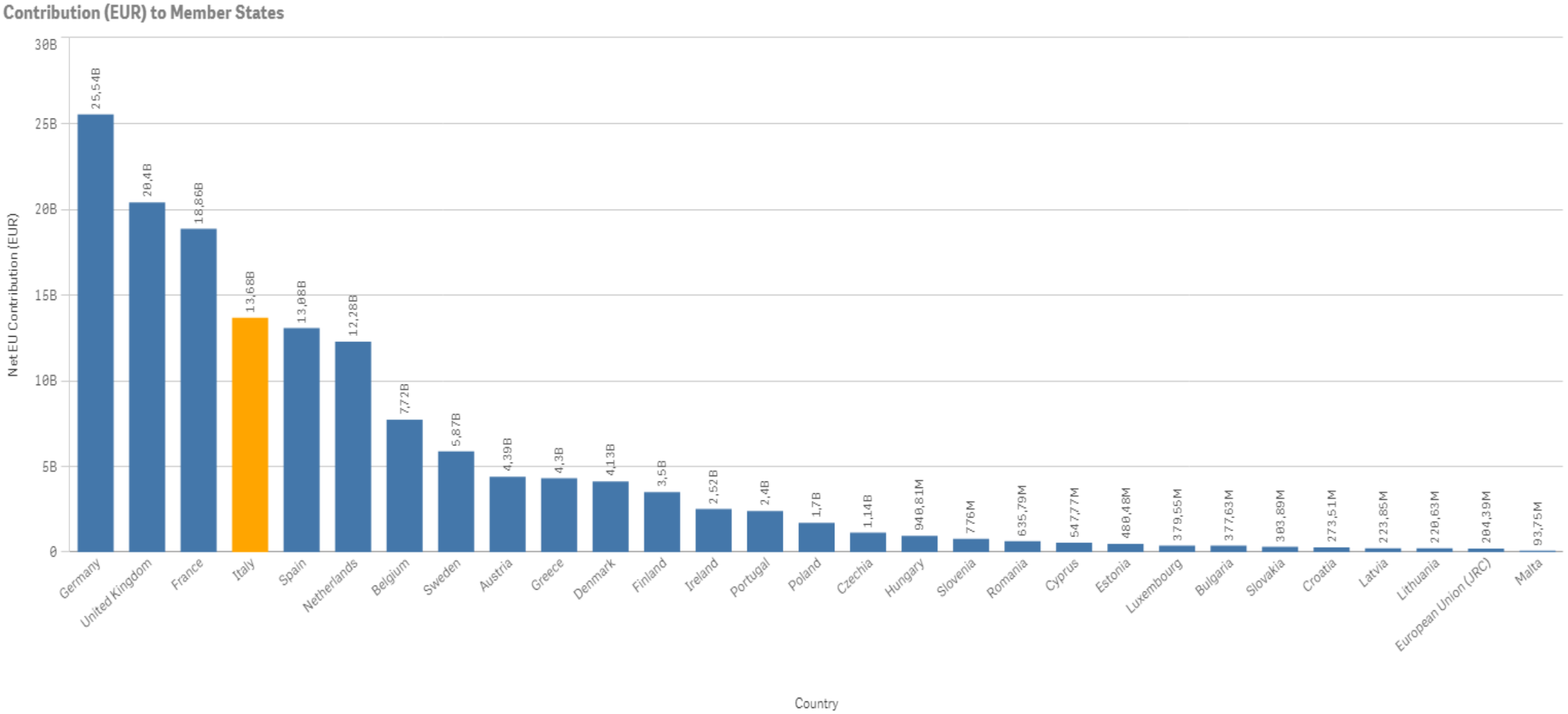
HORIZON EUROPE

Italian participation in Framework Programmes

European Commission

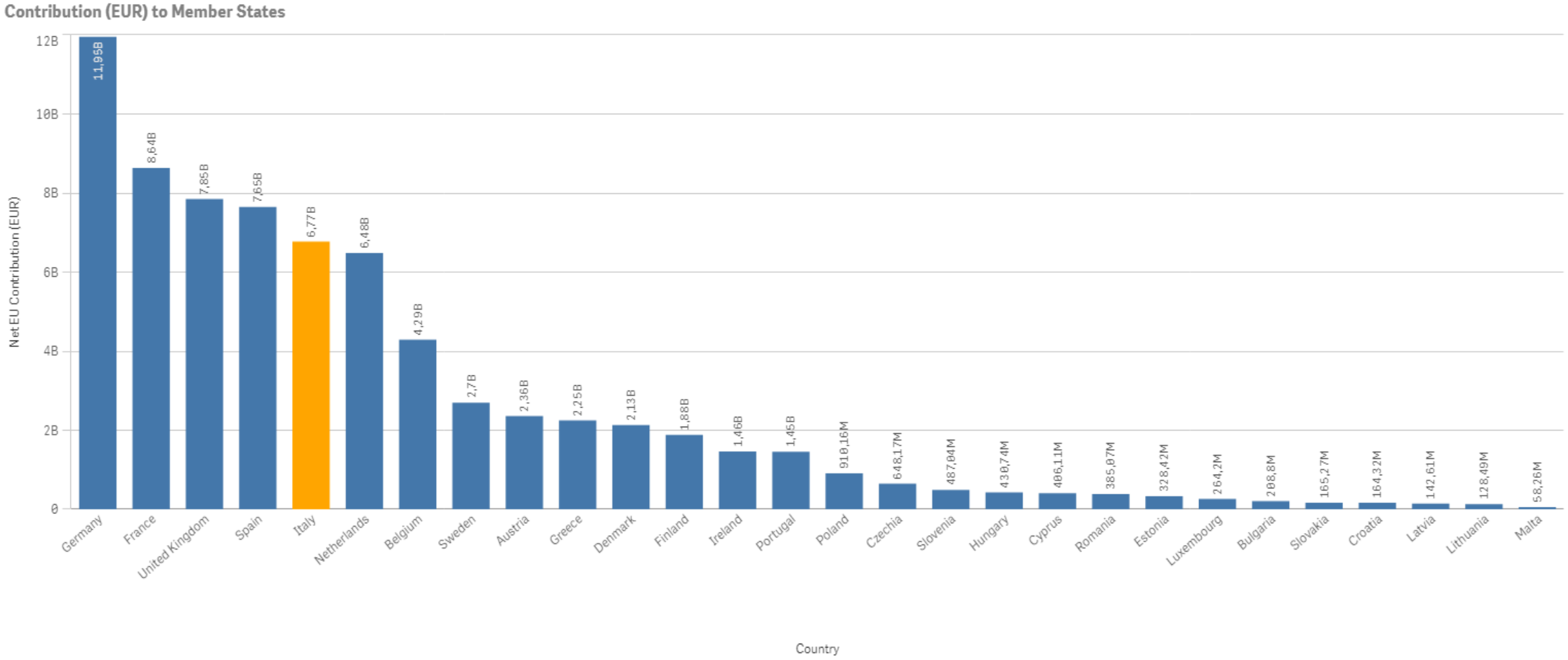
Italian participation: overall

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard

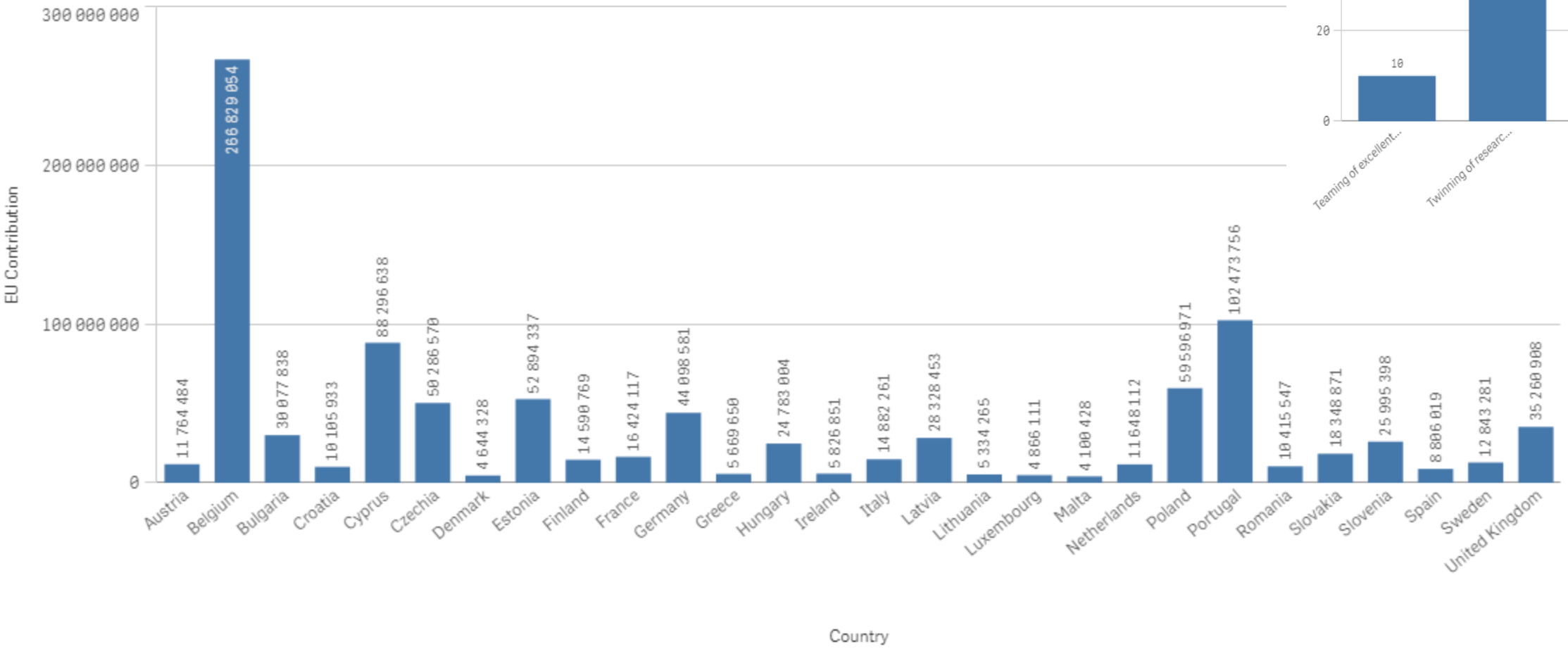


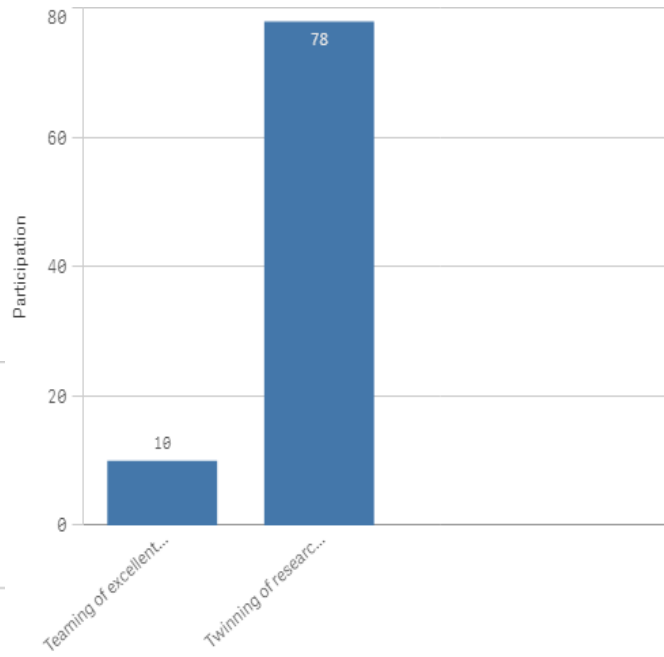
Italian participation: H2020, HE

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard

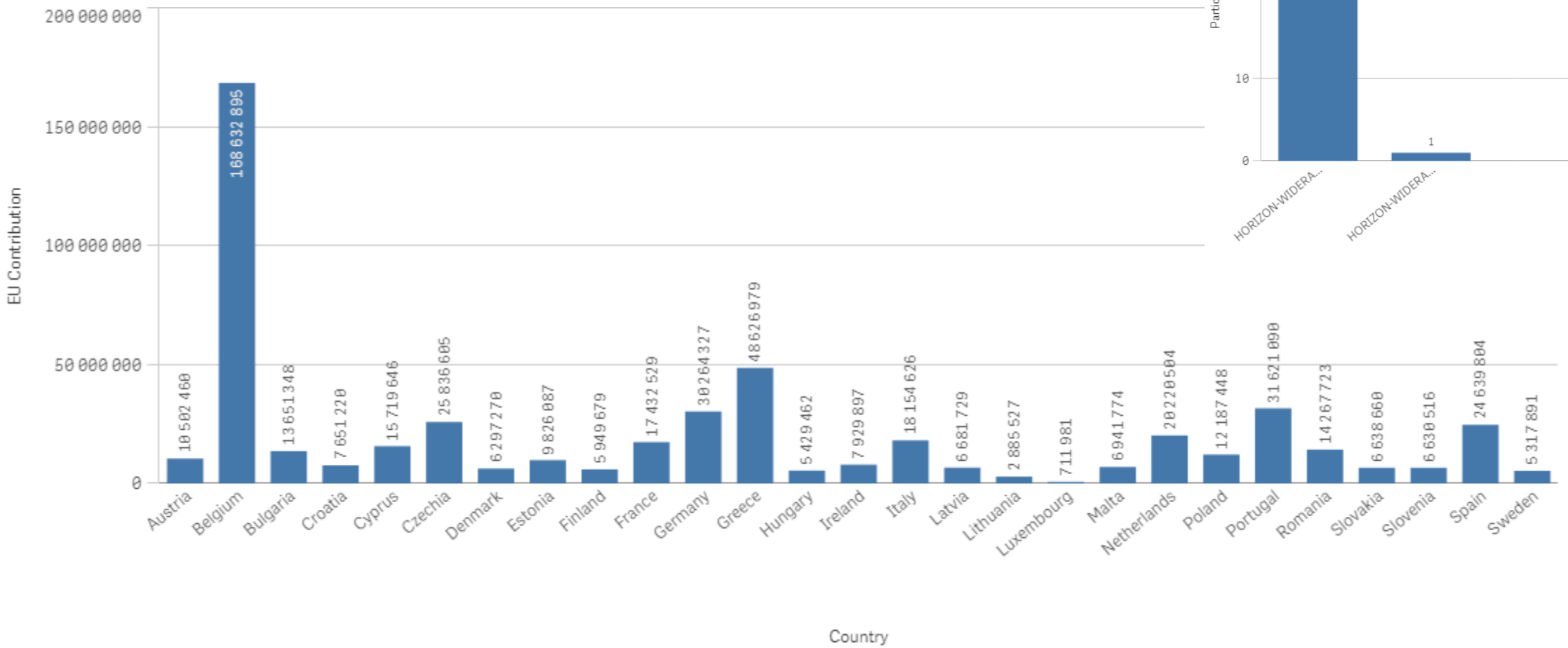


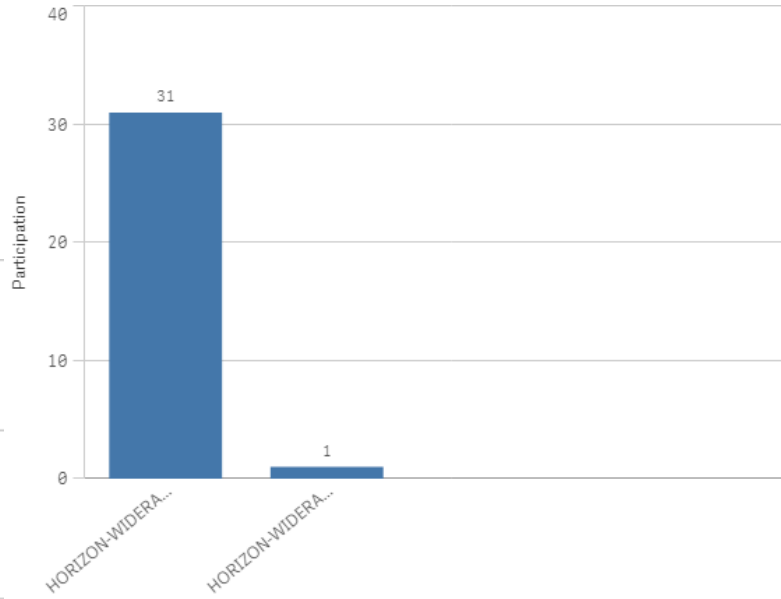
Participation in H2020 SEWP





Participation in HE WIDERA





Thank you!

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

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