



# HORIZON EUROPE

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## THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

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### WIDERA

Widening participation and  
Strengthening the European Research Area  
(ERA)

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# A new vision for the European Research Area (ERA)

## What is the new ERA?

A single, borderless market for research, innovation and technology across the EU...

...where countries come together and improve their research policies and systems...

...and where there is free movement of researchers, knowledge and innovation.

## What are the objectives of the new ERA?



Prioritise investments in research and innovation



Boost market uptake



Widening: Improve access to excellence



Strengthen the mobility of researchers and free flow of knowledge and technology

# European Research Area 2020 - 2022

2020

**Commission Communication** “A new ERA for Research and Innovation”, September

**Council Conclusions on the new ERA**, December

January 2021

Establishment of the **ERA Forum for Transition**

- 13 meetings
- Three workshops and R&I Days side event with ERA stakeholder umbrella organisations
- Some covered topics: ERA governance framework, ERA policy agenda, four ERA pilot actions

16 July 2021

Commission adopts proposal for a “**Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe**”

- 1) Principles for R&I in Europe
- 2) Priority areas for ERA joint actions
- 3) Investments and reforms
- 4) Simplified policy coordination

26 November 2021

**Council Recommendation on a “Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe”**

**Council conclusions on the new ERA governance & the first ERA policy Agenda (2022-2024)**

2022

Establishment of the **new ERA Forum** to implement the actions of the **ERA Policy Agenda**

- 11 meetings so far

# New European Research Area: Policy Framework



## Pact for research and innovation in Europe

- **10 values and principles**
- **4 priority areas**
  - Deepening ERA
  - Broadening ERA and relevance
  - Amplifying access to excellence
  - Advancing R&I investments and reforms
- **Research and development targets**



## ERA Policy Agenda

- Designed to contribute to the priority areas of the Pact for R&I, setting out the voluntary **ERA actions** which are defined and coordinated at Union level.
- **20 actions for 2022-24**



## ERA Governance

### ERA Forum (+ subgroups)

Expert group for coordination and implementation of the ERA, together with EU countries, Associated countries and stakeholders

**ERAC**

high-level strategic policy body, providing advice

**Council**

Decision making  
"Owner" of Policy Agenda



## ERA Monitoring

- Ensure a proper basis for **evidence informed policy making**
- Provide evidence and analysis

# ERA Policy Agenda: 20 actions along four priority areas

## DEEPENING A TRULY FUNCTIONING INTERNAL MARKET FOR KNOWLEDGE

1. Open sharing of knowledge, incl. EOSC
2. Data legislation fit for research
3. Reform of research assessment
4. Strengthen research careers
5. Gender equality and inclusiveness
6. Protect academic freedom
7. Better knowledge valorisation
8. Research infrastructures
9. International cooperation, reciprocity

## TOGETHER FOR TWIN GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION, AND INCREASING SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ERA

10. R&I Missions and Partnerships for ERA
11. Green energy transformation
12. Transition of industrial ecosystems
13. Empower higher education institutions
14. Bring science closer to society



## AMPLIFYING ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE UNION

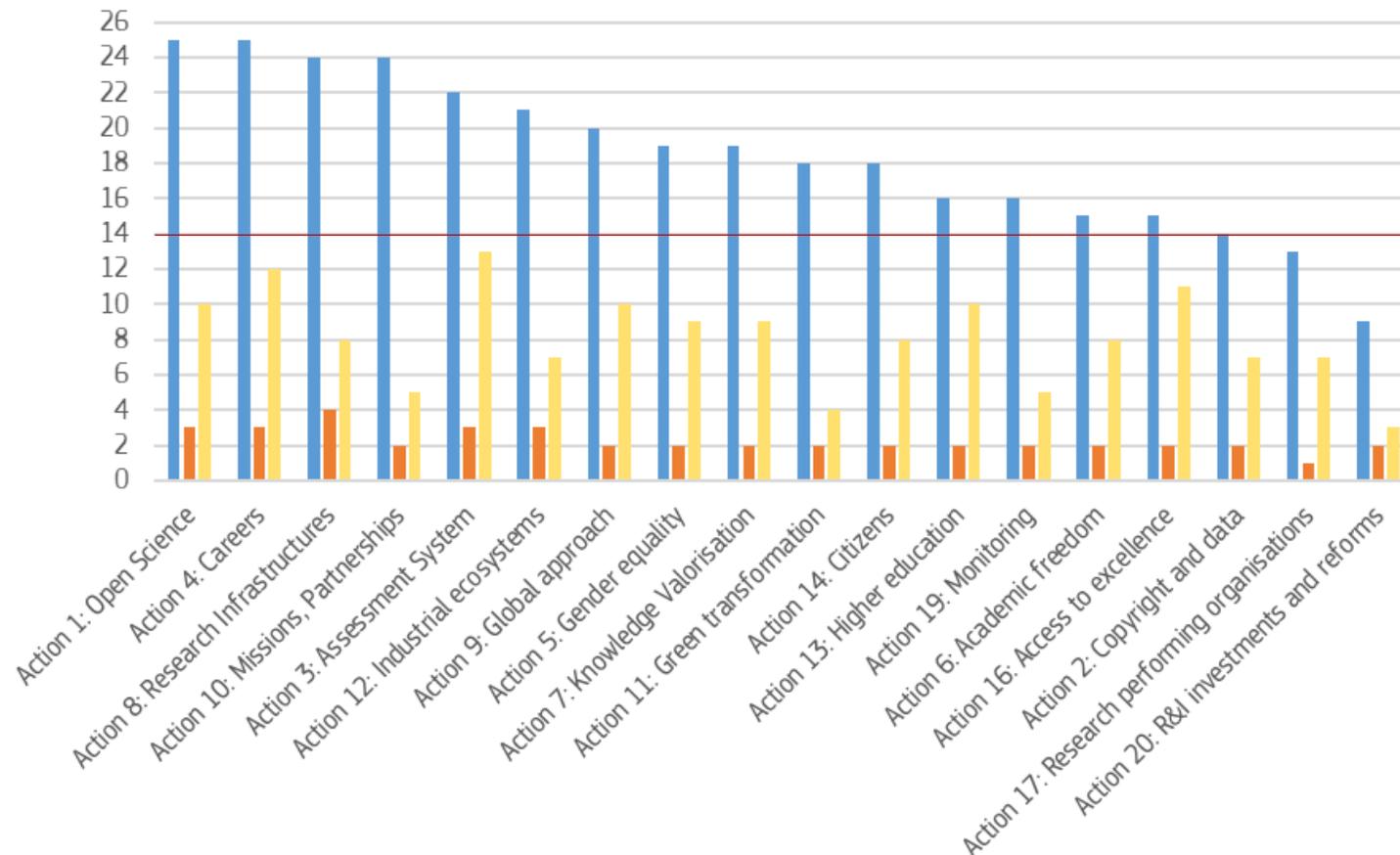
15. Regional and national R&I ecosystems
16. EU-wide access to excellence
17. Strategic capacity of public RPOs

## ADVANCING CONCERTED R&I INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

18. Coordination national support for ERA
19. ERA monitoring mechanism
20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms

# Commitments to ERA Policy Agenda actions

Commitments by Member States, associated countries and stakeholders, 30.11.2022



The Council conclusions on the future governance of the ERA (November 2021) require the commitment of at least half of the Member States within the first semester 2022:

**16 actions** have reached the threshold.

# Member States' commitment per action

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	16	17	19	20	Total	
Austria (AT)																				15
Belgium (BE)																				18
Bulgaria (BG)																				7
Croatia (HR)																				4
Cyprus (CY)																				11
Czechia (CZ)																				18
Denmark (DK)																				14
Estonia (EE)																				18
Finland (FI)																				11
France (FR)																				18
Germany (DE)																				18
Greece (EL)																				6
Hungary (HU)																				14
Ireland (IE)																				10
Italy (IT)																				14
Latvia (LV)																				8
Lithuania (LT)																				14
Luxembourg (LU)																				6
Malta (MT)																				5
Netherlands (NL)																				16
Poland (PL)																				11
Portugal (PT)																				18
Romania (RO)																				8
Slovakia (SK)																				11
Slovenia (SI)																				13
Spain (ES)																				17
Sweden (SE)																				10
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>		

- Commitment templates from all Member States have been received.
- For action 17, only one additional commitment is needed to reach the threshold.



# WIDERA WP 2023/24

# Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area: Policy narrative

## Widening component

- Tackle the innovation divide towards a more inclusive and cohesive European research and innovation ecosystem in the European Union;
- Raise the bar of excellence and visibility for research institutions and teams in catching up countries;
- Existing disparities between R&I leading and lagging countries and regions should be reduced by institutional and systemic policy reforms.

## ERA component

- Support the four objectives set out in the ERA Communication, and the implementation of the 20 actions in the ERA Policy Agenda (*Prioritising investments and reforms, Improving access to excellence, Translating R&I results into the economy, Deepening the ERA*)

## Synergies with other funding programmes/work programme parts

- Horizon Europe including thematic clusters and R&I missions, in relation to the relevant actions in the ERA Policy Agenda, and of the ambition of the Pact for R&I in general;
- Cohesion policy and other similar community funding such as RRF, IPA (in particular for Widening);
- Erasmus+ (European Strategy for Universities);
- ... and of course the national investments and reforms, including those supported by RRI

# WIDERA WP part 2023-2024 in a nutshell

## 3 Destinations:

- **Improved access to Excellence, 7 calls, 8 topics**  
call deadlines 12/4/2023, 28/9/2023, 7/3/2024 and 26/9/2024
- **Attracting and mobilising the best talents, 4 calls**  
call deadlines 7/3/2024 and 26/9/2024, and 2 aligned to MSCA 13/9/2023 and 11/9/2024
- **Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system,**  
2 calls, 24 topics, call deadlines 9/3/2023 and 12/3/2024
- **Other actions:**
  - 2 Prizes: Horizon Impact Award, EU Award for (Academic) Gender Equality Champions;
  - 7 GIB: RESAVER, EUCYS; COST, presidency events etc.;
  - 10 Procurements and 4 groups of expert contract actions;
  - 1 Contribution Agreement with OECD.
- **~EUR 900 million total budget:** ~EUR 445 million on topics/actions 2023,  
~EUR 455 million on topics/actions 2024



# WIDERA 2023/24 – Examples for topics linked to the ERA Policy Agenda

Policy Agenda action	Topic(s)
Action 1, “Deploy Open Science principles and identify Open Science best practices”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2024-ERA-01-07: Capacity building on intellectual property (IP) management to support open science</li> <li>▪ 2024-ERA-01-08: Global cooperation in not-for-profit open access publishing</li> <li>▪ 2024-ERA-01-09: Support to the development and implementation of policies and practices for reproducibility of scientific results</li> </ul> <p>➔ And support to EOSC under the Research Infrastructures WP</p>
Action 2, “Propose a EU copyright and data legislative and regulatory framework fit for research”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2024-ERA-01-07: Capacity building on intellectual property (IP) management to support open science</li> </ul>
Action 3, “Create a coalition of European research funders and research performers who agree on a new approach for research assessment, following wide and inclusive consultations at European and international level”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2023-ERA-01-07: Support to reforms of research assessment in the European Research Area</li> </ul>
Action 4, “Promote attractive and sustainable research careers, balanced talent circulation and international, transdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility across the ERA”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2024-ERA-01-06: European Excellence Initiative: Acceleration services in support of universities</li> <li>▪ WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-03-01 - ERA Talents</li> <li>▪ ERA Talent Platform</li> </ul>

# WIDERA 2023/24 – Examples for topics linked to the ERA Policy Agenda

Policy Agenda action	Topic(s)
Action 5, “Promote gender equality and foster inclusiveness, taking note of the Ljubljana declaration”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2023-ERA-01-09: Policy support to facilitate the implementation of a zero-tolerance approach towards gender-based violence in the ERA</li> <li>▪ 2023-ERA-01-10: Support to the implementation of an EU Manifesto for STE(A)M education and research and innovation career paths to tackle gender inequalities in the ERA</li> <li>▪ 2024-ERA-01-10: Policy coordination to support all aspects of inclusive Gender Equality Plans and policies in the ERA</li> <li>▪ 2024- ERA-01-11: Support to the implementation of inclusive gender equality plans</li> </ul>
Action 6, “Deepening the ERA through protecting academic freedom in Europe”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ n.a.</li> </ul>
Action 7, “Upgrade EU guidance for a better knowledge valorisation”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2023-ERA-01-03: Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation</li> <li>▪ 2024-ERA-01-05: Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation</li> </ul>
Action 8, “Strengthen sustainability, accessibility and resilience of research infrastructures in the ERA”	<p>➔ Research Infrastructures WP</p>

# WIDERA 2023/24 – Examples for topics linked to the ERA Policy Agenda

Policy Agenda action	Topic(s)
Action 9, “Launch one pilot initiative on the Team Europe approach for a specific world region and/or topic”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2023-ERA-01-06: Building a virtual European Info Platform on Contemporary China</li> </ul>
Action 10, “Make EU R&I missions and partnerships key contributors to the ERA ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2023-ERA-01-01: Programme level collaboration between national R&amp;I policy makers</li> <li>▪ 2024-ERA-01-01: Programme level collaboration between national R&amp;I policy makers</li> </ul>
Action 11, “An ERA for green transformation”	n.a.
Action 12, “Accelerate the green/digital transition of Europe’s key industrial ecosystems”	n.a.
Action 13, “Empower Higher Education Institutions to develop in line with the ERA, and in synergy with the European Education Area”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-03-01 - European Excellence Initiative (EEI)</li> <li>▪ 2024-ERA-01-06: European Excellence Initiative: Acceleration services in support of universities</li> </ul>

# WIDERA 2023/24 – Examples for topics linked to the ERA Policy Agenda

Policy Agenda action	Topic(s)
Action 14, “Bring Science closer to Citizens”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2023-ERA-01-08: Laying the groundwork towards Europe-wide citizen science campaigns</li> <li>▪ Eurobarometer on public knowledge, views and engagement with Science and Technology</li> <li>▪ European union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS)</li> <li>▪ European Science in the City next generation</li> </ul>
Action 15, “Build-up regional and national R&I ecosystems to improve regional/national excellence and competitiveness”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07-01 - Excellence Hubs</li> </ul>
Action 16, “Improve EU-wide access to excellence”	<p>Widening part of WIDERA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Teaming</li> <li>▪ Twinning (bottom-up and Green Deal)</li> <li>▪ European Excellence Initiative</li> <li>▪ Pathways to synergies</li> <li>▪ D&amp;E Support Facility</li> <li>▪ Hop on Facility</li> <li>▪ Excellence Hubs</li> </ul>
Action 17, “Enhance the strategic capacity of Europe’s public research performing organisations”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2024-ERA-01-03: Support for the professionalisation of research management</li> </ul>
Actions 18 – 20 (ERA Policy vehicle, monitoring, coordination)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation of the ERA Monitoring Mechanism</li> <li>▪ Studies</li> <li>▪ Communication</li> <li>▪ Experts</li> </ul>

# WIDERA 2023/24 – topics supporting the Pact for R&I and the ERA policy agenda in a horizontal way

- 2023-ERA-01-02: A strong European R&I Foresight Community to better inform R&I policy decisions in the European Research Area about potential futures
- 2023-ERA-01-04: Development of new approaches to the macroeconomic modelling of research and innovation
- 2023-ERA-01-05: Exploitation and valorisation of results relevant for the ERA Policy Agenda
- 2023-ERA-01-11: Research ethics for environmental and climate technologies
- 2023-ERA-01-12: The future of research ethics review in the changing research environments
  
- 2024-ERA-01-02: Emerging needs of the ERA Policy Agenda
- 2024-ERA-01-03: Support for the professionalisation of research management
- 2024-ERA-01-04: Strengthening researchers' skills for better careers – leveraging the European Competence Framework for Researchers
- 2024-ERA-01-12: Next generation AI and Human Behaviour: promoting an ethical approach



# HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01

# HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01

## Call statistics

	Proposals submitted*	Proposals selected	Success rate
Strand 1: Prioritizing investment and reform (1 topic)	2	2	100.00%
Strand 3: Translating R&I results into the economy (2 topics)	4	3	75.00%
Strand 4: Deepening the European Research Area (11 topics)	92	19	20.65%
<i>Open science (4 topics)</i>	24	5	20.83%
<i>Higher education institutions and researchers (2 topics)</i>	16	5	31.25%
<i>Science communication (1 topic)</i>	4	1	25.00%
<i>Science education (1 topic)</i>	26	3	11.54%
<i>Gender equality (2 topics)</i>	19	4	21.05%
<i>Ethics and integrity (1 topic)</i>	3	1	33.33%
Grand Total	98	24	24.49%

\* Admissible and eligible

# HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01

## The Proposals



**120 SUBMITTED**

**98 EVALUATED**

**1072 PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS**

- ↳ **48 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES**
- ↳ **27 MEMBER STATES**
- ↳ **12 ASSOCIATED**

**230 MILLION EUROS REQUESTED**

**CALL BUDGET OF 59 MILLION EUROS**

# HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01

## The Main List



**24 PROJECTS SELECTED**

**16 COORDINATED BY WOMEN**

**309 PARTICIPANTS**

**ALL 27 MEMBER STATES REPRESENTED**

**PARTICIPANTS FROM 7 ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES**

**57 MILLION EURO REQUESTED**

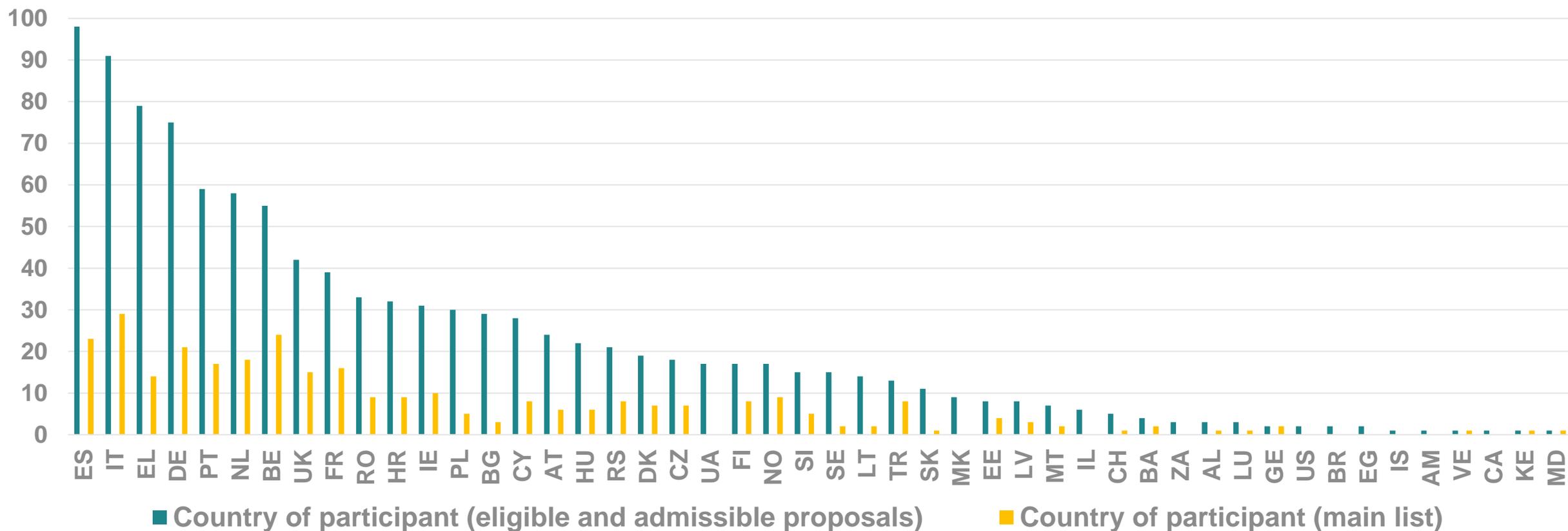
**TIME TO SIGN: 19/12/2022**

**GAP CHALLENGES: UK PARTICIPANTS AND**

**GENDER EQUALITY PLANS**

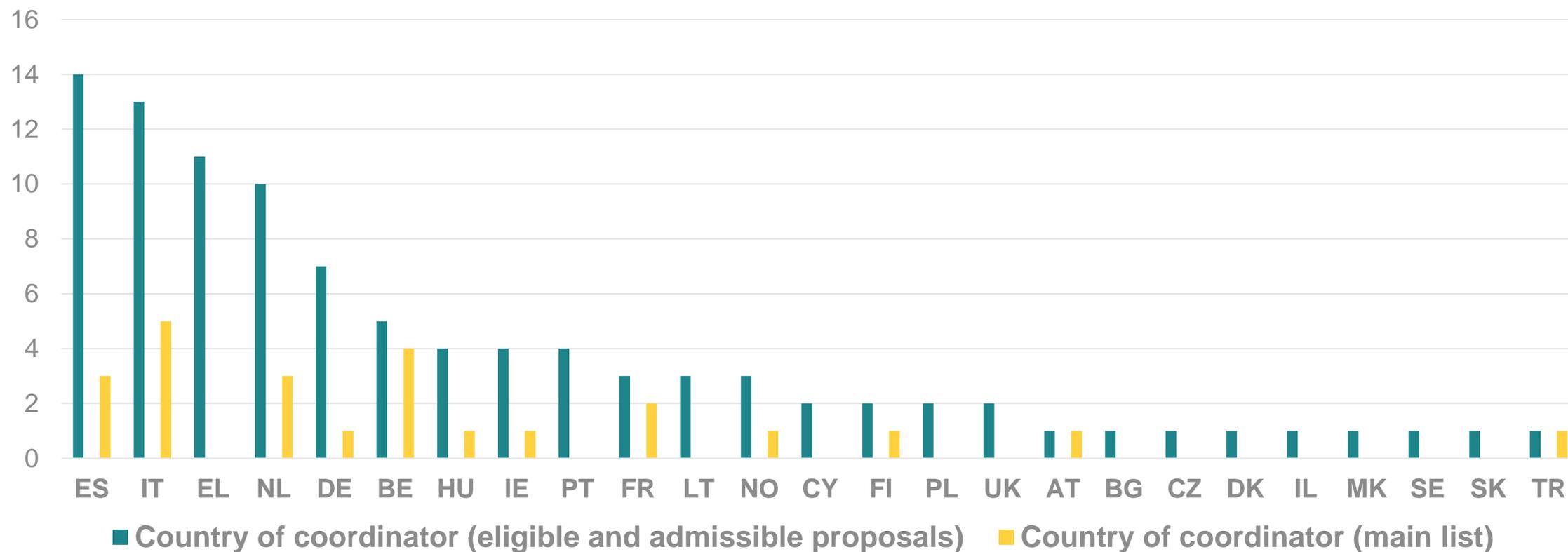
# HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01

Number of participating institutions by country



# HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01

## Country of Coordinating Institution





# Thank you!

## # HorizonEU

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe>



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