

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the final issue of the incrEAST newsletter. The end of this year also marks the end of the FP7 funded IncoNet EaP project, which has been running the web portal incrEAST and provided this newsletter since September 2013. Under several predecessor projects, the web portal and newsletter have developed into a trusted source of information since 2008.

New Horizon 2020 follow-up projects with parts of our target regions 'Eastern Partnership' and 'Central Asia' have already started. Those of you working in or with the Black Sea area will be familiar with the great work of BLACK SEA HORIZON. The STI cooperation between EU Member States and Ukraine is being monitored and supported by the very active RI-LINKS2UA, which has already published some valuable analyses, and last but not least the new EaP PLUS has recently taken up its work and will continue the legacy of IncoNet EaP.

With this last issue we once more hope to provide you with information that will help you to engage in new powerful STI cooperation activities or strengthen the networks that you have already started.

The IncoNet EaP team wishes you a peaceful festive season and a successful new year!

New Analysis Report reveals tough competition for Horizon 2020 funds

Winning a research grant from the European Commission is no 'easy money': The Horizon 2020 grant application success rate drops to 10.7 per cent, according to an analysis of the first 2 years of Horizon 2020. In 2015 there was an increase in proposals by 25% compared to 2014.

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[more EU news](#)

First ever EU-Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting dedicated to Environment and Climate Action

On 18 October 2016, the EU and the Eastern Partner countries confirmed their joint commitment to stepping up cooperation on climate change, and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development.

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[more regional news](#)

Horizon 2020 Association Conference and Training Seminar in Yerevan

About 140 participants took part in two events dedicated to Armenia's association to Horizon 2020, which were held in Yerevan on 10-11 November 2016. The training and conference were organised by the IncoNet EaP project and aimed to raise awareness for the opportunities that Horizon 2020 offers.

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- **Belarus:** National Academy of Sciences publishes Catalogue of 'Top 100 Results of Fundamental and Applied Research 2011-2015'
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- **Ukraine:** Update on Statistics and Analyses of Ukrainian Participation in Horizon 2020
- **Ukraine:** 'The Ukraine Network' – up to speed with German-Ukrainian Academic Cooperation
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- Этот выпуск бюллетеня не содержит никаких новостей на русском языке.

Introducing the RI-LINKS2UA eJournal



Dear readers,

We are happy to introduce to you the first issue of the RI-LINKS2UA eJournal, which is also our "Winter edition", as the end of the year is approaching. The next edition is due out in Spring 2017.

The overall aim of the RI-LINKS2UA project is to further support and enhance the integration of Ukraine into the European Research Area. In particular, the project contributes to the improvement of the framework conditions for STI cooperation between the EU and Ukraine, supports the policy dialogue on these issues, strengthens the innovation capacity and economic competitiveness of the country, stimulates the EU-Ukraine R&I cooperation and contributes to the governance of Ukrainian participation in H2020. More detailed information on the project and its activities you may find by browsing through this current issue or by visiting our website at <https://ri-links2ua.eu/>.

What can you expect from this edition of the eJournal? To start with, we introduce to you the recently launched "EU4Innovation" initiative, which bundles all EU activities to support the innovation capacity of the East countries. After that we feature two success stories on H2020-funded projects with Ukrainian participation: first, the "AERO-UA" project supporting EU-Ukrainian collaboration in aviation research, and second, the "PVCLOUD - Innovative Cloud-Based PV Workflow for Semiconductor Foundries" project which intends to support the microelectronic semiconductors industry in Ukraine. Each edition of our eJournal will showcase two new selected examples.

Next, we'll inform you about the latest news and developments on the RI-LINKS2UA project (in the form of reports on working visits, publications of documents, presentations of analytical results, latest trends in the STI policy sector of Ukraine etc.). After that you can find reviews on events carried out by RI-LINKS2UA or organised by partner institutions but supported by the project. "R&I news from the EU" gives an outlook on top R&I issues in the EU. Under "Recommended publications" the eJournal presents selected publications on Ukraine with a broad thematic scope. This time we introduce to you the European Innovation Scoreboard, a publication on the internationalisation of SMEs and, something more political in nature, one of the latest handbooks on EU-Ukrainian relations. In the "Upcoming events" section you can learn about a broad variety of events. You can find both RI-LINKS2UA-related as well as external events organised by partner institutions relevant for Ukrainian stakeholders in the STI and R&I sector.

The eJournal is made complete by a dedicated section on the EU Framework Programme for R&I HORIZON 2020. Here you can find the latest news from H2020 and further links to important information and open calls (open for Ukrainian participation) online. We hope you will enjoy reading the first RI-LINKS2UA eJournal "Winter edition" and find some useful information for your very own specific purposes.

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



EU and Eastern Partnership countries stepping up cooperation on innovation with the EU4Innovation initiative

Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Carlos Moedas, EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation and Jean-Christophe Belliard, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service launched the EU4Innovation initiative together with the Eastern Partnership countries, in Yerevan on 17 November.



The launch took place during the eighth Eastern Partnership Informal dialogue, hosted by Armenia, which brought together Ministers and high level officials of the Eastern Partnership countries for a high-level exchange on future developments in the Eastern Partnership and key areas of cooperation.

The new EU initiative, EU4Innovation, will combine all EU activities that support the development of Eastern Partnership countries' (EAP) innovation capacities, notably those funded under the Horizon 2020 programme and the European Neighbourhood Instrument.

EU Commissioners and the respective Research and Innovation Ministers of the Eastern Partnership countries also discussed common

[click image to download the current issue \(PDF\)](#)

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To subscribe to this newsletter enter your e-mail address at the bottom of the project's [homepage](#).



EU and regional news

New Analysis Report reveals tough competition for Horizon 2020 funds

Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme, is attracting more and more researchers and innovators. In 2015 there was an increase in proposals by 25% compared to 2014, especially coming from businesses, whose number of applications increased by almost 27%. Almost 50 % of participants are newcomers, many of which are small and medium-sized companies.

These are some of the developments highlighted in a report on the first two years of Horizon 2020 that the European Commission published on 28 November 2016. The report shows that in 2014 and 2015, almost €16 billion has been allocated to over 9,000 research and innovation projects that boost excellent science, create industrial leadership and tackle societal challenges. In total, the programme attracted about 76,000 eligible proposals.

Tougher competition, more efficiency

Éanna Kelly from Science|Business has a slightly more critical view: She points out that the odds of winning a grant from the European Commission's Horizon 2020 research programme are now around one in nine. This is a sharp fall from the average 19 to 21 per cent odds in the preceding Framework Programme 7, which ran between 2007 and 2013.

The analysis, based on 152,627 Horizon 2020 applications received in 2015, shows many proposals to the €77 billion programme that received top marks from evaluators did not get funded.

'Horizon 2020 would have needed €41.6 billion more in the first two years to fund all proposals deemed excellent by independent evaluators', the report says.

On the other hand both sources point out that the grant application process has become more efficient:

According to the European Commission, the report highlights that the time from opening of applications to allocation of funding has dropped by almost 32 days from 2014 to 2015. The average time-to-grant for the first two years was only 6.7 months, which is 100 days shorter than the previous Framework Programme, FP7.

This is also acknowledged by Science|Business: 'More positively, grant processing has speeded up. Despite the application avalanche, more than 90 per cent of all grant agreements were signed by the Commission within the eight month target, shaving a month off the average turnaround time between 2007 and 2013.'

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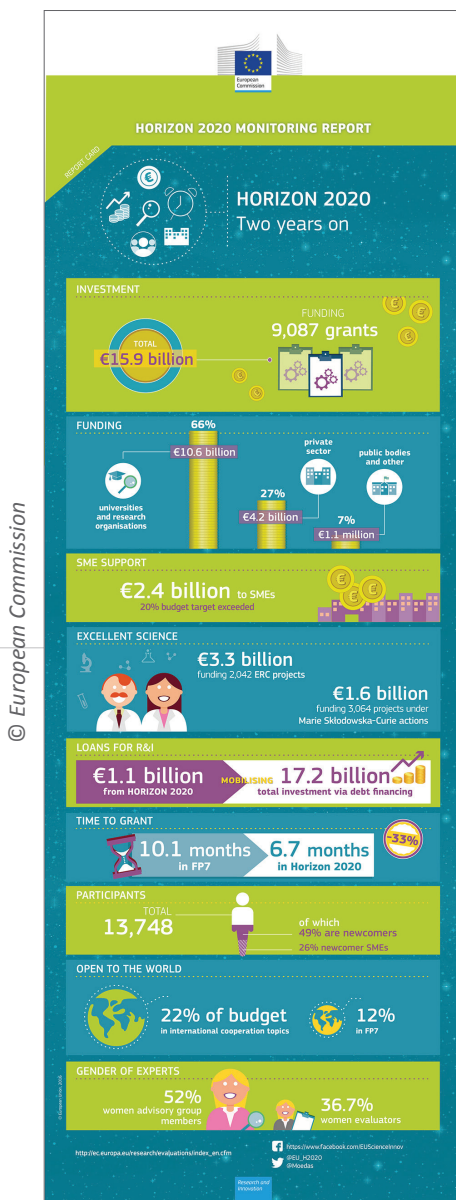
Moderate participation from non-EU countries

More researchers from outside the EU applied for grants in 2015 than in 2014, but strong interest is concentrated on a few countries: Submissions from the US, China, Canada and Australia make up almost half of all successful applications from outside Europe. The European Commission is trying to entice more non-EU countries to participate in Horizon 2020, bringing their own funding to the table.

Background information

Download the reports directly from the website of the European Commission:

- ['Horizon 2020 Annual Monitoring Report 2015'](#) – full report
- ['Horizon 2020: two years on'](#) – booklet
- [Visual summary of highlights](#) – infographic



Sources: [European Commission](#), [Science|Business](#)

EU and regional news

'EU4Innovation' initiative bundles efforts to boost innovation in Eastern Partnership countries

The new 'EU4Innovation' initiative will combine all EU activities that support the development of Eastern Partnership countries (EaP) innovation capacities, notably those funded under the Horizon 2020 programme and the European Neighbourhood Instrument. The initiative was officially launched in Yerevan by Commissioners Johannes Hahn and Carlos Moedas and EEAS Deputy Secretary General Jean-Christophe Belliard.

Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Carlos Moedas, EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation and Jean-Christophe Belliard, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service launched today the EU4Innovation initiative together with the Eastern Partnership countries, in Yerevan.

The launch took place during the eighth Eastern Partnership Informal Dialogue, hosted by Armenia which brought together Ministers and high level officials of the Eastern Partnership countries for a high-level exchange on future developments in the Eastern Partnership and key areas of cooperation.

The new EU initiative, EU4Innovation, will combine all EU activities that support the development of Eastern Partnership countries (EaP) innovation capacities, notably those funded under the Horizon 2020 programme and the European Neighbourhood Instrument.

EU Commissioners and the respective Research and Innovation Ministers of the Eastern Partnership countries also discussed common challenges and responses to improving research and innovation cooperation. The Ministers reflected on how to integrate Eastern Partnership and EU Research and Innovation systems better and foster cooperation with and between the six Eastern Partnership countries further. This will bring new mobility opportunities for administrations, businesses, professionals, students and researchers and will foster research-industry partnerships amongst others.

The Informal Eastern Partnership dialogue also gave participants an opportunity to reflect on the progress made across the key areas of cooperation agreed at the Riga Summit last year. They discussed the implementation of the renewed European Neighbourhood Policy and exchanged views on ways to enhance the effectiveness of the Eastern Partnership, in light of the next Summit foreseen for November 2017 in Brussels. The Ministers also addressed current international and global security issues, in particular, issues with a impact on the region.

Source: [European Commission](#)

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Informal Eastern Partnership Dialogue at Ministerial level focusses on Research and Innovation

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EU-EaP Informal Dialogue Meeting | © Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine

The Informal Eastern Partnership (EaP) dialogue on 17 November in Yerevan brought together EU Commissioners Johannes Hahn and Carlos Moedas, the EEAS Deputy Secretary General Jean-Christophe Belliard and the Ministers and high ranking officials of the EaP partner countries for a high-level exchange on future developments in the Eastern Partnership and key areas of cooperation.

The meeting gave participants an opportunity to discuss the progress achieved across the key areas of cooperation agreed at the Riga Summit last year. They discussed the implementation of the renewed European Neighbourhood Policy and exchanged views on ways to enhance the effectiveness of the Eastern Partnership, in light of the next Summit foreseen for November 2017 in Brussels. The Ministers also addressed current international and global security issues, in particular, issues with an impact on the region.

A new initiative EU4Innovation was launched during the meeting and will link the EU activities that support the development of the Eastern Partnership countries innovation capabilities, mostly those funded under the Horizon 2020 programme and the European Neighbourhood Instrument. This will bring new mobility opportunities for administrations, businesses, professionals, students and researchers and will promote research-industry partnerships amongst others.

Source: *Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine*

EU and regional news

First ever EU-Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting dedicated to Environment and Climate Action

18 October 2016 | Luxembourg

The first ever Eastern Partnership (EaP) formal ministerial meeting on environment and climate change took place in Luxembourg on 18 October 2016 with the participation of Commissioners Karmenu Vella and Johannes Hahn. The EU and the Eastern Partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) adopted a Ministerial Declaration, confirming their joint commitment to stepping up cooperation on environmental challenges and climate change, and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development.

Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs said: 'Given the proximity of the European Union and the Eastern Partner countries, as well as the trans-boundary nature of environmental and climate challenges, cooperation between us is imperative. [...] This also means addressing international challenges together, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.'

Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations said: 'Environmental protection and climate action is not only our duty, it is a good investment that will result in new jobs, higher revenues, and a more resilient economy.'

Ministers for environment and climate change from EU Member States and Eastern Partner countries discussed opportunities for cooperation on environmental governance and the green economy. They stressed the need to shift towards the sustainable and integrated management of natural resources and sustainable consumption and production in line with circular economy principles.

During the afternoon session on Climate Action, Ministers looked at how to bring forward the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Discussions focused on the question of how Eastern Partner countries can develop low-emission and climate-resilient economies, including by exploiting the great potential for energy savings in the region.

The ministers agreed to meet again in two years to assess cooperation progress. In the meantime, they tasked the Eastern Partnership Panel on Environment and Climate Change to draft and implement an action plan translating into practice the provisions of the Declaration.

Source and more details: [European Commission](#)

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Happy with Horizon 2020? Have your say!

On 20 October 2016, the European Commission has launched a [public stakeholder consultation](#) which will feed into the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, the EU's €77 billion research and innovation funding scheme running from 2014 to 2020. This interim evaluation will help improve the functioning of Horizon 2020, and will also be an important element in preparations of a next EU research and innovation programme.

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: 'I hope as many people as possible will use the chance to have their say on Horizon 2020, its first three years and its future direction. We are already analysing available data, facts and figures. But in order to have a full overview, it is very important to get direct feedback from researchers, entrepreneurs, innovators, citizens and all types of organisations that have participated in the programme.'

Horizon 2020 is one of the largest research and innovation schemes worldwide. In its first two years, the programme attracted over 76 thousand eligible proposals. Over 9000 grant agreements were signed by 1 September 2016 for calls with deadlines in 2014 and 2015, allocating almost €16 billion to boosting excellent science, creating industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges. Almost a half of successful applicants are newcomers to the programme.

The public stakeholder consultation on the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 will be open until 15 January 2017. The interim evaluation will also draw on existing surveys and consultations, including on simplification and on a European Innovation Council.

The Horizon 2020 Regulation stipulates that the European Commission has to carry out an interim evaluation of the programme by 31 December 2017. It will deliver:

- A Staff Working Document which will present and summarise all the evidence gathered, factual evaluation results and lessons learnt for the future
- A report from a High Level Group with strategic conclusions on further boosting the impact of EU research and innovation funding, and a vision for future EU research and innovation
- A Communication from the Commission on the key evaluation results, observations on the report of the High Level Group, and implementation of the recommendations of the ex-post evaluation of FP7, the predecessor of Horizon 2020

Take part in the [public stakeholder consultation](#)!

Source: [European Commission](#)

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FP9 - EU Commission sketches out the route to its next Framework Programme (2021-2028)

At a Science|Business meeting in Brussels on 12 October, Robert Jan-Smits, Director-General for Research at the European Commission, said that the groundwork for the 2021- 2028 EU research programme is already being laid, with a foresight study in hand, plans to develop new models of how R&D contributes to the economy, and a public consultation due to open next month. FP9 issues being chewed over at the moment include: more capacity building research money for Central and Eastern European countries; and ways to bump up international participation.

The groundwork for the 2021- 2028 EU research programme is already being laid, with a foresight study in hand, plans to develop new models of how R&D contributes to the economy, and a public consultation due to open next month, Robert Jan-Smits, Director-General for Research at the European Commission told a Science|Business meeting in Brussels.

Smits outlined the 'process, procedure and timetable' of the successor to Horizon 2020, which - reverting to the previous nomenclature – is called Framework Programme 9 (FP9) for now.

A public consultation will open at the end of the month, with researchers and industry invited to share their experience of Horizon 2020.

In parallel, the Commission has launched a long-term scenario planning exercise called the Bohemia Study, to be completed by the middle of 2017. 'We have asked a group of experts to do a stock take of the different foresight studies by the likes of the OECD and the World Bank', said Smits.

Matthias Weber of the Austrian Institute of Technology, chair of the foresight study group said FP9 should, 'Come up with plans to address the challenges of the 2030s.'

The group has started to work on two scenarios. The more ambitious sees Europe and its research and innovation investment as one of the key global drivers of change in climate and energy policy, urbanisation, digital healthcare and disease prevention, and security and resilience.

The other scenario, with a slightly more pessimistic tone, foresees the 'perseverance' of current trends.

As a third strand to the FP9 preparations, Smits told the audience of 300 industry and research heads that he is tapping top economists to help make a stronger case for the ways in which research and innovation contribute to the competitiveness of member state economies. 'We're trying to crack open economic models to get research and innovation in there', Smits said.

The Commission is setting up a panel of 12 economics experts, chaired by former director-general of the World Trade Organization and EU trade chief, Pascal

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Lamy. The group will base its advice on Horizon 2020 interim evaluation results and other evidence drawn from the public consultation that starts next month. It will wrap up its work by June next year.

Smits said evidence for the success of research will give his team an extra edge in budget negotiations. 'Future allocations will be based on the bang for the buck we've gotten out of Horizon 2020', he said.

The current programme still has €30 billion left to distribute and there is a request in with member states to get an extra €400 million in the latest EU budget review. This money would be spent on 'four major initiatives', Smits said, declining to go into further detail.

FP9 priorities

The Commission is expected to release its proposal for FP9 early in 2018. It will then take between a year and a half and two years to clear it with the European Parliament and the EU governments, Smits said.

Smits gave some early thoughts on the predominant themes of the new programme, saying, 'Questions we are getting so far include, what are we going to do with defence research?'

Germany's minister for education and research, Johanna Wanka, has raised this priority with the Commission recently, Smits said.

Currently, EU law bans pure defence research under framework programmes, but grants are available for so-called dual use technology, research into crime prevention, security and disaster preparedness.

Other FP9 issues being chewed over at the moment include: more capacity building research money for Central and Eastern European countries; whether the Commission should continue to fund big companies; and ways to bump up international participation.

Smits said the structure of the next programme is under review as well. Horizon 2020 rests on three pillars: excellent science, industrial leadership and grand societal challenges.

There was also a brief update on the European Innovation Council, which Smits said is being stitched together behind the scenes. The need for the new Council is borne out of the feeling that grants are not always available for risky projects.

'We don't give sufficient support to the crazy ideas', said Smits.

Source and full article: [Science|Business](#)

EU and regional news

Danube-INCO.NET publishes Policy Recommendations on Performance-based Research Funding

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'Performance-based research funding – Towards more effective national research and innovation systems in the Danube region' is the title of a document on policy recommendations recently published by the Danube-INCO.NET project.

Danube-INCO.NET is a coordination and support action funded under the 7th Framework Programme and addresses the official EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in the field of research and innovation.

The project focuses mainly on two priority areas of the EUSDR: 'Knowledge Society' and 'Competitiveness' while also supporting the policy dialogue,

the creation of networks, and providing analyses and support to R&I activities.

The project seeks to overcome obstacles hindering the social and economic development of the Danube region. Within the work package 'policy dialogue', exchanging with other regional policy initiatives and enhancing the bi-regional dialogue between EU and non-EU countries are key objectives. This is done through presenting and discussing the 'Innovation Union' (IU) and the 'European Research Area' (ERA) Framework concepts and targets in a series of three workshops held in different non-EU countries, i.e. Serbia, Ukraine and Moldova. Each workshop focuses on a coherent set of topics related to ERA priorities and IU commitments.

The third event in this series was held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 23 June 2016. The outcome of the workshop was summarised in a set of jointly developed policy recommendations. These recommendations have been shared among all participants and are considered to be relevant across the entire Danube region.

Source: [Danube-INCO.NET](#)

EU and regional news

Preparatory Workshop 'EU-Black Sea Joint Call: Scientific, Regulative and Financial Framework Conditions'

27-28 October 2016 | Bonn, Germany

The Black Sea Horizon International Workshop EU-Black Sea Joint Call: Scientific, Regulative and Financial framework conditions. Preparation of Terms of Reference' was organised by the BSH project partner DLR Project Management Agency and took place on 27-28 October 2016 at the Gustav Stresemann Institute (GSI) in Bonn, Germany. The workshop aimed to provide input on different options for a joint call for proposals to the group of potential funding parties.

This workshop in the frame of the Black Sea Horizon project brought together programme owners and programme managers from EU Member States and Black Sea countries to discuss the prerequisites for a joint call for proposals, based on a variable geometry. The implementation of the joint call will occur outside the Black Sea Horizon project and without funding from the European Commission.

The aim of this workshop was to provide input on different options for a joint call to the group of potential funding parties that had been identified as part of previous activities of the Black Sea Horizon project.

The workshop informed the participants about the scope (technical content, conditions for participation, timelines, etc.) of a possible EU-Black Sea Joint Call and offered a floor to discuss the Terms of Reference needed for its implementation.

Workshop topics included:

- Exchange of experience in other international ERA-NETs: preparation of joint calls, implementation and outcome;
- ERA.Net RUS Plus: Good practice example;
- Participation in the Black Sea call: outcome of the survey;
- Terms of Reference: joint regulation and structure;
- National Rules of Funding Parties – next steps;
- Preparation of a business plan;
- EU-Black Sea Cooperation Programme in STI (BSCP);
- Peer Review Database.

The participation to this event was upon invitation only.

Download the [workshop agenda](#).

Source: *Black Sea Horizon*

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Workshop on 'Preparing the inclusion of Black Sea and EaP Countries in Thematic COFUND ERANETs'

14-14 October 2016 | Baku, Azerbaijan

A 'Workshop for the Participation of Non-EU Black Sea and EaP Countries in Thematic COFUND ERANETs & JPIs' took place on 13-14 October 2016, in Baku, Azerbaijan. This event marked an important step towards the association of Black Sea and Eastern Partnership countries to Horizon 2020. It served both as an informative meeting for ERANET/JPI schemes, as well as a networking event with EU Member State funding agencies in view of increasing the participation of Black Sea/EaP countries in ongoing or forthcoming co-funding schemes.

The aim of the workshop was to discuss on the modalities of participation in thematic COFUND ERANETs and to reach out to the research funding agencies and ministries of the non-EU Black Sea and Eastern Partnership countries. The event brought local funding agencies interested in participating in specific ongoing or forthcoming ERANETs & JPIs in touch with the ERANETs' & JPIs' coordinators to discuss the potential inclusion of these countries in ERANETs & JPIs.

The workshop was structured into four sessions:

- **Session I:** COFUND ERANETs & JPIs as a Scheme of research cooperation beyond the EU
- **Session II:** ERANETs & JPIs in practice
- **Session III:** Non-EU BS & EaP Funding Agencies – Program funding, participation and experience in previous ERANETs & JPIs
- **Session IV:** Open Discussion on perspectives of participation of non-EU BS/ EaP countries to COFUND ERANETs/JPIs

Representatives of ERANETs and JPIs shared their experience with funding agencies from the Black Sea and EaP countries and discussed on modalities for participation; stages in the development of an ERA-NET/JPI that a country can be involved; necessary commitments for participation; assessment of perspectives for participation.

Main organisers of this meeting were the Centre for Regional & International STI Studies & Support – CeRISS (Greece) and the Science Development Foundation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The event took place in the frame of the Black Sea Horizon and IncoNet EaP projects.

Presentations and photos:

- [Black Sea Horizon website](#)
- [CeRISS website](#)

Source: [IncoNet EaP](#)

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'EaP PLUS' - New Horizon 2020 Project with Eastern Partnership Countries kicks-off in Athens

26 September 2016 | Athens, Greece

'EaP PLUS' (STI International Cooperation Network for Eastern Partnership Countries – PLUS) is a new coordination and support action funded under Horizon 2020, which was launched on 1 September 2016. The 17 partners of the project took part in a kick-off meeting on 26 September in Athens. EaP PLUS aims to stimulate cooperation between researchers from the Eastern Partnership countries and EU Member States and enhance the active participation of the EaP countries in the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.

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Building on the results of the predecessor FP7 project 'IncoNet EaP', EaP PLUS will eliminate remaining obstacles to EU-EaP STI cooperation through a number of innovative and targeted actions:

- strategic priority-setting through supporting EU-EaP policy dialogue and through maximising the impact of the association to Horizon 2020;
- stronger interaction between researchers & participation in H2020, i.e. info days, cooperation with scientific diaspora, and grants for networking;
- promotion of the research-innovation interface supporting communities of excellence, through co-patenting analyses, clustering schemes, promotion of the technology platforms concept to EaP countries;
- optimal framework conditions and increasing coordination in policies and programmes through training seminars for STI policymakers, increased coordination and synergies between policies and programmes of EU/MS and EaP, i.e. JPIs, COST, and national programmes.

Coordinator of EaP PLUS is Dr. George Bonas, Managing Director of the Centre for Regional & International STI Studies & Support – CeRISS. The consortium of EaP PLUS consists of 17 experienced partners presenting a broad geographic coverage and complementary competences.

Partners from 14 countries are participating in the consortium with good balance between EU and EaP partners: 9 from EU MS and 8 from EaP countries. Two of the partners possess an international character, namely the International Centre for Black Sea Studies – ICBSS located in Greece and the European Business and Innovation Centre Network – EBN located in Belgium.

The project has a 36-month duration ending on 31 August 2019.

Source and further details: [CeRISS](#)

EU and regional news

IncoNet Central Asia project completes its activities

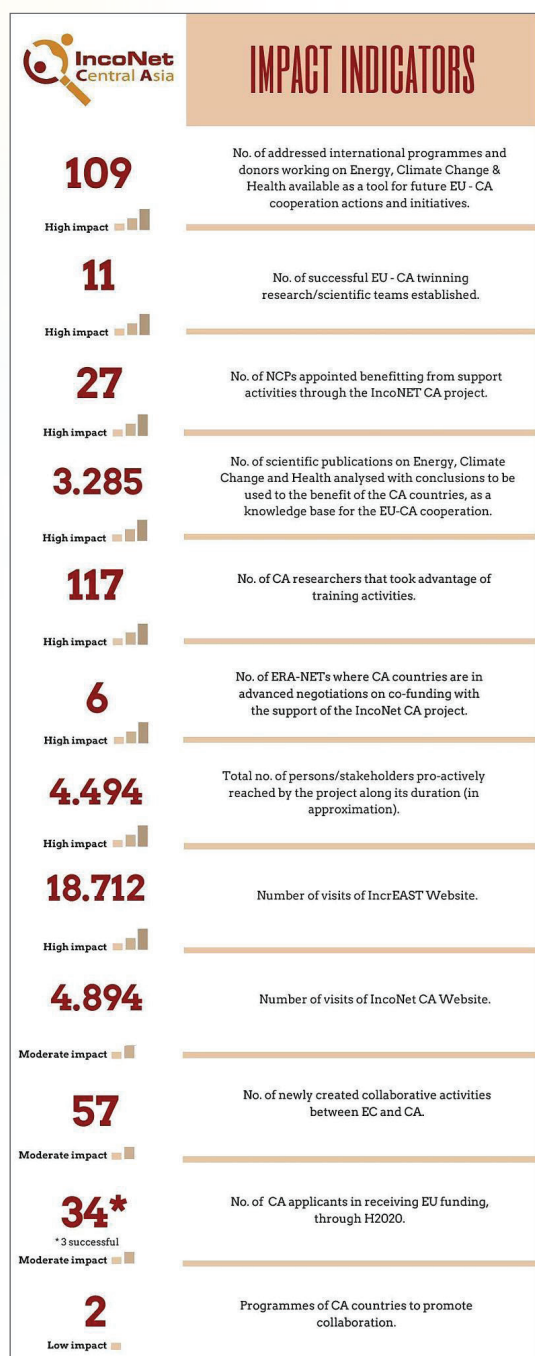
The IncoNet CA (STI International Cooperation Network for Central Asian Countries) project ended in September 2016. It aimed to support the advancement of the bi-regional STI (Science, Technology, and Innovation) policy dialogue between the EU Member States/Associated Countries and Central Asia.

The project's focus was on three Societal Challenges that had been identified to be of mutual interest for both regions, namely: Climate Change, Energy and Health.

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The IncoNet CA consortium comprised 16 partners from 14 EU and Central Asian countries.

The project's scientific coordination lay with CeRISS, the Centre for Regional and International STI Studies and Support, Greece. Its administration was managed by IPPT PAN – Instytut Podstawowych Problemow Techniki Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Poland.

With three successful EU-Central Asia Policy Stakeholders' Conferences, the first ever Policy Mix Peer Review of the scientific system in Kyrgyzstan, a number of capacity building activities and grant schemes to support joint research endeavours, the IncoNet CA project played a vital role in promoting STI cooperation between the EU Member States/Associated Countries and Central Asia.

The project also produced a number of public deliverables (including e.g. analytic reports, databases, and EU related information in Russian).

Further information is available on the IncoNet CA website, which remains online beyond the lifespan of the project.

click image to download infographic as PDF

EU and regional news

Featured Deliverables: These EU-Eastern Partnership cooperation projects have made a difference

The IncoNet EaP project partners have prepared a review of selected outcomes of international STI cooperation projects the EU is involved in. Their focus was on Energy, Environment and Health related projects. The result is a [list of noteworthy deliverables from EU-Eastern Partnership cooperation projects](#), which are available to the public. The EU-Eastern Partnership project outputs include:

- **Energy:** the development of efficient energy solutions; the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; and support and promotion for the substitution of fossil fuels used for heating;
- **Environment:** the restoration of degraded arable soils; management of integrated water resources and coastal zone; monitoring oxygen depletion and associated processes in aquatic systems; the use of earth observation data for predicting the impact of crop production on ecosystems and natural resources;
- **Health:** the promotion of healthy lifestyles; an investigation into the possible impacts of global climate change on reproductive health; the generation of knowledge about mental retardation (MR) and the structure and dynamics of the brain; an inventory on living donation practices as well as developing tools that improve the quality and safety of living organ donations in Europe; and the improvement of diagnostic capabilities for cardiovascular diseases in the elderly.

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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FEATURED DELIVERABLES
<p>➤ H2ESOT</p> <p>Source of funding: FP7-ENERGY</p> <p>Project title: Waste Heat to Electrical Energy via Sustainable Organic Thermoelectric Devices. 2013 – 2015</p> <p>EaP countries involved:</p>	<p>The overall goal of the H2ESOT project is to develop materials and technologies for thermal-to-electric energy conversion aimed at a wide temperature range. The development of efficient, thermoelectric modules using only low-cost, readily available, renewable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ➤ One-Pot Cannizzaro Cascade Synthesis of ortho-Fused Cycloocta-2,5-dien-1-ones from 2-Bromo(hetero)aryl Aldehydes. Burroughs, Laurence; Eccleshare, Lee; Ritchie, John; Kulkarni, Omkar; Lygo, Barry; Woodward, Simon; Lewis, William. WILEY-VCH Verlag Angewandte Chemie (International Ed. in English) 2015

click image to view the full list of featured deliverables on the IncoNet EaP website

The examined projects also reinforced the RTD and cooperation capacities of EaP institutes; supported the policy dialogue and the creation of networks; provided analyses and support to research and innovation activities; fostered the development of innovative and export oriented SMEs in the Danube and Black Sea regions; and analysed the potential impact of trade agreements between the EU, Russia, Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries.

Source & contact:

✉ [Olga Zyrina](#) | [National Contact Point for EU Research Programmes, Poland](#)

EU and regional news

Open Calls

Deadline: 12 December 2016

[Joint Call for German-Russian Project Proposals in Life Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities](#)

The German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Russian Science Foundation (RSF) have launched a new call for proposals in the fields of Life Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities.

+++++

Deadline: 14 December 2016

[Joint Call for STI Cooperation Projects between Uzbekistan and Germany](#)

The German Ministry of Education and Research and the Uzbek Committee for Coordination of Science and Technology Development have announced a joint call to support research and innovation cooperation projects between both countries. The calls are published in Uzbek, Russian and German. Partners from both sides are encouraged to submit their project outlines by 14 December 2016.

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Deadline: 16 December 2016

[Call for Tenders for an External Quality Control Reviewer of EaP PLUS](#)

The new project EaP PLUS aims to stimulate cooperation between researchers from the EaP countries and EU MS and enhance the active participation of the Eastern Partnership countries in Horizon 2020. With this Call for Tenders, the project is looking for an experienced expert from the field of STI cooperation with profound research strategy analysis capabilities, who will act as a Quality Control reviewer for a series of main Deliverables.

+++++

Deadline: 1 February 2017

[Joint Russian-Austrian initiative research projects competition of the Russian Foundation for Basic research \(RFBR\) and Austrian Science Fund \(FWF\)](#)

Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), in accordance with the Memorandum on Cooperation with the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), announce a call for proposals for joint Russian-Austrian projects in basic research. The aim of the competition is to develop international cooperation and to grant financial support for initiative research projects being conducted by Russian and Austrian researchers.

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*More funding opportunities: [incrEAST calls page](#)
Open Calls under Horizon2020: [Participant Portal](#)*

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Upcoming Events

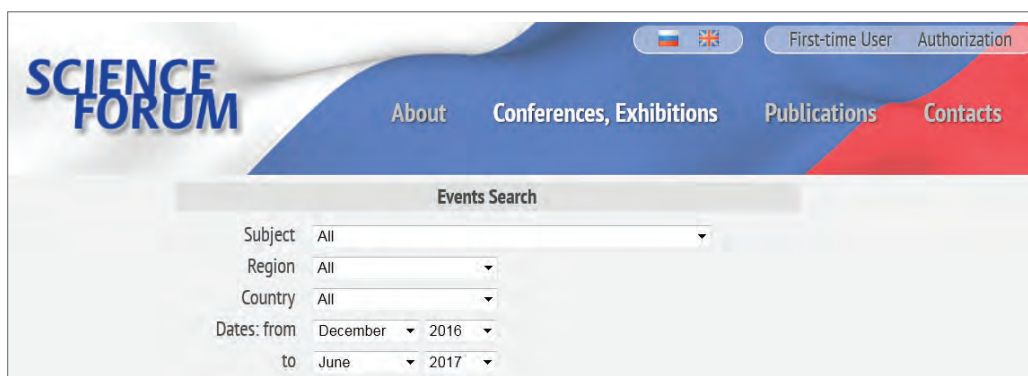
- 7-8 December 2016 | Kyiv
[Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Training](#)
- 15 December 2016 | Brussels
[BSH Workshop on the 'EU-Black Sea Cooperation Programme in STI'](#)
- 10 June - 10 September 2017 | Astana
[EXPO 2017 – Future Energy](#)

For more events visit the [incrEAST calendar](#)
or follow one of the links below (click image to open respective website).

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Armenia: Horizon 2020 Association Conference and Training Seminar

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Horizon 2020 Association Events in Yerevan | © Shahane Hovhannisyanyan

10-11 November 2016 | Yerevan, Armenia

The IncoNet EaP project organised a Horizon 2020 Association Conference and Training Seminar in Yerevan on 10-11 November 2016.

The Agreement on association of Armenia to European Union's Framework Programme on Research and Innovation HORIZON 2020 was signed in Brussels on 19 May 2016 and came into force on 12 November 2016 after ratification by the Armenian Parliament.

The Association Conference was organised on 10 November 2016 with the main objective to present to the Armenian authorities, policy makers and STI stakeholders the additional opportunities arising from association of Armenia to the EU's Horizon 2020 programme.

It was attended by around 140 participants, including the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ministries, policy makers, Horizon 2020 National Contact Points and information multipliers from various scientific and research institutes and universities, as well as representatives of SMEs, NGOs and other concerned organisations as well as IncoNet EaP partners from Greece, Poland, Georgia, Estonia and Moldova.

The conference agenda included presentations on the general scope of H2020 and new opportunities for the EU associated countries, Measures to Support Innovation and Research-Industry Cooperation. It also provided for activities of IncoNet EaP and the EaP+ projects, Widening participation instruments, new tools and opportunities for SMEs under H2020 and beyond.

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An open discussion took place at the end of the event dedicated to tackling possible problems and challenges in strengthening the representation to H2020 Programme Committees and the NCPs system, as well as how to benefit from Widening participation instruments and schemes for Innovation in SMEs.

The final speech with conclusions and recommendations was made by Mr. George Bonas, Scientific Coordinator of IncoNet EaP project, who pointed out that association to H2020 is a big success for Armenia but at the same time a long and difficult process which needs urgent actions necessary to maximize the advantage; such as identification of Steering Committee members, strengthening of the NCP system by establishment of mentoring schemes for NCPs, participation in COST actions, benefiting from Widening participation instruments, implementation of internal reforms (e.g. Policy Mix Peer Review) with the aim to remove internal barriers in the system and improve the structure to better meet industrial and social needs.



Horizon 2020 Association Events in Yerevan | © Shahane Hovhannisyan

On 11 November 2016, Horizon 2020 Training Seminar was held at the premises of NAS RA. The main objective of the training seminar was to train the Armenian research community, SMEs and other interested stakeholders on how to write a successful proposal and come up with the best participation in H2020.

The event was attended by more than 120 participants representing research institutes, universities, SMEs and industries, agencies and associations, NGOs and international organisations and other interested stakeholders.

The agenda of the training covered the presentation on the H2020 National NCP structure in Armenia, identification of appropriate calls, the way from project idea to proposal and legal & financial issues. As an instrument of Widening the participation in H2020 COST actions were also involved in the agenda.

The training Seminar was very productive and ended up with individual consultations for the potential participants to H2020. The events were widely broadcasted by many major TV, radio and Web media agencies of the country.

Source: ✉ [Tigran Arzumanyan, NASRA](#)

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Belarus: National Academy of Sciences publishes Catalogue of 'Top 100 Results of Fundamental and Applied Research'



[click image to download PDF](#)

The new 'Catalogue of Top 100 Results of Fundamental and Applied Research of the NAS of Belarus' compiles information on the top 100 results of fundamental and applied research, completed in 2011-2015 by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus organisations in all areas of scientific and applied research.

It is available for download in Russian language from the website of the Republican Centre for Technology Transfer (RCTT).

Source: [RCTT](#)

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Georgia: Conference 'Associated to Horizon 2020 - What's next? From association to impact generation'

7 November 2016 | Tbilisi, Georgia

On 7 November 2016, a conference related to the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation – Horizon 2020 took place in Tbilisi, Georgia. The event titled - 'Associated to Horizon 2020: What's next - 'from association to impact generation' was organised in the frame of the IncoNet EaP project.

The conference was attended by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, representatives of Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation, IncoNet EaP Project partner institutions, EU Delegation to Georgia, researchers and stakeholders from Georgian scientific research institutions.

The agenda included discussions on support measures to countries in the EaP region, national perspectives to association to Horizon 2020, widening participation instruments etc. Topics related to Georgia's Association to Horizon 2020 were covered by the speakers from Estonia (Estonian Research Council), Austria (Centre for Social Innovation, ZSI), Moldova, Poland (Institute of Fundamental Technological Research Polish Academy of Sciences), International Organisation 'Centre for Regional and International Studies' and local stakeholders.

Source: [Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation](#)

Georgia: Training Seminar 'How to prepare a Horizon 2020 proposal'

On 8 November 2016, a training titled 'How to prepare a Horizon 2020 proposal' took place at Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation Conference Hall. The event was organised by the IncoNet EaP project (STI International Cooperation Network for Eastern Partnership Countries).

The training agenda included presentations e.g. on widening the participation instruments and developing a project idea into a proposal. The training was attended by representatives of the Georgian scientific and research institutions.

Source: [Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation](#)

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Georgia: Tbilisi State University and Forschungszentrum Jülich open SMART|EDM_Lab

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Opening ceremony of SMART|EDM_Lab | Left to right: Prof. Darejan Tvaltvadze (Acting Rector TSU), Georgian Science Minister Alexander Jejelava, Prof. Sebastian M. Schmidt (Member of the Board of Directors of Forschungszentrum Jülich) | © Dr Andro Kacharava, Forschungszentrum Jülich

The Georgian Ministry of Education and Science, the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (SRNSF) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) organised the Georgian-German Science Day and the Georgian-German Science Bridge Day as part of the Science and Innovation Festival 2016 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

On both days (19 and 21 September 2016), a group of scientists from Forschungszentrum Jülich actively participated in the program. In particular, FZ Jülich board member Prof. Sebastian Schmidt together with the Science Minister of Georgia, Alexander Jejelava, opened the SMART|EDM_Lab at the TSU on September 21st, 2016. SMART stands for 'Science, Medicine, Applied Research and Technology'; whereas EDM stands for electric dipole moment.

The concept of these laboratories is to offer young and in Jülich well-trained Georgian scientists an attractive return option to their homeland. The Georgian Ministry of Education and Science funds the SMART|Labs; with equipment and know-how delivered by Jülich. Further SMART|Labs are planned in the areas of climate and brain research.

Over the last 2 decades Forschungszentrum Jülich has built very intense collaborations with four Georgian universities: Tbilisi State University (TSU), Georgian Technical University (GTU), the Ilia State University (ISU) and the Agricultural University of Georgia. Many joint projects and workshops have been implemented already, such as the latest events in August/September 2016 in Tbilisi. These two workshops on 'Spin Physics, Symmetries and Applications' and 'Chemical and Mathematical Aspects of Environmental (Atmosphere) Monitoring' were jointly organised by the partners involved.

Source and further information: [Forschungszentrum Jülich](#)

Georgia: Georgian-German Day of Science

19 September 2016 | Tbilisi, Georgia

Georgia is an important partner for Germany in the Eastern Partnership region. The science and technology cooperation between both countries started in the early 1990s, when Germany was the first country in the European Community to recognise Georgia under international law after it gained independence.

On 19 September 2016, a 'Georgian-German Day of Science' in Tbilisi brought together research funding organisations, higher education and scientific institutions as well as individual researchers to present their joint success stories and discuss opportunities for future Georgian-German STI cooperation.

Germany supports bilateral and multilateral STI cooperation projects with Georgian participation. Apart from this bilateral cooperation, Germany also backs Georgia's efforts to maintain closer ties with the EU, expressed, amongst others, in Georgia's association to Horizon 2020.

The Georgian-German Day of Science in Tbilisi on 19 September 2016 was organised by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany (BMBF). It took place at Tbilisi State University.

Participants discussed the current state of relations and future cooperation perspectives between the two countries and highlighted successful projects implemented by German and Georgian teams.

The German delegation was represented by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) Germany, the Helmholtz Association (HGF), Leibniz Association, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FhG), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ), Volkswagen Foundation, Helmholtz associations, and leading scientific research institutions.

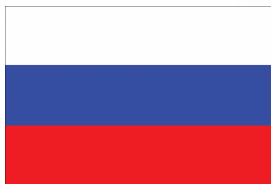
The second part of the Science Day provided opportunities for bilateral meetings between interested stakeholders. Research institutions and funding organisations from both countries disseminated information on their activities and major opportunities. The meeting format also allowed attendants to discuss future cooperation related issues.

*Source, further details, photos and presentations:
[Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation](#)*

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Russia: Update on Support for EU-Russia Research Cooperation

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Russia – Country Page

1. Available local programmes or funds that could provide support to Russian Horizon 2020 participants

Horizon 2020 is fully open to the participation of entities from across the world in all parts of the programme, and many topics are flagged as being specifically relevant for cooperation with partners from outside Europe. Russian scientists, universities, research organisations and enterprises are able to team up with their European partners to participate in projects under Horizon 2020 and make the best use of Europe's excellent opportunities in research and innovation.

Russian researchers and organisations are encouraged to participate in all actions of Horizon 2020 as consortium members and to take part in the proposal submission to the European Commission.

Russian Co-Funding Mechanisms for Research and Innovation Projects

To support Russian participation in Horizon 2020 actions and in view of the fact that participants from Russia are no longer automatically funded by the EU, the **Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation** publishes dedicated calls to offer funding support for Russian Horizon 2020 participants in accordance with its own call procedures (Russian Federal Programme (FTP) "R&D in Priority Areas of Development of the Russian S&T Complex 2014-2020"). Russian applicants to these calls will have to provide a document acknowledging their participation in the consortium of the joint Horizon 2020 proposal, submitted under the Horizon 2020 call.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation has established a functional mailbox horizon2020@mon.gov.ru to which the Russian scientific community may send enquiries about support available in Russia for participation in Horizon 2020.

Depending on the nature of their proposed research, Russian participants of Horizon 2020 research and innovation projects are also encouraged to apply to the regular calls of the **Russian Foundation for Basic Research** (www.rfbr.ru), the **Russian Foundation for the Humanities** (www.rfhr.ru) and the **Russian Science Foundation** (www.rscf.ru), which may be able to provide funding support in accordance with their own funding rules.

In addition, the **Russian Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises** (www.fasie.ru) may be able to support the participation of small innovative Russian enterprises in Horizon 2020 projects on a case-by-case basis in accordance with its own funding rules.

Enquiries concerning participation in Horizon 2020 may also be directed to the offices of the appointed Russian National Contact Points:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html

Last Update: September 2016

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The European Commission has updated its 'Country Page' on research cooperation with Russia. This is a 'must read' document for anyone active in EU-Russia STI cooperation.

The PDF lists local programmes or funds that support Russian Horizon 2020 participants; defines current priorities for EU-Russia STI cooperation and lists all related calls; links to brochures or other communication materials aiming at to support Russian participation in Horizon 2020; and offers a comprehensive list of contact persons at local National Contact Points including for the European Research Council and Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

The 15 pages PDF contains:

- Available local programmes or funds that could provide support to Russian Horizon 2020 participants, including
- Current priorities / EU roadmap for EU-Russia S&T Cooperation (comprehensive list of Horizon 2020 calls)
- Link to the webpage of the Delegation of the European Union to the Russian Federation and functional mailboxes which can be addressed in specific questions
- List and availability of local National Contact Points including for the European Research Council and Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

The document has last been updated in September 2016.

Source: [European Commission](#)

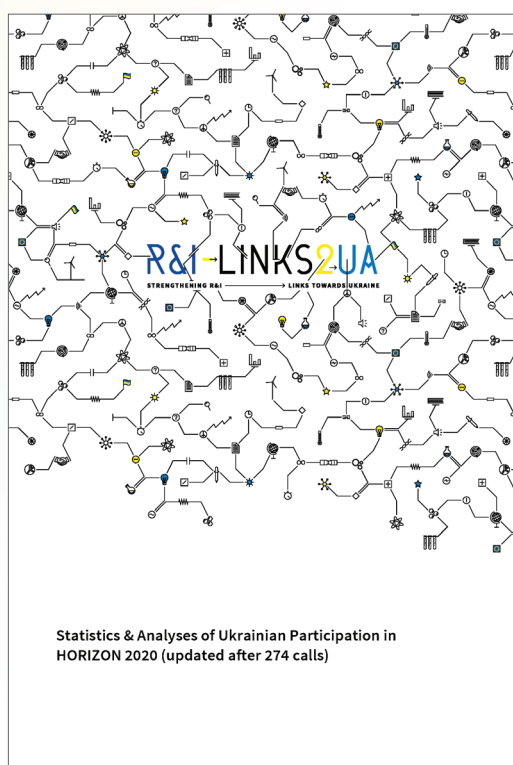


Ukraine: Update on Statistics and Analyses of Ukrainian Participation in Horizon 2020

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In the framework of the RI-LINKS2UA project, the 'Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences', in cooperation with the 'Centre for Social Innovation' (ZSI), and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine prepared the latest analytical report about the Ukrainian participation in Horizon 2020.

Signing the Association Agreement has given Ukraine a unique chance to significantly increase their participation in Horizon 2020. This is evidenced by the results of participation in the first 274 calls: 383 Ukrainian organisations participated in the preparation of 604 project proposals (808 participations), expecting EC contribution of 236.95 M€.

[click image to download PDF](#)

67 organisations are involved in 61 proposals on the so called MAIN LIST (80 participations), with an EC contribution of 11.95 M€. In particular Ukraine submitted 75 proposals for project co-ordinations of which 4 were selected for funding (MAIN LIST) with an EC contribution of 1.78 M€.

These results rank Ukraine on the third place among the Associated Countries just after Israel and Norway in both: number of participations and gained EC contribution.

Ukrainian 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 favorable conditions for the intensification of cooperation between Ukrainian science and industry with partners from the EU and other countries involved in H2020.

Source: [RI-LINKS2UA](#)

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'The Ukraine Network' - up to speed with German-Ukrainian Academic Cooperation



DEUTSCH-
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The UKRAINE Network

The UKRAINIAN Academic International NETwork (The UKRAINE Network) is an informal professional community, open to researchers from any field—irrespective of nationality—interested in fostering academic cooperation with Ukraine. It was launched in Berlin (Germany) in January 2016.

Key goals:

- FOSTERING academic cooperation with Ukraine
- SUPPORTING reforms in Ukrainian science
- IMPROVING knowledge about Ukraine abroad

On 11 July 2016 the founding meeting of the German-Ukrainian Academic Society (Die Deutsch-Ukrainische Akademische Gesellschaft) was held in Berlin. 16 scientists came together to found an organisation, which will support the goals of the UKRAINE Network in the context of the German-Ukrainian academic cooperation.

The network has recently launched its own [website](#) and published the October issue of its [newsletter](#).

Ukraine: Horizon 2020 funding helps Ukrainian start-up expand to EU markets

While many Ukrainian research institutes complain of lack of funding, the national scientific centre 'Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology' launched a start-up and joined a €5 million research consortium through the EU-funded Horizon 2020 programme.

'We knew about this programme quite awhile ago. Before Horizon 2020, we participated in the 6th and 7th iterations of its predecessor, the European framework programmes', says Serhiy Pugach, head of the section on technology transfer at the Institute and responsible for marketing at the '[Streamozone](#)' start-up.

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Streamozone produces ozone generators and systems based on these generators for the preparation and purification of water and air in the agricultural and food sectors and industrial enterprises dealing with water treatment.

Before applying for a Horizon grant, an organisation needs to find partners, including at least three EU-based organisations. 'When we started searching for partners, we had our own ideas for what organisations to work with, but a coordinator of a similar project suggested we join the bigger consortium, as it is harder to win a grant with a small one', explains Pugach.

The company joined the consortium of MycoKey ('integrated and innovative key actions for mycotoxin management in the food and feed chain') worth €5 million, and will participate for a four-year period. The consortium brings together more than 30 organisations from 15 countries worldwide, including from Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The consortium is involved in developing more than 15 different technologies aimed at reducing mycotoxin contamination of food at different stages. 'Streamozone deals with the prevention of fungus and mycotoxin during grain storage', says Pugach. The new company's share of the grant is €80,000.

While participating in the consortium, Streamozone develops prototype equipment for industrial production. 'We also provide recommendations for the technology's use and monitor the results of the field tests', notes Pugach.

The company's clients are found principally in North America and Ukraine. After joining the consortium, Streamozone started expanding to European markets.

'Since the project allows for more efficient communication with research and industrial companies worldwide, we got better access to the demands of the European market. Ukrainian companies usually have less demands for technologies, compared to global markets', explains Pugach. Consortium meetings help to generate questions and ideas and provide companies with more potential for funding and access to global markets.

Pugach advises Ukrainian companies not to be intimidated by the prospect of participating in Horizon 2020: 'You should promote yourself and the solutions that your company can suggest. Capacity in English is a must, of course. You should also participate in Horizon information sessions and brokerage events. Horizon's online databases can also be useful while searching for consortium partners.'

'There are currently low levels of applications for Horizon 2020 from Ukrainian organisations', says Oleksandr Chumak, Team Europe expert and president of the Association of Private Employers. Chumak gives an example: 'Spain, France and Italy submit about 170 applications to Horizon per year, while last year there were very few Ukrainian organisations that applied.'

To help institutes and businesses get more acquainted with Horizon, Team Europe experts put together a presentation on the programme for Kharkiv entrepreneurs and the scientific community. 'Kharkiv is one of the scientific hubs of Ukraine. It has many research developments and patents', says Chumak.

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He believes that the city has a lot of potential to benefit from Horizon 2020.

Few steps to apply for Horizon 2020

To apply for Horizon 2020, you must be part of a consortium. Partners must be from at least 3 different EU member states or associated countries depending on the type of actions you intend to participate. Here are some links to organisations that can help applicants find partners:

- [European Commission Participation Portal partner search tool](#)
- [European Commission CORDIS partner search tool](#)
- [Enterprise Europe Network \(EEN\)](#)
- [Knowledge Transfer Network \(KTN\)](#)

The average share of the grant is about €100,000 per company. To submit your proposal you must first register on the European Commission [Participant Portal](#).

[Horizon 2020 National Contact Points in Ukraine](#) give advice on applying for the programme, specifically: choosing the best funding scheme, administrative procedures and contractual issues, the application process, documents (forms, guidelines and manuals), finding a project partner, reviewing your proposal, liaising with the commission on the scope of projects.

You can find a list of Horizon 2020 funding opportunities on the European Commission [Participant Portal](#).

Source: [EU in Ukraine](#)

Ukraine: 'Peer Review of the Ukrainian Research and Innovation System'



[click image to download PDF](#)

The Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility (PSF) has been set up by the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation (DG RTD) of the European Commission under the EU Framework Programme for Research & Innovation 'Horizon 2020'.

It supports Member States and countries associated to Horizon 2020 in reforming their national science, technology and innovation systems. This report summarises evidence on the situation in the field of science, technology and innovation (STI) in Ukraine and provides a background for the PSF Peer Review of Ukraine's research and innovation system, conducted in 2016 by a panel of independent experts and national peers.

Source: [EU Bookshop](#)

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Ukraine: Innovative SMEs in Ukraine to benefit from EU-guaranteed loans

On 13 September 2016, the European Investment Fund (EIF) and ProCredit Bank Ukraine signed a loan guarantee deal that will offer small and medium-sized companies in Ukraine easier access to risk capital for the development of innovative ideas.

The EU-funded deal will allow the bank to more securely enter into loan agreements with companies of below 500 employees, as any potential losses on loans for innovative activities will be guaranteed by 50% by the EU under the loan guarantee scheme. Overall, the scheme is to generate a portfolio of €50 million in loans to innovative companies over the next two years.

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: 'I am pleased to announce that Ukrainian companies can now benefit from EU-guaranteed loans up to €50 million to boost their research and innovation potential. The deal signed today will support Ukraine's economy, and it is a testimony to the productive relationship between the EU and Ukraine under Horizon 2020, the EU's research funding programme.'

This deal falls under the [InnovFin SME Guarantee Facility](#), which is part of the new generation of financial instruments supported under Horizon 2020. Under this facility, financial intermediaries are guaranteed against a proportion of any losses incurred on the debt financing covered under the facility.

InnovFin SME Guarantee Facility is part of 'InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators', the new generation of EU financial instruments and advisory services that was developed under Horizon 2020 to help innovative firms access finance more easily. It will help inject up to €48 billion in investments in Research and Innovation across Europe.

InnovFin SME Guarantee Facility provides guarantees and counter-guarantees on debt financing of between €25,000 and €7.5 million, in order to improve access to loan finance for innovative small and medium-sized enterprises and small midcaps (up to 499 employees). The facility is managed by the EIF, and is rolled out through financial intermediaries – banks and other financial institutions – in EU Member States and Associated Countries.

Source: [European Commission](#)

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Imprint/ Выходные данные

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Registered court and registration number:
District court of Bonn, VR 2780

Value added tax identification number:
DE 121965658

Responsible in the sense of § 55, 2nd paragraph of
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DLR Project Management Agency

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