

Reduced fee policy for participants from widening countries

To promote equitable access to the school and to support broader participation from across Europe, reduced fees are offered to applicants originating from Widening Countries, as defined by the European Commission within the Horizon Europe framework (“Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence”).

According to Horizon Europe regulations, *Widening Countries* are EU Member States and Associated Countries with lower research and innovation (R&I) performance. These include:

15 EU Member States:

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

14 Associated Countries with equivalent R&I characteristics:

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine.

EU Outermost Regions (Art. 349 TFEU):

French overseas departments (Martinique, Mayotte, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion), Saint-Martin, Madeira and the Azores (Portugal), Canary Islands (Spain).

These regions face structural challenges related to geographical isolation, limited institutional resources, and lower innovation capacity. As also reflected in the 2024 European Innovation Scoreboard, Widening countries are still catching up in innovation performance, especially regarding intellectual property, research exploitation, and R&I infrastructure.

By offering a reduced participation fee to applicants from these countries, the summer school aligns itself with the Horizon Europe objective of promoting a more balanced and inclusive European Research Area. Supporting participation from Widening Countries contributes to strengthening diverse research ecosystems and ensuring broader access to knowledge exchange.

Sources:

- European Commission, Horizon Europe – Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence
- European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) 2024
- Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)