

## EU SUPPORTS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN EASTERN PARTNER COUNTRIES

Research and innovation help increase **productivity**, create **more jobs**, improve **competitiveness**, and boost **economic growth**. In **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine**, the EU promotes this through the **EU4Innovation** Initiative, which helps **individuals, students, researchers, companies, and education institutions** with funding in many sectors. The EU also works together with national authorities to **modernise** and make partner countries more competitive in the field of research and innovation.

### WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

Across the region:

#### HORIZON 2020

With an investment of around €30 billion over the period 2018-2020, Horizon 2020 is the largest EU Research and Innovation programme ever. **Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine** are **associated to Horizon 2020** and participate in the programme under the same rules as EU Member States. Researchers from **Azerbaijan and Belarus** are also eligible for funding.

The EU's Horizon 2020 has competitive calls for proposals in areas including:

- **excellent science**
- **industrial leadership**
- **societal challenges**
- **spreading excellence and widening participation**
- **science with and for society**
- the **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**
- the **European Atomic Energy Community Euratom**

**Young people, companies, civil society organisations, researchers, and public bodies** can get support for Horizon 2020 applications through the **EaP Plus platform** at regional level and by **RI-LINKS2UA** at bilateral level with Ukraine.

Visit these websites for more information:

[www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020](http://www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020)

[www.eap-plus.eu](http://www.eap-plus.eu)

[www.ri-links2ua.eu](http://www.ri-links2ua.eu)

#### EaP CONNECT

The EU's EaP connect programme provides up to **two million local scientists, students and academics** at over **700 institutions** with access to global research platforms, interconnecting Research and Education communities via a high-capacity broadband internet network.

Visit this website to find out which universities are connected to the network:

[www.eapconnect.eu](http://www.eapconnect.eu)

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:



### Armenian Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics students:

The EU supports **science, technology, engineering and mathematics students** from different universities across Armenia to gain hands-on practical experience on their field of speciality. A new EU4Innovation Centre in TUMO – Centre for Creative Technologies in Yerevan, offers:

- **hands-on workshops**
- **project-based instruction**
- **modern research facilities**

Visit the website for more information:  
[www.tumo.org](http://www.tumo.org)



### Georgian Start-ups:



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The EU is supporting the Georgian Innovations and Technologies Agency to **help start-ups** have better access to finance from investors.

Visit the website for more information:  
[www.gita.gov.ge](http://www.gita.gov.ge)



### Moldovan regional ICT Centres:

New regional **Innovation and Technology Centres** will soon be opened in **Cahul** and **Balti** to help local **innovative start-ups** and **entrepreneurs** strengthen their capacity, as well as **attracting international ICT companies** to invest in Moldova.

The centres will also work with **schools** to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics studies, which will help young people to find **quality jobs** at home in Moldova.



### Ukrainian SMEs:

Local currency loans for SMEs are available through the EU's **EU4Business** initiative. **Innovative Ukrainian companies** can have better conditions to access affordable **long-term finance in local currency**. The loans aim to increase the capacity of local businesses to finance innovations and expand opportunities.

For more information visit the website:  
[www.eu4business.eu/ua/](http://www.eu4business.eu/ua/)  
or contact your local ProCredit Bank



*"I intend to use all my knowledge and experience acquired abroad for the development of our university."*

**Armine Abrahamyan**, agronomist, environmental specialist, and doctor of biological sciences, recently created the International Research Programme Coordinating Unit at the Armenian National Agrarian University. She has received support under the EaP PLUS project, has participated in the Horizon 2020 programme, and is developing more projects to increase the capacities of the university's researchers, as well as to strengthen the link between science, education and business.



*"Such programmes prevent the 'brain drain'. If I had not won that first grant, I would probably have moved abroad, but this way I got a chance to develop in Ukraine."*

Scientist **Olena Fesenko** is in charge of the international research and innovations department at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and has been cooperating with European research programmes for six years. She coordinates the Innovative Management project, which is part of the Enterprise Europe Network Ukraine consortium and promotes communication between scientists and businesses – *"For science to be practical and applicable we need to communicate with businesses,"* she insists.