

## Meet WIDE AcrossEU

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#WIDE\_AcrossEU #HorizonEU #European\_Union #EURResearch

## Events



On 15 April 2026, the WIDE AcrossEU Consortium held a project meeting combined with a reporting session to the Project Supervisory Board. Representatives of all partner universities reviewed the project's progress, discussed the implementation of work packages, project visibility, financial transparency, and outlined priorities for the coming year, including preparations for the 2027 project audit. On 16-17 April 2026, the Regional Collaboration for Innovation and Growth Conference, organised within the WIDE AcrossEU project, was accompanied by a series of consortium meetings and discussions focused on strengthening international cooperation and regional innovation. The event brought together representatives of partner universities, ministries, regional authorities, National Contact Points, businesses, and research organisations from across Europe. During the two-day programme, participants discussed the role of universities in regional development, smart specialisation, and cooperation under Horizon Europe. The conference featured presentations on successful models of university-region collaboration, project implementation, and future research partnerships. Special attention was given to networking, knowledge exchange, and identifying new opportunities for collaboration within the European Research Area. The conference also served as a platform for reviewing the progress of the WIDE AcrossEU project, discussing future activities, and reinforcing the consortium's commitment to sustainable research and innovation cooperation.

**Funded by  
the European Union**



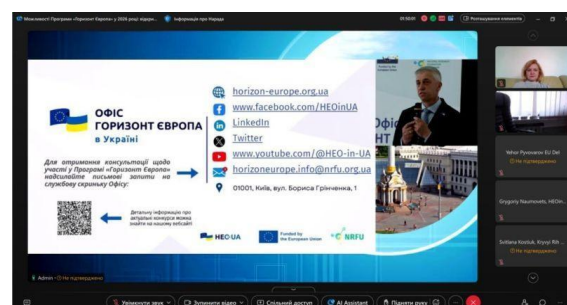
On 16-17 April 2026, Umeå University successfully delivered the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Webinar, aimed at inspiring researchers from widening countries to advance their research careers through the Horizon Europe programme. Research coordinators from the Research Support and Collaboration Office shared practical advice on preparing competitive MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships applications, highlighting key success factors and funding opportunities. The webinar strengthened participants' understanding of the programme and equipped them with valuable knowledge and skills to prepare successful proposals.



On 23-24 April 2026, the Research Support and Collaboration Office at Umeå University delivered the European Research Council (ERC) Grants Webinar for researchers and research support professionals from widening countries. Participants explored the different ERC grant schemes, received practical guidance on proposal development and submission, and discussed the upcoming ERC 2027 funding opportunities. The webinar also included a Q&A session, helping attendees better prepare for future ERC calls.



On 27-28 April 2026, the Using the EU Funding and Tenders Portal Webinar, hosted by the RDI Support Services of the University of Lapland, brought together teams from widening universities to strengthen their skills in international project development. Participants received practical guidance on registration, proposal submission, partner search, roles and responsibilities, and navigating the EU Funding & Tenders Portal. The webinar also introduced the Funding&Me app as a useful tool for applicants, while presentation materials and recordings were made available for future reference. The event contributed to strengthening universities' institutional capacity and supporting their successful participation in international research and innovation programmes.



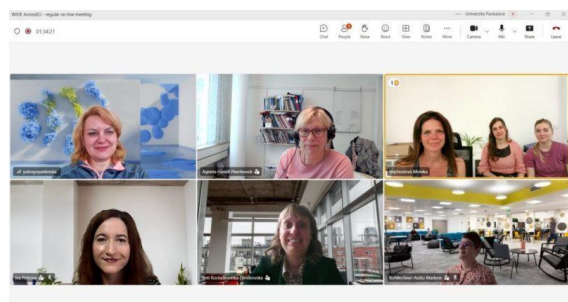
As #WIDE\_AcrossEU continues its journey, we are pleased to share the latest progress and achievements. One of the key activities was the round table "Horizon Europe Opportunities in 2026: Open Calls and Mechanisms of Participation", held on 24 March 2026. The event brought together representatives of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the EU Delegation to Ukraine, and other experts to discuss Horizon Europe opportunities, the 2026-2027 Work Programme, partnerships, and proposal preparation. The discussions highlighted the importance of cooperation with National Contact Points (NCPs) and strengthened participants' capacity to engage in Horizon Europe, contributing to stronger research administration and greater integration into the European Research Area.



Supporting research infrastructure remains one of the key priorities of #WIDE\_AcrossEU. On 24 March 2026, the conference “Research Infrastructure Support for Ukraine”, organised by the Czech Ukrainian Scientific Society with the support of Masaryk University and the RIFF project, brought together researchers from Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Germany, and other countries. Participants discussed research infrastructure, equipment transfer, international cooperation, and practical ways to support Ukrainian science. The event also welcomed Hanna Proshko, Consul of Ukraine in Brno, and marked an important step towards strengthening international collaboration and long-term support for the Ukrainian research community.

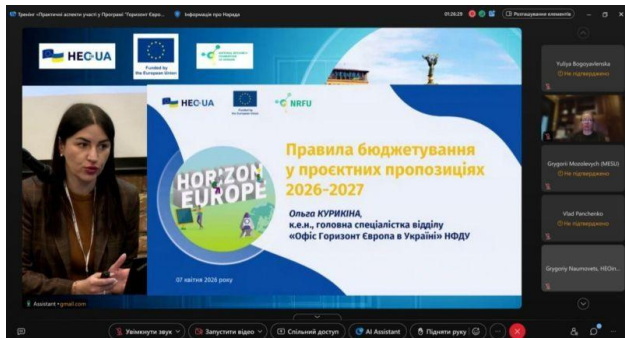


Strengthening project management skills for researchers remains an important focus of #WIDE\_AcrossEU, particularly in the area of energy sustainability for higher education institutions. On 27 March 2026, the online training “Energy Efficiency and Energy Independence: Preparation for Project Implementation” brought together experts and university leaders to discuss financing models, practical implementation, and successful energy-saving initiatives in HEIs. The training highlighted funding opportunities, economic benefits, and practical approaches to project implementation, while representatives of ministries, public authorities, and national offices reaffirmed their support for advancing energy efficiency and long-term sustainability in the higher education sector.

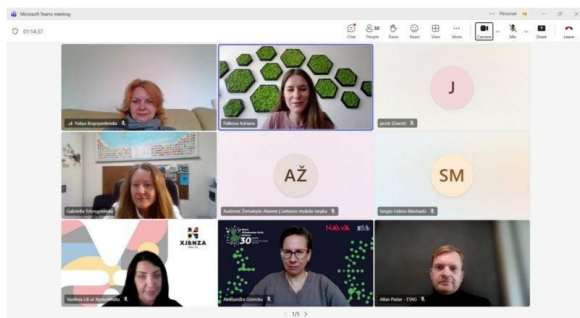


Project management meetings played a key role in preparing the next #WIDE\_AcrossEU activities and strengthening cooperation among project partners. Two Project Team Meetings, held on 27 March and 21 May 2026, focused on planning upcoming events in Litomyšl and Skopje. Partners discussed the programme, speakers, venues, travel arrangements, and other organisational aspects to ensure successful implementation. The meetings also covered progress on the tender for external training and consultancy, webinars for widening partners led by the University of Lapland and Umeå University, as well as preparations for job shadowing and secondments within the EU. These discussions contributed to stronger collaboration and effective coordination across the consortium.

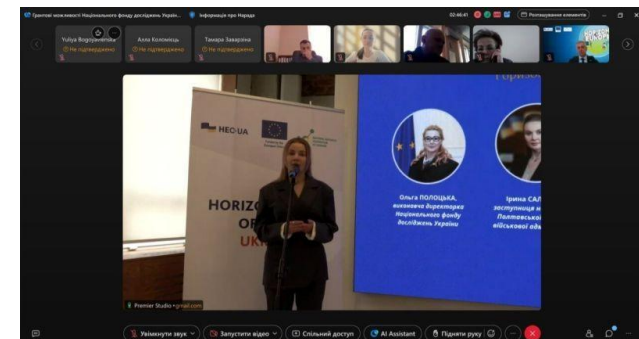




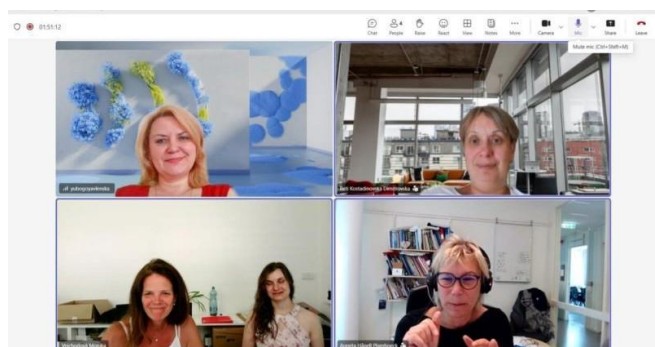
Funding opportunities under Horizon Europe and preparations for the upcoming funding period remained an important focus of #WIDE\_AcrossEU. On 7 April 2026, the hybrid event “Practical Aspects of Participation in the Horizon Europe Programme” brought together representatives of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, and other key stakeholders. The event provided practical guidance on project proposal preparation, budgeting, legal requirements, and the alignment of national and European regulations, helping participants strengthen their capacity to successfully engage in Horizon Europe projects.



Strengthening researchers’ knowledge and skills remained a key priority of #WIDE\_AcrossEU. On 27 April 2026, the joint online event “Postdoctoral Researchers in Widening Countries” showcased opportunities for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships through practical examples and success stories. Representatives of national agencies and research councils from Bulgaria, Malta, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, and other countries presented fellowship opportunities, career development pathways, and collaboration possibilities across Europe. The event provided valuable insights into funding opportunities and helped participants build connections with potential host institutions and research partners.



On 28-29 April 2026, the hybrid event “Grant Opportunities of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine and Support Instruments within the Horizon Europe Programme” brought together representatives of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, the EU Delegation to Ukraine, regional authorities, businesses, academia, and other key stakeholders. Participants explored funding opportunities within Horizon Europe Clusters 1, 3, 4, and 5, while also discussing legal and financial aspects of project implementation. The event strengthened cooperation between academia and business and supported participants in identifying suitable funding opportunities and preparing for future Innovation Actions.



The Project Management Team concluded the first half of 2026 with a productive meeting held on 26 June, reviewing progress and the successful achievement of key project milestones.

Partners confirmed that the project had reached Milestone M28 on schedule, delivered planned outputs, launched the tender for an external advisor, and discussed the next stages of implementation. Looking ahead, the consortium will continue with job shadowing activities, project meetings, and conference sessions, further strengthening collaboration, research capacity, and innovation across the partnership.

## Opened calls for project proposals

1. [Improving capabilities of law enforcement to counter climate-related challenges](#)
  - Opened on 06<sup>th</sup> of May 2026
  - New approaches centred around crime and climate change, including crime activities' association with and amplification by climate change, present unique challenges that require thorough investigation and analysis. Recognising these emerging trends is vital for formulating effective plans and policies, and equipping law enforcement with specialised skills, technology (including forensics) and training necessary to tackle these challenges in an increasingly volatile world.
  - Single stage call
  - Deadline: 05<sup>th</sup> of November 2026
2. [Integrated Production and Product Development for Next-Generation Lithium-based Batteries for Mobility \(BATT4EU and Made in Europe Partnerships\)](#)
  - Opened on 04<sup>th</sup> of June 2026
  - The Commission initiative for Safe and Sustainable by Design[1] (SSbD) sets a framework for assessing the safety and sustainability of chemicals and materials, which should be considered as a reference for project proposals.
  - Single stage call
  - Deadline: 08<sup>th</sup> of October 2026
3. [Increasing competitiveness and resilience of multimodal freight transport and logistics for competitive supply chains](#)
  - Opened on 04<sup>th</sup> of June 2026
  - Proposals must plan for an active collaboration amongst the projects selected under this topic - for dissemination, evaluation and coordination. Proposals should ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work-plan. Information exchange with Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking Flagship Area 5 is advised to avoid duplicated research.
  - Single stage call
  - Deadline: 08<sup>th</sup> of October 2026



#### **4. ERC Advanced Grants**

- **Opened on 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2026**
- **The objective of the Advanced Grant is to support excellent Principal Investigators who are established research leaders.**
- **An ERC Advanced Grant Principal Investigator is expected to be an active researcher with a track record of significant research achievements.**
- **Advanced Grants Advanced Grants may be awarded up to a maximum of EUR 2 500 000 for a period of 5 years.**
- **Deadline: 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2026**

#### **5. ERC Starting Grant**

- **Opened on 22<sup>th</sup> of July 2026**
- **The Starting Grant supports excellent Principal Investigators starting or having recently started their own independent research team or programme.**
- **A Starting Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown evidence of the potential for research independence, for example, by having produced at least one important publication.**
- **A researcher may be the Principal Investigator of only one ERC Starting Grant in their career.**
- **Deadline: 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2026**

#### **6. Teaming Synergies (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-01)**

- **Opened on 23<sup>th</sup> of April 2026**
- **The establishment of CoE in Widening countries, supported by a significant investment in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, has created new opportunities for scientific, societal, and economic impact. However, to fully capitalise on this investment and enhance the sustainability and international competitiveness of these CoE, it is essential to facilitate stronger collaboration and strategic joint initiatives among them.**
- **Deadline: 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2026**



Other opportunities

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>

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