



E - JOURNAL SPRING EDITION 2018

Dear readers,

We are happy to introduce to you the 5th edition of the RI-LINKS2UA eJournal, our "Spring Edition" for 2018.

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

A lot has happened since the publication of the last eJournal in winter last year. A special highlight that is presented in this eJournal is the approval of the Roadmap for Ukraine's integration into the European Research Area (ERA-UA) by the Collegium of the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) of Ukraine. The Roadmap puts forward six key priorities that were developed in a working group which brought together national and international high-level experts.

Good news can be reported in terms of Ukrainian participation in the Small and Medium-Sized company funding instrument of the EU. A Ukrainian SME was selected for funding and will now be supported as part of the recently launched European Innovation council pilot. Another measure dedicated specifically at SMEs in Ukraine was the EU4Business workshop held in Kiev. The workshop gathered key stakeholders focussed on the importance of performance measurement of SMEs as well as definitions and methods for producing entrepreneurship statistics in this field.

Regarding the new Horizon2020 work programme for 2018-2020 some more information material was made available by the EC. A booklet describing the Focus areas of the new work programme and two reports were issued dealing with insights gained from the preceding work programmes. You can also find a list of recommended publications in the eJournal dealing with successful participation in EU programmes, R&I in the Ukraine and facts and figures about H2020.

Furthermore, the eJournal provides you with an overview on the recent and upcoming events that have taken or will take place in the course of the project, including an info day on proposal writing in H2020 and a workshop targeted at Ukrainian NCPs held in Kiev.

Last but not least, the eJournal presents a list of current EU calls open to the participation of Ukrainian researchers.

We hope you will enjoy reading the fifth RI-LINKS2UA eJournal and find some useful information for your specific purposes.

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



Roadmap for Ukraine's Integration into the European Research Area (ERA-UA) has been approved

The Collegium of the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) of Ukraine has approved The Roadmap for Ukraine's Integration into the European Research Area (ERA-UA).

This is a strategic document required for long-term planning and development of further actions, such as a detailed action plan for the Roadmap implementation, which will specify milestones, necessary resources, etc.

The ERA-UA Roadmap stipulates six key priorities for the development of:

- Effective national research systems;
- Optimal transnational co-operation and competition;
- Opened labour market;
- Gender equality in research;
- Effective exchange and transfer of scientific knowledge;
- International cooperation.

The working group included 60 representatives of various organisations and departments from the Ministry of Education and Science and other ministries, relevant Committees of the Verkhovna Rada, National Academy of Sciences, branch academies, leading universities, international organisations and NGOs, etc. Furthermore, a wide range of national and international experts contributed to the discussions of the working group on the Roadmap. Additionally, experience of various EU member states (e.g. Austria, Finland, Germany, Estonia, etc.) was studied and taken into account during its development.



<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/543>



Ukrainian SME selected for funding under EIC pilot Instrument

The EU will support 257 small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) from 31 countries, including a company from Ukraine, who aim to get their innovations faster to the market.

The companies have been selected in the latest round of the SME Instrument, which is part of the recently launched European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot. The funding of €12.65 million in total comes from Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

Examples of the projects selected to receive EU funding include solar street lights, software that uses augmented reality to help industrial plants monitor their production chain, a diagnosis tool for sleep apnoea, an innovative mobile payment technology, a custom-made paint vending machine and a wrapping machine for sustainable packaging.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/545>

EU4Business: Workshop puts focus on entrepreneurship statistics in Ukraine

International standards, definitions and methods for producing entrepreneurship statistics were discussed at a recent workshop in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev. The workshop was organised as part of the EU-funded project on 'Improving SME Statistics in Ukraine', implemented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The workshop was attended by key stakeholders involved in the production and use of business statistics, including the country's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the Cabinet of Ministers, the State Statistics Service and the National Bank. Representatives from the EU Delegation to Ukraine, the Forbiz Ukraine team and the policy research community also attended the event.



EU4Business

The participants heard from OECD experts about the importance of measuring the performance of small and medium-sized enterprises

(SMEs) for policy design as well as about measuring key variables of interest for statistical analysis and examples of cross-country analysis. They were also introduced to definitions and methodologies to produce business demography indicators.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/540>

Eastern Partnership meeting under a new institutional set-up: keep on delivering for the benefit of citizens

Representatives from EU Member States and the six Partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine met on 12 March in Brussels and agreed on the key priorities for 2018 to deliver on the commitments taken at the Eastern Partnership Summit of 24 November 2017.

The meeting focused on the role of the renewed Eastern Partnership in delivering results for the benefit of people according to the "20 Deliverables for 2020" agenda under a new institutional set-up. This was the first meeting organised under the new institutional structure which was officially adopted at the Eastern Partnership Summit to ensure a more results-oriented approach. The new set-up aims at supporting the reform processes in the six partner countries more efficiently in the following four priority areas:

- Stronger economy: economic development and better market opportunities;
- Stronger governance: strengthening of institutions and good governance;
- Stronger connectivity: enhancing connectivity, notably in the areas of transport and energy, as well as environment and climate change;
- Stronger society: increasing mobility and contacts between people.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/531>



VentureEU: €2.1 billion to boost venture capital investment in Europe's innovative start-ups

The European Commission and the European Investment Fund (EIF) have launched a Pan-European Venture Capital Funds-of-Funds programme (VentureEU) to boost investment in innovative start-up and scale-up companies across Europe.

Europe boasts a wealth of talent, world-class researchers and skilled entrepreneurs, but it can do better at turning that excellence into success stories. Access to risk capital for innovation plays a key role. The Commission and the EIF announced six participating funds to receive EU support in their mission to invest in the European venture capital market. Backed by EU €410 million of EU funding, the programme is aiming to raise up to €2.1 billion of public and private investment. In turn this is expected to trigger an estimated €6.5 billion of new investment in innovative start-up and scale-up companies across Europe, doubling the amount of venture capital currently available in Europe.

 LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/547>

From blue-sky research to market: new independent review praises ERC innovation initiative

The first ever review of the ERC's innovation scheme – the Proof of Concept Grants - shows that the initiative is "sound in concept and effective in practice", helping ERC-funded scientists to set up new companies, file patent applications and attract capital to make their research marketable.

It also found that the scheme has brought about a significant cultural change within the research community. The assessment, carried out by independent experts, comes seven years after the ERC first introduced this top-up funding to encourage its grantees to explore the commercial and societal potential of their breakthroughs.

On the whole, ERC-funded projects prompt innovation, but the study found that those backed by Proof of Concept grants are even more effective in this respect. A survey compared the performance of Proof of Concept grantees to a control group of ERC grantees who commercialised their ideas without the top-up funding. Twenty percent of the reviewed Proof of Concept grants led to the creation of new companies, compared to around 6% in the control group. More than 42% of projects reported at least one patent application (17% in the control group) and the Proof of Concept projects were more likely to generate technology licensing agreements. More broadly, four out of five beneficiaries of the scheme achieved the objectives of their projects. The report confirms the underlying quality of the ERC-funded research and its potential for commercial and societal impact.

 LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/538>

Jury of top-experts to pick market-creating innovations for EU funding

The European Commission unveiled the names of 85 investment and innovation experts from 26 countries on 10 January, who will select the best innovations for funding under Phase 2 of the SME Instrument. Selection will now be based on both paper applications and face-to-face interviews.

The new jury of experts will start working from the next SME Instrument Phase 2 cut-off date on 10 January. The jury has been set up as part of a revamped assessment process introduced under the European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot to better identify radical, market-creating innovations by taking full account of the personal qualities and motivations of the applicants. Under the new system companies that pass the initial selection stage for up to €2.5 million of SME Instrument Phase 2 funding will have to pitch their innovation projects in front of the jury of experts. This will complement the existing paper-based assessment.

The jury members have been selected in an open and transparent way following a call for expressions of interest. The jury consists of around 15% business angels, 20% entrepreneurs, 20% venture capitalists, with other experts coming from larger corporations, innovation hubs and accelerators. The majority of the experts are women.

 LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/464>

Horizon 2020 interim evaluation - Maximising the impact of EU research and innovation

Europe must step up investment in research and innovation in order to maximise impact, while also further refining the success story Horizon 2020, the EU Framework programme on Research and Innovation.

This is one of the key messages from the Communication on the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation that the European Commission presented on 11 January. It also calls for a mission-oriented approach, focusing on cracking specific challenges, as a way of boosting the impact of the programme. Other key messages include the need for an increase in effective engagement of citizens and support for breakthrough innovation. Concrete links with other EU funding programmes should be deepened and open science strengthened.

 LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/463>

EC publishes booklets on H2020 focus areas for 2018-2020

In the last three years of its duration, the EU's Research Framework Programme Horizon 2020 Work Programme will focus on fewer topics with bigger budgets, directly supporting the Commission's political priorities.

The four Focus Areas for 2018 - 2020 represent a combined budget of € 7 billion:

- Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future,
- Connecting economic and environmental gains – the Circular Economy,
- Digitising and transforming European industry and services, and
- Boosting the effectiveness of the Security Union.

The European Commission has now published four dedicated booklets presenting these four priority areas and the contributions made to them from various programme parts to pursue a common objective and create sustained impact.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/465>

Mazzucato Report presented - independent report calls for mission-oriented EU research and innovation

A plastic-free ocean, 100 carbon neutral cities by 2030 or decreasing the burden of dementia. These are examples of bold but concrete goals. Setting EU-level research and innovation missions with such ambitious goals can inspire European citizens, push the frontier for research and innovation, drive economic growth, and help solve some of our society's biggest challenges.

The report recommends five key criteria for the selection of missions at EU level. They must:

- Be bold and inspirational, with wide societal relevance
- Be ambitious, but with realistic research & innovation actions
- Foster cross-disciplinary, cross-sectoral and cross-actor innovation
- Set a clear direction: targeted, measureable and time-bound
- Require multiple, bottom-up solutions

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/527>



RI-LINKS2UA targeted workshop for Ukrainian NCPs

The event was held on 1 December in Kiev and was divided into three blocks.

- Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-20, where a general overview was given, and novelties and highlights of the new work programs were stressed.
- Role of the NCPs in the RTD Network. Effective Work Organisation, NCP guidelines, key principles and minimum standards were analysed.
- NCPs promotional activity. This block was the core of the whole workshop. The goal was to design a detailed plan at least for three upcoming events. As usual, practical activities alternated with theoretical considerations.



Ukrainian NCPs activities will continue in Romania, France, Poland and Estonia, where NCP twinning will take place next year.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/460>

RI-LINKS2UA info day on proposal writing in Horizon 2020

On 14 February, the RI-LINKS2UA project organised an info day on "How to write a successful proposal in Horizon 2020" at National Aviation University of Ukraine.

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 to participate in the Summer School.

In response to the current open calls in the field of transport and aviation in Horizon 2020, the RI-LINKS2UA project organised a targeted info day at the National Aviation University (NAU) of Ukraine. The topic for the info day was "How to write a successful proposal in Horizon 2020" and the event was jointly organised by the three project partners ZSI (Austria) and MESU, NIP (Ukraine).

After an introduction from a representative of NAU, Stella Shapoval (MESU) and Olena Koval (NIP) spoke about the current situation of Ukraine in regard to its participation in Horizon 2020. Moreover, Olena Koval presented a general overview about Horizon 2020 and the opportunities it provides to Ukrainian applicants.

The main session of this info day was dedicated to writing a proposal in Horizon 2020. It was covered by Gorazd Weiss and Philipp Brugner from ZSI. Around 30 people participated in this info day, with a majority coming from the NAU. In half a day, they could learn about the following specifics when preparing a proposal for Horizon 2020:

- From a project idea to project implementation
- Preparing a proposal
- Structuring a proposal
- Submitting a proposal
- Drafting the communication, dissemination and exploitation part of a proposal

LINK<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/487>

Euresearch Webinar on the Individual Fellowships of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Basic Information on the European and Global Fellowships.

The call for proposals for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) Individual Fellowships opens on 12 April with a deadline on 12 September 2018.

There are two types of MSCA Fellowships: The European and the Global Fellowship. Both of them target researchers on a postdoctoral level. They offer funding for a research stay abroad. The researcher must at the time of the call deadline either have a PhD or least four years of full time research experience after the point of time when s/he obtained the degree which formally allowed him/her to embark on a doctorate. Additionally, the mobility rule must be respected: The researcher must not have spent more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the call deadline in the country of the future host institution.

DATE

April 24, 2018

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/539>

European IPR Helpdesk Webinar - Consortium Agreements

This webinar aims at providing: A general overview of the way in which the drafting and negotiation of consortium agreements should be addressed in H2020, with a focus on IP provisions.

Learning Objectives:

After the training, participants should be able to answer the following main questions:

- What is a consortium agreement?
- When should the consortium agreement be signed, and by whom?
- What model consortium agreements are available, and for what types of projects?
- What issues should a consortium agreement deal with?
- Regarding IP: which GA rules should not be contradicted by the CA?
- Regarding IP: what are the areas in which GA rules leave flexibility for the CA?
- Regarding IP: how to use the CA as a tool: examples of clauses to add to your draft

DATE

May 2, 2018

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/472>

AgriResearch Conference - Innovating for the future of farming and rural communities

The EU AgriResearch Conference is dedicated to scientists, farmers, rural communities, industry, advisors, policy-makers, citizens and NGO representatives who wish to learn about EU agriculture and rural R&I activities and achievements and to have their say on how to shape the future of agriculture R&I after 2020.

The conference will also be a great occasion to network with around 500 peers.

The conference objectives are:

- to take stock of the implementation of the strategic approach to EU agricultural R&I and present its first achievements regarding knowledge produced, linkages established between EU policies or new avenues opened in terms of implementation approaches;
- to kick-start a participatory process to discuss how to further structure agricultural and rural R&I activities under future EU policies, in particular the future EU framework programme for research and innovation and the future CAP by identifying key issues deserving particular attention under the different strategy priorities and exploring how to maximise impact and synergies between the various EU policies and instruments.

**DATE**

May 2-3, 2018

VENUE

Le Charlemagne, Brussels

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/536>

European IPR Helpdesk Webinar - IP Management in H2020 - with a special focus on MSCA

The webinar will provide an overview of key aspects in the field of intellectual property management in Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

Learning Objectives

This training session provides an overview of:

- Relevant IP issues for MSCA proposals
- Particularities of MSCA grant agreements
- Ownership of background and results
- Questions from MSCA participants received at the EIPRHD
- MSCA success stories

DATE

May 23, 2018

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/473>

2nd FOOD 2030 HIGH-LEVEL EVENT: Research and Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security – Transforming our food systems

The second FOOD 2030 high-level event will take place on 14-15 June 2018 during the Bulgarian Presidency of the European Council. It will be dedicated to research and innovation (R&I) as a driver of food systems transformation; such that our food systems become sustainable, resilient, inclusive, responsible, resilient, diverse and competitive.

In the plenary session and 6 parallel sessions the speakers will demonstrate the status quo of Food research and innovation policy and its vision of shaping tomorrow's food and nutrition systems. The high level events will provide a dialogue platform and recommendations for the following actors:

- policy makers and R&I funders
- researchers and educators
- the private sector
- civil society

DATE

June 14-05, 2018

VENUE

Plovdiv, Bulgaria

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/532>

DAAD Workshop - "Fair Play and Equal Chances at Higher Education Institutions. Diverse Perspectives

from Germany, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine"

The University of Duisburg-Essen invites applications for a workshop with the goal of developing a set of guidelines on corruption prevention for higher education institutions.

The workshop will consist of two parts:

I. Visit of European Institutions that set standards in good governance, higher education or research, such as the European Commission (European Anti-Fraud Office and Directorate General for Education and Culture), the European Research Council, and the European Parliament Committee on Education and Culture (Brussels offices).

II. Workshop in Essen, where the participants will process the obtained information in working groups as well as gain additional insight from researchers on corruption in higher education. As a result, the participants will develop recommendations (Code of conduct) for higher education institutions on how to establish a level "playing field" across all phases of higher education.

DATE

July 9-18, 2018

VENUE

Brussels, Essen

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/462>



Statistics and Analyses of Ukrainian Participation in HORIZON 2020 (updated after 404 concluded calls)

83 organisations from Ukraine receives 17.23 million euro from the EU within Horizon 2020 programme. Among them, there are Higher Education Institutions, Research Organisations, and Private Sector. In total, 505 Ukrainian organisations participated in the preparation of 915 project proposals, expecting European Commission contribution of 312.81 million euro.

These results classify Ukraine on the sixth place among Associated Countries, just after Serbia and Iceland in both the number of participations and gained contributions from European Commission. At the same time, Ukraine's results in the number of participations and gained European Commission contribution was three times better than that of Tunisia, Bosnia-Herzegovina or Moldova.

The potential of the country is bigger, though. Ukraine requires further reforms to create more favourable conditions for the intensification of cooperation between Ukrainian science and industry with partners from the EU and other countries involved in Horizon 2020.

LINK

https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/481/attach/Statistics_and_Analyses_of_UA_Participation_in_H2020_updated_after_404_concluded_calls.pdf

Making the Most of Your H2020 Project - Boosting the impact of your project through effective communication, dissemination and exploitation

Confused by the difference between communication, dissemination and exploitation for your Horizon 2020 project? IPR Helpdesk has the answer. Read their new publication "Making the Most of Your Horizon 2020 Project", written in collaboration with the European Commission.

The brochure sheds light on the terminology of communication, dissemination and exploitation by illustrating the differences between the three terms, and pointing out the areas they have in common. It is intended as an introduction, and will provide a helpful overview when developing your project's outreach and exploitation strategy and plan.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/546>

EC publishes document "Horizon 2020 In Full Swing -Three Years On – Key facts and figures 2014-2016"

The brochure "Horizon 2020 In Full Swing -Three Years On – Key facts and figures 2014-2016" provides a snapshot of the programme's main achievements, taking into account more than 300 calls for proposals. For the first time, some early trends can be glimpsed from the year-on-year evolution of key monitoring data such as success rates, SME participation, and project evaluation.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/484>

EntreComp into Action - Get inspired, make it happen: A user guide to the European Entrepreneurship Competence Framework

This guide is a tool for those individuals and organisations who wish to explore why, when and how they can use EntreComp, the European

Entrepreneurship Competence Framework. The entrepreneurship competence is increasingly recognised as a competence for life, relevant to personal development and fulfilment, finding and progressing in employment, as well as initiating new ventures ranging from community campaigns, social enterprises to new start-up businesses.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/526>



PhD Thesis Presentation Contest

Thousands of students from Ukraine study and receive research training abroad. At the same time, the overall visibility of this talented next generation of scientists remains rather underappreciated, both abroad and in Ukraine.

There are also many PhD students who work on joint bi-lateral or international collaborative projects, or carry out research on topics related to Ukraine – e.g. its history, language, ecology, etc. The UKRAINE Network PhD Thesis Presentation Contest aims to promote these young scientists and in doing so contribute to increasing the visibility of Ukrainian PhD students abroad and raising the profile of the international academic collaboration with Ukraine.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/call/542>

Commission launches EIC Horizon Prize for Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid

The European Commission has launched the first of six European Innovation Council (EIC) Horizon Prizes on Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid. EIC Horizon Prizes are part of the European Innovation Council pilot run under Horizon 2020, the EU's Framework Programme on Research and Innovation.

The Prize on Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid will reward the best, proven, cost-effective, tech-based solutions for Humanitarian Aid. The prize amount of €5 million will be divided equally into five categories: shelter and related assistance; water, hygiene and sanitation; energy; health and medical care; and an "open" category. Technologies include – but are not limited to - nanotechnologies, advanced materials or 3D printing.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/457>

Commission launches €10 million EIC Horizon Prize for innovative batteries for electric vehicles

The European Commission has launched the fifth of six European Innovation Council (EIC) Horizon Prizes, on Innovative batteries for eVehicles, worth €10 million. The EIC Horizon Prizes are part of the first phase of the European Innovation Council under Horizon 2020, the EU's Research and Innovation Framework Programme.

The prize will be awarded for the development of a prototype battery that can power an electric vehicle with similar performance in terms of range and charging time as a conventional petrol/diesel powered small family vehicle. The battery should also be of relatively low cost, durable, safe and fully recyclable. The Prize aims to tackle the challenge of the slow uptake of zero emission electric vehicles so far, mainly due to the limitations of existing batteries, which are expensive and have limited ranges and long recharging times.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/524>

2nd round of EaP Plus Grant scheme for networking in Brokerage Events or Preparatory Meetings

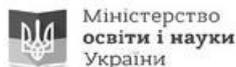
The EaP PLUS Team announces the 2nd round of the Call for Grants for networking in Brokerage Events or Preparatory Meetings. This grant for networking financially supports the participation of local researchers from Eastern Partnership countries in Brokerage Events related to Horizon2020 and Preparatory Meetings for the development of H2020 project proposals. The 2nd round of the scheme will give special priority to applications concerning SPIRE calls which are explicitly encouraging participation from EaP countries.

The aim of the Grant scheme is to extend scientific networks between EU Member States/non-EaP Associated Countries and EaP countries as well to increase the number of EaP participants in submitted H2020 project proposals. The scheme will financially support EaP researchers from:

- Research entities e.g. research institutions/organizations, higher education institutions etc.,
- Industry,
- Municipalities
- SMEs

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/call/528>



The RI-LINKS2UA project is funded by the Horizon 2020 EU FP for R&I under grant agreement no. 692476.

For the content of this eJournal the Regional Centre for Information and Scientific Development (RCISD) is responsible. It does not represent the opinion of the European Commission. Neither the European Commissioner nor the editors are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

Subscription & recent issues available at: <http://www.ri-links2ua.eu>

Editors: András Csondor, Tekla Gaál (RCISD) and Wolfgang Haider (ZSI)
Layout & production: RI-LINKS2UA project
Contact: office@ri-links2ua.eu