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BLENDDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMME

No. 2024-1-LT01-KA131-HED-000208904-02

WIDENING AND TWINNING PROJECTS: STRATEGIC PREPARATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL HORIZON EUROPE PROPOSAL

ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES
Target group	Academic staff, researchers, international relations and research project officers from HEI, master's students and early-career researchers.
Study field	Interdisciplinary Studies
Dates of virtual activities	08 10 2025
Dates of physical activities	13 10 2025 – 17 10 2025
Aim	To provide participants with interdisciplinary knowledge and practical skills necessary for preparing Horizon Europe Widening and Twinning applications, strengthening strategic thinking, research management competencies and international cooperation capabilities.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To introduce participants to the structure, priorities and evaluation principles of Horizon Europe Widening initiatives.2. To help participants analyse the scientific and managerial capacities of their institutions using the Competitiveness Compass tool.3. To promote practical skills in preparing Twinning project applications, including work package planning, partner search and impact strategy.4. To strengthen research management and administration competences in line with the European Competence Framework for Research Managers.5. To facilitate international cooperation, networking and exchange of good practices between institutions.
Learning outcomes	Upon successful completion of the programme, participants will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain the objectives, structure and application evaluation logic of the Horizon Europe Widening and Twinning instruments.2. Assess the potential and development needs of their institution using the Competitiveness Compass indicators.3. Prepare the main elements of a Twinning project application: work packages, budget, impact plan, partner roles.4. Apply the principles of research management and capacity building according to the European Framework of Competences for Research Managers.5. Communicate and collaborate effectively in an international and interdisciplinary team.6. Critically assess the institution's readiness to participate in a Twinning project and formulate further steps for developing strategic partnerships.
Methods	Interactive lectures, Hands-on workshops, Case study analysis, Group work, Mentoring and expert consultations, Reflection and self-assessment, Cultural integration.

Description of the virtual component (number of hours)	The virtual component includes 8 academic hours (5 asynchronous + 3 synchronous). Asynchronous content consists of pre-recorded lectures on Widening instruments, Twinning call structure, and the use of the Competitiveness Compass. Synchronous sessions are held via Zoom and include an introductory seminar, questions and answers session, and short institutional presentations by participants. This component aims to prepare participants for the physical training week and engage them in the strategic context of the programme.
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DATE	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE TEACHER	NOTES
13 10 2025	Welcome session + Ice-breaking	Rūta Puidokė Dr. D. Šakalytė	9.30 -10.15
	Lecture: Twinning and ERA (with discussion) .	Expert from experienced Twinning coordinator	10.15- 11.45
	Case discussion: Strategic relevance of Twinning projects		12.45-14.15
	Group reflection / Institutional self-assessment (Compass)		14.30-16.00
	Wrap-up / Q&A		16.00-16.45
14 10 2025	Lecture: Institutional development through Twinning – capacity building perspective	Expert from experienced Twinning coordinator	9.00-10.30
	Workshop: SWOT analysis of participating institutions (research capacity, partnerships, HR, visibility)	Facilitated by organizers	10.45-12.15
	Group work: Competitiveness Compass mapping and interpretation	Facilitated by organizers	13.15-14.45
	Sharing session: Institutional ambitions and strategic areas for Twinning	Facilitated by organizers	15.00-16.30
15 10 2025	Lecture: Structure of a Twinning proposal – WPs, budget, impact	NCP / Twinning expert	9.00-10.30
	Mini-workshop: Drafting objectives and aligning with expected outcomes	Facilitated by organizers	10:45-12:15
16 10 2025	Group work: Developing project concept notes in teams	Facilitated by organizers	9.00-10.30
	Mentoring session I: Feedback from experts	Invited NCP / experienced coordinators	10:45–12:15
	Group work: Preparing short pitches for project idea presentations	Facilitated by organizers	13.15-14.45
	Mentoring session II + rehearsal of pitches	Experts + peers	15:00–16:30
17 10 2025	Project presentations (pitch + Q&A)	Participant groups + invited experts	9.30-11.00
	Feedback and discussion	Experts & peers	11.00-11.30

	Final reflection and next steps. Certificates and closing	Organizers	11.30- 12.00
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