



Widening European Participation

Thematic Mission

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Problems identified

- Historical gap in research performance
- Disbalance in the distribution of EU science funding
- Gap in AE membership nominations
- Gap in support mechanism for ECRs (young academy movement)
- Brain drain
- Need to maintain excellence while supporting underperforming countries/regions



Ideas for widening collaboration

- Increasing the number of underrepresented countries in research consortia
- Creating and exploiting pockets of excellence
- Improving the governance of national R&I systems
- Remuneration of researchers
- Attributing more funding to spreading excellence and the specific objectives of widening participation
- Strengthening the role and use of national contact points



Goals of the *Widening European participation* thematic mission

- Monitoring the growth of AE membership from Danube countries
- Establishing close collaborations with a representative AE member and an ECR from each Danube country
- Identifying the strength of countries and potential common scientific interests (in association with the other three thematic missions of the Hub)
- Involving AE members in mentoring programs
- Collaboration with other AE Hubs and the Young Academy of Europe



ACTIVITIES IN 2021

1. ERC Starting Grant Mentoring Event – 11th November 2021, on Zoom

- Focusing on the ERC StG evaluation process – on how ERC’s evaluation panels work and how decisions within evaluation panels are made to recommend a grant application for funding.
- An important opportunity for applicants to gain key insights into what makes a successful ERC application and a better understanding of the evaluation process.
- Co-organized with the Young Academy of Europe (Katalin Solymosi)
- Plenary information session with a representative from the ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA), Janka Mátrai.
- A talk by Gergely Böhm, ERC National Contact Point leader in Hungary, entitled “Common mistakes and highly valued elements of ERC applications as seen by ERC evaluators”.
- Three parallel sessions: mock evaluation panels in each ERC research domain (PE, LS, SH) reviewing two examples of ERC grant applications



ACTIVITIES IN 2021

2. Zoom discussions regarding nominations to be submitted under AE's current nomination cycle with the international partners of the Widening European participation thematic mission – 29th January 2021 and 8th December 2021

Mechanisms to identify potential strong candidates for nomination from each country in the region and to recognise areas of science with strong representation in these countries.

3. Webinar with HYA on membership application to YAE and GYA – 10th August 2021

Katalin Solymosi and Gergely Toldi gave a presentation on the membership application process of YAE and GYA, respectively, followed by a Q&A session.

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Thank you for your attention

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