



# Transnational Seminar

**“EU funding opportunities under Horizon Europe:**

**Focus on WIDENING calls”**

**Concept note and Agenda (Draft)**

Venue : .....(TBC), Tunis, TUNISIA

03 July 2024

09:00 am – 05:00 pm (Tunis time) | 08:00 am – 04:00 pm (CET)





## Concept note

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The Unit for the Management of the European Research & Innovation Framework programme “Horizon Europe” (UGPO-HE) is organizing under the auspices of the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR), a Transnational seminar on “*EU funding opportunities under Horizon Europe: Focus on Widening calls*”. This event stands as a pivotal event in the context of the Horizon Europe project “Transnational Network of National Contact Points (NCPs) for Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area (NCP\_WIDERA.NET)”.

NCP\_WIDERA.NET is dedicated to support **international networking and coordination**, and to **improve the quality of proposals** through better access to services provided by NCPs during the application process to Horizon Europe calls, particularly those relating to “Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area”, alongside Pillar II actions.

Horizon Europe, the 9th EU Framework Programme for R&I, commands a historic budget of 95.5 billion Euros, spanning the seven-year period 2021-2027. It aspires to further anchor R&I in a context marked by several global challenges, notably the twin (green and digital) transition. Furthermore, Horizon Europe aims to boost Europe's prowess in innovation and competitiveness, with the overarching objective of creating jobs to meet citizens' priorities, and to uphold the model and values integral to the European Union.

The “Widening participation and spreading excellence” component of Horizon Europe is aiming to tackle the innovation divide and disparities between R&I leading countries “**Non Widening countries**” and those less advanced countries “**Widening countries**” towards a more integrated and cohesive European research and innovation ecosystem in the European Union.

Closer links between research and innovation and institutional cooperation to produce high-quality knowledge are key to help bridging these disparities. By building upon their excellence pockets and connecting them to broader networks of excellence, Widening countries will be able to upgrade their R&I systems and, hence, consolidate the EU towards more competitiveness and effectiveness in facing the global challenges.

Tunisia holds the esteemed distinction of being the only African and Arabic country to benefit of the status of an **associated country** under the predecessor programme Horizon 2020, a privilege that has been renewed in the ongoing programme, Horizon Europe.

In its capacity as an “Associated” & “Widening” country, Tunisia is undeniably well placed to play a pivotal role in the region by supporting participation in Horizon Europe calls and enhance the proliferation of “Widening” projects.



Aligned with its mandate as the main body promoting Horizon Europe in Tunisia through its NCP network, and as an active participant in the NCP\_WIDERA.NET, UGPO-HE, is organising a Transnational event titled : “**EU funding opportunities under Horizon Europe: Focus on WIDENING calls**”.

Scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2024, this event is geared towards offering valuable insights and support to Horizon Europe applicants with a focus on “**Hop-on Facility**” and “**ERA Talents**” funding mechanisms.

This gathering will be an opportunity to:

- Enhance the awareness among R&I communities regarding the Horizon Europe funding opportunities and facilitate access to the available "Widening" calls;
- Foster the initiation and/or consolidation of synergy, collaboration, and complementarities between Horizon EU-WIDERA networks and other prominent European networks;
- Provide valuable insights into proposal writing techniques useful for Pillar II applicants.

The primary audience for this event comprises R&I representatives from Associated countries, North Africa, and Outer Most regions, including policymakers, researchers, academic entities, businesses, and civil society.

In conjunction with the transnational event, two **(02) parallel sessions** will take place:

“**Synergy with Other EU Networks**” session (NCP\_WIDERA.NET Task 4.4.3) organized jointly by the UGPO-HE, MHESR, and the Armenian Scientific and Innovation Partnership Assistance Center (**SIPAC**), aiming to prompt networking initiatives conducive to fostering productive synergies between the Horizon EU-WIDERA networks and flagship European networks and initiatives.

**Training on “How to join Pillar II calls successfully?”** (NCP\_WIDERA.NET Task 1.4), organised by the Italian partner Agency for the Promotion of European Research (**APRE**): Pillar II applicants will glean valuable knowledge and practical insights from experienced coordinators, particularly those from Widening Countries. Tunisian project partners will contribute to enriching the learning experience.

On the sidelines of this transnational event, the UGPO-HE will support the NCP\_WIDERA.NET project partners in organizing two (02) workshops (Only for NCPs):

**1. Soft skills Workshop for WIDERA NCPs** (on 04.07.2024, Hammamet):

Co-organized by the Lithuanian partner Research Council of Lithuania (RCL) and the Technology Centre Prague (TC CAS), this workshop aims to equip widening NCPs with tools and techniques for the widening NCPs to elevate the standards of support provided to the national beneficiaries of widening instruments through the utilization of soft skills.

**2. Capacity Building Workshop for WIDERA NCPs** (on 05.07.2024, Hammamet):

Co-organized by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR), this workshop will delve into the new instruments of the Work Programme 2025-2027. It will also focus on proposal writing, evaluation, and funding aspects.

By hosting this Transnational event and the NCPs capacity building workshops, Tunisia further marks its anchoring in the European Research Area (ERA).

*E-signed*

Mr. Helmi MARDASSI

Director General, Unit for the Management of Horizon Europe (UGPO-HE),  
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia





## Transnational Seminar

### “EU funding opportunities under Horizon Europe:

### Focus on WIDENING calls”

#### Agenda (Draft)

08:30 - 09:00	Registration to the seminar
<b>Opening session: Welcome address</b>	
09:00 – 09:45	<p><b>Mr. Helmi Mardassi</b>, DG UGPO-HE, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia</p> <p><b>Mr. Malek Kochlef</b>, DG International Cooperation, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia</p> <p><b>Mr. Rajeh Khémiri</b>, Programmes Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Tunisia (TBC)</p> <p><b>H.E. Mr. Marcus Cornaro</b>, Ambassador of the European Union to Tunisia (TBC)</p> <p><b>Prof. Moncef Boukthir</b>, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia</p>
<b>Session 1 : Setting the scene of Horizon Europe</b>	
09:45 – 10:00	Horizon Europe and Tunisia’s association in a nutshell, <b>Mr. Helmi Mardassi</b> , DG UGPO-HE, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia
10:00 – 10:15	Widening, a brief history, <b>Ms. Adeline Kroll</b> , DG RTD, European Commission ( <i>online</i> )
10:15 – 10:30	The NCP_WIDERA.NET project, <b>Ms. Katarzyna Buszkiewicz-Seferyńska</b> , Project Coordinator, NCBR, Poland
10:30 - 11:00	Networking Coffee break
<b>Session 2: For a better participation in Widening calls</b>	
11:00 – 11:15	Focus call 1: Hop-on Facility, <b>Dr. Karina Barantseva</b> , WIDERA NCP, NCBR, Poland ( <i>online</i> )
11:15 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Success story: Project “<b>HOCLOOP HOP-ON</b>”</li></ul> Widening partner: <b>Prof. Paweł Wojnarowski</b> , AGH University of Krakow, Poland Coordinator: <b>Dr. Mario Silva</b> , Institute for Energy Technology, Norway
11:30 – 11:45	Focus call: ERA Talents, <b>Ms. Adeline Kroll</b> , DG RTD, European Commission ( <i>online</i> )
11:45 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Success story: Project “<b>VISION</b>”, <b>Dr. Fatma Guerfali</b>, Institut de Pasteur, Tunisia</li></ul>
12:00 - 12:30	Q&A session
12:30 – 14:00	Networking Lunch



## Afternoon Parallel sessions

Parallel Session 1: Other European networks: Nice to meet you!		Parallel Session 2: Training How to join Pillar II calls successfully?	
14:00 - 14:15	The spotlight on Joint Research Centre, <b>Ms. Luciana Zanier</b> , DG JRC, European Commission ( <i>online</i> )	14:00 - 14:15	Welcome address and Framework of the session, APRE & UGPO-HE
14:15 -14:30	The spotlight on European Enterprise Network (EEN), <b>Ms. Anna Sibilla</b> , Project Advisor, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency – EISMEA, ( <i>online</i> )	14:15 -14:30	NCP_WIDERA.NET Introduction, <b>Ms. Katarzyna Buszkiewicz-Seferyńska</b> , Project Coordinator, NCBR, Poland
14:30 – 14:45	COST at the forefront of EU Scientific Networking, <b>Ms. Katalin Alfoldi</b> , Policy Advisor, COST Association, Belgium		
14:45 – 15:00	The spotlight on Euraxess, <b>Mr. Slaven Misljencevic</b> , DG RTD, European Commission ( <i>online</i> )	14:30 – 15:30	How to write a successful proposal for HE Pillar II calls? <b>Dr. Federica Tanghetti</b> , Agency for the Promotion of European Research - APRE, Italy
15:00 -15:15	The spotlight on European Institute of Innovation and Technology, <b>Mr. Luke Incorvaja</b> , Innovation officer, EIT Hungary ( <i>online</i> )		
15:15 – 15:30	Q&A session		
15:30 – 16:00	Networking Coffee break		
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Panel Talks: Eager to collaborate!</b> Moderator: <b>Dr. Aurelija Povilaikė</b> , Horizon EU NCP coordinator, Lithuania <i>How to increase synergy, collaboration and complementarities between Horizon EU / WIDERA Calls and the other European networks?</i>	16:00 – 16:45	<b>Testimonials:</b> <b>Project 1 (Cluster 6): MAGNO</b> Tunisian Partner: Pr. Malika Bel Hassen, National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies - INSTM <b>Project 2 (Cluster 5): RE-INTEGRATE</b> Tunisian partner: Dr. Essia Zenouda, National Engineers School of Tunis-ENIT, University Tunis El-Manar <b>Project 3 (Cluster 6): RURALITIES</b> Project Coordinator: Gabor Mester, CEO at Pedal Consulting, Slovakia
16:30 – 16:45	Discussion and Recommendations		
16:45 – 17:00	Closing address		

