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| **TOPIC ID** | **HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-07-01** |
|  | Hop On Facility <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-widera-2022-access-07-01> |
| **SUBMISSION DEADLINE** | **10 November 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time** |
| **BUDGET-TYPE** | **HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based (RIA)** |
| **MAXIMUM EU FUNDING RATE** | 100% |
| **INDICATIVE ALLOCATION OF THE BUDGET LINE** | The indicative allocation of the budget line is EUR 20.00 million. |
| **INDIRECT COST** | 25% flat-rate of the total eligible direct costs, excluding eligible direct costs for subcontracting, financial support to third parties and any unit costs or lump sums which include indirect costs |
| **EXPECTED EU CONTRIBUTION PER PROJECT** | The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 0.20 and 0.50 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. |
| **ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS** | Legal entities established in Widening countries **may join already selected RIA actions**, subject to the agreement of the respective consortium and provided that legal entities from such countries are not yet participating in it.  The proposal must include the accession of one additional partner from a widening country. |
| **WHERE CAN I FIND ALREADY SELECTED ELIGIBLE PROJECTS?** | <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon/hop-on> |
| **WHO SUBMITS THE PROPOSAL?** | The proposal must be submitted by the co-ordinator of a consortium funded under Pillar 2 or a EIC Pathfinder call of Horizon Europe with a valid grant agreement that does not have any participant from a country eligible to host the co-ordinator under the Widening component (Widening country). |
| **OBJECTIVES** | The Hop On Facility is based on Article 20 (3) of the HE Common Understanding providing that the work programme may foresee the possibility for legal entities from low R&I performing countries to join already selected collaborative R&I actions, subject to the agreement of the respective consortium and provided that legal entities from such countries are not yet participating in it. The scheme further aims at achieving the Inclusiveness ambition of the future ERA policy by involving research institutions from widening countries under Horizon Europe Pillar 2 actions.  Main selection criteria are excellence and added value of the new partner performing a relevant additional task in the project. All consortium partners need to agree on the accession of the new partner whereas the R&I relevance and complementarity needs to be demonstrated. The accepted application will trigger a GA amendment with the service in charge of the related topic. |
| **EXPECTED OUTCOME** | Project results are expected to contribute to the following expected outcomes:   * At system level, it mobilises excellence in the Widening countries, increases visibility of the participants from the Widening countries, improves knowledge circulation, and reduces lack of participation of the Widening countries in specific thematic domains. * At organisation level, it opens up silos of established closed consortia, improves research excellence of the Widening country’s institutions in specific fields, enlarges outreach of the participants’ R&I actions and provides access to new talent pools. * At the level of the beneficiary, new competencies and skills for working in transnational projects including research management and dissemination and exploitation are acquired. |
| **SCOPE** | The Hop On Facility integrates one additional participant from a Widening country to an ongoing RIA project under Pillar 2 or the EIC pathfinder scheme while topping up a relevant task or work package and the cost incurred by the additional participant. This will happen on a voluntary basis without affecting the freedom of choice for the consortium and the principle of excellence. The Hop On Facility is open to all topics under Pillar 2 and the EIC pathfinder. Applications with activities that contribute to the policy objective of the transition towards a green and digital economy are especially encouraged.  The action will be part of an existing project with a valid Grant Agreement. Applications **must demonstrate the R&I added value** of the new partner and **present a visible and distinct work package for the acceding partner**. Proposal should include a detailed description of the profile of the new partner and its role in the existing project. The additional partner and task should be presented in a distinct font or colour in a document based on the Description of the Action (DOA) of the ongoing action. Selected consortia will be invited to submit an amendment request for accession of a new partner, modification of the description of the action and upgrade of the budget.  **The budget increase must be exclusively account at the benefit of the new partner with the exception of a coordination fee of up to 10% of the increased budget to be allocated to the coordinator of the consortium.** |
| **EXPECTED IMPACTS** | Proposals for topics under this Destination should set out a credible pathway to contributing to the following expected impacts:   * Increased science and innovation capacities for all actors in the R&I system in widening countries * Structural changes leading to a modernised and more competitive R&I systems in eligible countries * Reformed R&I systems and institutions leading also to increased attractiveness and retention of research talents * Mobilisation of national and European resources for strategic investments * Higher participation success in Horizon Europe and more consortium leadership roles * Stronger linkages between academia and business and improved career permeability * Strengthened role of the Higher Education sector in research and innovation * Greater involvement of regional actors in R&I process * Improved outreach to international scale for all actors * A more consistent level of NCP support services across Europe * An improved and professionalised NCPs in the widening countries, that would help simplify access to Horizon Europe calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers, and raising the average quality of proposals submitted. |
| **PAGE LIMIT** | Part B, 8 pages |