



# 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)

MANUEL ALEIXO

19 January 2023

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# Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area

Infoday videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdK-P91UtSo>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbuDOB\\_oukQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbuDOB_oukQ)



# 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



# Widening participation: Policy Objectives 2023/4

1. Encourage **institutional reforms and transformation processes** of the R&I system at national and regional level in Widening countries in line with ERA principles;
2. Mobilise **national investments in R&I** capacity in Widening countries;
3. Raise the bar for **excellence of R&I actors** in Widening countries in partnership with outstanding European and international institutions ('win-win situation');
4. Increase number of **participations and success** rates of widening actors in research and innovation projects in other parts of Horizon Europe (notably in Pillars 2 and 3);
5. Promote the creation of **new innovation ecosystems** and scale up existing ones by a set of measures
6. Foster **brain circulation**, including inter-sectoral mobility for researchers and innovators and turn it into brain gain for Widening countries.

# Widening instruments

- Teaming
- Twinning
- ERA Chairs
- COST
- NCP networks
- Excellence Hubs
- European Excellence Initiative for Higher Education Institutions
- Hop-on facility
- ERA Fellowships
- ERA Talents

# Widening participation: Calls 2023/4 (EUR 686 ME)

## Destination 1 – Improved Access to Excellence

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01-01 - Teaming for Excellence
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 – Twinning
  - HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-01 - Twinning - Bottom up
  - HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-02 - Twinning - Green Deal
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-03-01 - European Excellence Initiative (EEI)
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-04-01 - Pathways to Synergies
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-05-01 - Dissemination and Exploitation Support Facility
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06-01 - Hop-on facility
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07-01 - Excellence Hubs

## Destination 2 – Attracting and mobilising the best talents

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01-01 - ERA Chairs
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023 & 2024 -TALENTS-02-01 - ERA Fellowships
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-TALENTS-03-01 - ERA Talents

# HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01-01-two-stage

## Teaming for Excellence

### Expected outcomes

**To create or modernise a centre of excellence, relevant at national level, in a chosen scientific domain**

- Increased scientific capabilities of the beneficiary institution and the host country enabling them to successfully apply for competitive funding in the EU and globally;
- Improved R&I culture of the coordinator country;
- Stimulus for institutional and systemic reforms;
- Mutual learning and two-way benefit from and to the partners from leading scientific institutions from abroad;
- Development of new research strands in relevant domains;
- Developed and enhanced research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies;
- Enhanced innovation and integration of planned processes, services and products of the centre;
- Enhanced co-operation and synergies with other (community) funding programmes.

**Call Opening: 10 Jan 2023**

**Call Closure stage 1: 13 Apr 2023**

**Call Closure stage 2: 07 Mar 2024**

**ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16**

**Type of Action: CSA**

**Budget: 174 Mio. €**

**Indicative number of projects: up to 18**

## HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02

### HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-02: Twinning - Green Deal

**Twinning Green Deal adds in directionality to the general twinning action. All the conditions remain the same except for the choice of the research topic. **The latter will have to be in line with the European Green Deal strategy actions.****

#### Expected outcomes

- Improved excellence capacity and resources in Widening countries enabling to close the still apparent research and innovation gap within Europe;
- Enhanced strategic networking activities between the research institutions of the Widening countries and at least two internationally-leading counterparts at EU level;
- Raised reputation, research profile and attractiveness of the coordinating institution from the Widening country and the research profile of its staff;
- Strengthened research management capacities and administrative skills of the staff working in institutions from the Widening country;
- Improved creativity supported by development of new approaches in R&I collaboration, increased mobility (inwards and outwards) of qualified scientists.

**Call Opening: 25 Apr 2023**

**Call Closure: 28 Sep 2023**

**ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16**

**Type of Action: CSA**

**Budget: 27 Mio. €**

**Indicative Number of Projects:**

**20**

# HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-04-01

## Pathways to Synergies

**Incentivize sequential synergies between Horizon Europe and other community funds notably ERDF in two optional pathways (upstream, downstream)**

### Expected outcomes

#### General

- Improved and more systematic synergies between Horizon Europe & 2020 and ERDF through internationalisation, valorisation and technology uptake;
- Strengthened competitiveness of R&I actors in widening countries;
- Accelerated knowledge transfer and innovation cycle for beneficiaries from ERDF and Horizon;
- Strengthened innovation capacity and competitiveness of less R&I performing regions.

**Call Opening: 28 Mar 2023**

**Call Closure: 28 Sep 2023**

**ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16**

**Type of Action: CSA**

**Budget: EUR Million 20**

**Indicative number of projects: 20**

# HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-05-01

## Dissemination and Exploitation Support Facility

### Support to beneficiaries in their dissemination and exploitation of results through a market oriented approach and service package

#### Expected outcomes

- Improved skills and knowledge on D&E, knowledge transfer and IP management;
- Collected and shared best practices for uptake of R&I results and identified blocking elements that prevent beneficiaries from valorising further their R&I results;
- Increased maturity level of key exploitable results;
- Greater recognition of beneficiaries at national & regional policy level, as a result of enhanced visibility of D&E success stories;
- Enhanced synergies between beneficiaries of widening actions;
- Improved sustainability of ongoing widening actions;
- Identified downstream synergies with other EU programmes especially ERDF, ESF, RRF.

**Call Opening: 26 Apr 2023**

**Call Closure: 28 Sep 2023**

**ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16**

**Type of Action: CSA**

**Budget: EUR Million 5**

**Indicative number of projects:  
1 or more**

# HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-06-01

## Hop on Facility

### Expected outcomes

### Research institutions from Widening countries joining Horizon Europe Pillar 2 and EIC pathfinder actions

- Unlocked excellence and increased visibility of the participants from the Widening countries, improved knowledge circulation, and reduced lack of participation of Widening countries in thematic domains;
- Opened up silos of established closed consortia, improved research excellence of the Widening country's institutions in specific fields, enlarged outreach of the participants' R&I actions and provided access to new talent pools;
- New competencies and skills for working in transnational projects including research management and dissemination and exploitation acquired.

→ **List of eligible projects:** <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon/hop-on>

**Call Opening: 10 Jan 2023**

**Call Closure: 28 Sep 2023,  
26 Sep 2024**

**ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16**

**Type of Action: CSA**

**Budget: EUR Million 40 + 40**

**Indicative number of projects: 160**

# HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-07-1

## Excellence Hubs

### Collaboration of place-based innovation ecosystems using the quadruple helix model

#### Expected outcomes

- Excellent and sustainable place-based innovation ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond in relevant domains;
- Long term joint R&I strategies underpinned by concrete action plans;
- Common investment plans for R&I including infrastructures;
- R&I pilot projects alongside a joint strategy and in line with regional and national strategies;
- New competencies and skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in R&I intensive domains;
- Strengthened linkages between science and business, poles of attraction for talents;
- Improved knowledge transfer and development of entrepreneurial skills, uptake of innovative technologies, new business opportunities especially for SMEs and new employment.
- **Optional:** Inclusion of emerging innovation ecosystems from rural areas, Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries including Ukraine by optional mentoring module

Call Opening: 28 Sep 2023

Call Closure: 07 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 16

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 60

Indicative number of projects: 12

NEW

13

# Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system: Calls 2023 (34,70 EUR million)

- ERA-01-01: Programme level collaboration between national R&I policy makers
- 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
- ERA-01-03: Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation
- ERA-01-04: Development of new approaches to the macroeconomic modelling of research and innovation
- ERA-01-05: Exploitation and valorisation of results relevant for the ERA Policy Agenda
- ERA-01-06: Building a virtual European Info Platform on Contemporary China
- ERA-01-07: Support to reforms of research assessment in the European Research Area
- ERA-01-08: Laying the groundwork towards Europe-wide citizen science campaigns
- ERA-01-09: Policy support to facilitate the implementation of a zero-tolerance approach towards gender-based violence in the ERA
- 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
- ERA-01-11: Research ethics for environmental and climate technologies
- ERA-01-12: The future of research ethics review in the changing research environments

# Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system: Calls 2024 (40,80 EUR million)

- ERA-01-01: Programme level collaboration between national R&I policy makers
- ERA-01-02: Emerging needs of the ERA Policy Agenda
- ERA-01-03: Support for the professionalisation of research management
- ERA-01-04: Strengthening researchers' skills for better careers – leveraging the European Competence Framework for Researchers
- ERA-01-05: Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation
- ERA-01-06: European Excellence Initiative: Acceleration services in support of universities
- ERA-01-07: Capacity building on intellectual property (IP) management to support open science
- ERA-01-08: Global cooperation in not-for-profit open access publishing
- ERA-01-09: Support to the development and implementation of policies and practices for reproducibility of scientific results
- ERA-01-10: Policy coordination to support all aspects of inclusive Gender Equality Plans and policies in the ERA
- ERA-01-11: Support to the implementation of inclusive gender equality plans
- ERA-01-12: Next generation AI and Human Behaviour: promoting an ethical approach

# HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-01 & HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-01: Programme level collaboration between national R&I policy makers

**Complementary topic to the new approach for European Partnerships: possibility for MS, AC and civil society organisations to maintain existing and establish new collaborations on priorities of their choice.**

## Expected outcomes

- Identification of common research and innovation priorities at the level of national and regional R&I programmes, taking into account international developments, where relevant, leading to the development of coordinated R&I funding agendas;
- Implementation of multiannual joint calls, resulting in the funding of transnational collaborative R&I projects;
- Implementation of other joint activities supporting the market, regulatory or societal uptake of results;
- Contribution to participating states meeting Global Challenges, including relevant contribution to the SDGs.

**Call is open in 2023 and 2024**

**Call Opening / closure:**

**6 Dec 2022 / 9 Mar 2023**

**6 Dec 2023 / 12 March 2024**

**ERA Policy Agenda action no: 10**

**Type of Action: CSA**

**Budget: EUR Million 6 + 6**

**Indicative number of projects: 3**

# HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-03 & HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-05

## Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation

Translating available scientific knowledge and research results to innovative solutions -including through more *experimentation, peer learning and testing of new models as well as trying out good practices in different environments*

### Expected outcomes

- Value creation for economy and society by increased interlinkages and cooperation between knowledge valorisation actors;
  - New solutions to societal and economic challenges by stronger uptake and deployment of research results, including through the involvement of citizens and civil society;
  - Improvements of structures, strategies, practices and skills for knowledge valorisation through sustainable reforms and new initiatives.
- ➔ Schemes and incentives for researchers to engage with society that promote the uptake of research results (academia–society collaboration); and/or
- ➔ Transfer of best practices in knowledge valorisation in academia-industry linkages or quadruple helix-based innovation

Call in 2023 and Call in 2024

Call Opening / closure:

6 Dec 2022 / 9 Mar 2023

6 Dec 2023 / 12 March 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 7

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR Million 3 + 2

Indicative number of projects: 3 + 2

## HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-06:

### European Excellence Initiative: Acceleration services in support of universities

Support universities and other higher education institutions to develop in line with the European Research Area priorities through strategy support and counseling

#### Expected outcomes

- Access for higher education institutions to a range of tailor-made **coaching services**, expertise, (virtual) meeting platforms or tools, seed funding for institutional change;
- Successful **institutional reform** and upgrade of higher education institutions in **research & innovation**;
- Connection of higher education institutions with peers, other ecosystem actors, investors and public funders;
- Strengthened R&I capacities in higher education institutions, measured through a monitoring mechanism: modernised **research careers**, accelerated digital transition, increased excellence in science and value creation;
- Contribution to implementation of the relevant **ERA Policy Agenda** priorities in higher education sector.

Call Opening: 6 Dec 2023

Call Closure: 12 Mar 2024

ERA Policy Agenda action no: 13

Type of Action: CSA

Budget: EUR 9.0 million

Indicative number of projects: 4

Expected duration: 2-5y

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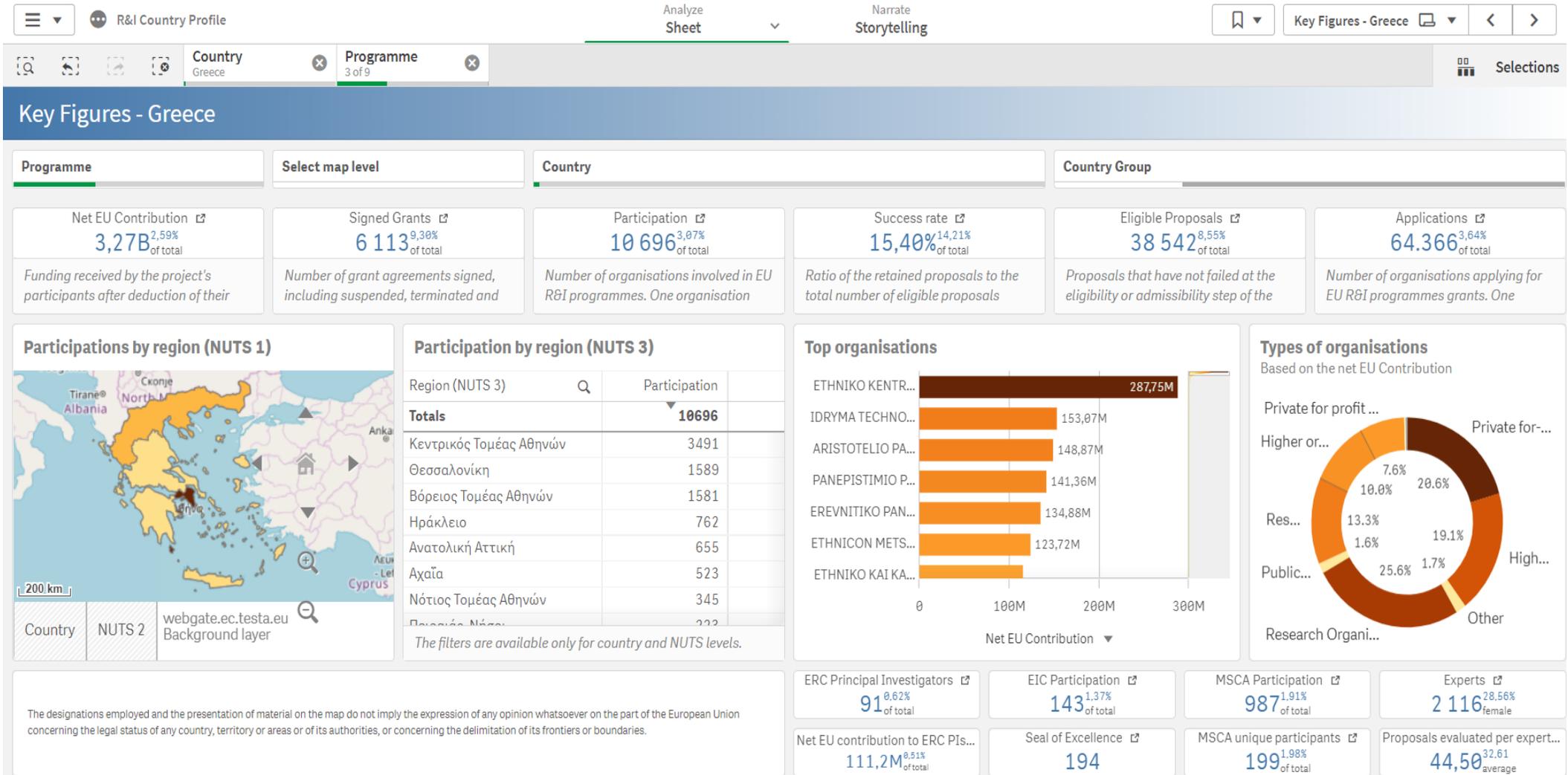
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# Greek participation in the Framework Programmes



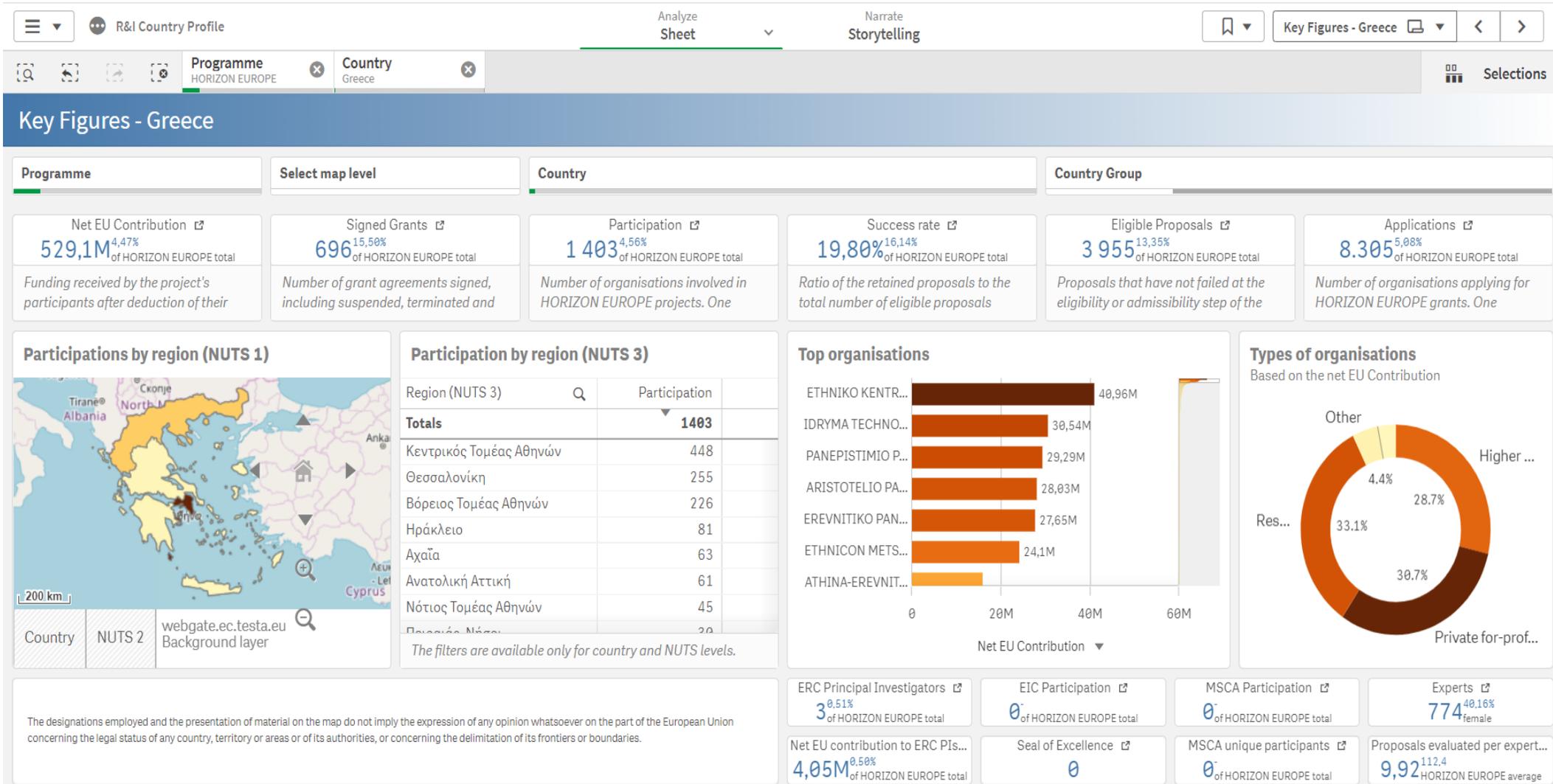
# Country profile Greece – FP7, H2020, HE

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard>

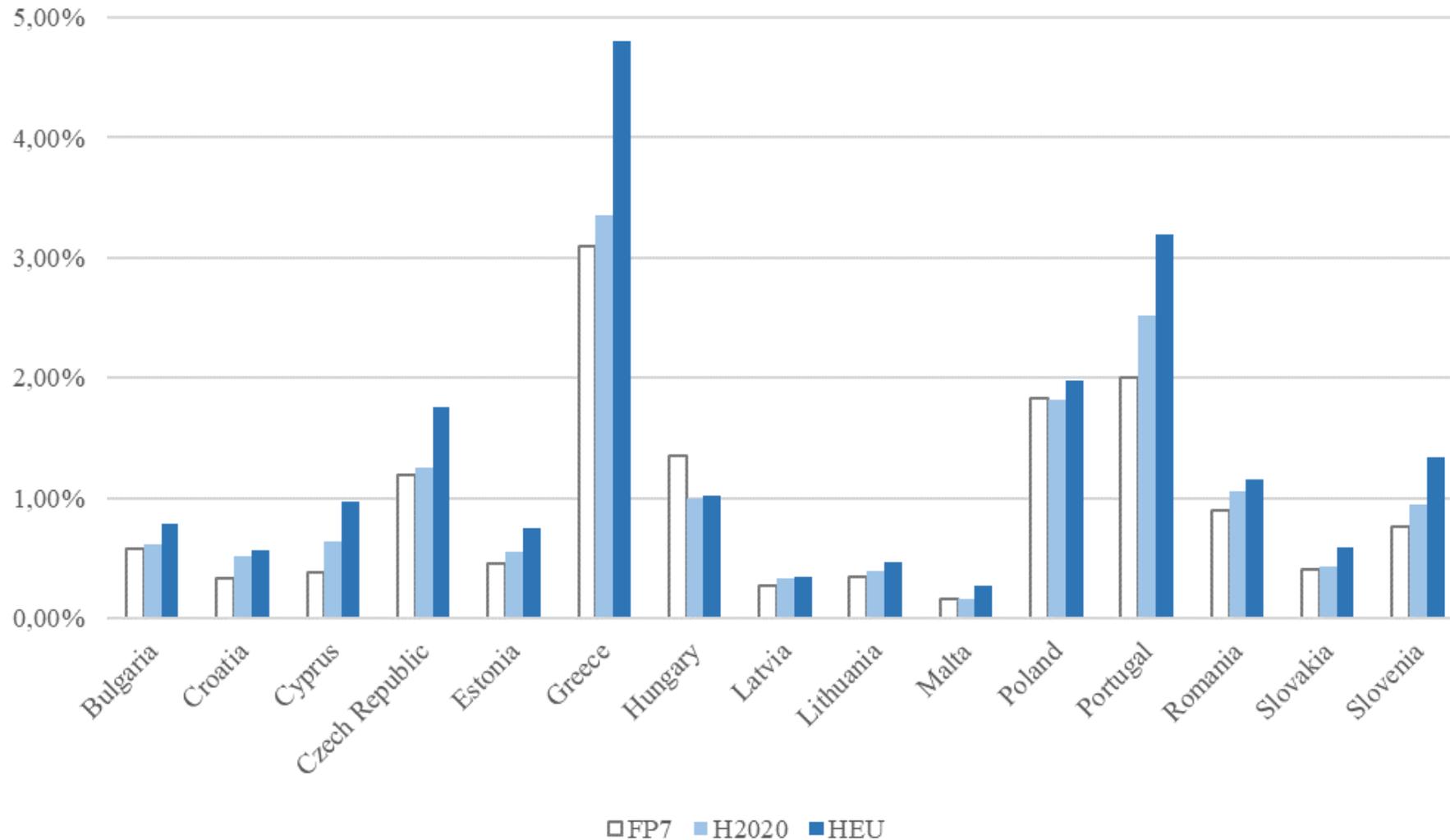


# Country profile Greece – HE

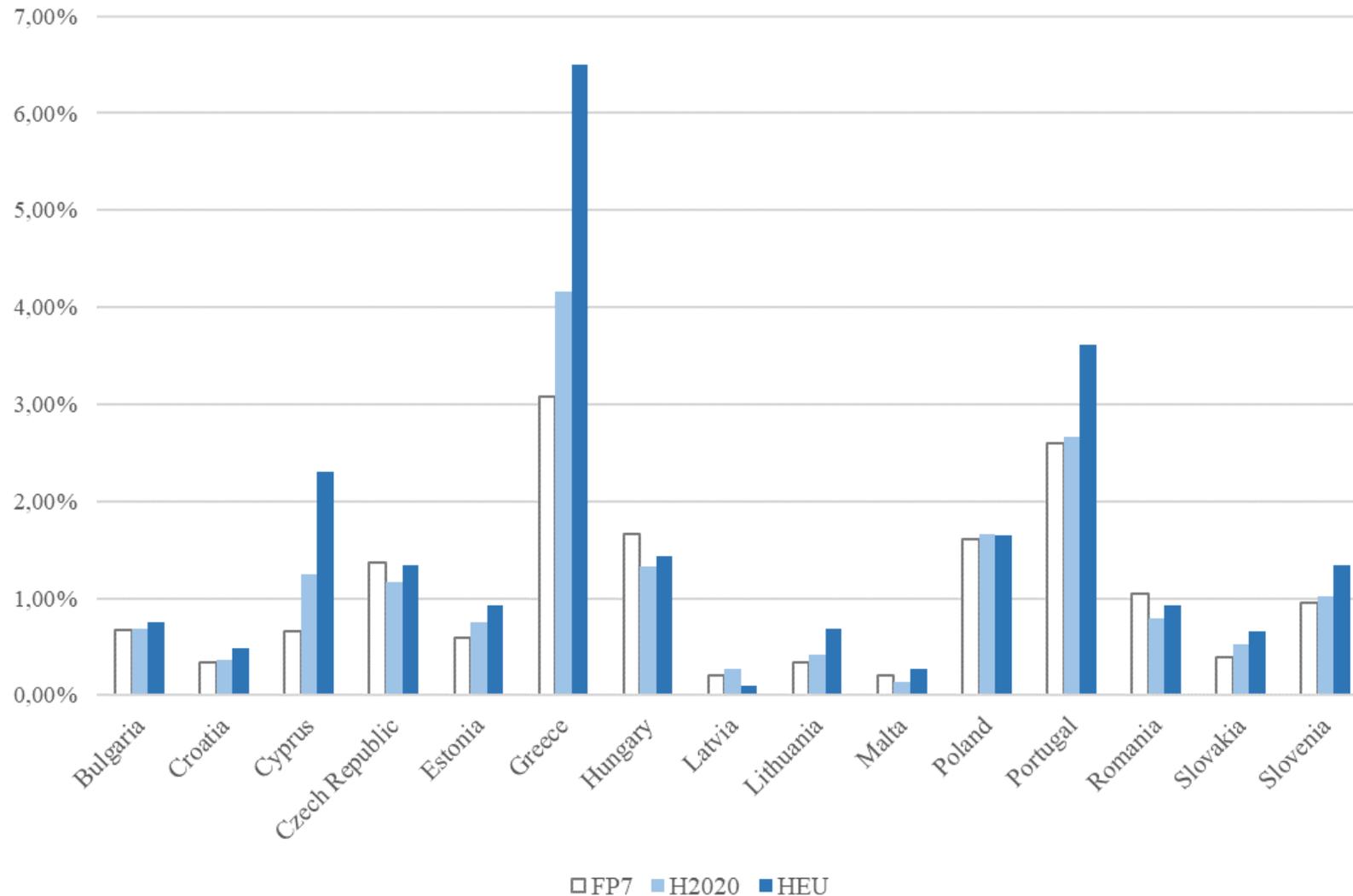
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard>



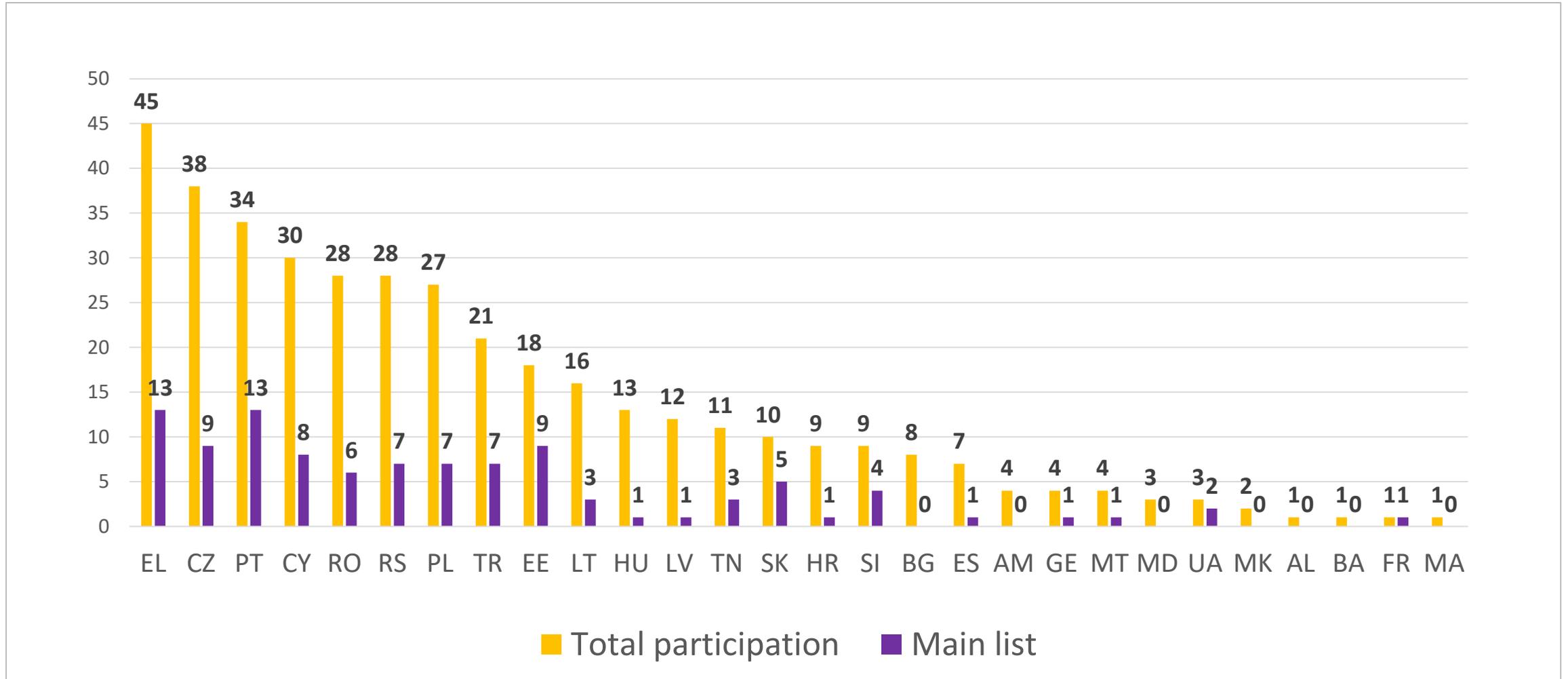
# Participation of Widening countries: a clear positive trend - overall participation



# Participation of Widening countries: a clear positive trend - SME participation



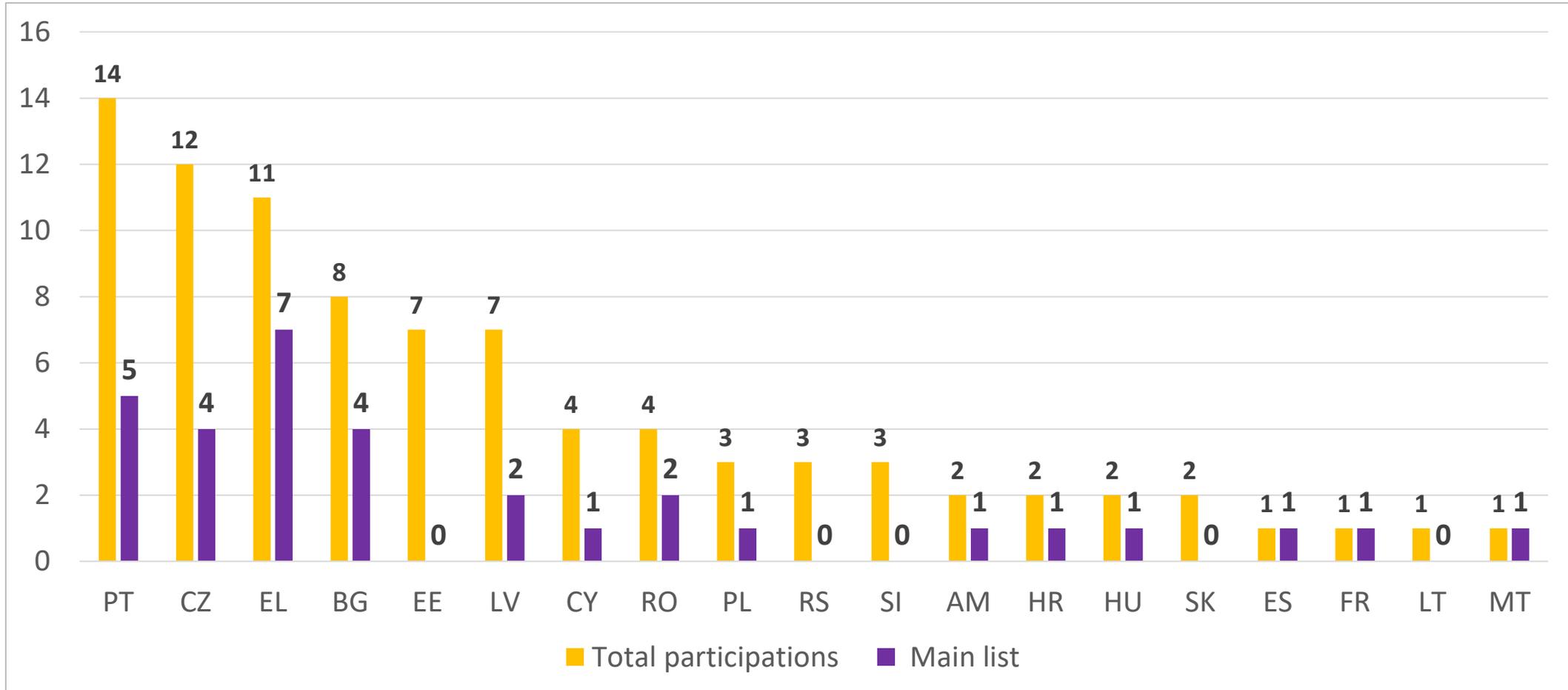
# TWINNING - €149 ME - Coordinators



Total number of eligible proposals: **388**

Total number of retained: **103**

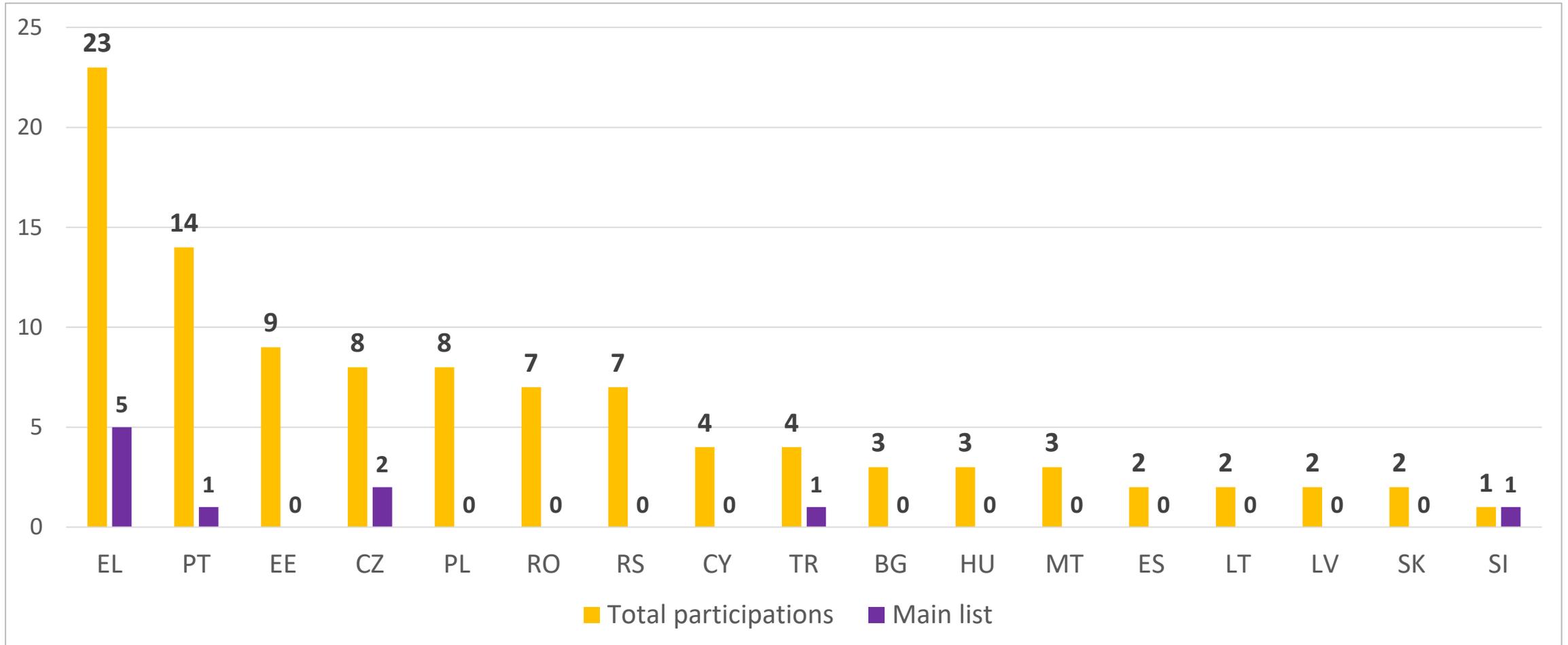
# ERA Chairs - €80 ME - coordinators



Total number of eligible proposals: **88**

Total number of retained: **32**

# Excellence Hubs - € 50ME -Coordinators



Total number of eligible proposals: **102**

Total number of retained: **10**



# Thank you!

## # HorizonEU

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



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