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SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN PRACTICE: FROM PARTNER SEARCH TO A LUKE JOINT CALL CONSORTIUM

Horizon Europe project LUKE
"Linking Ukraine to the European Research Area – Joint Funding and Capacity Building Platform for Enhanced Research and Innovation Cooperation"

Webinars
For researchers and RMAs in Ukraine
29 and 30 December 2025

Dr. Inese Gavarane, M.Ed., MBA
Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria

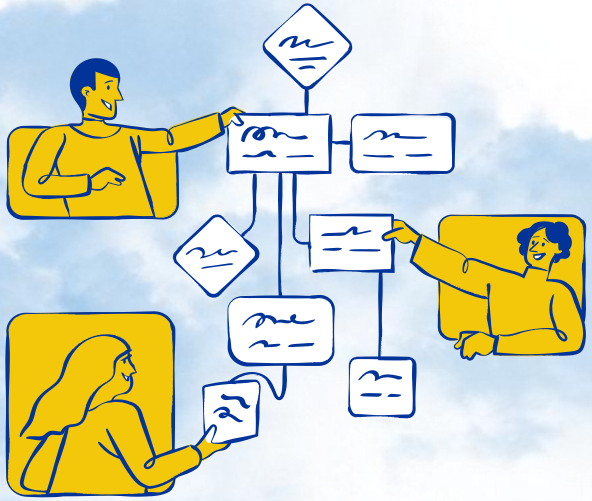
Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

About project

Key objectives of the LUKE project

- To organise a joint call for proposals to fund transnational R&I projects with Ukrainian participation.

- To enhance the country's research and innovation capacities.



Knowledge hub

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Agenda

- Tour de Table
- Consortium building basics
- Science diplomacy in practice
- Partner search
- Potential Austrian partners
- Developing Q&A list

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Science Diplomacy

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LUKE Joint Call pre-announcement

LUKE Joint Call

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Consortium building basics

Minimum LUKE Join Call Consortium requirement:

Country A + **Country B** + **Ukraine**

Austria
The Czech Republic
Estonia
Finland, Georgia*
Germany
Latvia
Republic of Moldova
Poland
Romania
Türkiye
Ukraine

Eligible applicants vary by funding organisation:

Eligible applicants: legal entities, including institutions, organisations and enterprises.

The partner eligibility criteria vary depending on the national rules of the funding organisations.

** Confirmation is still pending*

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Call topics

1. **Energy**: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. **Cybersecurity**: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. **Medical and health research**: Telemedicine, biomedical research
4. **Social sciences and humanities**: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development and human capital restoration

Research and innovation topics: description

Interested in how the Call topics were defined?

LUKE Special Newsletter December 2025

Interdisciplinarity is encouraged!

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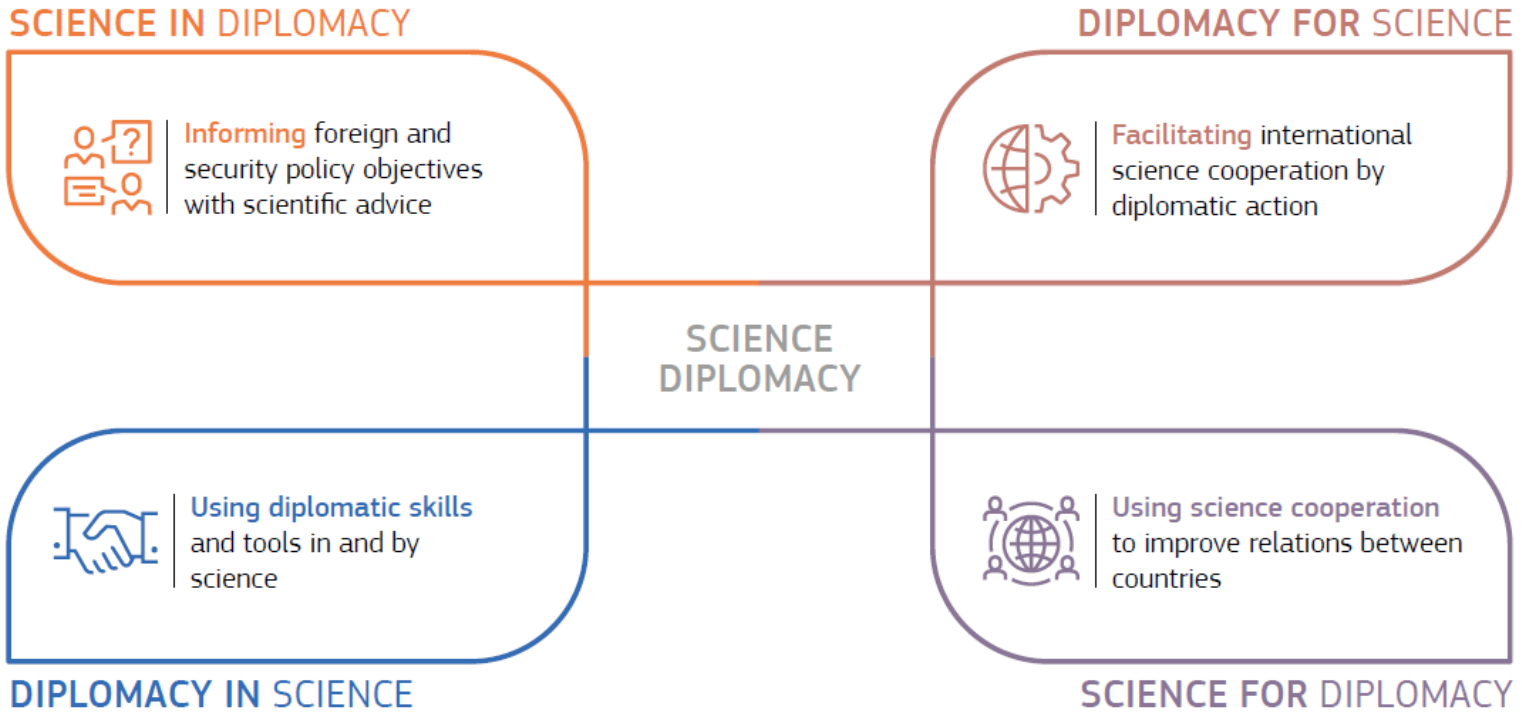
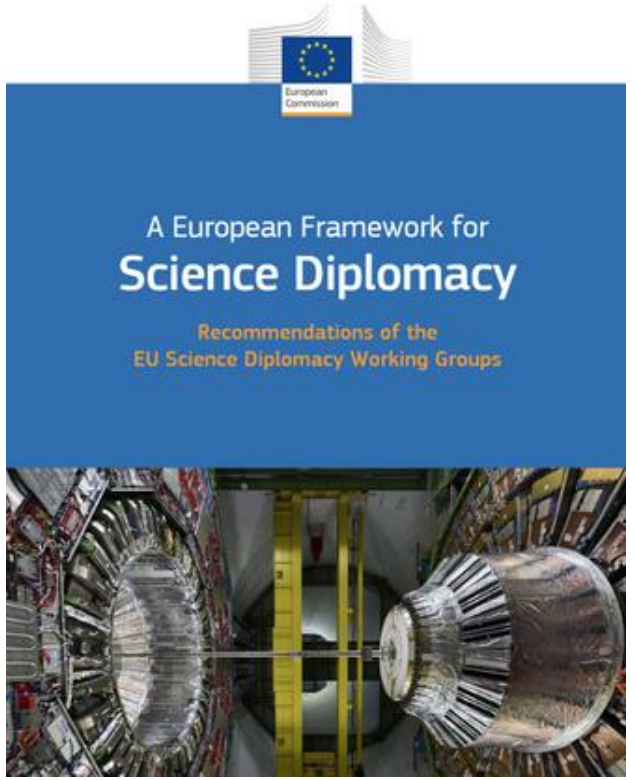
Science diplomacy (SD): Introduction

Typology of science diplomacy





European Commission: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *A European framework for science diplomacy – Recommendations of the EU Science Diplomacy Working Groups*, Gjedssø Bertelsen, R.(editor), Bochereau, L.(editor), Chelioti, E.(editor), Dávid, Á.(editor), Gailiūtė-Janušonė, D.(editor), Hartl, M.(editor), Liberatore, A.(editor), Mauduit, J.-C.(editor), Müller, J. M.(editor) and Van Langenhove, L.(editor), Publications Office of the European Union, 2025, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/9235330

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Science diplomacy actor types

Three main types of actors engage in science diplomacy activities, with examples such as:

Political and diplomatic actors

Science diplomats

Science and Technology attachés

Special envoys

Civil servants and political leaders working on knowledge intensive international issues

Science-based actors

Researchers and research performing organisations

Government-appointed scientists supporting knowledge intensive negotiations

Self-appointed science diplomats, often linked to science diplomacy networks and initiatives

Science administration and management actors

Research funding agencies

Research managers, programme owners, joint programming teams

Grant, infrastructure and international relations offices

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The 'Matters' of Science Diplomacy: Explicitness/Implicitness (2020).
https://www.s4d4c.eu/the-matters-of-science-diplomacy-explicitness-implicitness/

EU Science Diplomacy Alliance

european union science diplomacy alliance

S4D4C

InsSciDE
Inventing a shared Science Diplomacy for Europe

EL-CSID
European Leadership in Cultural, Science and Innovation Diplomacy

2016 - 2022

THE EU SCIENCE DIPLOMACY ALLIANCE

Founded in 2021

WHAT ARE THE THEMATIC ENTRY POINTS?

Science Advice, Anticipatory Science Diplomacy and Foresight (SCIENCE ADVICE)

Research Security and Science Diplomacy

Science Diplomacy and Art, Culture, and Cultural Heritage Protection (CULTURE)

European research diasporas as stakeholders in Science Diplomacy (DIASPORAS)

How to built equitable Science Diplomacy between the North and the South (GLOBAL NORTH AND SOUTH)

Evolving Perspectives of Science Diplomacy in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

Science, Technology, Innovation Diplomacy (STID) and Gender Equality (GENDER)

Ocean Science Diplomacy (OCEAN)

The networking hub for the institutions oriented towards science diplomacy research, policy expertise, sustainable development, education and more

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How diplomats can facilitate partner search?

- Make targeted introductions to relevant universities, research organisations, companies and clusters
- Validate partners and context by sharing local insight on strengths and priorities
- Open doors to decision-makers and help you reach the right contact faster
- Support trust building through convening, visibility and neutral facilitation
- Signpost opportunities such as calls, events, delegations and matchmaking formats
- Advise on positioning and communication so your collaboration offer is clear, credible and respectful

Invite diplomats to visit your facilities or organise virtual tours.
Increase your institution‘s visibility.
Stay connected!

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How to find partnerships via Diplomatic circle

Inga Ulmane

Counsellor of Economic and Commercial Affairs / Embassy of Latvia in Austria

Head of the Representative Office in Austria / Investment and Development Agency of Latvia

Investment and Development Agency of Latvia

Three ways approach

- Proactive
- Reactive
- «Putting on the Map»

Define internally (1–2 pages max)

Project domain (e.g. energy, ICT, health, social sciences, defense, reconstruction)

Technology Readiness Level (TRL) – research, pilot, deployment?

Your role: coordinator, WP leader, data provider, pilot site

What you offer:

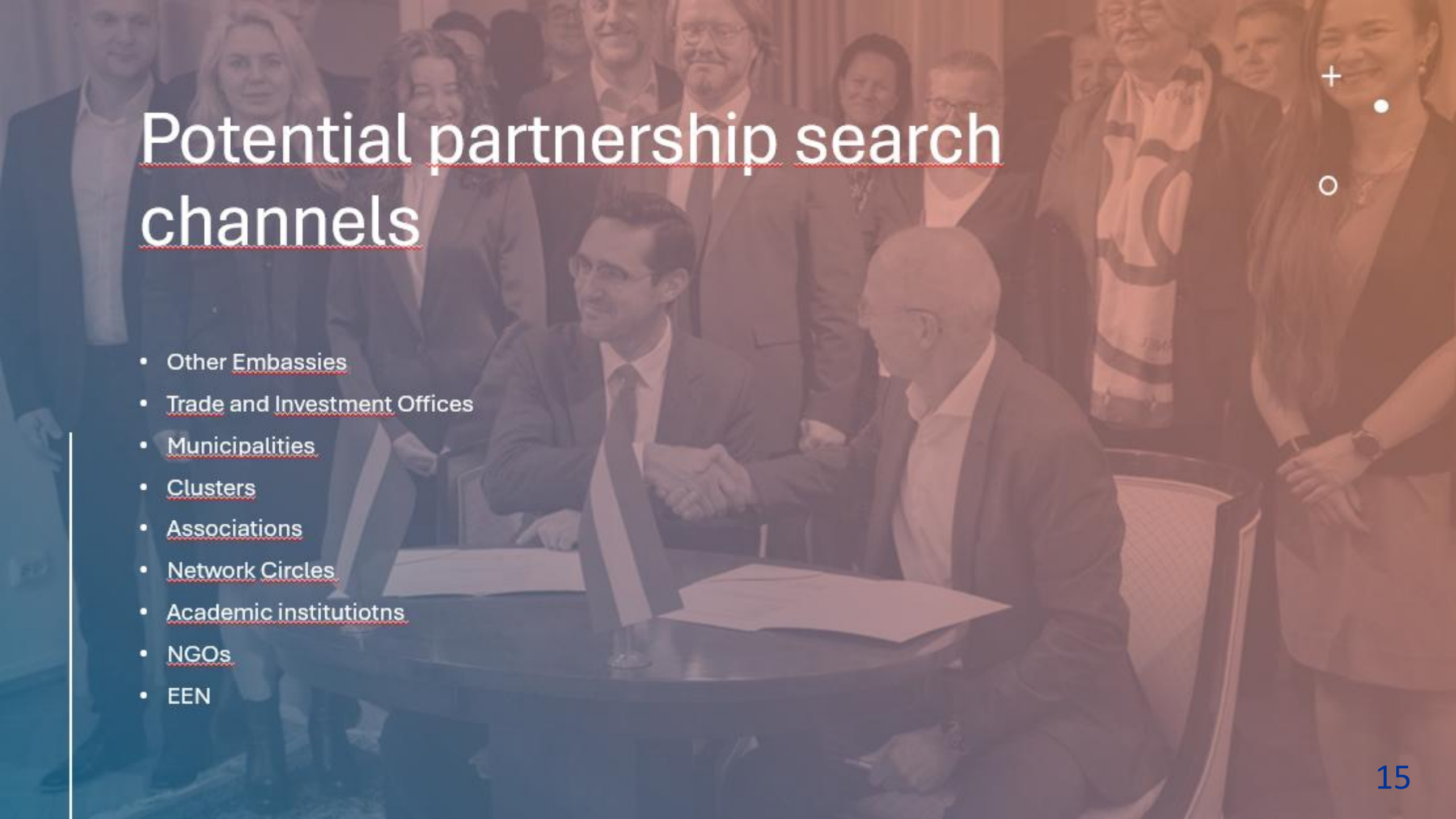
- Access to Ukrainian data, pilots, living labs
- Field validation in war/post-war context
- Strong technical or scientific expertise

What you need:

- EU coordinator experience
- Industry partner
- Policy / impact partner
- Specific country (Germany, Nordics, Baltics, etc.)

💡 **Tip:** European partners respond much better if you already know *exactly* where they fit.

Potential partnership search channels



- Other Embassies
- Trade and Investment Offices
- Municipalities
- Clusters
- Associations
- Network Circles
- Academic institutiotns
- NGOs
- EEN

Forms of potential reach and research

- Speaker slots
- Exhibition boots/stands
- Forums
- Conferences
- Partnering events
- Sales platforms as salesforce, dealfront, databases (cost free and advanced)
- LinkedIn
- ChatGPT
- Lists of speakers and exhibitors
- Different awards, hackatons etc.

Examples

- Case study: Technical University can not reach the dean at other UNI
- Speaker at Sazlburg Uni > 3 projects
- Embassy Booth at the event > inquiry for partners

Communication matters

Effective communication:

- Supports trust building
- Aligns expectations
- Moves relationships from first contact to a working partnership

Focus on purpose.
Less terminology, more clarity!

A researcher asked Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva a question at the ERA Symposium in Vienna in 2025:

„How can we ensure that the important ERA priorities and values, as well as the methodological approaches such as engagement and participation are not lost in the Competitiviness framing?“

https://www.zsi.at/news/zsi-at-the-austrian-era-symposium-2025/

How can we adapt the same message for different target groups (e.g., policymakers and businesses) without losing meaning?
Why should we? ☺

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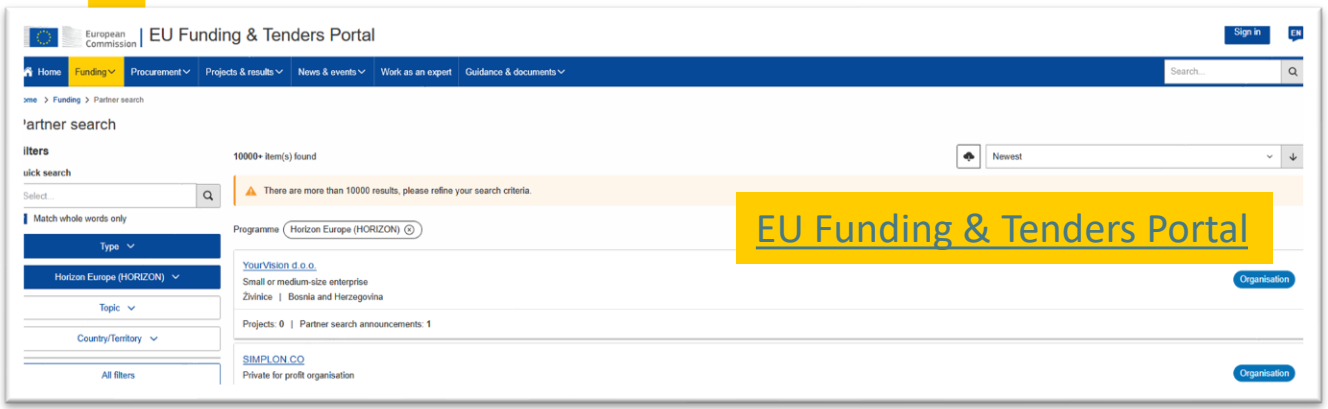
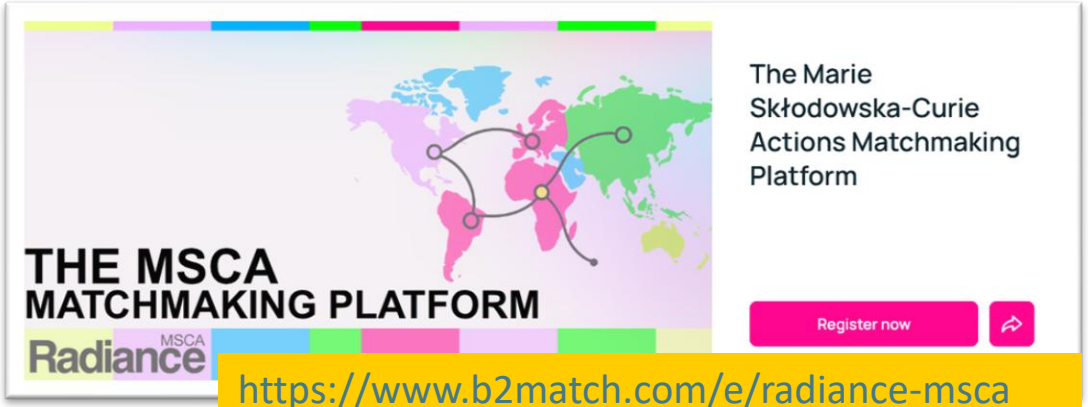
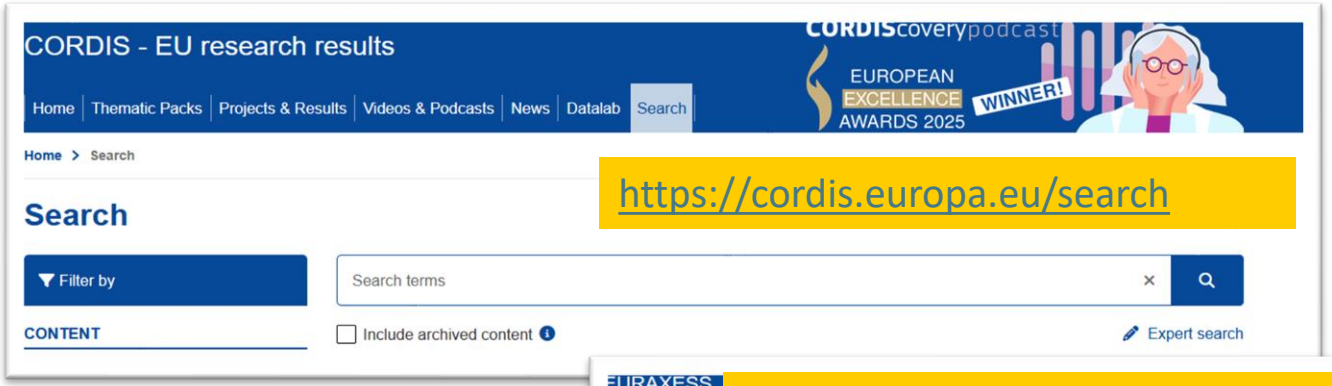
Platforms for partner search and inspiration



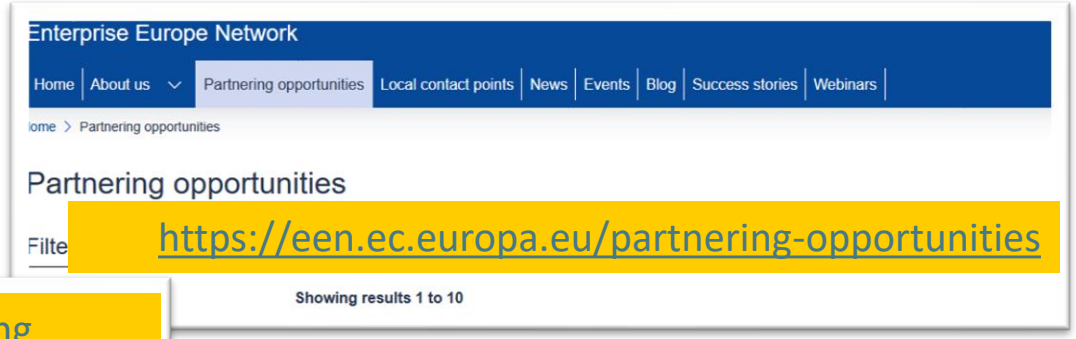
EU Funding & Tenders Portal



https://www.b2match.com/e/radiance-msca



https://cordis.europa.eu/search



https://een.ec.europa.eu/partnering-opportunities

https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/partnering

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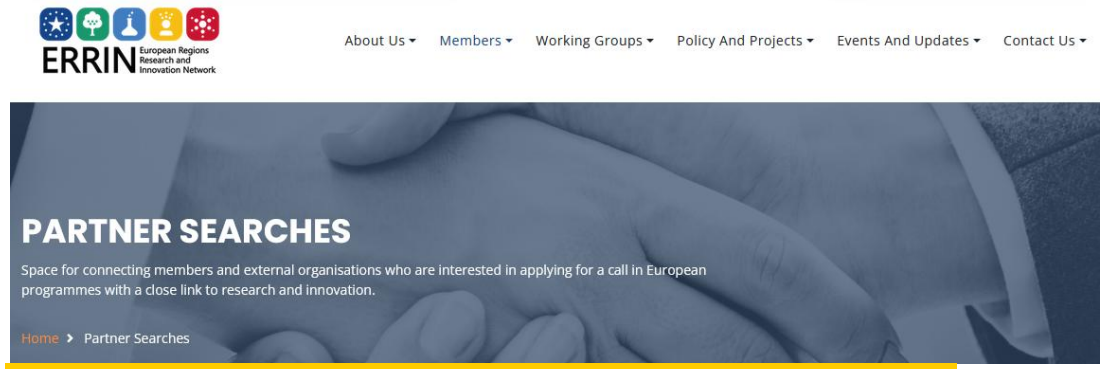
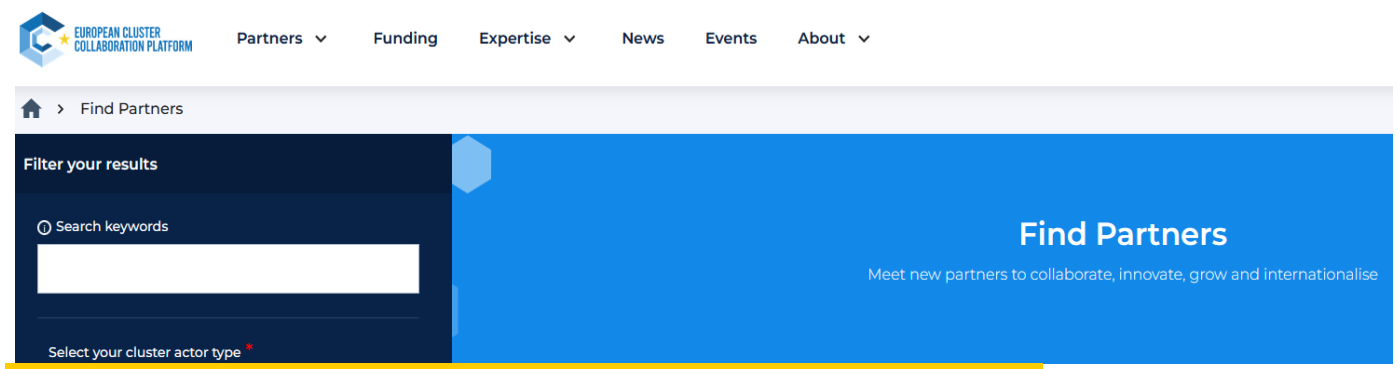
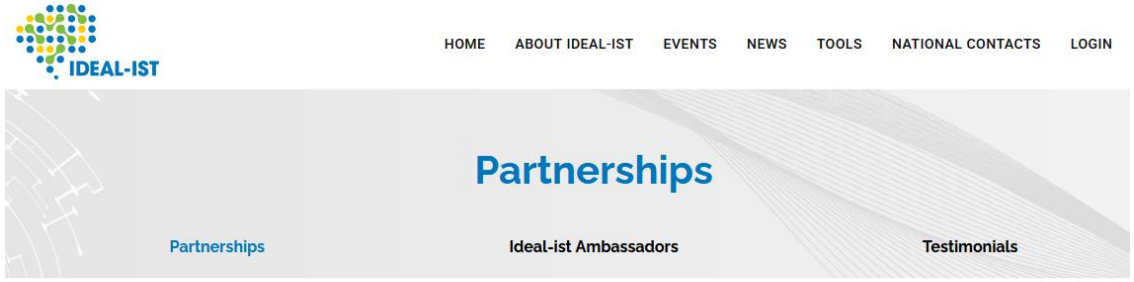
Platforms for partner search and inspiration



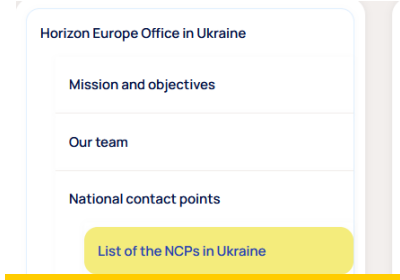
https://errin.eu/policy-projects/partner-searches



https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/cluster-list



https://www.ideal-ist.eu/partnerships



https://horizon-europe.org.ua/en/heo-in-ua/ncp/list/

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Communication and networking portals

Platform	Focus area	Link
ResearchGate	Research sharing, networking	researchgate.net
LinkedIn	Professional networking	linkedin.com
Academia.edu	Research papers, networking	academia.edu
Mendeley	Research management, networking	mendeley.com
ORCID	Researcher identification, networking	orcid.org
Loop	Researcher profiles, networking	loop.frontiersin.org
Zenodo	Open research sharing, collaboration	zenodo.org

Occasion of the Season‘s Greeting ☺
Inform your network about the LUKE Joint Call pre-announcement.
Involve students in the project planning and partner search.

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Developing R&I one-pager – one of the tools!

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WIEN

technology offer

Reference M041/2018

Deterministic Graph-Based Analysis for Hardware Trojan Detection

hardware security | register-transfer level | pattern graph | IP core audit | match-vector clustering | FPGA verification

This invention provides a deterministic method for identifying and grouping structurally similar blocks in hardware designs. Using a graph-based pattern language and vector-based clustering, it enables rapid detection of suspicious logic and reduces manual review time from days to hours.

background

Chips often include opaque third-party logic. Manual reviews and simulation are slow and unreliable, while machine learning methods are probabilistic and require extensive training. No existing method quantifies circuit similarity or prioritizes blocks for inspection in a fast and deterministic way.

benefits

- Reduces RTL review time by over 90%
- Deterministic results—no false randomness
- One pattern fits all bit-widths and styles
- Scales to large designs with >1 billion gates
- Compatible with open-source and commercial tools

potential applications

Chip security audits, IP core validation, industrial and automotive safety systems, FPGA library vetting, IoT hardware assurance

IPR

US and EP patents granted

inventors

Christian Krieg
Axel Jantsch
Martin Mosbeck
Florian Schupfer
Michael Rathmair

technology

The solution combines a structural pattern language with vector-based classification. Engineers describe a functional block once; the tool parses it into graph constraints and finds all matches across RTL designs. A multidimensional match-vector captures the structure of each candidate. Clustering then groups similar subcircuits and ranks them by uniqueness. The shared graph model enables one integrated flow to detect, group, and prioritize subcircuits for review.

development status

TRL 3-4. Core algorithms validated on academic and industrial netlists.

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TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WIEN

bioenergy2020+

technology offer

High-recovery gas upgrading systems

Membrane gas permeation | biogas | producer gas | renewable methane | high recovery

Production of renewable methane to substitute natural gas has become an important technology. In spite of recent developments, there is still a high potential for further improvements in process efficiency. Current air pollution regulations in Europe require higher methane recovery in the treatment of biogas. The new 2-compressor membrane permeator configurations are maximizing methane recovery, while minimizing energy consumption in the production process as well as membrane areas and therefore investment costs. Cost saving is an important step on the way to economic success of sustainable gas production.

Background

State of the art single stage and two stage configurations are correlating with low investment but also with relatively low methane recovery. Significant amounts of methane are lost in waste streams. Vienna University of Technology & BIOENERGY 2020+GmbH experts have developed new permeator configurations and evaluated them together with a broad range of known configurations in a validated numerical modelling tool, finding optimal solutions for minimal investment in compressor and membranes as well as energy input and assuring at the same time high level of methane recovery (from 98,0 to 99,5 %).

Technology

The technology comprises:

- Cost optimized new permeator configurations for high methane recovery levels
- Simulation tool for optimization of permeator configurations

Advantages

- Reaching high levels of methane recovery
- Optimization of investment and energy costs of biogas upgrading plants
- Improvement of the economic viability of sustainable and environmentally friendly biogas production

Potential applications

The technology delivers solutions for gas upgrading for biomethane production plants, that operate on basis of anaerobic digestion (biogas) and biomass gasification.

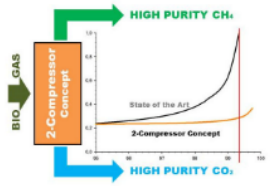


Fig1 Energy consumption (y) & methane recovery (x) of the 2-Compressor-Concept compared to state of the art technology

State of development

Proof of concept, simulation tool

IPR

Patents pending, AT patent granted

Options

license agreement, R&D cooperation, expert reports

Inventors

Michael HARASEK
Aleksander MAKARUK

TU Wien | Research and Transfer Support | Daniel Rottenberg
Karlsplatz 13 | A-1040 Wien | T: +43.1.58801.415246
E: daniel.rottenberg@tuwien.ac.at | http://www.rt.tuwien.ac.at

Reference M032/11

LUKE Linking Ukraine to the ERA

WISSENS/ TRANSFER/ OST/

www.wtz-ost.at

TECHNOLOGY OFFER

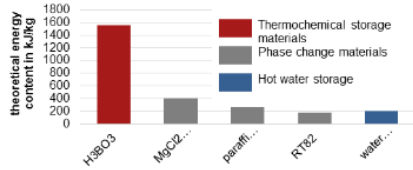
BORIC ACID

MOTIVATION

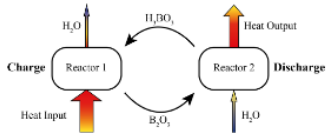
In the interest of energy and cost efficiency it is important to use energy in a process as comprehensive as possible. Heat storage systems pose one possible solution to overcome discrepancies in heat production and heat consumption. Particularly thermochemical energy storage promises high storage densities and the possibility of long storage periods without significant losses.

TECHNOLOGY

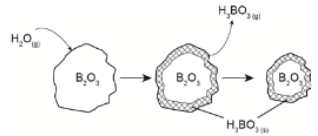
The patent is based on the usage of boric acid (H_3BO_3) to store energy. Compared to other heat storage systems, the system H_3BO_3/B_2O_3 excels having a high theoretical energy storage density and unlimited cycle stability.



The figure shows the principal process.



When heated in Reactor 1, the H_3BO_3 is decomposed while the reaction enthalpy is stored in the products (B_2O_3, H_2O). The B_2O_3 reacts back in reactor 2 with H_2O to H_3BO_3 while releasing the stored energy. Thereby the formed H_3BO_3 sublimates, resulting in shrinking of the B_2O_3 particles and thus full conversion.



The gaseous H_3BO_3 crystalizes and forms new particles preventing any degradation effects.

REFERENCE:
M045/2015

BENEFITS:
- High Energy Density
- Low Storage Material Cost
- Fast Response Time
- No Material Degradation

APPLICATIONS:
- Heat storage in the range of 150°C
- Increasing the energy efficiency
- Shifting heat in batch processes

KEYWORDS:
thermochemical energy storage, boric acid, process scheme, boron trioxid

OPTIONS:
license agreement

INVENTORS:
Prof. Andreas WERNER
Prof. Franz WINTER
DI. Christian JORDAN
DI. Markus DEUTSCH
Ing. Thomas KAREL BSc

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TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WIEN

[Examples of the technology offers, Technical University of Vienna, Austria]

[Published LUKE Research offers and requests]

More examples

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Developing R&I project concept one-pager

LUKE Joint Call partner search
Organisation title and **logo**
Short introduction, including your intended role in the project
Potential countries for collaboration and **eligible entity type**
(for example: Austria (all eligible applicants), Latvia (SMEs))
Selected LUKE Joint Call topic
Short concept of the project idea

- Overall objective
- Basic or applied research
- Photo of the prototype or figure

Core expertise and previous relevant experience
Contact person
Name, Email, website, LinkedIn…
More about LUKE Joint Call: https://horizon-europe.org.ua/en/luke/joint-call/

- Send it to your existing network by email
- Publish it on your organisation's website
- Share it with your organisation's partners and embassies via IR and Erasmus+ offices
- Share it through diaspora networks and alumni communities
- Post it on LinkedIn
- Share it via relevant communication platforms

Check your ORCID, Scopus, Web of Science and Google Scholar etc profiles.
Merge duplicates where relevant and add missing information, this can increase your h-index and improve visibility and recognition.

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Austrian Research Promotion Agency

- 100% **state-owned, 480 employees**
- **Applied research:** funding, networking/brokerage and supporting
- **Target groups**: universities, RTOs, companies of all sizes, R&D intermediairies, clusters, networks
- All **R&D topics** covered: **funding schemes** top-down + bottom-up
- National and international **consortia**, also stand-alone projects
- Funding scope: from **TRL 2 till 8,** 8'000 ongoing projects
- **Max. 20 %** of project funding volume for non-Austrian partners

Send me your **one-pager** concept to find potential partners for the LUKE Joint Call in Austria:
emmanuel.glenck@ffg.at

Funded by the European Union

FFG & FWF databases of projects

FFG: Database with **organisations** and **project summaries**:

https://projekte.ffg.at

FWF Research Radar

2 Funding Parties from Austria:

FFG Promoting Innovation.

- Austrian Research Promotion Agency, FFG (applied research)

FWF Austrian Science Fund

- Austrian Science Fund, FWF
- (basic research)

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Q&A list for the LUKE Joint Call

Q&A list will be published in January 2026

Project partners:

Project coordinator

DLR Projektträger

Germany

Responsible for implementation of the capacity building

ZENTRUM FÜR SOZIALE INNOVATION
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION
ZSI

Austria

DEMOCRACY X
TECHNOLOGY, SOCIETY & SUSTAINABILITY

Denmark

civitta

Ukraine
Lithuania

Ukraine

Ukraine

Ukraine

R&I Funding Agencies

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF UKRAINE

Ukraine

T A
C R

Czechia

FWF Austrian Science Fund

Austria

FFG
Promoting Innovation.

Austria

Latvian Council of Science

Latvia

Estonian Research Council

Estonia

UEFISCDI

Romania

NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
POLAND

Poland

ANCD

Moldova

SRNSFG

Georgia

TÜBİTAK

Türkiye

Ministries

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE

Ukraine

Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

Germany

GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI

Romania

Associated partners

DFG 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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THANK YOU!

ДЯКУЮ!

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“Linking Ukraine to the European Research Area – Joint Funding and Capacity Building Platform for Enhanced Research and Innovation Cooperation”

E-mail: gavarane@zsi.at

About project