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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 December 2025

Grant Agreement 101188315

Dear Readers and Partners,

On behalf of the Institute for Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IEF NASU) and as a partner of the LUKE consortium, I am glad to welcome you to our December 2025 newsletter!

IEF NASU takes part regularly in EU-supported projects, but the LUKE project differs from most of them. It is unique as it is about setting-up of an international research and innovation funding activity.

IEF is involved in the undertaking of several tasks and is a co-coordinator of the 2nd Work Package.



Photo: © Igor Yegorov

The main task for the Institute's specialists during this year was to support the selection of the priority areas of the LUKE Joint Call. It included the citizen's visioning workshop on the future of Ukrainian science. The workshop was conducted together with the LUKE project partners. It is an excellent example of joint efforts in the interests of Ukrainian and European scientists. The preparation for the LUKE Joint Call continues.

This newsletter is dedicated to the main LUKE activities between October and December. Later this December, we will publish a special newsletter dedicated to the LUKE Joint Call.

Let me wish you success in the upcoming LUKE Joint Call!

Igor Yegorov,
Professor and Corresponding Member of NASU,
Leader of the IEF LUKE team



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

LUKE SCIENCE-BUSINESS MATCHMAKING EVENT IN LVIV

The matchmaking event “The Formula for Success: Science + Business” successfully brought together over 40 Ukrainian researchers and business representatives on 4 December 2025 to foster science-business collaboration and stimulate the development of innovation-driven projects.

This event was a preparatory activity for the multilateral LUKE Joint Grant Call and the upcoming international matchmaking event.



Photo credit: Mark Hryvniak

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An important component of the effectiveness of public investment in the research sector is the direct interest of businesses in scientific results and further studies. Therefore, participants of the event had the opportunity to form collaborations for developing new projects.

Grygorii Mozolevych, Director General of the Science Development Directorate, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

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[Read more here](#)

While the matchmaking format has not yet become widespread in Ukraine, I am very pleased that such events, dedicated to a critically important strategic topic for country like science and business collaboration, are already taking place in Ukraine.

Iryna Yaremchuk, Vice-rector for Research and Innovation at Lviv Polytechnic National University



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LUKE SCIENCE-BUSINESS MATCHMAKING EVENT: VOICES OF PARTICIPANTS

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Events like this need to be organised more often. International partners should also be involved. And it's very cool that a similar event is planned at the international level. We would definitely like to take part in it as well. It is much easier to find partners at such events, when you can talk one-on-one, exchange your work and ideas.

Olga Kosmina,
Project Manager at UNBROKEN



Participation in the matchmaking session was extremely productive for us. We held a number of targeted meetings with partners from Kharkiv, Lviv Polytechnic and the Veterinary University, identifying directions for potential cooperation.

Igor Vuytsyk,
Head of the Lviv Agrarian Chamber



The event itself is important and useful. Combining science, Start-ups, business and technological capacities is, for me, a successful combination to strengthen our economy and bring it to the European and global level, find partnerships and attract funding such as grants, investments, whatever it may be, so that we can unlock our scientific and technological potential.

Olha Hdulia,
Co-founder of the
Competence Design Bureau



Photo credit: Mark Hryvniak

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SCIENCE-BUSINESS MATCHMAKING EVENT IN LVIV: FROM PLANNING TO ACTION

The science-business matchmaking event in Lviv was designed to be a catalyst for future partnerships. Before the matchmaking event registered researchers were invited to the "Pitch Smart!" workshops on 28 November and 1 December 2025. The workshops focused on research pitch preparation, highlighting the importance of clear, concise and engaging communication.



[Workshop Pitch Smart! materials](#)

During the event participants had an opportunity for the networking and interactive discussion on needs, initiatives, skills and barriers for science-business collaboration in Ukraine, laying the groundwork for development of the LUKE guidelines on science-business collaboration.

Our team: Task 2.2 From scientific idea to market – accelerating market uptake



Event organiser:
Anastasiia-
Bohdana Kutsa
Civitta, Ukraine



LUKE Task 2.2 Co-leader:
Ivanna Didur
Civitta, Ukraine



LUKE Task 2.2 Leader:
Inese Gavarane
ZSI, Austria

“Organising the matchmaking event in Lviv was like orchestrating a symphony of ideas, where collaboration turned vision into reality. This was the first event of its kind in Ukraine, and we were delighted to implement it and share best practices for replicating similar formats.”

Task 2.2 Team”

Key messages from the workshops “Pitch Smart!”

Humanities
Rivne State University
Lviv Polytechnic National University
University of Humanities
V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
Kherson State University
Chemistry Kharkiv University, Philology, Ivano-Frankivsk (Kherson)
Institute of Higher Education of the National Academy of Educational Sciences
National University of Water and Environmental Engineering (Rivne)
Kyiv National Economic University named after V. Hetman
Ivan Franko National University of Lviv
Kyiv Management and Entrepreneurship
Kherson
Logistics
Lviv
Rivne
Startup hub for schoolchildren

joint projects
industrial impact
perfect product
for company
possible
commercialisation of my research
it is critical to be constantly updated on market trends
success for both - business and academia
success for both - business and academia
this will make science more relevant
real-world evaluation
for development and effective cooperation
technology transfer
innovative development of Ukraine
commercialization



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KNOWLEDGE HUB IS LAUNCHED: FORESIGHT WORKSHOP

On 19 November 2025, the LUKE Knowledge Hub gathered over 20 researchers and policymakers from Ukrainian research institutions for an interactive online workshop, “Strategic foresight for resilient research and innovation systems.” The event provided participants with tools to anticipate future trends, design adaptive policies and strengthen the resilience of Ukraine’s research and innovation ecosystem.

The workshop was moderated by Henriette Kirch, who is a member of the LUKE project team and a Senior Scientific Officer at the German Aerospace Center (DLR-PT). Henriette brings extensive experience in foresight training and facilitation, helping organisations navigate complexity and design future-ready strategies. She gives trainings and presentations in foresight methods at institutions such as the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS).

Through hands-on exercises, attendees analysed historical futuristic visions from the early 20th century, identifying inherent biases and assumptions. The workshop also facilitated discussions on emerging trends shaping Ukraine’s research and innovation landscape over the next decade. Experts guided participants through the key steps of foresight implementation, with a special focus on the role of “wildcards” – unpredictable events that could disrupt or accelerate change.



LUKE WP2 Leader,
Moderator:
Henriette Kirch
DLR-PT, Germany



[Workshop materials](#)

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Group Exercise on “What comes on mind? When thinking about the future?”

Geopolitical crises
War and Peace Doubts
Fear Peace uncertainty InfoSecurity
Integration warm weather
Uncertainty risksAI Misinformation
anxiety
Peace and reconstruction

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International Coalition for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine

1ST TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETING (ONLINE)

The LUKE project was invited to present its goals and activities to the participants of the 1st Technical-Level Meeting of the International Coalition for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine, taking place online on 9 December 2025. This excellent opportunity was used to briefly reflect on LUKE's main objectives and, above all, to raise the awareness of the Coalition members about the upcoming LUKE Joint Call.

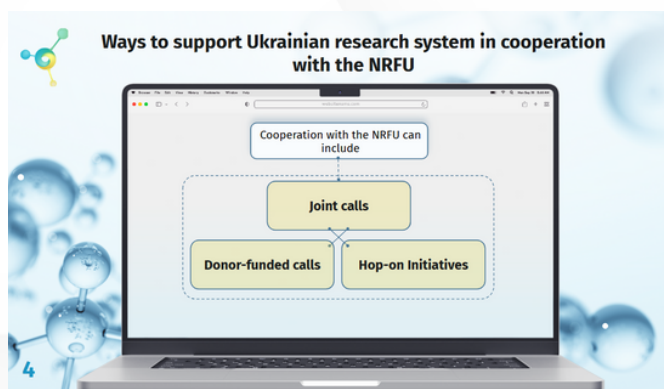
The LUKE Joint Call will be officially launched on 30 January 2026 – an important milestone inviting researchers and institutions to actively participate and contribute to advancing cooperation with Ukraine. So far, 15 funding organisations are involved in implementing of the Joint Call.

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

The LUKE Joint Call is still open for additional research and innovation funding organisations that wish to be part of the LUKE Group of Funding Parties.



During the meeting, the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU) was officially welcomed as a new member of the International Coalition. Olga Polotska, Executive Director of the NRFU highlighted the Foundation's key role in supporting science and innovation in Ukraine, presenting its diverse funding mechanisms. These include bilateral and multilateral joint calls, such as the LUKE Joint Call, as well as "hop-on" initiatives.

About International Coalition

The International Coalition for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine was officially launched in Rome during the 2025 Ukraine Recovery Conference. The joint initiative by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science, UNESCO and the European Commission, marks a significant step in placing science, research and innovation at the heart of Ukraine's sustainable, inclusive and long-term recovery.



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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



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POLAND

Poland

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Science Foundation

Switzerland



Research Council
of Finland

Finland



GEORGIA'S INNOVATION &
TECHNOLOGY AGENCY

Georgia



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