



# Hop-on toolkit

“ The Hop-On Facility call will provide the possibility for legal entities from widening countries to join already ongoing Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) projects under the six clusters of Pillar 2 and the EIC Pathfinder of Horizon Europe.



## General rules

**Hop-on tool goal is to improve the inclusiveness of Horizon Europe by involving more research institutions from Widening countries under Horizon Europe.**

A Hop-on Facility action should be treated as an opportunity for the consortium that already signed GA to launch additional activities that were not planned from the beginning, and to expand the impact of the project.

The Hop-on tool integrates **ONE additional participant from a Widening country** into an ongoing Pillar 2 or EIC Pathfinder project.

Applications must demonstrate the R&I added value of the new partner and present a visible and distinct work package for the acceding partner.

**The coordinator must confirm that all consortium partners consent** to the accession of a new partner from a Widening country.

Therefore, it is expected that **no more than one Hop-On proposal will be submitted by the Coordinator of the eligible running project** in order to meet the objectives of the Hop-on Facility.

Only Horizon Europe projects are eligible to participate in the Hop-on tool.

The projects should be **between 1 to 12 months from its starting date** by the **submission deadline on September 24th 2026, 17:00 Brussels time**.

## Funding

The European Commission foresees **a budget of between 200K EUR and 600K EUR per project**. This additional top-up will be added to the initial budget of the existing consortium.

However, this budget increase should be exclusively spent for 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.

**[List of funded projects under Horizon Europe pillar 2 and the EIC Pathfinder is available here.\\*](#)**

\*This list is purely indicative and does not give a legally binding information on the eligibility for participation in the Hop-on facility call. Please, note that new projects will be added to this list gradually as grant agreements are signed as the evaluation of some calls under Pillar 2 clusters and the EIC Pathfinder are still ongoing.



## How to participate?

### 1. Excellence

#### Excellence – aspects to be taken into account.

- Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state of the art.
- Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.

⚠ *The following aspects will be taken into account only to the extent that the proposed work is within the scope of the work programme topic.*

#### 1.1 Objectives and ambition [e.g. half page] Modify Section 1.1 if applicable

- Briefly describe how the addition of the widening partner will enhance the project's objectives and/or influence the state of the art in terms of novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models

#### 1.2 Methodology [e.g. 1.5 pages] modify section 1.2. If applicable.

### 2. Impact

#### Impact – aspects to be taken into account.

- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.
- Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

*The results of your project should make a contribution to the expected outcomes set out in the WIDERA work programme action and outcomes specific to the Workprogramme to which your project was submitted.*

*In this section you should show how your project could contribute to the outcomes and impacts described in the work programme, the likely scale and significance of this contribution, and the measures to maximise these impacts.*

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#### 2.1 Project's pathways towards impact [e.g. 1 page]

- Please describe concisely how the current impacts/outcomes of your project, beyond the immediate scope and duration of the project, will be effected by the addition of the new widening partner. Describe the contribution of the new widening partner and any new elements or modifications.
- Describe the unique contribution of the new widening partner and the contribution your project would make towards the **outcomes** specified in this WIDERA topic:
  - At consortium level, enlarges outreach of the participants' R&I actions and provides access to new talent pools.
  - 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 the level of the new partner, new competencies and skills for working in transnational projects including research management and dissemination and exploitation are acquired.

The European Commission acknowledges that the Hop-on facility is a voluntary scheme, however, kindly asks the Coordinators of eligible projects to react to the widening entities proposing a collaboration towards an Hop-On Facility application preparation.

The successful applications will be invited to submit an amendment for accession of the new partner, the modification of the description of the action and upgrade of the budget.

#### 3.1 Work plan and resources [e.g. 3 pages – including tables]

In this section, modifications are mandatory for the role and tasks of the new partner. Please provide the following:

- The new partner must become visible either by a dedicated work package under its responsibility and/or dedicated tasks (sub-work packages) that may be distributed over a multiple of work packages.
- The R&I added value of the new partner needs to be demonstrated in the work package/task description (table 3.1 a/b) and underpinned by one or more deliverables (table 3.1c) and if applicable an additional milestone (table 3.1.d).
- Resources required for the new partner – especially person months – and any other categories of resources must be outlined in tables 3.1f-j.
- Additional efforts for the integration on the new partner (mainly person months) up to the value of 10% of the new partners budget may be claimed by the co-ordinator and updated accordingly.

Please provide the following:

- brief presentation of the modifications on the overall structure of the work plan due to the addition of the widening partner;
- modifications (if any) related to the timing of the different work packages and their components (Gantt chart or similar) due to the addition of the widening partner;
- modifications (if any) to the graphical presentation of the components showing how they inter-relate (Pert chart or similar) due to the addition of the widening partner;
- detailed work description, i.e.:
  - a list of the modified or new work package(s) due to the addition of the widening partner; (table 3.1a);
  - a description of the new work package(s) and/or changes to the existing work package(s) (table 3.1b);
  - a list of new and/or modified deliverables due to the addition of the widening partner (table 3.1c);

#### 3.2 Capacity of the new widening partner [e.g. 1 page] Updating this section is instrumental for the hop on facility.

⚠ *The individual members of the consortium, including the new widening partner are described in a separate section under Part A. There is no need to repeat that information here.*

- Clearly present the new partner, describing its role and profile in the consortium demonstrating the R&I added value to the project beyond the mere widening aspect.
- Describe the complementary function of the new partner to the other members of the consortium and its capacity to carry out the work assigned.
- If applicable, explain the industrial/commercial dimension in the context of the addition of the new widening partner to ensure exploitation of the results and explain why this is consistent with and will help to achieve the specific measures which are proposed for the exploitation of the results.

More information including Q&A is available [here](#).

For any questions, please refer to the [National Contact Points](#) and to the [Research Enquiry Service](#).