



# Leveraging Widening & ERA Opportunities in Horizon Europe: Pathways to Success for 2025

Dr. Daniela Dragomir  
HE NCP Widening@ERA  
UEFISCDI

[dana.dragomir@uefiscdi.ro](mailto:dana.dragomir@uefiscdi.ro)

# Knowledge valorisation → Commercialisation of research



**Unlocking Success in  
Horizon Europe:  
Strategies for Calls,  
Consortia, and National  
Networks**



**Leveraging Widening &  
ERA Opportunities in  
Horizon Europe: Pathways  
to Success for 2025**



**Driving Innovation and  
Commercialization of  
Research through EIC &  
EIE**

01

Overview of Widening and ERA within Horizon Europe

02

Widening Participation in Horizon Europe

03

ERA (European Research Area) Actions

04

Horizon Europe Opportunities for 2025

05

Strategic Tips for Leveraging Widening Calls

06

How to Stand Out in Widening Calls

07

Romanian Participation in Widening & ERA

# 1. Overview of Widening and ERA within Horizon Europe

**Widening Participation  
and Spreading Excellence**



**Strengthening the European  
Research Area (ERA)**

Objectives

- Reduce the R&I gap
- Support inclusiveness
- Capacity building

- Enhance collaboration
- Foster Open Science
- Support mobility
- Synergies and impact

Key  
instruments  
:

- Teaming
- Twinning
- ERA Chairs
- Excellence Hubs

Key ERA  
actions

- Reforming and improving R&I systems
- Research careers and skills
- Global leadership and strategic autonomy
- Gender equality and inclusivity

## **Current Challenges in Research and Innovation (R&I) in Europe**

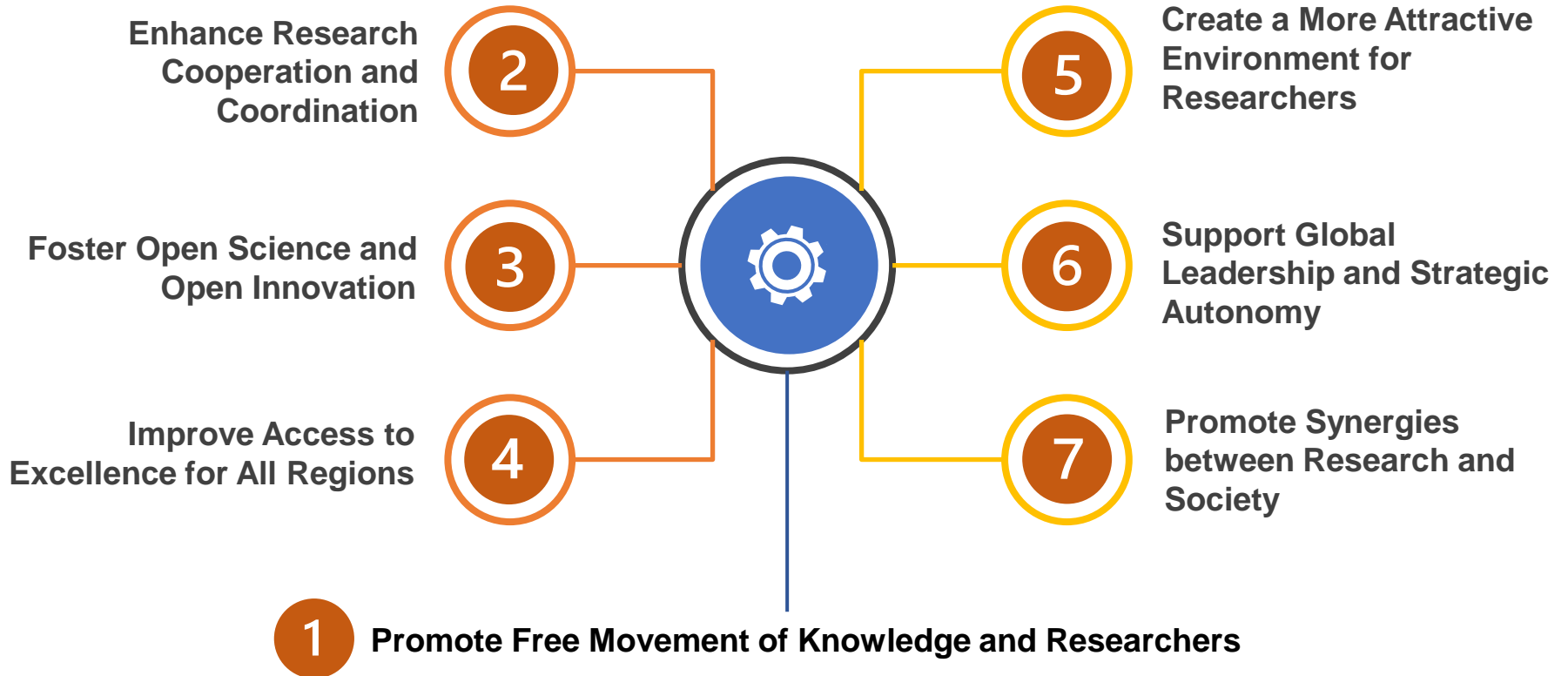
- Disparities in R&I Performance
- Underutilization of Potential
- Fragmented R&I Ecosystems
- Mobility and Talent Retention
- Limited Collaboration
- Barriers to Accessing Funding
- Sustainability and Inclusivity

## **2. Widening Participation in Horizon Europe**

**Addressing the Innovation Divide and Advancing Scientific Excellence Across Europe**

**The Role of Knowledge Valorisation in the Widening Programme**

### 3. ERA (European Research Area) Actions



[Teaming for Excellence](#) (10 April 2025; 20 January 2026)

[Sustainable Gender Equality Champions](#) (16 October 2024)

[Inclusive Gender Equality Champions](#) (16 October 2024)

[Newcomer Gender Equality Champions](#) (16 October 2024)

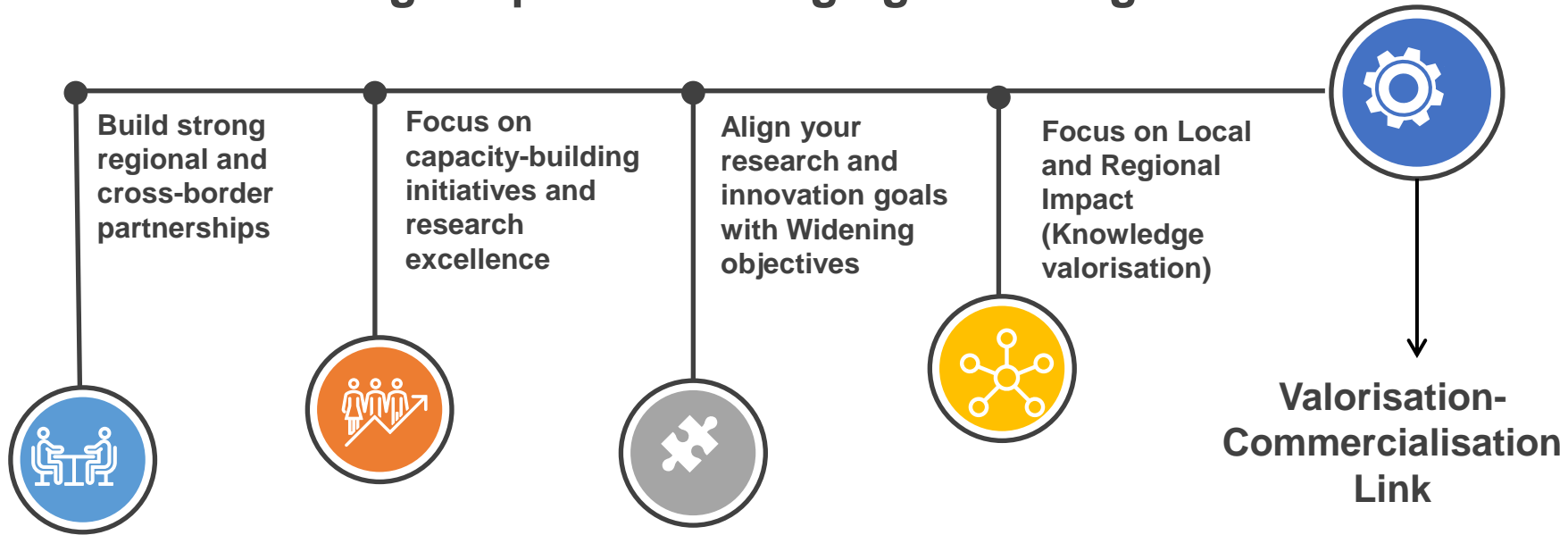
[ERA Fellowships](#) (10 September 2025)

## 4. Horizon Europe Opportunities for 2025

- Teaming
- ERA Fellowships

- WIDERA 2025 - Under discussion also other recurrent calls as well as new Widening and ERA calls

## 5. Strategic Tips for Leveraging Widening Calls



- Prioritize **Capacity Building**....
- **Collaboration** and Networking/Sustainable networks
- Attract High-Level Researchers
- Address Local and Regional Challenges
- Promote **Inclusivity** and Diversity
- Facilitate Researcher Mobility and Knowledge Exchange
- Secure Long-Term Sustainability



## 5. Strategic Tips for Leveraging Widening Calls

(contd.)

- **Leverage Widening-Specific Instruments** (e.g. Twinning, Teaming, ERA Chair)
- **Focus on Local and Regional Impact**
- **Build Strong Partnerships and Networks**
- **Demonstrate Long-Term Sustainability**
- **Prioritize Inclusivity and Diversity**
- **Maximize Researcher Mobility and Knowledge Exchange**
- **Highlight Alignment with Horizon Europe's Policy Objectives**

## 6. How to Stand Out in Widening Calls



What evaluators look for: innovation, impact, and capacity to transform regional R&I ecosystems

**Importance of long-term collaboration and sustainability in Widening projects**

**Highlight Regional Strengths and Opportunities**

**Build Strong, Balanced Consortia**

**Align proposals with both local and European strategic goals while leveraging Romania's unique strengths**

# 7. Romanian Participation in Widening & ERA

How Romanian stakeholders can play a strategic role in future Widening calls

01

**Become Innovation Hubs in Key Sectors**

02

**Enhance Collaboration with High-Performing EU Institutions.**

03

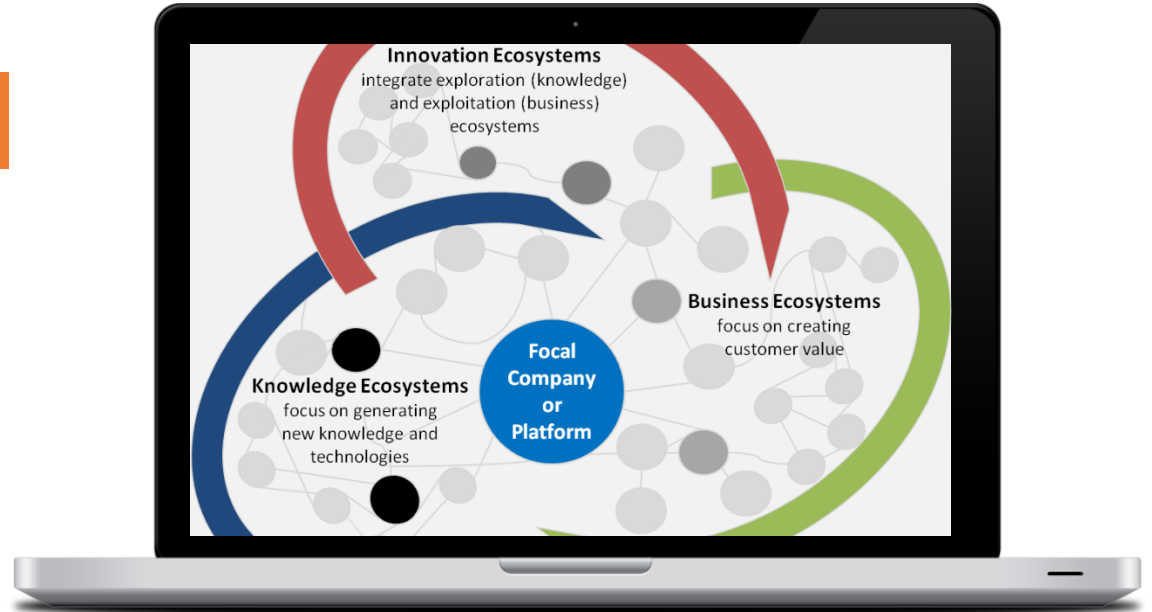
**Lead or Co-Lead Consortia in Widening Projects.**

04

**Focus on Societal Impact and Regional Development.**

05

**Support Innovation through Public-Private Partnerships.**



[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/9224c3b4-f529-4b48-b21b-879c442002a2\\_en?filename=ec\\_rtd\\_he-investing-to-shape-our-future.pdf](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/9224c3b4-f529-4b48-b21b-879c442002a2_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-investing-to-shape-our-future.pdf)  
<https://allea.org/allea-welcomes-launch-of-european-research-area-policy-platform/>  
[https://eic.ec.europa.eu/news/european-social-innovation-competition-2024-open-applications-2024-04-12\\_en](https://eic.ec.europa.eu/news/european-social-innovation-competition-2024-open-applications-2024-04-12_en)  
<https://timreview.ca/article/919>  
<https://magurelesciencespark.ro/>  
<https://www.zf.ro/companii/productorul-de-medicamente-biofarm-a-incheiat-2021-cu-vanzari-de-20563297>  
<https://www.honeybeerobotics.com/>  
<https://www.inflpr.ro/>  
<https://www.innovationleader.com/topics/articles-and-content-by-topic/strategy-and-governance/the-key-players-and-tensions-in-corporate-innovation/>  
Photo by Skye Studios on Unsplash  
Photo by Ramón Salinero on Unsplash  
Photo by Saurav Mahto on Unsplash



# Leveraging Widening & ERA Opportunities in Horizon Europe: Pathways to Success for 2025

Dr. Daniela Dragomir  
HE NCP Widening@ERA  
UEFISCDI

[dana.dragomir@uefiscdi.ro](mailto:dana.dragomir@uefiscdi.ro)