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Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action

LUKE

Linking Ukraine to the European Research Area
Joint Funding and Capacity Building Platform
for enhanced Research and Innovation Cooperation

Research and Innovation cooperation with added value

LUKE Newsletter September 2025
Grant Agreement 101188315

Dear Readers and Partners,

On behalf of the LUKE Project Consortium, I am pleased to welcome you to the September 2025 edition of our newsletter.

LUKE serves as platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange, uniting Ukrainian and European partners to strengthen Ukraine's research and innovation ecosystem. In these challenging times, our initiative provides critical support, offering funding opportunities and capacity-building activities, and a networking for researchers and innovators to thrive. To expand funding opportunities and support as many research and innovation projects as possible, the [LUKE consortium is inviting further R&I funding agencies to join us in launching a joint call in early 2026](#).

Thank you for your continuous support and interest in our activities. Together, we are building a more resilient and connected future for research and innovation.

Wishing you an inspiring reading!

Grygorii MOZOLEVYCH
Director General of the Science Development Directorate
Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
LUKE Project Partner



We support the European Research Area aimed at creating a single, borderless market for research, innovation and technology in the EU.

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN UKRAINE: UPDATES



The LUKE project welcomes a new initiative launched in Rome during the 2025 Ukraine Recovery Conference by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Italian Ministry of University and Research, the European Commission and UNESCO. With the aim to respond to both the urgent needs and long-term priorities of Ukraine's research and innovation system the International Coalition for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine will promote concrete actions to support Ukrainian scientists, drive reconstruction and modernisation, and reinforce the role of research and innovation in the country's recovery. It marks a significant step in placing science, research and innovation at the heart of Ukraine's sustainable, inclusive and long-term recovery.

[Read more about the Conference.](#)



Photo credit: Imad Skhairi

“

The establishment of the International Coalition for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine represents a significant step in supporting the country's research and innovation ecosystem. This initiative brings together governments, international organisations, agencies, private companies and NGOs from around the world. Today, the Coalition have already included 14 countries, the European Commission, UNESCO, UNDP, Science Europe and ALLEA. Together, we aim to address the challenges faced by Ukrainian scientists and innovators, who continue their work despite the ongoing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

The Coalition will help attract investment to modernise research infrastructure, support researchers, and launch Centres of Excellence in critical areas, from advanced materials and sensing solutions to defense technologies. It will also foster the development of Science City as a hub for innovation, capacity building and much more. By fostering global partnerships and aligning international efforts with Ukraine's national priorities, the Coalition will help strengthen the country's scientific community and contribute to its sustainable and long-term development. We hope that through joint efforts, by 2027 we will be able to increase GDP spending on R&D from 0.37% to 1%. This Coalition highlights the critical role of research and innovation in shaping Ukraine's future.

Denys KURBATOV, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine

SCAN ME



[Read more about the International Coalition here](#)



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ADVANCING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN UKRAINE: UPDATES

Conference on Ukraine's Reconstruction in Research and Higher Education

The LUKE project team participated in the Conference on Ukraine's Reconstruction in Research and Higher Education, held on 17 September 2025 in Brno, the Czech Republic. During the conference, the LUKE project was presented, highlighting its objectives and activities to support Ukraine's research and innovation ecosystem.

Organised as part of the [Research Infrastructures for the Future of Ukraine \(RIFF\)](#) project, the conference aimed to foster collaboration between European and Ukrainian academic communities, as well as among Ukrainian stakeholders.

The event brought together researchers, policymakers, and funders, offering insightful panel discussions and serving as a networking platform. Its goal was to lay the groundwork for concrete actions to strengthen Ukraine's research and innovation ecosystem.

Subscribe to the RIFF newsletter [here](#).



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[More about the RIFF project and the conference](#)



Photo credit: Monika Hlaváčová

Support to Ukraine on Research Infrastructures policies

The EC Policy Support Facility (PSF) recently published a country review to support Ukraine optimise its Research Infrastructure (RI) by providing recommendations, for example, on funding mechanisms, governance, and Open Science integration. The initiative supports Ukraine in aligning its RI policies with EU standards, leveraging programs like Horizon Europe and the Ukraine Facility to repair war-damaged RI and foster innovation. PSF also focused on capacity-building and international collaboration to strengthen Ukraine's role in the European Research Area.

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[Read the report](#)



Additionally, several LUKE project partners were involved in this PSF, e.g., requested the PSF from the EC, the IEF prepared the background report, and representatives from MESU, the NRFU and the NASU participated in online workshops. The ZSI provided the rapporteur for the process.

[Read more about the PSF here](#)



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LUKE WORKSHOP REPORT

Thematic priorities from the Citizen Visioning Workshop in Ukraine

"Research I wish for Ukraine"

I would like environmental research and innovation to have not only a scientific but also a practical focus. It is very important that the results of research are implemented in real policies and solutions that help reduce the negative impact on the environment.

Participant of the workshop



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[Read the report here](#)

During a workshop on 27 May 2025 we gathered diverse perspectives from Ukrainians with no research and innovation background. The workshop focused on aligning research funding with societal needs.

Participants emphasized practical, policy-driven solutions and appreciated the opportunity to contribute to Ukraine's R&I agenda. Their insights will help ensure the upcoming grant call reflects both scientific excellence and public aspirations.

The workshop was designed by Democracy x, Denmark in collaboration with Institute for Economics and Forecasting of the NASU (IEF, Ukraine), DLR Project Management Agency (DLR, Germany) and Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI, Austria). In the coming years, LUKE will offer training on how to make public engagement part of your R&I approach.



[Read more about the workshop here](#)

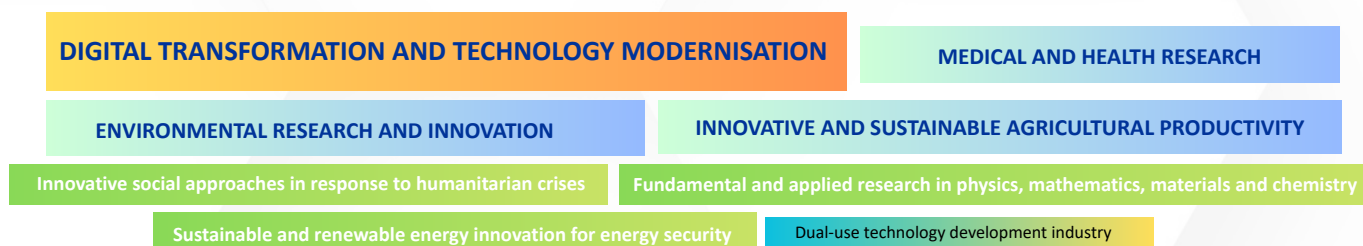


Figure 2: Thematic priorities selected by participants arranged by frequency of selection. The areas are proportional to the frequency of selection.



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COMING SOON: LUKE EVENTS AND UPDATES

International foresight workshop

Join our online workshop:
Foresight at a Glance
focusing on the future of Ukraine's research and innovation system

When?

19 November 2025

11:00–13:00 (CET) / 12:00–14:00 (EET)

Why?

To equip you with foresight methods that transform uncertainty into opportunity. Discover how to anticipate trends, design adaptive policies and build a resilient R&I system for Ukraine.

What can you expect?

In this [LUKE Knowledge Hub](#) workshop, you'll explore strategic foresight, its approaches and methods, and learn how to apply them to make smarter, more resilient policy decisions, especially in today's unpredictable environment.

Who can participate?

Open to all professionals in [public sector institutions](#), including ministries, agencies, universities and research performing organisations.

Participants from across Europe are welcome to join our event:

EU widening countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

EU enlargement context: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine, and Türkiye.

Interested?

For further information and registration (will open at the end of October), please take a look here <https://horizon-europe.org.ua/en/luke/news/>

Let's collaborate to shape a sustainable
future together!



Foresight at a Glance



*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



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COMING SOON: LUKE EVENTS AND UPDATES

Ukrainian matchmaking: "Formula of Success = Science + Business"

When?

4 December 2025

Where?

In person, Lviv

Why join?

To bridge the gap between science and business, fostering innovation, networking and growth in Ukraine. This event is a platform to connect, collaborate and create impact.

What can you expect?

In this matchmaking event, you will:

- Meet potential partners from business and research sectors
- Explore innovative projects and technologies
- Discover funding and collaboration opportunities

Who can participate?

Open to all Ukrainian entrepreneurs and researchers eager to drive innovation and turn ideas into reality.

Interested?

For further information and registration (will open at the beginning of October), please take a look here <https://horizon-europe.org.ua/en/luke/news/>



Ukrainian Science-Business
matchmaking event

Update on our joint R&I call development

Over the past few months, the LUKE team has been working closely with stakeholders and analysing key documents to prepare the joint grant call, planned for early 2026.

On 10 September 2025, the Group of Funding Parties (GFP) met online to agree on preliminary topics and define the next steps for finalising the call.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar “KALYNA: Horizon Europe for Kyiv and Chernihiv Regions”

When?

3 October 2025, 11:00-12:15 (EEST) / 10:00-11:15 (CEST).

Where?

Online

Why join?

To learn more about Horizon Europe and its opportunities for the Kyiv and Chernihiv regions within the framework of French-Ukrainian project KALYNA: Joined Together to Build European Project Management Skills. The project is launched in partnership with AFPA, Institut Paris Region and the KSPA, the Île-de-France Region, together with the Kyiv and Chernihiv Regional Military Administrations and has received support from the AFD under the Local Authority Financing Facility.

What can you expect?

In this webinar, if you are from Chernihiv and Kyiv regions, you'll get strong support in mastering European Union financing mechanisms.

Who can participate?

Open to Ukrainian potential applicants of the Programme, including agencies, universities, research performing organisations and science institutions, entrepreneurs, public sector institutions from the Chernihiv and Kyiv regions.

Interested?

Registration: <https://horizon-europe.org.ua/en/news/events/webinar-kaly-na-horizon-europe-for-kyiv-and-chernihiv-regions-will-take-place/>



Webinar to learn more about Horizon Europe

EUA EVENT: Enhanced collaboration with the Ukrainian higher education sector through MSCA4Ukraine fellowships

This webinar will showcase how MSCA4Ukraine fellows continuously engage with their home institutions, as well as how they have helped to establish new collaborations between their home and host institutions. The webinar will also discuss how MSCA4Ukraine fellows, alumni and hosts intend to support and contribute to rebuilding Ukrainian higher education and research.

Participation is free of charge and open to all. Registration will remain open until 13 October.

More information: <https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/enhanced-collaboration-with-the-ukrainian-higher-education-sector-through-msca4ukraine-fellowships.html>

Registration: <https://web-eur.cvent.com/event/749ad427-f41d-4bfb-9ff9-b218c9c7894a/regProcessStep1>



MSCA4Ukraine webinar 2025



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Series of Webinars by the NRFU and Science Europe: Building Capacity in the Ukrainian R&I Research Ecosystem

The 2nd webinar: Developing and implementing monitoring tools for R&D projects

When?

25 November 2025, 11:00-12:35 (EEST) / 10:00-11:35 (CEST)

Where?

Online

Why join?

The event will combine international expertise and Ukrainian needs to foster the development of a modern research ecosystem.

What can you expect?

In this webinar, you will be provided with the tools and knowledge to manage research projects more effectively and to implement best international practices.

Who can participate?

Open to all Ukrainian scientists, researchers and innovators, who are potential participants of the Horizon Europe Programme eager to drive innovation and turn ideas into reality.

Interested?

Registration: <https://nrfu.org.ua/en/news-en/building-capacity-in-the-ukrainian-ri-research-ecosystem-registration-now-open-for-a-series-of-webinars-by-the-nrfu-and-science-europe/>



Webinar on Developing and implementing monitoring tools for R&D projects

Monitoring tools for R&D projects: bridging expertise and practice!

RESEARCH OFFERS AND REQUESTS FROM UKRAINIAN RESEARCHERS

Ukrainian researchers and innovators are looking for cooperation partners

As an annex to this newsletter, we have compiled a document featuring research offers and requests from Ukrainian researchers and innovators.

This collection was gathered over the past three months and presents opportunities for joint projects, services and networking.

Explore the annex on our website and share it to support Ukrainian researchers and innovators!



More information on our website



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ENGAGING THROUGH SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Turning complex process into everyday understanding: why analogies work

Imagine making a big pot of borscht for the whole community. Everyone brings their own ingredients, beets, potatoes, spices and family recipes. When combined, these contributions create something richer and more flavorful than anyone could make alone.

That's how LUKE works. Together, we do not just "cook", we build a platform for development of sustainable, impactful solutions that benefit the whole society. Just like in borscht, every ingredient matters. And with Ukraine's unique touch, the result is something nourishing, innovative and deeply rooted in community.



Cooking borscht is like developing a joint R&I grant call

| Cooking community borscht | How LUKE works |
|---|---|
| Families bring their ingredients: beets, potatoes, spices, to make one big shared pot | R&I funding agencies pool resources across Europe and Ukraine to support researchers and innovators |
| Cooking together strengthens bonds and builds traditions | Networks connect researchers and innovators to create new solutions |
| Families agree on the recipe, more garlic? Vegetarian style? | Agencies and stakeholders select research topics for funding |
| Families from different places are coming together | Project teams form with European and Ukrainian partners |
| Families cook side by side | Teams submit project proposals |
| Everyone tastes and scores each ingredient for flavor | Experts review proposals for quality and impact |
| Only the top recipes make it into the final pot | The best proposals receive funding |
| Families stir the pot together, tasting at the start, middle and end | Research teams carry out projects, share progress and report results |

This analogy shows that complex processes can be simplified. Just as every ingredient in borscht adds its own flavor, every contributor to LUKE helps build a stronger and innovative Ukraine!



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PROJECT PARTNERS



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Project coordinator



DLR Projektträger

Germany

Responsible for implementation of the capacity building

ZENTRUM FÜR SOCIALE INNOVATION
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION



Austria

DEMOCRACY X
TECHNOLOGY, SOCIETY & SUSTAINABILITY

Denmark

civitta

Ukraine
Lithuania

Ministries



MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION AND
SCIENCE OF UKRAINE

Ukraine



Federal Ministry
of Research, Technology
and Space

Germany



Romania



Latvian Council of Science

Latvia



Czechia

FWF Austrian
Science Fund

Austria



Austria



Estonian
Research Council

Estonia



Romania



Moldova



Georgia



Türkiye

R&I Funding Agencies



Ukraine



NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
POLAND

Poland

Associated partners:



Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation

Germany



Swiss National
Science Foundation

Switzerland



Research Council
of Finland

Finland



GEORGIA'S INNOVATION &
TECHNOLOGY AGENCY

Georgia



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on social media!



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