



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

The Academy of Europe

FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION APPLICATION

Title: Strengthening Participation of Widening Countries in EU R&I Programmes

MAE/YAE Investigator(s): Katalin Solymosi (YAE, AE Hub, Initiative for Science in Europe)

Other investigators: Tamás Beke-Somfai (Hungarian Young Academy), any other participants are more than welcome and may join from the Initiative for Science in Europe

Category: From Barriers to Bridges, From Curiosity to Career

Problem (max. 50 words): Several excellent researchers and institutions in EU13 countries face significant but often invisible barriers to full participation in EU research programmes like those included in Horizon Europe. The limiting factors remain unclear, and effective measures to address these challenges have yet to be implemented.

Unmet Need (max. 50 words): Unmet needs include detailed data analyses, sharing of best practices, and clear policy recommendations to address participation barriers in EU research programs. These gaps require coordinated efforts from the European Union, member states, and individual research institutions to develop effective, collaborative solutions that enhance inclusion and success for researchers in EU13 countries.

Project Description (max. 200 words): Clear statistical data show the very low participation and success rates of researchers from EU13 countries in European research grants, including the prestigious, research excellence-based European Research Council grants. Beyond reviewing and publishing these data, we plan to engage national and European experts and stakeholders in discussions to better understand the underlying causes of these trends. Our goal is to develop viable and acceptable proposals to revise or effectively reshape the EU's widening participation efforts, particularly for the upcoming FP10 program. Through the prepared policy recommendations, Academia Europaea and the Initiative for Science in Europe might be able to leverage their political and scientific influence to advocate for meaningful changes in European science policy regarding this issue. In addition, local or regional mentoring events (e.g. events helping early- to mid-career researchers with grant application) as well as information campaigns may be also included in the project with the aim to increase successful participation of the researchers in the region in such grants.

Hypothesis (25 words): We aim to empower EU13 researchers and institution leaders while engaging EU and national policymakers and stakeholders to foster effective dialogue and support for widening participation efforts.

Implication for Practice (50 words): We will analyze R&I data from European member states and their link to EU grant success rates for researchers in EU13 countries. Based on this analysis and stakeholder consultations, we plan to publish an open letter with policy recommendations to guide decision-makers in improving the situation.

Implication for Research (50 words): We hope that the shared best practices as well as evidence-based scientific advice for policy will finally result in improving excellent research possibilities and conditions in EU13 countries.