The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

HORIZON 2020

Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation
Info Day - Brussels 15 June 2017
Call H2020-Widespread-05-2017: "TWINNING"

Joao ALBUQUERQUE SILVA
Policy Officer

Unit B.5 – Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation
Twinning: Aim, Objectives & Partnership

Aim of the action:
Strengthen a defined field of research in a university or research organisation from a Widening country by linking it with at least two internationally-leading research institutions in other Member States or Associated Countries.

Main objectives:
• Enhance the S&T capacity of the institutions-Focus on institution in Widening country
• Raise the research profile of the institution and of its research staff

The Partners: (Minimum Conditions)
• ONE institution located in a "Widening" MS/AC (COORDINATOR)
• A minimum of TWO additional partners from two different MS or AC other than the country of the coordinator.
Some FAQ on: Aim, Objectives & Partnership

How is a university or research organisations defined?
• Universities can be public or private legal entities. "Research organisation" means a non-profit making organisation which carries out scientific or technical research as its main objective. But no proposal will be non-eligible for having an organisation of an incorrect nature.

Is there a maximum number of partners in a Twinning proposal?
• There is no maximum number of partners as long as the minimum eligibility requirements are respected. Additional partners are allowed according to the needs and objectives of each proposal.

Can a proposal outline several defined areas of research or is it necessary to outline one defined area of research in one proposal?
• A Twinning proposal must outline one defined area of research.
Twinning: Proposal Design & Impact

**Proposals:**
- Scientific **strategy for excellence and innovation** in a defined area of research;
- Outline the scientific quality of the **partners**;

**Activities supported:**
- Short term staff exchanges; expert visits and short-term training; workshops; conference attendance; dissemination and outreach activities.

**Expected Impact:**
- Research **excellence**, in particular, in the selected field of research;
- Improved capability to succeed in competitive **research funding**;
- Enhanced reputation, **attractiveness** and networking;
- The expected potential impact of the project illustrated by a number of **indicators**.
Twinning: Costs & Call 2017 details

**Eligible Costs:**

- Coordination and networking;
- Joint activities;
- Dissemination and outreach activities.

Infrastructure, equipment & research costs will NOT be funded.

**Twinning Call 2017:**

- **Budget:** €20 million
- **Call publication:** 14 October 2015
- **Call opening:** 11 May 2017
- **Call deadline:** 15 November 2017
- **Project Size:** up to €1 million (eligibility condition)
- **Project Duration:** up to 3 years (eligibility condition)
- **Implementation:** Coordination and Support Action
Some FAQ on: Costs & Call 2017 details

Can a proposal request a contribution below or above € 1 million?
• The requested EU contribution in proposals shall not exceed EUR 1 million. This is an eligibility condition. However, proposals requiring lower values are allowed.

And project duration?
• As above: up to 3 years and proposals requiring longer duration will be deemed ineligible but shorter projects are allowed.

Are personnel costs (i.e. salaries) eligible in a Twinning project?
• Twinning is not aimed at hiring new researchers (permanent or temporary).

• However, the hours that the employees of all types (i.e. researchers, administrators or managers) of both the coordinating institution and the internationally-leading (advanced) partner address to project activities (non-research) are eligible costs.
Previous Twinning call (2015): statistics

Successful Proposals: country of coordinator

Total submitted: 552
Funded: 67 projects
Success rate: 12%
Twinning: 2015 call "advanced" partners

Successful Proposals: "advanced" partners by country

- Total number of "advanced" partners: 184
- Average number of partners: close to 4
Twinning: Lessons learned (1)

Some points learned from the Interim Evaluation:

+ The establishment of the Twinning collaborations was highlighted as the most important result achieved so far.

+ The institution's capabilities in networking and competing for international funding have been increased.

- The project coordinators find that research costs need to be covered.

- Some of the Twinning institutions are managing for the first time a large EU project and the extent of this challenge was not expected.
Twinning: Lessons learned (2)

Lessons learned for future calls:

• Clear definition of the scientific strategy towards excellence in the relevant research field;

• Better illustration of the scientific qualities of "advanced" partners and their added value to the project;

• Outline the expected impact of the twinning exercise on the institution in the Widening country (and even at the national/regional level) based on specific indicators.
Learn more:

**Twinning 2017 Call:**

**Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation website:**
http://europa.eu/!ym83BF

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!