

8 October 2021, in Bratislava and in Belgrade

INVITATION TO THE WIDENING EVENT AND LONGTERM MATCHMAKING

Dear Horizon Europe National Contact Points on Widening Participation,

With pleasure we would like to approach you regarding our **pilot initiative** titled "[*Facilitating Research & Innovation Cooperation in the Danube Region*](#)", which will start on **Thursday 28 October 2021** with a **Horizon Europe "Widening" Information Day** (broadcasted via Zoom).

This event (and the possibility for long-term virtual matchmaking) is organised by our "[*Priority Area*](#)" (of the [*EU Strategy for the Danube Region \(EUSDR\)*](#) focused on the development of the "Knowledge Society", and it was **initiated by the Danube Region researchers based on the results of the last year's survey** on "[*Participation of the Danube Region Countries in Horizon 2020*](#)" and its further "[*Recommendations for Increasing Participation in the EU Framework Programme for R&I HORIZON EUROPE*](#)".

The analysis on the participation of researchers from the Danube Region in Horizon 2020 will be presented at the Info day on 28 October 2021. Similarly, the **main conditions of the addressed Horizon Europe "Widening" calls with a special concentration on the various novelties, new possibilities and actions** will be presented by a representative of the European Commission. In addition, **some of the so far successfully implemented "Widening" projects in previous EU framework programmes will be presented**. Enough time will be dedicated to **Q&As**, so that as many issues as possible could be clarified.

The Info Day will be supplemented by the **possibility of continuous (long-term) virtual matchmakings (B2B) meetings lasting until 15 March 2022** (the end of the last submission deadline of the targeted Horizon Europe "Widening" calls).

This initiative of the EU Danube Region targets in the first step the following Horizon Europe "Widening" calls, but could be extended to future "Widening" calls:

- **Twinning**
Call Topic Identifier: [HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-03-01](#): Deadline 18 January 2022
- **Excellence Hubs**
Call Topic Identifier: [HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-04-01](#): Deadline 15 March 2022
- **ERA Chairs**
Call Topic Identifier: [HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-TALENTS-01-0: 1](#): Deadline 15 March 2022

The virtual matchmaking in the first phase will focus on the three upcoming Widening calls:

- **Twinning**
Call Topic Identifier: HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-03-01
- **Excellence Hubs**
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The long-term virtual matchmaking (B2B meetings) is not linked only to the info day on 28 October.

By this informative letter, we also strongly encourage organisations, researchers and potential applicants from "Non-Widening" countries to participate in this event and the accompanying long-term virtual matchmaking to jointly form more project partnerships (within the Horizon Europe Widening programme) with the [Danube Region countries](#); and at the same time we would like to kindly ask you to help us with dissemination of the information about our pilot initiative in your national STI networks/communities.

For more detailed information please visit also:

- the official webpage of the event: <https://widening-cooperation-danuberegion.b2match.io/>
- direct link to the registration: <https://widening-cooperation-danuberegion.b2match.io/signup>
- Danube Strategy Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EUSDR/status/1445755625942642704>
- Danube Strategy LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/eusdr_facilitating-research-innovation-cooperation-activity-6851520155202183168-7n
- Danube Strategy Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DanubeRegionStrategy/posts/4722958314422958>

We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to welcome you personally, or your stakeholders at the event!

Please do not hesitate to approach us, may you have any questions, special requests or suggestions.

Sincerely Yours,

Lubica Pítlova

Viktor Nedović

Coordinators of the Priority Area Knowledge Society of the EU Strategy of the Danube Region
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