



Horizon Europe 2028 - 2034

DG RTD

25/07/2025



The legal package

- **Regulation** establishing Horizon Europe including the rules for participation and dissemination (as required by the Treaty)
- **Specific programme** to implement 'Horizon Europe' (as required by the Treaty)
- **Impact assessment** (European Competitiveness Fund, ECF)
- Complemented by the **Regulation for the ECF**, including **Specific Programme for Defence**
- ... and by the **Performance Framework** for the Union programmes and activities

Legislative proposals

- **Title I – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation**
 - Chapter I - General Provisions
 - Chapter II - Excellent Science
 - Chapter III - Competitiveness and Society
 - Chapter IV - Innovation
 - Chapter V - European Research Area
- **Title II - Rules for participation and dissemination**
 - Chapter I - General provisions
 - Chapter II - Grants
 - Chapter III - European Innovation Council
- **Legislative Financial and Digital Statement**

**EP and COUNCIL
REGULATION (preceded
by an EXPLANATORY
MEMORANDUM)**



- Chapter I - General Provisions
- Chapter II - Excellent Science
- Chapter III - Competitiveness and Society
- Chapter IV – Innovation
- Chapter V - European Research Area
- Chapter VI - Transitional and final provisions

**COUNCIL DECISION
(preceded by an
EXPLANATORY
MEMORANDUM)**



The structure of the new Horizon Europe

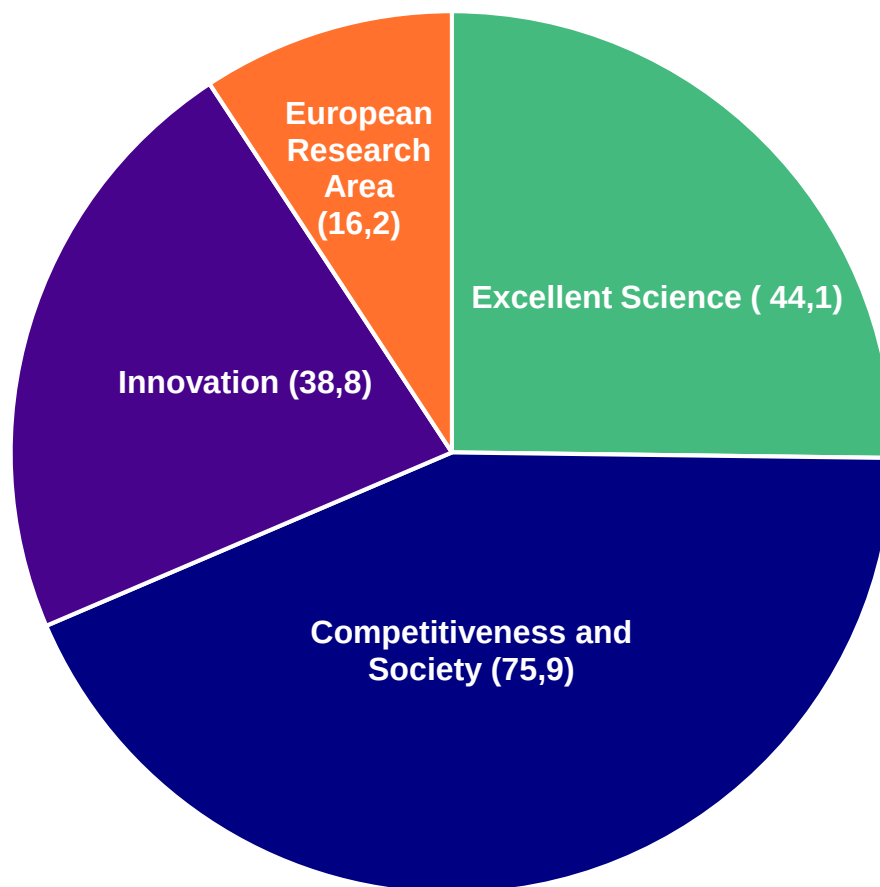


¹ Consistent with activities under the European Competitiveness Fund

The Budget

Horizon Europe total budget EUR 175 billion (current prices)

Figures all in EUR billion



■ Excellent Science (44,1)

■ Competitiveness and Society (75,9)

■ Innovation (38,8)

■ European Research Area (16,2)



Novelties

**Further
Simplification**

**Partnerships
Landscape**

EIC

**Research and
Technology
Infrastructures**

Widening

**Dual-use
research**

Simplification for applicants

Streamlined **reporting** obligations

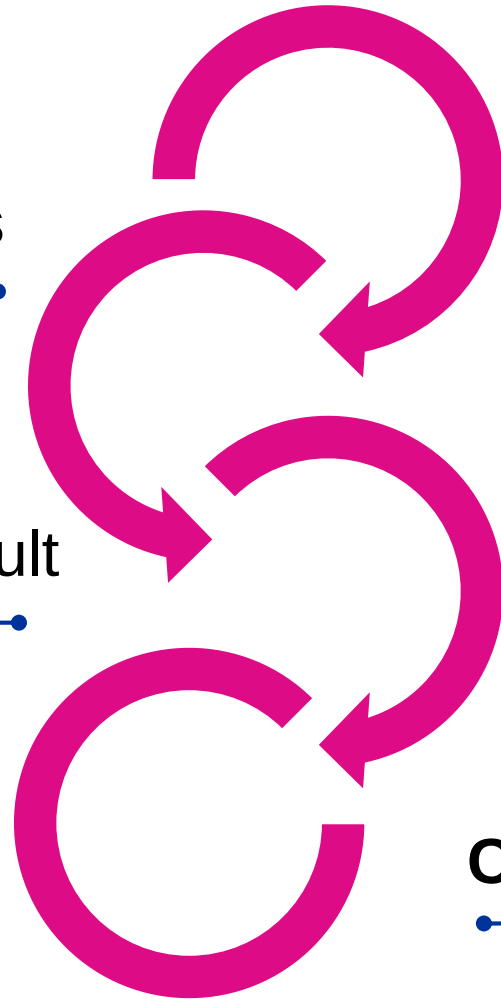
Use of **lump sum** grants by default

Streamlining **the types of action**

Faster procedures

Less **prescriptive** programming

Consortium approach maintained



Links with the European Competitiveness Fund

- **Four policy windows defined in the ECF Regulation:**
- ‘Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation’
- ‘Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy’
- ‘Digital Leadership’
- ‘Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space’

- **Work programmes, ECF Regulation:** ‘The work programmes under this Regulation shall integrate in a **specific dedicated part collaborative research and innovation activities and their dedicated budget.**’
- Work programmes under ECF will be covered by the **ECF comitology** (ECF Regulation).
- **Budget** for collaborative research is under the ‘Competitiveness’ **part of Horizon Europe.**

Background: progress made in Widening

- **Success rates are generally converging well, except under the ERC and EIC**

The average success rates of applications from widening and non-widening Member States under Horizon Europe are converging (18,6% vs. 19,6%), with eight of the widening Member States being above the average. The programme parts that show the strongest difference in average success rates is the ERC (6,8% vs. 15,0%), followed by the EIC (7,9% vs. 14,2%). In comparison: Success rate Widening MS under H2020: 13,1%.

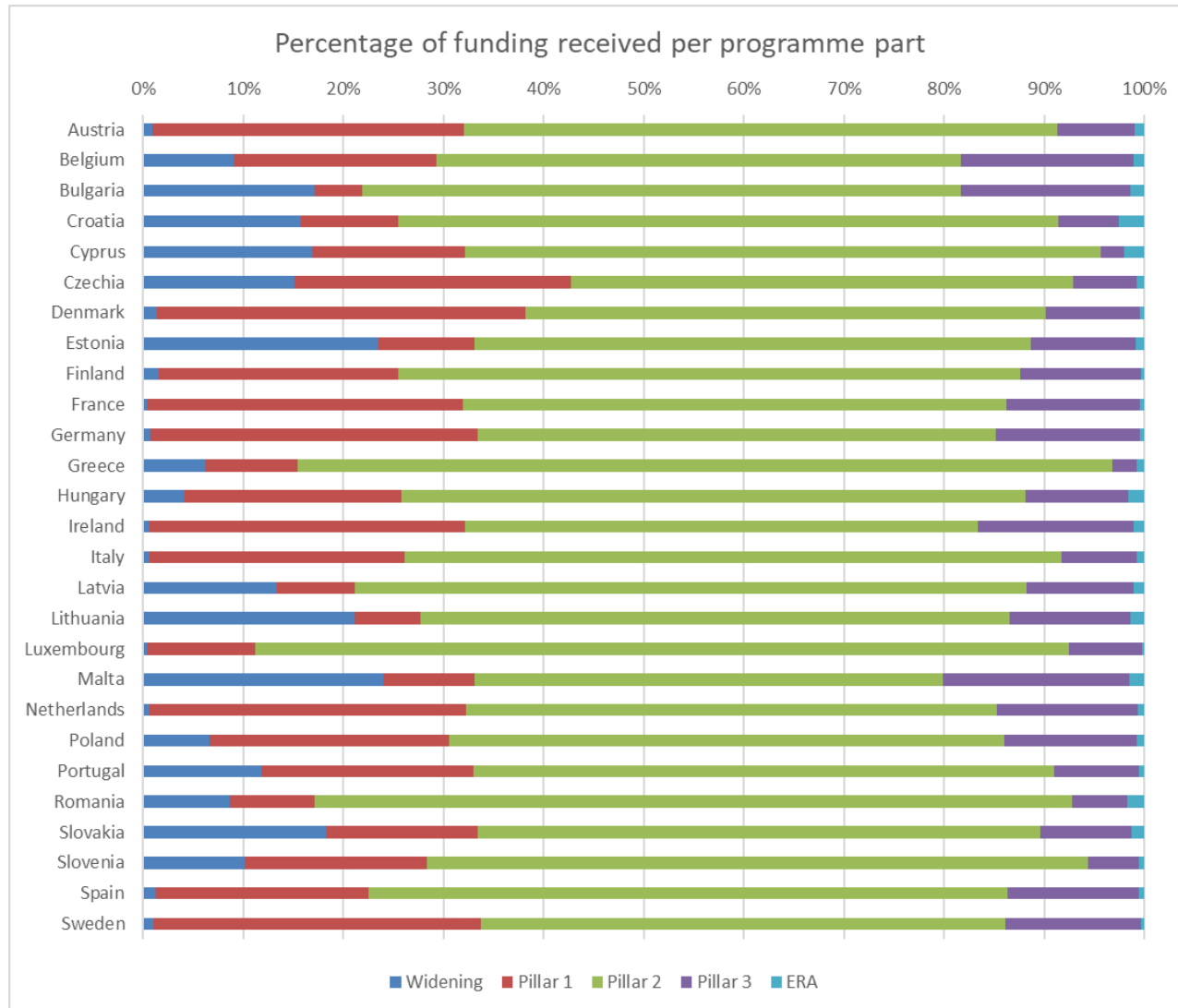
- **More successful participation depends on increasing the number of proposal submissions, as demonstrated by several widening Member States**

There are significant differences in the number of proposals submitted per researcher, with an important number of widening Member States having low submissions. The share of submission from widening Member States across the programme is on average 26% of all Member State submissions. It is substantially higher, with 30%, in the second pillar, and lowest in the ERC (13%) and EIC accelerator (16%).

Background: progress made in Widening

- **Horizon Europe attracts newcomers, in particular from the widening Member States.**
The share of newcomers from widening Member States is with 52,4% higher than the share for the non-widening Member States (48,6%). They also represent a higher share of the EU contribution allocated.
- **Closed clubs?**
Increased participation of widening Member States in collaborative projects!
The share of collaborative projects involving widening countries has increased significantly since FP7 and reaches now on average 80% (FP7: around 50%). Major EU member states maintain a central role in steering consortia and setting research agendas, yes, there is a clear evolving participation of Widening countries, and lower dependence on non-Widening countries to initiate collaborations.
- **Seal of Excellence facilitates synergies**
More than 40 national and/or regional Seal support schemes, including ERDF programmes, having been set up in most Member States.

Background: progress made in Widening



- The widening part is an important, but minor component for the participation of Widening MS.
- Pillar 2 with the collaborative projects is the main area of participation, with 22,25% of all MS participations, and 16,41% of the Union Contribution among MS.

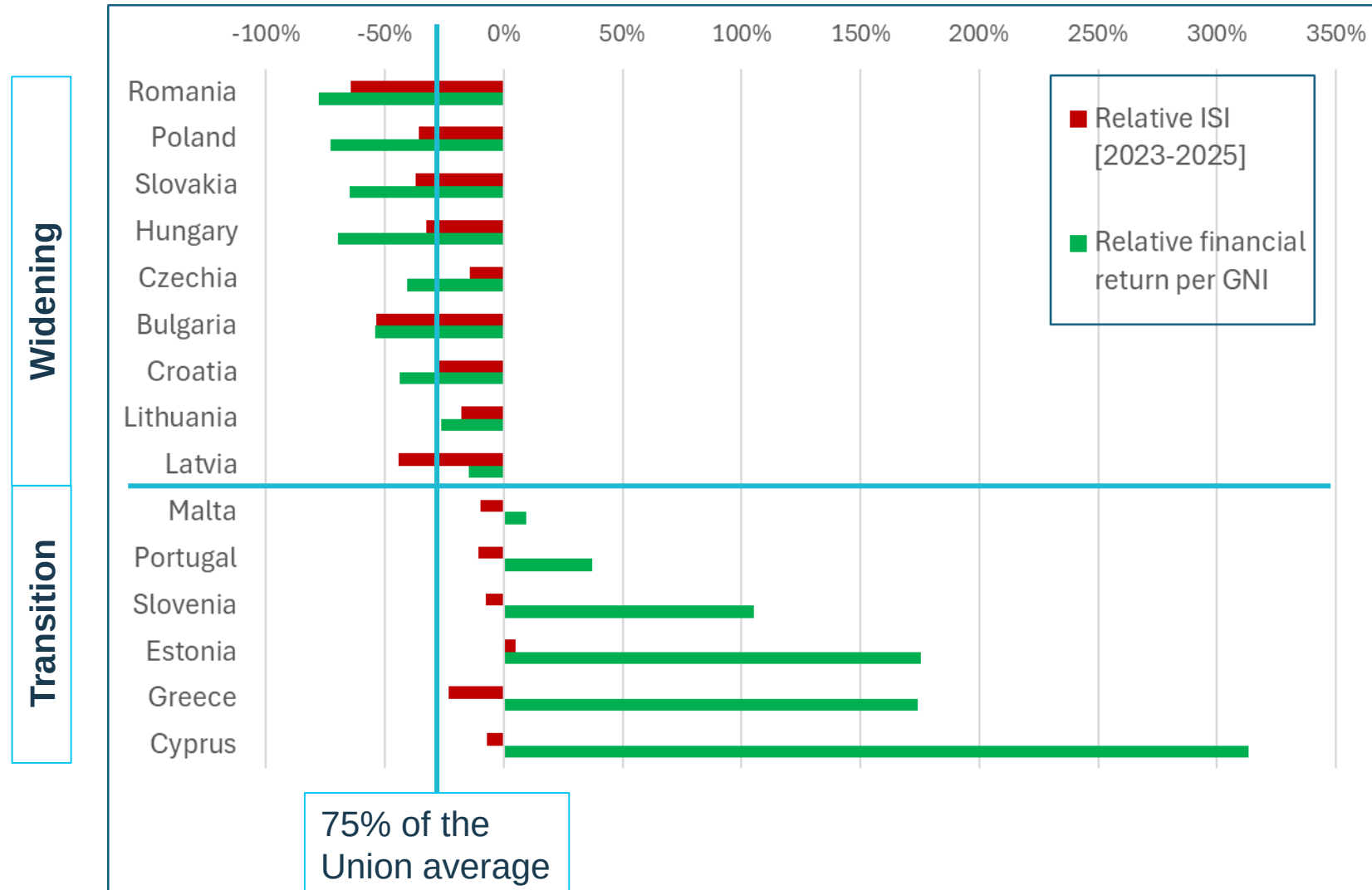
Widening provisions – FP Recital 20 in the proposal for Horizon Europe (2028 – 2034)

The Programme should implement concrete measures in support of capacity building in widening countries and strengthening collaborative links across the Union enhancing the research and innovation capacity in widening and transition countries, leading to a more cohesive and integrated European R&I system and contributing to the target to invest at least 3% of GDP in research and development.

The eligible Member States from the 2021-2027 period should be divided into two groups for the whole duration of the Programme, on the basis of the Innovation Scoreboard Index and the relative financial return per Gross National Income (GNI), based on the following criteria:

- i) ‘Transition countries’, with both an Innovation Scoreboard Index (2023-2025) above 75% of the Union average and positive relative financial return per GNI (2021-2025) under Horizon Europe;
- ii) ‘Widening countries’, all other Member States eligible under the 2021-2027 period.

Widening Member States: Relative Innovation performance and participation success under Horizon Europe



Widening provisions – FP Article 19 (I) in the proposal for Horizon Europe (2028 – 2034)

1. ‘Widening countries’ are Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia for the purposes of funding the actions under paragraph 5, points a) and b).
2. ‘Transition countries’ are Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Malta, Portugal and Slovenia, for the purposes of funding the actions under paragraph 5, point b).
3. Only legal entities established in widening countries or transition countries shall be eligible as coordinators under the ‘widening participation and spreading excellence’ component of the ‘Strengthening the ERA’ part of the Programme.
4. For associated countries, legal entities from the list of eligible countries as defined based on an indicator and published in the work programme shall be fully eligible as coordinators under this component. Legal entities from outermost regions as defined in Article 349 TFEU shall be also eligible as coordinators under this component and shall be subject to the same rules applying to widening countries under this Article, with the exception of paragraph 7.

Widening provisions – FP Article 19 (II) in the proposal for Horizon Europe (2028 – 2034)

5. 'Widening' includes the following:
 - (a) capacity building measures; → Teaming, ERA Chairs, ERA Research Managers
 - (b) measures supporting networking, knowledge valorisation, countering brain drain and dedicated National Contact Points (NCP) support. → e.g. Twinning, Excellence Hubs, ERA Fellowships, EIC pre-accelerator, COST, NCP
6. The Programme shall assist widening and transition countries to increase their participation and to promote a broad geographical coverage in excellent collaborative projects. Those efforts shall be mirrored by proportional measures by Member States.
7. From 2030 onwards access to capacity building measures is restricted to those widening countries that have increased their real expenditure of public investment in research and development in the latest known year compared to the year prior to it. → Applies as of Work Programme 2030

Widening provisions – SP Article 15 in the proposal for Horizon Europe (2028 – 2034)

Widening participation and spreading excellence

The Specific Programme shall support a truly integrated and cohesive R&I ecosystem in the Union, addressing especially the third and fourth priority areas of the Pact for R&I, amplifying access to research and innovation excellence across the Union and prioritising investments and reforms. Disparities between leading and less advanced countries in terms of R&I performance shall be tackled through activities building a solid science base and connecting actors and ecosystems, and that encourage structural policy reforms at national and regional level aimed at, such as, improving the attractiveness of research careers, internationalisation, effectiveness of management and governance of R&I institutions or matching activities with Union initiatives.