

**7-10 липня 2025 року** співробітники НДЦ ІПР НАН України взяли участь у навчальному семінарі-тренінгу з підготовки грантових заявок до конкурсів програм Європейської Комісії «Горизонт Європа», NATO, COST, організатором якого виступила Президія НАН України.

*Мета заходу* – надати українським науковцям практичні знання та навички для підготовки якісних і конкурентоспроможних грантових заявок програм «Горизонт Європа», NATO, COST.



## Current opportunities for international research funding in Ukraine

**Prof Sergey Mikhailovsky**  
Сергій Михаловський

**R&D Director**  
**Advanced Nanostructured Materials Design and Consultancy**  
**(ANAMAD) Ltd, Brighton, UK**

**Visiting Professor**  
**University of Southampton, UK**

**sergeymikhailovsky@gmail.com** **ANAMAD Ltd.**







Семінар-тренінг проведено професором С. Михайловським, який, працюючи з 1994 року у Великій Британії, отримав значний власний досвід участі у грантових програмах ЄС та експертної роботи у цій сфері. На підставі аналізу поданих та успішно підтриманих українських грантових заявок професором С. Михайловським було розроблено та представлено авторську навчальну програму, спрямовану на підвищення ефективності підготовки заявок українськими науковцями.

Під час навчального семінару-тренінгу учасники прослухали лекційний матеріал, а також поставили запитання, обговорили проблемні аспекти підготовки заявок та отримали фахові поради й рекомендації.



Pillar I

### EXCELLENT SCIENCE:

Reinforcing and extending the **excellence of the Union's science base**

#### European Research Council (ERC)

Frontier research by the best researchers and their teams

€16 billion

#### Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

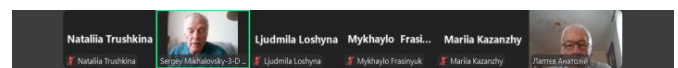
Equipping researchers with new knowledge and skills through mobility and training

€6.6 billion

#### Research Infrastructures (RI)

Integrated and inter-connected world-class research infrastructures

€2.4 billion



### European Research Council

Supports investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence – “**blue sky**” research



Starting Grant: up to €1.5 mln. Duration: up to 5 years. 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD. Additional funding up to €1mln



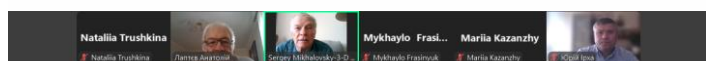
Consolidator Grant: up to €2 mln. Duration: up to 5 years. 7-12 years of experience since completion of PhD. Additional funding up to €1 mln



Advanced Grant: up to €2.5 mln. Duration: up to 5 years. An excellent scientific track record of recognised achievements in the last 10 years. Anyone with PhD can apply regardless of age. Additional funding up to €1 mln

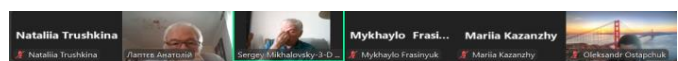


Synergy Grant: 2-4 researchers (one can be based outside Europe). Up to a maximum of €10 mln for a period of 6 years. Additional funding up to €4 mln



### Special features of ERC grants

- Extremely competitive, most prestigious
- Open Call – “bottom-up” approach.
- Awarded to individual scientists from anywhere in the world.
- However, the work has to be done in the EU or an AC.
- Grant is portable – it belongs to the individual and not to the host organisation although it is held by the organisation.
- Two-stage proposal submission; only those selected in stage one could proceed to stage two.
- Only AdG Call is still open from **22 May until 28 August 2025**. Too late...
- In 2026-2027 expected a new format: Very short proposal format, Part I – excellence (5 pages), Part II – implementation (7 pages), CV and Track Record (4 pages). Work Programme will be announced in July 2025.  
<https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/changes-2026-and-2027-work-programmes>



### Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

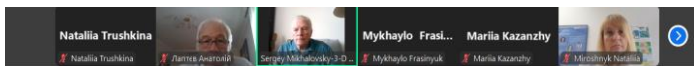
**Doctoral Networks**  
Doctoral programmes in and outside academia incl. joint & industrial doctorates

**Postdoctoral Fellowships**  
Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

**Staff Exchanges**  
Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

**COFUND**  
Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

**MSCA and Citizens**  
Public outreach events (Night)



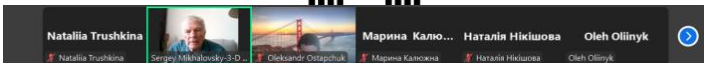
## Pillar II - Clusters

### GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Boosting key technologies and solutions underpinning EU policies & Sustainable Development Goals (6 clusters and JRC – non-nuclear direct actions)



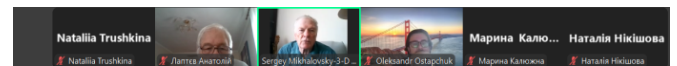
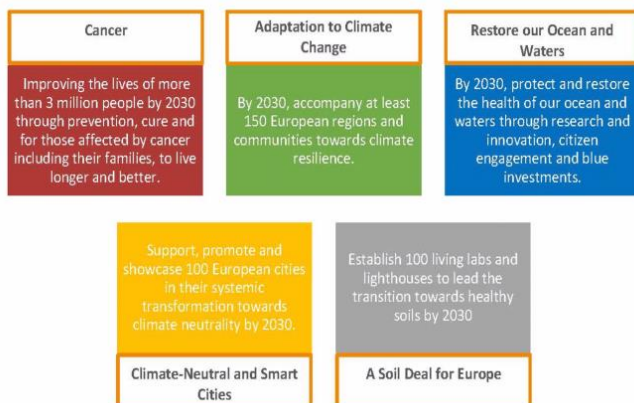
Clusters are broad thematic areas for research and innovation.



#### Clusters in Pillar II (cont.)

Cluster	Destination
Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity and ecosystem services</li> <li>Fair, healthy and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption</li> <li>Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors</li> <li>Clean environment and zero pollution</li> <li>Land, ocean and water for climate action</li> <li>Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities</li> <li>Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal</li> </ul>
Deadlines	September 2025

- Draft WPs for 2026-2027 have been published. The final version would be released later, but it is unlikely to change much.



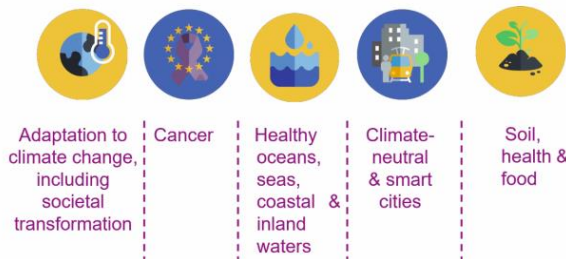
### Six Clusters in 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' Pillar II (various deadlines and project types, mostly RIA and IA)

Cluster	Destination
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society</li> <li>Living and working in a health-promoting environment</li> <li>Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden</li> <li>Ensuring equal access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality healthcare</li> </ul>
Deadline	16/09/25
Culture, creativity & inclusive society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing and using new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society</li> <li>Maintaining an innovative, sustainable, and competitive EU health industry</li> <li>Innovative Research on Democracy and Governance</li> <li>Innovative Research on the European Cultural Heritage and the Cultural and Creative Industries</li> <li>Innovative Research on Social and Economic Transformations</li> </ul>
Civil security for society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism</li> <li>Effective management of EU external borders</li> <li>Resilient infrastructure</li> <li>Disaster-Resilient Society for Europe</li> </ul>
Deadline	



### EU Missions aim to address some of the greatest challenges facing our society

#### Five Missions Areas



## Pillar III

### INNOVATIVE EUROPE:

stimulating market-creating breakthroughs and ecosystems conducive to innovation

European Innovation Council (EIC)	European innovation ecosystems (EIE)	European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
Support to innovations with breakthrough and market creating potential	Connecting with regional and national innovation actors	Bringing key actors (research, education and business) together around a common goal for nurturing innovation



### Strategy for getting Horizon-Europe funding (and other international funding)

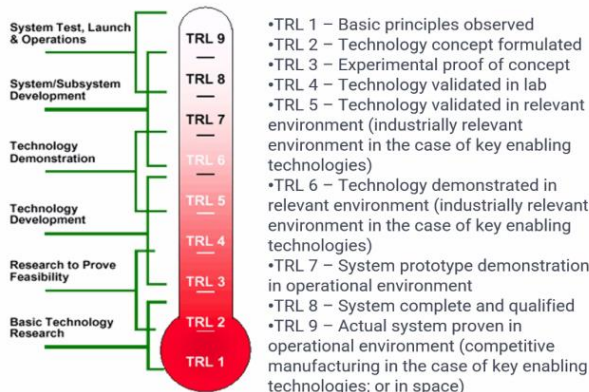
- Objective 1: find the right Call

#### Tasks:

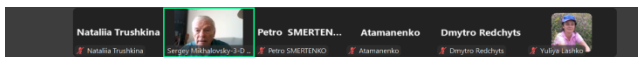
- monitor the Horizon-Europe website;
- analyse and understand the H-E structure;
- use key words to search for the appropriate call;
- examine the Work programme for the funding period (of one or two years) and identify appropriate future calls
- learn the Brussels speak – it takes time, but once you understand it – your chances for success are much higher.

**Hint:** for the best result, assume that you need **at least 6 months** from the proposal conception to its submission

### NASA Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs)

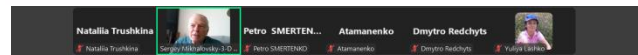




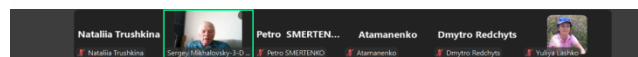


## From WIDERA draft programme 2026-27

- Twinning: deadline 9 April 2026, CSA, €0.8-1.5 million – **definitely!**
- Excellence hubs: 4 March 2027, CSA, €1.5-4.5 million
- Hop-on facility: 24 September 2026, RIA, €100,000-600,000
- ERA Fellowships: 9 September 2026, RIA, €160,000 (average)
- ERA Fellowships: 8 September 2027, RIA, €160,000 (average)
- Advancing knowledge for ERA: 24 March 2026, RIA, €1.5-2.5 million
- EIC Pre-Accelerator Widening: 18 November 2027, CSA, € 300,000-500,000 (for SMEs)
- ERA Chairs: 14 September 2027, CSA, €1.5-2.5 million
- ERA Research Managers: 14 September 2027, CSA, €1.5-2.5 million



## Standard evaluation process



## The evaluation criteria

- Criteria are adapted to each funding scheme and each thematic area
  - specified in the Work Programme
- **Three main evaluation criteria:**
  - **B1 - S&T Quality** (**relevant to the topic of the call**) (50-60% weight)
    - *Concept, aim and objectives, methodology*
  - **B2 - Impact** (20-30% weight)
    - *Contribution to expected impacts listed in work programme*
    - *Plans for dissemination/communication/exploitation*
  - **B3 - Implementation** (20-30% weight)
    - *Detailed Work Plan*
    - *Description of individual teams and consortium as a whole*
    - *Allocation of resources*



## Evaluation criteria (RIAs and IAs)

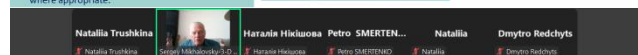


Activities to establish new knowledge or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution.  
This may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing, demonstration and validation of a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.

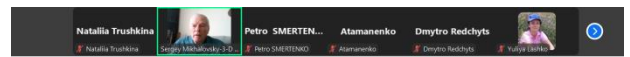
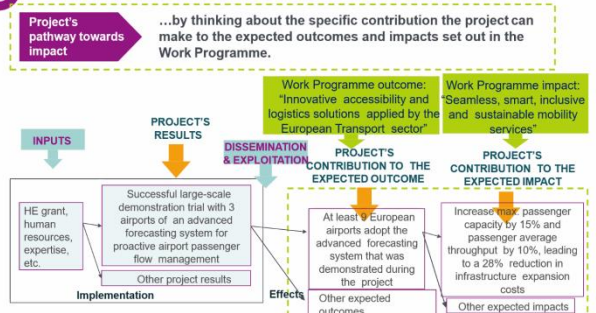


Activities to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services.  
These activities may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.

EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Clarity and pertinence of the <b>project's objectives</b>, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state-of-the-art.</li><li>✓ Soundness of the proposed <b>methodology</b>, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the <b>gender dimension</b> in research and innovation content, and the quality of <b>open science practices</b> including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Credibility of the <b>pathways</b> to achieve the expected <b>outcomes and impacts</b> specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.</li><li>✓ Suitability and quality of the <b>measures to maximize expected outcomes and impacts</b>, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Quality and effectiveness of the <b>work plan</b>, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.</li><li>✓ Capacity and role of each <b>participant</b>, and extent to which the <b>consortium</b> as a whole brings together the necessary expertise</li></ul>



## How applicants describe the impact



## Horizon Europe Work Programme

- Horizon Europe is implemented through **work programmes** which set out funding opportunities mainly through **calls for proposals**.
- A call for proposal will normally contain one or more **topics** with a common deadline. The budget of the call is distributed among topics. Where topics share a budget envelope, proposals for these topics will be competing against each other and will result in a single ranking list.
- Applicants **apply to a specific call and topic**.
- Each topic to which applicants can apply will include:
  - The topic **scope**
  - The topic **expected outcome**
  - The **expected impact** of the destination to which the topic belongs
  - The **type of action**



## Evaluation (award) criteria

### Three evaluation criteria

'Excellence', 'Impact' and

'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'.

(Only one evaluation criterion for ERC – Excellence;

in 2026 will also have Implementation)

- Evaluation criteria are **adapted** to each **type of action**, as specified in the WP
- Each criterion includes the '**aspects to be taken into account**'. The same aspect is not included in different criteria, so it is not assessed twice (unfortunately, it happens).
- **Open Science** practices are assessed as part of the scientific methodology in the excellence criterion.



Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements
Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts	
Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills		
50%	30%	20%
Weighting		



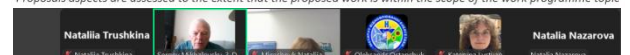
## Evaluation criteria (CSA)

Activities that contribute to the objectives of Horizon Europe. This excludes R&I activities, except those carried out under the 'Widening participation and spreading excellence' component of the programme (part of 'Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area').

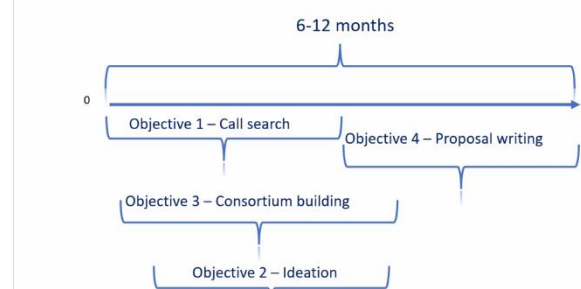
Also eligible are bottom-up coordination actions which promote cooperation between legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries to strengthen the European Research Area, and which receive no EU co-funding for research activities.

EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Clarity and pertinence of the <b>project's objectives</b>.</li><li>✓ Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures, including soundness of methodology.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Credibility of the <b>pathways</b> to achieve the expected <b>outcomes and impacts</b> specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.</li><li>✓ Suitability and quality of the <b>measures to maximize expected outcomes and impacts</b>, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Quality and effectiveness of the <b>work plan</b>, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.</li><li>✓ Capacity and role of each <b>participant</b>, and extent to which the <b>consortium</b> as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.</li></ul>

Proposals aspects are assessed to the extent that the proposed work is within the scope of the work programme topic



## Timeline for the proposal preparation



## Main components of success

- Find the Call with the priorities matching your research, or: adapt your research to the priorities of the Call (if you can)
- Most HE calls require a consortium with at least THREE EU MS/AC organisations— build up your network relevant to the Call and the Proposal
- Three main criteria:
  - B1 – Scientific excellence. Novelty and originality
  - B2 – Impact
  - B3 – Credibility of the participants, Feasibility of the work plan

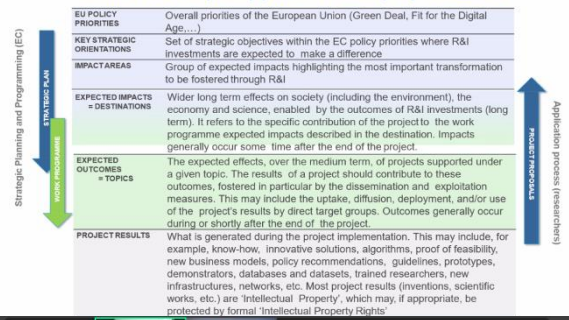
Implementation

Fourth criterion – CV – for proposals aimed at individuals such as MSCA – Fellowship and ERC

## B2 - IMPACT

- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project.
- Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

## Link between policy priorities and project results



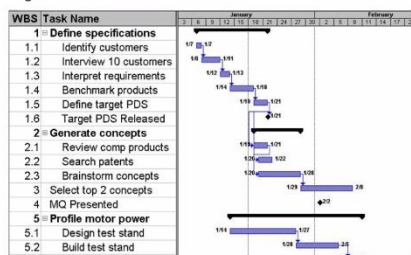
## B2 - Impact

What does your project bring to:

- Individuals involved in the project;
- Teams involved in the project;
- Consortium as a whole;
- Region, country as a whole; international dimension
- New IP – profit
- Socio-economic benefits, environmental significance, health
- Development, dissemination, use of results
- Communication
- Exploitation (with business plan if relevant)

## Implementation (cont.)

- Show the timing of the different WPs and their components – tasks, deliverables and milestones. **Gantt chart** is a compact way of presenting Work Programme



## Risk register

Risk #	Description of Specific Risk Event	Impact	Probability	Mitigation strategy	Total
1	Fast direct UV crosslinking of materials not possible	H	M/L	Add a photosensitive cross-linker, reduce the thickness of the materials, increase the output of the UV lamp.	H/M
2	The speed and depth of cross-linking is insufficient to cause crosslinking in < 5 min	H	M	Reduce the thickness of the materials, increase the output of the UV lamp, slow down the conveyor and increase the freezing temperature up to just below 273K	M
3	UV light destroys the polymer molecules producing toxic fragments	M	M/L	Reduce the exposure time to UV irradiation; add washing procedure to remove the low molecular leachates.	M
4	UV light elevates temperature above the freezing point	H	M/L	Adjust parameters of UV crosslinking by reducing the UV lamp output, increasing the conveyor speed, reducing the exposure time to UV radiation and/or lowering the temperature of the cryogel	H/M
5	Equipment is not available at XXX	M	L	There are two other universities close by, and other companies also sell equipment time.	L
6	A patent is filed that describes our project	L	L	The patent will be initially filed as soon as we have relevant data	L

## Project risk analysis

- The number of project risks depends on the nature and the size of the project.
- In general, the risks are classified as Low (score 1-3), Medium (score 4-6) and High (score 7-9) according to their Likelihood (element 1) and Severity of their impact on the project (element 2). The overall significance of the risk is a product of  $L \times S$ .
- Suggest risk mitigation activities/strategy.
- Present in the table and possibly add comments.
- Different types of risks: research, technical, commercial, managerial, etc.

## European Cooperation in Science & Technology (COST) <https://www.cost.eu/>

- COST** mission is to enable breakthrough scientific developments leading to new concepts and products and thereby contribute to strengthening Europe's research and innovation capacities.
- It funds pan-European, bottom-up networks of scientists and researchers across all disciplines and institution types called 'COST Actions'. COST Actions last for four years and require a minimum participation of seven eligible countries.
- The average budget per COST action is €134,000 for a four-year period. COST does not provide funding for research itself, but for a broad range of networking and collaboration activities and opportunities, including meetings, workshops, conferences, training schools, short-term scientific missions (STSM), and dissemination activities.