

Dear readers,

We are happy to introduce to you the 4th edition of the RI-LINKS2UA eJournal, our "Winter Edition" for 2017.

The RI-LINKS2UA eJournal informs you on a regular basis about the project's activities and recent developments in the EU-Ukraine cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

Horizon 2020 - The final Work Programme 2018-2020 presented

This edition of the RI-LINKS2UA eJournal has a special highlight. Just recently, on October 27, the new Work Programme 2018-2020 of Horizon 2020 was launched . For the next two years, around €30 billion will be available for finding new solutions for societal challenges and breakthrough innovations.

Ukraine, as an associated country to Horizon 2020, is fully eligible to participate in any of the open calls of the new WP.



Over the next 3 years, the Commission will seek greater impact of its research funding by focusing on fewer, but critical topics such as migration, security, climate, clean energy and digital economy. Horizon 2020 will also be more geared towards boosting breakthrough, market-creating innovation. The 2018-2020 Work Programme builds on the success of Horizon 2020 so far, and takes account of the extensive interim evaluation of the programme.

Furthermore, it responds to the European Commission's <u>political priorities</u> and paves the way for its successor programme. The new features include measures to support market-creating innovation, highly integrated activities called focus areas, emphasis on better dissemination of results and a focus on open access to data. The Work Programme includes measures to increase simplification (e.g. lump sum funding), to widen participation from less performing countries and to address skills mismatches as well.

For Ukrainian applicants, the new WP offers some targeted funding opportunities. One such example is <u>Societal Challenge 5</u>
"Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced <u>Manufacturing and Processing"</u> – a thematic field, in which a number of Ukrainian institutions already perform excellent research and other science-related activities!

In SC5 the thematic funding scheme "SPIRE - Sustainable Process Industry through Resource and Energy Efficiency" is of particular importance. In <u>SPIRE</u>, European partners are STRONGLY ADVISED to collaborate with their EaP counterparts (among them Ukraine), in order to increase the chances for a successful proposal.

You can find many more information on the launch of the new WP 2018-2020, on SPIRE and on other news from the EU-Ukraine STI sector in this eJournal. Of course, we also provide you with latest news about the RI-LINKS2UA project itself.

We hope you will enjoy reading the 4th edition of the RI-LINKS2UA eJournal "Winter Edition" and find some useful information for your specific purposes.

We would like to get in touch with you! Please feel free to send us your questions, feedback or comments on this eJournal.

Sincerely, the RI-LINKS2UA consortium — office@ri-links2ua.eu



New H2020 Work Programme 2018-2020 published

Commission to invest €30 billion in new solutions for societal challenges and breakthrough innovation.

The European Commission today announced how it will spend €30 billion of the EU research and innovation funding programme Horizon 2020 during 2018-2020, including €2.7 billion to kick-start a European Innovation Council.

Horizon 2020, the EU's €77 billion research and innovation funding programme, supports scientific excellence in Europe and has contributed to high-profile scientific breakthroughs such as the discovery of exoplanets and gravitational waves. Over the next 3 years, the Commission will seek greater impact of its research funding by focusing on

fewer, but critical topics such as migration, security, climate, clean energy and digital economy. Horizon 2020 will also be more geared towards boosting breakthrough, market-creating innovation.



The 2018-2020 Work Programme will focus efforts on fewer topics with bigger budgets, directly supporting the Commission's political priorities:

- A low-carbon, climate resilient future: €3.3 billion
- Circular Economy: €1 billion
- Digitising and transforming European industry and services: €1.7 billion
- Security Union: €1 billionMigration: €200 million

Simultaneously with adoption of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020, the Euratom Work Programme 2018 has been adopted, investing €32 million in research into the management and disposal of radioactive waste. It will also develop a research roadmap on safe decommissioning of nuclear power plants to reduce environmental impact and costs.

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https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/436

New Horizon 2020 WP encourages applications from Ukrainian and EaP researchers in many fields

Participation of researchers from Ukraine and the EaP countries in the forthcoming H2020 calls for proposals on Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing is encouraged.

From particular interest for Ukrainian R&I stakeholders is Societal Challenge 5 "Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing" - a thematic area, in which a number of Ukrainian institutions conduct excellent research and other science-related activities.

The funding scheme SPIRE - Sustainable Process Industry through Resource and Energy Efficiency is part of SC5. In SPIRE, European partners are STRONGLY ADVISED to collaborate with their EaP counterparts, in order to increase the chances for a successful proposal.

This means an enormous chance for all EaP R&I stakeholders, including Ukrainian ones. Seize your chance, consult the SPIRE funding scheme and make yourself aware to your EU partners!

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Juncker Plan: EUR 820 million for SMEs as EIF and ProCredit double support for innovative companies

The European Investment Fund (EIF) and ProCredit Group are providing an additional EUR 450 million to innovative small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), bringing a total of EUR 820 million to companies in eleven countries.

The EIF-backed financing is now available through ProCredit banks from Germany to Georgia and targets companies using new technologies and producing new products in one of the eleven countries where the facility is available (Germany, Albania, Serbia, FYROM, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia). To date, agreements with ProCredit have already supported more than 1,000 innovative SMEs and many more will be financed in the coming years.

These agreements were signed under the European Commission's InnovFin initiative, backed by the EU's research and innovation programme Horizon 2020. The InnovFin initiative enables participating banks to provide loans to innovative companies with the support of a guarantee provided by the EIF. The agreements signed in EU member state countries were made possible by the support of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). The EFSI is the central pillar of the European Commission's Investment Plan for Europe, also known as the "Juncker Plan".

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ERASMUS+ Programme to strengthen Ukrainian Universities

41 Ukrainian organisations and eight new projects worth EUR 7.5 million will be funded by the EU.

149 projects have been selected, among which 8 projects for 41 organisations from Ukraine including 30 higher education institutions are proposed for EU co-funding within Erasmus+ Capacity Building in the Field

of Higher Education 2017 (total projects' budget is about Euro 7,5 mln). Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance, Agroosvita and other organisations are among the partners.

The projects are focused on agrarian studies, agro-food, smart cities and logistics, integrated PhD in environmental policy, management and technology, artificial implants for bio-engineering, regional studies on Baltic-Black Sea connections, quality assurance via university-business-government cooperation, implementing modern tools for teaching and learning as well as the establishment of innovative centers based on the exchange of experience with Erasmus+ Programme and Partner Countries' Universities.



https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/394

EU-Ukraine Association Agreement fully enters into force

The Association Agreement, including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), is the main tool for bringing Ukraine and the EU closer together: it promotes deeper political ties and stronger economic links, as well as respect for common European values. The DCFTA provides a framework for modernising Ukraine's trade relations and economic development by opening up markets and harmonising laws, standards and regulations with EU and international norms.

The European Union is unwavering in its support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the continuing, ambitious efforts of the Ukrainian authorities to reform the country's institutions and economy, which would unlock the full potential of the Association Agreement and bring its full benefits to the Ukrainian people.

Under the Association Agreement, Ukraine is committed to structural reforms in the areas of democracy, human rights, rule of law, good governance, trade and sustainable development. Enhanced cooperation on environmental protection, social development and protection, transport, consumer protection, equal opportunities, education, youth and culture, industry and energy is also foreseen in the Association Agreement. The entry into force of the agreement will give a new impetus to the cooperation in areas such as foreign and security policy, justice, taxation, public finance management, science and technology, education and digital technology.



https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/402

New credit opportunities for SMEs

On September 5, 2017, the German-Ukrainian Fund (GUF) and ProCredit Bank signed a loan agreement for the financing of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The agreement was signed under the SME Promotion Program funded by the German Government through KfW and in cooperation with the European Union's EU4Business initiative. The agreement provides lending for SMEs at 15% per annum in UAH.

Two categories of enterprises can utilise the programme:

- Small enterprises with a staff of up to 50 people and with an annual income that does not exceed the equivalent of 5 million euros
- Medium-sized enterprises with a staff of no more than 250 people and with an annual income of no more than 10 million euros in equivalent.

According to the agreement, four categories of industries have priority:

- · Agriculture, forestry and fisheries;
- Processing industry;
- Temporary placement and organisation of food;
- Supply of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning.

The loan agreement between the GUF and ProCredit Bank was signed within the framework of an agreement between Ukraine and Germany.



https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/403

EU supports the launch of the regulatory business portal "PRO Platform"

On 20 September 2017, the EU4Business FORBIZ project in partnership with the Ukrainian government have launched the regulatory portal for improved business environment in Ukraine.

The launch event "Start Business Challenge!" focused on the Portal's business pillar that provides a set of practical tools and instruments as a regulatory roadmap and business start-up guide for opening a business in a service industry thus contributing to the stimulation of entrepreneurship in the country.

"PRO" offers practical regulatory tools for entrepreneurs and regulators, and provides a platform for a regulatory dialogue. "PRO" stands for regulatory transparency, efficiency and dialogue with the business community thus contributing to improved business environment in Ukraine.



https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/412

Steps toward Innovation at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Kyiv Academic University (KAU), a new Ukrainian research-intensive university with rich history created under the auspices of both the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, initiated a series of events aimed at forming the innovation ecosystem and networking research institutes and centres of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine with the business environment and the real sector of economy representatives.

In order to create and implement effective communication mechanisms, Kyiv Academic University initiated the establishment of the KAU Innovative Technology Park, a centre to promote scientific developments and to provide appropriate conditions for creating links between science and business

A one-day mini-workshop "Technological parks as the future of modern economy: Opportunities and obstacles" was organised on the initiative of the KAU Innovation Centre in the form of a round table. This seminar was attended by SME representatives, business associations and public organisations, innovation technology business, representatives of Kyiv Science Parks and Technology parks, heads of technology transfer offices and researchers of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.



https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/420

Moving ahead in the reform of the STI sphere

The National Council on S&T Development has started its activity in Ukraine.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, based on the Law No. 848-VIII of November 26, 2015 on Scientific and Scientific-Technical Activity established the National Council on S&T Development on August 9th, 2017.

The National Council of Ukraine for Science and Technology Development includes the Administrative and Scientific Committees. The first one consists of 24 scientists, selected by the special Identification Committee on competitive basis from Ukrainian scholars with high international reputation. The Administrative Committee includes representatives of ministries, agencies, state academies and the business community. The Council is headed by the Prime-Minister of Ukraine and it will be the highest consultative body in Ukraine in the area of S&T. Key objective of the Council is to facilitate the process of reforms in S&T and to accelerate the process of Ukrainian integration to ERA.

The main functions of the Scientific Committee are revising the drafts of the legal acts in the S&T sphere, playing an expert role, to serve as an Identification Committee for the Scientific Board of the Ukrainian National Research Fund (NRF, to start in 2018), to fulfil the role of a Supervising Board to NRF and to create the necessary temporary working groups and/or commissions in certain issues. It will also be important to introduce new mechanisms and economic incentives for boosting cooperation between the scientific sphere and the companies, which is rather weak in the country.



https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/427

The JRC teams up with Ukraine on smart specialisation strategies for innovation-driven growth

Smart specialisation is a methodology used by over 180 regions in Europe. It links industrial, educational and innovation sectors with the aim to help regions identify and select a number of priority areas for R&D investments, focusing on their strengths and comparative advantages.

It is based on stakeholder involvement, open participation mechanisms, a mix of policies and constant monitoring and update. The methodology underpins investments aimed at strengthening research, technological development and innovation, supported by the EU's regional development policy.

The project kicked off in Ukraine as a pilot focusing on a limited number of regions. So far, it has involved awareness raising events, training activities and a mapping of the Ukrainian economic, scientific and innovation potential. The results of this mapping was presented during a meeting in Kiev on 26 October 2017 with the national smart specialisation team and regional representatives. The results will form the basis for the next phase of the process: the identification of priority areas for investment and the inclusive 'entrepreneurial discovery process', where participants from different domains (policy, business, academia, etc) identify potential activities and opportunities together.



https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/433



Commission sets up High-level Strategy Group on Industrial Technologies

The European Commission has recently set up a High-level Strategy Group on Industrial Technologies. The group will make strategic recommendations to the Commission on which industrial technologies to prioritise in European research and innovation, in order to strengthen Europe's innovation capacity and leadership in industrial technologies.

The members of the group are high-level experts from industry, academia, research and technology organisations, the finance sector and from trade unions:

- Herlitschka Sabine Elisabeth (Austria)
- Hultin Stigenberg Anna (Sweden)
- Nolan Alistair (United Kingdom)
- Rosser Susan (United Kingdom)
- Rüttgers Jürgen (Germany)
- San Sebastián J. Iñaki (Spain)
- Ségol Bernadette (France)
- Stejskalová Eva (Slovakia)
- Thienpont Hugo (Belgium)
- Tolio Tullio Antonio Maria (Italy)van Saarloos Willem (Netherlands)
- Vasara Antti (Finland)
- Vázquez Adiari (USA)

The group will be chaired by Jürgen Rüttgers, former German Federal Minister for Education, Science, Research and Technology (1994 to 1998). The Group is expected to deliver its report in spring 2018. The report will feed into preparations of the successor programme to Horizon 2020.

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https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/415



RI-LINKS2UA Webinar "How to write the impact section of a Horizon 2020 proposal?"

Topic of the webinar was "How to write the impact section of Horizon 2020 proposals?".

This webinar on the 15th of September 2017 was the third of many information and mentoring web-sessions on the opportunities for Ukrainian researchers, innovators and project managers in the EU's framework programme for research, technology and innovation: Horizon 2020. Since March 2015, Ukraine is associated to this programme giving the possibility to Ukrainian researchers, businesses and innovators to fully participate in Horizon 2020.

LINK

https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/404



RI-LINKS2UA Summer School for Young Researchers

From September 25 to September 28 the RI-LINKS2UA project organised the Summer School for Young Researchers on Horizon 2020 proposal preparation and Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI).

The Summer School was prepared by the experts from Ukraine, Austria, Estonia and Poland. Almost 200 applications were received and 27 young Ukrainian researchers were invited for participation in the Summer School.

The RI-LINKS2UA Summer School introduced participants to the Horizon 2020 programme, basics of proposal writing, partner and call search, legal and financial issues as well as responsible research and innovation approach.

Training was conducted in main informative sessions and in parallel working groups.



https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/419

RI-LINKS2UA Info Day and combined Info Day in Kyiv

The RI-LINSK2UA project organised its second Information Day on 13 November, 2017. The event focused on the topic of "Advanced and Resource Materials" in the new Work Programme 2018-2020 of Horizon 2020. In the upcoming days another Information Day was organised in Kyiv. On 16 November a combined Info Day gathered participants to provide insight to thematic areas like "Transport", "Security", and also to possibilities of the CSA projects in the context of the new Work Programme of Horizon 2020.



The RI-LINKS2UA Info Day was organised with the participation of Hélène Chraye, Head of Unit Advanced Materials and Nanotechnologies of the European Commission, and representative of EU delegation in Ukraine Mrs. Yarmila Dubravská. The event took place at the Big Conference-Hall of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. This event brought together more than 60 participants dealing with researches, manufacturing and processing of new/advanced materials from research institutes, universities and industrial sector.

The InfoDay session continued on the 16th of November 2017 at the Kyiv House of Scientists of NAS of Ukraine, organised by Ukrainian NCPs on Smart, Green and Integrated Transport with the support of the RI-LINKS2UA project in the context of Horizon 2020 Working Programmes 2018-2020. About 50 persons who represent research institutions, educational organisations and Ukrainian SMEs took part in this event.

https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/451



Policy brief on how to accelerate the process of bringing knowledge to the market including promising practices from EU and Ukraine, and recommendations

A favourable ecosystem is a precondition for fostering research and innovation, therefore the aim of this policy brief is to introduce policy measures, funding models and activities that shall support the knowledge transfer between the EU and Ukraine to accelerate innovation processes by bringing academic knowledge to the market.

While the current reform of the research and innovation (R&I) system in Ukraine is aimed at the decentralisation of the present R&D system, creation of a knowledge-based economy with a focus on regional development (through capacity building to create appropriate conditions for the implementation of smart specialisation (S3)) and the revision of the current Law on Science and Technology (S&T), the objective of this brief is to provide input on relevant European practices that shall serve as a guidance and inspiration for the Ukrainian stakeholders in designing policies and measures under the current reform.

LINK

https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/401

European Open Science Cloud Declaration published

The Commission made the EOSC Declaration available to all scientific stakeholders, for their endorsement and commitments to the realisation of the EOSC by 2020.

The Declaration emerged from the EOSC Summit of 12 June, where more than 80 key scientific stakeholders showed a strong sense of commitment, dedication and intellectual rigour with respect to the implementation of the EOSC. They agreed that the EOSC is a truly common European project that we cannot afford to fail.

Overall, response has been plenty, positive and strong. Until today, 40 scientific stakeholders have endorsed the principles of the Declaration. A list of first signatories has already signed up to play a role in the EOSC 'coalition of doers'.

LINK

EU framework programmes for research and innovation - Evolution and key data from FP1 to Horizon 2020 in view of FP9

The study "EU framework programmes for research and innovation: Evolution and key data from FP1 to Horizon 2020 in view of FP9" aims to provide an overview of the evolution of the EU framework programme for research and innovation. The paper focuses on the evolution of the legal basis to adopt the programme, its structure and its budget. It then highlights key issues that will have to be addressed in the coming years in the discussion leading to the adoption of the ninth framework programme.

The involvement of the European Union in research activities (outside the coal and nuclear fields) began in the 1970s with the adoption by the Council of the first Community research programmes. As the FP evolved, the instruments used for its implementation diversified. The initial grants for transnational cooperative research projects were complemented, inter alia, by the development of public-public and public-private partnerships, the establishment of new structures such as the European Research Council (ERC) and the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT), specific instruments for SME support, and individual mobility grants. With Horizon 2020, the FP became a programme of programmes covering all aspects of the innovation process and implementing various EU policies.

LINK

https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/417



Horizon 2020 Info Day on 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing'

The Health Open Info Day will take place on 8 December. The Work Programme for Horizon 2020's Societal Challenge 1: Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing over the next 3 years (2018-2020) will be presented. Participants will be informed about the topics, deadlines and process of the next calls for proposals.

With the principle of better health for all at its core, the Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing Societal Challenge focuses on personalised health and care, infectious diseases and improving global health, innovative and sustainable health systems, decoding the role of the environment (including climate change) for health and well-being, digital transformation and cybersecurity in health and care.

Horizon 2020' Societal Challenge 1 Work Programme 2018-2020 is expected to offer calls for proposals with an overall budget of about €2 billion.

DATE

December 8, 2017

VENUE

Charlemagne building, rue de la Loi, 170, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

LINK

https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/441

Horizon 2020 Transport Info day

The info day will address potential applicants to the Horizon 2020 'Smart, green and integrated transport' calls for funding under the 2018-2020 Horizon 2020 Work Programme, with the focus on funding opportunities in 2018.

Presentations will cover various transport topics of the new Horizon 2020 Work Programme, as well as provide detailed information on the selection process and on the upcoming calls for funding.

DATE

December 13, 2017

VENUE

Charlemagne building, rue de la Loi, 170, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

LINK

https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/443

2017 Bioeconomy Investment Summit

The Summit discusses the potential the bioeconomy has to offer in building a sustainable future, and how to mobilise investments to unlock that potential.

The 2017 Bioeconomy Investment Summit is a follow-up of the Bioeconomy Investment Summit organised by the EU in 2015, and builds on the results of the Lodz Bioeconomy Congress and the Bratislava Bioeconomy Conference in 2016.

The Summit discusses the potential the bioeconomy has to offer in building a sustainable future, and how to mobilise investments to unlock that potential.

The EIT Alumni CONNECT event, which is the annual forum for EIT graduates to meet and network, will take place on 15 & 16 October, just before INNOVEIT.

DATE

December 14, 2017

VENUE

Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, Finnland

LINK

https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/440

ELNANO-2018

IEEE 38-th International Conference on ELECTRONICS AND NANOTECHNOLOGY

Section 1: MICRO-AND NANOELECTRONICS

Section 2: BIOMEDICAL ELECTRONICS AND SIGNAL PROCESSING

Section 3: ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

DATE

April 24-26, 2018

VENUE

NTUU "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute", Kyiv, Ukraine

LINK

http://elnano.kpi.ua/?index&lang=ru



2nd call for RI-LINKS2UA Horizon 2020 Project Preparation Grants launched!

The main objective of this call is to stimulate cooperation in joint proposals within the framework of the EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme between R&I actors from the EU and Ukraine.

Under RI-LINKS2UA, the 2nd call of the "Horizon 2020 Project Preparation Grant Scheme" offers financial support of 1200 EURO (lump-sum), for 10 selected applicants from Ukrainian institutions preparing Horizon 2020 proposals.



https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/call/438

Horizon Prize – Materials for Clean Air

The Horizon Prize on materials for clean air is a \in 3 million prize that will be awarded to the person or team developing the best innovative design-driven material solution to reduce the concentration of particulate matter in urban areas.

In the European Union, the average life expectancy is estimated to be decreased by 8.6 months, because of exposure to particulate matter resulting from human activities. The inhalation of particulate matter can also lead to adverse effects in the respiratory, cardiovascular, immune, and neural systems. In addition to its effects on the human health, particulate matter can also have adverse effects on climate change and ecosystems.



SPIRE Call: Energy and resource flexibility in highly energy intensive industries (IA 50%)

Deadline: 22 February 2018 17:00:00

Energy intensive industries should adapt their production processes and unit operations to increasingly sustainable, but highly fluctuating energy supply. To this end, energy and resource flexibility in the European process industry can be improved through the development of novel processes utilising more efficiently energy streams, heat recovery and raw materials flows with variable properties (including new or modified materials as well as secondary raw materials and by-products).

The challenge is to establish synergistic integration at a regional level among different production sectors leading to optimisation of production system as a whole and logistics, especially in terms of the supply of energy and raw materials. This should reduce emissions and environmental impact, while maintaining competitiveness and job security.

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https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/call/453

SPIRE Call: Processing of material feedstock using non-conventional energy sources (IA)

Deadline: 22 February 2018 17:00:00

Non-conventional energy sources, such as microwave, plasma, ultrasound and laser, as well as electrochemical and photochemical processes, have already been applied in process intensification, mainly at lab scale, showing significant improvements in process performance (e.g. improved selectivity, crystal nucleation, reaction speed easing raw material demand) for the benefit of energy efficiency. The processes powered by non-conventional energy sources are suitable for connection to the electricity grid. They allow variable throughputs to better follow market demand and enable leaner production paradigms (e.g. decreased stock, production on demand). Such technologies are suitable for downscaling and continuous processing, where they can also be coupled with real time monitoring allowing a finer control of the transformations.



https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/call/454

























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Editors: Tekla Gaál (RCISD) and Philipp Brugner (ZSI) Layout & production: RI-LINKS2UA project Contact: office@ri-links2ua.eu