



European network  
for developing new horizons for RIs  
<https://www.eurizon-project.eu/>



# EURIZON: Experiences from the Fellowship Program “Remote Research Grants for Ukrainian Researchers”

*Greta Facile, DESY*

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 871072.



# EURIZON: European network for developing new horizons for RIs



The H2020 EU-funded project EURIZON operates in two directions:

**1. Technology development:** the project allowed scientific and technical cooperation to develop and deliver finest, new cutting-edge technologies for European Research Infrastructures (RIs) including ESFRI landmarks and for RI upgrade projects currently underway, such as 4th-generation synchrotron projects, or for the instrumentation at modern neutron sources;

**2. Strengthening RI landscape in Ukraine:** set of measures to support scientists in Ukraine, to train RI staff and to raise awareness in Europe about their needs for capacity building and sustainability.



**2 WP dedicated to Ukraine RIs support measures:**

**WP9 TRAIN: Fellowship and training programme**

- Task 9.1: EURIZON Fellowship Programme for Ukraine
- Task 9.2: Staff exchange
- Task 9.3: Fellowship program to EMMRI for Ukrainian researchers and RI staff
- Task 9.4: Mapping status and training needs for restoring capacity of RIs in Ukraine

**WP10 LTS Sustainability for RIs in Ukraine:**

- Task 10.1: RI Capacity building for all scientific domains in Ukraine
- Task 10.2: Outreach activities for the sustainability of Ukrainian RIs

**Consortium: 27 partners from 10 countries**

**Total budget: ~25 Mio €**

**Timeline: 2020 – 2025**

**Coordinator: DESY**

Participant short name	Participant organisation name	Country
DESY	Stiftung Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron	DE
EKUT	Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen	DE
European XFEL	European X-Ray Free-Electron Laser facility GmbH	DE
FAIR	Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research in Europe GmbH	DE
FZJ	Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH	DE
GUF	Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main	DE
Hereon	Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon	DE
JLU	Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen	DE
TUM	Technische Universität München	DE
CEA	Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique et aux Énergies Alternatives	FR
ESRF	European Synchrotron Radiation Facility	FR
ILL	Institut Max von Laue - Paul Langevin	FR
CNRS	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique	FR
UCA	Université Clermont Auvergne	FR
ELI ERIC	Extreme Light Infrastructure ERIC	CZ
NPI CAS	Nuclear Physics Institute, Czech Academy of Science	CZ
MTA EK	Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Energetikai Kutatóközpont	HU
Wigner RCP	Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Wigner Fizikai Kutatóközpont	HU
INFN	Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare	IT
UNIMIB	Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca	IT
CERN	European Organization for Nuclear Research	CH
WUT	Politechnika Warszawska	PL
ESS	European Spallation Source ESS ERIC	SE
INR NASU	Institute for Nuclear Research of NAS of Ukraine	UA
LLE-AISBL	Laserlab-Europe AISBL	BE
NSC KIPT	National Science Center Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology	UA
STCU	Science and Technology Center in Ukraine	UA



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## Remote research grants for researchers from Ukraine

**ACTION:** provide **temporary fellowships**, with the duration of **6 or 12 months**, consisting in individual research grants to teams of **vulnerable researchers, working remotely from Ukraine**, on research projects conducted in **collaboration with partners from European RIs** (in all scientific domains).

**TARGET APPLICANTS:** teams of **Ukrainian researchers and RI relevant staff (2-5 Members) led by one experienced researcher** (Principal Investigator). Not only scientists but also engineers, PhD students, technicians, research assistants, etc.

**EUROPEAN PARTNERS:** will support UA teams on research topics of common interest from all scientific domains (not receiving financial support).

**Expected outcome:** provide temporary support to vulnerable researchers in Ukraine + if possible, initiate or boost structured and long-term EU-UA scientific and technical collaborations and joint publications.

**BUDGET:** Initial budget 1,5 Mio €

<b>TIMING:</b> Opening of call:	April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023
Selection Process:	June, 2023 – April, 2024
Starting of projects:	<del>Fall 2023</del> <b>February – May 2024</b>

More than 780  
applications  
received



Call announcement : <https://www.eurizon-project.eu/news/>



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## Remote research grants for researchers from Ukraine



**Iliana Ivanova**

Commissioner for Innovation,  
Research, Culture, Education  
and Youth



*More than two years after the Russian full-scale invasion, and one year after the launch of this funding opportunity, I can confirm €4.5 million in EU funding is ready to support scientists from Ukraine to pursue their research activities. We will continue to stand with Ukraine and its researchers.*



More than 780  
applications  
received =  
730 ELIGIBLE!

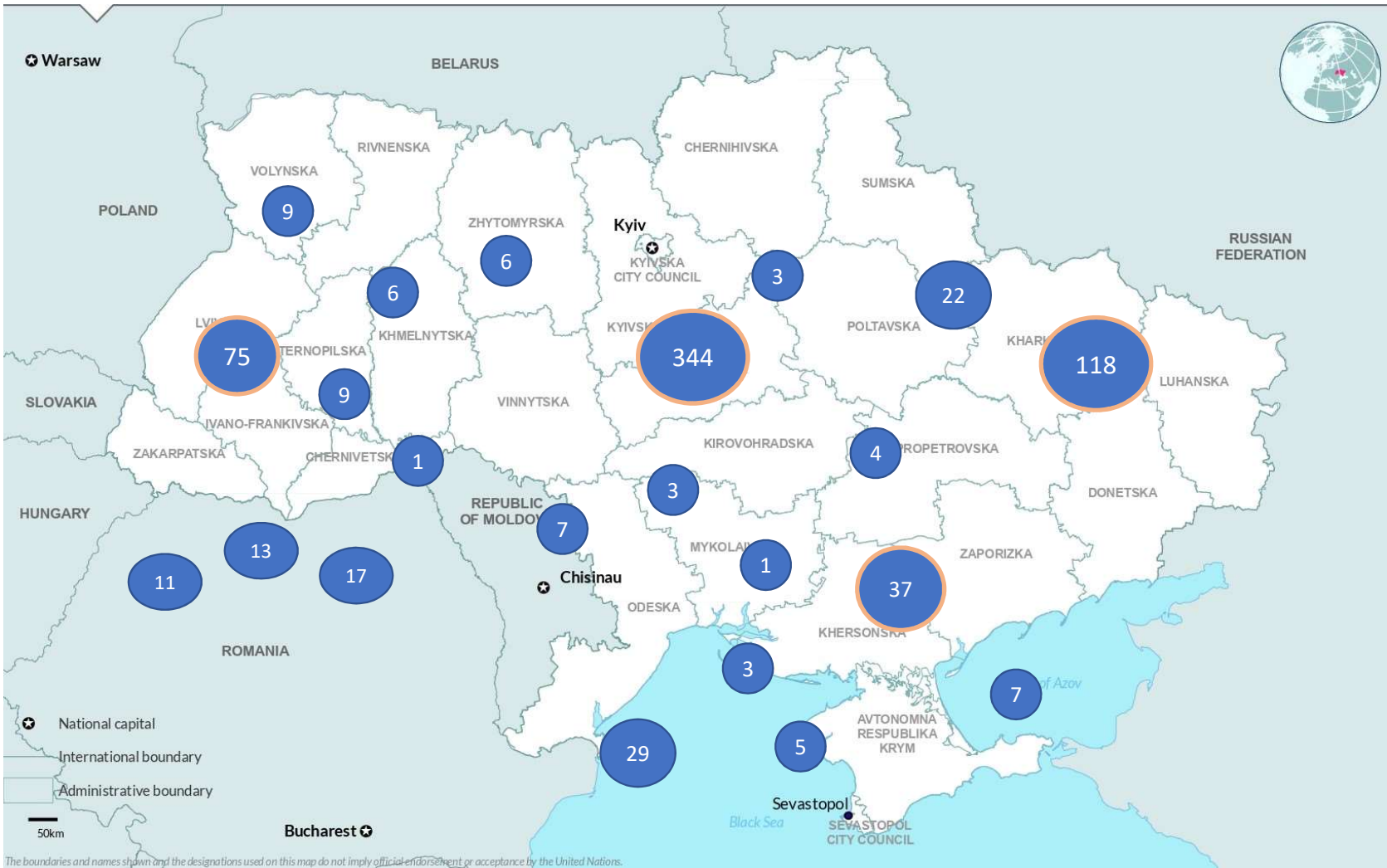


Recognizing the exceptionally high number of proposals received and the importance of continuous support for Ukrainian researchers, the Commission has increased the initial budget to **€4.5 million.**



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# APPLICANTS: teams locations



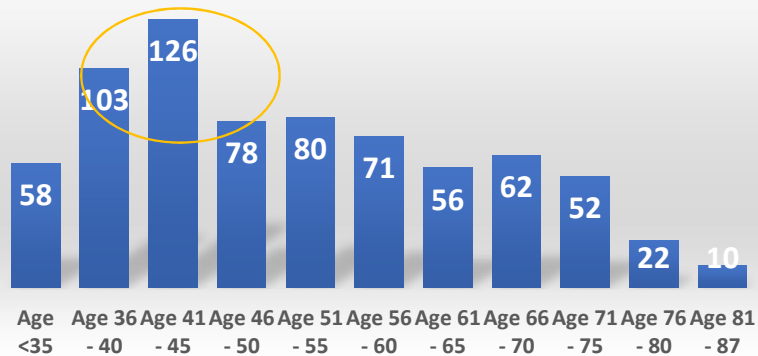
Location of the affiliation institute of the PI	
Khemelnytsk region	1
Kirovohrad region	1
Cherkasy region	3
Chernihiv region	3
Mykolaiv region	3
Poltava region	4
Kherson	5
Rivne region	6
Zhytomyr region	6
Vinnytya region	7
Zaporizhia region	7
Ternopil region	9
Volynsk region	9
Zakarpatsk region	11
Ivano-Frankivsk region	13
Chernivtsi regoin	17
Sumy region	22
Odesa region	29
Dnipropetrovsk region	37
Lviv region	75
Kharkiv region	118
Kyiv region	344



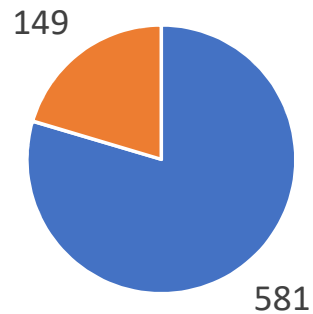
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## First analysis of the applicants teams

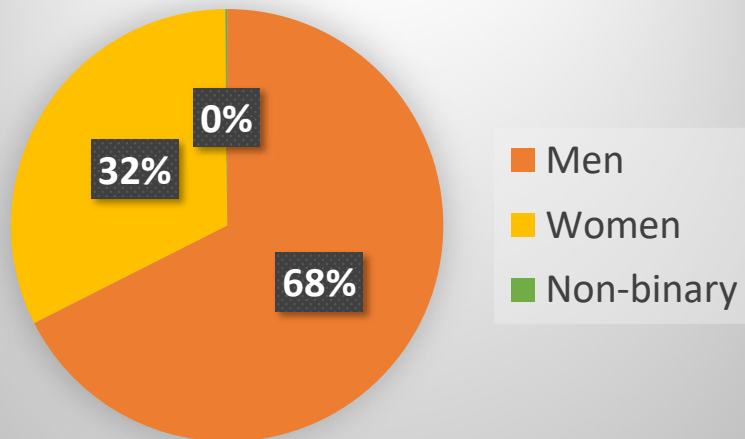
Age of the PIs



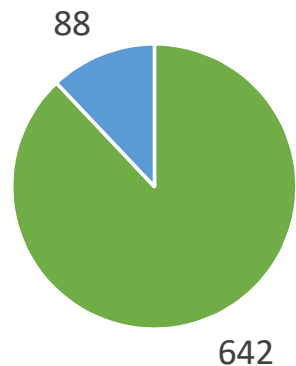
581 Teams included young members (35 years old)



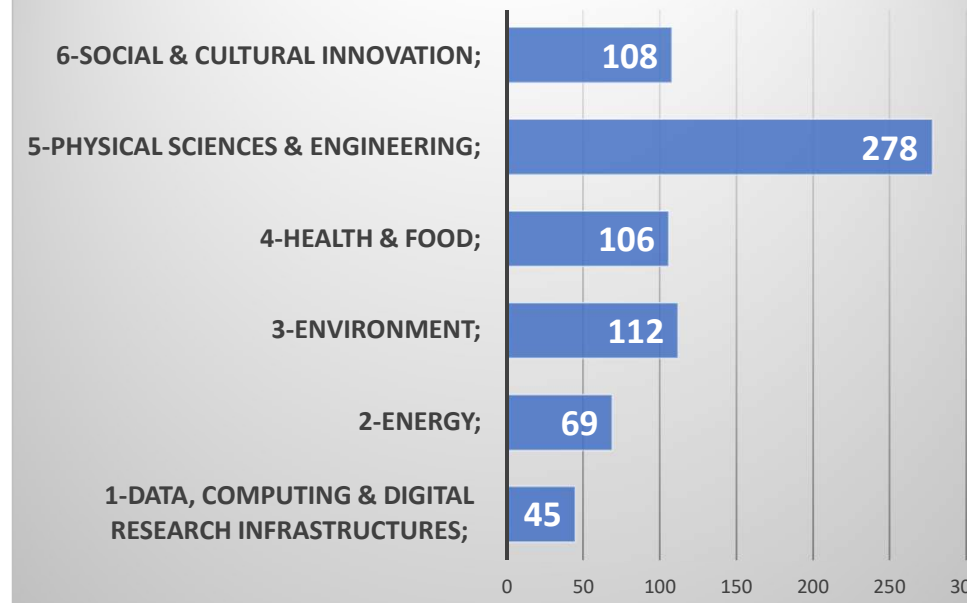
Principal Investigators' gender



642 Teams included women



Thematic field



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## European Partners

### Geographic spread of European partners:

All Ukrainian teams were required to nominate the names and contacts of European scientists willing to collaborate on the research project. The nominated partners come from research institutes in 32 different European and EU-associated countries\*.

The countries where the majority of European partners are based are listed in the table. Please note that each Ukrainian team could nominate more than one European partner.

Country of the affiliation Institute of the EU partner	# of applications
<b>Poland</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Italy</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Spain</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>19</b>

\*EU and H2020 Associated Countries.



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## *FIRST SET OF LESSONS LEARNED in June 2023*

### **PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM THE ANALYSIS OF APPLICATIONS AND FEEDBACK:**

- ❖ Many Ukrainian scientists (especially men) were still in their Country in 2023, were still working in research and being committed to excellent science, despite the extreme conditions;
- ❖ Main issues: lack of funding, salary cuts, facilities damaged, electricity and connectivity shortages, forced displacement (internally and externally), team fragmentation, trauma and stress, personal and family issues derived from war;
- ❖ European scientists are very willing to support Ukrainian colleagues and there are already many and very strong connections between UA and Europe science (it was easy to find partners from Europe for UA teams!).
- ❖ Ukrainian scientists abroad (Diaspora) are very active and willing to support their teams home, creating links and collaborations.

### **WHAT WOULD BE NEEDED:**

- Programmes and funding to support **scientists in Ukraine** (especially working from remote) are urgently needed – ALL SCIENTIFIC DOMAINS; Help scientists stay in research, allowing them to bridge this emergency situation and continue to work;
- Help scientists to keep contacts with **global scientific community**, to access data, archives and research tools; Create networks and research partnerships; Allow Ukrainian users preference and fast tracks for RIS in Europe;
- **Joint research projects/ PhD/ Master** programmes are needed for students and young researchers (remote opportunities);
- **Flexibility and quick adaptability** (to the fast changing context) of the funding schemes are required;
- Harmonize efforts and programmes – needed **coordination at international level and long-time plans**;
- Involve also the **Ukrainian scientist who are currently abroad**, help them keep connections with their home Institutes and involve them in the process of reconstruction. Help revert brain drain.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** Eligibility check + SRP establishing evaluation methodology + external independent panel conducting application evaluation + SRP final selection of the list of awarded applications.

SELECTION  
OF RESEARCH  
PROPOSALS:

**GENERAL GOAL:** Priority given to research projects directly showing close collaborations with European scientists and/or targeting the reconstruction and/or the support to the operations of Ukrainian RIs, and their future integration into the European Research Area (ERA).  
Other priorities: teams including young scientists and women scientists.

Criteria established by SRP and evaluated by external evaluators:

1.1 The scientific excellence and the technical feasibility of the research programme.

1.2 The capacity and organisation of the team ,and the relevance of the team members participation.

1.3 The PI’s and team members profiles, scientific/technical merits and professional experience.

Scientific excellence

2.1 The level of cooperation and synergy foreseen with the European partner.

2.2 The potential of boosting the future integration of Ukrainian RIs with the European Research Area (ERA) beyond EURIZON.

2.3 The potential of the proposed project of contributing to the capacity building and to restoring the operations of the Ukrainian RIs.

Impact



## Remote research grants - Selection process



How to include to the scientific excellence the gender, age and vulnerability dimension?

Result of external evaluation on scientific excellence and impact

The SRP decided on the following extra scores:



**EXTRA  
SCORES**

Extra score for teams including young scientists (35 years old or younger)

Extra score for teams including women scientists

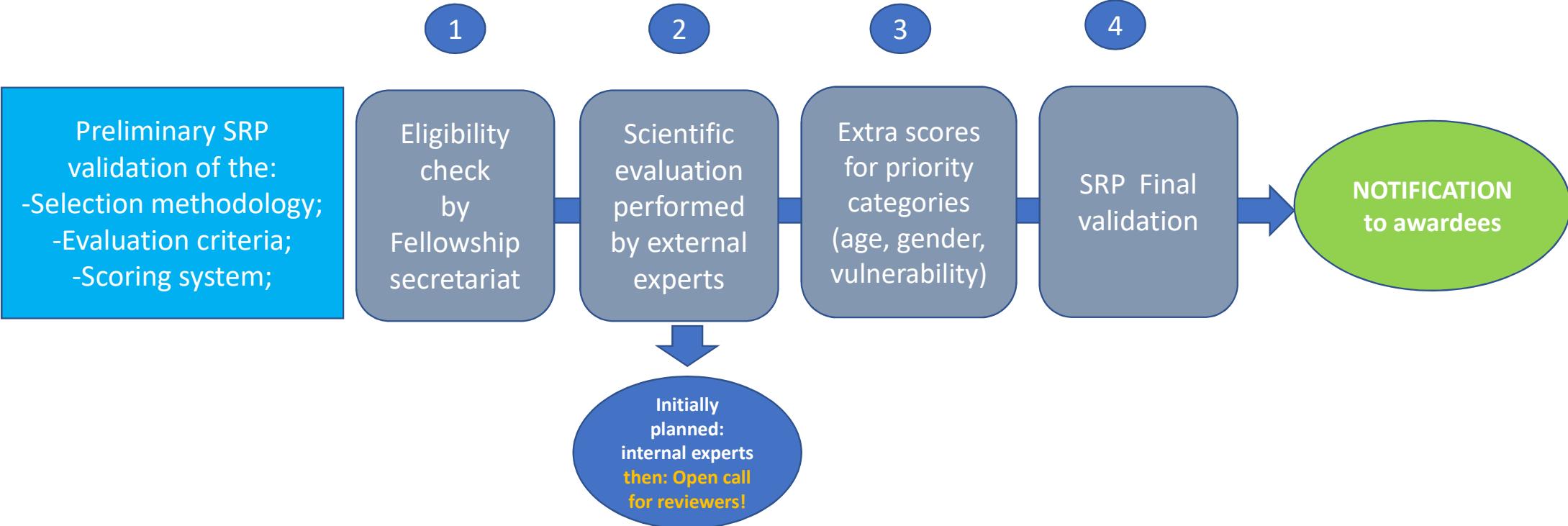
Vulnerability score  
+0 to +2

The final agreement and recommendation for the whole SRP group was to **CONSIDER VULNERABILITY based on the region where the affiliation institute of the PI is located**. A numerical score from 0/0.5 /1/2 was added to the total score of the teams, ranging from +2 for institutions within regions strongly impacted by the war, 1 for institutions with considerable destruction, 0.5 with medium destruction and 0 for those with none or little destruction. These considerations were based on the Ukrainian government database (data from UA Government: <https://saveschools.in.ua/en/>).

*Examples: +2 for teams from Kharkiv;*

Domain	SRP Member	Function	Organization
Expertise on Ukrainian research	Igor Girka	Dean of the School of Physics and Technology, Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine	Kharkiv V.N.Karazin National University; National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine;
Expertise on Ukrainian research	Olga Polotska	Executive Director of the State budgetary institution established by the Government of Ukraine	NRFU -The National Research Foundation of Ukraine
Energy	Manuel J. Blanco	EC H2020 European Research Area (ERA) Project Chair	Cyprus Institute - EU SOLARIS
Energy	Sverre Quale	Executive Director	ECCSEL ERIC
Environment	Werner Kutsch	Director General	ICOS ERIC
Environment	Juan-Miguel González-Aranda	CTO	LifeWatch ERIC
Life Sciences	Niklas Blomberg	Executive Director (former)	ELIXIR (former)
Life Sciences	Michael Raess	COO	Infrafrontier GmbH
Physical Sciences	Jana Kolar	Executive Director	CERIC-ERIC
Social Sciences & Humanities	Angelika Scheurer	Deputy Director	ESS ERIC
Social Sciences & Humanities	Jennifer Edmond	Director	DARIAH ERIC
eInfrastructures	Tiziana Ferrari	Managing Director	EGI Foundation
eInfrastructures	Hilary Hanahoe	Secretary General	Research Data Alliance

Remote research grants - Selection process



**BIG INTERNATIONAL EFFORT!**

More than **400** scientists from all over the world registered as volunteer reviewers!

**Evaluators from more than 54 Countries:** all over Europe but also Canada, US, Chile, Morocco, South Africa, Egypt, Israel, Turkiye, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zaeland, ...



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730 eligible applications

More than 1,500 reviews have been conducted;  
3 selection shifts have been organized for the final approval by the Scientific Review Panel (SRP)

65 proposals selected  
=  
324 scientists supported

## TIMELINE

Shift  
1

- 18 projects selected in December
- Started on February 1st

Shift  
2

- 12 projects selected in February
- Started on April 1st

Shift  
3

- 35 projects selected in April
- Started on May 1st

Remote research grants - Selected teams

	Number of Proposals	Funding requested
Proposals received	786	.
Eligible proposals	730	49,288,200€ (estimation)
Selected proposals	65	4,516,200€

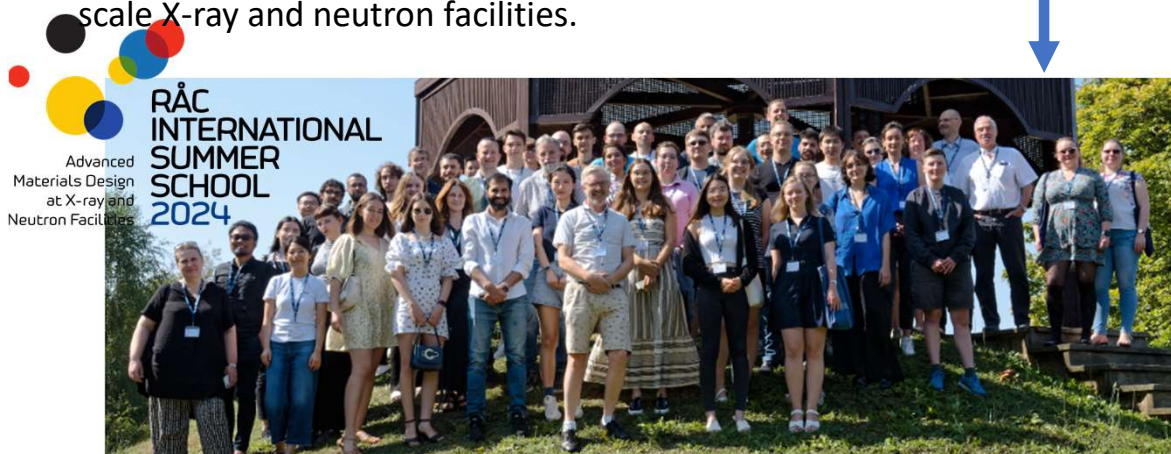
Research thematic area	Total number of (eligible) proposals per field	% on the total	total number of proposals awarded per field
5-PHYSICAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING	281	9%	24
3-ENVIRONMENT	114	10%	12
6-SOCIAL & CULTURAL INNOVATION	111	8%	9
4-HEALTH & FOOD	107	7%	8
2-ENERGY	72	10%	7
1-DATA, COMPUTING & DIGITAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES	45	11%	5
	730		65



Geographical spread of 65 winning teams across Ukrainian regions (Affiliation Institutes of the Principal Investigators)

## EURIZON project – other initiatives supporting UA science – TRAINING AND ADVOCACY

- ❖ **FELLOWSHIP to EMMRI:** 9 Ukrainian Research Infrastructures Leaders Graduated with EURIZON's Fellowships to Milano-Bicocca University's Executive Master in Management of Research Infrastructures (18 Month part time Master);
- ❖ **Several schools for young researchers, e.g. RAC International Summer Schools:** Ukrainian students and young researchers participated in the 2022-2023-2024 Editions of the RAC International School, a summer school on advanced materials research at large-scale X-ray and neutron facilities.



- ❖ **Ukrainian Science table at The Transatlantic Big Science Conference:** A special session "Supporting the Science System in Ukraine" was organized to discuss the most urgent needs where support of science, and scientists, in Ukraine is most pressing. Co-chaired by Prof. Anatoly Zagorodny, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU).



Jürgen Mlynek, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation, and Anatoly Zagorodny, President of NASU – 27 June 2024, TTBSC 2024, Berlin

## EURIZON project – other initiatives supporting UA science – LANDSCAPING and SUPPORTING OPERATIONS

- ❖ **Mapping of the Status and of the needs for capacity building of Ukrainian Research Infrastructures: Activity conducted in collaboration with NRFU.** Based on the results of this explorative phase, and by later involving in the discussions also the EURIZON FELLOWSHIP teams, this task will be used to develop a starting knowledge base to raise awareness about the needs for operational support, reconstruction, training and capacity building of Ukrainian Research Infrastructures.
- ❖ **Collaboration with RI.Logistica for the “The ILO Ukraine initiative”** : EURIZON is setting up a collaboration with RI.Logistica to test a new pilot project for logistic support to Ukrainian Research Infrastructures. We aim at designing and testing a logistic solution providing Ukrainian RIs with donations of scientific equipment, tools, and spare parts from European Research Infrastructures and Institutes. The expected outcome is to test an efficient and sustainable logistical model that can be scaled for future initiatives aimed at sustaining the reconstruction of research infrastructures in Ukraine.

<https://rilogistica.eu/recipient-of-donations/>





**eurizon**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

For further information:  
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