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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 March 2026
Grant Agreement 101188315

Dear Readers and Partners,

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

Over the past months, the LUKE project has reached several important milestones. We are excited to announce that the LUKE Joint Call has officially been launched, marking a key step towards strengthening collaborative research and innovation between Ukrainian and European partners. In addition, a successful matchmaking event recently brought together researchers and innovators, fostering new partnerships and paving the way for high-quality project proposals.

We are also pleased to share that the LUKE partner search platform has been successfully launched. We encourage you to make active use of it to find partners and develop strong project ideas: <https://horizon-europe.org.ua/en/luke/joint-call/partner-search/>

Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is proud to support this project and has actively contributed to the Austrian Info Day, the matchmaking-event and the Science Diplomacy webinars.

As we move forward, we continue to build on this momentum by supporting cooperation, knowledge exchange and impactful innovation. With Easter just around the corner, this season also offers a moment to reflect, reconnect and look ahead with renewed energy and resilience, to find partners and develop exciting project ideas.

Thank you for your continued interest and engagement in our activities.
Wishing you an enjoyable read and a joyful Easter season!

Anita Hipfinger,
LUKE Joint Call National Coordinator
Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)



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

LUKE & EU.FFICIENT: CREATING SYNERGY FOR IMPACT

We are delighted to announce that LUKE and EU.FFICIENT Horizon Europe projects are joining forces to provide a dynamic platform for matchmaking and interaction. This collaboration of two projects aims to foster meaningful connections, facilitate knowledge exchange and amplify the impact of research and innovation initiatives both for the LUKE Joint Call and beyond. The platform is a hub for stakeholders across Europe, offering a space to engage with like-minded professionals, researchers and innovators.

One of the hands-on features of the platform is the opportunity to join thematic groups of interest. These groups allow participants to share insights and collaborate on projects that align with their expertise and goals. Additionally, the platform keeps users informed about upcoming events.

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At EU.FFICIENT, we are delighted to support the partner search activities for the LUKE Joint Call. Our platform is designed to foster co-creation, cross-sector collaboration, and vibrant networking communities across Europe, closely aligning with LUKE's mission to advance transnational research with Ukraine. By connecting the LUKE community to our dynamic hub, we are proud to help researchers, innovators, and industry professionals find the right partners, collaborate more effectively, and generate meaningful cross-border impact.

Dionysios Panagiotopoulos, KU Leuven, Project Coordinator

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Highlights from EU.FFICIENT

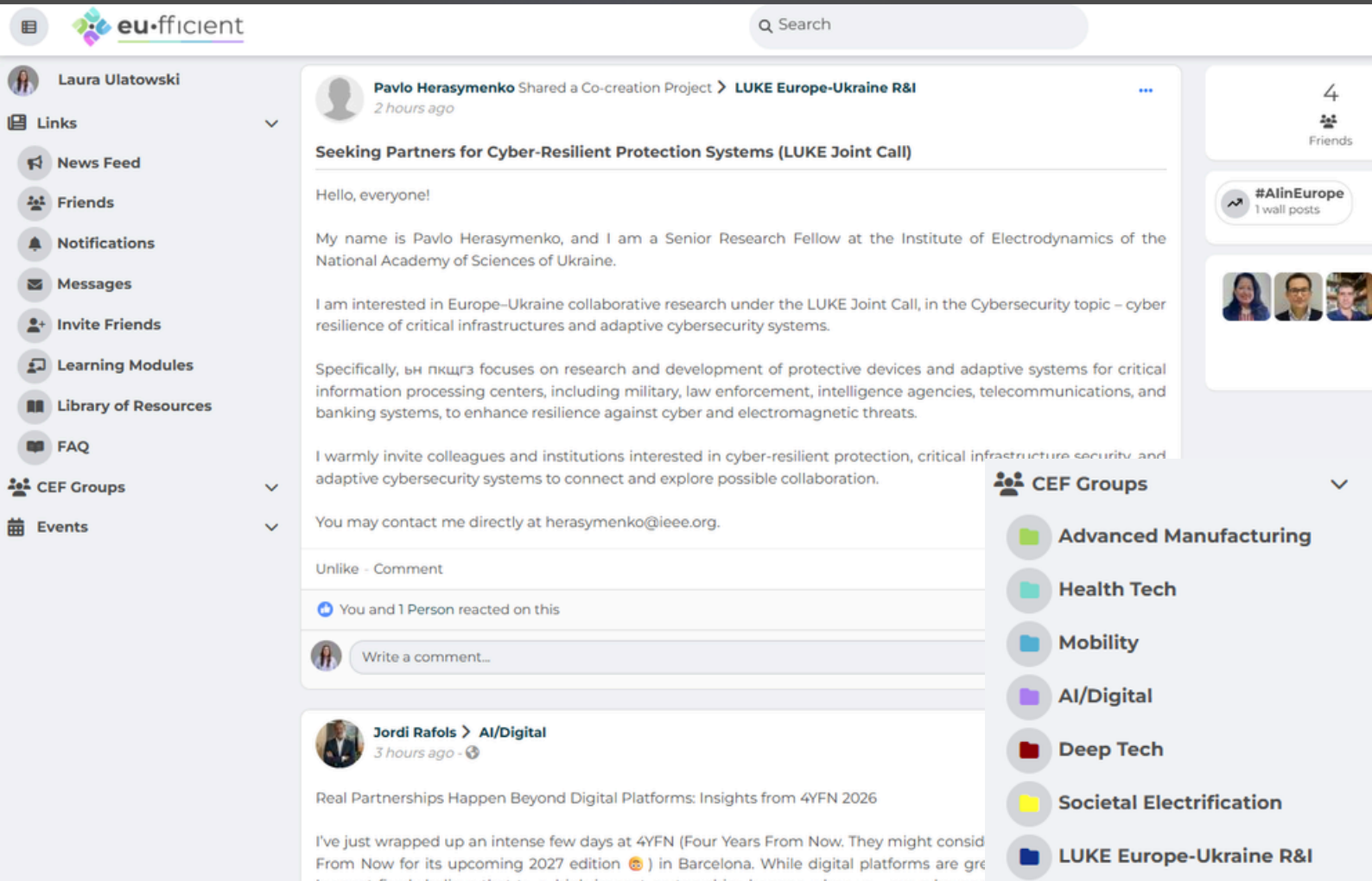
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the **EU.FFICIENT Platform**

The EU.FFICIENT Platform is your hub for innovation, collaboration, and growth. Here's what awaits you:

Personalised training and hands-on learning. Level up your skills with practical, tailored training experiences designed specifically for your sector, enabling you to immediately apply new facilitation techniques.

Exclusive networking. Become a mentor or find mentorship opportunities, and connect directly with leaders in four communities: Advanced Manufacturing, HealthTech, Mobility, and AI/Digital.

Tailored for networking. Connect easily with fellow facilitators and industry leaders, paving the way for future powerful co-creation.



1ST EUROPEAN-UKRAINIAN SCIENCE DIPLOMACY FORUM IN VIENNA

The LUKE project team congratulates the Ukrainian Science Diaspora in Austria on successfully organising the [1st Ukrainian-European Science Diplomacy Forum](#) on 12 March 2026 in Vienna.

Olga Polotska, Executive Director of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU), was invited to the Forum, where among the range of ongoing NRFU international calls, programmes, and initiatives, she presented the LUKE project as a key international initiative that contributes to Ukraine's integration into the European Research Area (ERA). She highlighted that LUKE's greatest strength is in empowering Ukrainian researchers to actively engage in international consortia and contribute to cutting-edge international research.

LUKE team members from Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) attended Forum. It was an excellent opportunity for direct exchange, networking and the strengthening of collaboration. Also, Olga Bolibok from ZSI, moderated a panel on sustained focus on cultural diplomacy.

The event highlighted both the strong political momentum and the growing operational landscape of science diplomacy in support of Ukraine's recovery, resilience and European integration.



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