

Spreading Excellence and **Widening** Participation

H2020 Support and Portuguese Participation



José Antão
GPPQ
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Background

- Disparities in research and innovation performance: barrier to competitiveness, growth and jobs across Europe
- Some countries experience low participation in the EU Framework Programmes because of:
 - insufficient national R&D investments
 - lack of synergies between national research systems and the EU research landscape
 - system learning effects
 - reduced access to international networks
 - problems with information, communication and training

The Widening Package under H2020

Teaming

- Institution building
- Establish/upgrade Centre of Excellence in eligible countries
- Game changer through strong partnership



Twinning

- Institutional networking
- Strengthen a university / research organisation from an eligible country in a defined field
- Link to internationally-leading research inst. from other MS or AC



ERA Chairs

- Bringing excellence to institutions
- Support universities / research organisations attract talents through outstanding researcher and research manager
- Implement structural changes



The Widening Package under H2020

Measures in Horizon 2020 under **Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation**:

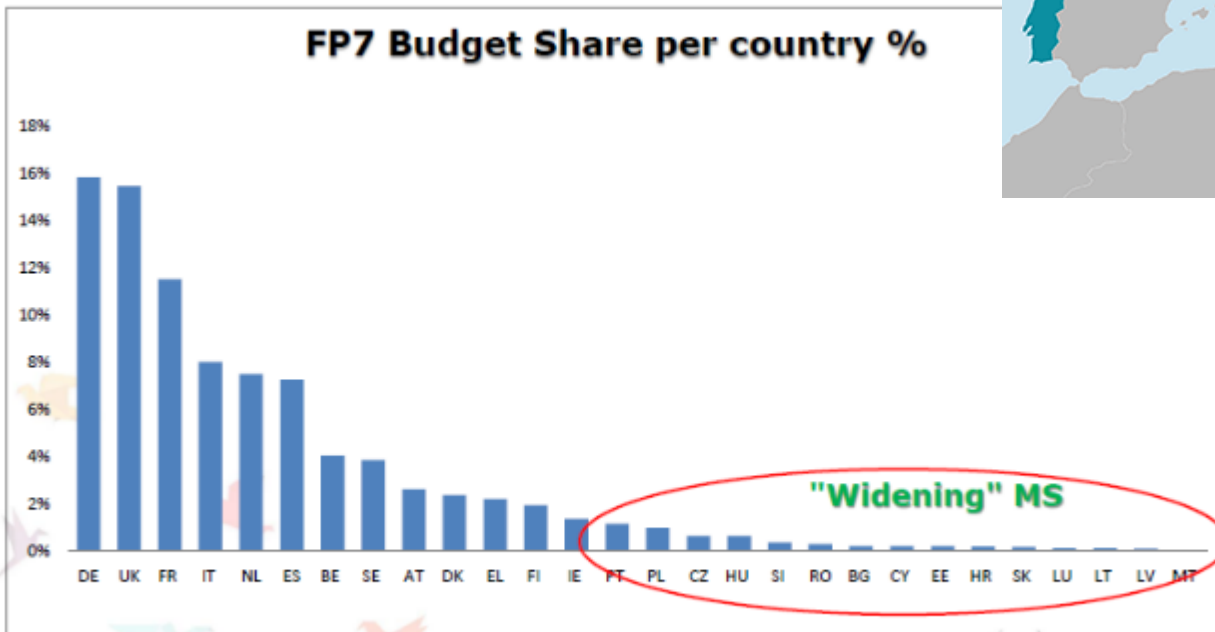
- Teaming (institution building)
- Twinning (institutional networking)
- ERA Chairs (bringing excellence to institutions)
- NCPs (information, communication, support)
- Policy Support Facility (support for R&I Policy design)
- COST (stimulating cross border science networks)

Total Budget in H2020 ~ **€ 900 million**

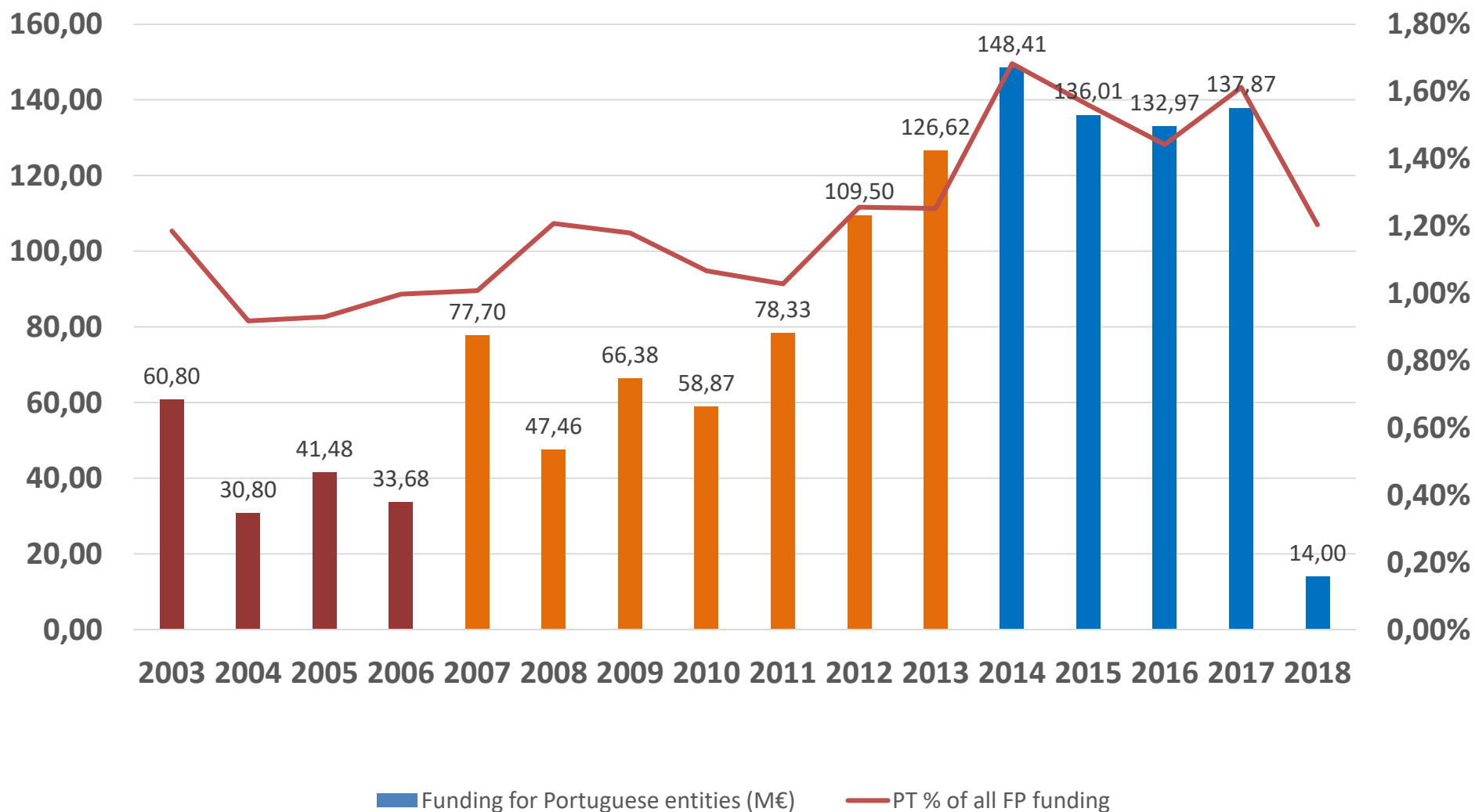
Which are the Widening countries?

FP7 country participation

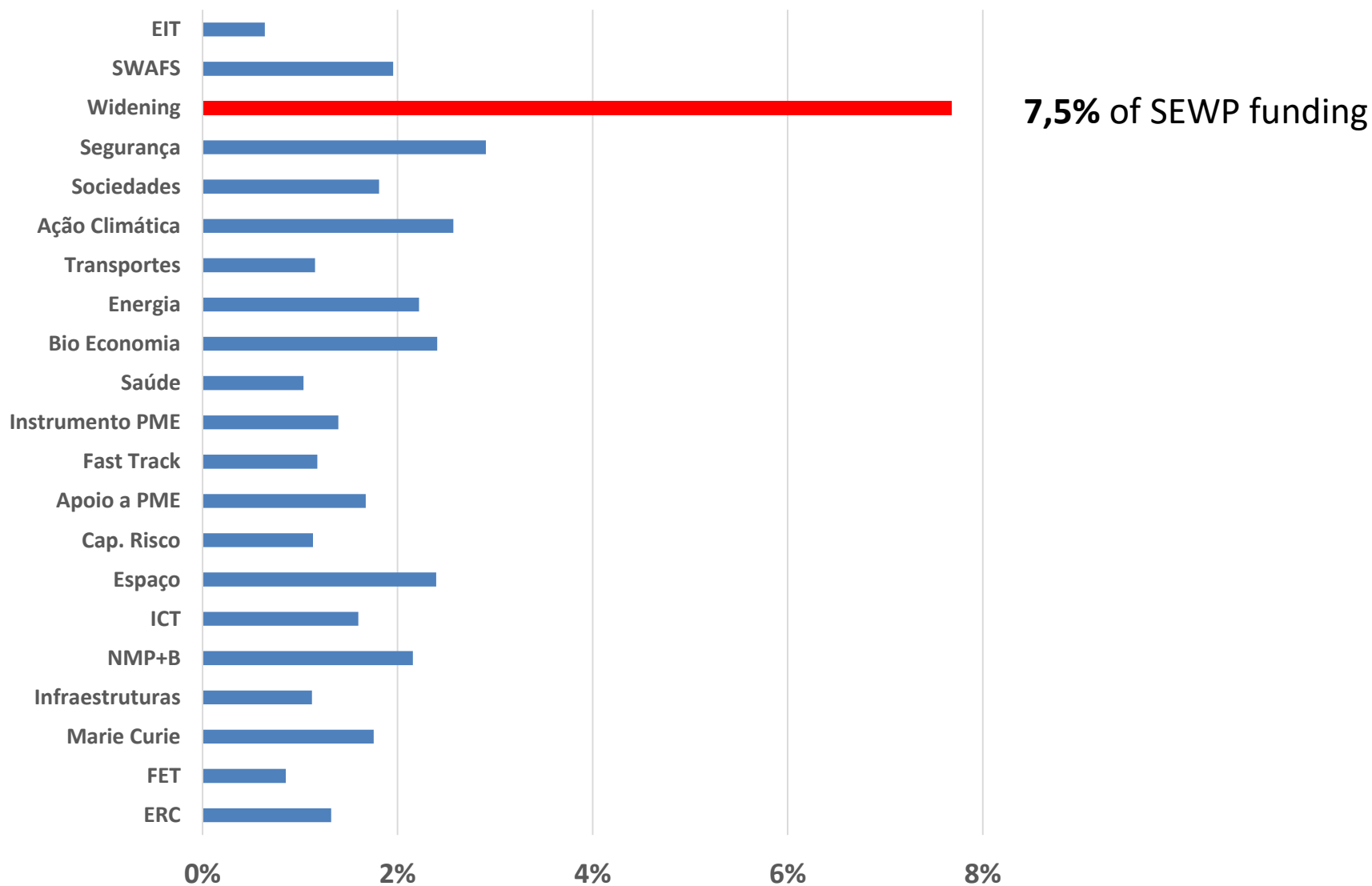
FP7 Budget Share per country %



Portuguese participation in the Framework Programmes



H2020 – Return rate per programme (Portugal)



Teaming: Scheme Design

Phase 1: Funding the development of a **Business Plan** for the new/upgraded Centre of Excellence facilitated by a teaming process with a leading counterpart in Europe.

Phase 2: Subject to the quality of the proposal for Phase 2, and the financial commitment for the project from other sources, the Commission may provide **substantial financial support** (max. €15 million) for the **first steps of implementation** (5-7 years) of the Centre covering administrative, personnel and operational costs as well as "minor" support for equipment and consumables.

NOTE: There are no new Teaming calls in H2020. For the ongoing Teaming Phase 2 (restricted) call no information can be provided. Applicants involved in that competition can contact their Project Officer in the REA for further information.



WIDESPREAD-01-2018-2019: Teaming Phase 2

Teaming-1 (2014)



Teaming-2 (2016)

Teaming-1 (2017)



WIDESPREAD-01-2018-2019: Teaming Phase 2

H2020 will award **up to 15** new grants
5 possible applicants from Portugal



ERA Chairs - Objectives

Objectives of the action:

- Create the appropriate conditions and bring high quality researchers and managers (**the ERA Chair and his/her team**) to universities and other research organisations with the potential for research excellence.
- Institutions should implement structural changes to achieve excellence on a sustainable basis.

Participants

- One single applicant (mono-beneficiary action) located in a Widening country.



ERA Chairs: Proposal Design & Impact

Proposals:

- Bottom-up approach in the field of research but connected with the ERA Chair holder expertise to fully capitalise on his/her presence;
- Measures to foster structural changes for excellence including compliance with ERA priorities (open recruitment, peer review, gender balance, Charter & Code);
- Include a plan to increase Research Capacity - if infrastructures foreseen present a strategy for funding (including possible use of ESIF funding).

Expected Impact:

- Increased attractiveness of institution and region for excellent researchers;
- Research excellence in the fields covered by the ERA Chair;
- Improved capability of the institution to succeed in competitive research funding;
- Institutional changes with increased research capacity and ERA priorities compliance.

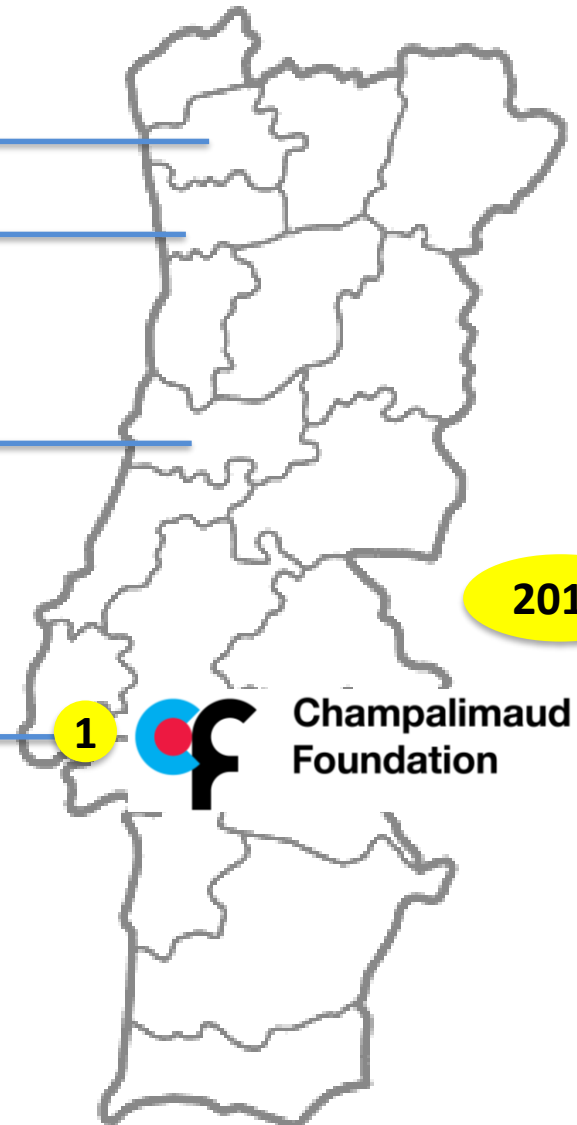


ERA Chairs: The ERA Chair holder

- The ERA Chair should be an outstanding researcher and research manager with a proven record of leadership and must match the profile of "Established" (R3) or "Leading"(R4) Researcher as per the E. Framework for Res. Careers;
- The ERA Chair appointment must follow an open and merit-based recruitment process - to be subjected to monitoring by the European Commission;
- ERA Chair holder must be appointed in a full time position;
- The institution should ensure commitment and the necessary autonomy towards the ERA Chair (e.g. a professor position within the institution and clarity on remuneration through a letter from the head) ;
- ERA Chairs can be of any nationality;



ERA Chairs – Ongoing and future projects



2017

1



Champalimaud Foundation

ERA Chairs: Costs & Call 2017 details

Eligible Costs:

- Salaries of ERA Chairs and his/her team.
- Contribution towards measures aimed at facilitating structural changes at the institution:
 - ERA priorities;
 - Costs including training, meetings, publication and patenting costs, (minor part of budget for equipment);
- The grant will not cover infrastructure costs.

ERA Chairs Call 2018:

Budget: €30 million

Call publication: 27 October 2017

Call opening: 26 July 2018

Call deadline: 15 November 2018

Project Size: up to €2.5 million (eligibility condition)

Project Duration: up to 5 years (eligibility condition)

Implementation: Coordination and Support Action

(Last ERA Chair call with deadline in Nov 2019)



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.



Twining: Proposal Design & Activities

Proposals:

- Scientific **strategy for excellence and innovation** with **proposed formulation of joint new/ongoing research project(s)** in a defined area of research ;
- Outline the scientific qualities of the **partners**;
- Focus on promoting **early stage researchers** (dedicated Work Package).

Activities supported:

- Short term staff exchanges; expert visits and short-term training; workshops; conference attendance; dissemination, networking and outreach activities.

Infrastructure, equipment & research costs (except for training) will **NOT** be funded.



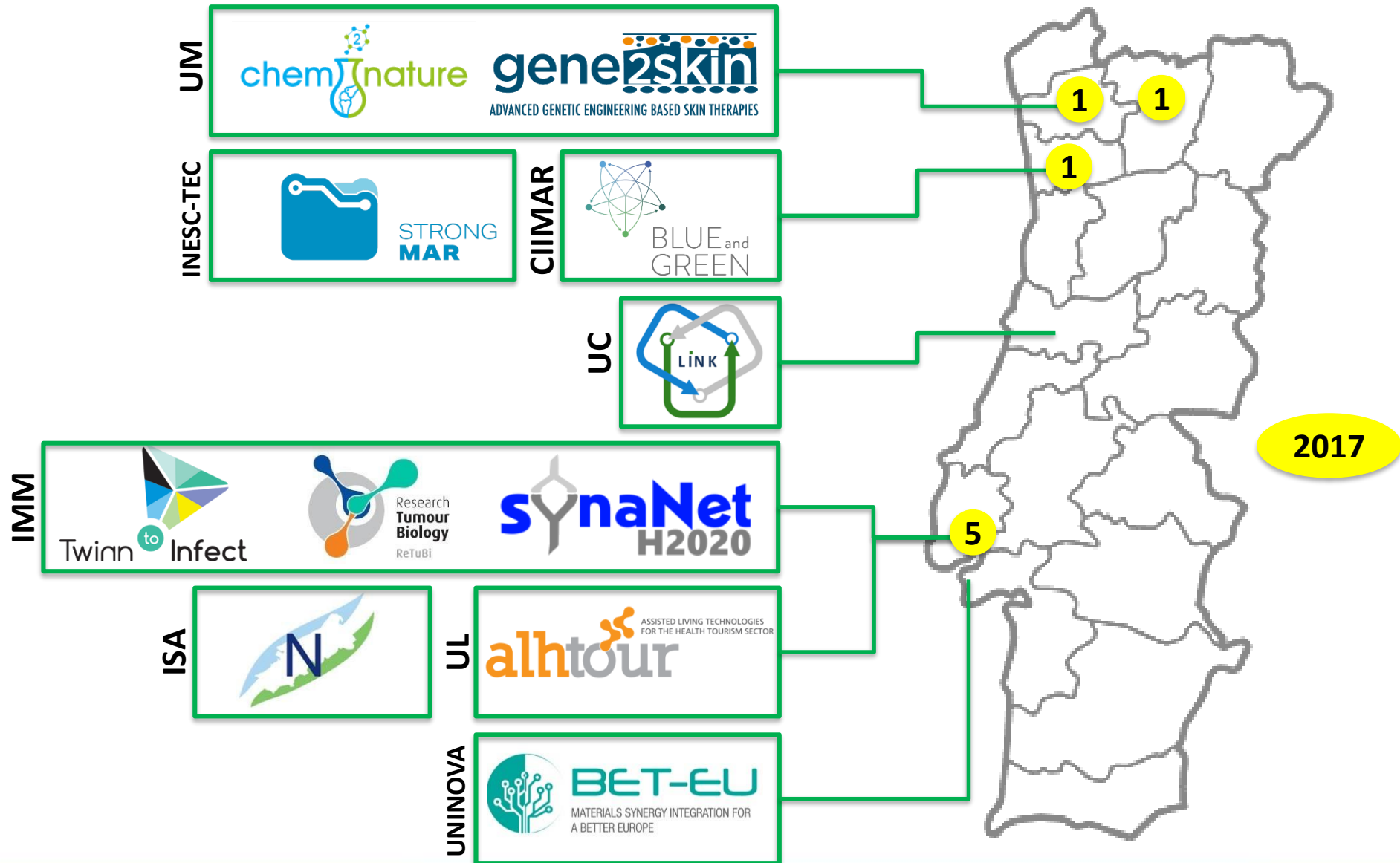
Twinning Lessons learned

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**.



Twinning – 19 Ongoing and upcoming projects in Portugal



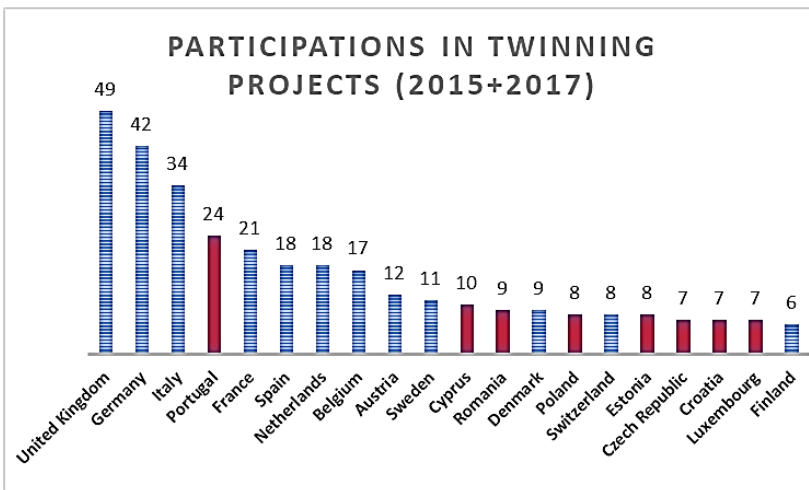
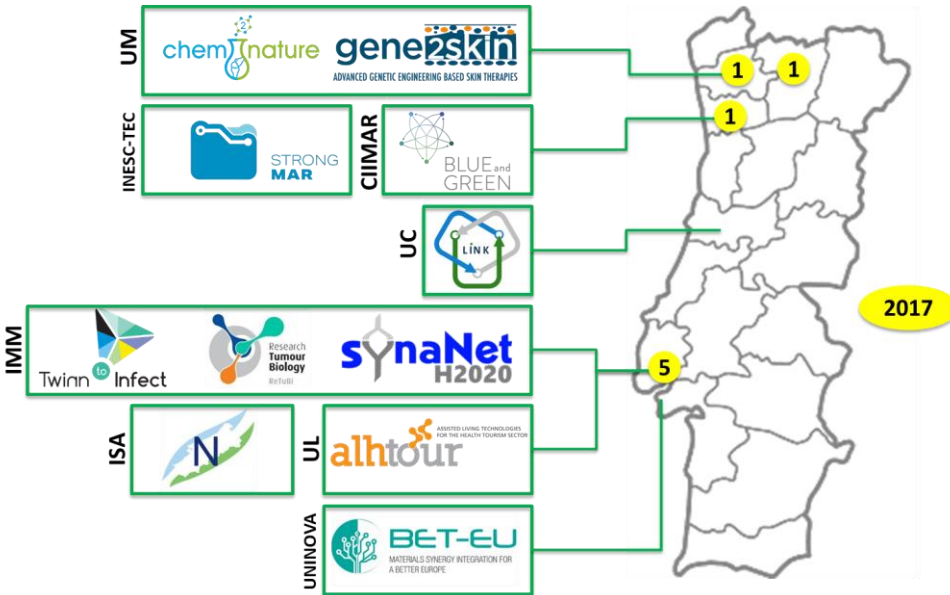
Twinning – 19 Ongoing and upcoming projects in Portugal

2017 call

6 new institutions



2 returning institutions



Twinning: Impact & Call details

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**;
- Benefit from/to "**advanced**" **partners** to be demonstrated.

Twinning Call 2018:

Budget: €30 million

Call publication: 27 October 2017

Call opening: 15 May 2017

Call deadline: 15 November 2018

Project Size: up to €0.8 million (eligibility condition)

Project Duration: up to 3 years (eligibility condition)

Implementation: Coordination and Support Action

(Last Twinning call with deadline in Nov 2019)



Widening Fellowships (WF)

What is it?

Specific support to researchers of any nationality to undertake their fellowship in a Widening Country

Mechanism:

- First step: Regular MSCA IF call & evaluation and selection of IF Fellows
- Proposals above quality threshold but not retained for funding through the MSCA IF call with beneficiaries in widening countries automatically re-assigned to the WF call
- Proposals then selected following the ranked list of the WF until exhaustion of budget

Widening Fellowships Calls

Year	Call opens	Call closes	Budget
2018	12/04/2018	12/09/2018	5 mEUR
2019*	11/04/2019	11/09/2019	6 mEUR
2020*	08/04/2020	09/09/2020	7 mEUR

* Dates to be confirmed



Portugal's Participation to WIDESPREAD

Teaming Phase 1 2014: 9 participations – 4 successful

Teaming Phase 2 2016: 4 participations – 1 successful

Teaming Phase 1 2017: 12 participations – 2 successful

Twinning 2015 call: 78 participations – 11 successful

Twinning 2017 call: 64 participations – 8 successful

ERA Chairs 2014: 13 participations – 4 successful

ERA Chairs 2017: 13 participations – 1 successful

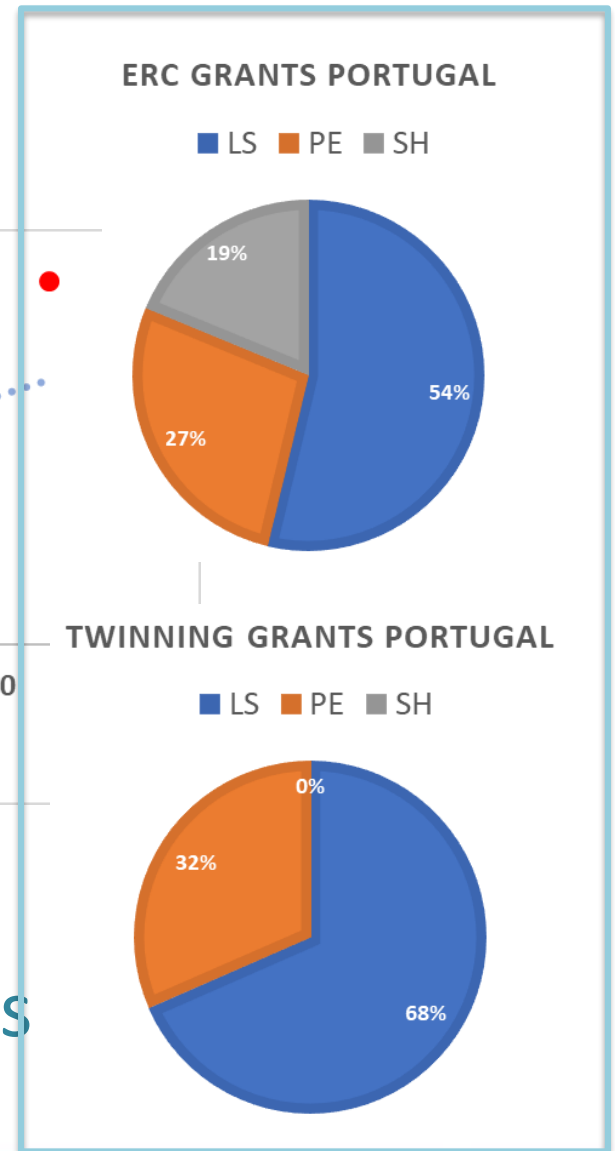
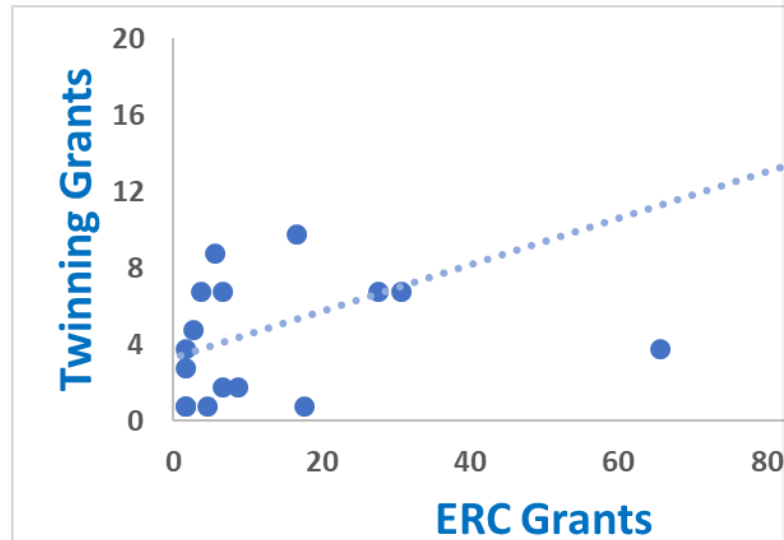
Why is Portugal successful in Twinning? (#1)

Number of project participations and EU Contribution by country

Country Name	Q	EU Contribution (EUR)	Project Participations
Totals		2.296.974.564 €	9.772
Portugal		503.997.126 €	1.823
Poland		295.045.960 €	1.314
Czech Republic		197.794.654 €	856
Hungary		197.111.548 €	724
Slovenia		179.385.244 €	699
Turkey		118.158.145 €	532
Cyprus		114.967.894 €	398
Romania		109.749.379 €	712
Estonia		99.226.323 €	383
Slovakia		78.953.476 €	348
Luxembourg		77.255.353 €	261
Iceland		65.177.528 €	186
Serbia		62.214.221 €	268
Bulgaria		59.925.367 €	387
Croatia		52.712.247 €	359
Latvia		47.412.540 €	242
Lithuania		37.887.561 €	280

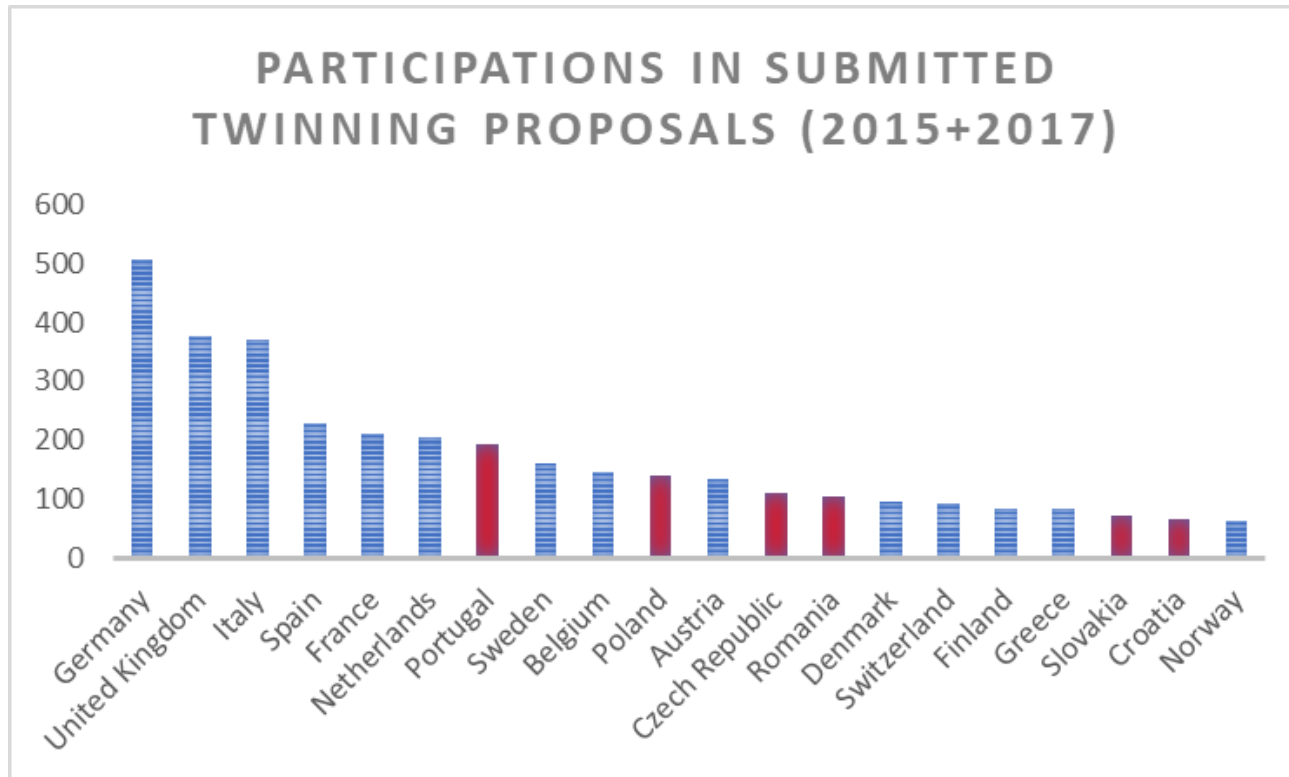
Portugal is more successful in H2020

Why is Portugal successful in Twinning? (#2)



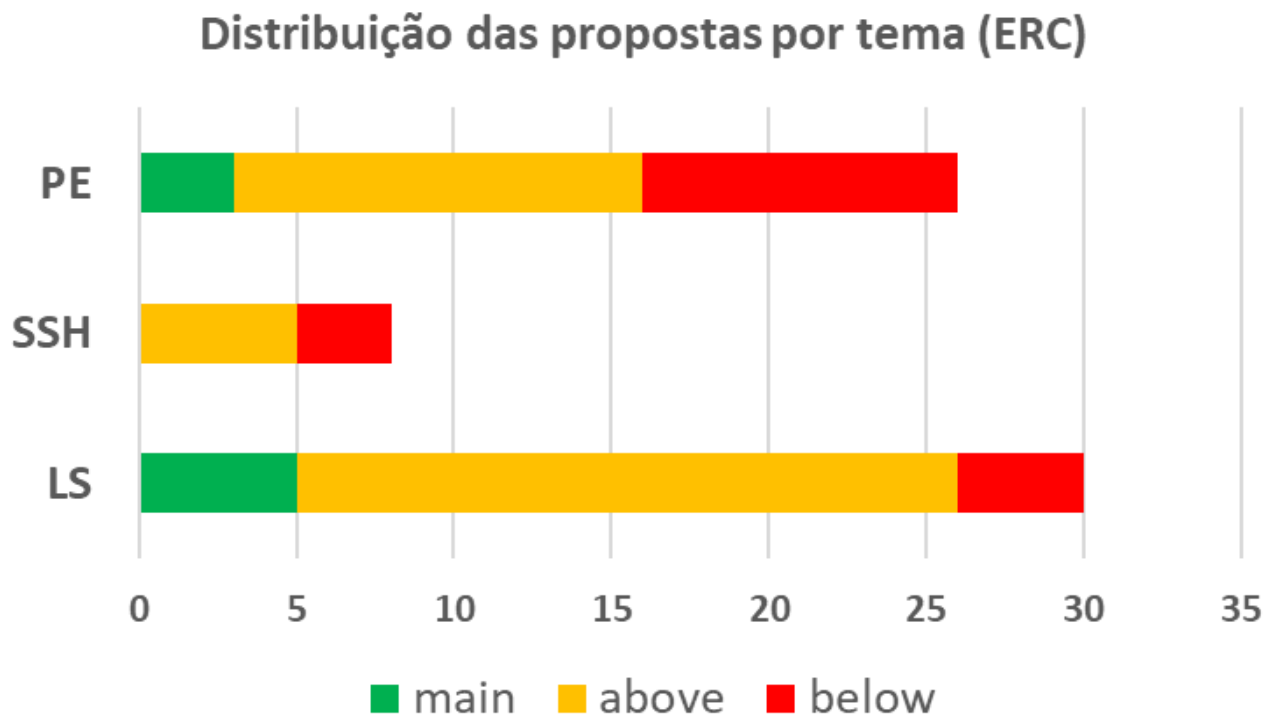
Portugal has critical mass

Why is Portugal successful in Twinning? (#3)



Portugal applies more

Twinning 2017 call – distribution of Portuguese proposals

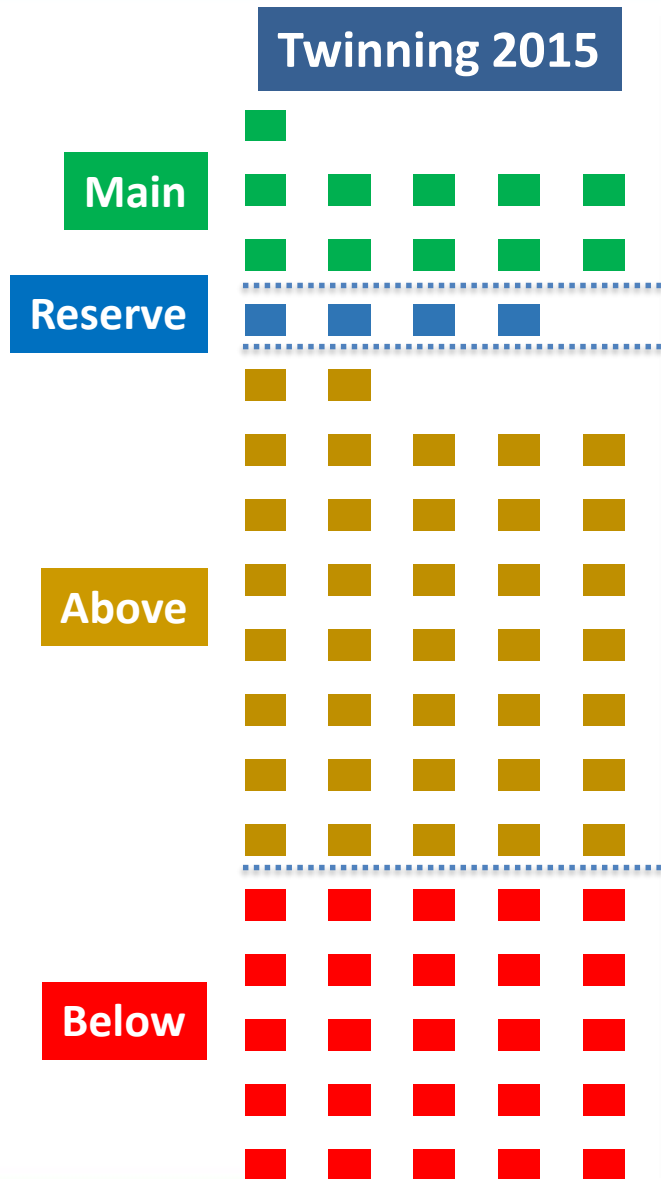


Why is Portugal successful in Twinning? (#4)

Portuguese institutions have invested in **framework conditions**

- Science Managers
- Pre-/post-award Grants Offices
- Science Communicators

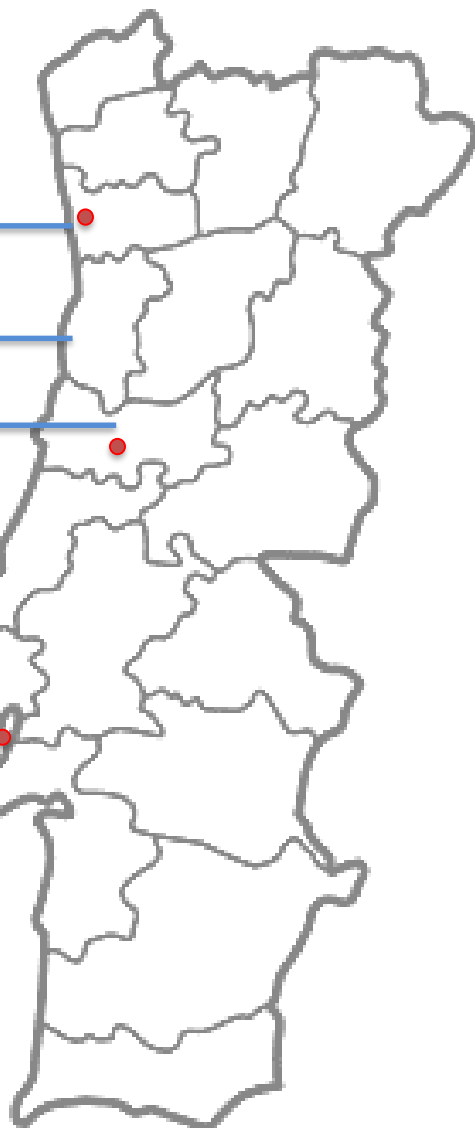
Can Portugal improve? (#1: Re-application)



From 2015, 2017 calls:
>100 proposals can be submitted again

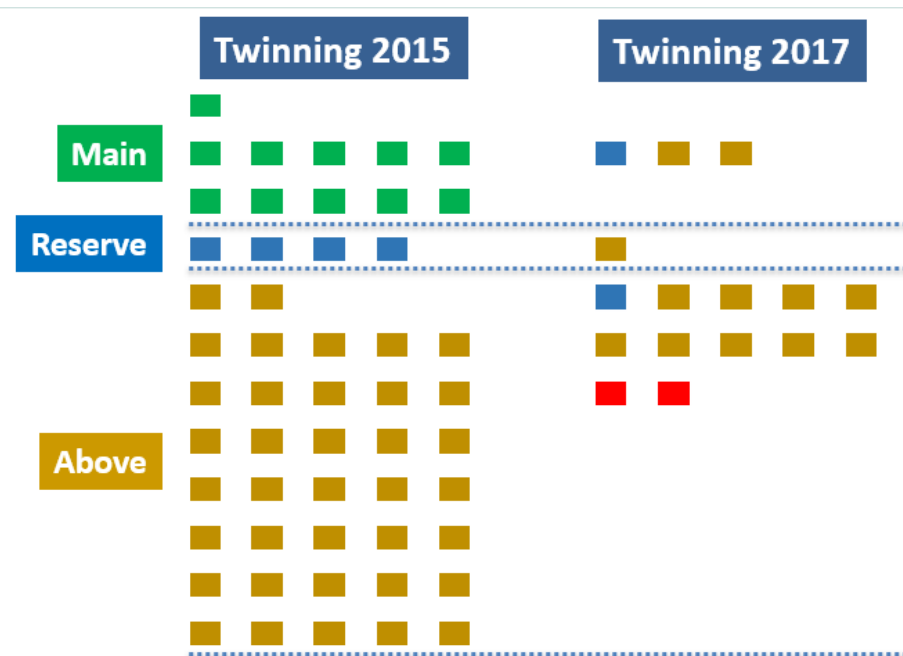
Can Portugal improve? (#2: New entrants)

≥ 3 ERC Grants



Bottlenecks:

- Alignment with institutional strategies
- Perceived gain for researchers
- Support staff



Widening – Applications and success rates of previous calls

Action	Year	type	Budget (M)	Size	Proposals	Projects	Success rate	Duration
Teaming - 1	2014	FPA&CSA	14,2	0.2 - 0.5	169	31	18%	12
Teaming - 2	2016	CSA	135	15	31	10	32%	60-84
ERA chairs	2014	CSA	33,6	max 2.5	88	14	16%	60
Twinning	2015	CSA	66,24	1	553	66	12%	36
Teaming - 1	2017	CSA	12	0.4	206	30	15%	12
ERA chairs	2017	CSA	33,9	max 2.5	103	13	13%	60
Twinning	2017	CSA	30	max 1	483	30	6%	36



Mafalda Dourado



José Antão

jose.antaogppq.pt
jose.antaofct.pt



Natália Dias



<http://www.gppq.fct.pt/h2020/>

Which are the “ERA Priorities”?

- **More effective national research systems** – including increased competition within national borders and sustained or greater investment in research.
- **Optimal transnational co-operation and competition** - defining and implementing common research agendas on grand-challenges, raising quality through Europe-wide open competition, and constructing and running effectively key research infrastructures on a pan-European basis.
- **An open labour market for researchers** - to ensure the removal of barriers to researcher mobility, training and attractive careers.
- **Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research** – to end the waste of talent which we cannot afford and to diversify views and approaches in research and foster excellence.
- **Optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge** including via digital ERA - to guarantee access to and uptake of knowledge by all.

What is an “Early Stage Researcher”?

Early stage researchers shall, at the time of recruitment by the host organisation, **be in the first four years** (full-time equivalent research experience) **of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree**. Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the **degree entitling him or her to embark on a doctorate**, (either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited) **even if a doctorate was never started** or envisaged. Part-time research experience will be counted pro-rata.