

R&I-LINKS2UA

STRENGTHENING R&I → LINKS TOWARDS UKRAINE

E - JOURNAL SUMMER EDITION 2017

Dear readers,

We are happy to introduce to you the 3rd issue of the RI-LINKS2UA eJournal, our "Summer Edition" for 2017.

The last eJournal was published in spring of this year (April). The present edition aims to inform you about the project activities which have happened since then. As usual, we also compiled selected infos from external sources regarding the EU-Ukraine STI cooperation for you.

News highlight: The EU Council adopted the EU-Ukraine association agreement on July 11. This decision paves the way for concluding the Association Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine. The Association Agreement was first signed back in 2014 and much progress has been made in Ukraine ever since.

Among others, the "RI-LINKS2UA News" section reports on the visa liberalisation now in place for Ukrainian citizens travelling to the EU, the ongoing preparations for the EU-EaP summit in November in Brussels and the efforts made by the EaP countries to further develop their energy efficiency strategies.

In Ukraine, the 24 members for the newly established National Council for Science & Technology have been announced, and the National Academy of Sciences has created a dedicated office for the evaluation of Ukrainian research institutions.

Under "event reviews" you can find the events organised and implemented by the RI-LINKS2UA project over the last few months (Horizon 2020 proposal writing training in June in Kyiv). Next, you can read the latest news from the Research & Innovation sector in the EU, including updates on the first evaluation of the Horizon 2020 programme and the proposed measurements to simplify the programme in the future (and many more news). The eJournal is completed by our recommended publications and the list of upcoming events open for participation – please feel warmly invited to join us or our partners for the events of your interest.

Lastly, we selected some open EU funded calls which you might be interested in. Through our website you can also reach the full list of open calls currently announced on the Horizon 2020 platform.

We hope you will enjoy reading the 3rd edition of the RI-LINKS2UA eJournal "Summer 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

NEWS HIGHLIGHT

Council adopts EU-Ukraine association agreement

On 11 July, the Council adopted a decision to conclude the Association Agreement with Ukraine on behalf of the European Union.

This took place on the eve of the EU-Ukraine summit in Kyiv, on 12 and 13 July and was the final step of the ratification process through which the EU and Ukraine committed to a close, long-term relationship in all main policy areas. It will allow the full implementation of the agreement as of 1 September 2017.

Most of the Association Agreement is already operational. Many political and sectoral parts of the agreement have been provisionally applied since 1 September 2014, while its trade part, the deep and comprehensive free trade area (DCFTA), has been provisionally applied since 1 January 2016. The conclusion and entry into force of the agreement will now give a new impetus to the cooperation in areas such as foreign and security policy, justice, freedom and security (including migration) taxation, public finance management, science and technology, education and information society.



In 2014, the European Union and Ukraine signed an Association Agreement marking a new state in the development of EU-Ukraine relations. The Association Agreement is the main tool for bringing Ukraine and the EU closer together: it promotes deeper political ties, stronger economic links and the respect for common values. The economic part of the agreement, the DCFTA, offers Ukraine a framework for modernising its trade relations and for economic development by opening up mar-

kets and harmonising laws, standards and regulations in various sectors. This will help align key sectors of the Ukrainian economy with EU standards.

On 15 December 2016, the European Council reconfirmed its commitment to the conclusion of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and clarified the understanding of a number of aspects of the agreement. The decision by the EU heads of state and government paved the way for all EU member states to confirm the ratification of the agreement.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/388>



European Commission welcomes the Council adoption of visa liberalisation for the citizens of Ukraine

The visa-free regime entered into force 20 days after publication in the Official Journal of the amendment to Regulation 539/2001. Once in force, Ukrainian citizens with biometric passports will no longer require visas when travelling for short stays of up to 90 days to all EU Member States except for Ireland and the UK, as well as the four Schengen associated countries.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/355>

Preparations for the Eastern Partnership Summit in November in full speed as the EU revises the 20 key deliverables for 2020 for the Eastern Partnership

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a joint policy initiative between the European Union and its six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

EU Member States and EaP Partner countries share a view that the EaP should focus on delivering tangible results to citizens. In response, the European Commission and the European External Action Service identified a set of 20 deliverables for 2020, first published in December 2016, which aim to deliver concrete results and step up actions in four key priority areas:

- economic development and market opportunities;
- strengthening institutions and good governance;

- connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change;
- mobility and people-to-people contacts.

The joint working document has been revised based on contributions from EU Member States and EaP Partner countries "Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020: focusing on key priorities and tangible results"

This will focus the work in preparation of the Brussels Summit in 2017 and beyond.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/370>

Ukrainian cities join EU's Mayors for Economic Growth initiative

On 20 June, the first twenty Ukrainian cities and municipalities joined "Mayors for Economic Growth", the new flagship EU initiative. In doing so, the cities committed to taking active steps towards promoting and facilitating economic development and employment generation in their localities, in full compliance with the best European practices.

According to the EU, the signatories have become members of a professional network of local authorities (100+ members and growing) in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region, pledging to achieve tangible results in economic growth and employment generation in the three years ahead. In a press release, the EU said it will assist with capacity building, expert advice, knowledge transfer and grant support to competitively selected participating municipalities.

The Mayors for Economic Growth initiative supports cities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine to facilitate growth and job creation by improving the local business environment, stimulating entrepreneurship and attracting investment for sustainable economic development.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/368>

EU supports sustainable energy development of Ukrainian cities

24 Ukrainian cities became new members of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiative at the official opening of the European Sustainable Energy Week in the city of Slavutych. The signatories voluntarily assumed the ambitious commitment to reduce CO2 emissions by at least 30% by 2030, enhance energy efficiency and improve the quality of life for people in their communities.

The signing ceremony took place in the framework of the international, EU-supported conference "Covenant of Mayors and Energy Efficiency Building: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". The event gathered around 300 participants from more than 100 Ukrainian cities.

In his welcome address, Thomas Frellesen, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, confirmed the EU's priority to support the country in becoming more energy efficient and underlined the important role of municipalities on the path towards energy security and sustainable development.

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy is an initiative of the European Union involving local and regional authorities, which have undertaken a voluntary commitment to implement EU climate and energy objectives in their territories. The Covenant of Mayors has become the most ambitious worldwide urban climate and energy initiative, bringing together more than 7,500 signatories, representing over 220 million citizens.

Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects (CoM-DeP) is a European Union Programme in the EaP countries which supports municipalities which are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors and have a population of less than 200 thousand inhabitants.

 **LINK**

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/369>

EU and Eastern Partnership countries step-up cooperation on energy efficiency

Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers in charge of energy efficiency from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine met in Chisinau with Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Dominique Ristori, the European Commission's Director General for Energy, and Jean-Christophe Belliard, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service. Hosted by the Republic of Moldova, the dialogue included a foreign affairs session and a sectoral cooperation one on energy efficiency issues.

While this increase is still modest (+3.7%), it demonstrates that the Agreement, and more particularly the establishment of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) between the EU and Ukraine, is proving to be beneficial to Ukraine.

The Foreign Ministers exchanged views on the common challenges and best practice solutions, both in terms of foreign policy for the region and for advancing the necessary reforms for an increased state and societal resilience. In preparation for the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit taking place on 24 November in Brussels, Commissioner Hahn, Deputy Secretary General Belliard and Foreign Ministers agreed on the need for concrete deliverables of high impact for the citizens, including the extension of the core TEN-T network to the partner countries, further steps on digital area and cheaper access to broadband internet, facilitating lending for SMEs in local currency, bolstering intraregional trade and a youth package.

On energy efficiency, Commissioner Hahn and Director General Ristori with the respective Ministers examined opportunities for translating this priority into policy and investment opportunities. Following the example of Georgia and Ukraine, where joint missions of EU and IFIs identified key areas for short-term regulatory and institutional changes, other interested partner countries may benefit of this initiative. The EU, in close

coordination with the partner governments and with the international financial institutions, would continue providing funds for energy efficiency projects/investments for companies, citizens and the public sector.

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<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/389>

Nominated Candidates to the Scientific Committee of the newly-founded National Council for Science & Technology of Ukraine have been announced

Long-awaited news from Kyiv: 24 Members of the Scientific Committee of the newly established National Council for Science & Technology have been elected. Full list can be downloaded from here.

 **LINK**

<http://mon.gov.ua/usi-novivni/novini/2017/05/30/obrano-naukovij-komitet-nacrzadi-z-pitan-rozvitku-nauki-i-texnologij/%C2%A0>

National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Ukraine establishes a dedicated Office for evaluation of its research institutions

On 17 May 2017 the Presidium of the NAS of Ukraine gave the green light for a new structural unit – Office for Evaluation of the activities of research institutions of the NAS of Ukraine, analogous to the Evaluation Office of the Leibniz Association in Germany.

Key tasks of this new unit, establishment of which was recommended in the international audit of the Ukrainian S&T system ("Peer Review of the Ukrainian Research and Innovation System"), are the establishment of a transparent evaluation framework, timely informing and provision of advice to the institutes to be evaluated as well as expert reviewers involved, including international experts, maintaining liaison with the expert reviewers, organisation of their visits for the purpose of the evaluation, monitoring of international best practice and further development and improvement of the evaluation methodology for the research institutions.

 **LINK**

<http://new.nas.gov.ua/UA/Messages/news/Pages/View.aspx?MessageID=3155>



RI-LINKS2UA Training: Horizon 2020 proposal writing: Presentations available

The main objective of the event was to deliver practical knowledge on and insights into H2020 proposal writing, the evaluation procedure, project implementation and project management and to show opportunities for countries associated to H2020, such as Ukraine.

The event evoked high interest in the stakeholders community and was attended by more than 80 participants representing research institutes, universities and SMEs. The welcome speech was delivered by Viktor Martynyuk, Vice-Rector and Professor at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Selected RILINKS2UA partners appeared as trainers - they have several years of practical experience and knowledge in previous EU projects and are actively working in HORIZON 2020 projects now. Their expertise covers all aspects of drafting a project proposal, setting up a consortium and managing successfully funded projects.



The agenda included presentations on the general scope of H2020, its participation rules, the participant portal navigation, the partner search tools, as well as essential practical tips on how to write innovative and effective Horizon 2020 proposals with higher-than-average chance of winning.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/364>



Commission improves funding conditions for EU-funded researchers

Researchers working on EU-funded research and innovation projects will receive at least as much salary as they would get if they were working on national projects, and will be eligible for an additional bonus of up to €8000 per year.

The Commission has tackled the problem by adjusting the salary concept in the Horizon 2020 Model Grant Agreement, and putting it in line with national practice. Under Horizon 2020, the definition of basic salary and additional remuneration is used for calculating reimbursement of personnel costs.

According to a new, broader definition, some of the top-up bonuses that researchers previously received as additional remuneration will now be treated as part of their basic salary, to the level that they would receive when working on nationally-funded projects. In addition, the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation still allow the payment of additional bonuses under certain conditions, capped at €8000 per person per year.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/311>

Horizon 2020 found to be meeting its objectives, but is underfunded

A new assessment of the first years of Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme, shows that it is on track to help create jobs and growth, tackle our biggest societal challenges and improve people's lives. Horizon 2020 has clear European added value by producing demonstrable benefits compared to national or regional-level support, but it has been so successful in attracting the best researchers and innovators that it could have spent four times its budget in support of excellent projects.

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation said: "Horizon 2020's interim evaluation and stakeholder feedback confirm that an EU programme for research and innovation is an invaluable asset for Europe that fuels economic growth, creates the jobs of tomorrow and tackles the societal challenges of our time. However, we can always do even better, and will use the lessons learned to make Horizon 2020's last three years even more effective, and to design a fit-for-purpose successor programme".

The interim evaluation provides a comprehensive assessment of Horizon 2020 after its first three years. Of the first 11,000 projects funded so far, less than 10% have already finished (and their budget is less than 0.6% of the budget committed), so it is too early to talk about the final impact of Horizon 2020. However, the programme is already funding research and innovations that will make a difference to the economy and to people's lives.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/366>



Commission simplifies Horizon 2020

The European Commission will further simplify participation in Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme. New funding rules will reduce administrative costs to participants and help prevent accounting errors.

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, presented a package of simplification measures in a meeting with Members of the European Parliament, the European Court of Auditors and major research and innovation stakeholder organisations.

The new measures will simplify rules and procedures in Horizon 2020, making participation in the Programme easier. They will also pave the way for new simplification measures under the next Framework Programme.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/317>

Commission welcomes new European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

The European Commission has received on 24 March the new European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity aimed at promoting the responsible conduct of research to help improve its quality and reliability.

This new Code was developed by national academies of sciences and humanities through their umbrella organisation, the All European Academies (ALLEA) federation, in close cooperation with the European Commission. Professor Günter Stock, the President of ALLEA, presented the Code to Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation.

The new Code has been designed in consultation with the main academic and private sector stakeholders at EU level so as to maximise its take-up. Compared to its predecessor, the new Code takes account of developments in Open Science, including the growing importance of data quality and management. It also clarifies the responsibilities of research organisations, helping to promote an integrity-conscious research environment. The new Code is more concise than the previous version, in order to assist Member States and research institutions in developing their own policies and practices and contribute to a more coherent governance of EU research and innovation.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/337>

Independent top advisors call for increased EU investment in research and innovation for the sake of Europe's future

Europe must capitalise better on the knowledge it produces, and turn its innovation potential into economic growth.

Research and innovation should be prioritised in EU and national budgets, with a doubling of the budget of the successor to Horizon 2020, the current EU research and innovation programme. And it should involve citizens in addressing global challenges through broadly mobilising innovation missions.

These are among the eleven recommendations presented on 3 July to the Commission in a new vision for EU research and innovation, prepared by an independent high level group of leading experts chaired by Pascal Lamy, President Emeritus of the Jacques Delors Institute.

Inspired by the report, over 700 scientists, innovators, business people and policy makers discuss the future of research and innovation in Europe today at the conference Research & Innovation – Shaping our Future, hosted by Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/385>



LAB – FAB – APP — Investing in the European future we want

The report, entitled LAB – FAB – APP: Investing in the European future we want highlights that in the last twenty years, two thirds of economic growth in industrialised countries is attributed to research and innovation. Its recommendations focus on maximising the impact of EU investments in research and innovation in order to increase prosperity and solve our biggest societal challenges.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/386>

Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation

On 29 May 2017, the Commission published the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, required by Article 32 of the regulation establishing Horizon 2020.

The interim evaluation aims to contribute to improving the implementation of Horizon 2020 in its last Work Programme 2018-2020, to provide the evidence-base for the report of the High Level Group on maximizing

the impact of EU Research and Innovation programmes and to inform the design of future Framework Programmes.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/379>

The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity



ALLEA, the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, published in March the revised edition of The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, a document that serves the European research community as a framework for self-regulation across all scientific and scholarly disciplines and for all research settings.

Particularly the revised Code addresses recent and emerging challenges emanating from technological developments, open science, citizen science and social media, among other areas. The publication was presented to the European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, in Brussels, who recognised the relevance of the ALLEA Code as a model for organisations and researchers across Europe.

The Code sets out principles of research integrity, criteria for good research practice, and describes how to prevent violations of research integrity. The present revision is motivated by current developments in the European research funding and regulatory landscape, changing institutional responsibilities, and evolving review procedures. In addition, the Code is applicable to expanding open access publishing, and the use of digital repositories, and takes into account new ways of communicating science and involving citizens in research. The Code seeks to empower individual researchers and a variety of research bodies, funding agencies and publishers by creating a common understanding of how research should be conducted.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/338>

The economic rationale for public R&I funding and its impact

The Directorate-General for Research & Innovation (DG RTD) of the European Commission regularly carries out policy-oriented in-house analyses on the economic impact of research and innovation (R&I) investments and reforms. The current paper highlights the economic rationale for public R&I funding, presents a number of empirical estimates about the impacts of R&I investment in general, and of public R&I in

particular, and concludes that the impacts of public R&I funding are large and significant and that acts as a catalyzer to boost higher levels of productivity growth that are needed to accelerate economic growth and create more and better job opportunities.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/326>



2017 Black Sea Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy

Building on the success of the previous three events, in Bucharest (2014), Sofia (2015) and most recently in Odessa (2016), the conference has turned into a main forum for institutional and private stakeholders working on maritime affairs in the Black Sea to discuss common actions to:

- support blue growth,
- support integration,
- share innovative business practices,
- improve marine knowledge and enhance marine environment
- promote maritime careers,
- identify sources of funding for maritime projects and
- seek partners to fulfil them.

Technical workshops will focus the debates on the above-mentioned themes and seek an open discussion with the audience.

DATE

September 15, 2017

VENUE

Hotel Radisson Blu Batumi, Batumi, Georgia

LINK

<https://www.eap-plus.eu/object/event/384>

RI-LINKS2UA Summer School for Young Researchers

The RI-LINKS2UA project invites young researchers from Ukraine to take part in the Summer School on Horizon 2020 proposal preparation and Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI).

The RI-LINKS2UA Summer School will introduce 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 will be conducted in main informative sessions and in parallel working groups. The working groups will focus on specific topics relevant to STI priorities in Ukraine:

- Group 1 "Resource materials"
- Group 2 "Biotechnology"
- Group 3 "Transport"
- Group 4 "Science with and for Society"

DATE

September 25-28, 2017

VENUE

Odessa

LINK<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/376>

INNOVEIT 2017

The EIT's Innovation Forum, INNOVEIT 2017, combines the EIT Awards and the EIT Stakeholder Forum. This year the event will focus on shaping innovation in Europe and consulting stakeholders on the EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) 2021-2027.

Bringing together stakeholders from across the European innovation community, the forum is an inspiring and interactive event that:

- Showcases successful innovations and ventures emerging from the EIT community, including their development and effect on societal challenges;
- Presents the next generation of entrepreneurs and change agents;
- Provides stakeholders with an opportunity to talk about shaping the future of innovation in Europe.

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

October 16-17, 2017

VENUE

Budapest, Hungary

LINK<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/342>

ICT Proposers' Day 2017

This networking event centres on European ICT Research and Innovation with a special focus on the Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2018-20.



The event will focus on the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-20 in the field of Information & Communication Technologies. It will offer an

exceptional opportunity to build quality partnerships with academics, researchers, industrial stakeholders, SMEs and government actors from all over Europe.

Access your personal profile on "My event" to make the most of the ICT Proposers' Day 2017. Here you can add your ideas and upload presentations, prepare for networking and/or join various sessions.

DATE

November 9-10, 2017

VENUE

Budapest, Hungary

LINK<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/358>

Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 2 Infoweek including high-level policy events

The Research Executive Agency (REA), the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) and the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) of the European Commission are co-organising an Info Week on Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 2 (SC2) 'Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy'.

The usual SC2 Info Day on the new SC2 Work Programme for 2018-2020 and a related brokerage day will be complemented by two high level dissemination and policy events and a bioeconomy village highlighting SC2 projects and initiatives.

DATE

November 14-17, 2017

VENUE

Brussels, Belgium

LINK<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/350>

Expert evaluators needed to help select high-potential innovators

From autumn 2017, Horizon 2020 will support innovation projects from innovators, researchers, corporates and SMEs active in any sector or technology. Various calls will open up for proposals for breakthrough innovations that have the potential to create new markets. This will be part of a pilot European Innovation Council (EIC).

LINK<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/371>

ERC Advanced Grant Call 2017

Advanced Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements. Applicant Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.

Advanced Grants may be awarded up to a maximum of EUR 2 500 000 for a period of 5 years. However, up to an additional EUR 1 000 000 can be requested in the proposal to cover (a) eligible "start-up" costs for Principal Investigators moving to the EU or an Associated Country from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant, and/or (b) the purchase of major equipment and/or (c) access to large facilities.

DEADLINE

August 31, 2017

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/call/363>

Institutional/ Project Funding

EU: Future & Emerging Technologies: Open research & innovation actions, up to 3 Mio per project

DEADLINE

September 27, 2017

LINK

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/fetopen-01-2016-2017.html>

EaP PLUS cluster grants, apply by 30 September

EaP PLUS offers 6 grants in total of up to 10.000€ to EaP clusters or cluster-like legal entities or organisations to support the cooperative activities between the EaP and EU clusters.

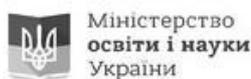
DEADLINE

September 30, 2017

LINK

<https://www.eap-plus.eu/object/call/89>

Project partners



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