

Excellence Hubs

Horizon Europe

CODE	SCOPE
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01	International
LOCATION	STATUS
Europe	Open
PROGRAM	CURATED BY
Horizon Europe	Maria Macedo
GENERATED AT	
September 29, 2026	

Financial Details

SUPPORT TYPE	MAXIMUM FUNDING RATE
Non-Refundable	70%
BUDGET	ELIGIBLE PROJECT VALUE
100M€	Up to 6.4M€
MAXIMUM DURATION	
60 months	

Dates & Deadlines

PUBLICATION DATE	OPENING DATE
September 25, 2026	September 2, 2026

Application Phases

- Phase 1: March 4, 2027 at 04:00 PM (156 days left)

Objectives

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The Excellence Hubs call aims to strengthen regional Research and Innovation (R&I) ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond, promoting collaboration between academia, business, government, and society. Through

coordinated efforts, the initiative supports the development of place-based innovation cultures, aligning with smart specialisation strategies and European priorities. Eligible applicants are consortia comprising actors representing academia, business entities, local/regional public authorities, and societal actors from at least two Widening countries, fostering sustainable and competitive regional innovation frameworks. The overarching goal is to achieve excellent and sustainable R&I ecosystems, enhanced linkages between science and business, increased SMEs/start-up engagement, and long-term collaborative strategies for European relevance.

Funding

The action provides up to EUR 100 million in total call funding for 2026-2027 with an indicative EU contribution of between EUR 1,500,000 and EUR 4,500,000 per project. The maximum funding rate is 70% of eligible costs, requiring beneficiaries to secure the remaining 30% co-financing. Up to 30 grants are expected to be awarded.

Eligible Expenses

- Personnel Costs
- Travel costs
- Equipment costs
- Other goods, works and services costs
- Subcontracting
- Indirect Costs
- Financial Support to Third Parties

Eligibility

Eligible Sectors

- Agro-Food
- Industry
- Energy & Environment
- ICT & Software
- Tourism
- Health & Life Sciences
- Mobility & Transport
- Blue Economy
- Culture & Creative
- Education & Training
- Forestry
- Aerospace & Defense
- Other

Company Typologies

- Micro
- Sme
- Small Mid-Cap
- Mid-Cap
- Large

- Private non-profit entities
- Public entities
- Non-business entities of the R&I system (ENESII)

Application Mode

- Consortium / Copromotion

Action Types

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA)

EU Programme Details

CALL ID

HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04

DESTINATION

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

SUBMISSION MODE

Single-stage

EU CONTRIBUTION

1,500,000 to 4,500,000 EUR per project

EXPECTED PROJECTS

30

FUNDING RATE RULE

Maximum EU funding rate is 70% of eligible costs; Financial support to third parties (SMEs/start-ups) up to 60,000 EUR each are permitted.

Official Links

Official Regulation:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&isExactMatch=true&type=1&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&programmePart=43121707&frameworkProgramme=43108390>

Grantavia page: <https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/excellence-hubs>

Schedule a meeting: <https://calendly.com/sandra-cardoso-epsa/reuniao>