

# Spreading excellence and Widening participation in Horizon 2020

Stelian Mihalas

Department of Computer Science  
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science  
Universitatea de Vest Timisoara, Romania

Workshop of e-infrastructure services for society  
The HOST project, July 28-30, 2014

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# Why and How?

## WHY?

- The European Union sees significant internal disparities in terms of research and innovation performance
- Reducing these disparities is the political objective of Widening in H2020
- H2020 calls for a targeted approach to help participants with low R&I performance

HOW? Eligibility based on (Low) Performance Criteria: A Composite Indicator of Research Excellence consisting of:

- Highly cited publications of a country as a share of the top 10% most cited publications normalised by GDP
- Number of world class universities and public research institutes in a country normalised by population
- Patent applications per million population
- Total value of ERC grants received divided by public R&D

# Regional innovation map - 2014

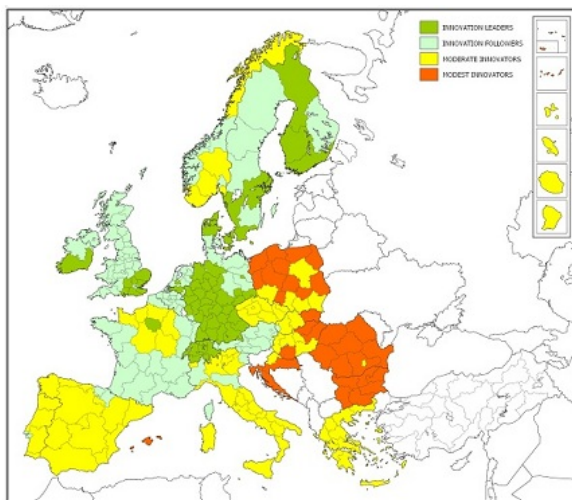


Figure: Regional innovation map - Europe 22+2 - 2014

# Low and high performance countries

## Low performance countries

- Member states with a composite indicator of research excellence less than 70% of the EU average
- The list : Latvia, Croatia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia, Romania, Luxembourg, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Portugal, Slovenia, Cyprus, Czech Republic and Hungary

## High performance countries

- Composite indicator above 70% of the EU average

Associated countries are also eligible to some extent

# WIDENING ACTIONS IN H2020

New set of measures in Horizon 2020 under the specific objective "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation" (WIDESPREAD):

- TEAMING for Excellence (CoEs)
- TWINNING (institutional networking)
- ERA Chairs (bringing excellence to institutions)
- NCPs (information, communication, support)
- Policy Support Facility (support for R&I Policy design)
- COST (stimulating cross border science networks)

Widening actions: A bridge between R&I (H2020) and Cohesion Policies (ESIF) notably through Smart Specialisation  
Total Budget in H2020: about 816 million euros

# TEAMING - generalities

- Objective - Creating a new or significant upgrade of an existing Center of Excellence in low performing states
- Proposals have to demonstrate the long-term science and innovation strategy of the future (existing) Center based on a SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis
- A 2 stage implementation
- Overall budget in H2020 - 270 mil euros
- Current call: H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-1, deadline: 17.09.2014
- Another call is scheduled for 2018

# TEAMING - Consortium requirements

- At least 2 partners in each Teaming project
- The coordinator must be from a low performing state, like:
  - a national or regional research agency
  - a national or regional authority
  - a research or educational institution
- An institution of research and innovation excellence (public or private) or a consortium of such institutions (usually, from a high performing state)
- A proposal must prove the existence of a well conceived and structured partnership and strong commitment from both sides



# TEAMING - Stage 1

- The 2014 Call - Business Plan for a Center of Excellence (CoE)
- Budget: 11.85 mil euros, deadline: 17.09.2014
- Project size: 200.000 - 500.000 euros, Project duration: 12 months
- Main deliverable: Business plan of the Center of Excellence
- Business plan with a robust financial commitment (from national/regional funding agencies or others)
- Evaluation of the Business Plan through a competitive review across partners

## TEAMING - Stage 2

- Subject to the quality of the Business Plan, and a commitment of the Member State (e.g. support via Cohesion Policy Funds), the Commission may provide further substantial financial support for the first steps of implementation of the Centre.
- Starts in 2016 - Start-up / Implementation of the CoE
- Budget: 80-90 mil euros
- Project size: 15-20 mil euros (indicative budget)
- Project duration: 5-7 years

# TEAMING - Funding, Agreements

## FUNDING

- Substantial support for the start-up & implementation phase of the CoE inter alia: salaries, operational and administrative costs, exchange of staff with advanced partners, training of staff, dissemination
- only small equipment but no infrastructure and no funding for research projects

## TWO AGREEMENTS with the EC

- a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA), based on the long-term cooperation between the Commission and the consortium
- a Specific Agreement (SGA) funding a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) - covers one year at a time

# TWINNING - generalities

## OBJECTIVE

- Strengthening a defined field of research of a knowledge institution in a low performing Member State or region through linking with at least two internationally-leading counterparts in Europe.

## HOW?

- Proposals: Will have to outline the scientific strategy for stepping up and stimulating scientific excellence and innovation capacity in a defined area of research

## CALLS, FUNDING

- 2 calls: 2015, 2018
- Total Budget for TWINNING in H2020: about 100 mil euros

# TWINNING - Proposals

## CONSORTIUM

- ONE institution located in a Low Performing MS/region (COORDINATOR)
- A minimum of TWO additional partners from two different Member States or Associated Countries.

## 2015 CALL details - H2020-TWINN-2015

- Budget : 64 mil euros
- Call deadline: 07.05.2015
- Project size: 1 mil euros per proposal
- Project duration: 3 years
- Type of action: Coordination and Support Action

# TWINNING - Funding and Eligible costs

## FUNDING for:

- expert visits and short-term on-site or virtual training;
- workshops & conference attendance;
- organisation of joint summer school type activities;
- dissemination and outreach activities;

## NOT covered:

- Equipment
- researcher's salaries

# ERA Chairs - generalities

## OBJECTIVES

- Bring outstanding researchers to universities and other research organisations that have high potential for research excellence.

## CONTENT

- An ERA Chair holder should be an outstanding researcher and research manager in the given field of research, with a proven record of effective leadership.

## SCOPE

- Research organisations interested in establishing an ERA Chair shall submit a proposal aimed at facilitating structural change in the institution and ensuring that the conditions are in place to foster excellent research.

# ERA Chairs Profile

- The ERA Chairs may be in any domains of research and innovation addressed under the Treaty, but are expected to be in line with relevant regional and national strategies for smart specialisation.
- ERA Chair holder must follow an open and merit-based recruitment process, and will be subject to monitoring by the European Commission. The appointment will be undertaken by the host institution at the beginning of the action
- The grant will cover the appointment of the ERA Chair holder and a number of team members and will also provide a contribution towards measures aimed at facilitating structural changes in the institution, for a maximum period of five years.



# ERA Chairs - Proposals

- The applicant organisation where the ERA Chair holder will be hosted should be established in a Low performing Member State
- The requested EU contribution shall not exceed a maximum of EUR 2.5 million for a period of up to 60 months and 90% of the total estimated budget for each proposal
- Call: H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2
- Budget: 33.6 mil euros
- Deadline: 15.10.2014

# Current TEAMING Call

## H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-1

- Subcall of H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2015
- Deadline Date : 17.09.2014
- Main Pillar : Spreading excellence and widening participation
- Budget : 11,850,000 euros
- Topic : Teaming

Link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-widespread-2014-1.html>

# Current TWINNING Call

## H2020-TWINN-2015

- Deadline Date : 07.05.2015
- Main Pillar : Spreading excellence and widening participation
- Budget : 65,270,000 euros
- Topic : Twinning

Link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/6064-h2020-twinn-2015.html>

# Current ERA Chairs Call

## H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2

- Subcall of H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2015
- Deadline Date : 15.10.2014
- Main Pillar : Spreading excellence and widening participation
- Budget : 33,600,000 euros
- Topic : ERA Chairs

Link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-widespread-2014-2.html>

# Some Answers

## TEAMING

- 02.2015 - evaluation results
- 05.2015 - grant agreements signature
- Letter of financial support - needed, if coordinator is university or research institute

## TWINNING

- No researcher salaries, administrative salary - OK
- Money goes to coordinator, no predefined allocation
- Subcontracting OK, minor parts

# Relevant links

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION LINKS

- WIDENING - EC site
- WIDENING - Info Day, 03.07.2014, Bruxelles

## PRESENTATIONS

- [http://www.gppq.fct.pt/h2020/\\_docs/eventos/1880\\_portugal\\_widening\\_infoday.pdf](http://www.gppq.fct.pt/h2020/_docs/eventos/1880_portugal_widening_infoday.pdf)
- [http://horizon2020.mon.bg/files/day\\_01/03\\_Widening\\_participation.pdf](http://horizon2020.mon.bg/files/day_01/03_Widening_participation.pdf)