



## ERA Factsheet

### No.4

# Reforming and Enhancing the European Research and Innovation System in Horizon Europe – key information on the ERA call 2024-02

An amendment to the work programme was published in April 2024. With this amendment, an additional call for the Horizon Europe programme part “Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I System” was added, creating new funding opportunities! The call “Enhancing the European R&I system, Horizon-Widera-2024-ERA-02” (ERA call for short) comprises only three topics

but is endowed with a considerable budget of 28 million euros, with which up to 18 projects are to be funded. It supports activities on knowledge valorisation, early research careers, and science in cities, thus offering opportunities to a broad range of stakeholders active in building the European Research Area (ERA).

## Basic information on the ERA call 2024-02

The first topic, “**Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation**”, supports the transfer of scientific knowledge and research results into innovative solutions, including through more experimentation, peer learning and testing of new models, as well as trying out good practices in different environments. Relevant for this topic are not only the [guiding principles](#) for knowledge valorisation but also the European Commission’s

two new recommendations for a code of practice for knowledge valorisation on [industry-academia co-creation](#) and on [citizen engagement](#).

Compared to the [2023](#) topic, some adjustments have been made, e.g. the two types of challenges have been more clearly distinguished. The topic targets academia/research, industry/SMEs, public administration/policy makers.



The second topic, **“Science comes to town”**, offers the opportunity for a group of cities to host a coordinated joint year-long programme of activities, connecting local R&I communities with citizens and stakeholders around the topic of science and its role in society. It targets city authorities in collaboration with universities, research organisations, and civil society organisations.

The third topic, **“Talent ecosystems for attractive early research careers”**, is a pilot which supports organisational change and the coordination of measures in academic and non-academic organisations that create talent ecosystems with a large pool of research and innovation positions providing intersectoral career opportunities for

research and innovation talents. It shall operate under good training and working conditions, in line with the new Charter for Researchers ([Annex II](#)) of the [Council recommendation](#) on a European framework for research careers. It targets universities, research and technology organisations and infrastructures, SMEs/industry, government entities and international organisations as well as civil society organisations.

Each topic supports an [ERA Policy Agenda](#) action, respectively action 4 (Promote attractive and sustainable research careers), action 7 (Better knowledge valorisation) and action 14 (Bring science closer to citizens).



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| <b>Call opening:</b>  | <b>15 May 2024</b>                    |
| <b>Call closing:</b>  | <b>25 September 2024 (5 p.m. CET)</b> |
| <b>Overall indicated budget:</b>                            | <b>28 million EUR</b>                 |
| <b>Number of topics:</b>                                    | <b>3</b>                              |
| <b>Indicative number of projects expected to be funded:</b> | <b>18</b>                             |

Main Sources: Information on the call topics can be found in the [work programme 2023-2025](#) Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area (destination Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system) and in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

The recording of the WIDERA info day from 22 April 2024 can be streamed [here](#), slides are available [here](#).

Two NCP\_WIDERA.NET publications provide further information on the ERA part ([ERA Factsheet No. 1](#), “Reforming and Enhancing the European Research and Innovation System in Horizon Europe – the ERA part briefly explained”) and on the ERA Policy Agenda ([ERA Policy Brief No. 1](#) “The European Research Area Policy Agenda”).

The opportunity to get to know the call and find potential partner institutions will be given online on 17 June 2024 at a [Knowledge Day and Brokerage Event](#).

## Overview of the ERA call topics 2024-02

| Topic titles including core tasks <sup>1</sup>   | Budgets in EUR million   |
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| <b>DEEPENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA</b>  |  |
| <p><b><u>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-01: Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Create and transfer value that can be applied to the economy and society by increased interlinkages and cooperation between knowledge valorisation actors.</li> <li>→ Bring new and innovative solutions to different challenges through an improved uptake and deployment of research results, including through the engagement of citizens and civil society.</li> <li>→ Improve existing structures, strategies and practices for knowledge valorisation through sustainable action and initiatives.</li> <li>→ Proposals should address at least one of the following challenges:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experimentation in knowledge valorisation, developing innovative ways to strengthen channels of valorising knowledge and research results.</li> <li>• Transfer of best practices in knowledge valorisation in the area of ‘academia-industry/SME linkages’ or ‘quadruple helix-based innovation’.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>Per topic:</b><br/>2.00</p> <p><b>Per project:</b><br/>1.00</p> <p><b>Funding for</b> up to 2 projects</p> |
| <p><b><u>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-02: Science comes to town</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ A small group of cities jointly designs and implements a vibrant and engaging year-long programme of events and activities (such as lectures, workshops, exhibitions but also experiment with new formats).</li> <li>→ The programme activities must also include the two science competitions “EUCYS 2026” – the European Union Contest for Young Scientists, and “EU TalentOn 2026” – the European Union Contest for Early Career Researchers.</li> <li>→ Bring citizens and R&amp;I communities together to showcase the contribution of science to society.</li> <li>→ Increase societal responsibility, trust in and commitment to science and innovation.</li> <li>→ Improve the appeal of careers in R&amp;I for younger generations.</li> <li>→ Develop and test the overall concept and brand of “Science comes to town” with a view to future editions.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Per topic:</b><br/>6.00</p> <p><b>Per project:</b><br/>6.00</p> <p><b>Funding for</b> up to 1 project</p>  |

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| <p><b><u>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-03: Talent ecosystems for attractive early research careers – pilot</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Support the cooperation between academic, private, and public sector entities at organisational level to create ecosystems.</li> <li>→ Establish ecosystems for a large pool of research positions, connecting research training providers and the researchers’ labour market.</li> <li>→ Widely implement the standards for attractive researcher careers as laid down in the Charter for Researchers.</li> <li>→ Improve early careers researchers’ competences, employability as well as career interoperability between sectors.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Per topic:</b><br/>20.00</p> <p><b>Per project:</b><br/>1.00-2.00</p> <p><b>Funding for up to 15 projects</b></p> |
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## Basic information regarding proposals

### Proposals

Relevant documents and information as well as access to the submission system are available on the respective call page in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#). Proposals are submitted online in a single-step process. They are [pre-structured](#) and consist of an A-part (online forms) and a B-part (the actual proposal, 30 pages long). Proposals must strictly follow the predefined proposal structure.

A successful proposal addresses all aspects of the topic description – the expected outcome as well as the scope. Applicants should also address relevant expected impacts as listed on page 87-88 of the WIDERA [work programme](#). Applicants should try to meet the evaluation criteria to the greatest possible extent.

### Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)

The type of action (project type) is defined in the topic. The ERA call 2024-02 comprises Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) only. Depending on the topic, the purpose of a CSA is dissemination, raising awareness

and communication activities, mutual learning exercises, networking coordination, policy dialogues, studies, and other support services.

### Composition of the consortium

Proposals for a CSA may be submitted by one or more legal entities established in a Member State or in a country associated to Horizon Europe. Due to the nature of this programme part, it is generally recommended to build a consortium even if formally one legal entity would suffice. In fact, the eligibility conditions of two topics of the ERA Call 2024-02 specifically require a consortium. Depending on the topic, actors from the research,

education and innovation system, from civil society or from the business sector are addressed. Please keep in mind that some call topics define specific requirements, e.g., the participation of a specified stakeholder organisation. Participation as coordinating or partner organisation is equally open to entities from EU Member States and from Associated Countries.

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the full topic description is indispensable for the preparation of the application and only important core aspects are specified here. For the full topic description (including additional specific conditions), please consult the WIDERA [Work Programme](#) 2023-2025 or the respective call topic page in the Funding & Tenders Portal.

## Funding rates

The maximum Horizon Europe [funding rate](#) is 100% of eligible direct costs for Coordination and Support Actions plus a 25% flat rate of the total eligible direct costs for indirect costs, excluding eligible direct costs for subcontracting and financial support to third parties.

## Evaluation

The [evaluation](#) is carried out by independent experts. It is based on the three award criteria Excellence, Impact and Implementation. These criteria are reflected in the structure of proposal section B. The criteria are equally weighted and can [score](#) a maximum of 5 points each. The threshold value for the individual criteria is 3 points, the overall threshold is 10 points.

## Information and advice

The WIDERA National Contact Points provide free and confidential advice on all questions related to the ERA part and the application process. They also offer proposal checks. Early contact is recommended. Find the WIDERA NCP of your country in the [NCP database](#).

NCP\_WIDERA.NET has set up an additional service for applicants from WIDENING countries; a professional preliminary check of the application is possible via [wideraexperts.eu](#).



ERA call page in the  
Funding & Tenders  
Portal

**NCP\_WIDERA.NET** is the European network of WIDERA National Contact Points. Visit us on [www.ncpwideranet.eu](http://www.ncpwideranet.eu), register for our [newsletter](#) and follow us on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to stay up to date on ERA and WIDENING.

 [ncpwideranet.eu/newsletter](http://ncpwideranet.eu/newsletter)  [twitter.com/ncp\\_wideranet](https://twitter.com/ncp_wideranet)  [linkedin.com/company/ncpwideranet](https://linkedin.com/company/ncpwideranet)

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