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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 June 2026  
Grant Agreement 101188315

Dear Readers and Partners,

On behalf of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), I would like to welcome you to this newsletter!

One of the key projects of the LUKE consortium is the organisation of a Joint Call for research and innovation projects, jointly carried out by researchers in Ukraine and the participating partner countries. In mid-May, the LUKE call on four research topics, covering a wide range from technical and life sciences to the social sciences, was closed.

The closure of the call marks an important milestone in the joint LUKE endeavour. In this edition of the newsletter, we will take a glance at some key statistics of the call. Without revealing too much, it is safe to say that the numbers are very encouraging. Despite the extremely difficult situation faced by the scientific community in war-torn Ukraine, a large number of proposals were submitted to the call. This clearly shows that there is huge potential in linking the scientific communities in Ukraine and the partner countries, a potential on which future initiatives will be able to build on. In the next months, the focus will be on managing the review process.

The call secretariat, together with the participating funding organisations and, most notably, with the support of an international Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC) will ensure that the selection process will be carried out following rigorous international standards.

We already look forward to the results of the call later this year.

I would like to thank you for your interest in LUKE and wish you an interesting read!

Christoph Bärenreuter  
LUKE Programme Manager  
Austrian Science Fund (FWF)



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

# LUKE JOINT CALL: 288 PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

## LUKE Joint Call 2026 draws strong interest from the research community across Europe

The submission period for the LUKE Joint Call officially closed on 15 May 2026, marking a significant achievement in fostering international Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) cooperation.

The Call was open to international consortia with eligible Ukrainian organisations and partners from at least two other countries. It received unprecedented 288 project proposals. These proposals covered all thematic areas of the call and brought together a diverse range of partners across all eligible countries.

This high number of submissions highlights the strong demand for RDI collaboration with Ukraine and the potential for impactful multilateral cross-border initiatives.

### Submitted project proposals by call topics:

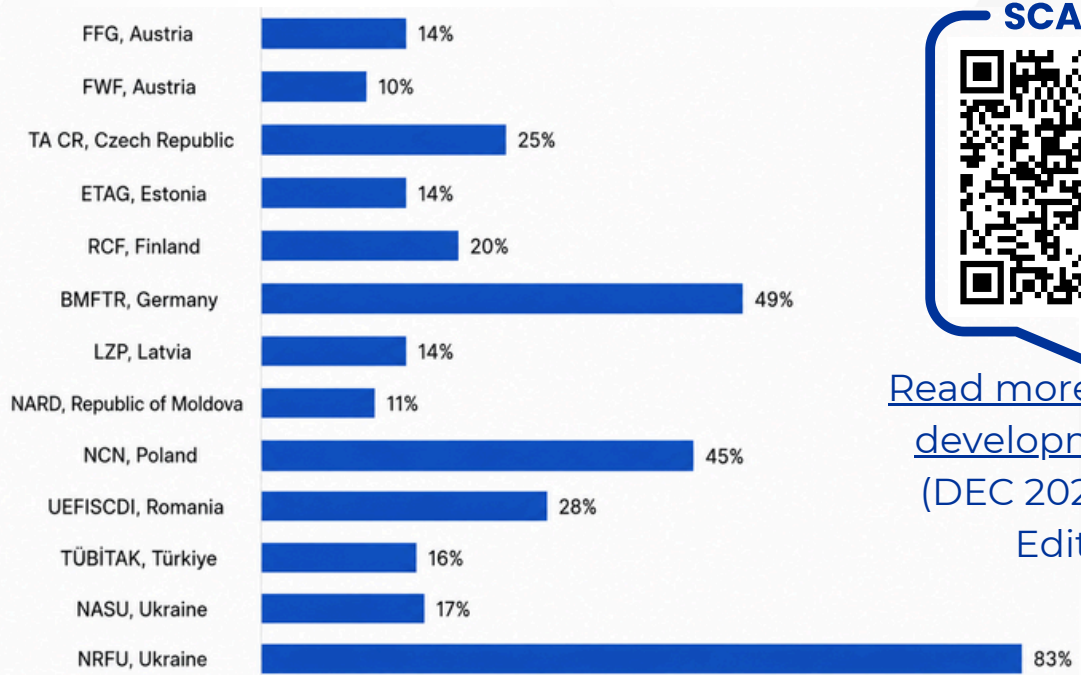
**Energy:** Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security – 36%

**Medical and Health Research:** Telemedicine and biomedical research – 25%

**Social Sciences and Humanities:** Social reconciliation, sustainable social development and human capital restoration – 32%

**Cybersecurity:** Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems – 7%

### Percentage of total submissions by funding parties:



[Read more about call development here](#)  
(DEC 2025 Special Edition)



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# WHAT'S NEXT?

## KEY STEPS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### Next steps in project proposal evaluation:

- Verification of formal requirements in each submitted proposal.
- National eligibility checks by respective Funding Parties.
- Independent international evaluation by external reviewers, based on the Call's defined criteria.

Only proposals that meet all formal and eligibility requirements will proceed to the international selection process, ensuring a rigorous and transparent evaluation.



[Read more here](#)

### The indicative timeline of the project proposals evaluation:

Completion of the formal eligibility check:	June 2026
Indicative date for funding decision:	November 2026
Indicative project start date:	January–March 2027
Indicative project completion date:	December 2028

### LUKE capacity building activities continues

#### Registration for the Foresight Workshop: The Futures of the R&I System in Ukraine 2035+ closed recently.

The LUKE team is continuing its series of capacity building activities, with the next event taking place in person in Krakow, Poland in July. At least 20 experts from Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora will discuss the future of Ukraine's RDI ecosystem beyond 2035 and contribute to shaping a resilient, forward-looking R&I landscape.

Participants will work together using strategic foresight methods such as horizon scanning, trend mapping, scenario development and roadmapping

*We look forward to welcoming invited participants in Krakow, Poland on 22–23 July 2026.*

Day 1 (13:00 – 17:00): Welcome and framing, followed by environmental scanning and trend mapping. Discussions on potential implications of these trends for the Ukrainian R&I ecosystem of the future.

Day 2 (09:00 – 13:00): Collaborative discussions on Ukraine's preferred R&I futures. Elaboration of priorities for the forthcoming Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. We will conclude with agenda assembly, prioritisation, and committing to next steps.

# NETWORKING CONTINUES: EU.FFICIENT FOR PARTNER SEARCH AND COMMUNICATION

**The thematic group of interest “LUKE Europe-Ukraine R&I” continues its work on the EU.FFICIENT platform.**

Through the collaboration between the LUKE and EU.FFICIENT Horizon Europe projects, the platform provides a dynamic space for matchmaking, interaction and knowledge exchange among stakeholders across Europe.

The group offers participants the opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals, researchers and innovators, share insights and explore potential collaboration linked to the LUKE Joint Call and beyond. The platform also keeps users informed about upcoming events and supports continued engagement within the Europe-Ukraine research and innovation community.



## LUKE Europe-Ukraine R&I

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- My Calendar



YOUR JOURNEY  
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## Highlights from EU.FFICIENT

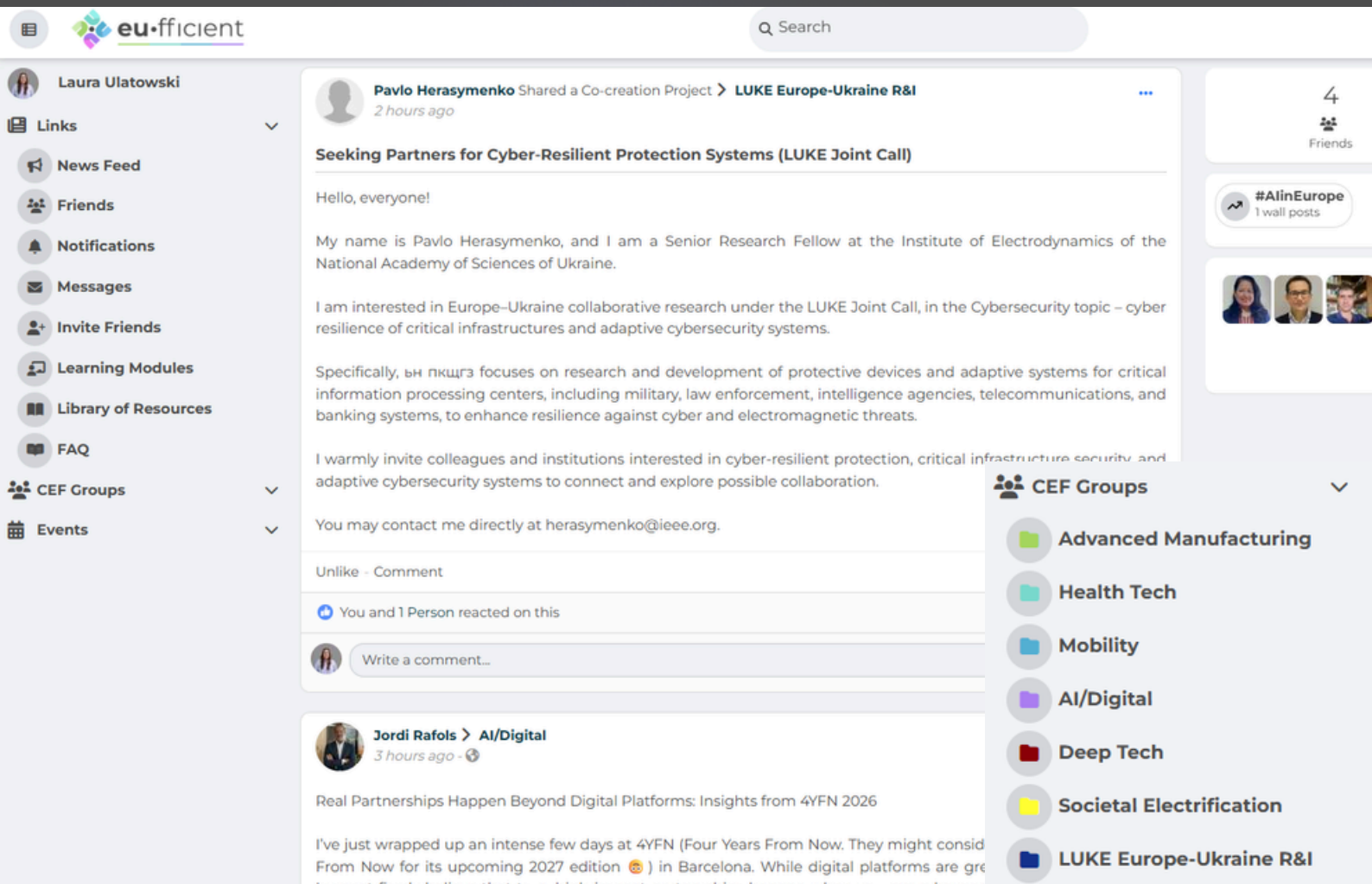
Welcome to your new home for innovation:  
the **EU.FFICIENT Platform**

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.



# 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



Ukraine



Ukraine



Ukraine



Romania

## R&I Funding Agencies



Ukraine



Latvian Council of Science

Latvia



Czechia

FWF Austrian  
Science Fund

Austria



Austria



Estonian  
Research Council

Estonia



Romania



Moldova



Georgia



TÜBİTAK

Türkiye



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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Information about LUKE activities  
on social media!



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