



# INSTITUTION-BUILDING



## teaming

Teaming projects create new or update existing centres of excellence in Widening countries through a coupling process with a leading scientific institution. The programme has two phases: in Phase 1, funding is provided to develop a business plan for the future centre in line with the host region's smart specialisation strategy. In Phase 2, selected Phase 1 proposals receive financial support to start implementing the future centre.

*"The funding provided to our PlantaSYST Consortium during Teaming Phase 1 enabled us to consolidate our vision for a state-of-the-art centre of plant systems biology and biotechnology, taking the best from our German and Bulgarian partners. In preparing the business plan for the new Centre of Excellence we strengthened cooperation between consortium partners and created new links with research entities in Europe and overseas."*

**Tsanko Gechev,**  
Coordinator of PlantaSYST in Bulgaria

# INSTITUTIONAL NETWORKING



## twinning

A twinning project strengthens a specific field of research in an emerging institution in a Widening country. It links the institution with at least two internationally leading counterparts in Europe. Activities like short-term staff exchanges, expert visits, on-site or virtual trainings, workshops, conference attendance, dissemination and outreach are supported.

*“The Twinning call is an unprecedented instrument to accelerate the development of research capabilities of academic institutions in areas important for Europe.*

*Our institute clearly benefits from the project and the effects of Twinning are likely to be global.”*

**Mart Susi,**  
Coordinator of HURMUR in Estonia

# EXCELLENCE TO INSTITUTIONS



## era chairs

ERA Chairs projects bring outstanding academics, with proven research excellence and management skills, to universities and research institutions in Widening countries with potential for research excellence. They aim to attract and maintain high quality human resources under the direction of an outstanding researcher (the 'ERA Chair holder') while at the same time implementing structural changes necessary to achieve excellence on a sustainable basis.

*"Thanks to the ERA Chairs project we were able to create a group with excellent international specialists. Both young and advanced researchers from Europe, India and Syria are now part of the team working in Poland. Our project integrates different cultural and ethnical backgrounds as well as diverse research approaches. We are now truly an integrative science department and this diversity is our main strength in our journey to success."*

**Robert Malinowski,**  
ERA Chair of BIO-TALENT in Poland

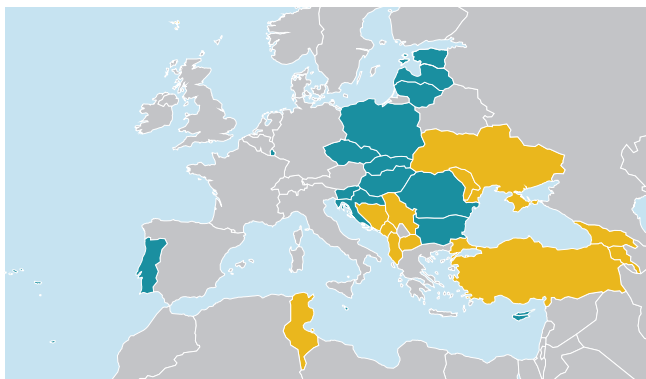
# Spreading Excellence & Widening Participation in Horizon 2020

## Why are Widening actions necessary?

The interim evaluation of FP7 (November 2010) identified that some Member States, mainly those that joined the EU after 2004, had low participation rates in FP7 projects. Widening actions under the Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation part of Horizon 2020 address the causes of low participation by fully exploiting the potential of Europe's talent pool. It ensures that the benefits of an innovation-led economy are both maximised and widely distributed across the European Union. Synergies with European Structural and Investment funds are an important component.

## What are the core Widening actions?

Widening consists of three main actions, i.e. Teaming, Twinning and ERA Chairs, for which specific eligibility conditions apply. This ensures a targeted approach towards Widening countries. The current Widening countries are:



- **Member States:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- **Associated Countries:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

## What is in it for the advanced partners?

Advanced institutions can expand their traditional networks for future strategic collaboration and projects. They can benefit from working with an emerging pool of talents and accessing emerging markets, where the catching-up institutions may play a key role in the future.

## Other Widening Initiatives

Other initiatives under the Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation part are:

- Policy Support Facility (PSF): offering expert advice to public authorities,
- European Cooperation in Science & Technology (COST): cross-border scientific networking,
- Widening network of National Contact Points (NCP\_WIDE.NET),
- Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe (JPI UE).

## Looking towards 2018-20

The research & innovation divide in Europe remains a pressing challenge. In the last three years of Horizon 2020 efforts will be intensified to spread excellence and broaden participation across Europe. This will be achieved by encouraging organisations in Widening countries to further develop and take better advantage of their research and innovation potential through a number of specific measures involving investing, mentoring, networking, communication and thematic activities.

### For more information

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/regions>



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