

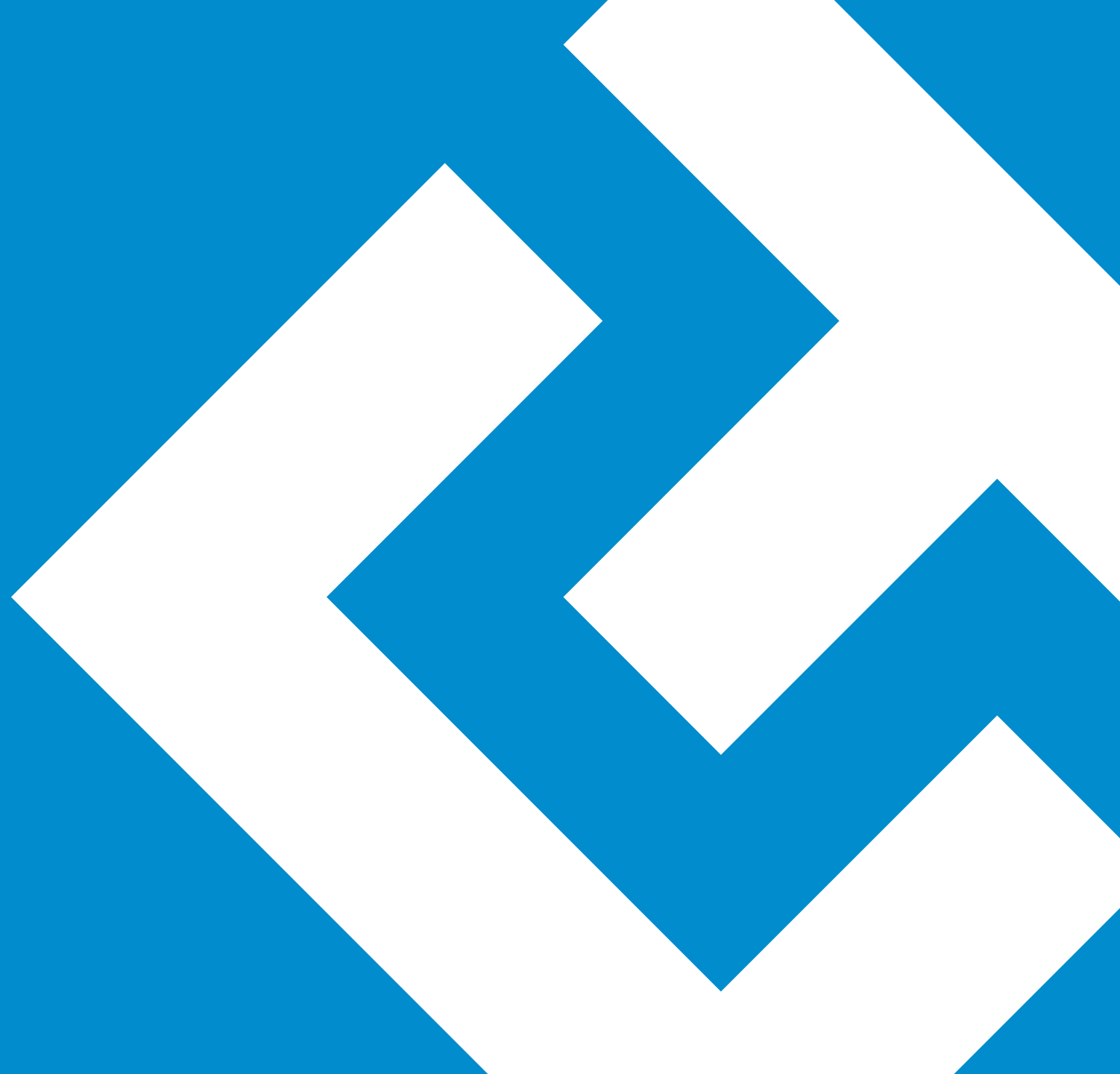


WIDENING INSTRUMENTS 2025-2027 AND EIT OPPORTUNITIES

Anna Vosečková, WIDERA and EIT NCP
Future Funding Landscape – WIDE AcrossEU project
26 September 2025, Rovaniemi, Finland

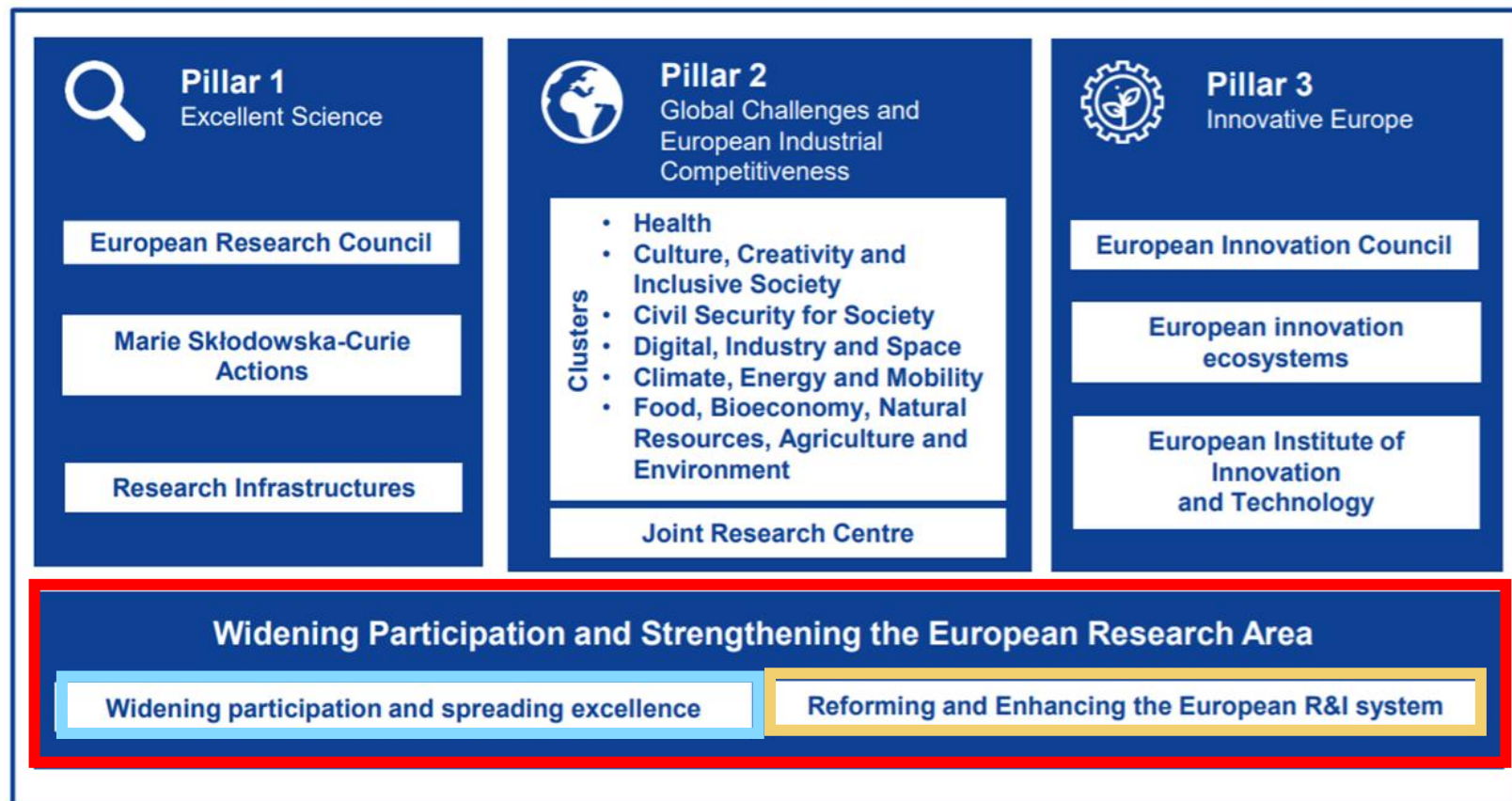


WIDENING



HORIZON EUROPE

Current Framework
Programme for
Research and
Innovation (2021 –
2027) – almost 3
billion EUR on
Widening and 0,5
billion on ERA



WIDENING COUNTRIES IN HE

- **15 Member States** – Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- **14 countries associated to the HE** (as of 1st April 2024) – Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine
- **9 EU Outermost regions** (as defined in [Art. 349 TFEU](#),) – French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion, Saint-Martin, The Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands.

**Only institutions
from these
countries can
coordinate the
Widening projects**



Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Estonia
Greece
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia

WIDENING INSTRUMENTS

PROJECT TYPE: CSA

R&I COSTS ELIGIBLE

**EACH INSTRUMENT
HAS ITS OWN
SPECIFICITIES**

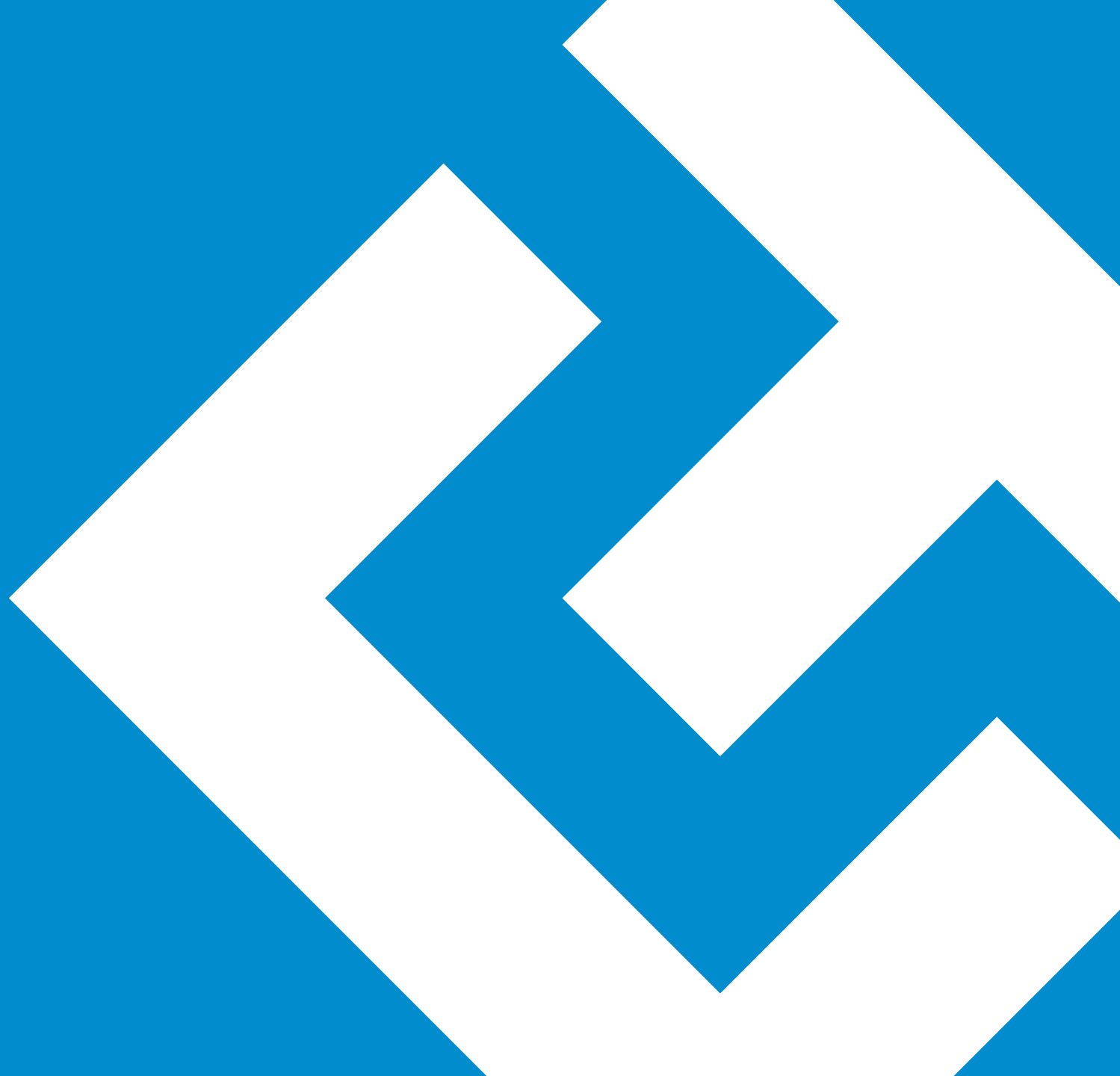
- **TWINNING** (institutional networking)
- **TEAMING** (institution building)
- **EXCELLENCE HUBS** (bridge the Innovation divide)
- **EEI** (strengthening HEIs networks)
- **HOP ON** (adding 1 new partner from a Widening country to already implemented RIA project)
- **ERA CHAIRS** (bring outstanding academic to universities and research institutions)
- **ERA TALENTS** (interoperability of careers in the academic and non-academic sectors)
- **ERA FELLOWSHIPS** individual grants for post-docs realised in Widening countries – MSCA)

WIDENING 2021-2024 - TOP FIVE COUNTRIES

BY NO. OF GRANTS

TOP FIVE	TEAMING	TWINNING	EXC. HUBS	ERA TALENTS	HOP ON	EEI	ERA CHAIRS	ERA FELLOWS
1.	4 - PL	24 - EL, PT	7 - EL	3 - EE, RS	64 - PT	5 - PT	13 - PT	60 - PT
2.	3 - PT	19 - EE	3 - CZ, TR	2 - EL, HR, SI	26 - PL	3 - CZ, RO	12 - CZ, EL	43 - CZ
3.	2 - CY, CZ, EE, EL, ES, LT	18 - CY	2 - CY, PT	1 - nine countries	22 - EL	2 - EL, HR, HU	5 - BG	23 - SI
4.	1 - BG, HR, LV, SI, SK, TR	15 - TR	1 - BG, EE, HR, SI, SK, UA		20 - CZ	1 - CY, ES, HU, MT	4 - LV, RO	17 - EL
5.		14 - CZ, RS			12 - CY, SI		3 - EE, SI	11 - TR

WIDENING CALLS 2025



WP 2025 – OVERVIEW (WITH CALL DEADLINES)

- **TEAMING for Excellence** (*institution building or CoE modernisation*
10 April 2025 (stage 1 closed, 67 projects to stage 2))
- **Hop on Facility** (*adding one Widening partner to funded RIA project*
4 September 2025 (closed))
- **ERA Fellowships** (*within the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call*)
10 September 2025 (closed)
- **Action plans for connected Regional Innovation Valleys in Widening countries**
(RIVs in EIE)
15 October 2025
- **EIC Pre-accelerator for Widening SMEs** (similar to EIC Transition instrument)
18 November 2025
- **European Excellence Initiative, EEI** (strengthening HEIs networks and surrounding ecosystems)
20 November 2025

**SPECIFIC
APPLICATION
FORMS**



EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

MAIN OBJECTIVE – capacity building for strengthening HEIs networks and cooperation with surrounding ecosystems

- ✓ Raise excellence in science and in value creation through deeper and geographically inclusive cooperation in alliances of HEIs, such as European Universities alliances in Erasmus+, with a particular focus on Widening countries
- ✓ Improve global competitiveness and visibility of Europe's HEIs, creating critical mass in key areas such as the green transition and HE mission areas

EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-01-ACCES-01

- **Consortium:** coordinator from Widening country and min. 2 partners from other EU Member States or Countries associated to HE
- **Cost for R&I activities** cannot exceed **20% of the total budget** – see point 3 of the activities catalogue:
 - 3. development of research excellence**
 - Sharing R&I capacities including infrastructures
 - Developing joint strategic R&I agendas
 - Seed R&I projects to test R&I agendas, explore new joint strands and consolidate partnership
- **Educational activities are excluded**

Type of action: CSA

Funding rate: 100%

Project duration: 3–5 years

Indicative number of projects: 27

Call budget: 80 M€

Project budget: 2–5 M€

Call opening: 8. 5. 2025

Call closing: 20. 11. 2025

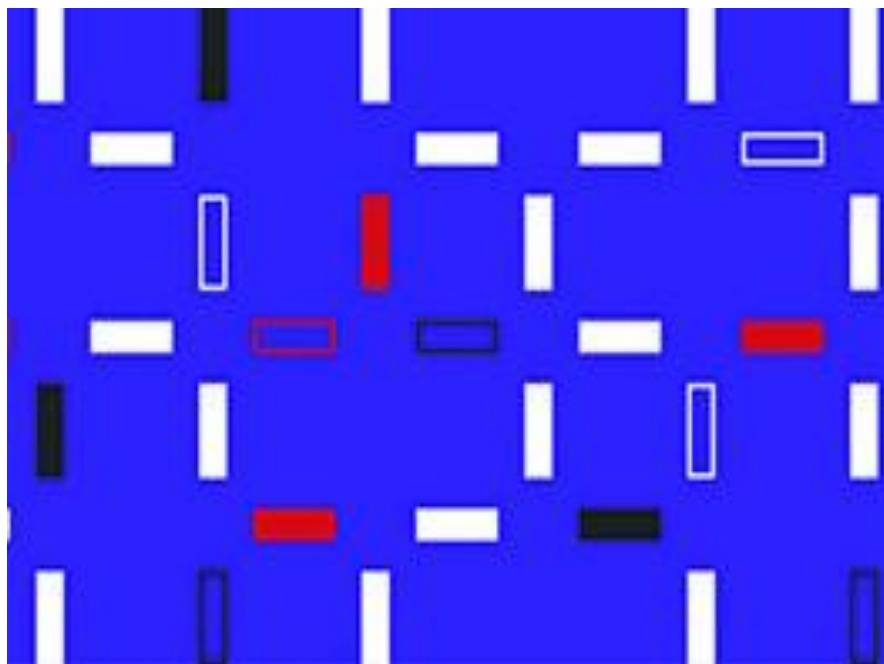
INFORMATION DAYS (LINK AND QRC)



EIC PRE-ACCELERATOR – WIDENING

MAIN OBJECTIVE – increase the innovation potential of early-stage deep-tech startups in the Widening countries, in order to:

- ✓ enable them to better attract private investments and scale up
- ✓ increase business, investor and technology readiness
- ✓ develop further their innovations (from TRL 4 to TRL 5/6)



EIC PRE-ACCELERATOR – WIDENING HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-02-ACCES-01

- **Mono-beneficiary action** – one legal entity (SME) from a Widening country
- Each proposals evaluated by 3 experts following the evaluation criteria of EIC Transition Open (1st evaluation step)
- **Seal of Excellence** awarded to all projects meeting the evaluation thresholds but not funded due to lack of available budget
- Successful applicants and those with SoE will have **free access to EIC Business Accelerator Services**

Type of action: CSA

Funding rate: 70%

Type of funding: Lump sum

Project duration: 2 years max.

Indicative number of projects: 50

Call budget: 20 M€

Project budget: 0,3–0,5 M€

Call opening: 12. 6. 2025

Call closing: 18. 11. 2025

WIDENING REGIONAL INNOVATION VALLEYS



MAIN OBJECTIVE – to foster the creation of efficient, open, inclusive and interconnected European innovation ecosystems in line with the New European Innovation Agenda

- ✓ Consortium of at least 3 national or regional authorities
- ✓ **CO-FUND action (50% : 50%)**
- ✓ Either Financial support to third parties (FSTP), PCP or PPI is obligatory

IMPLEMENTING CO-FUNDED ACTION PLANS FOR CONNECTED RIVS IN WIDENING COUNTRIES (WC)

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-05-ACCESS-01

- Mirroring the call HORIZON-EIE-2025-02-CONNECT-02 in the **EIE WP 2025** adapted to WC
- Coordinator from a WC and at least 2 national or regional authorities from 2 other different MS or AC, out of which 1 must be from WC and 1 from non-WC
- **FSTP max. grant – 0,6 M€**
- **Letters of commitment** for the sources of co-funding must be attached
- **First annual work plan** has to be part of the proposal

Type of action: CO-FUND

Funding rate: 50% of the total eligible costs

Project duration: 3-5 years

Indicative number of projects: 4

Call budget: 24 M€

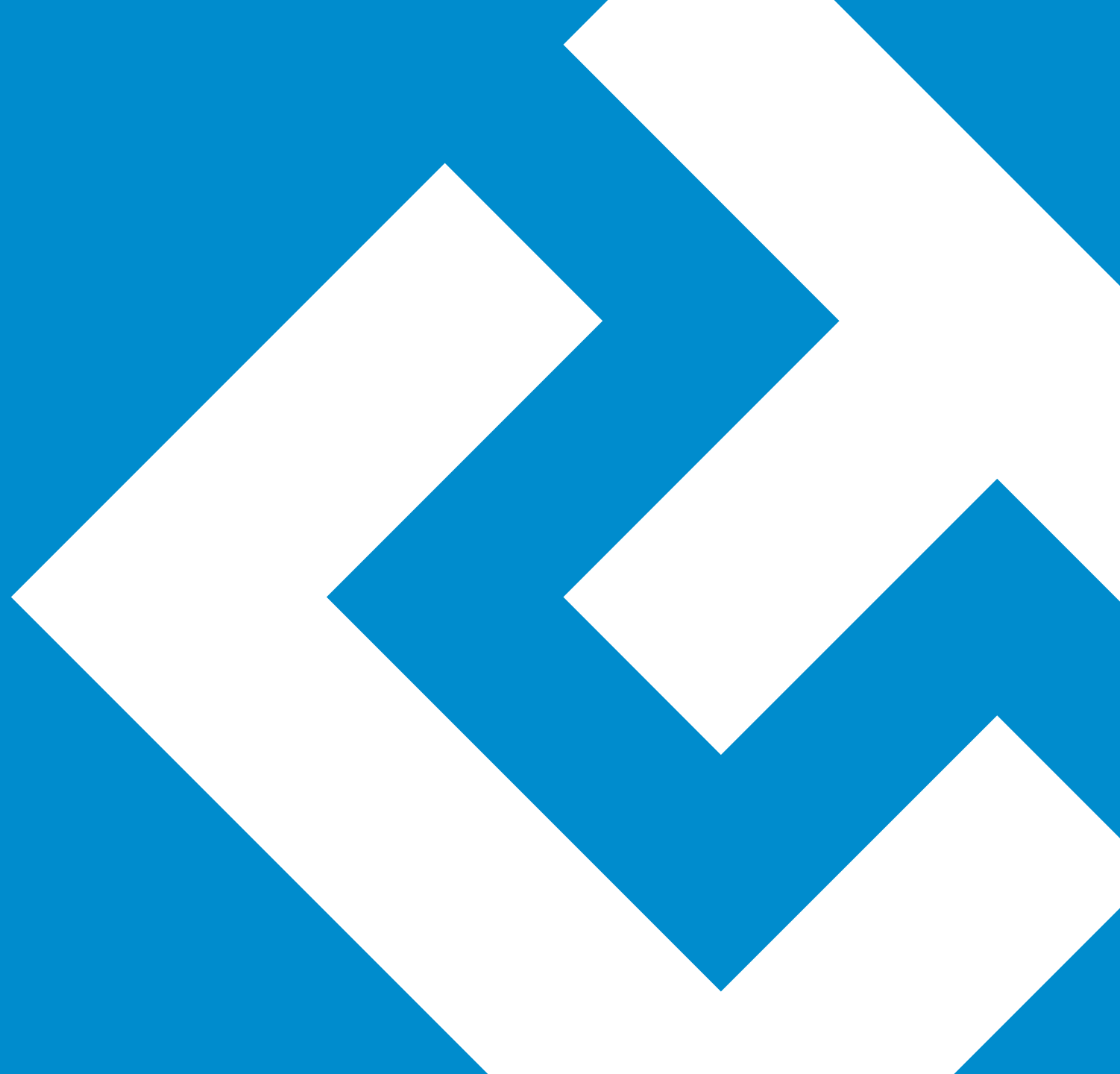
Project budget: 5-8 M€

Call opening: 14. 5. 2025

Call closing: 15. 10. 2025

minimum 3 interregional
innovation projects

**PLANNED FOR
2026-2027**



WP 2026-2027 (NOT APPROVED YET)

DRAFT WP
30 June 2025

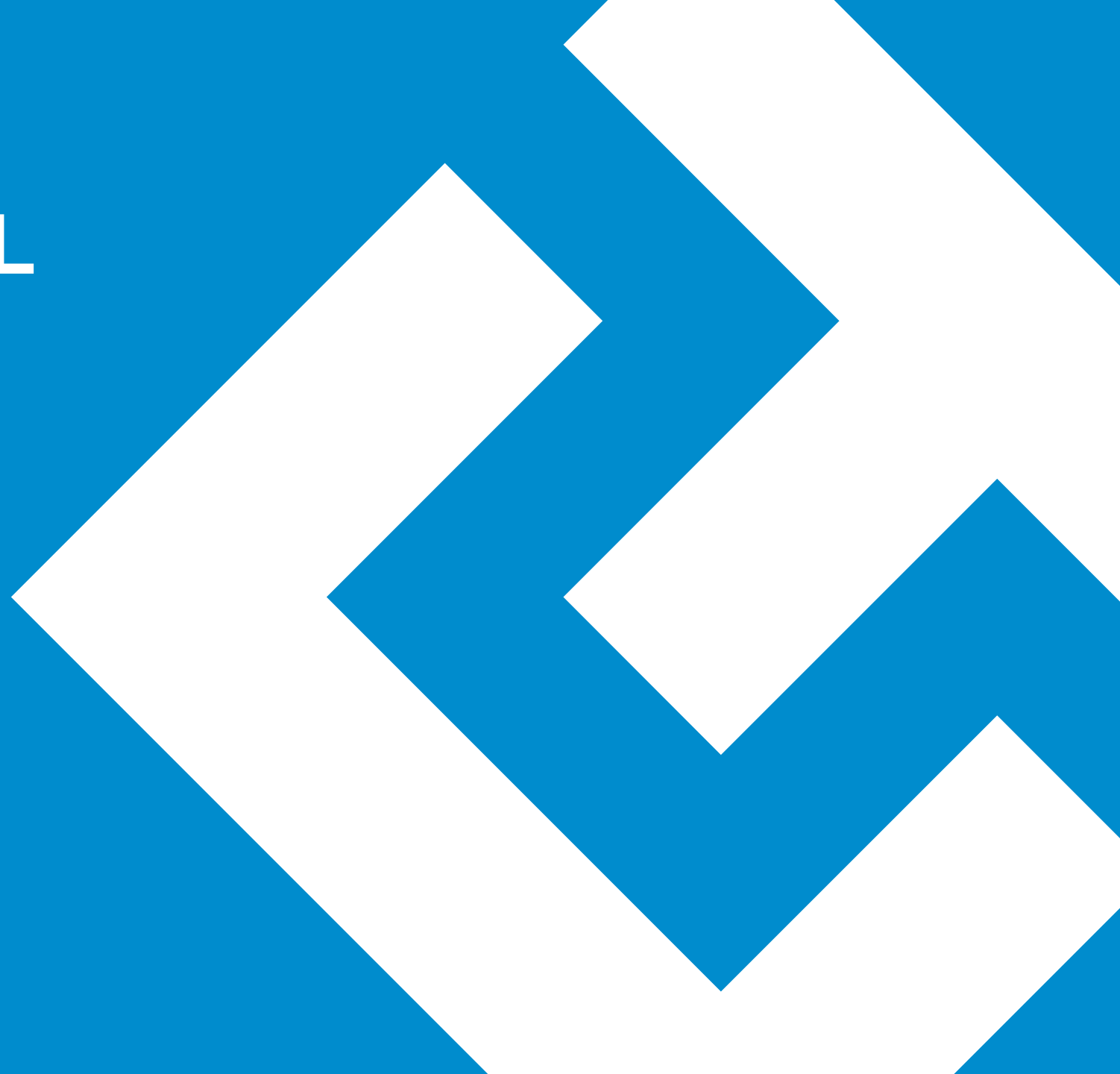
- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ TWINNING | 08 Jan 2026 – 09 Apr 2026 | up to 210 projects |
| ▪ Excellence Hubs | 02 Sep 2026 – 04 Mar 2027 | up to 30 projects |
| ▪ Hop on Facility | 03 Jan 2026 – 24 Sep 2026 | up to 60 projects |
| ▪ ERA Fellowships | 09 Apr 2026 – 09 Sep 2026 | up to 50 projects |
| | 07 Apr 2027 – 08 Sep 2027 | up to 50 projects |
| ▪ EIC Pre-Accelerator | 05 May 2027 – 18 Nov 2027 | up to 100 projects |
| ▪ ERA Chairs | 06 Apr 2027 – 14 Sep 2027 | up to 80 projects |
| ▪ ERA Research Managers | 06 Apr 2027 – 14 Sep 2027 | up to 30 projects |

One project calls

- **TEAMING Synergies** (for TEAMING CoEs) 23 Apr – 2026 24 Sep 2026
- **Research Management Facility** 23 Apr 2026 – 24 Sep 2026

STD
EC INFODAY
22 January 2026

PROPOSAL WRITING USEFULL DOCUMENTS



ADMINISTRATIVE FORMS - PART A

ncpwideranet.eu

Administrative Forms

Part A

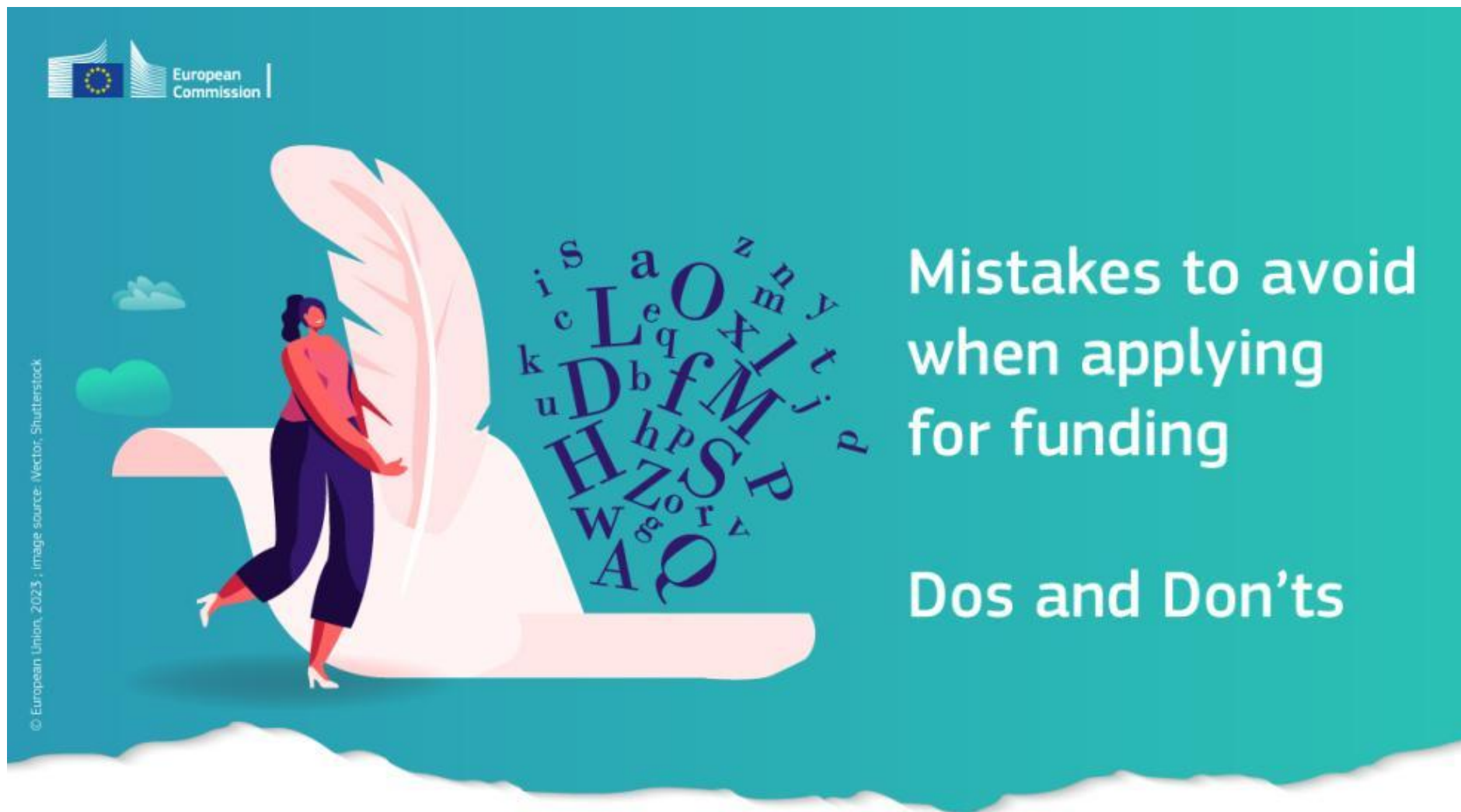


NCP_
WIDERA.NET



Funded by
the European Union

EC REA RECOMMENDATIONS ON QUALITY PROPOSALS PREPARATION (LINKS TO BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS INCLUDED)



PROJECT'S OUTREACH

Your project's outreach

Communication

Tips and requirements on communicating your Horizon Europe, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions or Research for Coal and Steel project.

Open science

What you should comply with when applying for funding and implementing your Horizon Europe project.

Dissemination and exploitation

Advice and resources on how to disseminate and exploit your research results.

Communication – Agri-food promotion

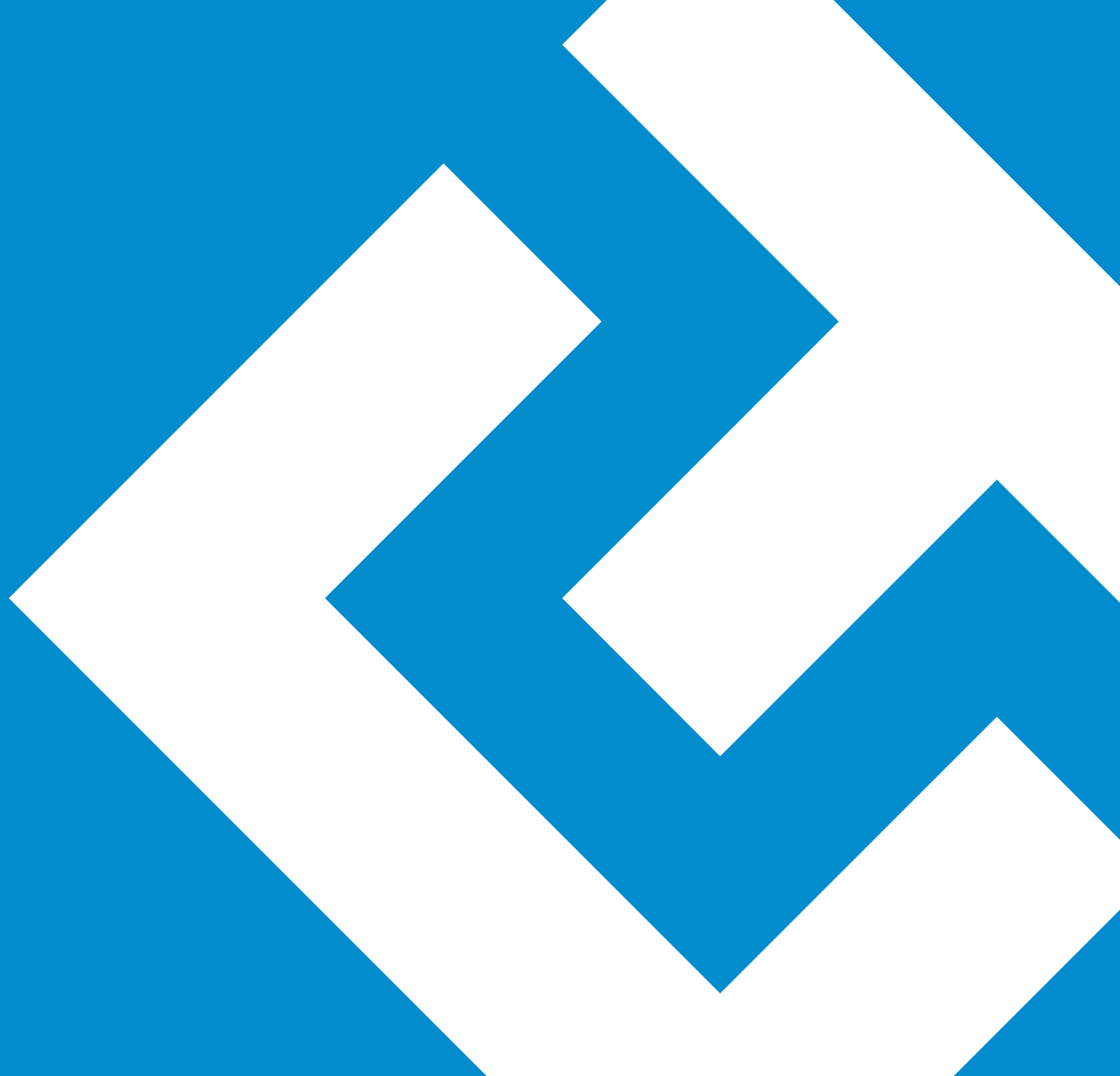
Instructions for the use of the "Enjoy, it's from Europe" signature.

How to inform policymakers

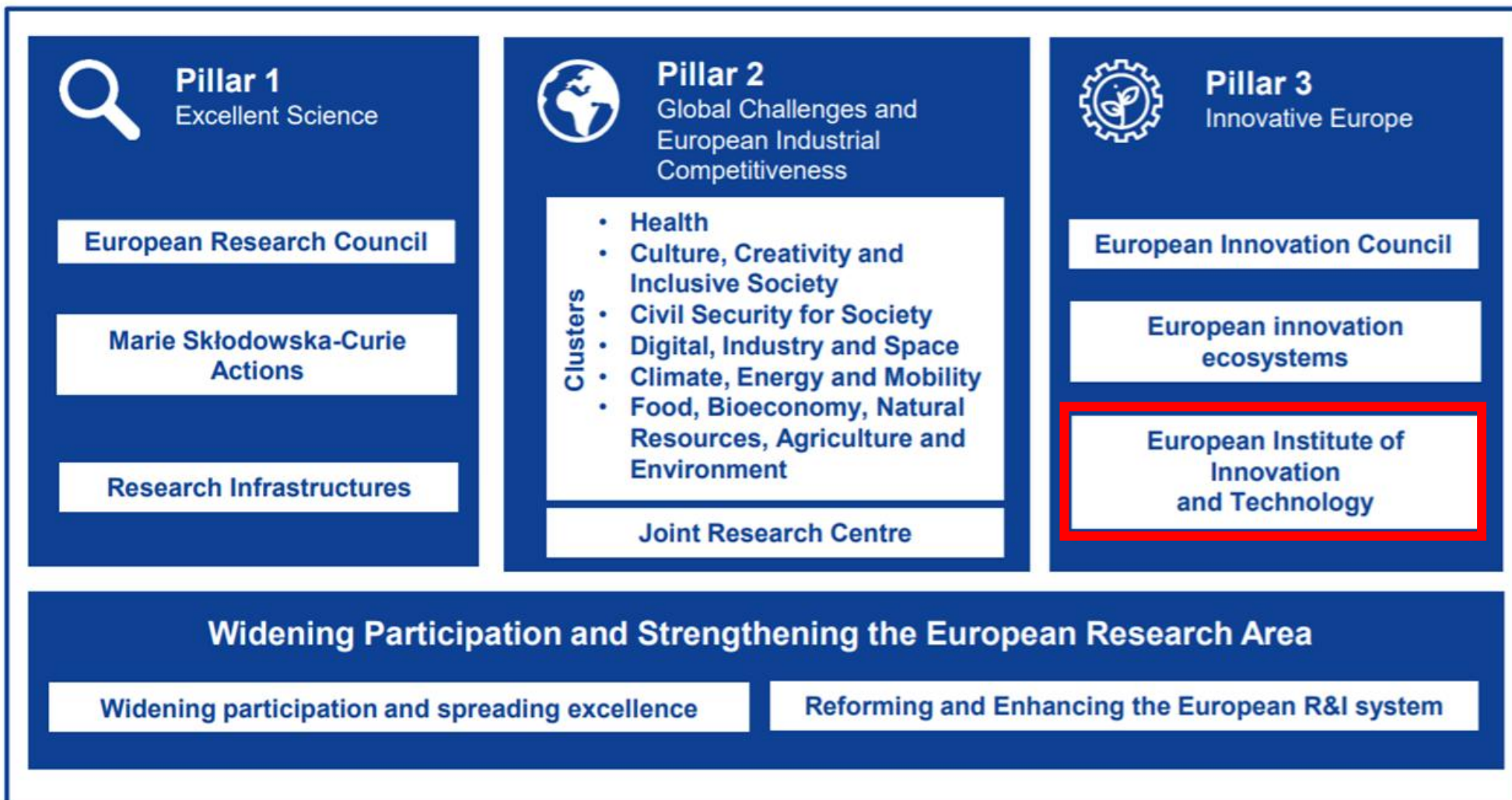
10 steps to effectively inform policymakers of your findings and maximise your policy impact.

10 steps to
reach and
inform
policymakers

**EUROPEAN
INSTITUTE OF
INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY, EIT**



EIT IN HORIZON EUROPE



GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO EIT

- European Institute of Innovation and Technology, EIT
- Independent EU body established in March 2008
- Main aim: to strengthen Europe's ability to innovate
- Motto: Making innovation happen
- Originally financed directly from EU budget, since 2014 from FPs
- Integral part of Horizon Europe (Rules of Participation apply) **NEW**
- Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) 2021-2027 (official launch on 14 June 2021)
- NCPs nominated in Spring 2021 and Member States Representative Group established in Autumn 2021 **NEW**

BUDGET 2021-27

€ 2,94 billion



LOCATION AND KICS

- **EIT Headquarters** are in Budapest, Hungary
- **EIT House** = EIT Liaison Office in Brussels, Belgium
- **KICs**: main seat and Co-location Centres (CLCs) and Innovation Hubs
- **Global outreach**: EIT Hub Silicon Valley, EIT Hub Israel, EIT Hub UK, Global Platform



NEW AND PLANNED EIT KICS

EIT WATER - 2025

- **EIT call** to build a new sustainable innovation partnership (KIC) to strengthen Europe's water, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems (**EIT WATER**)
- **6 January – 17 June 2025 (5 submitted projects)**



2028 – 2034

- **Five areas where the EIT could support European competitiveness through new KICs:**
 1. security and resilience;
 2. AI and robotics;
 3. space and aerospace;
 4. rural innovation;
 5. bio-based industry.

EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME (RIS)

- Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) – since 2016
- <https://www.eit.europa.eu/activities/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris-closing-innovation-divide-europe>
- **Eligible countries:** 17 EU MS (Czechia included), 8 AC to HE and 9 EU Outermost regions (**moderate or emerging innovators in EIS and with zero or lower participation in EIT**)
- Implemented through EIT Community or Innovation Hubs
- **Objectives:**
 - ❖ Widen KICs activities to RIS countries;
 - ❖ Share good practice, experience and know-how;
 - ❖ Offer tailor-made services; and
 - ❖ Boost innovation by linkages among key innovation actors



USEFUL LINKS

- [EIT Knowledge Centre](#) – collection of policy reports, lessons learnt, and best practices from 2020 onwards

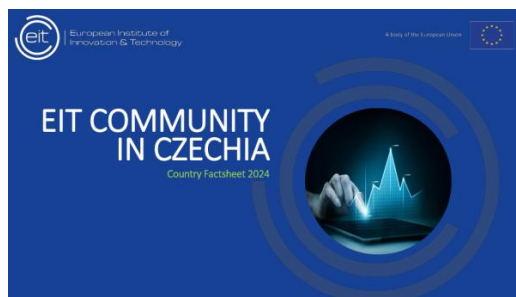


- [EIT Opportunities](#) – education, business creation and acceleration, innovation activities)



RECENT NEWS

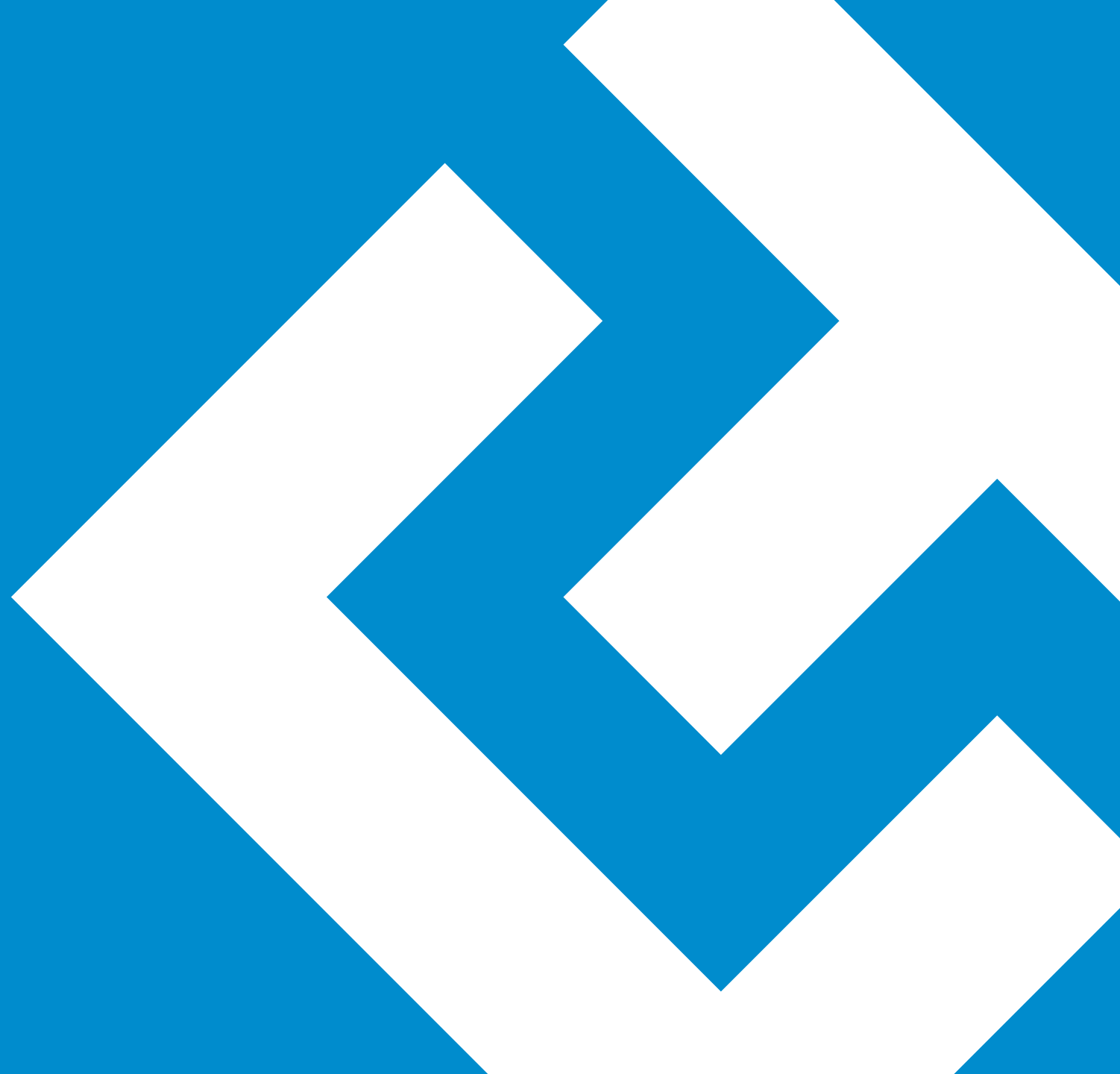
COUNTRY FACT SHEETS 2024



EIT Skills and Education Days 2025



**ACTIVITIES OF THE
NCP PROJECT
EIT-BEST
(STARTING IN
OCTOBER 2025)**



EIT-BEST

NCP EIT Training, Networking and Best Practice Initiative

Funded by EIT, currently signing the grant agreement, 24 partners from 22 countries

Duration 4,5 years, Budget: 2,5 M€, Coordinator: EL

- WP1 Communication, outreach and awareness (Leader: TR)
- WP2 Capacity building of EIT NCPs (Leader: IT)
- WP3 Enhancing cooperation among EIT NCPs and KICs (Leader: DE)
- **WP4 Increasing participation in EIT and KICs calls (Leader: CZ, TC Praha)**
- WP5 Building synergies (Leader: PL)
- WP6 Project Management & Coordination (Leader: EL)

WP4: INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN EIT AND KIC CALLS

T4.1 Analysis of participation (Task Leader: GE)

T4.2 Events to increase participation of low performance countries, incl. Matchmaking (Task leader: TC Praha)

- At least 3 online and 1 onsite (hybrid if possible) will be organised annually (min. 16 events in total)
- 1 partnering online event per year (min. 4 in total) depending on the open calls for projects requesting formation of a consortium

T4.3 Supporting targeted groups of applicants (Task leader: TC Praha)

- Three target groups: ROs, HEIs, businesses – at least 1 information session, training or workshop for each target group will be organised per year (min. 12 events in total)
- Special support to women: dedicated joint online actions – at least once a year (min. 4 events in total)



QUESTIONS? DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME!

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