R&I→LINKS2UA

STRENGTHENING R&I → LINKS TOWARDS UKRAINE

Dear readers,

We are happy to introduce to you the first issue of the RI-LINKS2UA eJournal, which is also our "Winter edition", as the end of the year is approaching. The next edition is due out in Spring 2017.

The overall aim of the RI-LINKS2UA project is to further support and enhance the integration of Ukraine into the European Research Area. In particular, the project contributes to the improvement of the framework conditions for STI cooperation between the EU and Ukraine, supports the policy dialogue on these issues, strengthens the innovation capacity and economic competitiveness of the country, stimulates the EU-Ukraine R&I cooperation and contributes to the governance of Ukrainian participation in H2020. More detailed information on the project and its activities you may find by browsing through this current issue or by visiting our website at https://ri-links2ua.eu/.

What can you expect from this edition of the eJournal? To start with, we introduce to yo the recently launched "EU4Innovation" initiative, which bundles all EU activities to support the innovation capacity of the EaP countries. After that we feature two success stories on H2020-funded projects with Ukrainian participation: first, the "AERO-UA" project supporting EU-Ukrainian collaboration in aviation research, and second, the "PVCLOUD – Innovative Cloud-Based PV Workflow for Semiconductor Foundries" project which intends to support the microelectronic semiconductors industry in Ukraine. Each edition of our eJournal will showcase two new selected examples.

Next, we'll inform you about the latest news and developments on the RI-LINKS2UA project (in the form of reports on working visits, publications of documents, presentations of analytical results, latest trends in the STI policy sector of Ukraine etc.). After that you can find reviews on events carried out by RI-LINKS2UA or organised by partner institutions but supported by the project. "R&I news from the EU" gives an outlook on top R&I issues in the EU. Under "Recommended publications" the eJournal presents selected publications on Ukraine with a broad thematic scope. This time we introduce to you the European Innovation Scoreboard, a publication on the internationalisation of SMEs and, something more political in nature, one of the latest handbooks on EU-Ukrainian relations. In the "Upcoming events" section you can learn about a broad variety of events. You can find both RI-LINKS2UA-linked as well as external events organised by partner institutions relevant for Ukrainian stakeholders in the STI and R&I sector.

The eJournal is made complete by a dedicated section on the EU Framework Programme for R&I HORIZON 2020. Here you can find the latest news from H2020 and further links to important information and open calls (open for Ukrainian participation) online.
We hope you will enjoy reading the first RI-LINKS2UA eJournal "Winter edition" and find some useful information for your very own specific purposes.

Sincerely, the RI-LINKS2UA consortium — office@ri-links2ua.eu

NEWS HIGHLIGHT

EU and Eastern Partnership countries stepping up cooperation on innovation with the EU4Innovation initiative

Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Carlos Moedas, EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation and Jean-Christophe Belliard, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service launched the EU4Innovation initiative together with the Eastern Partnership countries, in Yerevan on 17 November.

The launch took place during the eighth Eastern Partnership Informal dialogue, hosted by Armenia, which brought together Ministers and high level officials of the Eastern Partnership countries for a high-level exchange on future developments in the Eastern Partnership and key areas of cooperation.

The new EU initiative, EU4Innovation, will combine all EU activities that support the development of Eastern Partnership countries' (EaP) innovation capacities, notably those funded under the Horizon 2020 programme and the European Neighbourhood Instrument.

EU Commissioners and the respective Research and Innovation Ministers of the Eastern Partnership countries also discussed common

challenges and responses to improving research and innovation cooperation. The Ministers reflected on how to integrate Eastern Partnership and EU Research and Innovation systems better and foster cooperation with and between the six Eastern Partnership countries further. This will bring new mobility opportunities for administrations, businesses, professionals, students and researchers and will foster research-industry partnerships amongst others.

The Informal Eastern Partnership dialogue also gave participants an opportunity to reflect on the progress made across the key areas of cooperation agreed at the Riga Summit last year. They discussed the implementation of the renewed European Neighbourhood Policy and exchanged views on ways to enhance the effectiveness of the Eastern Partnership, in light of the next Summit foreseen for November 2017 in Brussels. The Ministers also addressed current international and global security issues, and in particular, issues with an impact on the region.

LINK
http://www.ceriss.eu/news/102/eu-and-eastern-partnership-countries-stepping-up-cooperation-on-innovation-with-the-eu4innovation-initiative

UKRAINIAN PROJECT SUCCESS STORIES

New Horizon 2020 project focused at EU-Ukraine industry-academy cooperation has started

The new EU-funded CSA project AERO-UA started on October 11, 2016. It aims at providing strategic and targeted support for aviation research collaboration between the European Union and Ukraine.

The AERO-UA project is focused mainly on Ukraine due to its huge potential in the field of aerospace and relatively low level of cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in aviation research. Ukrainian aerospace organisations possess unique know-how that can help Europe to address the challenges identified in the ACARE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, in Flightpath 2050, in the initiative Clean Sky 2 and in the societal challenge "Transport" of Horizon 2020.

The AERO-UA project will achieve its overall aim via four high-level objectives:
- Identifying the barriers to increased EU-UA aviation research collaboration;
- Providing strategic support to EU-UA aviation research collaboration;
- Supporting EU-UA aviation research knowledge transfer pilot projects;
- Organising awareness-raising and networking between EU-UA stakeholders.

The AERO-UA consortium is comprised of eight key EU and UA organisations active in aviation research, technology or manufacturing, and an EU consultancy firm specialised in services to support research and innovation. EU partners are represented by the University of Manchester (UK), the Fraunhofer Institute (Germany) and the Polish Technology Partners Foundation.

Ukrainian partners are the National Aerospace University "Kharkiv Aviation Institute"(KhAI), National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Ivchenko-Progress State Enterprise and the Ukrainian Research Institute of Aviation Technology and Scientific and Industrial Company "FED". Project coordination is provided by Intelligentsia Consultants company.

LINK
http://www.aero-ua.eu/

AUTHOR
Marina Gorokhovatska — http://www.nas.gov.ua

Horizon 2020 SME instrument project

Horizon 2020 contains a dedicated tool for financing innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Since Ukraine obtained the association status to H2020 in March 2015, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Ukraine can get EU funding and support for innovation projects that will help them grow and expand their activities into other countries – in Europe and beyond.

The first project with the Ukrainian team which was supported under H2020 SME instrument, Phase II, is "PVCLOUD", Innovative Cloud-Based PV Workflow for Semiconductor Foundries.

Since 2009, POLYTEDA's ICT product addresses the Physical Verification (PV) stage of semiconductor design before the actual manufacturing of a microchip at the fabrication plant. The layout view of a microchip has to be verified by identifying and fixing any design errors. This requires sophisticated software known as Design Rules Checking (DRC) tool. An overlooked error may cause multi-million dollar losses and time to market delays. Today's PV tools may take up to several days to make just one iteration on modern increasingly complex, dense (often billions of transistors) microchips. The proposed disruptive ICT PV workflow along with an innovative cloud-based business model will set new rules and ultimately disrupt the market. It will increase the competitiveness of European semiconductor microelectronics industry and advance enabling and industrial technologies.
This project will allow POLYTEDA CLOUD to further develop its product, increase revenues, generate jobs and seize the PV market, currently estimated at 1,6bn $.

POLYTEDA CLOUD concept intends to:

-Move PV software and services from an outdated and ineffective CAPEX model using (dedicated expensive hardware and software) to a

more cost-efficient OPEX model (pay-per-use of shared cloud-based resources).

-Lower the entry barrier for smaller design companies by using a high quality, cloud-ready PV workflow. This innovative solution and business model for PV of semiconductor design optimises the manufacturing process with resulting cost-effectiveness.

Benefits for fabs include the higher quality of tape-outs, winning new clients and increasing sales of the fabs proprietary IP.

European industry will pioneer the PV cloud-based services and consequently become less dependent on the dominating US EDA tool vendors.

The market entry threshold would be lowered for smaller design companies due to a more affordable and easier to use innovative PV workflow.

LINK
http://www.polyteda-cloud.com

AUTHOR
Olena Koval — http://www.fp7-ncp.kiev.ua/index.php/en/

RI-LINKS2UA
NEWS

European Commission's Joint Research Centre and National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine strengthen scientific cooperation

Vladimír Šucha, JRC Director-General and Anatoly Zagorodny, NASU Vice President signed the research framework arrangement and also launched a two-day JRC-NASU event dedicated to research cooperation between the JRC and Ukraine.

Detailed discussions with scientific experts were focusing on smart specialisation as a strategic approach to economic development through targeted support for research and innovation. The signature of the research framework arrangement is the result of several collaborations and joint activities already carried out, in particular within the JRC initiative for the Scientific Support to the Danube Region, as well as in the areas of nuclear safety and security, remote sensing, food security and food safety and energy.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/134

AUTHOR
Philipp R. Brugner — http://www.zsi.at

Peer Review visits and Background Report of the Ukrainian Science, Technology and Innovation System

A group of selected international experts of science, research, innovation policy and analysis visited Kiev in June 2016 to review the Ukrainian system of science, technology and innovation.

The Peer Review focused on:

- Optimisation of available policy instruments to support the national research system
- Internationalisation of research and integration of Ukraine into the European Research Area
- Role of science in Ukrainian innovations development

The Backround Report published in October 2016 summarised evidence on the situation in the field of science, technology and innovation (STI) in Ukraine and provided a background for the PSF Peer Review of Ukraine's research and innovation system.

The Peer Review was carried out under the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility (PSF), which aims at improving the design, implementation and evaluation of R&I policies.

LINKS
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/149
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/50

Ukraine joins the Euratom Research and Training Programme

The European Union and Ukraine have taken another step to further widen their mutually beneficial cooperation in science and research. Ukraine and Euratom signed an agreement on science and technology cooperation and on Ukraine's associated participation in the Euratom Research and Training Programme (2014-2018).

The agreement was signed in Brussels by Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, and Pavlo Klimkin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in June. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko signed the ratification of the agreement on October 13, 2016.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/59

Innovative firms in Ukraine to benefit from EU-guaranteed loans

The European Investment Fund (EIF) and ProCredit Bank Ukraine signed a loan guarantee deal that will offer small and medium-sized companies in Ukraine easier access to risk capital for the development of innovative ideas.

The EU-funded deal will allow the ProCredit Bank Ukraine to more securely enter into loan agreements with companies of below 500 employees, as any potential losses on loans for innovative activities will be guaranteed by 50% by the EU under the loan guarantee scheme. Overall, the scheme is to generate a portfolio of €50 million in loans to innovative companies over the next two years. The deal falls under the InnovFin SME Guarantee Facility, which is part of the new generation of financial instruments supported under Horizon 2020 (IP/14/670). Financial intermediaries are guaranteed against a proportion of any losses incurred on the debt financing covered under the facility.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/136

RI-LINKS2UA EVENT REVIEWS

RI-LINKS2UA project results "List and description of H2020 projects with UA participation" and "Statistics & Analyses of Ukraine's participation in FP HORIZON 2020" published

The first document lists all projects funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 framework programme with at least one participant from Ukraine.

The second one is a report providing statistics & analyses of the participation of Ukrainian institutions in the HORIZON 2020 Framework Programme and presenting Ukrainian participation results in relation to the potential of the country (GDP, GERD, population, number of researchers and FTE).

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/working-tools/project-results

RI-LINKS2UA Info Days on Energy/EURATOM in Ukraine

The RI-LINKS2UA project organises a series of thematic info days aiming to inform Ukrainian stakeholders in the field of R&I about funding and collaboration possibilities provided on the EU level.

From May 17-20 the first info days were held in the Ukrainian cities of Kharkiv, Kyiv and Lviv. The "Info Day on the EURATOM Research and Training Programme", which is not only complementary to Horizon 2020, but also close to its energy priorities and which intends to reinforce outcomes of all three main pillars, was organized back-to-back with the EU-Ukrainian Coordination Meeting on EURATOM.
More than 150 participants from both the academic and the research-related enterprise sector were present at the three-day event - a fact which demonstrates the high interest from the Ukrainian side on EU funding programmes and opportunities for Ukrainian – EU cooperation.

The next info day on "Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials & new production technologies in Horizon 2020" was held only a few days later on May 25 in Kyiv (back-to-back event with the international conference on "Composite Materials: producing, exploiting and resource").

LINKS
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/25
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/7

Ukraine-EU R&I Cooperation Webinar on HORIZON 2020

This webinar (on 22 June) was the first of many information and mentoring web-sessions on the opportunities for Ukrainian researchers, innovators and project managers in the EU framework programme for research, technology and innovation: Horizon 2020.

Since March 2015, Ukraine is associated to this programme giving the possibility to researchers, businesses and innovators to fully participate in Horizon 2020.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/1

Training seminars on how to write a H2020 proposal

In the framework of the RI-LINKS2UA project several training seminars are to be organised for researchers from Ukrainian universities on the topic "How to write a H2020 proposal".

The first seminar was hosted by Taras Shevchenko University in Kyiv and it took place on July 14, 2016.
Subsequent events were held on October 18 in Lviv and October 20, 2016 at Kyiv Polytechnic University.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/75

Information event on Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)

In the frame of the research cooperation between the EU Joint Research Centre and Ukraine, the JRC together with the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU) organised an information campaign in Kiev on the modalities of the joint R&I cooperation comprising three events: the High-level JRC Information event on "Research cooperation between JRC and Ukraine" (14 September), the Info event on Smart Specialisation (15 September), and a specific technical meeting with selected government/NASU representatives from Ukraine. Participants at this latter event were invited to an S3 training seminar (7-9 November) and immersion stay (10-11 November) held in Seville.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/129

EIT Awareness Day in Kiev

October 5, 2016 an Information Day about the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) took place at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv.

The aim of the event was to inform national stakeholders about EIT and KIC (Knowledge and Innovation Communities) activities as well as about how to get involved. During the meeting, participants were able to get insights from representatives of the KICs and received an update on future plans from Martin Kern, the EIT's Interim Director.

The EIT Awareness Day in Ukraine was carried out in line with an action plan of the RI-LINKS2UA project. The target group of the event included researchers from the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU), several universities, agricultural and innovation companies and attracted more than 80 participants.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/162

NEWS FROM THE EU ON R&I

SME Instrument budget has been increased to € 437.5 million

€ 51.6 million more to invest in innovation in 2017.

The budget increase for 2017 concerns four topics:

- Healthcare and biotechnology (SMEInst-05 topic): € 35 million
- Sustainable agriculture, forestry (SMEInst-07 topic): € 5.68 million
- Blue growth (SMEInst-08 topic): € 2.42 million
- Climate action, environment, raw materials, resource efficiency (SMEInst-11 topic): € 8.5 million

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/103

Commission to invest €8.5 billion in research and innovation in 2017

The updated Work Programme builds on the success of Horizon 2020 to date, but introduces important novelties.

A particularly important change is the introduction of open research data in all new Horizon 2020 calls and the strong commitment to research integrity and simplification as a driver for research quality. For projects funded under the program, free online access to scientific data will become the norm. This move will boost competitiveness through open science by accelerating innovation and collaboration, improving transparency, and avoiding duplication of efforts.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/81

Commission invites top innovators to help in shaping a new European Innovation Council

The European Commission invited Europe's top innovators to join a High Level Group that will advise on the design of a potential European Innovation Council (EIC).

The European Commission ran a public call for ideas between February 16 and April 2016 February and 29 April 2016 to gather stakeholders' views on disruptive, market-creating innovation, on gaps in the current innovation support landscape and on the potential remit of a European Innovation. The report on the results of the call was published in July 2016.

The establishment of the High Level Group is another step towards a potential European Innovation Council. A number of pilot actions could be launched in 2017 under Horizon 2020, the current EU funding programme for research and innovation, which runs until 2020. A full-fledged EIC could be rolled out in a successor programme to Horizon 2020.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/news/154

RECCOMENDED PUBLICATIONS

European Innovation Scoreboard

The European Innovation Scoreboard provides a comparative assessment of research and innovation performance and the relative strengths and weaknesses of national research and innovation systems. It covers the EU Member States as well as Iceland, Israel, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, and Ukraine, helping them assess areas in which they need to concentrate their efforts to boost innovation performance. On a more limited number of indicators, available internationally, it also covers Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, South Korea, and the United States.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/73

Deepening EU-Ukrainian Relations: What, why and how?

The signing of the Association Agreement and DCFTA between Ukraine and the European Union in 2014 was an act of strategic, geopolitical significance in the history of Ukraine. Emblematic of a struggle to replace the Yanukovich regime at home and to resist attempts by Russia to deny Ukraine its 'European choice', the Association Agreement is a

defiant statement of the country's choice to become a democratic, independent state.

The purpose of the Handbook is to make the legal content of the Association Agreement clearly comprehensible. It covers all the significant political and economic chapters of the Agreement, and in each case explains the meaning of the commitments made by Ukraine and the challenges posed by their implementation.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/108

Internationalisation of innovation in SMEs: Case Studies, Exemplary Support Practices and Policy Implications

The publication features twelve case studies of innovative SMEs with insightful international activity and a comprehensive analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of European policy measures and infrastructure seeking to enhance such internationalisation. It is the first EU official study exploring explicitly and exclusively international cooperation in the field of innovation from a European SME perspective.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/document/117

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV 29, 2016

Webinar on the SME Instrument in Horizon 2020

This webinar is organised by the RI-LINKS2UA project and will be the second of many information and mentoring web-sessions on the opportunities for Ukrainian researchers, innovators and project managers in the EU's framework programme for research, technology and innovation: Horizon 2020.

These web-sessions are free, easily accessible and open to all Ukrainian STI actors interested in Ukraine-EU cooperation. They will be performed in English language only.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/207

NOV 29, 2016

Horizon 2020 Training for Eastern Partnership Energy Experts at the Energy Networking4Innovation Brokerage Event

The IncoNet EaP project has developed a grant scheme to financially support the participation of local researchers from Eastern Partnership countries in large-scale brokerage events and other similar activities in EU Member States or Associated Countries, which are related to Horizon2020.

VENUE
Bratislava

LINK
http://www.inco-eap.net/en/539.php

NOV 29, 2016

Green Growth: Promoting Solutions Towards Better Sustainability and Competitiveness

The symposium will explore how the green economy can be boosted by stimulating investments in green growth projects and in training professionals to meet labour market needs as well as examine possible solutions towards sustainable management of resources and components – such as infrastructure, mobility and energy - through technology.

VENUE
Brussels

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/153

NOV 30, 2016

Energy Networking4Innovation

Energy Networking4Innovation is organised as an accompanying event to the SET Plan conference 2016 & Central European Energy Conference 2016 in Bratislava in the frame of the Slovak EU presidency.

VENUE
Bratislava

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/173

DEC 1-2, 2016

Winter InfoCom Advanced Solutions 2016

Scientists, engineers, specialists, experts, businessmen, graduate and undergraduate students are invited to participate in the Conference.

VENUE
National Technical University of Ukraine «Kyiv Polytechnic Institute» in Kyiv

LINK
http://www.iconfs.net/en/w.infocom2016

European Summit on Digital Innovation for Active & Healthy Ageing
Brussels, 5-8 December 2016

DEC 5–8, 2016

European Summit on Digital Innovation for Active & Healthy Ageing

The second European Summit on Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing will be organised by DG CONNECT of the European Commission in cooperation with the European Parliament and the European Committee of the Regions. This year's event will look into how digital innovation will "Transform the future of health and care in Europe" and will unveil a shared-vision on how the Digital Single Market can turn demographic change into an opportunity for social development and economic growth in Europe.

VENUE
Brussels

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/99

DEC 7, 2016

Webinar: Impact and Innovation in Horizon 2020 – a Guide for Proposers

From finding the right management framework for one's activity to the question of how to develop a credible strategy focused on the management and exploitation of the research results, this webinar addresses different ways to define professional and systematic IP management in Horizon 2020 projects.

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/71

DEC 7-8, 2016

Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Training

The RI-LINKS2UA project in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine organises a two-day training event focussing on SMEs in H2020.

VENUE
Ministry of Education and Science Ukraine, Kyiv

LINK
https://ri-links2ua.eu/object/event/222

DEC 13-15, 2016

Problems of theoretical physics

The conference will be organised to mark the 50th anniversary of the Bogolyubov Institute for Theoretical Physics.

Topics of the conference: High energy physics, astroparticle physics, quantum cosmology, theory of nuclear systems, quantum field theory, theory of symmetries, theory of nonlinear processes in macromolecular structures, nanosystems and plasmas, dynamics of open strongly nonequilibrium physical, biological, economic and information systems.

VENUE
Kyiv
Organiser: Bogolyubov Institute for Theoretical Physics of NASU

LINK
http://confyoung.bitp.kiev.ua/

DEC 22–23, 2016

XVI Christmas Conference on Liquid Crystals

VENUE
Kyiv Institute of Physics
LINK
http://lcnet.org.ua/

FEBR 21-25, 2017

The experience of designing and application of CAD systems in microelectronics

CADSM' 2017 14th international conference

CADSM Conference is intended to provide a possibility to discuss problems of optimisation of technological processes of IC manufacturing, development of the models and design methods of microelectronics devices and technical systems and problems during design of microelectromechanical systems. Traditionally, the problems of testing and reliability are considered within the framework of the conference, as well as the new information technologies of automated designing and creation of learning systems.

VENUE
Polyana, Svalyava (Zakarpattya)
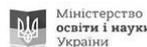
LINK
http://cadsm.lp.edu.ua/

EC HORIZON 2020

Latest calls available and open for Ukrainian participation you may find via this link

LINK
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal4/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/search/search_topics.html#c,topics=callStatus/t/Forthcoming/1/1/0/default-group&callStatus/t/Open/1/1/0/default-group&callStatus/t/Closed/0/1/0/default-group&+identifier/desc

Project consortium: