

R&I-LINKS2UA

STRENGTHENING R&I → LINKS TOWARDS UKRAINE

E - JOURNAL W I N T E R E D I T I O N 2 0 1 8

Dear Readers,

We are happy to introduce you to the 7th edition of the RI-LINKS2UA eJournal, "Winter 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. The present 7th edition is at the same time the next to the last, as the project ends in February 2019. At the end of January next year a final edition will be published, highlighting the achievements over the past three years and the RI-LINKS2UA final event in Brussels (exact date TBC).

Regarding our own activities over the last period, we have successfully organised a Horizon 2020 national info day in Kharkiv (November), a Horizon 2020 proposal writing training in Kyiv (October), and an online webinar on Horizon 2020 research infrastructures (October). Stay tuned for a webinar on the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in H2020 on December 4 and for a training on the H2020 SME instrument on December 5-6! More information about both upcoming events you can find under "Upcoming events".

A particular emphasis in this eJournal is placed on our currently open call for Horizon 2020 project preparation grants. It is already our 4th call for proposal and we are strongly encouraging you to apply for it. If you are intending to submit to an open H2020 call, this grant is able to finance your project preparatory meetings with international partners. But be quick, deadline is already on November 30! Find all details under "Open calls".

By the way: The EU and the Eastern Partnership countries have reviewed the progress made under the "20 deliverables for 2020" in October in Luxembourg. If you are interested in the bigger political picture and the Eastern Partnership policy as such, the 20 deliverables for 2020 are certainly a must-read!

As usual, some important news from the research and innovation sector in the EU and beyond and our recommended reads have been compiled for you as well.

We wish you a pleasant read and a festive holiday season!

Sincerely,

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

NEWS HIGHLIGHT

RI-LINKS2UA Horizon 2020 Proposal Writing Training was successfully held in Kyiv

On the 17th October, a training on how to write a successful proposal in Horizon 2020 was held at the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, Kyiv.



The training on 'How to write a successful proposal in Horizon 2020?' took place on 17th October 2018 in Kyiv within the frame of the RI-LINKS2UA project and was organised by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine ([MESU](#)), the Centre for Social Innovation ([ZSI](#)), the Estonian Research Council ([ETAG](#)) and the Centre for Scientific and Technical Information and Innovation Promotion of Ukraine (NIP).

During the whole day, sessions were systematically alternated with work groups to provide participants the possibility to interactively exchange on the topics presented.

Overall, 62 participants attended the event and participated enthusiastically to the various exercises offered by the trainers.

The materials and presentations of the training are available on the link below.

 LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/636>



The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine established the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Development Office

Following the Ministerial Decree signed on 16 October 2018 by Stepan Kubiv, the First Vice Prime Minister - Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Development Office has been established. The Office has been launched with support of the European Union.

Presently operating as an advisory body within the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine (MEDT), the SME Development Office is to become in the future the main institution in charge of entrepreneurship promotion, acting as key engine for development of SME competitiveness in the country.

“The creation of SMEDO is a logical step in Government’s strategic focus on greater recognition of SMEs as vital driving force of economic growth in our country. We are also certain that the office will play a key role in boosting the domestic and international competitiveness of Ukrainian SMEs and entrepreneurs. We expect to see the concrete benefits for SMEs already in 2019”, points out **Stepan Kubiv**, the First Vice Prime Minister - Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine.

“SMEs are the backbone of the economy and SME development is one of the EU main support areas in Ukraine. We welcome the strategic SME focus of Ukrainian Government influenced by the EU “Think Small First” principle”, notes Ambassador **Hugues Mingarelli**, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine.

The key mandate of the SME Development Office is to develop targeted SME support programmes and to enhance the entrepreneurial capacities and skills, facilitate access to finance and to support development of the SME institutional infrastructure network. Additionally, the SMEDO will help coordinating the SME Policy implementation in the country, strengthen the cooperation with the donors, as well as provide access to information through a dedicated SME information portal.

SMEDO currently includes 9 experts having a diverse set of skills and experience to effectively implement the tasks, based in two main units – “SME Policy Coordination and Infrastructure Support” and “SME Promotion and Programming”.

Background information

SME development office is set up as an advisory body within the MEDT with funding support from the European Union through its FOR-BIZ project within EU4Business Initiative.



<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/638>

112 SMEs receive EU4Business loans worth UAH 380 million during first year of the German-Ukrainian Fund (GUF) Lending Programme

A total of 112 enterprises received UAH 380 million in loans during the first year of the programme of the German-Ukrainian Fund (GUF) to support investment projects of small and me-



diu-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the framework of the EU4Business initiative.

The SME Investment Support Programme is funded through a €10 million loan from the German government, provided to Ukraine through the German Development Bank KfW within the framework of the SME Support Project.

“Given the possible fluctuations in the exchange rate, KfW together with the GUF sought options for exempting partner banks and SMEs from currency risks and possible losses from devaluation of the national currency. The decision was found within the framework of the European Union initiative EU4Business, which provided financial assistance to compensate currency risk losses under SME loans,” Lutz Horn-Haacke, the Director of the KfW Office in Ukraine told a press conference to mark the first year of the initiative today.

In order to exempt banks and entrepreneurs from the currency risks, as well as to create attractive SME financing conditions, the European Union, through KfW, provided the GUF with financial assistance to compensate possible currency losses on SME loans in the amount of €5 million.

EU4Business support

“The Commission of the European Union clearly understood that the main barriers that restrict the access of Ukrainian SMEs to financing their investment projects are currency risks and high interest rates. To overcome these barriers, the EU Commission launched within the EU4Business Initiative a program on compensation of currency risk losses for financial institutions that provide SME financing,” said Simone Raudino from the EU Delegation Union to Ukraine.

Thanks to the financial assistance of the European Union, Ukrainian entrepreneurs received access to financial resources in national currency at an interest rate below the average market level for up to 6 years.

“Within the framework of the new Programme, the German-Ukrainian Fund introduced an effective model of SME Financing under the German Government loan and EU financial assistance, which allowed to finance SME projects for more than UAH 380 million in just one year.

The next step is to scale this model to meet the investment needs of a larger number of SMEs in Ukraine who seek to develop and modernize their business,"said Oleg Strynzh, Executive Director of the GUF.

In order to provide more affordable financing for SME investment projects and introduce a transparent mechanism for SME support on the basis of the GUF model, the Kyiv City State Administration joined the German-Ukrainian Fund with the initiative of interest rates compensation on SME loans in the framework of the GUF and its partner banks lending programmes.

"To support the development of Kyiv entrepreneurs, the Kyiv city authority introduced the Programme on partial compensation of interest rates on SME loans on the basis of the GUF model, which complies with European principles and approaches, due to which the cost of lending to SMEs became affordable for implementation of their long-term investment projects,"noted Nataliya Kondrashova from the Kyiv city authority.

Partner banks

The active phase of the GUF Programme began in September last year, with the first loans to GUF partner banks – ProCredit Bank, Kredobank and Ukrgasbank.

"The combination of the GUF Programme with the initiative of the Kiev authority to compensate interest rates on loans to SMEs allows to finance those enterprises that without interest compensation could not attract a loan at all, because of inability to service a debt. In addition, the possibility of obtaining credit guarantees under the EU4Business initiative through the European Investment Bank also allows to finance SMEs with insufficient collateral," explained Yevhen Mezger, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Ukrgasbank.

One of the beneficiaries of the programme was LLC "Rehabilitmed", which took an investment loan from Ukrgasbank to purchase new equipment for the production of medical products.

"Affordability of the loan was a key factor in making a decision on the implementation of an investment project on the purchase of German high-tech equipment for the production of medical goods. Thanks to the implementation of this project, the company almost doubled the volume of production, the number of staff increased by 5 employees, as well as opportunities for exporting goods to European countries,"said Olga Radinovich, General Director of "Reabilitmed" Ltd.

"Along with the programme on compensation of currency risk losses, the European Union, within the framework of the EU4Business initiative, is implementing a number of other projects aimed to improve and develop various spheres of entrepreneurial activity. In this regard, the EU4Business initiative serves as a unifying platform for ministries and institutions of Ukraine, implementing a comprehensive approach to SME development in Ukraine,"noted Valeriy Mayboroda, Acting Fund Manager of the GUF.



<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/634>

EU4Business presents opportunities map for small and medium business in Ukraine

The EU4Business initiative has developed a "[Map of Opportunities for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises \(SMEs\)](#)" in Ukraine.



The map represents a systematic and comprehensive collection of all possible tools offered to Ukrainian SMEs by the EU programmes EU4Business, COSME (the EU's programme for SMEs) and Horizon 2020, the EU's largest research and innovation programme. The tool presents information on how to get into international markets, where to find funding and how to develop business skills and improve the business climate in Ukraine.

The map consists of six main sections:

- [Projects](#) – opportunities offered by EU4Business, COSME, Horizon 2020.
- [Finance](#) – access to financing for innovation from Horizon 2020 and EU4Business credit programmes.
- [Knowledge](#) – rules for doing business in the EU, training, internships, experience exchange, free consultations.
- [Markets](#) – search for partners and investors to enter new markets.
- [Business regulation](#) – detailed information on business registration and inspection procedures.
- [Success stories](#) – case studies of Ukrainian entrepreneurs who have already entered the European market.

The Map of Opportunities for SMEs was created in the framework of the "Moving Forward Together" information campaign on the occasion of the [European SME Week in Ukraine](#), part of a pan-European campaign for developing small and medium-sized businesses, promoting entrepreneurship and informing about the EU's support for private sector development.



<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/659>

A Ukrainian SME was selected for funding under latest SME Instrument cut-off

A total of 246 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from 24 countries have been selected for funding in the latest round of the SME Instrument. Between them, the companies will receive a total amount of €12.2 million from the EU's research

and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, to get their innovations faster on the market.



The projects selected include a water-injection system to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from commercial vehicles, a decision-making tool for fully exploiting big bio-data, a digital platform for hands-on cybersecurity training, a novel cancer therapy targeting cancer networks and a technology that dissolves wood waste to extract raw materials.

The companies will be supported in the so-called Phase 1 of the SME Instrument, which means that each project (244 in total) 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 are based in Spain (33), Italy (28) and Switzerland (23).

The European Commission received 2111 proposals for the 5 September cut-off. The next application deadline for SME Instrument Phase 1 is on 7 November 2019.

The SME Instrument is part of the [European Innovation Council \(EIC\) pilot](#) that provides 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 will receive a lump-sum of €50 000 to carry out a feasibility study. Under Phase 2, each project will receive 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/643>

Eastern Partnership: The EU and neighbouring countries review the progress achieved under the 20 Deliverables for 2020 to bring concrete benefits for citizens

A meeting with Foreign Ministers of the 28 European Union Member States and the EU's six Eastern partners – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine – and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, chaired by

High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini, took place today in Luxembourg to take stock of the progress made under the 20 Deliverables for 2020.



The meeting took place one year after the last [Eastern Partnership Summit](#), during which all partners agreed on an ambitious work plan aiming at bringing tangible benefits to the lives of citizens across the region. In this context, cooperation between the European Union and its six Eastern partner countries has focused on working towards stronger economies, stronger governance, stronger connectivity and stronger societies.

High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** said: "The Eastern Partnership is a key component of our foreign policy. Our Ministerial meeting today has been an important moment to review not only the different bilateral relations we have, but also the common work we are doing within the Eastern Partnership framework. We are delivering not only economic benefits, such as increased trade volumes between all six partner countries and the European Union, but also strengthening democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms. We need to keep pressing ahead with implementation if we are to continue to see good results."

Commissioner Johannes **Hahn** said: "We should be proud of our achievements in the framework of the Eastern Partnership's 20 Deliverables for 2020. Together, the six Eastern Partners and the EU, have taken concrete steps towards making our societies stronger, the region's economies more resilient and better connected through improved transport links and infrastructure. Looking ahead, we will continue to work together for concrete results, in particular in the areas of judicial reform and ensuring an enabling environment for civil society and independent media."

Key achievements over the last year of the EU's cooperation with the six countries include:

- the launch of the Eastern Partnership European School;
- the strengthened support to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and an increase in trade between the partner countries and the EU;
- the finalisation of an indicative TEN-T investment action plan which foresees 5,500 kilometres of road and rail projects by 2020.

The ministerial meeting also provided the opportunity to exchange views and prepare for the upcoming 10th anniversary of the Eastern Partnership, which will be marked with a series of events throughout 2019.

Background

Launched in 2009 as a joint policy initiative, the Eastern Partnership (EaP) aims to deepen and strengthen relations between the European Union (EU), its Member States and its six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. At the last Eastern Partnership Summit in November 2017 all partners agreed to deliver tangible benefits to the daily lives of their citizens by focusing on achieving [20 Deliverables for 2020](#).

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/640>

Ukraine hosts European SME Week

In October and November, Ukraine hosts the European SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) Week, initiated by the EU Delegation to the country.

A series of events took and will take place in 16 cities across Ukraine where businesses will learn how to enter international markets, find financial resources, strengthen their entrepreneurial skills and improve the business climate in Ukraine.

“One of the key tasks of the European Union in Ukraine is to create the right conditions for economic development and job creation,” said Hugues Mingarelli, Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine. “We all know that the development of small and medium-sized businesses is the best way to create workplaces.”

The European SME week in Ukraine is part of a pan-European campaign for developing small and medium-sized businesses, promoting entrepreneurship and informing citizens about the EU's support to private sector development. Ukrainian entrepreneurs will find out about ideas and opportunities for cooperation and support offered by the EU for local businesses.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/630>

29 youth projects with Ukrainian participation to receive EUR 3 mln from EU program Erasmus+

The European Union's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) announced the selection results of the 2018 Call for Proposals under EU Erasmus+ Programme for Capacity Building in the Field of Youth Action for cooperation projects.



In total, 171 projects have been selected for funding. 29 projects of them will be implemented by 23 Ukrainian non-governmental organizations and universities including 11 acting as project coordinators. The EU allocated around EUR 3 million to support those 29 projects with Ukrainian participation which will be launched from October 2018 or January 2019.

The new projects are focused on youth activation and volunteering, youth entrepreneurship in rural areas, social integration of young migrants, support for young parents etc. The length of projects is 9 months to 2 years. Maximum grant award – EUR 150,000. Capacity-building projects require the participation of 3 organisations from 3 different countries.

Background information

The Capacity Building in the Field of Youth Action Window for Eastern Partnership Countries is a part of the EU Erasmus+ programme of support activities in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport. Youth Capacity-building projects aim at fostering cooperation and exchanges between youth from different regions of the world. Ukraine has been participating in this activity since 2017. During two Calls 2017 and 2018, 47 projects with participation of 35 Ukrainian organizations including 18 acting as coordinators were selected for funding in partnerships with European and Eastern Partnership countries with the total EU-funded grant amounts of more than EUR 4.7 mln.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/639>



A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe

The European Commission has put forward an action plan to develop a sustainable and circular bioeconomy that serves Europe's society, environment and economy.



As announced by President **Juncker** and First Vice-President **Timmermans** in their [letter of intent](#) accompanying President **Juncker's** 2018 [State of the Union Address](#), the new bioeconomy strategy is part of the Commission's drive to boost jobs, growth and investment in the EU. It aims to improve and scale up the sustainable use of renewable resources to address global and local challenges such as climate change and sustainable development.

In a world of finite biological resources and ecosystems, an innovation effort is needed to feed people, and provide them with clean water and energy. The bioeconomy can turn algae into fuel, recycle plastic, convert waste into new furniture or clothing or transform industrial by-products into bio-based fertilisers. It has the potential to generate 1 million new green jobs by 2030.

Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness Jyrki **Katainen** said: "It has become evident that we need to make a systemic change in the way we produce, consume and discard goods. By developing our bioeconomy – the renewable segment of the circular economy – we can find new and innovative ways of providing food,

products and energy, without exhausting our planet's limited biological resources. Moreover, rethinking our economy and modernising our production models is not just about our environment and climate. There is also great potential here for new green jobs, particularly in rural and coastal areas."

Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos **Moedas**, added: "The EU aims to lead the way in turning waste, residue and discards into high value products, green chemicals, feed and textiles. Research and innovation plays a key role in accelerating the green transition of the European economy and in meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals."

Delivering a sustainable circular bioeconomy requires a concerted effort by public authorities and industry. To drive this collective effort, and based on three key objectives, the Commission will launch 14 concrete measures in 2019, including:

1. Scaling up and strengthening the bio-based sectors:

To unleash the potential of the bioeconomy to modernise the European economy and industries for long-term, sustainable prosperity, the Commission will:

- establish a €100 million Circular Bioeconomy Thematic Investment Platform to bring bio-based innovations closer to the market and de-risk private investments in sustainable solutions;
- facilitate the development of new sustainable bio-refineries across Europe.

2. Rapidly deploying bioeconomies across Europe:

Member States and regions, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, have a large underused biomass and waste potential. To address this, the Commission will:

- develop a strategic deployment agenda for sustainable food and farming systems, forestry and bio-based products;
- set up an EU Bioeconomy Policy Support Facility for EU countries under Horizon 2020 to develop national and regional bioeconomy agendas;
- launch pilot actions for the development of bioeconomies in rural, coastal and urban areas, for example on waste management or carbon farming.

3. Protecting the ecosystem and understanding the ecological limitations of the bioeconomy

Our ecosystem is faced with severe threats and challenges, such as a growing population, climate change and land degradation. In order to tackle these challenges, the Commission will:

- implement an EU-wide monitoring system to track progress towards a sustainable and circular bioeconomy;
- enhance our knowledge base and understanding of specific bioeconomy areas by gathering data and ensuring better access to it through the Knowledge Centre for the Bioeconomy;
- provide guidance and promote good practices on how to operate in the bioeconomy within safe ecological limits.

The Commission hosted a [conference](#) on 22 October in Brussels to discuss the action plan with stakeholders and highlight tangible bio-based products.

Background

In their letter of intent to the Presidencies of the European Council and Parliament, President **Juncker** and First Vice-President **Timmer-**

mans announced this Communication as part of the Commission's priority to boost jobs, growth and investment in the EU. It is an update to the [2012 Bioeconomy Strategy](#).

The [bioeconomy](#) covers all sectors and systems that rely on biological resources. It is one of the EU's largest and most important sectors encompassing agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food, bio-energy and bio-based products with an annual turnover of around €2 trillion and around 18 million people employed. It is also a key area for boosting growth in rural and coastal areas.

The EU already funds research, demonstration and deployment of sustainable, inclusive and circular bio-based solutions, including with €3.85 billion allocated under the current EU funding programme Horizon 2020. For 2021-2027, the Commission has proposed to allocate €10 billion under Horizon Europe for food and natural resources, including the bioeconomy.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/653>

European list of strategic research infrastructures expands into new areas

Biotechnology, food and nutrition, material testing, holocaust and natural environment are among the topics covered by the six new pan-European research infrastructure projects that were announced as part of the 2018 roadmap of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI). The new roadmap was presented during a conference hosted by the Austrian EU Presidency in Vienna.

ESFRI identifies the investment needs in research facilities of pan-European importance that are necessary to strengthen scientific excellence and competitiveness in the European Research Area. They are of such magnitude and scope that countries need to pool their resources to build them. The European Commission has been supporting the development of these infrastructures from the successive EU funding programmes for research and innovation. Under Horizon 2020, the current funding programme, €214 million will be made available through competitive calls in 2018-2019. Once implemented, the infrastructures in the ESFRI roadmap will provide open access to resources and services for all scientists across Europe.

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said:

"Europe needs top-class research infrastructures to generate new knowledge that helps tackle the environmental and social challenges our societies are facing. Horizon 2020 has greatly contributed to the progress we have achieved so far together with the scientific community and national governments, and it will continue to support new, ambitious endeavors that are necessary for further progress."

The 2018 roadmap now consists of 18 'ESFRI Projects', which are new initiatives in development phase requiring around €2.9 billion of investments in the coming years, and 37 'ESFRI Landmarks', identifying key research infrastructures that are being implemented or have been completed, representing an overall capital value of around €14.4 billion.

The six new facilities will help push the boundaries of science in the following areas:

- **Energy**
 - IFMIF-DONES: A facility for testing, validation and qualification of the materials to be used in a fusion reactor (coordinated by Spain)
- **Environment**
 - DiSSCo: An infrastructure integrating natural history collections of major European institutions (coordinated by The Netherlands)
 - eLTER: An infrastructure integrating ecosystem research sites across Europe (coordinated by Germany)
- **Health and Food**
 - EU-IBISBA: A multidisciplinary research and innovation infrastructure for industrial biotechnology (coordinated by France)
 - METROFOOD-RI: An infrastructure for metrology services in food and nutrition throughout the value chain (coordinated by Italy)
- **Social and cultural innovation**
 - EHRI: An infrastructure for research on Holocaust (coordinated by The Netherlands)

The new roadmap also identified two areas with high potential for the development of new research infrastructures: religious studies and transition to open science.

In addition, it highlights the increasing role of research infrastructures in the rapid development of data-driven research and growing focus on enabling innovation. It also underlines the need for a comprehensive strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability of the European research infrastructure ecosystem.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/627>



The first Ukraine NCP in house training was held in Estonia

On 4-7 September the first in-house training of Ukraine NCP took place in Tartu and Tallinn. The first "swallow" in the row of the next visits was Energy NCP Andrey Tarelin from A.M. Pidgorny Institute for Mechanical Engineering Problems, located in Kharkov.

The timetable was tight. Hosts from the Estonian Research Council wanted to introduce their colleagues both to their work and to the Estonian research system in general, and also wanted to visit various research institutions: Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, University of Tartu; Institute of Technology, University of Life Sciences; Tartu Regional Energy Agency; Institute of Physics, University of Tartu. During the site visits it turned out that there are many similarities between Ukraine and Estonia. For example in the approaches of commercialization of technology education, mentoring and training programs.



Professor Andres Annuk from the Institute of Technology, Estonian University of Life Science stressed that Institute's research facilities are open for Ukrainian researchers who are interested in carrying out research in that specific area.

In the Institute of Physics of the University of Tartu, Director of the Institute, Toomas Plank introduced the recent Institute's collaborative projects as well conducted an informative tour on labs and auditoriums. The unique modern equipment that has been used for frontier research was introduced by the Institute's researchers.

The last day of the visit was spent in the [COST Information Day](#), held in the premises of the Estonian Academy of Sciences.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/629>

RI-LINKS2UA Webinar "Horizon 2020 Research Infrastructures – Work Programme 2019"

On 12th October 2018, RI-LINKS2UA conducted its fifth webinar on "Horizon 2020 Research Infrastructures – Work Programme 2019".

WEBINAR

The webinar was lead by Ms. Géraldine Petit (CNRS) and Ms. Gaëlle Decroix, French RI NCP.

The next RI-LINKS2UA webinars will be focusing on Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

The presentation of the webinar is now available, and is accessible on the link below.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/635>

RI-LINKS2UA Information Day "Horizon 2020 Rules and Possibilities"

RI-LINKS2UA organised an Info day on the rules and possibilities in the Horizon 2020 framework programme on 15 November 2018 at the Kharkiv National University named after V.N. Karasin., where nearly 180 people participated.



The Information Day addressed the representatives of the educational and scientific community, and also SMEs from the greater Kharkiv region.

The trainers provided practical information on the currently open Horizon 2020 calls, application rules and opportunities for Ukrainian institutions.



The event was held at Kharkiv National University named after V.N. Karasin, 4, Svoboda square, Main Building, 10-th floor, Big Chemistry room.

Additional information can also be found on the [University's website](#).

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/642>



RI-LINKS2UA webinar on Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

This is the sixth webinar organised under the RI-LINKS2UA project. The topic is: Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.



In line with RI-LINKS2UA objectives to further encourage and facilitate cooperation between research actors from the EU and Ukraine and to promote EU-Ukrainian participation in joint projects in Horizon 2020, we are pleased to announce the next **RI-LINKS2UA webinar on Horizon 2020** addressing future Ukrainian participants in EU funded S&T projects.

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

These web-sessions are free, easily accessible and open to all Ukrainian STI actors interested in Ukraine-EU cooperation. They will be performed in **English language only**.

The webinar will take place on **4th December, 2018** between 14:00 and 15:15 CET (15:00 – 16:15 Ukraine Time).

It will address **Ukrainian STI actors who are strongly interested in expanding their cooperation with European partners under the umbrella of Horizon 2020**. This sixth webinar will provide firsthand information about the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**, their integration within the H2020 programme and the role they play in strengthening the European policy.

Agenda

- **Welcome word**, Clara du Bled – ZSI (5')
- **Introduction to R&I-LINKS2UA project**, Géraldine Petit - CNRS (10')
- **Presentation of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions** – Morgane Bureau, French MSCA NCP (30')
- **Q&A** (25') Morgane Bureau, French MSCA NCP and Géraldine Petit - CNRS

Registration: make sure to register until Monday **3rd December** on the website.

DATE

December 4, 2018

VENUE

Webinar

LINK<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/657>

ICT 2018

This year, the flagship ICT research & innovation event of the EU will be organised in Vienna. Join the event on 4-6 December to meet the ICT community of Europe, learn about the possibilities of EU research funding, and be part of the discussion on our future digital policies.

**Why?****To learn more on how the Commission will address**

- the economic opportunities and challenges which come with innovation
- the shortage in digitally skilled workers in Europe;
- the potential of artificial intelligence for growth and competitiveness, and its ethical implications;
- cybersecurity and the online security and privacy of EU citizens and businesses;
- the future of supercomputing and the use of data;
- the growing need to harmonize and digitalize public infrastructures across member states.

[Explore the conference programme](#)

To meet the speakers

Leading experts are invited, who will discuss and challenge present and future digital policies in the EU.

- [Christophe Sapet](#), CEO and founder of Navya, the driverless, automated electric vehicles
- [Georg List](#), Vice President, Corporate Strategy at AVL
- [Ambroise Fayolle](#), Vice President of the European Investment Bank
- [Anne Berner](#), Minister of Transport and Communications of Finland
- [Willem Jonker](#), CEO of European Institute of Innovation and Technology Digital
- [Steve Phillips](#), Secretary-General at Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR)
- [Mariya Gabriel](#), Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, European Commission

- [Andreas Reichhardt](#), Secretary-General and Vice-Minister for Innovation und Telecommunication, Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology of Austria
- [Markus Reinisch](#) (US), Vice President of Facebook
- [Michał Boni](#), Member of the European Parliament
- [Professor Madeleine de Cock Buning](#), Chair of the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) and President of the Board of Commissioners at the Dutch Media Authority

To participate in IMAGINE18

ICT 2018 will include [IMAGINE18](#), the annual event of the Austrian ICT community. The IMAGINE18 conference sessions, student workshops and idea marathon will follow the overall theme of "Technologies bridging Generations": top level ICT experts and students will jointly reflect on ideas and scenarios of future developments in ICT. All ICT 2018 participants are invited to join the idea marathon and to [submit a short \(200-500 word\) abstract](#) of their idea for the future development of ICT.

To meet your peers

The event will provide ample space for formal and informal networking. [Thematic networking sessions](#), organised by participants, will be open to all, while the Face2Face brokerage event will consist of prearranged one-on-one meetings.

[Sign up for Face2Face](#)

To learn about funding opportunities of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme

The event will present the 2019 calls for proposals of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme. Each session will focus on a particular call, and will include a presentation by the European Commission, followed by a discussion on the call topics. Find out when your relevant topics will be on schedule from the [agenda](#).

To engage with the most successful EU-funded projects

More than 100 EU-supported projects will join ICT 2018 to share their results with the audience. The stimulating environment will include Innovators, investors, international cooperation projects and many more.

DATE

December 4-6, 2018

VENUE[Austria Center Vienna](#), Vienna, Austria**LINK**<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/645>

RI-LINKS2UA practical workshop: The Horizon 2020 SME Instrument – what is it and what are the features of a successful proposal?

R&I → LINKS2UA
STRENGTHENING R&I → LINKS TOWARDS UKRAINE

The next RI-LINKS2UA training on “How to assist Ukrainian SMEs in preparing a successful application under the Horizon 2020 SME instrument” will be held on 5-6 December 2018 in Kyiv.

The preliminary agenda

5th December 2018

09:00-09:30 Welcome note from EBRD (TBC)
 09:30-10:30 Introduction on Horizon 2020 and the importance of impact for Horizon 2020 funded projects (Philipp BRUGNER)
 10:30-10:45 Coffee break
 10:45-13:00 Award criteria: How proposals are reviewed and expectations from evaluators (Alessia MELASECCHÉ GERMINI)
 13:00-14:00 Lunch break
 14:00-15:00 Annotated proposal template for the SME Instrument: Phase 1 and Phase 2. Examples of awarded proposals (Alessia MELASECCHÉ GERMINI and Philipp BRUGNER)
 15:00-15:15 Coffee break
 15:15-17:00 Drafting a Business Plan. The Lean Model Canvas Business tool (Alessia MELASECCHÉ GERMINI)

6th December 2018

09:00-09:30 Recapping what was done on Day 1 (Philipp BRUGNER and Alessia MELASECCHÉ GERMINI)
 9:30 -11:00 How to pitch: Preparing the pitch (Phase 2) (Alessia MELASECCHÉ GERMINI)
 11:00-11:15 Coffee break
 11:15-13:00 Communication, dissemination and exploitation as part of a successful project proposal: What are the differences? How to build a comprehensive strategy complying with IPR, ethical and data management standards? (Philipp BRUGNER)
 13:00-14:00 Lunch break
 14:00-15:00 Summary and closing the workshop

Practical exercises will be introduced throughout the session.

Working language: English. Participants are expected to have good command of English as this is the language to be used in project applications.

Number of participants is limited to one group of 20 people and priority will be given to those with a first experience in the Horizon 2020 SME instrument (e.g. participation in a proposal, submission of a proposal, first own proposal concept etc).

Contact details: Ms. Liudmyla Voinalovych, EBRD Ukraine, VOINALOL@ebrd.com

Confirmations of participation will be sent out on 28 November 2018.

DATE

December 5-6, 2018

VENUE

Kyiv

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/658>

Euresearch Webinar on the Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) of the MSCA

Interested in receiving information on the MSCA-RISE-2019 call and basics of proposal writing?



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) offers exchanges of staff members involved in research and innovation to develop sustainable collaborative projects and transfer of knowledge.

The MSCA-RISE-2019 call for proposals is open from 22 December 2018 with a deadline on 2 April 2019.

International networks of research organisations from both academic and non-academic sector can apply. Exchanges of researchers, technical, administrative and managerial staff of any nationality and at all career levels can be funded.

This webinar will provide you with information on the MSCA-RISE-2019 call, the eligibility and mobility criteria and the basics of proposal writing.

The link to the webinar room will be sent to you one day before the webinar.

DATE

December 11, 2018

VENUE

Webinar

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/647>

Euresearch Webinar on Horizon 2020 Opportunities for Security Practitioners

The term "practitioners" refers to someone who is qualified or registered to practice a particular occupation, profession in the field of security or civil protection. This webinar discusses opportunities for practitioners within the Horizon 2020 Programme Secure Societies.

The following fields are of specific importance:

- Disaster resilience
- Crime and terrorism
- Border and external security

The webinar focuses on funding and networking opportunities. An experienced coordinator will share best practices and lessons learned.

DATE

December 12, 2018

VENUE

Webinar

LINK<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/646>

IT Conference Banja Luka 2018

The Innovation Centre Banja Luka will host the "IT Conference Banja Luka 2018" that will include panel session and B2B matchmaking.

The conference will be held on 13th December in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina with the goal to contribute business cooperation between companies from the region.

The conference program will include the panel discussion, success stories and b2b matchmaking.

The conference is organized by Innovation Centre Banja Luka, Republic Agency for the Development of the SMEs Republic of Srpska, Chamber of the Commerce Republic of Srpska, University of Banja Luka, and University of East Sarajevo.

Partner organizations are BIT Center Tuzla, Business Incubator Novi Sad, Technology Park Varazdin, and Ministry of Economy of Montenegro.

Participation at the conference and b2b matchmaking are free, and the registration of the participants is obligatory. The deadline for the registration is 6th December.

DATE

December 13, 2018

VENUE

Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

LINK<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/648>

EIC Pilot 2018 at a glance – Webinar

This webinar wants to provide NCPs with a snapshot on the first year of implementation of the EIC Pilot in 2018, including the experiences from the three main related call (FET Open, SME Instrument Phase 1 and 2, Fast Track to Innovation). It will not be focussed on specific sectors/areas, but highlighting what emerged in terms of lessons learnt, best practices, success cases in this first year.

Programme

- Introduction
- The FET Open in the EIC Pilot 2018
- The SME Instrument and Fast track to innovation in the EIC Pilot 2018
- Questions and Answers
- Conclusions

The webinar is organized by **APRE** on behalf of the **Access4SMEs** and **NCP Academy** projects

Target Group

Horizon 2020 National Contact Points, with particular reference to the SME, Access to risk finance and Infrastructures NCPs.

DATE

December 14, 2018

VENUE

Webinar

LINK<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/652>

2019 INFO-DAY - Ensuring Excellent Research by Investing in Researchers' Talents, Skills & Career Development - Implementing the Human Resources Strategy

This INFO-DAY addresses 'newcomer' universities, research institutions and research funders investing in researchers' talents, skills and career development by implementing the 40 principles of the 'European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (C&C)'.



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

It also addresses beneficiaries and potential applicants of Horizon 2020 contracts/projects who have to comply with article 32 stipulating the need to take measures to implement the European Charter and Code (C&C) for the benefit of all researchers and their institution.

It also brings forward policy issues related to skills and talent management in an Open Science environment closely linked to the European Framework for Research Careers.

Seven invited high-level speakers from different European research or funding institutions will evidence benefits and impact, showcase improved training opportunities, career development and talents and skills management in their respective institutions.

DATE

January 29, 2019

VENUE

1 place Madou, Brussels, Belgium

LINK<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/656>



Monitoring the Evolution and Benefits of Responsible Research and Innovation

Monitoring the Evolution and Benefits of Responsible Research and Innovation (MoRRI) was a project tasked with implementing a monitoring system for responsible research and innovation (RRI) across its five dimensions (gender equality, science literacy and science education, public engagement, ethics, open access/open data), and governance. In addition to identifying indicators for the evolution of RRI, it identified social, democratic, economic and scientific benefits of RRI, and also conducted preliminary work to lay out routes towards implementing impact indicators. This is the executive summary of the MoRRI project, in English and French. It provides a rapid-glance overview of the main messages emanating from this cutting-edge project.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/649>

Widening Participation in Horizon 2020 report: Analysis of FP participation patterns and R&I performance of eligible countries

This report analyses the country participation patterns in Horizon 2020 as well as the underlying causes for the low participation of a number of EU Member States and Associated Countries. It highlights the key trends in bridging the research and innovation gap and in the research and innovation performance of the EU Member States and their regions, underlining the uneven convergence progress.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/651>

Review of Issues Related to Methods, Criteria and Indicators for Widening Actions

This report considers issues related to the criteria and indicators that might be used to define targets for future "Widening Actions" designed to address inequality in research and innovation performance across EU Member States. Under Horizon 2020, this has been the focus of the "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation" Work Programme.

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/650>



RI-LINKS2UA Horizon 2020 Projects Preparation Grant Scheme – 4th Call

This grant's main objective is to financially support the participation of Ukrainian researchers in Preparatory Meetings for the development of concrete project proposals for selected thematic calls within Horizon 2020.



Within this RI-LINKS2UA fourth call for Horizon 2020 project preparation grants, a total of 10 Horizon 2020 proposals will be supported for project preparatory meetings in the EU to boost the participation in the Horizon 2020 consortia and stimulate cooperation between research actors from the EU and Ukraine.

This scheme will provide a financial support for the organisation of preparatory meetings of research teams wishing to apply for Horizon 2020 funding. The RI-LINKS2UA fourth call supports Ukrainian applicants who address the open calls in the Horizon 2020 2018-2020 Work Programmes, Calls 2019-2020.

More detailed information can be found on the link below.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

November 30, 2018

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/call/637>

EaP PLUS Grants for Networking in Brokerage Events or Preparatory Meetings – 4th Call

The EaP PLUS Team announces the last round of the Call for 'Grants for networking' in Brokerage Events or Preparatory Meetings. The grants for networking call financially support the participation of local researchers from Eastern Partnership countries in Brokerage Events related to Horizon 2020 and Preparatory Meetings for the development of Horizon 2020 project proposals.



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 Horizon 2020 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

to attend either a Brokerage Event or a Preparatory Meeting.

Submission

Applications are submitted to the **Local Partner** by e-mail. Please get in touch with the Local Partner in your country for any questions regarding the eligibility criteria and the application process. The contact details of each EaP Local Partner are the following:

- Armenia: Tigran Arzumanyan (NAS-RA) tarznip@sci.am
- Belarus: Olga Meerovskaya (BellSA) meerovskaya@fp7-nip.org.by; meerovskaya@mail.ru
- Georgia: Tamta Shkubuliani (SRNSF) tshkubuliani@rustaveli.org.ge
- Moldova: Anna Bogdanova (NARD) anna.bogdanova@ancd.gov.md
- Ukraine: Olena Koval (NIP) post@fp6-nip.kiev.ua

Important dates

Final deadline for submissions: 30 May 2019 unless the available budget is consumed earlier. Candidates can apply for one event scheduled between October 2018 and 30 June 2019. The application form needs to be sent early enough (minimum one month before the selected event, unless a short-notice meeting is targeted).

All the necessary information and documents can be found on the link below.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

May 30, 2019

LINK

<https://www.eap-plus.eu/object/call/240>

ERC-2019-POC - ERC Proof of Concept Grant

Have you already received an ERC grant for your frontier research project and now want to explore the commercial or societal potential of your work? The ERC Proof of Concept Grant could be for you.

Who can apply?

All Principal Investigators in an ERC frontier research project, that is either on going or has ended less than 12 months before 1 January 2019,

are eligible to participate and apply for an ERC Proof of Concept Grant. The Principal Investigator must be able to demonstrate the relation between the idea to be taken to proof of concept and the ERC frontier research project (Starting, Consolidator, Advanced or Synergy) in question.

What proposals are eligible?

- **Criteria**

The ERC Proof of Concept funding is made available only to those who already have an ERC award to establish proof of concept of an idea that was generated in the course of their ERC-funded projects.

The activities to be funded shall draw substantially on this scientifically excellent ERC-funded research. However the additional funding is not aimed at extending the original research or predominantly concerned with overcoming obstacles to practical application.

The funding will cover **activities at the very early stage of turning research outputs into a commercial or socially valuable proposition**, i.e. the initial steps of pre-competitive development.

The funding can be used to:

- Establish viability, technical issues and overall direction
- Clarify intellectual property rights position and strategy
- Provide feedback for budgeting and other forms of commercial discussion
- Provide connections to later stage funding
- Cover initial expenses for establishing a company

- **Location**

The project must be conducted in a **public or private research organisation** (known as a Host Institution/II).

- **Host Institution**

The Host Institution must engage the Principal Investigator for at least the duration of the Proof of Concept project. Legally the Host Institution must be based in one of the **EU Member States**, (see also [eligibility of UK legal entities](#)) or one of the **Associated Countries**.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

January 22, 2019

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/call/655>

ERC-2019-COG - ERC Consolidator Grant

Objectives

ERC Consolidator Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme. Applicant Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.

Size of ERC Consolidator Grants

Consolidator Grants may be awarded up to a maximum of EUR 2 000 000 for a period of 5 years (The maximum award is reduced pro rata temporis for projects of a shorter duration. This does not apply to ongoing projects).

However, up to an additional EUR 750 000 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 (As any additional funding is to cover major one-off costs it is not subject to pro-rata temporis reduction for projects of shorter duration. All funding requested is assessed during evaluation).

Profile of the ERC Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator

The Principal Investigator shall have been awarded their first PhD over 7 and up to 12 years prior to 1 January 2019. The effective elapsed time since the award of the first PhD can be reduced in certain properly documented circumstances (see ERC Work Programme 2019).

A competitive Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator must have already shown research independence and evidence of maturity, for example by having produced several important publications as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor. Applicant Principal Investigators should also be able to demonstrate a promising track record of early achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage, including significant publications (as main author) in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field. They may also demonstrate a record of invited presentations in well-established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes etc.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

February 7, 2019

LINK

<https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/call/654>



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