

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WIDENING COUNTRIES IN MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS (MSCA)

How are the Widening countries performing and what can they offer ?

While organisations throughout the 27 Widening countries currently participate in MSCA, there is a lot of untapped potential with many high-quality MSCA proposals not funded due to a lack of budget

Many high-performing universities and research institutes in Widening countries are ready to partner with organisations right across the European Research Area in MSCA projects, ranging from participating in an ITN or RISE network to hosting an individual fellow (IF)

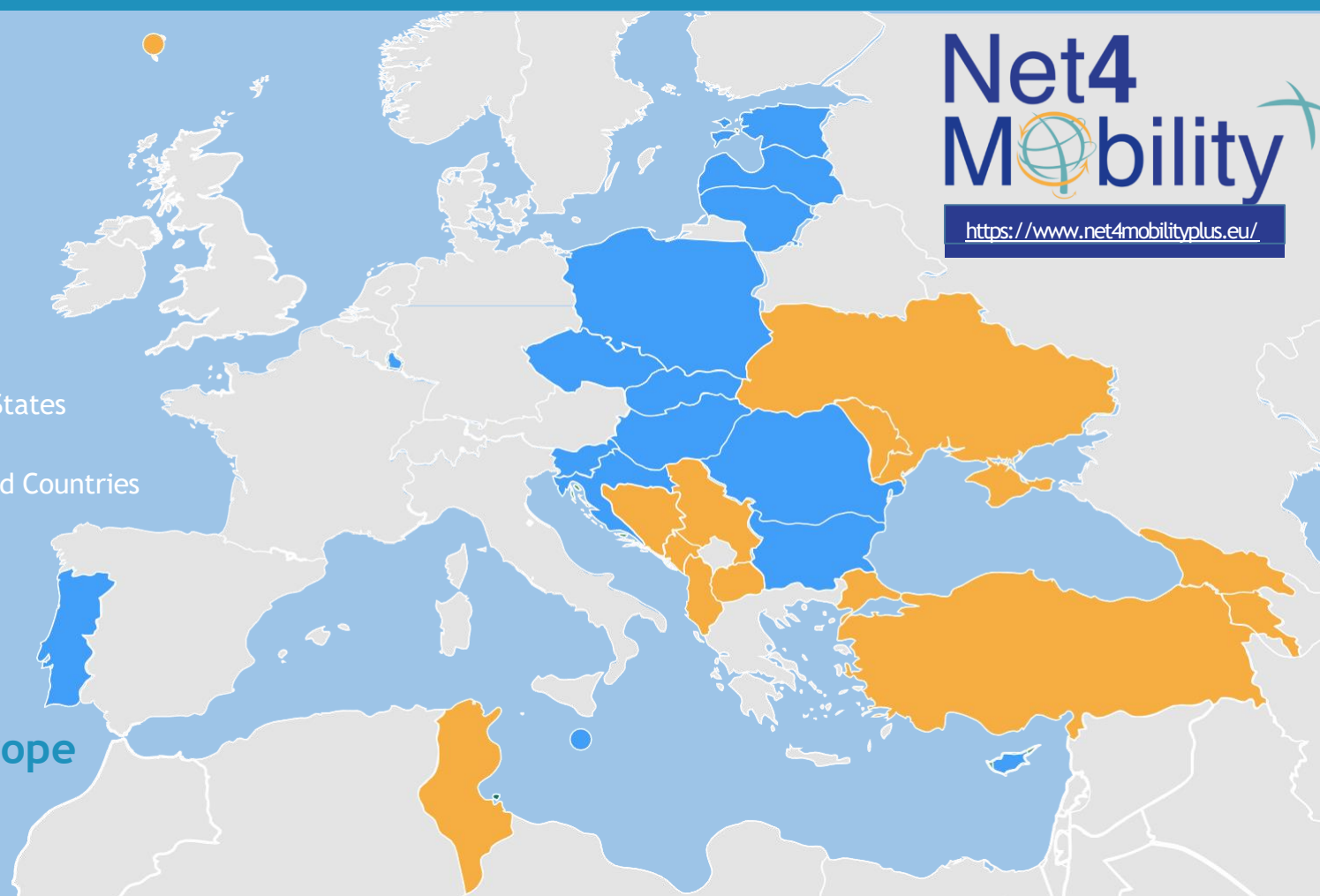
BULGARIA | CROATIA | CYPRUS | CZECH REPUBLIC | ESTONIA | HUNGARY | LATVIA | LITHUANIA | LUXEMBOURG | MALTA | POLAND | PORTUGAL | ROMANIA | SLOVAKIA | SLOVENIA



Why is the European Union supporting the Widening countries?

To SUBMIT better quality proposals
STRENGTHEN their ability to attract funding
REDUCE the Research and Innovation gap in Europe

Member States
Associated Countries



ALBANIA | ARMENIA | BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA | FAROE ISLANDS | GEORGIA | REP. OF NORTH MACEDONIA | MOLDOVA | MONTENEGRO | SERBIA | TUNISIA | TURKEY | UKRAINE

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT IS PROVIDED?

EU FUNDING

Additional possibility of funding for proposals to Widening countries that are not funded through the MSCA Individual Fellowships call:

WIDENING FELLOWSHIPS

- In addition to those funded under the IF call, 33 Widening Fellowships in 2018 and 39 Widening Fellowships in 2019 were awarded to researchers applying to undertake their fellowship in a Widening country
- No restrictions on nationalities
- Without filling in additional forms
- Implemented under the Spreading excellence and Widening participation part of Horizon 2020
- Budget for 2020: € 7M

NATIONAL FUNDING

The European Commission is encouraging Member States to invest national or European Structural Funds money in high-quality MSCA proposals to be implemented in their countries:

SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

high-quality label awarded to all non funded Individual Fellowship proposals scoring 85% or more.

Amongst the Widening countries which have introduced national programmes to fund Seal of Excellence recipients:

- Bulgaria funds MSCA-IF-EF-ST proposals scoring 80% or more
- Cyprus funds MSCA-IF-EF proposals scoring 85% or more
- The Czech Republic funds MSCA-IF-EF proposals scoring 70% or more
- Lithuania funds MSCA-IF proposals scoring 70% or more
- Slovenia funds MSCA-IF proposals scoring 85% or more

More examples at:
https://ec.europa.eu/research/soe/index.cfm?pg=opportunities_msca



The Net4MobilityPlus Project, funded by the European Commission, supports the network of National Contact Points in Widening countries:

- to strengthen their capacity for attracting researchers, collaborators and funding,
- with activities and tools to be used at proposal stage,
- to raise the quality of grant applications.

Tools:

- Success stories of organisations and fellows hosted in Widening countries,
- Expressions of Interest from organisations in Widening countries,
- Short country profiles of the Widening countries,
- Documents related to Widening countries' participation in Horizon 2020,
- Documents helping applicants prepare their MSCA proposals.