



Youth, said: "I am very pleased that we have today adopted the Work Programme of the European Research Council. This important step paves the way for launching calls that support top researchers and their teams to pursue frontier research at different stages of their careers. The first call will support young researchers across Europe who are starting their own independent research team or programme. They

ERC President Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon commented: "I was very encouraged by the strong backing the ERC received from the scientific community and the European Parliament during the political negotiations on the EU long-term budget and Horizon Europe. As a result of such unwavering support, the ERC's mission and funding principles have been preserved, together with its dedicated funding agency and its overall budget level. The ERC will continue supporting

He added: "A later than expected political agreement on the EU budget has impacted the timing of the first Horizon Europe calls. However, the European Commission's commitment, and the outstanding dedication of the ERC Executive Agency staff, have enabled us to maintain the original planning for the evaluations, in particular for the 2021 Starting Grant call. I am also pleased that applicants based in the United Kingdom and in countries associated to Horizon 2020 will still be able to apply on a conditional basis even if the association agreements are not yet in place. The ERC is now very hopeful for a timely conclusion of Horizon Europe

The 2021 work programme introduces some novelties, such as interviews now being part of the evaluation process also for Advanced Grant applicants and two new evaluation panels. Due to the transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe, the call calendar is shifted compared to the calendars of previous years, and the Synergy and Proof of Concept calls will not open under this year's work

The work programme published today includes a calendar of grant competitions.

while preserving the evaluation calendar and the budgetary allocation.

standard pattern, with 1 January 2021 as the reference date.

The Starting Grant call is scheduled to open on 25 February 2021. While the initial plan was to close the call on 24 March, it should be noted that the deadline for submission of applications will be extended until 8 April. The extension of the deadline is intended to give as much time to Starting Grant applicants as possible

The Consolidator Grant call will open on 11 March 2021 and the Advanced Grant

The eligibility windows for Starting and Consolidator Grant applicants follow the

Synergy Grants will not be available under this work programme. Nonetheless, the ERC Scientific Council is expecting to be able to open the first Synergy Grant call of Horizon Europe still this summer, with funding to be provided under the next work

Similarly, the Proof of Concept Grants are not available under this work programme, but a call is expected to open in the second half of this year under the next work

The Scientific Council expects the call schedule to be back to more familiar opening and closing timeframes by mid-2022. These shifts in the calls timetable will not

Europe's researchers as they pursue their most innovative ideas."

association negotiations in order to be able to fund successful applicants."

are the future of European research."

Calls calendar and submission deadlines

programme.

on 20 May 2021.

programme.

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affect the eligibility periods of candidates applying to Starting and Consolidator Grants. **Interviews for Advanced Grant applicants** Bringing the Advanced Grants evaluation process in line with that of the Starting and Consolidator Grants, researchers whose proposals reach the second step of the Advanced Grant evaluation will now be invited to present their proposal to the evaluation panel in an interview. **ERC** panel structure redefined Two entirely new evaluation panels have been added to the ERC Panel Structure: SH7 – Human Mobility Environment and Space, and PE11 – Materials Engineering. The introduction of these two new panels is part of a broader review of the panel structure by the ERC Scientific Council, redefining the contours of all panels, enriching their descriptors and taking into account the balance between panels in terms of the number of proposals assessed in each call. Panel structure for ERC calls 2021 and 2022. Open science As required by the new Horizon Europe regulation, researchers who benefit from ERC funding under the Horizon Europe programme will now be required to submit a data management plan within the first six months of their project implementation.

At the date of the publication of the work programme, there are no countries associated to Horizon Europe. However, applicants established in countries associated to the previous Framework Programme, Horizon 2020, and in countries that are negotiating association agreements with the European Union, including the

The funding of successful applicants based in countries outside of the European Union will depend on whether an association agreement between their country and the European Union will be in place at the time of the signature of the grant

Potential applicants based outside of the European Union should refer to the text in the Work Programme, on page 3 and Annex 3, as well as to the calls calendar for

The European Research Council, set up by the European Union in 2007, is the premiere European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. Every year, it selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects based in Europe. To date, the ERC has funded over 9,500 top researchers at various stages of their careers, and over 70,000 postdocs, PhD students and other staff working in their research teams. The ERC strives to attract

DYNAMIC

dual engineering curricula

the indicative dates for the signature of the grant agreements of each call.

United Kingdom, may apply to the calls under this work programme.

Read the <u>ERC 2021 Work Programme</u>

agreements for the call to which they applied.

Read the <u>ERC 2021 Work Programme</u>

Associated countries

About the ERC

Project Dynamic ends

pilot implementation.

top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe.

The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the Scientific Council. The ERC President is Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. The overall ERC budget from 2021 to 2027 is more than €16 billion, as part of the Horizon Europe programme, under the responsibility of the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel.

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practice-integrated dual education models that are feasible for the country-specific conditions and regional needs. We would like to share with you some of lessons we have learnt from the past 3 years of international cooperation and invite you to join us in our future endeavours to promote and further develop dual higher education.

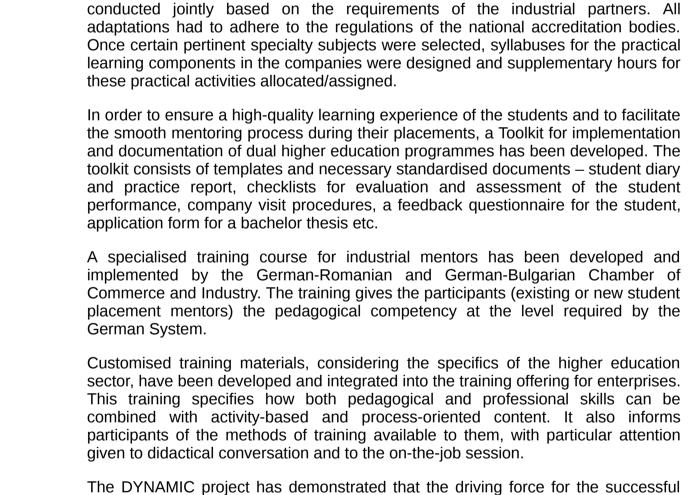
The aim of the DYNAMIC project was to develop, implement, and evaluate three practice-integrated dual undergraduate engineering programmes in Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia. The courses of study identified for the pilot project reflect the domains of strategic importance for the regions, in which the academic and industrial partners are located. Therefore, the following programmes were selected for adaptation in dual form: Mechatronics and Robotics, Shipbuilding and Construction and Mechanical Engineering and Production. Experience was shared from Germany and Austria, with knowledge drawn from two existing programmes:

Within the project DYNAMIC, academic and industrial experts from 16 partner organisation in 5 EU countries came together to jointly design and implement

Mechanical Engineering and Production Technology and Organisation. The curriculum development process followed a participatory co-development approach involving the key stakeholders from academia, business, chambers of commerce and industry as well as through consultations with the students concerned. Regional working groups were formed comprising of one university working with two enterprises and a chamber of commerce and industry for each country of the

The activities in the DYNAMIC project were organised around the development, preparation, implementation and evaluation of the dual pilot programmes in the field of engineering. National focus groups of key stakeholders worked on the adaptation of ongoing engineering curricula according to identified industry training needs, development of the syllabuses for practical i n-company training activities and elaboration of a coordinated implementation plan. To ensure the successful implementation of the pilot dual programmes, the project has developed a toolkit for documentation and assessment of the practical training for use by academic supervisors. To strengthen the training capacity and capabilities of the enterprises involved in dual education, the project also offered training for industrial mentors. The evaluation outcomes of the curriculum adaptation and implementation processes are reflected in the "Methodological guidelines for design and implementation of practice-integrated dual higher education programmes in

The curriculum adaptation process in the three partner universities has been



engineering studies" in the context of Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia.

can be addressed with maximised impact if programmes are designed as dual studies. The project also shows, however, that a political support to the transformative agenda, in the form of an appropriate regulatory framework, is necessary if we are to establish quality assurance measures, transparency and certification of dual higher education over the medium-term.

Employability considerations and providing engineering graduates with the most appropriate skills needed for carrying out their future jobs in the most promising sectors of manufacturing requires new methods and mechanisms if higher education institutions are to be the most relevant places of production of learning that is expected of them. The DYNAMIC project suggest that dual studies at the tertiary education level can make a significant contribution to enabling the recognition and teaching of such skills to be regularly reflected in engineering courses of study. Universities and enterprises that understand the vision for promoting such a model of modernisation of higher education across Europe can play a part if their involvement is facilitated by the educational authorities and policy

making bodies at national level. The efforts at piloting such solutions, by the experimenters and pioneers from Central, Eastern and South-eastern Europe, may inspire others to build on the achievements to date and especially protect the foundations of such an approach that is being threatened by the current situation.

For more information about what was done during the 3 years project, please see

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the Dynamic website: https://dynamic-project.eu/

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implementation of dual higher education is a relationship of trust and good cooperation between universities and their partner companies. The evaluation of the DYNAMIC pilot dual programmes indicates that the flexibilisation of higher education through integration of company-based learning components is possible but warns that the process can be slow. It confirms that the broader education challenge, of ongoing curricula allowing for only moderate changes or adaptations,

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