

R&I-LINKS2UA

STRENGTHENING R&I → LINKS TOWARDS UKRAINE

E - J O U R N A L S U M M E R E D I T I O N 2 0 1 8



Dear readers,

We are happy to introduce you to the 6th edition of the RI-LINKS2UA eJournal, "Summer Edition" 2018.

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

This edition's highlight is certainly the recent announcement made by the European Commission about its ambition to allocate a budget of €100 billion to Research and Innovation, making it the highest amount ever assigned to the Programme.

The establishment of a National Research Fund in Ukraine, the selection of a Ukrainian SME for funding under the SME instrument, and the update of the Horizon2020 Work Programme 2019 are among this edition's other great news.

On the event's side, we are pleased to tell you a bit more about the RI-LINKS2UA Horizon2020 Info Day which took place in Lviv, as well as presenting you a selection of upcoming events such as the International Conference on Circular Economy (Rational use of raw materials) in Cracow or the INDtech2018 event on Industrial Technologies (Innovative Industries for smart growth) taking place in Vienna within the frame of the Austrian Council's Presidency.

We also selected for you a bunch of interesting recent publications among which statistics and analyses of Ukrainian participation in Horizon2020 and a qualitative evaluation of completed projects funded by the European Research Council.

Finally, we provide you a list of on-going EU calls for Research and Innovation grants and which are open to the participation of Ukrainian researchers.

We wish you a pleasant read.

Sincerely,

The RI-LINKS2UA Consortium – office@ri-links2ua.eu

European Commission proposes most ambitious Research and Innovation programme yet

For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission is proposing €100 billion for research and innovation.

A new programme – Horizon Europe – will build on the achievements and success of the previous research and innovation programme (Horizon 2020) and keep the EU at the forefront of global research and innovation. Horizon Europe is the most ambitious research and innovation programme ever.

Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, said "Investing in research and innovation is investing in Europe's future. EU funding has allowed teams across countries and scientific disciplines to work together and make unthinkable discoveries, making Europe a world-class leader in research and innovation. With Horizon Europe, we want to build on this success and continue to make a real difference in the lives of citizens and society as a whole."

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, added: "Horizon 2020 is one of Europe's biggest success stories. The new Horizon Europe programme aims even higher. As part of this, we want to increase funding for the European Research Council to strengthen the EU's global scientific leadership, and reengage citizens by setting ambitious new missions for EU research. We are also proposing a new European Innovation Council to modernise funding for ground-breaking innovation in Europe".

While continuing to drive scientific excellence through the European Research Council (ERC) and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships and exchanges, Horizon Europe will introduce the following main new features:

- A European Innovation Council (EIC) to help the EU become a frontrunner in market-creating innovation: The Commission's proposal will establish a one-stop shop to bring the most promising high potential and breakthrough technologies from lab to market application, and help the most innovative start-ups and companies scale up their ideas. The new EIC will help identify and fund fast-moving, high-risk innovations with strong potential to create entirely new markets. It will provide direct support to innovators through

two main funding instruments, one for early stages and the other for development and market deployment. It will complement the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

- New EU-wide research and innovation missions focusing on societal challenges and industrial competitiveness: Under Horizon Europe, the Commission will launch new missions with bold, ambitious goals and strong European added value to tackle issues that affect our daily lives. Examples could range from the fight against cancer, to clean transport or plastic-free oceans. These missions will be co-designed with citizens, stakeholders, the European Parliament and Member States.
- Maximising the innovation potential across the EU: Support will be doubled for Member States lagging behind in their efforts to make the most of their national research and innovation potential. Moreover, new synergies with Structural and Cohesion Funds will make it easy to coordinate and combine funding and help regions embrace innovation.
- More openness: The principle of 'open science' will become the modus operandi of Horizon Europe, requiring open access to publications and data. This will assist market uptake and increase the innovation potential of results generated by EU funding.
- A new generation of European Partnerships and increased collaboration with other EU programmes: Horizon Europe will streamline the number of partnerships that the EU co-programmes or co-funds with partners like industry, civil society and funding foundations, in order to increase their effectiveness and impact in achieving Europe's policy priorities. Horizon Europe will promote effective and operational links with other future EU programmes, like Cohesion Policy, the European Defence Fund, the Digital Europe Programme and the Connecting Europe Facility, as well as with the international fusion energy project ITER.

The Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Commission's science and knowledge service, will continue to contribute with scientific advice, technical support and dedicated research.

The proposed budget allocation of €100 billion for 2021-2027 includes €97.6 bn under Horizon Europe (€3.5 bn of which will be allocated under the InvestEU Fund) and €2.4 bn for the Euratom Research and Training Programme. The Euratom programme, which funds research and training on nuclear safety, security and radiation protection, will have an increased focus on non-power applications such as healthcare and medical equipment, and will also support the mobility of nuclear researchers under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

Next steps

A swift agreement on the overall long-term EU budget and its sectoral proposals is essential to ensure that EU funds start delivering results on the ground as soon as possible. Delays would force Europe's brightest minds to look for opportunities elsewhere. This would imply the loss of thousands of research jobs and harm Europe's competitiveness. From fundamental research to market-creating innovation, key advances in e.g. healthcare, climate action, green transport and sustainable agriculture would slow down; solutions for cancer treatments, greenhouse gas emissions, smart cars, and healthy diets would be delayed.

An agreement on the next long-term budget in 2019 would provide for a seamless transition between the current long-term budget (2014-2020) and the new one and would ensure predictability and continuity of funding to the benefit of all.



<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/563>



National Research Fund of Ukraine has been established

The National Research Fund of Ukraine will start its operations in 2019 with the main task to provide grant support for research and development on a competitive basis.

The relevant resolution was approved at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on July 4, 2018. The Regulations on the Fund has also been approved, stipulating the number of its employees – 60 people. The National Research Fund of Ukraine will work in the following areas:

- support of research and development activities
- promotion of scientific cooperation, scientific mobility, in particular, scientific training of researchers, including abroad
- development of the material and technical base for scientific research and development
- development of research infrastructure
- support for projects of young scientists
- popularization of science



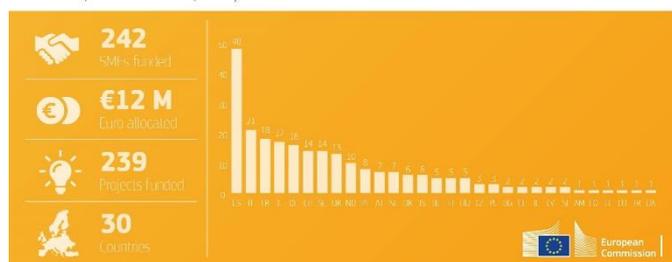
<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/612>

EIC Pilot: Ukrainian SME selected for funding under SME Instrument

A total of 242 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from 30 countries, including one from Ukraine have been selected for funding under the Phase 1 Cut-off of the SME Instrument. The companies will receive a total amount of €12 million to share between their projects to get their innovations faster on the market.

European Innovation Council pilot | SME INSTRUMENT

Results | Phase 1 Cut-off | 3 May 2018



for e-bikes that extends battery autonomy, a distance communication system for drones and a valuation tool for start-ups based on artificial intelligence.

The companies will be supported in the so-called Phase 1 of the SME Instrument, which means that each of the 239 projects will receive €50.000 to draft a business plan. Several companies can team up to propose one project. The companies will also receive free coaching and business acceleration services.

The majority of the companies selected for funding are in the field of information and communication technology (ICT), health and engineering. Most companies are based in Spain (48), Italy (21) and France (18).

The European Commission received 2149 proposals for the 3 May cut-off. The next application deadline for SME Instrument Phase 1 is on 5 September 2018.

The SME Instrument is part of the European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot that supports top-class innovators, entrepreneurs, small companies and scientists with funding opportunities and acceleration services. Companies can apply for two distinct phases under the SME Instrument, depending on the maturity of their innovation. Under Phase 1 of SME Instrument, each project receives a lump-sum of €50.000 to carry out a feasibility study. Under Phase 2, each project receives from €0.5 to €2.5 million to finance innovation activities such as demonstration, testing, piloting and scaling up. In addition, companies under both phases can benefit from free coaching and business acceleration services.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/599>

Five Ukrainian companies to receive European funding for energy-efficient innovations

Five Ukrainian companies have been selected by the Climate Innovation Vouchers Program, a joint programme of the European Union (EU) and the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), to develop technologies aiming at increasing energy efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions. The total funding amounts to €170,000.

Climate Innovation Vouchers will help program awardees to boost the development, certification, and speed-up time-to-market for their GHG-reducing, resource- and energy-efficiency advancing solutions.

The winners of the third wave of the CIV projects selection are:

- PassivDom (Kyiv) – the creator of autonomous off-the-grid solar-powered 3D-printed smart Houses, suitable for use in most of climatic zones.
- Investment company «Symvol» (Kyiv) – the developer of cast-iron-based alloys for heavy-load plain bearings. The material replaces brass- and plastic-based bearings and has up to 5x longer product life. It reduces the usage of scarce or environmentally harmful components.
- Sirocco Energy (Kyiv) – the developer of low-noise linear wind generator, suitable for urban environment and roofs of buildings.
- «Lymansk» (Rybalche) – the farm looking to implement semi-circular eco-friendly aquaponics solution with fish farming

unit, fertilizing the plants grown with fish waste products and significantly reducing water and energy usage.

- Go To-U (Lviv) – the creator of EV charging network management tool connecting socially and environmentally responsible HoReCa businesses with EV drivers and incentivizing electrical mobility.

According to Sergiy Maslichenko, Associate Director at the Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Team at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, said that having passed the equator of the Climate Innovation Vouchers program we've seen the impressive potential of Ukrainian developers of climate friendly solutions and see the clear need for launching new financial and grant products focused on developing cleantech and low-carbon economy.

Gianpiero Nacci, Deputy Head of the Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Team at EBRD, assumed that the diversity and scale of innovative solutions discovered while implementing the program are clear proof that Ukraine was the right choice to be the first country for launching EBRD Climate Innovation Vouchers. We see both significant growth potential for environmental technologies market (including the technology export potential) as well as the opportunities for developing relevant investment programs to support such growth.

Berend de Groot, Head of cooperation at the EU Delegation to Ukraine, said that the Climate Innovation Vouchers are instrumental to identify and support the most promising innovative energy and clean-tech companies, who will use the available funding to speed up their growth, thus contributing directly to the climate action, in line with our Paris commitments.

Roman Zinchenko, head of «Climate Innovation Vouchers» program and Chairman of the Board of NGO «Grencubator», noted that the results of 3rd wave of selection shows the potential of climate technologies across multiple industry verticals, as in addition to already popular directions like electrical mobility and renewables the winners represent innovations in materials, heavy machine building and housing. We expect that new players will be coming to the program, unlocking potential of sustainability and environmentally-friendly technologies.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/607>

41 Ukrainians will study at Joint Master Degree Courses at the Universities in Europe with the support of EU's Erasmus+ Programme



The Call for Erasmus+ Learning Degree Mobility in 2018 has been completed and award decision on granting scholarships

for Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Courses has been taken. 1640 Erasmus Mundus students from all over the world are selected for funding and 41 out of them will come from Ukraine representing Kyiv, L'viv, Vinnytsia, Kharkiv and Odesa. Another 128 students from Ukraine are on the reserve list of candidates to studying in Europe.

Totally, 402 applications were submitted from Ukraine among 24 085 participants competing with other 180 countries participated in the calls. 806 candidates from other Eastern Partnership countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia and Moldova) applied with 50 successful ones.

The students from Ukraine are to study Erasmus Mundus Joint Degrees in prestigious universities of the UK, Belgium, France, Czech Republic, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Greece, Portugal, Estonia and Germany. Following the rules of Erasmus+, master students will study at minimum two European universities. In addition to their main curricula, students will be enrolled in language courses, learn about the countries of their stay, discover and enjoy their culture.

This year, Ukrainian students were interested in the following fields of study: European Politics and Society; Public Sector Innovation and eGovernance; Global Markets, Local Creativities; Nanoscience and Nanotechnology; European Literary Cultures.

200 Ukrainian students have been already studying at Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes since 2014, including 187 Master and 13 PhD students. They are considered to become 'soft diplomats' as brain circulation to promote and support Ukraine in Europe and lately will contribute for Ukraine's development.



<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/606>

Eastern Partnership: EU and neighbouring countries boost cooperation on the digital economy

The EU and the six Eastern Partner countries have agreed to step up their cooperation on the digital economy: adopting a road map on reducing roaming charges, addressing the cybersecurity threat in a coordinated manner, and expanding e-services to create more jobs in the digital industry.

Commissioner Johannes Hahn said: "The EU will continue to work closely with its Eastern partners in the digital area, for the benefit of citizens across the region. Promoting high-speed broadband internet to boost economies and expand e-services, creating more jobs in the digital industry, reducing roaming tariffs among the Eastern partner countries and tackling cybercrime and cybersecurity is a priority. We are focused on delivering concrete results, with a clear programme for cooperation until 2020."

Commissioner Mariya Gabriel said: "Today's Informal Partnership Dialogue proves that we are on the right path towards a common European digital future. We warmly welcome the commitment of our Eastern partners to achieving the Deliverables by 2020; and thereby helping to build a stronger digital economy bringing direct benefits to the citizens and to succeed the digital transformation. Enhanced broadband connectivity, roadmap for reducing roaming tariffs and cooperation on cybersecurity

are just some of the few first steps in the long-term digital collaboration between the EU and its Eastern Partners."

The 10th Informal Partnership Dialogue in the framework of the Eastern Partnership bringing together the EU and the six Eastern Partners – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.– is being hosted by the Republic of Belarus.

The working sessions covered sectoral cooperation in the digital economy, and foreign affairs. On the former, three primary objectives were identified: 1. The need to adopt a road map on reducing roaming charges; 2. addressing the cybersecurity threat in a coordinated manner 3. Exploiting the potential that the digital economy and society brings to business stakeholders and citizens. On the latter, Commissioner Hahn, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service Jean-Christophe Belliard and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the six Eastern partner countries expressed a clear vision for the future based on the 20 Deliverables for 2020 in four priority areas: 1. Stronger economy; 2. Stronger governance; 3. Stronger connectivity; 4. Stronger society. Concrete goals such as extending the core TEN-T network to the partner countries, increasing energy efficiency, facilitating lending for SMEs in local currency, and supporting young people.



<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/598>



EU Budget: InvestEU Programme to support jobs, growth and innovation in Europe

For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission proposes to create the InvestEU Programme, bringing EU budget financing in the form of loans and guarantees under one roof.

InvestEU will bring together the multitude of financial programmes currently available and expand the successful model of the Investment Plan for Europe, the Juncker Plan. With InvestEU, the Commission will further boost job creation, investment and innovation.

President Jean-Claude Juncker said: "The Investment Plan for Europe has proven a success when it comes to mobilising private investment and creating jobs in Europe. It has already triggered almost €290 billion in investment that would not have been possible without it, and provided financing for 635,000 small businesses. With InvestEU, we are taking this successful model and expanding it across the many EU financing programmes on offer. We are simplifying, doing more with less, and placing a stronger focus on social investments."

Vice-President Jyrki Katainen, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, said: "The InvestEU Programme is a structural reform in the EU budget. It brings the multitude of EU financing programmes into a single structure with a single brand: InvestEU. By building on the success of the European Fund for Strategic Investments, we can continue to boost jobs, innovation and skills in Europe with the added bonus of making it easier and more transparent for beneficiaries.

InvestEU will help us achieve our policy goals such as sustainability, scientific excellence, social inclusion and helping our small businesses to scale up, with the aim of mobilising over €650 billion in investments – mostly from the private sector. And we give Member States the option to leverage their EU funds even further through the guarantee fund. A win-win".

The new programme will consist of the InvestEU Fund, the InvestEU Advisory Hub and the InvestEU Portal.

1. InvestEU Fund

Building on the success of the Juncker Plan, the InvestEU Fund will continue to mobilise public and private investment in the EU to help address the still sizeable investment gap in Europe.

2. InvestEU Advisory Hub

Building on the model of the Investment Plan's European Investment Advisory Hub, the InvestEU Advisory Hub will integrate the 13 different advisory services currently available into a one-stop-shop for project development assistance. It will provide technical support and assistance to help with the preparation, development, structuring and implementation of projects, including capacity building.

3. European Investment Project Portal

The Investment Plan's European Investment Project Portal gives visibility to investment projects across the EU and will be continued under the InvestEU Programme. The Portal brings together investors and project promoters by providing an easily-accessible and user-friendly database, giving projects more visibility and enabling investors to find investment opportunities in the sector or location of their interest.



<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/565>

The Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2019 is updated

All Horizon 2020 work programme sections have been updated, indicated by "_v2". New is the section "20. Cross-cutting activities 2018-20_v1.0".

For further details please follow the link to the Participant Portal.



http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference_docs.html#h2020-work-programmes-2018-20

European Council - Europe must step up its efforts on research and innovation

The European Council on 28 June adopted conclusions on: migration, security and defence, jobs, growth and competitiveness, innovation and digital, and on other issues. The European Council confirmed the set-up of a European Innovation Council for market-creating innovation under the next EU long-term budget. The Council also invited the Commission to launch a new pilot initiative on breakthrough innovation within the remaining time of Horizon 2020. Read the conclusions on the topic of innovation and digital issues.

- Europe must further develop its high-quality research across the EU and turn it into new products, services and business models. We need a stronger, inclusive innovation ecosystem to foster breakthrough and market-creating innovation and provide comprehensive support for businesses, including SMEs, with disruptive potential to successfully enter global markets.
- It is vital to deliver on the remaining legislative proposals concerning the Digital Single Market before the end of the current legislative cycle. To build a European data economy, further action is needed to improve the efficient use of data across the EU and foster trust through high data protection standards and full implementation and proportionate enforcement of the General Data Protection Regulation in respect of all economic actors doing business in our single market. High-quality data are essential for the development of Artificial Intelligence. The European Council invites the co-legislators to swiftly examine the latest data package. It invites the Commission to work with Member States on a coordinated plan on Artificial Intelligence, building on its recent communication.
- In line with the informal Leaders' discussion in Sofia, the European Council insists on improving businesses' access to financing, including by better coordinating EU and national research and innovation funding schemes and instruments, on providing a favourable regulatory environment that supports greater risk-taking, and on promoting digital skills as well as links between academia, industry and governments. Cooperation between research, innovation and education should be encouraged, including through the European Universities initiative.
- The European Council invites the Commission to launch a new pilot initiative on breakthrough innovation within the remaining period of Horizon 2020. A European Innovation Council will be set up under the next Multiannual Financial Framework to identify and scale up breakthrough and disruptive innovation.



<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/601>



RI-LINKS2UA Horizon 2020 Info Day in Lviv

The RI-LINKS2UA project in cooperation with the Lviv Polytechnics organized the Horizon 2020 Information Day within the framework of the IV Ukrainian-Polish Scientific Forum “Cross-border cooperation and common European space: theory, practice and new opportunities”, which took place in Lviv on June 7-8, 2018.



On June 8th, the Information Day gathered around 30 participants from Lviv Polytechnics, Ivan Franko University and several research institutes. Participants of the Information Day had a chance to learn about the Horizon 2020 programme, proposal preparation, the latest calls in Energy, Environment, ICT, MSCA, Space, and also Research Infrastructures in Horizon 2020.

Many questions were triggered by the presentation of the CONIN project, which was successful in receiving funding from the Horizon 2020. Participants were interested in issues related to partner search, project preparation as well as financial questions. Information Day presenters, which included RI-LINKS2UA project representatives from Estonia, Poland and Ukraine and also Ukrainian NCPs, helped to answer numerous questions about the Horizon 2020 programme.

The presentations from the Information Day can be found on the website.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/589>



Circular Economy – Rational Use of Raw Materials

The organizers invite you to participate in the International Conference on the Circular Economy – Rational Use of Raw Materials to be held in Cracow on 18-19 September 2018 in the Home Army Museum at 12 Wita Stwosza St., Cracow.

The key element of a circular economy is the rational management of raw materials including that of metals, energy, chemicals and industrial raw materials as well as water and biomass. The improvement of such management is still a challenge for many countries, including Poland, but it contributes not only to reducing the impact on the environment but also to ensuring the security of raw materials and energy supply. The European Commission, recognises the importance of the circular economy, and is developing and implementing an action plan that outlines new requirements for products, the principles of financial support, an educational programme, sustainable public procurement, the principles for assessing environmental performance using the life-cycle assessment method, and eco-design in the whole of the European Union. The aim of the circular economy is to boost economic growth without increasing the consumption of resources. It creates many opportunities for the rational use of raw materials i.e. reducing and optimising the use of materials, industrial symbiosis, recycling, reuse, redistribution, re-selling, refurbishment, remanufacturing, maintenance, repair, service, etc.

The purpose of this conference is to exchange knowledge and experience on effective methods of management in accordance with the rules of the circular economy and their future directions. On the first day, the subject of the conference will be the rational use of raw materials from primary and secondary sources i.e. metals, energy, chemicals, industrial raw materials, water and biomass including social and economic changes and technological and innovative solutions. On the second day the discussion will focus on implementation of the circular economy: new business models, education, CE indicators, eco-innovation, economic symbiosis and the use of new IT tools.

Participation in the conference is free of charge, but registration for the event is mandatory.

DATE

September 18-19, 2018

VENUE

Home Army Museum, 12 Wita Stwosza St., Cracow, Poland

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/594>

Advancing Science Through International Cooperation

The Forum of Ukrainian Research Diaspora "ADVANCING SCIENCE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION" is organized as a set of events to mark the centenary of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

This Forum is aimed at researchers working in Ukraine and abroad. It will include thematic scientific sessions, panels and round-table discussions to address important aspects of science and higher education reform currently undertaken in Ukraine. There also will be a session dedicated to German-Ukrainian collaboration to mark the 25th anniversary of the S&T Cooperation Agreement between Ukraine and Germany.

Main goals:

- to present excellent science, in particular highlighting successful collaborative projects
- to support establishing new and foster existing research contacts and partnerships
- to highlight research funding opportunities, including dedicated funding schemes for researchers wishing to return to Ukraine
- to discuss the reform of science and HE system in Ukraine

Register by 15 September 2018, submit the title of your scientific contribution, indicate the questions you are interested to be addressed and propose topic(s) of interest for a broader discussion!

DATE

October 20-22, 2018

VENUE

Kyiv, Ukraine

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/595>

Innovative industries for smart growth



The organisation team of the European conference "INDustrial TECHNOLOGIES 2018 - Innovative industries for smart growth" (INDTECH2018) welcomes you to Vienna from 29-31 October, 2018.

INDTECH2018, an event of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, will combine keynote presentations, talks, a matchmaking event and exhibitions. It provides an excellent opportunity to meet experts from industry, academia and policy to exchange information and to strengthen collaboration. INDTECH2018 is anticipating 1000 participants from more than 30 countries in Europe and across the globe. Registration is free of charge!

DATE

October 29-31, 2018

VENUE

Messe Wien Exhibition & Congress Center, Messeplatz 1, 1021 Vienna, Austria

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/610>

SMEs rise in industrial value chains with new innovations in the bio-based economy

The multidisciplinary aspect of the bio-based economy makes it a hotbed for innovation, but at the same time makes it difficult to bring the innovations to the market as both the production processes, the value chains, and sometimes even the products are non-existing yet.

A circular bio-based economy provides an opportunity to build new end-of-life option into material supply chains allowing the conversion of waste into useful and valuable resources by incorporating the principle of cascading use.

SMEs are the key drivers for innovation in both scenarios and these projects deliver a mechanism to add value to current value chains by analysing the bottlenecks and the policy guidelines to tackle them.

DATE

November 6, 2018

VENUE

Members' Salon, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/608>



Statistics and Analyses of Ukrainian Participation in HORIZON 2020 (updated after 457 concluded calls)

Ukraine became a new member of Associated Countries (AC) in March 2015. Since then, Ukrainian organizations have been able to fully participate in Horizon 2020 on equal terms with the EU Member States and other ACs.

Signed Association gives Ukraine a unique chance to significantly increase their participation in H2020. This is evidenced by the results of participation in the first 457 calls, where 579 Ukrainian organizations participated in the preparation of 1040 project proposals (1 333 participations), expecting EC contribution of 357.31 M€.

97 organizations are in 98 proposals on the MAIN LIST (125 participations), with EC contribution of 17.88 M€. In particular, Ukraine submitted 314 proposals for project co-ordinations, of which 13 were classified for funding (MAIN LIST) with EC contribution of 2.48 M€. These results classify Ukraine on the 7th place among Associated & Candidate Countries.

Detailed analyses show that 29% of UA participants are from HES (87 organizations with 392 participations in submitted proposals), while 43% are from PRC (328 with 575 participations) and over 21% are from REC (103 institutes with 284 participations). Finally, 44 PRC, 24 REC, 19 HES, 3 PUB and 7 OTH from a total of 97 organizations will participate in projects selected for funding.

UA participation results presented in relation to the potential of the country (GDP, GERD, population, number of researchers FTE) show that 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 H2020.

LINK

https://ri-links2ua.eu/page/25/attach/0_Statistics_of_Ukraine_participation_in_HORIZON_2020_after_457_included_calls_08_05_2018.pdf

Innovation kitchen - Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Impact Report



With 8 companies floating on the stock market, 18 acquisitions and a total of €1.3 billion of extra private investment leveraged, the SME Instrument has established itself as an essential player on the European innovation scene. Since its start in 2014, the SME Instrument has invested in a unique selection of 3 200 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to get their breakthrough innovations faster on the market. With a network of 750 international business coaches and a growing community of global business and finance partners from the corporate and VC world, the SME Instrument gives the right business support and coaching to get companies ready to scale up and go global. Thanks to its focus on “smart money”, the SME Instrument bridges the critical investment gap in early stage innovation and makes market-creating innovation easier in Europe.

In 2017 SME Instrument-funded companies accounted for 10% of all tech IPOs in Europe and the follow up equity investments into companies funded by the SME Instrument doubled within one year only. Each €1 invested by the SME Instrument generated €1.6 of private investment and the companies funded under Phase 2 of the programme have experienced a 118% increase in turnover and a 158% increase in employment, only two years down the line.

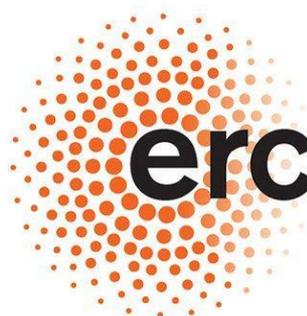
Looking ahead, in 2018 the SME Instrument becomes a central pillar of the European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot that focuses even more on market-creating innovation. The SME Instrument brings forward a new evaluation process involving a Jury of investment experts responsible for selecting the most innovative small businesses for funding.

This report offers first hand insights into growth trends and profiles of the companies funded under the SME Instrument. The report presents cumulative data from 2014 to end of 2017.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/562>

A4SMEs Assessment study report: How does the SME Instrument beneficiaries' businesses look like?



European
Research
Council

The SME instrument is targeting “Highly innovative SMEs with a clear commercial ambition and a potential for high growth and internationalisation”. The key question that arises from this statement is: is there any common pattern for these companies?

This is the objective of this report based on an in-depth analysis of more than 50 real SME instrument phase 2 winning proposals in the first four years of the instrument implementation (2014-2017).

For this analysis, the Access 4 SMEs project has collected information on SME covering the 5 key dimensions that determine the international scalability potential of a SME: Company current status, company value proposition, market knowledge, business scalability and business model.

The report presents the main findings identified for this kind of companies along three basic dimensions:

- What type of business fits best within the SME instrument?
- What type of target market fits best within the SME instrument?

- What type of teams fits best within the SME instrument?

The patterns identified across these three themes do not guarantee a 100% successful application, but it really gives real clues to intermediaries aiming to support companies within this instrument to define which companies to focus and/or help companies to develop in the right direction to become the real target of this instrument.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/615>

An Empirical Assessment of the ERC Proof of Concept Programme

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 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.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/596>

Qualitative Evaluation of completed Projects funded by the European Research Council

Since its creation in 2007, the European Research Council (ERC) has become one of the leading research funders worldwide. As part of its monitoring and evaluation strategy, the ERC performs regular qualitative assessments of the research outputs from completed ERC projects. These ex-post peer-review assessments complement other approaches based on the analysis of the bibliometric information related to the projects.

After the first two previous annual exercises (in 2015 and 2016), a new qualitative assessment was implemented during 2017. In this exercise, a random sample of 223 projects was evaluated from a pool of 470 ERC-funded completed projects. As in previous years, this ex-post peer-review evaluation was undertaken by independent, high-level international scientists, who were selected by the ERC Scientific Council. Experts who participated in the ex-ante selection of the projects for funding were excluded for this ex-post evaluation. Experts were grouped into evaluation panels aligned in their structure to those dealing with ex-ante evaluations. Each panel was composed of three to four experts; two to three of them with past experience as an ERC panel member, and one with no previous experience as ERC panel member, being neither an applicant in the last five years nor ever receiving an ERC grant.

The reviewers of the outcome from the completed ERC projects made their assessments following established guidelines. They addressed questions related to scientific impact, the introduction of new methodol-

ogies, interdisciplinarity, and societal and economic impact of each project. In addition, they were asked to provide an overall grade of projects according to the following scale: 'scientific breakthrough' (grade A), 'major scientific advance' (B), 'incremental scientific contribution' (C) and 'no appreciable scientific contribution' (D).

This report presents the outcome of the 2017 qualitative evaluation of completed ERC projects.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/597>



National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine will support young researchers with a new funding scheme

The new funding scheme is aimed at researchers with international experience and excellent academic achievements as evidenced by high-level research publications. Two-year grants will be available to support young investigator groups (up to UAH 500T pa) and laboratories (up to UAH 1 million, the laboratory leader must have at least two years of international research experience). Applications have to be submitted by 5 September. Decision is expected on 20 September.

[Call announcement and application form \(in Ukrainian\)](#)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

September 5, 2018

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/call/613>

EaP PLUS Grants for networking in Brokerage Events or Preparatory Meetings – 3rd call



The EaP PLUS Team announces the 3rd and last round of the Call for 'Grants for networking' in Brokerage Events or Preparatory Meetings. The grants for networking financially support 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 3rd round of the scheme continues to 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. For this end. The scheme will financially support the EaP researchers from:

- Research entities e.g. research institutions/organizations, higher education institutions etc.,
- SMEs and Industry,
- Local authorities,
- Civil Society

The scheme will fund participation to large-scale Brokerage Events and similar activities related to Horizon2020 as well as to Preparatory Meetings for developing project proposals targeting selected thematic calls within H2020.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

October 15, 2018

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/call/609>

Call for COST Action proposals

Participants are invited to submit proposals for COST Actions contributing to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or societal knowledge advancement and development of Europe. Multi- and interdisciplinary proposals are encouraged.

The open call Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) procedure is fully science and technology-driven and will ensure a simple, transparent and competitive proposal evaluation and selection process, reflecting the bottom-up, open and inclusive principles of COST.

Participants planning to submit a proposal for a COST Action will need to refer to the SESA guidelines.

The minimum number of countries included in the network has increased to seven Full or Cooperating COST Members. Out of the seven, a minimum of 50% must be Inclusiveness Target Countries. For more details, please refer to the annex of the updated SESA guidelines.

Participants will also need to include the updated technical annex, which should not exceed 15 pages.

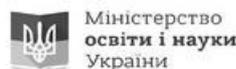
The next collection date is on Thursday, 29 November 2018 at 12:00 noon (CET). The results of the first 2018 collection will be announced in November 2018, while the results of the second 2018 collection will be published in June 2019.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

November 29, 2018

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/call/592>



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