
PolSCA webinar series on Horizon Europe

Widening participation and spreading excellence

29 October 2021 (Friday) at 9.30 – 12.00

GENERAL REMARKS

The main objective of the activities undertaken as part of the **PolSCA Webinar series on Horizon Europe** is to strengthen the knowledge of the EU framework programme for research and innovation - **Horizon Europe (HE)** among representatives of the scientific community of the **Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS)**. The participation in next R&I programme, which will be implemented in the years 2021-2027, will undoubtedly be a great challenge for scientists and research units in Poland, including employees of the PAS Institutes. Yet, Horizon Europe programme, with a budget of EUR 95.5 billion, provides clearly a great opportunity to implement ambitious R&D projects, largely based on multilateral scientific cooperation.

The synergy of various activities initiated within the **PASIFIC** programme under the PAS headquarters, combined with dissemination and training activities undertaken by the **PolSCA Office** in accordance with its mission shall contribute to increasing the effective participation of the research institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences in competitions and projects funded under Horizon Europe. In order to further enable that, PolSCA is involved in **building and strengthening an informal support network** dedicated to scientists and research managers of PAS institutes in the context of the EU framework program for research and innovation, with an emphasis on Horizon Europe.

PolSCA initiated the roll-out of these webinars in the first half of the 2021. The **kick-off meeting** included the general introduction to Horizon Europe and a national support system. This was followed by a general introduction to the **HE pillar II** (incl. strategic planning as well as missions and partnerships). For the second half of the 2021, a number of follow-up webinars will be delivered by PolSCA team. These will showcase for instance key policies and call topics under selected clusters as well as specific HE funding instruments (e.g. MSCA or Widening measures).

WEBINAR OVERVIEW

The main focus of this particular webinar will be on "**Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence actions**" under Horizon Europe, which contributes to building research and innovation capacity for countries lagging behind, inc. Poland. Beneficiaries of these actions will strengthen their potential for successful participation in transnational R&I actions, promote networking and access to excellence. Current funding opportunities are set out in relevant **Work Programme 2021 – 2022**, while information and details on how to apply are on the **Funding and Tenders portal**.

During the meeting, the overall structure and ab intervention logic of this part of the framework programme will be presented by the **DG RTD**. This will be supplemented with thorough information concerning evaluation procedure managed by the **REA**, followed by information on support measures provided by the **NCP**. Testimonials with the best practices of the **PAS beneficiaries** will be included.

AGENDA

09.30 - Opening and welcome words

Tomasz Poprawka - Director of the PolSCA Office in Brussels

09.40 - Widening actions: overview and key novelties

Stefan Weiers - European Commission, Directorate General for Research & Innovation, ERA & Country Intelligence

A general introduction to Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence under Horizon Europe. Particular focus will be on key novelties across instruments and introduction to new initiatives like Excellence Hubs and ERA Talents.

10.05 - Evaluation procedures: what is important to prepare successful proposal

Federica Roffi - European Commission, Research Executive Agency, Widening Participation & Spreading Excellence

In this part of the webinar a thorough insights will be provided on evaluation principles and criteria concerning Widening proposals, with a particular attention to Twinning and ERA-Chairs instruments.

10.30 -Q&As followed by a break

11.00 - H2020 testimonials: success stories of PAS beneficiaries

- Twinning grantee:

Dr Marcin Kuźniak - Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw / AstroCeNT; project website: [DarkWave](#)

- ERA Chair grantee:

Dorota Libiszowska & prof. Andrzej Dziembowski - The International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw; project website: [MOSaIC](#)

11.30 - NCP support provided to Widening applicants

Katarzyna Walczyk-Matuszyk & Wojciech Adamiak - NCP Poland at the National Centre for Research & Development

Measures and support actions provided by the National Contact Point to entities aiming to apply for Horizon Europe funds with a focus on Widening instruments.

11.45 - Q&As