OPEN CALL ANALYSIS

HORIZON EUROPE EXCELLENCE HUBS 2027

HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01: networks of regional innovation ecosystems, coordinated from a Widening country

EUnita strategic translation

The call pays a consortium to join at least two regional innovation ecosystems from two Widening countries into one hub. The money covers a joint research and innovation strategy, investment plans, skills and knowledge transfer, and a research work package kept in balance with the rest. SMEs and start-ups can get grants of up to €60,000 through the hub. An entity from a Widening country, Romania included, must coordinate, and each ecosystem needs academia, business, regional or local public authorities and societal actors. The Commission expects about 30 projects, each with an EU contribution of about €1.5–4.5 million (an estimate, not a cap), but it pays up to 70% of the project's eligible costs, so the consortium must secure the other 30%. Independent experts score one full proposal due on 4 March 2027. Ties favour a coordinator from a Widening country not already leading a higher-ranked proposal.

EXCELLENCE HUBS ANALYSIS

Fit assessment | Sources | What it funds | Boundaries | Budget & competition | Funded before | Who should apply | Eligibility | Money | Evaluation | Application & timeline | Risks | Recommendations

Deadline: 4 March 2027, 17:00 Brussels time (18:00 in Romania)

Topic budget: €100 million | Expected grants: about 30 | EU contribution per project: €1.5–4.5 million (expected) | Funding rate: 70% | Duration: up to 5 years

Prepared by

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Analysis date: 16 November 2026

*This analysis interprets the official call documentation for applicants. It is not legal advice. The official texts are the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026–2027, part 11 (Commission Decision C(2026) 6687/2 of 29 September 2026), the General Annexes of the same programme, the Funding & Tenders Portal topic page and its 27 topic Q&As; where this analysis and an official text differ, the official text prevails. Labels used: **Confirmed** (stated in an official source), **EUnita interpretation** (our reading or recommendation), **Derived estimate** (our arithmetic on official figures).*

1. Decision summary: is this call for you?

Excellence Hubs is a one-stage Horizon Europe grant for a consortium that joins at least two regional innovation ecosystems from two different Widening countries into a hub. A legal entity established in a Widening country coordinates. Romania is on the list. The grant pays up to 70% of the project's total eligible costs, so the consortium must secure the other 30%.

Item	Confirmed position	Source
Call and topic	Call HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04; topic HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01, Excellence Hubs	Portal topic page; WP11 p. 54
Type of action	Coordination and Support Action (CSA); budget-based action grant; single-stage submission	Portal; WP11 p. 54
Opening and deadline	Opened 2 September 2026. Deadline 4 March 2027, 17:00:00 Brussels time (18:00 in Romania, Derived estimate)	WP11 pp. 19–20; Portal
Budget and grants	€100.00 million: €15.00 million from 2026 and €85.00 million from 2027; 30 grants expected	WP11 p. 20
EU contribution per project	Commission estimate of €1.50–4.50 million; other amounts are not precluded	WP11 p. 54
Funding rate	Up to 70% of the project's total eligible costs; the proposal should explain how the other 30% is secured and shared. An individual beneficiary may request up to 100% of its own costs within that total	WP11 p. 55; Q&A 109151
Duration	Up to 5 years	WP11 p. 57
Who coordinates	Legal entities established in Widening countries as defined in the Horizon Europe regulation; Romania is listed	WP11 pp. 6, 54
Consortium	At least two R&I ecosystems from two different Widening countries; each ecosystem is entirely in one country and has four types of actor	WP11 pp. 54–55
Third-party grants	Grants only, SMEs and start-ups only, up to €60,000 each	WP11 p. 55
Page limit	40 pages in the topic text; 25 is the generic CSA limit and 30 is in the 2025 annexes; the Part B form in the submission system is binding (see section 2)	WP11 p. 54; General Annexes p. 4

Good fit

- ✓ A Romanian university, research institute, cluster or regional body able to lead a consortium of ecosystems
- ✓ A cluster or innovation agency whose members already cover business, academia, public bodies and civil society
- ✓ A regional or local authority that works on a smart specialisation strategy and wants a place in a cross-border plan
- ✓ An established company with at least two years of turnover, ready to anchor an ecosystem's business side
- ✓ A team that has already found a partner ecosystem in a second Widening country
- ✓ A consortium that can carry 30% of the eligible costs from own or other permitted resources
- ✓ A hub whose centre is strategy and investment, with research as one balanced part

Not a fit

- ✗ A single institution, or a single ecosystem
- ✗ A project led from a country outside the Widening list
- ✗ A plan built on buying equipment, research infrastructure or construction
- ✗ A research project in which research is the dominant part
- ✗ Follow-up funding for an existing or recently completed Excellence Hub
- ✗ A consortium that cannot show or finance the 30% share
- ✗ A team that cannot show an established business with two years of turnover where the individual-entity route is used

EUnita verdict (interpretation)

EUnita interpretation: a strong option for Romanian universities, research institutes, clusters and regional bodies that already work with partners in another Widening country and can carry the 30% own share. It is a weak option for a single institution, for an equipment or infrastructure plan, or for a team that cannot assemble four kinds of actor in each of two ecosystems. This verdict is our reading of the documents. It is not an evaluation score and not a chance of selection.

2. Source verification and document status

Confirmed: the figures and rules in this analysis were checked against the official documents listed below and in Sources. The Work Programme parts, the Portal data file, the forms, the model grant agreement and the participating-countries list were read on 14 or 15 November 2026 and compared again on 16 November 2026; the copies were identical. The 27 topic Q&As were also unchanged on 16 November 2026. The Portal shows the topic as open for submission.

Document	Version and date	What it settles
Work Programme 2026–2027, part 11 (Widening participation and strengthening the ERA)	Annex XI, Decision C(2026) 6687/2 of 29 September 2026; 135 pages	Topic text, call overview, Widening list, specific conditions
Work Programme 2026–2027, part 15, General Annexes	Cover "15. General Annexes"; 44 pages; no version date printed	Admissibility, eligibility, award criteria, procedure, grant rules (Annexes A to G)
Portal topic page and data file	Read 15 November 2026; data file identical on 14, 15 and 16 November 2026; topic published 12 December 2025; latest update 2 September 2026	Status, dates, budget, expected grants, document links
Topic Q&As on the Portal	27 items, published 14 September to 6 November 2026; last modified 12 November 2026	Clarifications of the topic text

Document	Version and date	What it settles
HE CSA application form	Part A version 3.0 (10 November 2025); Part B version 5.1 (22 January 2026)	Structure of the proposal
HE CSA evaluation form	Version 5.0 (12 November 2025)	How experts score
Information on financial support to third parties	Version 3.0 (23 January 2023)	Annex to upload if grants to third parties are planned
Model grant agreement; Annotated Grant Agreement	MGA version 1.2 (1 June 2026); AGA version 3.0 (1 November 2026)	Cost categories, payments, obligations
List of participating countries in Horizon Europe	Version 4.2 (7 October 2026)	Which third countries are associated
REA page "Excellence Hubs"	Read 15 and 16 November 2026	Indicative timeline; the agency that presents the call
CORDIS project records	Data as of 15 November 2026	Earlier Excellence Hubs
Council documents 13519/26, 13568/26 and 14457/26	Council of the EU, 23 September, 6 October and 14 October 2026	Status of the Council measures behind the Hungarian public interest trusts exclusion

Where the official documents differ

- Page limit. WP11 p. 54 and the Portal say 40 pages. General Annex A (p. 4) sets 25 pages for a CSA "unless provided otherwise in the specific call/topic conditions", and WP11 p. 54 is such a condition. The Part B template on the topic page (p. 31) repeats the generic 25, and the 2025 General Annexes say 30. General Annexes p. 4 says the templates on the topic page are "only for information" and that applications must use the forms inside the submission system. The Part B form in the submission system is binding; it opens only after a sign-in, so check the limit there. After the deadline, pages over the limit are made invisible to evaluators (General Annexes p. 4).
- General Annexes version. The Portal "Conditions" tab links Annexes A to G to the 2025 General Annexes. The Portal document list and WP11 point to the 2026–2027 General Annexes. The 2025 version omits Egypt, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland from its Associated Countries. We follow 2026–2027, which belongs to the same work programme as the topic.
- Funding rate. The generic CSA rate is 100% (General Annexes p. 31; REA "How to apply"). The topic sets 70% (WP11 p. 55). We follow 70%, because General Annexes p. 32 allows the topic to set another rate.
- Timeline. REA gives July 2027 (results), November 2027 (signature) and December 2027 (start). General Annex F (p. 30) gives about 5 and about 8 months after the deadline. Both are indicative; we show both.
- Business entity. WP11 pp. 54–55: at submission, established for at least two consecutive years with proven operational turnover. Q&A 103472: existing at least two years before the call publication, with significant income from commercial activity, not public funding. The Q&A does not say which publication date counts, and no other document does; the point is open.
- Core partners. Q&A 103474 suggests that a complex ecosystem without an umbrella organisation be represented by at least two core partners (one research, one established business) who sign the grant agreement. WP11 p. 54 asks for individual beneficiaries for each of the four categories, and Q&As 103479 and 106254 say the two routes cannot be mixed. No document says which prevails; we follow the WP11 text, which the later Q&As repeat.
- Number of activities. Q&A 103466 says "up to five core actions". WP11 p. 56 says "at least" the listed activities. We follow WP11.
- Other countries. The words "minor component" appear only in Q&A 103475, not in WP11 p. 56. We follow WP11 and note the Q&A.
- Pilots. WP11 p. 57 says the conceptual design and pre-planning of pilots and demonstrators must be financed by sources other than the Union contribution; Q&A 106253 repeats this. Q&A 106251 says preparatory actions such as specification and pre-development of major equipment, pre-planning costs for infrastructures and feasibility studies "could be eligible for funding under this call". No document says which prevails; a proposal should not rely on EU funding for this part until it is settled.
- Morocco. WP11 p. 6 lists Morocco only "once associated". The participating-countries list (version 4.2, 7 October 2026) shows Morocco under transitional arrangements, which apply "if provided for in the particular Horizon Europe Work Programme". The documents do not say whether Morocco counts as a Widening country for this call now. The point is open: check the Portal before relying on it.
- Hungarian public interest trusts. General Annexes pp. 10–11 exclude these trusts and the entities they maintain from funded roles "as long as the Council measures are not lifted", and note 29 says the Commission proposed lifting the measures on 23 September 2026. Council documents record that the Council adopted a decision lifting the measures on 13 October 2026 (Council document 14457/26; the text in 13568/26 lifts the measures of Article 2 of Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 and takes effect on notification). The General Annexes text was not changed in the version read. Check the Portal before relying on either text.
- Tie-break. General Annex F p. 28 point 4 (geographical diversity by number of countries) is not in the sequence that WP11 p. 55 names (points 1, 2, 3 and 5). We follow WP11.

3. What the call funds

Purpose and policy anchors

Confirmed: Excellence Hubs let innovation ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond team up and build links between academia, business, government and society. The aim is a place-based innovation culture, built on a strategic agenda that follows regional or national smart specialisation strategies and states the expected economic and societal impacts (WP11 p. 55).

Confirmed: the action supports the third priority of the European Research Area, translating R&I results into the economy, and targets regions as R&I actors (WP11 p. 56). Consortia should seek synergies, and avoid overlaps, with European Innovation Ecosystems, EIC Pathfinder, the EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (in particular the EIT Community Hubs in Widening countries), the JRC's Partnerships for Regional Innovation and the Widening Dissemination and Exploitation Facility (WP11 p. 56).

Expected outcomes (WP11 pp. 55–56)

- Excellent and sustainable regional R&I ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond, in relevant domains of cutting-edge science and innovation.
- Long-term joint R&I strategies backed by concrete action plans of European relevance.
- Common investment plans for R&I, including infrastructures, drawing on national, regional and European funds and on private capital.
- R&I pilot projects alongside the joint strategy and in line with regional and national strategies, notably RIS3.
- New competencies and skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in R&I-intensive domains.
- Stronger links between science, businesses and society.
- New business opportunities for SMEs, university spin-offs and start-ups, especially in deep tech areas.

Activities a proposal should cover (WP11 pp. 56–57)

Confirmed: proposals should include a well-balanced package covering at least the following activities.

1. A cross-border joint R&I strategy, aligned with regional smart specialisation strategies and European priorities.
2. R&I collaboration that strengthens academia–business links and gives evidence for strategy and investment. The research component is built from joint research projects. It must be presented in a distinct work package. It should be in balance with the other activities and not be the dominant part of the project.
3. Investment plans to carry out the strategy, with business models for commercially sustainable products and services, leveraging private investment and possibly national, regional and European funds.
4. If applicable, conceptual design and pre-planning of pilots and demonstrators in line with the strategy, financed by sources other than the Union contribution of the Excellence Hub grants. The proposal outlines how other money will be reached later.
5. Complementary activities: knowledge transfer, visibility, mutual learning, skills, and engagement with local governments and citizens. Secondments and staff exchanges should build long-term collaboration.

Confirmed: proposals should show the expected impact, including new local and international partnerships, institutional changes, increased R&I intensity and other relevant indicators. Expected

project duration is up to 5 years (WP11 p. 57).

How the topic Q&As read the terms

- TRL: the call prescribes no level; the Commission expects a range of TRL 3 to 7 to be appropriate (Q&A 103468).
- R&I domain: two equally valid ways. Either find a common denominator in the participating regions' RIS3 and explain it, or start from a European policy priority, notably the green and digital transition, and explain the economic benefit. The two may converge (Q&A 103478).
- European relevance: an added value of joint European funding over isolated regional or national activity; the consortium must be more than the sum of its ecosystems (Q&A 103473).
- Joint R&I strategy: no template. It should analyse R&D needs and gaps in the chosen domain, describe the path to commercial exploitation, and derive the investment from the strategy (Q&A 103465).
- Investment plan: no full plan is needed at proposal stage; outline the purpose and type of investment, the funding sources and how sustainability and impact are secured (Q&A 103476).
- Research work package: broken into tasks and sub-tasks like a traditional research and innovation project, linked to the strategy and to a commercialisation and investment path (Q&A 103467).
- "Place-based": a specific regional or local territory with close links between actors. No NUTS reference is required, but the proposal should describe the territory briefly (Q&A 103464).
- Social science: a hub on social innovation or on commercial valorisation of social science results is possible in principle; there is no earlier example (Q&A 103481).

4. Boundaries: avoid the wrong door

What the call does not fund or accept

- Confirmed: major equipment, R&I infrastructure and construction cannot be funded (Q&A 106251).
- Confirmed: the design and pre-planning of pilots and demonstrators is financed by sources other than the Union contribution of the grant (WP11 p. 57; Q&A 106253). Q&A 106251 allows some preparatory actions; see the difference box in section 2.
- Confirmed: the call creates new hubs. It is not a vehicle for follow-up funding of an existing or recently completed Excellence Hub (Q&A 109992).
- Confirmed: a single ecosystem, or ecosystems in only one country, do not meet the minimum (WP11 p. 54).
- Confirmed: a coordinator outside the Widening list does not meet the rule (WP11 p. 54).
- Confirmed: third-party grants go only to SMEs and start-ups, up to €60,000 each (WP11 p. 55). They must not be used for pilots and demonstrators (Q&A 106253).
- Confirmed: a dominant research part is not in line with the call; there is no fixed percentage cap (WP11 pp. 56–57; Q&A 103466).
- Confirmed: entities established in Russia, Belarus or non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine cannot take part in any capacity, although exceptions may be granted case by case for justified reasons (General Annexes p. 10); Chinese universities under the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology are not eligible in any action (General Annexes p. 7).
- Confirmed: Hungarian public interest trusts and the entities they maintain cannot take a funded role (beneficiary, affiliated entity, subcontractor, recipient of third-party support) "as long as the Council measures are not lifted"; they may take part without funding as associated partners if the call allows (General Annexes pp. 10–11). The Commission proposed lifting the measures on 23 September 2026 (COM(2026) 516; General Annexes note 29), and Council documents record that the Council adopted a decision lifting them on 13 October 2026 (Council document 14457/26; text

in 13568/26). The General Annexes text was not changed in the version read, so check the Portal before relying on it.

Neighbouring calls in the same Work Programme part

Confirmed: these are the ten other calls in the call overview tables of WP11 (pp. 8–21). They have their own conditions. By the printed dates, their 2026 deadlines have passed on 16 November 2026 (Derived estimate: comparison of the printed dates with 16 November 2026); the Director-General may delay a deadline by up to two months, so check the Portal for the current state.

Call (code)	Opening to deadline	Amounts printed	Source
Teaming Synergies (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-01)	23 April to 24 September 2026	€7.00 million, 1 grant expected	WP11 p. 8
Twinning (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-02)	8 January to 9 April 2026	€0.80–1.50 million per project; 210 grants	WP11 p. 9
Hop-on Facility (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-03)	13 January to 24 September 2026	€0.20–0.60 million per project; 60 grants	WP11 pp. 10–11
Research Management Facility (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-04)	23 April to 24 September 2026	€7.00 million, 1 grant expected	WP11 pp. 11–12
ERA Fellowships (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-05)	9 April to 9 September 2026	€8.00 million; 50 projects (TMA postdoctoral fellowships)	WP11 pp. 12–13
Enhancing the European R&I system (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06)	10 December 2025 to 12 March 2026	Eight topics; overall indicative budget €52.00 million	WP11 pp. 14–15
EIC Pre-accelerator, Widening (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-01)	5 May to 18 November 2027	€0.50–1.00 million per project; 60 grants	WP11 pp. 15–16
ERA Chairs and Research Managers (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02)	6 April to 14 September 2027	€1.50–2.50 million per project; 80 and 30 grants	WP11 p. 17
ERA Fellowships (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-03)	7 April to 8 September 2027	€8.00 million; 50 projects (TMA postdoctoral fellowships)	WP11 pp. 18–19
Enhancing the European R&I system (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05)	8 December 2026 to 11 March 2027	Five topics with budgets of €2.00, 29.00, 6.00, 2.00 and 3.00 million (overall €42.00 million)	WP11 pp. 20–21

EUnita interpretation

These are separate instruments with their own topic texts. Excellence Hubs is the only call of this Work Programme part that is built around a network of ecosystems led from a Widening country and open now. A team whose plan does not need two ecosystems and four kinds of actor should read the topic text of the call that matches its plan instead.

5. Budget, competition and expected number of grants

Item	Figure	Source
Total indicative budget	€100.00 million (€15.00 million 2026; €85.00 million 2027)	WP11 pp. 20, 54
Grants expected	30	WP11 p. 20; Portal data file

Item	Figure	Source
EU contribution per project	€1.50–4.50 million (Commission estimate)	WP11 p. 54
Budget condition	Subject to the appropriations of the Union budget for 2026 and 2027	WP11 p. 19, note 26
Budget flexibility	Budgets are indicative. Final budgets may change after evaluation by up to 20% compared with the total budget indicated in each individual part of the work programme (this call sits in part 11), not against this topic alone	General Annexes p. 29
Deadline changes	The Director-General may delay the deadline by up to two months. The call opened on 2 September 2026	WP11 p. 19, note 26

Derived estimates

- Derived estimate: €100.00 million divided by 30 grants is about €3.33 million per grant.
- Derived estimate: at the top of the range (€4.50 million) the budget pays about 22 projects; at the bottom (€1.50 million) about 66. The Commission states 30.

Competition

Confirmed: for the 2023 Excellence Hubs call REA reports that it received 205 proposals in March 2024 and selected 12 (REA news of 9 December 2024). Derived estimate: 12 of 205 is about 5.9% (2023 call; not a forecast). The 2027 call expects about 30 grants, against 13 and 12 funded in the two earlier calls (CORDIS). The number of proposals for the 2027 call, and a success rate, are not found in the sources read.

Not found in the sources read

- The number of proposals and the success rate for the 2027 call.
- The number of proposals for the 2022 call.

6. What has been funded before

Confirmed: CORDIS holds two earlier Excellence Hubs topics, HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-04-01 (13 projects) and HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07-01 (12 projects). CORDIS lists no other Excellence Hubs topic apart from the 2027 one. The figures below are the CORDIS EU contributions of those 25 projects. Project pages are at cordis.europa.eu/project/id/ followed by the project number.

Measure	Figure	Basis
Projects funded	25 (13 in the 2022 call, 12 in the 2023 call)	CORDIS
EU contribution, total	€127,615,859.75 (2022 call €62,702,318.50; 2023 call €64,913,541.25)	Derived estimate from CORDIS
EU contribution, average	About €5.10 million (largest €6,000,000.00, IFIGENEIA; smallest €3,720,420.50, EXCEL4MED)	Derived estimate from CORDIS
Duration	48 months for 23 projects; 54 months for SeaTecHub; 36 months for HERIFORGE	CORDIS

Measure	Figure	Basis
Funding rate in practice	EU contribution equals total cost for 23 of 25 projects, which implies about 100%; the 2027 call pays up to 70% of the project's eligible costs	Derived estimate from CORDIS
Coordinators by country	Greece 8, Czechia 3, Türkiye 3, Cyprus 2, Portugal 2; one each from Slovenia, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Poland, Croatia, Estonia and Ukraine	Derived estimate from CORDIS
Romania	No Romanian coordinator. Romanian beneficiaries in 3 of the 25 hubs: 13 entities, €3,427,843.75, about 2.7% of the total	Derived estimate from CORDIS

Romanian participation in earlier hubs

Hub	Romanian beneficiaries as CORDIS prints them	Entities and EU contribution
COALition (101087022), 2022 call; coordinator in Greece	Judetul Mures (public body); REPOM SRL; Universitatea de Medicina, Farmacie, Stiinte si Tehnologie "George Emil Palade" din Targu Mures; ICEBERG PLUS SRL; Patronatul IMM Judetean Mures	5 entities; €1,292,956.25
VELES (101087483), 2022 call; coordinator in Bulgaria	Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii (UEFISCDI); Clusterul Regional Inovativ de Imagistica Moleculara si Structurala Nord-Est (IMAGO-MOL)	2 entities; €755,125.00
WaterWise Hub (101184151), 2023 call; coordinator in Greece	Fundatia Comunitara Bucuresti; Universitatea Tehnica de Constructii Bucuresti; Asociatia Romanian Tech Startups; Business Development Group SRL; Secretariatul General al Guvernului; Institutul National de Cercetare Dezvoltare pentru Ecologie Industriala	6 entities; €1,379,762.50

Confirmed: the three hubs cover coal regions in transition (COALition), smart health in South-East Europe (VELES) and water in the circular economy (WaterWise Hub), according to their CORDIS titles. CORDIS classes the 13 Romanian entities as 2 public bodies, 2 higher education establishments, 3 research organisations, 3 private for-profit companies and 3 "other" (associations and a foundation).

The 2022 call: 13 projects

Hub (CORDIS id)	Coordinator, country	EU contribution (EUR)	Romanian beneficiaries
CHAngeing (101087071)	UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA, PT	4,999,693.75	none
ADDIT-CE (101087124)	Masarykova univerzita, CZ	4,939,299.50	none
BCThubs (101087146)	PERIFEREIAKO TAMEIO ANAPTYKSIS PERIFEREIAS THESSALIAS, EL	4,997,562.50	none
INNO2MARE (101087348)	UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI, SI	4,985,150.00	none
GlaCerHub (101087154)	TRENCIANSKA UNIVERZITA ALEXANDRA DUBCEKA V TRENCINE, SK	4,994,751.25	none
CHESS (101087529)	Masarykova univerzita, CZ	4,999,962.50	none

Hub (CORDIS id)	Coordinator, country	EU contribution (EUR)	Romanian beneficiaries
METACITIES (101087257)	PANEPISTIMIO PATRON, EL	4,994,500.00	none
EXCEL4MED (101087147)	ETHNIKO KAI KAPODISTRIAKO PANEPISTIMIO ATHINON, EL	3,720,420.50	none
CARBONICA (101087233)	REFRAME FOOD ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIRIA, EL	4,985,250.00	none
COALition (101087022)	ETHNIKO KENTRO EREVNAS KAI TECHNOLOGIKIS ANAPTYXIS, EL	4,489,753.75	5
SolarHub (101086110)	ODTU GUNES ENERJISI UYGULAMA VE ARA STIRMA MERKEZI, TR	4,846,397.25	none
VELES (101087483)	INSTITUT GOLEMI DANNI V POLZA NA INTELIGENTNOTO OBSHTESTVO, BG	4,750,000.00	2
SeaTecHub (101087162)	CMMI CYPRUS MARINE AND MARITIME INSTITUTE, CY	4,999,577.50	none

The 2023 call: 12 projects

Hub (CORDIS id)	Coordinator, country	EU contribution (EUR)	Romanian beneficiaries
ECHO (101185725)	YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, TR	4,999,875.00	none
HERIFORGE (101186573)	INSTYTUT CHEMII BIOORGANICZNEJ POLSKIEJ AKADEMII NAUK, PL	4,996,737.50	none
Excel4Pro (101186662)	TURKIYE BILIMSEL VE TEKNOLOJIK ARASTIRMA KURUMU, TR	5,946,368.75	none
InnoThyroGen (101187880)	SVEUCILISTE U SPLITU MEDICINSKI FAKULTET, HR	4,937,275.00	none
MarTe (101186498)	SIHTASUTUS KESKKONNAINVESTEERINGUTEKESKUS, EE	4,999,822.50	none
WaterWise Hub (101184151)	ETHNICON METSOVION POLYTECHNION, EL	5,464,843.75	6
DxHub (101186531)	IDRYMA TECHNOLOGIAS KAI EREVNAS, EL	4,688,625.00	none
EUSOME (101187121)	UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS, CY	5,998,806.25	none
GeneH (101186939)	UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA, PT	4,885,375.00	none
AGRI-BIOCIRCULAR-HUB (101186869)	LVIV POLYTECHNIC NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, UA	5,995,825.00	none
LASER-PRO (101186838)	FYZIKALNI USTAV AV CR, VVI, CZ	5,999,987.50	none
IFIGENEIA (101186921)	ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS, EL	6,000,000.00	none

EUnita interpretation

Romanian entities have so far been partners, not leaders: none of the 25 hubs had a Romanian coordinator. The earlier hubs were also funded at about 100% of costs, so their budgets are not a guide to a 70% budget in 2027. Derived estimate: the €1.5–4.5 million expected in 2027 is below the €5.10 million average of the earlier hubs.

7. Who should apply, and with which ideas

Roles in a hub

- Confirmed: the coordinator is established in a Widening country. Private companies from an Associated Country can lead if that country is listed as Widening (Q&A 103482).
- Confirmed: each ecosystem has academic institutions, business entities, public authorities or authorised agencies at regional or local level, and societal actors. Societal actors can be civil society organisations, citizens, end users, media or cultural actors; they must be neither commercial nor part of the public administration (WP11 p. 54; Q&A 103469).
- Confirmed: public authorities are the representative public entities with a clear role in shaping policies or ensuring public support for national or regional strategies (Q&A 103480). Regional authorities' commitment at proposal stage is shown by their participation (Q&A 106250).
- Confirmed: no preference is given to SMEs over large companies or the other way round, because an ecosystem implies a mix. SMEs are especially encouraged to participate and the call is SME-friendly; start-ups are welcome but not exclusively (Q&A 103471). The consortium should not be dominated by start-ups and consultants (Q&A 103472).
- Confirmed: regional and national authorities and funding agencies can be involved directly, for example as associated partners, if the conflict-of-interest rules for National Contact Points and Programme Committee members and their host institutions are respected and mitigating measures are in place. The Q&A advises contact with them from the start about follow-up support (Q&A 109991).
- Confirmed: use of existing umbrella organisations with their own legal entity, such as clusters, is recommended to limit the number of members. No dedicated legal entity for the hub is needed (Q&A 103470).

Two ways to show an ecosystem

Point	Route 1: umbrella organisation	Route 2: individual entities
Who is a beneficiary	One or more umbrella organisations whose membership covers the four categories in that country	Individual legal entities representing each of the four categories
Business proof	Not stated for this route	At least one business per ecosystem is an established firm with two consecutive years of proven operational turnover; balance sheets or business reports are annexed in an EU official language
Smallest consortium (EUnita interpretation)	Two beneficiaries: one umbrella organisation in each of two Widening countries	Eight beneficiaries: four in each of two ecosystems. For complex ecosystems with no umbrella organisation, Q&A 103474 recommends at least two core partners per ecosystem (one research, one established business) who sign the grant agreement; the other members are associated partners

Point	Route 1: umbrella organisation	Route 2: individual entities
Mixing	Not allowed with route 2 in the same ecosystem (Q&As 103479, 106254)	Not allowed with route 1 in the same ecosystem

Confirmed: the documents state no minimum number of beneficiaries. A CSA may be submitted by one or more legal entities (General Annexes p. 13). EUnita interpretation: in practice that means two beneficiaries if umbrella organisations cover both ecosystems, and eight or more if individual entities do.

Ideas that fit the call

- EUnita interpretation: a regional strategy on a common theme that several regions' smart specialisation strategies share, for example the themes of the three Romanian-linked hubs above: energy transition in coal regions, smart health, water and the circular economy.
- EUnita interpretation: a hub built on a European priority, such as the green or digital transition, where each ecosystem brings a different link of a value chain and the economic benefit is stated.
- EUnita interpretation: a hub in which a regional cluster is the umbrella organisation, a university or institute runs the research package, and the regional authority owns the investment plan.
- Confirmed: the topic Q&A allows a hub on social innovation or on commercial valorisation of social science results, with no earlier example (Q&A 103481).

Finding a partner ecosystem

Confirmed: the Portal topic page showed 178 partner-search announcements on 15 November 2026. National Contact Points, the Enterprise Europe Network and the Research Enquiry Service are listed as support (Portal "Get support").

8. Eligibility checklist

Each line states a condition of the official texts. A line marked ✓ is a requirement stated in the documents. A line marked ✗ describes what makes a proposal ineligible. A line marked ? is open.

✓	The coordinator is a legal entity established in a Widening country as defined in the Horizon Europe regulation. Romania is listed (WP11 pp. 6, 54; Regulation 2021/695, Article 2(17)).
✓	The proposal involves at least two R&I ecosystems from two different Widening countries (WP11 p. 54).
✓	Each ecosystem is entirely based in one Widening country and has academic institutions, business entities, regional or local public authorities and societal actors (WP11 p. 54).
✓	Each ecosystem is shown by umbrella organisations as beneficiaries, or by individual beneficiaries for each of the four categories. The two routes are not combined (WP11 p. 54; Q&As 103479, 106254).
✓	With individual entities, at least one business per ecosystem is established with two consecutive years of proven operational turnover, with balance sheets or business reports annexed in an EU official language (WP11 pp. 54–55).
✓	The research and innovation component sits in a distinct work package and is not the dominant part of the project (WP11 pp. 56–57).
✓	The proposal should explain how the other 30% of eligible costs will be secured and shared among the beneficiaries (WP11 p. 55; Q&A 108323).
✓	Any financial support to third parties is given as grants to SMEs and start-ups only, up to €60,000 each, after an open call of at least two months, with an information document annexed (WP11 p. 55; General Annexes p. 18).
✓	Public bodies, research organisations and higher education establishments have a gender equality plan at grant signature (General Annexes pp. 17–18). The rule does not apply to private for-profit organisations or NGOs.

✓	Every beneficiary, affiliated entity and associated partner has a registered PIC before submission (General Annexes p. 36).
✓	A written consortium agreement is concluded (General Annexes p. 36; Q&A 103470).
✓	The proposal is for a new hub. Applications for projects already completed are rejected (General Annexes p. 36; Q&A 109992).
✗	A coordinator established outside the Widening list, or a single ecosystem, or two ecosystems in the same country.
✗	Entities established in Russia, Belarus or non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine as participants in any capacity; exceptions may be granted case by case for justified reasons (General Annexes p. 10).
?	Whether Morocco counts as a Widening country now: WP11 says "once associated"; the list of 7 October 2026 shows only transitional arrangements. Check the Portal before relying on it.
?	Whether Hungarian public interest trusts can take a funded role: the General Annexes exclude them while the Council measures stand; Council documents record a lifting decision of 13 October 2026. Check the Portal before relying on it (General Annexes pp. 10–11).
?	Which date counts for the business entity's two years: at submission (WP11 pp. 54–55) or at least two years before the call publication (Q&A 103472). No document says which; the point is open.
?	The page limit shown in the Part B form in the submission system. WP11 p. 54 sets 40 pages for this topic; the form is binding and opens only after a sign-in (General Annexes p. 4).

Confirmed: financial capacity is normally checked for the coordinator when the requested grant is €500,000 or more, except for public bodies and international organisations, and low-value grants of €60,000 or less per beneficiary (General Annexes p. 20). Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempt from the operational capacity check (General Annexes p. 21).

9. How the money works

Item	Confirmed position	Source
Form of grant	Budget-based, mixed actual-cost grant: only eligible costs actually incurred are reimbursed. No profit is allowed; a profit is deducted from the final grant. The final grant can be lower than requested	General Annexes p. 31
Funding rate	Up to 70% of the project's total eligible costs, including for non-profit entities. The EU contribution for the whole project may not exceed that share	WP11 p. 55; Q&As 108323, 109151
Own share	The other 30% of the project's total eligible costs comes from own or other permitted resources, public or private, with no double financing. It is an audit-controlled obligation for the whole project. No formal proof is needed at proposal stage; the proposal should explain how it will be secured and shared	WP11 p. 55; Q&A 108323
Rates by beneficiary	A beneficiary may request up to 100% of its own costs, if the total EU contribution stays within 70% of total eligible costs	Q&A 109151
In-kind contributions	Contributions free of charge from third parties may be charged under the right cost category and may help to fund the 30% if they are eligible costs	Q&A 108323

Item	Confirmed position	Source
Cost categories	Personnel; subcontracting; purchase costs (travel, equipment, other goods, works and services); financial support to third parties; internally invoiced goods and services; indirect costs	General Annexes p. 32; MGA data sheet
Indirect costs	25% flat rate of eligible direct costs, excluding subcontracting, financial support to third parties and unit costs or lump sums that already include indirect costs	General Annexes p. 32
Third-party grants	Grants only, SMEs and start-ups only, up to €60,000 each. Open calls are published on the Portal and the beneficiaries' websites, stay open at least two months and have a clear European dimension. No percentage limit on the share of the budget, if proportionate. Used for research activities they count towards the research component; not for pilots and demonstrators	WP11 p. 55; General Annexes p. 18; Q&A 106253
Research share	No fixed percentage cap; an overly dominant research part is not in line with the call	Q&A 103466
Not fundable	Major equipment, R&I infrastructure and construction	Q&A 106251
Pre-financing	Normally 160% of the average EU funding per reporting period (maximum grant divided by the number of periods); exceptionally less or none	General Annexes p. 33
Mutual insurance	5% to 8% of the maximum grant is taken from the pre-financing and paid into the mutual insurance mechanism	General Annexes p. 33
Interim and final payments	One or several interim payments follow periodic reports; the final amount follows the final report; any excess is recovered	General Annexes p. 33
Liability	Individual financial responsibility: each beneficiary is liable only for its own debt	General Annexes p. 33
Certificates	May be required for financial statements, depending on the grant size and the type of beneficiary	General Annexes p. 33

Derived estimate: what 70% means in euros

Derived estimate: a project that receives an EU contribution of €3.00 million at 70% has total eligible costs of about €4.29 million. The remaining 30%, about €1.29 million, is carried by the consortium. For each euro of EU grant the consortium must find about 43 cents (30 divided by 70). This is arithmetic on the official rate, not a budget for any project.

Not found in the sources read: the reporting periods and the exact pre-financing amount for this grant. The grant agreement fixes them (General Annexes p. 33).

10. Evaluation

Confirmed: eligible proposals are evaluated by an evaluation committee of independent external experts and ranked by quality score (General Annexes p. 28). The topic text does not say that the committee includes representatives of EU institutions. The panel composition is not found in the sources read.

Criterion	What experts look at (CSA)	Source
Excellence	Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives; quality of the proposed coordination and support measures, including soundness of methodology	General Annexes p. 24
Impact	Credibility of the pathways to the expected outcomes and impacts in the work programme; suitability and quality of the measures to maximise them, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	General Annexes p. 24
Quality and efficiency of the implementation	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, risk assessment and effort assigned to work packages; capacity and role of each participant and whether the consortium brings the expertise needed	General Annexes p. 24

- Confirmed: each criterion is scored out of 5. The threshold is 3 for each criterion and 10 for the sum of the three (General Annexes p. 26). The evaluation form allows half points. Impact carries a weight of 1.5 only for Innovation actions, not for this CSA.
- Confirmed: proposals that pass both thresholds are considered for funding within the call budget; others are rejected (General Annexes p. 26).
- Confirmed: applications are evaluated as submitted (evaluation form version 5.0).
- Confirmed: operational capacity is assessed under the third criterion, from the description of participants, the researchers table, up to five relevant publications or achievements, up to five relevant projects and any significant infrastructure (General Annexes pp. 20–21).
- Confirmed: the topic does not provide a Seal of Excellence. The General Annexes give it only where the topic says so (p. 29).

Tie-breaks (WP11 p. 55)

1. First, proposals with a coordinator established in a Widening country that is not already represented as coordinator by a higher-ranked proposal.
2. Then points 1, 2, 3 and 5 of General Annex F for the proposals still tied: proposals covering aspects of the call not otherwise covered; the Excellence score, then the Impact score; gender balance among the researchers with a leading role; and the panel's discretion on other factors related to the objectives of the call (General Annexes p. 28).

After the evaluation

Confirmed: all applicants receive an evaluation result letter. Successful proposals are invited to grant preparation; others go on a reserve list or are rejected. The invitation is not a commitment to funding: legal entity validation, financial capacity verification and the exclusion check follow (General Annexes p. 29). A request for evaluation review concerns procedure only. It must be submitted within 30 days after the beneficiary opens the results and may not exceed 7,000 characters (General Annexes pp. 29–30).

11. Application package and timeline

What to prepare

Document	Content and rule	Source
Part A	Completed online in the Funding & Tenders Portal: administrative data for the participants, the summarised budget and call-specific questions	General Annexes p. 27
Part B	Downloaded, completed and uploaded as a PDF; three sections that follow the award criteria. Page limit: 40 pages for this topic (WP11 p. 54); 25 is the generic CSA limit in Annex A and the template. The form in the submission system is binding	General Annexes pp. 4, 27; WP11 p. 54; application form p. 31
Business evidence	Where individual entities show an ecosystem: balance sheets or business reports for the established business entities, in an EU official language	WP11 p. 55
Third-party grants document	Information on financial support to third parties, uploaded as a separate annex when such grants are planned	Portal; information document version 3.0
Registration	A PIC for every beneficiary, affiliated entity and associated partner before submission	General Annexes p. 36
Consortium agreement	Written agreement among participants, required unless the call says otherwise	General Annexes p. 36
Language	Any EU official language; English is strongly advised	General Annexes p. 37
Confirmations	The coordinator confirms its mandate for all applicants and that the information is correct and complete; all participants must meet the conditions	General Annexes pp. 27, 37

Confirmed: multiple applications are allowed for different projects; for the same or a very similar project only one is evaluated (General Annexes p. 36). Paper submission is not possible. Call deadlines cannot be extended at an applicant's request (General Annexes p. 36).

Timeline

Date	Event	Status and source
10 December 2025	Work Programme launch	Confirmed (REA page)
22 January 2026	Commission info day on the Widening calls	Confirmed (info-day agenda)
2 September 2026	Call opens	Confirmed (WP11 p. 20; Portal)
4 March 2027, 17:00 Brussels time	Deadline for submission (18:00 in Romania, Derived estimate)	Confirmed (WP11 p. 19; Portal)
July 2027	Applicants informed whether selected	Indicative (REA page). General Annexes default: about 5 months after the deadline
November 2027	Grant agreement signature	Indicative (REA page). General Annexes default: about 8 months after the deadline
December 2027	Projects start	Indicative (REA page)

Confirmed: the Director-General may delay the deadline by up to two months (WP11 p. 19, note 26). The topic page is where updates are published.

12. Risks and red flags

Risk	Why it matters	Source
The 30% own share	The Union pays 70%. The rest is an audit-controlled obligation for the whole project. The proposal should show credible sources and how the beneficiaries share it	WP11 p. 55; Q&A 108323
Ecosystem set-up	Two routes, never mixed. A set-up that matches neither route is not covered by the text. Q&A 103474 suggests core partners, which the WP11 text does not mention	WP11 p. 54; Q&As 103474, 103479, 106254
Established-business proof	Balance sheets or business reports must show at least two years of operational turnover. The date that counts is read differently in WP11 and in Q&A 103472	WP11 pp. 54–55; Q&A 103472
Competition	205 proposals were received for 12 hubs in the 2023 call (Derived estimate: about 5.9%; 2023 call, not a forecast). The number for 2027 is not found in the sources read	REA news of 9 December 2024
One stage	There is no outline stage: the full proposal is scored once against three criteria with thresholds of 3 and 10	General Annexes p. 26
Page limit	40 pages is the topic's figure (WP11 p. 54); 25 is the generic CSA limit (Annex A, Part B template) and 30 is in the 2025 annexes. The Part B form in the submission system is binding and opens only after a sign-in	WP11 p. 54; General Annexes p. 4
Research part too large	A dominant research part is not in line with the call and may weaken the credibility of a balanced package	WP11 pp. 56–57; Q&A 103466
Pilots and infrastructure	Equipment, infrastructure and construction cannot be funded. WP11 p. 57 and Q&A 106253 say the design and pre-planning of pilots is for other sources; Q&A 106251 says preparatory actions could be eligible. The documents do not say which prevails, so do not rely on EU funding for that part until it is settled	WP11 p. 57; Q&As 106251, 106253
Large consortium	Eight or more beneficiaries are likely if both ecosystems are shown by individual entities (EUnita interpretation). Each beneficiary stays responsible for its own obligations and debts	WP11 p. 54; General Annexes p. 33
Moving dates	The deadline may be delayed by up to two months	WP11 p. 19, note 26
Associated partners	Entities without funding cannot claim costs, including direct personnel costs	Q&A 103474
Morocco	Its status as a Widening country is open; check the Portal before relying on it	WP11 p. 6; participating-countries list
Hungarian public interest trusts	The General Annexes exclude them from funded roles while the Council measures stand. Council documents record a lifting decision of 13 October 2026; the annex text was not changed in the version read	General Annexes pp. 10–11; Council documents 13568/26, 14457/26

13. EUnita recommendations

EUnita interpretation: the points below are our reading of the documents. They are not evaluation scores and not predictions of selection.

1. Decide first whether two ecosystems can be built: for each ecosystem, name the university or institute, the established business, the regional or local authority and the societal actor, or the

umbrella organisation that covers all four.

2. Look for the partner ecosystem in a second Widening country now. The Portal partner search listed 178 announcements for this topic on 15 November 2026.
3. Choose one route per ecosystem, umbrella organisation or individual entities, and keep it throughout the proposal.
4. Where the individual-entity route is used, pick the established business early and collect its balance sheets or business reports. Prepare for the stricter reading of the two-year rule: two years before the call publication. No document says which date counts: the Work Programme was launched on 10 December 2025, the topic was published on 12 December 2025 and the call opened on 2 September 2026.
5. Write the 30% in plain words: who pays what, from which source, and why it is credible for each beneficiary. Keep it consistent with the budget.
6. Choose the R&I domain by one of the two routes the Q&A accepts, a common regional smart specialisation theme or a European priority, and show the economic benefit and the European added value.
7. Keep the research work package in balance with the other activities, not the dominant part of the project, and tie it to the strategy and the investment path.
8. Plan pilots and demonstrators as design and pre-planning financed from other sources, as WP11 p. 57 says, and state how that money will be reached. Do not budget EU funding for them unless the call text or a topic Q&A settles the point.
9. Check the page limit in the submission system before drafting, and watch the topic page for updates and for any change of dates.

Unresolved points

- Page limit: WP11 p. 54 sets 40 pages for this topic; the Part B form in the submission system is binding and opens only after a sign-in.
- The date that counts for the established business's two years: submission or before the call publication.
- Whether the core-partner approach of Q&A 103474 can replace the four-category rule of WP11 p. 54.
- Whether Q&A 106251 allows EU funding for any pre-planning of pilots and infrastructure that WP11 p. 57 assigns to other sources.
- Morocco's status as a Widening country: check the Portal before relying on it.
- Whether the "minor component" limit for non-Widening participants in Q&A 103475 applies as a rule.
- Not found in the sources read: the number of proposals and the success rate for the 2027 call, the panel composition and the reporting periods.
- Whether the Council decision of 13 October 2026 on Hungary has been applied to the General Annexes and the Portal for this call.

Sources

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- Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026–2027, part 15: General Annexes: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2026-2027/wp-15-general-annexes_horizon-2026-2027_en.pdf (checked 16 Nov 2026)
- Funding & Tenders Portal: topic HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01 (page and topic Q&As tab): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01 (read and printed 15 Nov 2026; checked 16 Nov 2026)
- Portal data file of the topic: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/data/topicDetails/horizon-widera-2027-04-widening-01.json (read 14, 15 and 16 Nov 2026, unchanged)
- Standard application form, HE CSA (Part A v3.0, Part B v5.1): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/af_he-csa_en.pdf (checked 16 Nov 2026)

- Standard evaluation form, HE CSA (v5.0): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/ef/ef_he-csa_en.pdf (checked 16 Nov 2026)
- Information on financial support to third parties (HE): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/information-on-financial-support-to-third-parties_he_en.docx (checked 16 Nov 2026)
- Horizon Europe model grant agreement (v1.2): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf (checked 16 Nov 2026)
- List of participating countries in Horizon Europe (v4.2, 7 October 2026): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf (checked 16 Nov 2026)
- Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe, Article 2(17): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695 (checked 15 Nov 2026)
- REA: Excellence Hubs (call page with indicative timeline): https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-widening-participation-and-spreading-excellence/excellence-hubs_en (printed 15 Nov 2026; read 16 Nov 2026)
- REA: Horizon Europe Widening, who should apply: https://rea.ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe-widening-who-should-apply_en (read 15 and 16 Nov 2026)
- REA: Horizon Europe, how to apply: https://rea.ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe-how-apply_en (read 15 Nov 2026)
- REA news of 9 December 2024: results of the Teaming, Excellence Hubs and ERA Chairs calls: https://rea.ec.europa.eu/news/boosting-research-and-innovation-widening-countries-teaming-excellence-hubs-and-era-chair-actions-2024-12-09_en (printed 15 Nov 2026)
- Commission info day on the Widening calls, 22 January 2026: agenda: https://images.ctfassets.net/cdx728z92xkc/79Ou9HEcnrveJIWcPSqllE/417666f60958743c2d1cb4ae9846a94c/ec_rtd_widera-widening-calls-agenda.pdf (checked 15 Nov 2026)
- CORDIS: projects of topic HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-04-01: https://cordis.europa.eu/search/en?q=contenttype%3D%27project%27%20AND%20programme%2Fcode%3D%27HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-04-01%27 (data as of 15 Nov 2026)
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- CORDIS: WaterWise Hub, project 101184151: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101184151 (data as of 15 Nov 2026)
- CORDIS: COALition, project 101087022: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101087022 (data as of 15 Nov 2026)
- CORDIS: VELES, project 101087483: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101087483 (data as of 15 Nov 2026)
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- Council of the EU, document 14457/26: Commission communication COM(2026) 822, which records the adoption on 13 October 2026: https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14457-2026-INIT/en/pdf (read 16 Nov 2026)

Checked 16 November 2026. Official updates prevail.