



# Drivers for change – beyond national agendas

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Public

# Agenda

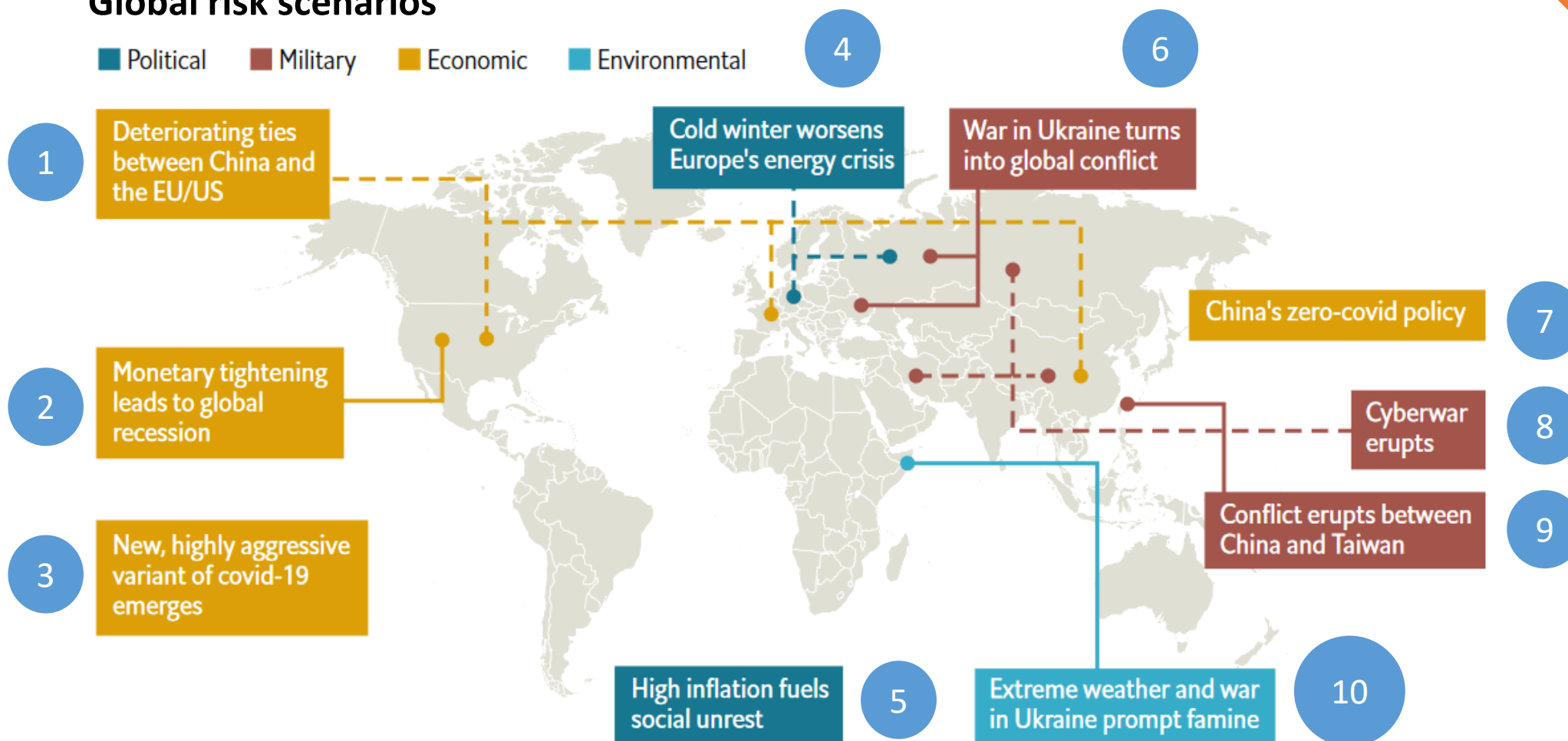
- Introduction
- The landscape of the EU – what’s happening right now?
- And how is that influencing EU policies with its Neighbourhood?
- Now – let’s translate the same themes into Digital Policy – current EU Landscape?
  - “The Big 5” as a model to manage complexity, formulate approaches and identify priorities
- Impact on Digital Policy aims in the Neighbourhood.
- What’s the future?
  - “Fit for 2028”
  - The impact on NRENs: Developing awareness, their role, challenges and opportunities
- Closing and Q&A



# Global Risks

## Global risk scenarios

■ Political
 ■ Military
 ■ Economic
 ■ Environmental



Source: EIU.

## Horizon Scanning

- **Foresight**
- **Strategy planning**
- **BAU**

Horizon scanning  
deals with the  
Unknown

Known/  
Known

Known/  
Unknown

Unknow/  
Known

Unknow/  
Unknown

## Dealing with the Unknown Unknowns – what's in PESTLE

**Political:** Integration, desintegration or happens parallel to both directions

**Economic:** Stagnation of the economy but with huge investment via NGEU

**Social:** Growing poverty and declining middle class

**Technological:** Step change in digitalisation, datafication and greening

**Environment:** Global instability and the Energy crisis due to the war

**Legislation:** Legislative increases in the field of data



## The landscape of the EU – what's happening right now?

**Economic Recovery**  
**Migration and Asylum**  
**Brexit Implications**  
**Rule of Law and Democracy**  
**Climate Change**  
**Geopolitical Challenges**  
**Digital Transformation**  
**Security**  
**Demographic Changes**



## Translating the same themes into Digital Policy – Digital Single Market

- Von der Leyen's Political Guidelines emphasise Europe's role in leading the transition to a healthy planet and a new digital world.
- Several initiatives are underway, including the Data Act, Secure Connectivity, EU Digital Identity, NIS2, CER, and the Digital Decade.
- New proposals, such as the Cyber Resilience Act, Artificial Intelligence Liability Directive, EU cyber defence policy, and Connectivity Infrastructure Act.
- The EC is accelerating its digital initiatives due to global volatility and aims to secure European assets, including digital assets.
- Common European Data Spaces.
- GÉANT and the NRENs are part of this effort, and the extent of their involvement is closely monitored by the EU Liaison team at GÉANT.



**GN5**



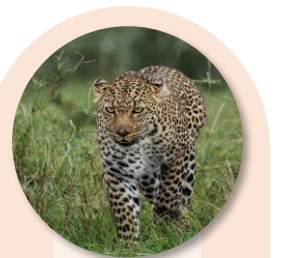
**EOSC**



**EuroHPC**



**Quantum**



**International**



**Standardization**

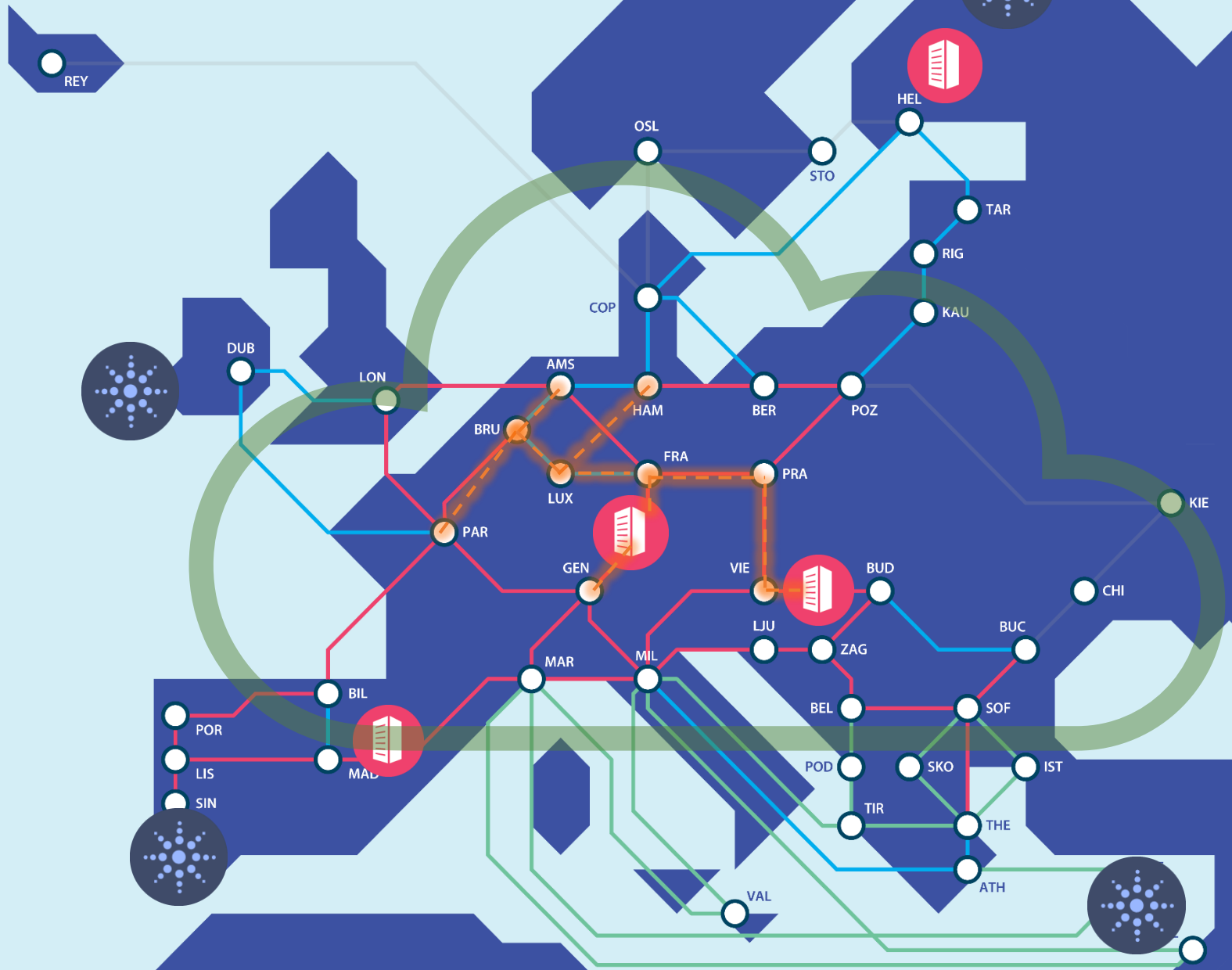
**Security**

**Compliance/Legal**

**Trust and Identity**

**Secure Connectivity**





# The Eastern Partnership

## Stronger together



## And how is that influencing EU policies with its Neighbourhood?

- The leaders emphasised their joint determination to uphold the fundamental values they share:
  - Strengthening democracy and the rule of law
  - Protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities
  - Promoting gender equality
  - Fostering inclusive societies
  - Ensuring full respect for the principles and norms of international law



## Impact on Digital Policy aims in the Neighbourhood.

28. To build a **resilient digital economy and society**, the focus is on strengthening secure communication infrastructure, enhancing digitalization in public and private sectors, and investing in digital innovation and skills development.

29. Key targets include ensuring 80% of households have affordable high-speed internet access, making 80% of public services in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region available online through interoperable platforms, establishing **mutual recognition of digital signatures** among partner countries and the EU, and empowering one million EaP citizens through a **digital education platform**.

31. To boost cyber resilience and cybersecurity, institutional, policy and legislative frameworks will be put in place and the cyber threat landscape methodology of the EU agency for cybersecurity (ENISA) will be introduced **in cooperation with ENISA**. Further alignment with EU and international data protection standards will be promoted.

## What's the future? Fit for 2028

- Predicting the future five years ahead is challenging but possible to some extent based on the current MFF, Financial Regulation, and Commission's policy goals.
- Key policy goals include the green and digital transition, the Digital Decade program, and the Global Gateway program.
- Looking forward, our community is collaborating closely to prepare for the big five areas which will dominate research and education networking in the coming years:
  - Success in GN5, our
  - Continuous commitment to the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC),
  - to EuroHPC,
  - to Quantum,
  - And global activities through the Global Gateways Policy.



# What will we try to do?

## Clarify GÉANT's Position and Role

- Emphasize that GÉANT and the NRENs provide secure connectivity, hyperconnectivity, access, and trust and identity services to the European research and education community.
- Argue that there's no need to fund these services separately in other programs or projects as GÉANT already covers them.
- Highlight the continuous innovation in these services.
- Stress the importance of including the next networking step, possibly Quantum, and the need for global connectivity.

## Organisational Maturity and ISO Certification

- Emphasise the need for the GÉANT Association to undergo a pillar assessment to enhance its organizational maturity.
- Aim to qualify for ISO certification as part of this process.

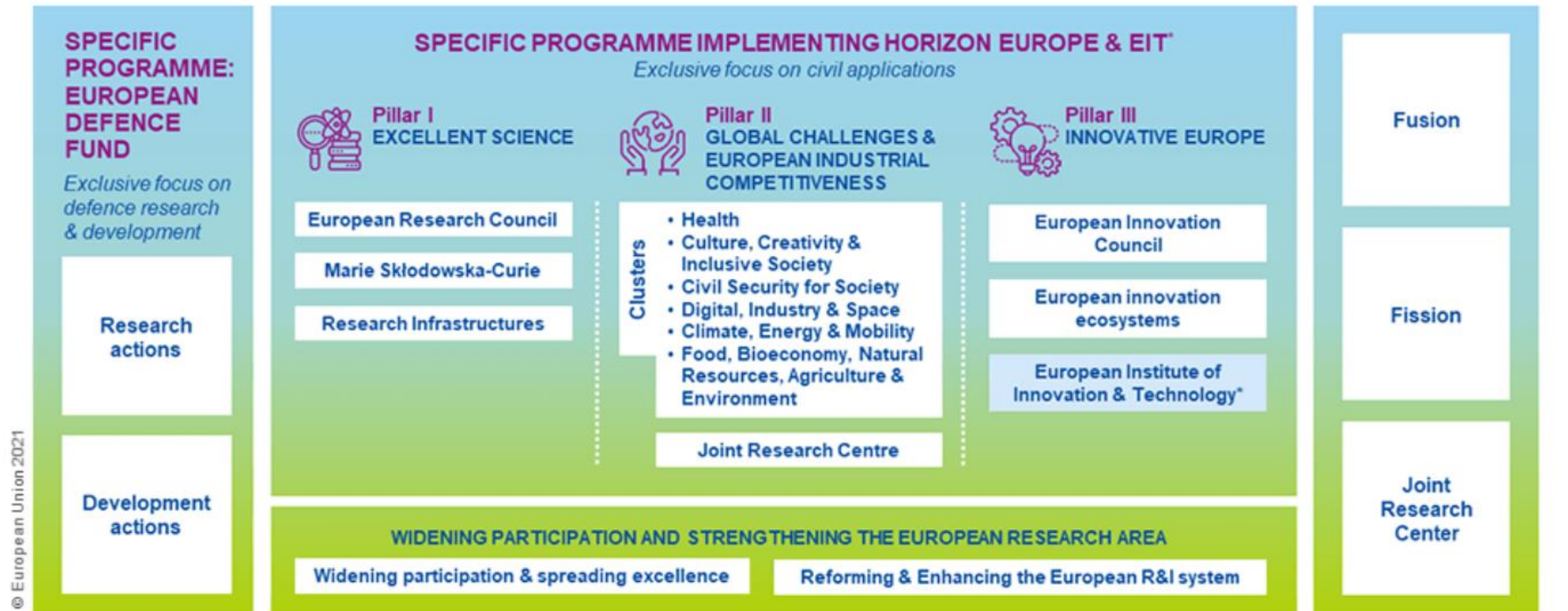
## Diversify Funding Sources

- Prepare GÉANT Association, NRENs, and the community to accept funding in ways beyond traditional grants.
- Consider options like negotiating contribution agreements and understanding their implications for the dynamics of GÉANT and NRENs.
- Be ready to potentially compete for funding through public procurements by the European Commission or its operational entities in the future.



## HORIZON EUROPE

## EURATOM



\* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

## WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

### Destination Improved access to Excellence:

- Teaming for Excellence
- **Twinning**
- European Excellence Initiative
- Pathway to Synergies
- Dissemination and Exploitation Facility
- **Hop-on facility**
- Excellence Hubs

### Destination Attracting and mobilising the best talents

- ERA Chairs
- ERA Fellowships
- ERA Talents

### Destination Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system

Actions	Consortium structure	Policy objectives
<b>TEAMING</b>	Main beneficiary + 1 or 2 strategic advanced partners	Develop <b>role models to stimulate excellence, new investments and reforms</b>
<b>TWINNING</b>	Main beneficiary and network of partnering organisations	Develop excellence in a chosen domain, increase <b>visibility and upskill staff</b>
<b>ERA CHAIRS</b>	One host organisation to the selected ERA chair with optional partner organisation	Help excellent scientists to <b>become game changers</b>
<b>COST*</b>	Cross-border scientific network	Help excellent researchers and innovators <b>get access to the European and international networks</b>

\* European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)



## Areas of intervention

- **Teaming for Excellence:** Teaming actions will create new or modernise existing centres of excellence in Widening countries through strategic partnerships with leading institutions abroad. The impact will be amplified by the conditionality of securing complementary investment from structural funds or other sources.
- **Twinning:** Aims to enhance networking activities between research institutions of the Widening countries acting as coordinators, and top-class leading counterparts at EU level, by linking at least two research institutions from 2 different EU countries or Associated Countries. Therefore it builds on the huge potential of networking for excellence through knowledge transfer and exchange of best practices.
- **European Excellence Initiative (EEI):** The action will engage with universities and empower them further to be actors of change in research and innovation. It will raise excellence in science and in value creation through deeper and geographically inclusive cooperation in alliances of higher education institutions.
- **Pathways to Synergies:** The purpose is to provide support for setting up the interfaces between two different funding systems, where barriers still occur due to the mismatches of regional versus European approaches. The main goal of the pathway is to move formerly single beneficiaries of regional funding programmes out of isolation via cross-border collaboration and prepare for participation in Horizon Europe calls.
- **Dissemination and Exploitation Support Facility:** Will help beneficiaries of widening actions to improve the effectiveness of their dissemination and exploitation and unlock new sources of funding. Improving knowledge diffusion, technology uptake and having spill-over effects is fundamental to ensure that researchers and their institutions build on the latest available knowledge.
- **Hop-on Facility:** Allows research institutions from Widening countries to join already ongoing research and innovation actions under Horizon Europe Pillar 2 and EIC Pathfinder.
- **Excellence Hubs:** Will strengthen regional innovation excellence, through innovation ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond, by teaming up, and creating robust linkages between academia, businesses, governments and civil society.
- **ERA Chairs:** By attracting high-level researchers to a Widening university or research centre, it increases its research capacity. It will establish a research team fully integrated in the coordinator's institution to significantly improve its research performance in a scientific domain of choice.
- **ERA Talents:** Aims to boost interoperability of careers and employability of research and innovation talents across sectors, with a centre of gravity in widening countries. Focused on cross-sectoral talent circulation and academia-business collaboration for knowledge transfer.
- **COST:** Enables researchers and innovators to set-up their own research networks in a wide range of scientific topics.

## Methods for NRENs

- Act as interlocutors between Universities and your respective Ministries to disseminate information regarding Widening Horizon Europe calls.
- Can remain in within project consortia therefore.
- Offer digital expertise to your respective Ministries who may be involved in IPA calls / offerings.
- GÉANT is always here to help coordinate NREN consortia – PMO!
- EU Liaison / WP2T4.



# Thank You

Any questions?

[www.geant.org](http://www.geant.org)



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