

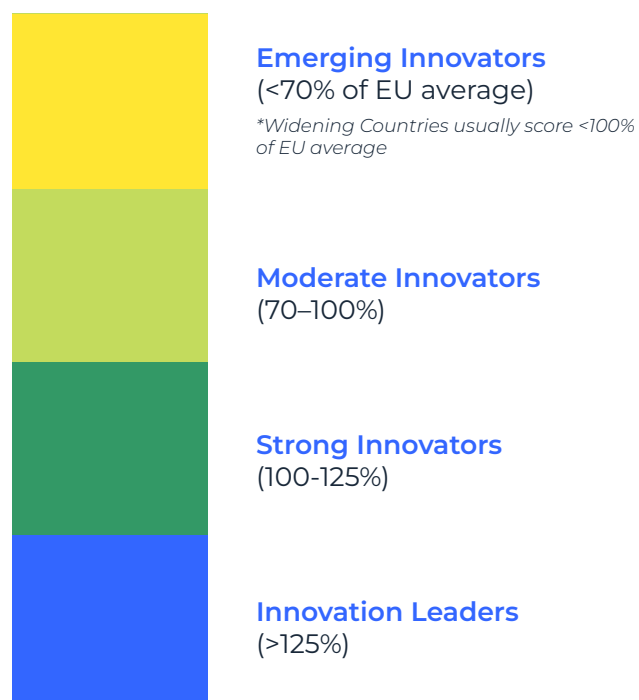
# Widening Countries & Outermost Regions:

unlocking innovation potential across Europe



## Innovation performance in Europe

Innovation performance across Europe is measured through the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS).



## widerAdvance Facility

**widerAdvance Facility** provides dedicated, hands-on support to beneficiaries from Widening Countries and Outermost Regions to help turn research results into tangible impact, collaborations and opportunities.

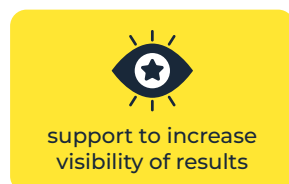
It addresses key challenges such as:

Low visibility of research results

Limited impact of project outcomes

Insufficient experience in exploitation and valorisation

The Facility offers:



support to increase visibility of results



guidance to strengthen project impact



assistance in exploitation and knowledge valorisation



training for researchers and research management staff

### What does “Widening” mean?

Widening status reflects a combination of factors, not a single score:



### Who are the Widening Countries?

#### EU Member States

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

#### Associated Countries

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

*\*Morocco and Egypt association ongoing*

### Who are the Outermost Regions?

Outermost Regions (Article 349 TFEU) face specific structural constraints and are automatically eligible for Widening measures.

|          |                                                                       |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| France   | Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion, Saint-Martin |
| Spain    | Canary Islands                                                        |
| Portugal | Azores, Madeira                                                       |

### Why targeted support is needed

Countries and regions in the Widening group often face challenges such as:



These challenges contribute to persistent innovation gaps across Europe.

### The EU response: WIDERA (Horizon Europe)

Through WIDERA\*, Horizon Europe aims to reduce innovation disparities and strengthen research and innovation ecosystems.

It supports:



*\* Key instruments include: Twinning, Teaming, ERA Chairs, Excellence Hubs, Hop-on, ERA Fellowships*

Widening is not about limitation, but about unlocking the full innovation potential across Europe.



Funded by  
the European Union