H2020, WIDESPREAD – ERA CHAIRS

EU Candidates:
- FYR Macedonia
- Republic of Serbia
- Turkey

EU Potential Candidate:
- Bosnia and Herzegovina

EU Countries targeted by EC:
- Luxembourg
- Portugal
ERA Chairs will bring outstanding researchers to universities and other researcher organisation that have high potential for research excellence. On their side, institutions should mobilise support from different funding sources, including from the European Structural and Investment Funds, to invest in facilities and infrastructures in the context of Smart Specialisation Strategies and commit to institutional change and a broader support to innovation.
SPECIFIC CHALLENGE

* Institution Rigidity
* Lack of funding opportunity and scientific resources
* Attract and maintain high-quality human resources
* Implement structural changes to reach excellence sustainability

* Outstanding researcher and research manager (niche & leadership)
* Establish ERA Chair team
* Improve research performance
* Secure competitive funding

* Comply with ERA priorities (including equal opportunities)
* Contribute to regional priorities and infrastructures (ESIFs)

* ERA chairs in any domain of research and innovation
* Expected to be in line with Smart Specialisation Strategy
* Full time position
* Open and merit-based recruitment process
* Grant will cover salary for PI and her/his team (~2.5 M€)
*Attractiveness;  
*Research Excellence;  
*Competitive funding;  
*ERA priorities;  
*Smart Specialisation Strategies
*Excellence

*Impact

*Quality and Efficiency of Implementation

Range; 0-5
Threshold per criteria; 3
Threshold of total criteria; 10
- Quality of objectives
- Soundness of the concept
- Credibility of the proposed approach
- Quality of coordination and support measures
- **Action plan to facilitate institutional changes** and to foster excellence research, better use of installed research facilities
- **Compliance with ERA priorities**: Measures and actions proposed to become more competitive (open recruitment, gender equality, innovative doctoral training, external peer review of institutions activity)
- Extent to which ERA Chair holder and his/her team are likely to help the research organisation to significantly improve its research performance, to attract high quality human resources and to achieve excellence on a sustainable basis
- **Assess the quality of the SWOT analysis** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) of the institution's position within the national and European context
- Improved capability to compete successfully for internationally competitive research funding

- **Increased research excellence** of the institution in the specific fields covered by the ERA Chair holders

- **Institutional changes** within the ERA host institution to implement the European Research Area priorities, (including an open recruitment policy, gender balance, peer review, and doctoral training)

- Contributing to the objectives of **regional or national smart specialisation strategies**, including increased interactions with economic and social actions, and complementing support provided under the European Structural and Investment Funds

- Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), to communicate the project, and to manage research data where relevant
- Coherence and **effectiveness of the work plan**, (including appropriateness of the work packages, allocation of tasks and resources)

- Coherence between work plan and SWOTS analysis

- Coherence of the management plan (including risk and innovation management)

- Clear description of the **ERA Chair holder's autonomy** to freely apply for research funding, select his/her team, level of responsibility and obligations

- A clear strategy to ensure the sustainability and further development of the measures presented beyond the lifetime of the project, including the possibility of a **long-term appointment** of the ERA Chair holder
Universidade de Coimbra