

# CULTURE, CREATIVITY and INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

CLUSTER 2 CONFIGURATION  
OF THE HORIZON EUROPE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

19<sup>th</sup> meeting  
9 April 2025



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# 1 WELCOME and INTRODUCTION



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## 2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA



# AGENDA



- 1. WELCOME and INTRODUCTION**
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE LAST MEETING MINUTES**
- 4. INSIGHTS FROM CLUSTER 2 PROJECTS**
- 5. FINALISING THE WORK PROGRAMME 2025**
- 6. TOWARDS THE WORK PROGRAMME 2026-2027**
- 7. INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSION**
- 8. AOB**
- 9. CLOSING**

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# **3 APPROVAL OF THE LAST MEETING MINUTES**



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# 4 INSIGHTS FROM CLUSTER 2 PROJECTS





# ekip

EUROPEAN CULTURAL  
AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES  
INNOVATION POLICY PLATFORM



Funded by  
the European Union

# Partner organisations

## UNIVERSITIES



LUND  
UNIVERSITY

Lund University, Sweden



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

University of Edinburgh,  
United Kingdom



Delft University of  
technology, The  
Netherlands



POLITECNICO  
MILANO 1863

Politecnico de Milano,  
Italy



Humak University of  
Applied Sciences,  
Finland

Humak University of  
Applied Sciences,  
Finland

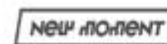


Creative  
Business  
Network

Creative Business  
Network, Denmark

MSCOMM

MSCOMM Group, Greece



New Moment network,  
SEE region



SOUND &  
VISION

Netherlands Institute for  
Sound & Vision, The  
Netherlands

## CONSULTANCIES

technopolis  
group

Technopolis Group,  
Belgium



Idea Consult Group,  
Belgium



Next Atlas, Italy



Creativity Lab, Estonia

## CITIES



City of Rotterdam, The  
Netherlands



Metropolitan Institute of  
Bratislava, Slovakia



Creative Industry Košice,  
Slovakia



Cité du design, France



Funded by  
the European Union



# What we have set out to do

# EU flagship initiative Catalyst for transition of CCI in Europe

Digital Platform

## Network of networks

### 01 ENGAGE *How can you be involved?*

Debate  
Collaborate  
Comment



## Content collector & distributor

### 02 EXPLORE *What do we produce?*

Collect  
Contribute  
Share



## Community centered policy engine

### 03 DISCOVER *How do we work?*

Innovate  
Experiment  
Test



Open innovation as a standard in ecosystems

@ekipengine.eu

# Goals

Through our inclusive and open approach, **we bring together a diverse range of stakeholders**, including industry professionals, policymakers, researchers and representatives from CCI across Europe.

By prioritising critical policy areas and fostering intensive development, **we aim to create tailored policies that support vibrant CCI ecosystems** for a fair and equitable market.

## Purpose

**ekip** supports the development of policies that make **open innovation into the new standard in ecosystems**.

Through collaboration, openness, inclusivity, and sustainability, **we drive innovation policy that empowers CCIs to make a significant impact** on Europe's societal, environmental, and economic transformation.

**ekip** ensures that **supportive ecosystems develop a capacity to handle complex multi-stakeholder innovation processes** needed to realise more innovative CCIs in Europe and the behavioural change they drive towards a **more green, inclusive and digital Europe**.



# Open Innovation into the standard in ecosystems

For two decades, principles for organising and managing complex innovation processes have centred on openness, collaboration, and multi-stakeholder interactions. Such an open innovation approach allows handling inputs from several actors and directing them towards value-creating innovation. **Open Innovation and ecosystem thinking is even more pertinent in the era of green and digital transformations** and other global challenges that are heavily impacting the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) and need fast policy adaptation. **However, open innovation principles are still rarely applied as normal practice.**

Existing support structures and innovation ecosystems are not designed for this and there are few guiding policies to support creative and society-centred innovation and multi-stakeholder innovation practices. More effective policies are needed so that supportive ecosystems for complex innovation will operate according to open innovation principles. **Ecosystem-centric, cross-organisational innovation must become normal not only for CCI ecosystems but for the innovation ecosystems at large.**

# CCI is a swarm with spillover effect

The CCI is a **sector of many sectors** and industries that is built not on a few huge corporations, but on **small and often interconnected organisations and businesses** stretching over many different areas of expertise. **100.000 actors and more** within just one part of the sector.

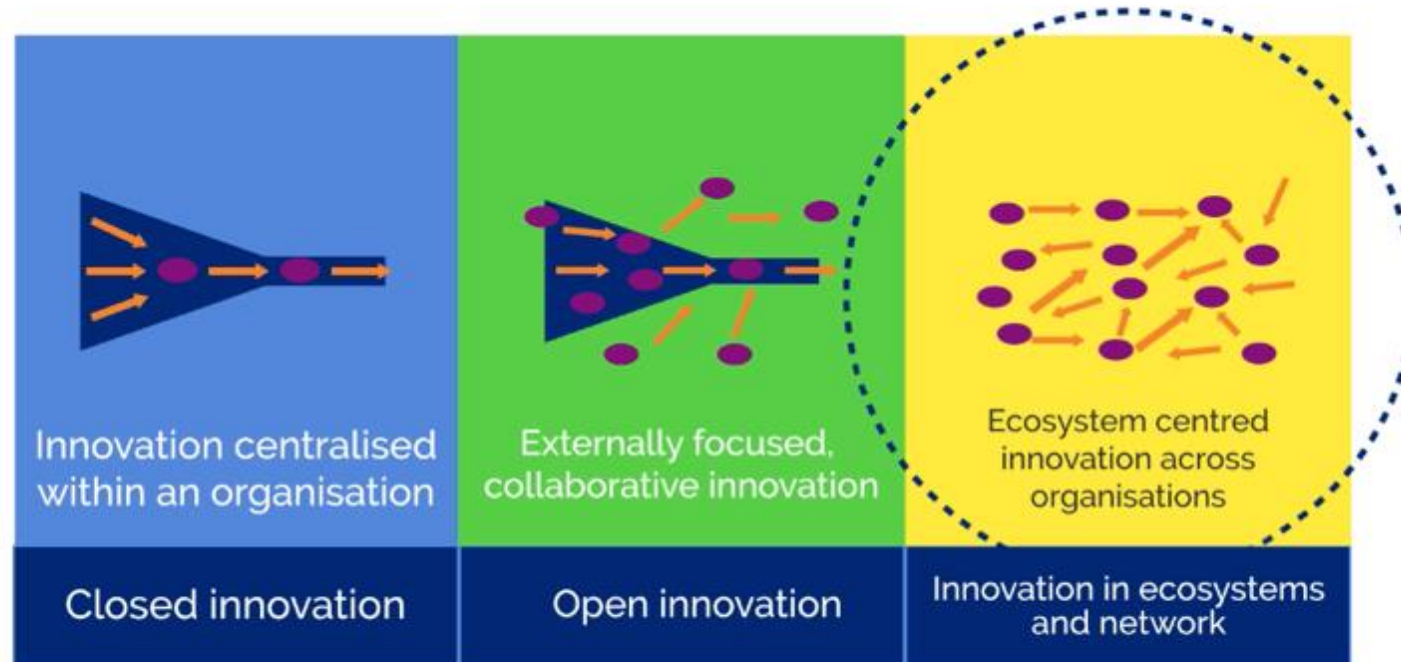
**The drivers and goals are dispersed** from arts for art's sake, from society development to commercial businesses. **The turn-over is as big as the automotive industry** and lay the foundation for other sectors within tech, tourism, travelling, health care, education, security, resilience etc. CCI **represents the essence of Europe.**

**CCI cannot be supported in the same way as** the automotive industry or life science building on TRL but more importantly **on IRL** (Innovation Readiness Level) **and with a portfolio approach where cross-innovation is key.**

If we understand how to build innovation **ecosystems servicing a swarm of actors with open innovation as a standard practise**, we can **match Europe's diversity**, and build on the core, values and advantages, **where the Creatives are the enablers.**



# Innovation in a multi-stakeholder environment



*The Evolution of Innovation*

*Source : EU Open Innovation and Policy Group 2013*

## Dealing with complexity

From a single point of growth to ecosystem scaling and growth



# Cultural policy vs Innovation policy

- innovation by production

**Cultural policy** is taking in a broad perspective within the cultural sector but it's important that you are an approved cultural organisation or cultural "accredited" **who**.

It offers **infrastructure, support to organisations and production**.

Still pushing for new and creative but not necessarily innovative as standalone criteria.

You should not be market or commercial or profit maker.

The content created is often IP in form of Copyright. The open part is the audience part, the "consumer" part.

Society aspects is considered and included.

**Innovation policy** is about pushing **what**. The boundaries connected to market, and you cannot provide production resources. Who is not in focus what is.

Only the pushing of what, **a new technology, service solution**. When this is created it should be **repeated, multiplied, improved, and made profitable** even if this means self-sustaining.

The purpose is creating scalable products, services, knowledge, process.

IP is closed and open depending on funding (patent, design). If paid for by public money some outcome must be made open for others to use for further development.

Society aspects is considered and included.



*“Innovation by production”*  
enables us to  
combined the  
policy fields  
differences for  
innovation



***CCI: Many inventions, but little innovation***

A sign-language-speaking ghost in the form of a hologram in a theatre production, and a circus tent that can be set up in record time. These are just a few examples of how those working in the cultural and creative industries (CCIs) are crafting groundbreaking solutions and compelling content by inventing entirely new things. But why is it that so few of these innovative elements are further developed and incorporated into an innovation system?



# Policy as a tool for innovation

## - recommendations addressing building blocks in ecosystems

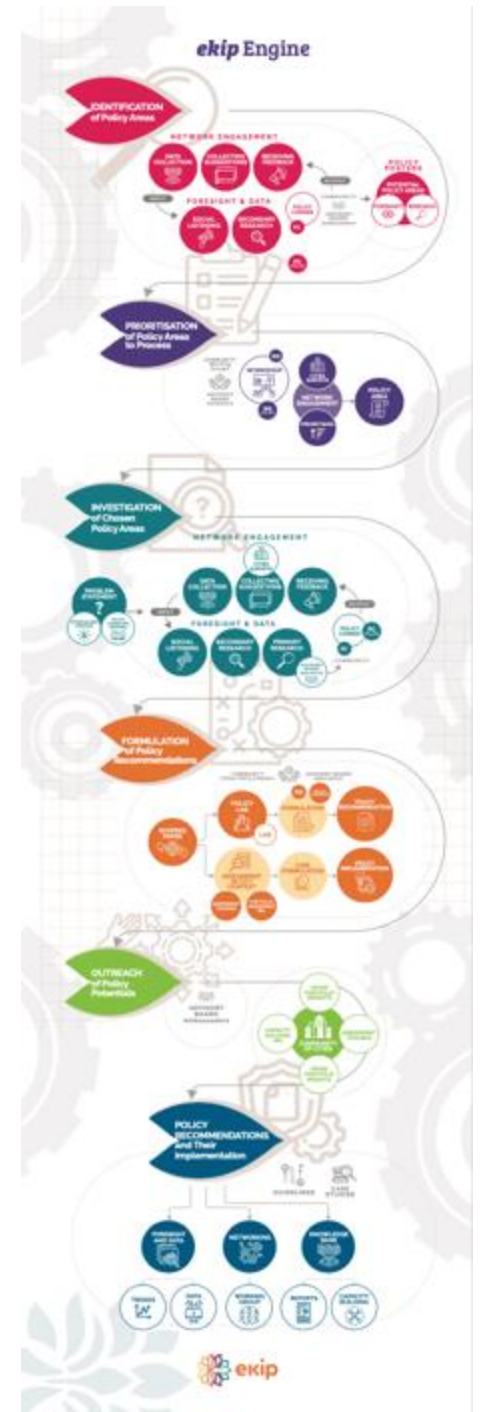
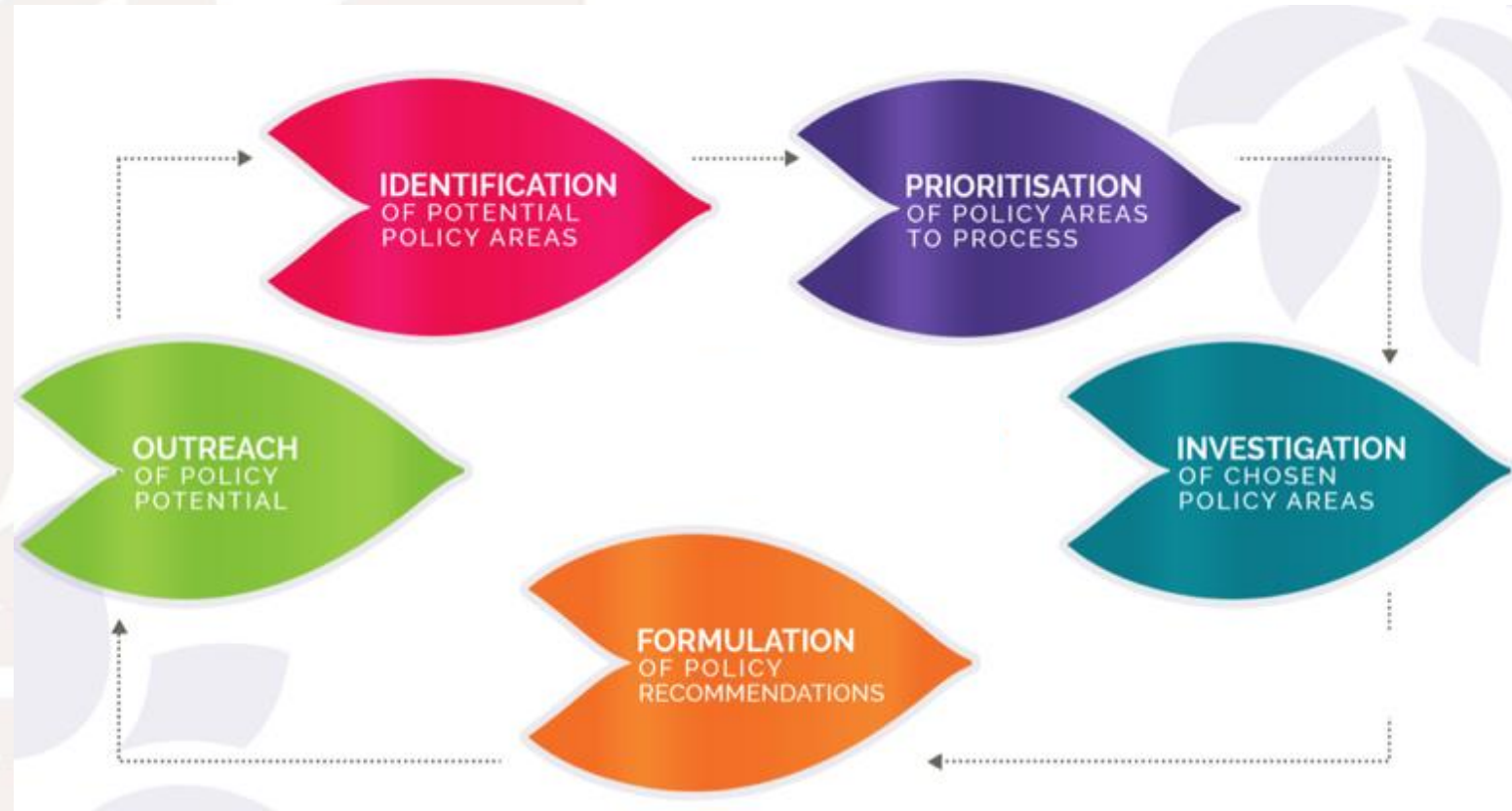
BUILDING BLOCKS	DESCRIPTION OF DIMENSIONS
<b>SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVENESS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaboration, networking &amp; cross-sectorality</li><li>• New business models</li><li>• Support to start-up &amp; SMEs (including IPR, internationalisation)</li><li>• Innovation culture &amp; mindset</li></ul>
<b>REGULATION &amp; GOVERNANCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regulatory barriers to transition &amp; governance model (e.g. partnerships)</li><li>• Directionality, vision &amp; coordination of ecosystems (incl. multi-level &amp; multi-actor coordination for co-creation &amp; co-design of strategy)</li><li>• Standardisation</li><li>• Policy experimentation and reflexivity (including technology foresight)</li></ul>
<b>SOCIAL DIMENSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social implication of transition (e.g. digitalisation impacting jobs)</li><li>• Human-centricity of innovation &amp; ethical development</li><li>• Involvement of end-users</li><li>• Connection to Just Transition</li></ul>
<b>R&amp;I, TECHNIQUES &amp; TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New products, Tools, methods, processes</li><li>• Interdisciplinary &amp; trans- cross disciplinary</li><li>• Valorisation of R&amp;I results &amp; uptake of technologies</li></ul>
<b>INFRASTRUCTURES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Availability &amp; access to specific infrastructures</li><li>• (Technical) services and support (tools, methods, space etc.)</li></ul>
<b>SKILLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adequacy of skills in the workforce</li><li>• Adequacy of curricula and upskilling offer</li><li>• Softskills &amp; cultural mindset</li></ul>
<b>INVESTMENT &amp; FUNDING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to funding &amp; financing</li><li>• Innovation procurement</li></ul>

# Policy recommendations on European level and on City ecosystem level

- The regional and national level will address the policies if they work for the other two levels. **We already see this happening... Creative Greece, Creative Kosovo, 'Creative Skåne'...**

# What we have accomplished

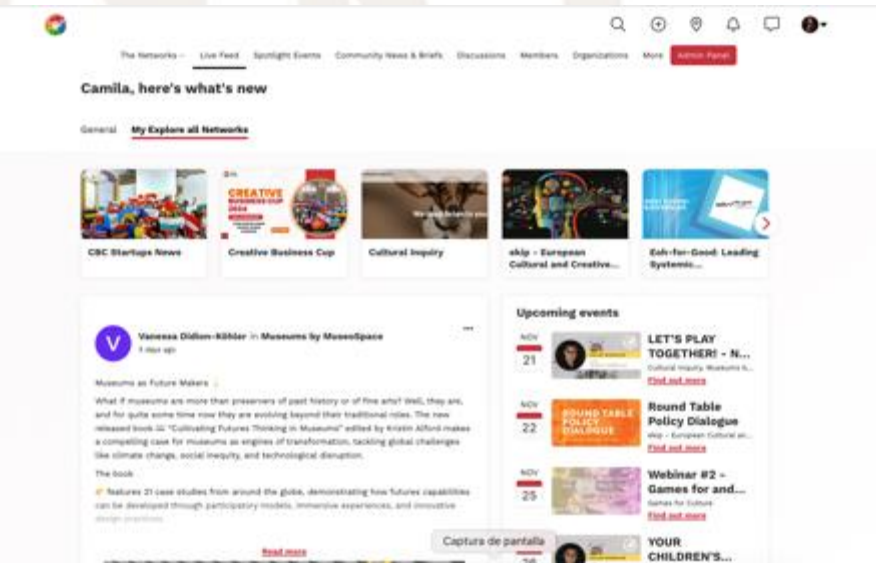
# *ekip* policy Engine set-up with methods, tools and connected processes





# Network activation

## - a community of networks being built



- Actors mapped across Europe
- An on-line community
- Community enrolled in activities through out the Engine

NACE codes = Economic Activities (2008)	Cultural Industries Subsectors (2008)	ESNet-Culture (2008)	CICERONE Case Studies (2008)
Advertising & Marketing	Advertising & Marketing	Advertising	Architectural Design
Architecture	Architecture	Architecture	Architectural Design
Audiovisual	Audio Visual & Multi-media Production	Film, TV, video, radio and photography	Audiovisual & multimedia
Music	Music, performing and visual arts	Music, performing and visual arts	Music industry
Performing Arts	Performing Arts, Audio creation, Operation of arts facilities, Performing arts and its support activities, employment placement agencies	Music, performing and visual arts	Performing Arts industry
Other cultural & creative sectors activities	Wholesale of musical instruments, Retail activities of auctioning, Renting of jewelry, musical instruments, scenery and costumes, Repair of books, musical instruments	Visual arts	Visual Arts industry
Visual Arts	Visual Arts	Visual arts	Visual Arts industry

# Policy Areas for innovation prioritised

## **2024** – *finalised*

**#1** - AI and the CCI

**#2** - NEB and the green transition with the CCI

**#3** - Immersive Media and UX

## **2025** – *in the making*

**#4** - Crafts-lead innovation

**#5** - Platformisation of the music industry

**#6** - Inclusivity in the gaming industry

**#7** - Cross-innovation with performing arts

**#8** - Fashion transition: eco-design for circularity

**#9** - Cultural organisations in innovation ecosystems

*Policy Areas to process 2026 – prioritised in June 2025*

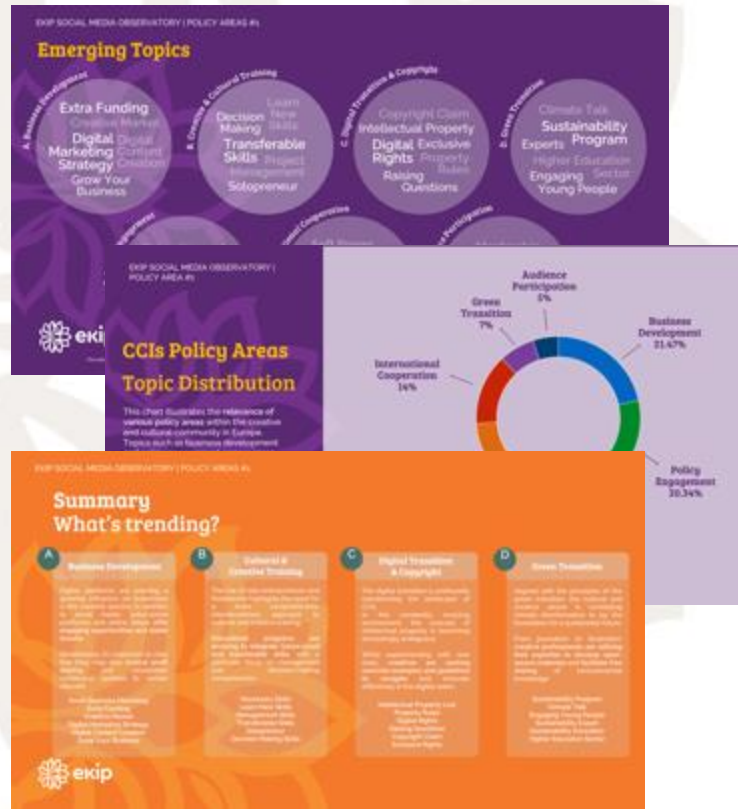


- Policy Areas chosen to look at building blocks for Open Innovation ecosystem through different *lenses* relevant for the CCI to drive and be included in innovation

# On-line Observatory with Methods, Reports and Tools



## Policy Area Report



## Deep-Dive Reports



- Policy recommendations mapped
- Policy Corners with the community
- Social Listening across Europe
- Policy Posters summarising each area
- Platform design for Observatory
- New CCI jobs identified



## POLICY AREA #1 AI and its interplay with the CCIs

01 BACKGROUND

Artificial intelligence is a digital technology that allows a collection of various technologies to interact. It is a computer system that can perform tasks that would normally require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and machine learning. It is a technology that is rapidly evolving and has the potential to transform many aspects of our lives.

Artificial intelligence is a system that displays intelligent behavior by simulating the processes of the human mind. It is a technology that is rapidly evolving and has the potential to transform many aspects of our lives. It is a technology that is rapidly evolving and has the potential to transform many aspects of our lives.

Why is AI relevant for the future of CCIs?

AI is relevant for the future of CCIs because it can help to create new products and services, improve the efficiency of existing ones, and create new jobs. It can also help to address some of the challenges that CCIs face, such as the need for more data and the need for more skilled workers.

04 EMERGING CONVERSATIONS AMONG PRACTITIONERS

Most Affected CCIs

06 COUNTRY ANALYSIS

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## POLICY AREA FOR INNOVATION #2 CCIs enabling green transitions

01 BACKGROUND

Over the past decade, circular economy (CE) has become a key concept in the European Union (EU). It is a system of production and consumption that aims to minimize waste and maximize the use of resources. It is a system that is rapidly evolving and has the potential to transform many aspects of our lives.

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## POLICY AREA FOR INNOVATION #3 Immersive Media

01 BACKGROUND

Immersive media is a type of media that allows users to feel like they are part of the story. It is a type of media that is rapidly evolving and has the potential to transform many aspects of our lives. It is a type of media that is rapidly evolving and has the potential to transform many aspects of our lives.

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## POLICY AREA FOR INNOVATION #4 Crafts-led innovation

01 BACKGROUND

Crafts-led innovation is a type of innovation that is based on traditional crafts. It is a type of innovation that is rapidly evolving and has the potential to transform many aspects of our lives. It is a type of innovation that is rapidly evolving and has the potential to transform many aspects of our lives.

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## POLICY AREA FOR INNOVATION #5 Platformisation of the Music Industry

01 BACKGROUND

Platformisation of the music industry is a type of innovation that is based on digital platforms. It is a type of innovation that is rapidly evolving and has the potential to transform many aspects of our lives. It is a type of innovation that is rapidly evolving and has the potential to transform many aspects of our lives.

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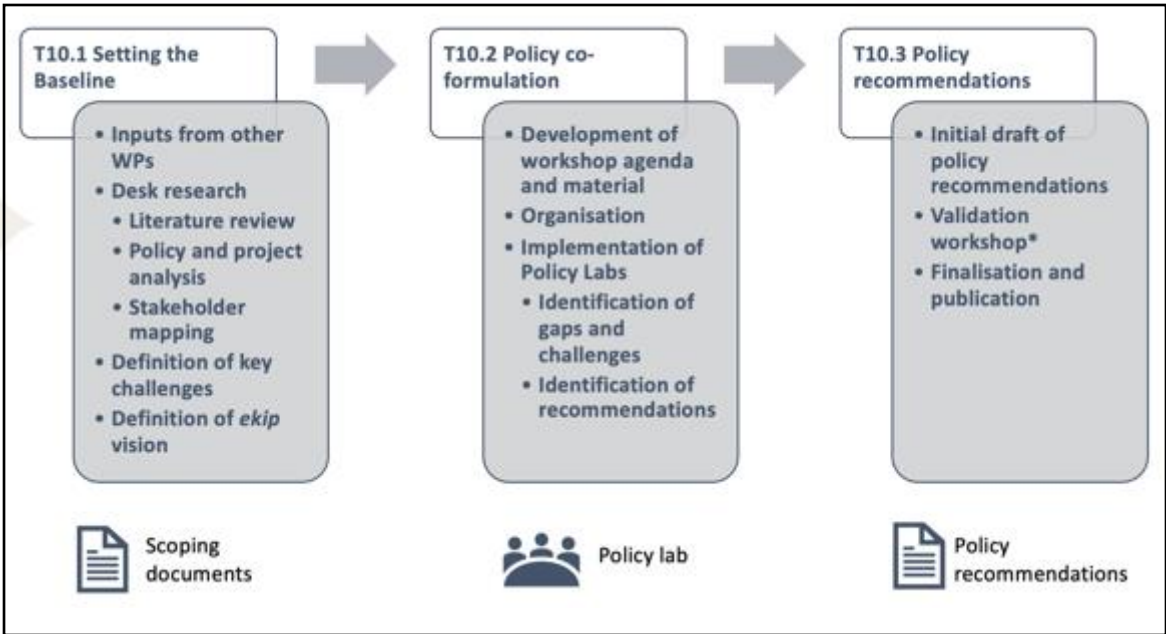
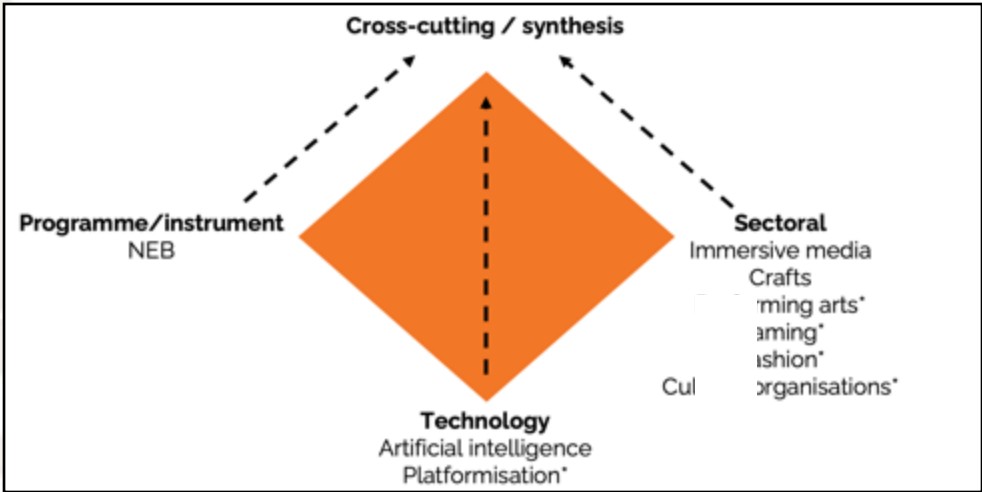
02 CHALLENGES

02 CHALLENGES



# Policy assessments in city ecosystems towards Open Innovation as a standard practise

- Policy Lab methodology
- Running Policy Labs
- Validating and formulating policy recommendations



## Recommendations on building blocks

Dimension	Sub-dimension	AI	NEB	Immersive
Strategy	Strategy and framework development		x	x
	Monitoring	x		(x)
Funding	Funding programme reform (governance, design, appropriate funding rules)	x	x	x
	Dedicated funding calls	x	x	x
	Scale up support	x	x	
Technology	Infrastructure support		x	x
	Standardisation support			x
Skills	Skills and training	x	x	x
	Networking	x		x
Ecosystem	Open innovation ecosystem support	x	x	x
	Case study development			x
Regulatory measures	Regulatory interventions	(x)		(x)

# Policy recommendations on different levels and with different lenses to boost Open Innovation in ecosystems



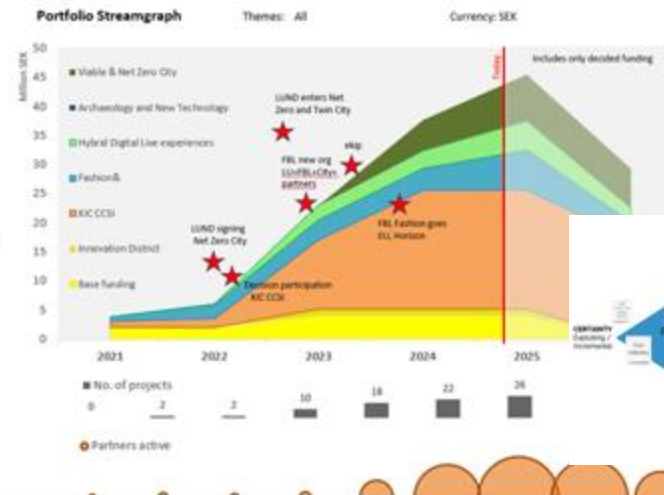
## Canvas

## City cases

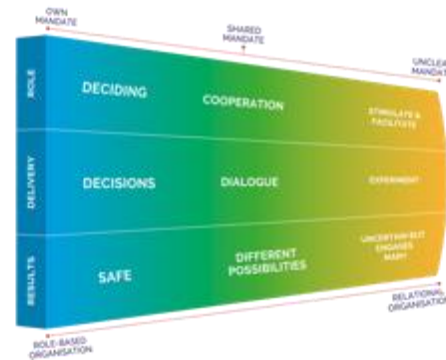
- Innovation Portfolio Canvas and facilitators guide developed = assessment model
- City sprints and cases done setting the baseline for using the LIEPT model to tracking the portfolio development
- Inventory of actors in ecosystems



## LIEPT



## The Zone model



# Capacity building towards CCI practitioners and CCI enablers



- Knowledge Bank
- Open Innovation Factories
- Future Forward Hackathons
- Policy Camps

## CCI enablers

Policy makers, funders, investors, network organisations

- Demonstrate the innovation potential of CCI
- Understand the role of CCIs in innovation ecosystems
- Implement effective policies & instruments that support CCIs

## CCI practitioners

- Understand innovation ecosystems and the role of CCIs in them
- Gain experience with open innovation methods

## ekip Knowledge Bank value proposition

Digital repository of resources that supports CCI enablers in designing, implementing and evaluating innovation policies and instruments for CCIs in the context of open innovation ecosystems

Showcase **the practices & case studies** and provide the **tools & methods** that is developed to support innovation in and with CCIs



# Dissemination, Communication, Exploration - of the output of the *ekip* Engine



## The role of communications in *ekip*:

- **Awareness:** Multi-channel campaigns raised visibility of ekip's tools, including the Knowledge Bank, Community Hub, and thematic policy insights.
- **Engagement:** Communications strategies enable successful participation of stakeholders in Policy Corners, Policy Labs, city assessments and in Innovation Factories and Hackathons.
- **Adoption:** Tailored content, storytelling, and direct outreach ensured ekip's policy recommendations were accessible and actionable across diverse regions.
- **Collaboration:** The Ambassador Programme and community-building efforts connected CCIIs, policymakers, and innovation hubs to foster collective action.
- **Scalability:** Communications laid the groundwork for ekip Sandbox (ekip 2.0), ensuring the project's long-term relevance and integration into EU innovation ecosystems.

## CHANNELS:

- Web/Observatory/Knowledge Bank
- LinkedIn
- Newsletters (internal and external)
- Community Hub
- Partner's channels
- Stakeholder's events
- Ambassador's networks

# Policy Labs in collaboration with relevant events for maximum outreach



## Past

AI for the Creative and Cultural Industries  
(Jan 24)

technopolis group

Culture and creative industries enabling green transition  
(Apr 24)

IDEA CONSULT thinking ahead

POLICY LAB – IMMERSIVE MEDIA FOR THE CREATIVE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES  
Košice, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2024

Art & Tech Days 24

technopolis group

SOUND & VISION

## Ongoing

Online 

CRAFTS-LED INNOVATION  
- ekip POLICY LAB

ONLINE, February 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

IDEA CONSULT thinking ahead

HUMAK<sup>o</sup> Humak University of Applied Sciences

TALLINN MUSIC WEEK  
3–6 APRIL, 2025

PLATFORMISATION OF THE MUSIC INDUSTRY  
- ekip POLICY LAB

Tallinn, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025

technopolis group

IDEA CONSULT thinking ahead

Humak University of Applied Sciences

CreativityLab

twitch con

INCLUSIVITY IN THE GAMING INDUSTRY

Rotterdam, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2025

technopolis group

City of Rotterdam

TU Delft

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

UNEXPECTED Arts and Science Innovation Forum

CROSS-SECTORAL INNOVATION WITH PERFORMING ARTS  
- ekip POLICY LAB

Lund, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

IDEA CONSULT thinking ahead

LUND University

HUMAK<sup>o</sup> Humak University of Applied Sciences

## Future

Fashion transition:  
eco-design for circularity (29 Oct 25)

technopolis group

POLITECNICO MILANO 1883

LUND University

City of Rotterdam

Cultural organisations in innovation ecosystems  
(Q4 25)

CreativityLab

SOUND & VISION

technopolis group

Funded by the European Union

# The recommendations aim to address the gaps in current innovation policies and foster ecosystems that has the capacity to support and include the CCIs



## *Main recommendations:*

1. **Bridge-Builders for Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Establish roles and networks that connect CCIs with science, technology, and government to overcome barriers and enhance collaboration
2. **Measuring Impact:** Develop indicators and methodologies to assess the long-term value of cross-sectoral innovations.
3. General Recommendations for innovation ecosystem:
  - a. **Promote knowledge development across CCIs, industries, and policymaking bodies on critical concepts** such as open innovation, innovation ecosystems, and social innovation.
  - b. **Expand cross-sectoral funding instruments** through collaboration between multiple governmental agencies.
  - c. **Support the adoption and implementation of open innovation practices** in ecosystems to address global challenges effectively.



#### 4. Recommendations Specific to Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs):

- a. **Clarify and differentiate between cultural policy development and innovation policy development**, ensuring ecosystem-centric, cross-organisational innovation becomes standard practice.
- b. **Enhance third-party support structures** (e.g., intermediaries and infrastructures) tailored to the CCI context, **promoting collaboration and co-opetition** to build resilient, inclusive ecosystems.
- c. **Prioritise cross-innovation processes** within CCIs and between CCIs and other industries, leveraging the unique creative capacities of CCI professionals.
- d. Develop and implement building blocks in innovation ecosystems to build capacity and facilitate cross-programme learnings for better policy outcomes.



# Scaling innovation policy adaptation for increased innovation capacity in ecosystems for the CCI

## - The *ekip* Engine successor: The *ekip* Sandbox

An *ekip* Sandbox aims at building innovation capacity in ecosystems by implementing the *ekip* policy recommendations through **case-based demand for the Budling Blocks in city ecosystems**. In these ecosystems, calls are made to finance initiation and development of **innovations portfolios catalysing the development**. Through the *ekip* Sandbox concept, a toolbox is offered to local actors spanning several European cities and CCI sectors making the *ekip* motto “policy as a tool for innovation” come to live.

To accelerate the implementation, we propose a “**Sandbox Scale-up Program**”, allowing for ecosystems to test implementations of building blocks in parallel with supporting new cross-innovation portfolios.





# Thank you

# The ANCHISE Project

## Cluster 2 Programme Committee Meeting

Véronique Chankowski  
Ecole française d'Athènes



# The Threat of Cultural Heritage Trafficking

A

AN  
CHISE



**Dura Europos in 2011 and 2015**  
© AAAS

**Palmyra before and after its destruction by ISIS**  
© CBS News



# ANCHISE's Consortium Experience

A continuation of and link to EU programs on fight against illicit trafficking of cultural goods



Groupe interacadémique pour le développement



2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026



Funded by  
the European Union

# Scale and Impact of Cultural Heritage Trafficking

A

AN  
CHISE



Michael Danti, ASOR CHI  
“A few dozens of millions”

French security official  
“100 millions USD”



Deborah Lehr, Antiquities  
Coalition

“[...] coming out of the  
Syrian territory, it's 2  
billion USD”

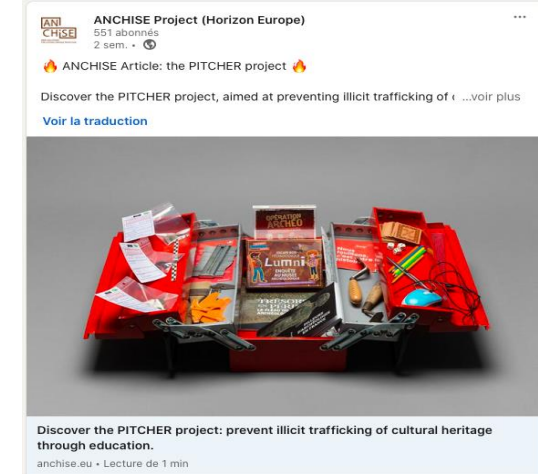


# ANCHISE's Contribution to Knowledge of the Phenomenon



"What can nanotechnologies do to combat the illicit trafficking of antiquities?"

28 March 2024 - 5.00-6.00 PM CET - Online  
Registration required



"The role of the antiquities market in criminal money laundering."

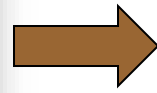
6 June 2024 - 5.00-6.00 PM CET - Online  
Registration required



# The Specificity of Cultural Heritage Trafficking

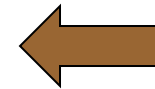
A

AN  
CHISE



Stolen objects need to be identified to be recovered

Looted objects are not known by the scientific community



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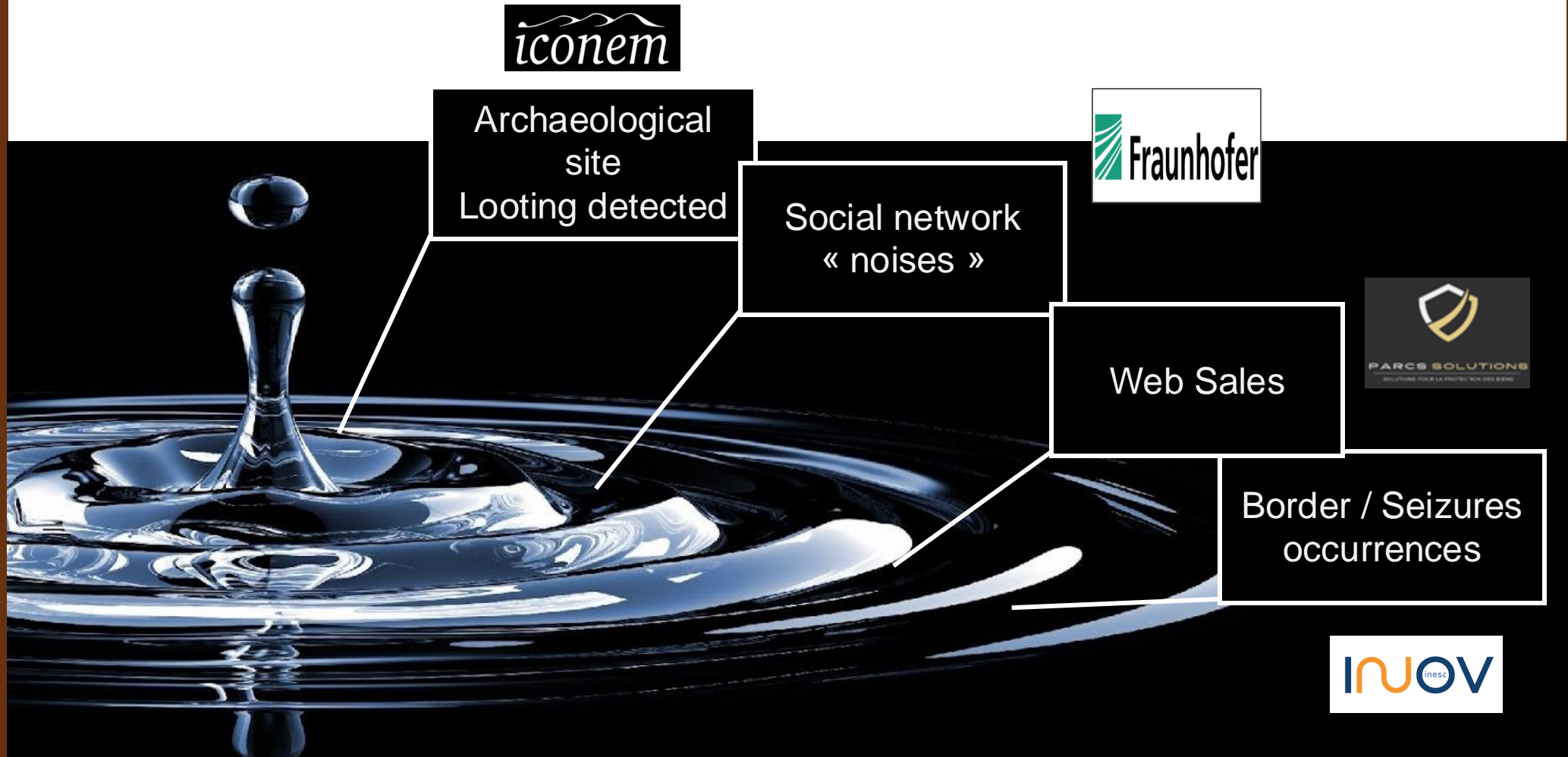
Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



# ANCHISE's Toolset Response

A

ANCHISE



## Connected tools for provenance investigations



## Key ANCHISE Findings



**Need for a Reinforcement of the Legal Framework**

**Data Collection, Standardization and Interoperability is Key**

**Interdisciplinary Networks are Essentials**

**HSS are Paramount to the Understanding of the Phenomenon**

## A



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# Thank you and Follow us !



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# 5 FINALISING THE WORK PROGRAMME 2025

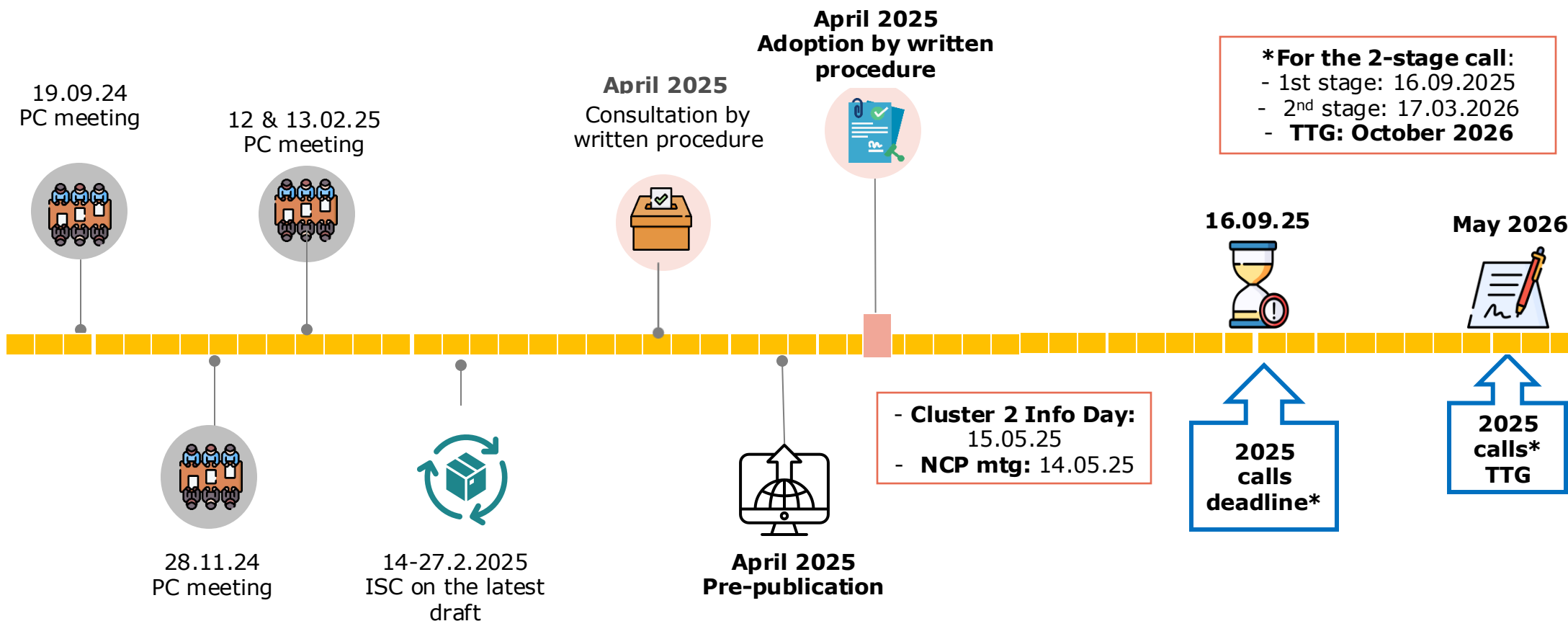




# Post-ISC draft WP 2025 – main changes

- Main adjustments made:
  - 1 extra project funded through DEMOCRACY-05 (from 2 to 3; 3.5 million budget increase)
  - Adjustment ceiling & wording for FSTP of HERITAGE-01 to 3 mil. – possibility for higher amount ‘if duly justified’
  - Preparedness and security aspects enhanced in HERITAGE-07
  - Potential for JRC participation more visible in TRANSFO-10 & 11
  - Updates on synergies with other relevant initiatives
- Post-ISC draft shared with the PC: 25/3 & written procedure initiated on 1/4. **DDL: 15/4, 17:00 CET**
- Total Cluster 2 budget programmed (all actions): **EUR 362.80 million**

# INDICATIVE TIMELINE WORK PROGRAMME 2025



# 5 FINALISING THE WORK PROGRAMME 2025

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## *Discussion*



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# 6 TOWARDS THE WORK PROGRAMME 2026-27





# WP 2026-27 – previous steps

- **Draft orientations 2026-27** shared and discussed (November-December 2024)
  - PC meeting 28 November
- **Draft research areas 2026-27** shared and discussed (February 2025)
  - PC meeting 12 & 13 February, including 3 co-creation workshops
- **Adoption of the general principles and parameters** for preparing WP 2026-27 (March)
- **Initial draft WP text** including tentative lists of topics (broad area of scope, outcomes and conditions)
- Co-design ongoing: with MS/AC and within the Commission

# WP 2026-27 – summary of general principles & parameters across Pillar II of Horizon Europe

## Topic-level:

- Decrease prescriptiveness (provide directionality & openness)
- Reduce number of topics
- Strengthen use of lump sum funding
- Balance low & high TRLs

## Program-level:

- Meet expenditure targets (climate & biodiversity, digital)
- Support to Ukraine's reconstruction in the area of R&I
- Newcomer-friendly and SME-friendly topics
- Possible cooperation across Clusters etc for key policy priorities
- Making the ISC-ready draft of the WP 2026-27 available (transparency)

*The general principles & parameters were discussed with MS/AC in the SPC meeting of 20 March.*



# Cluster 2: Draft BUDGET 2026-2027

(CL2 contributions to Chips Act and STEP already deducted)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Initial appropriation	316,926,061 (*)
Reconstitution of Decommitment	15,749,342
EFTA contribution 2.75%	8,715,467
Third counties contributions	22,449,463 (**)

**TOTAL** **363,840,333**

Initial appropriation	317,059,553 (*)
Reconstitution of Decommitment	7,231,681
EFTA contribution %	8,719,138 (***)
Third counties contributions	22,756,387 (**)

**TOTAL** **355,766,758**

**TOTAL FOR CL2 2026-27 WP (2 YEARS):**

**719,607,091**

(\*) Cluster 2 contribution to Missions already deducted (EUR 19,648,929 in 2026 and (EUR 27,741,651 in 2026)

(\*\*) Assuming same level as in 2025

(\*\*\*) Assuming a 2.75% rate

## **WP 2026-27 – indicative planning**

- **End of Q2 2025:** ISC-ready draft WP 2026-27
- **Q3 2025:** Interservice consultation
- **Early Q4:** Final draft WP text
- **Q4 2025:** Formal consultation of the HEU Programme Committee configurations
- **End of Q4 2025:** Expected adoption of ‘main’ WP 2026-27



# Co-design: next steps

- **30 April**: Deadline for written comments on the 1<sup>st</sup> draft
  - **End of May**: new informal draft WP 2026-27 shared with delegations
- **By mid-June**: next round of written comments
  - **11 June**: Next Cluster 2 PC meeting (final discussion before ISC)
  - **July**: ISC-ready draft WP 2026-27 shared with delegations

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# *Coffee break*





# SOCIAL & ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS

*Destination 3*

## 6 TOWARDS THE WORK PROGRAMME 2026-27

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### *Update STR Partnership*

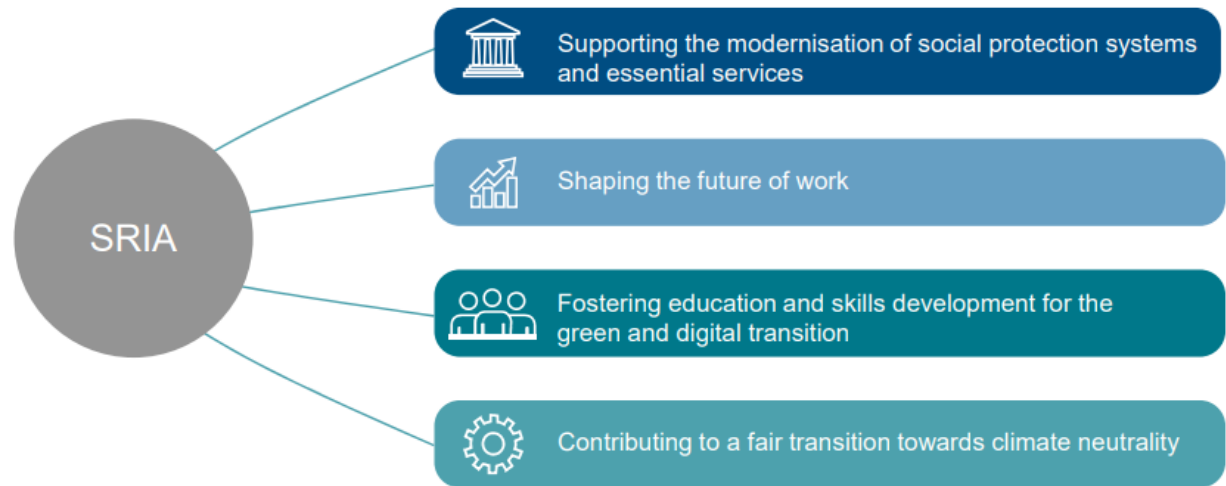




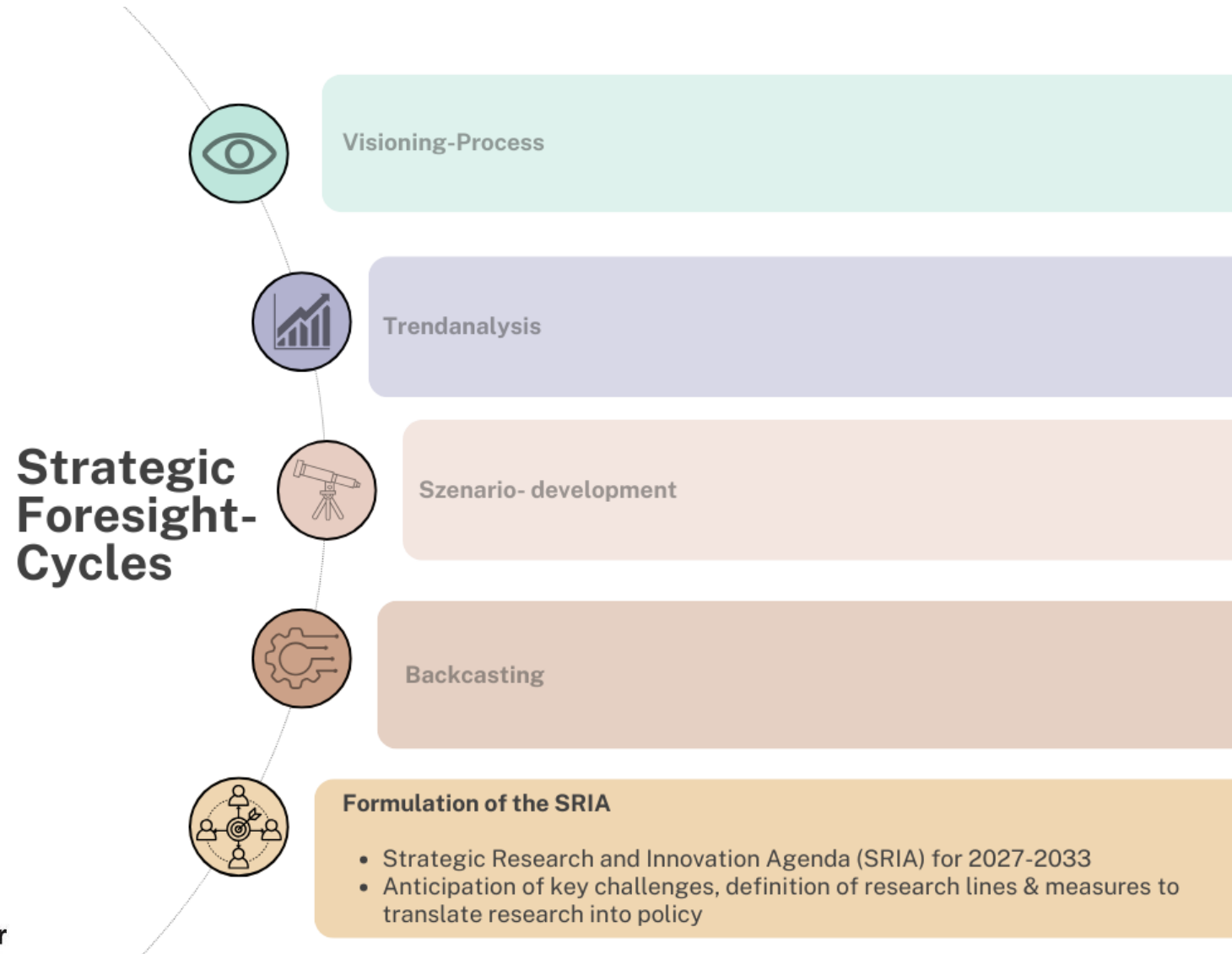
# Social Transformations and Resilience Partnership

- Partnership [draft guidance](#) proposal available on [CHANSE website](#)
- **Follow-up on NCN survey 30/01:** formation of working groups in four areas:
  - R&I funding;
  - Capacity building;
  - Data re(use) and reinforcing links with research infrastructures;
  - Knowledge uptake and collaboration with stakeholders
- **Roadmap of activities** (Annual Work Plan) will be developed by NCN and the drafting group – reach out to [STR@ncn.gov.pl](mailto:STR@ncn.gov.pl)
- DLR, through support of HERA, is leading on the development of the **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** focused on the 4 impact areas

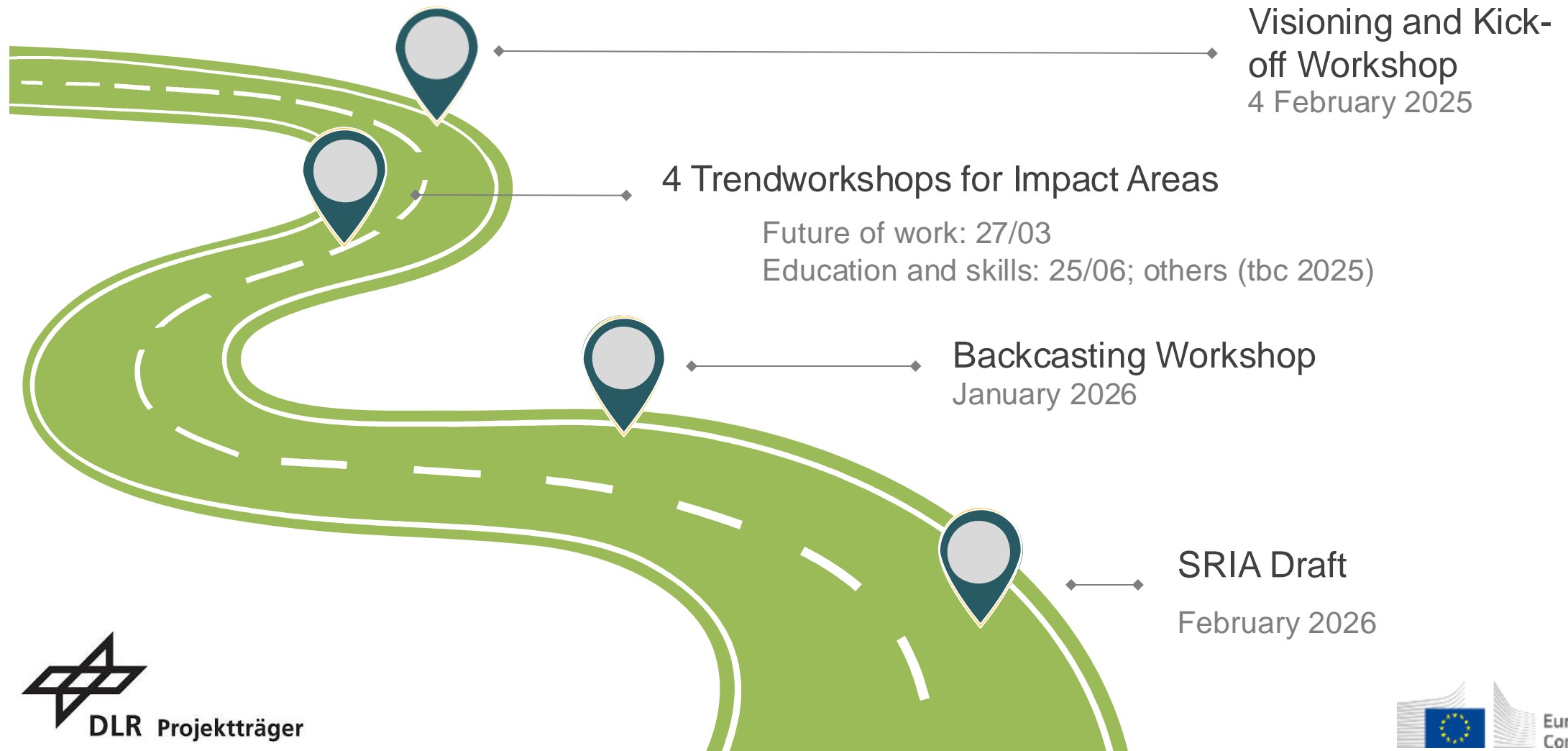
## 4 Priority Areas for the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda



# SRIA foresight process



# Developing the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for STR: The way ahead



# Progress made

- ✓ Visioning / kick-off workshop on 04 February, see outcomes on STR platform: [library](#)
- ✓ **Future of work:** Survey on research trends and gaps (>150 replies); workshop on 27/03
- ✓ [STR Foresight Platform](#): Register, share within your networks, and stay informed!

## Next steps:

- **Education and skills trend workshop** on 25 June, 10.00 - 13.00.
- **Expert scoping studies** on the four impact areas ongoing; shared with the drafting group.



**Get involved:** Look out for new surveys, suggest experts from academia, business, social partners, CSOs etc. Reach out to: [STR-Foresight@dlr.de](mailto:STR-Foresight@dlr.de)

# 6 TOWARDS THE WORK PROGRAMME 2026-27

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## *Discussion*





# SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS

Topic title: Creation of a Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)-Action for the fostering integration (and cooperation between) SSH and STEM research and innovation in EU and national R&I policies

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Updating and upgrading the SSH monitoring focused on outcomes and impacts
2. Facilitation and promotion of SSH and STEM blending
3. Exchange/ peer-to-peer forum for policy and researchers

## RESEARCH GAPS

- Social sciences and humanities (SSH) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) improve the research activities, outcomes and impacts of Horizon Europe
- However, there is need for strengthening European cooperation between STEM and SSH
- SSH integration monitoring needs to focus more on impact and output, but there is no methodology in place to monitoring this – expertise gap

There is need for an action for the cooperation between SSH and STEM, concentrating on

1. Monitoring (e.g. monitoring of impact/output of SSH integration into Clusters)
2. SSH promotion (e.g. guide STEM and SSH blending; annual event/ ‘festival’)
3. SSH policy cooperation (e.g. guide dialogue between STEM, SSH, and EC)

## POLICY CONTEXT

- Expert report “Align, Act, Accelerate: Research, Technology and Innovation to boost European Competitiveness”
- **Ursula von der Leyen**; [https://commission.europa.eu/document/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/document/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en)
- Draghi-report
- Competitiveness compass
- Member states survey on SSH integration

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# 6 TOWARDS THE WORK PROGRAMME 2026-27

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## *Discussion*



# Social & Economic Transformations 2026

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Topic ID	Topic title	Action	Grant size (M€)
TRANSFO-01	How does access to nature-positive environments promote social cohesion and reduce inequalities in urban settings?	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-02	Strengthen Europe's social model and sustainable competitiveness through productivity	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-03	Tackling child poverty and ensuring disadvantaged children's access to ECEC	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-04	Closing the learning gap: uncovering causes and effective policy interventions for declining youth skills in mathematics, reading, and science	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-05	Long term contribution of basic skills to productivity, innovation, competitiveness and economic growth	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-06	Making Europe a global magnet for talent - Attracting and retaining students, researchers and high-skilled workers from outside the EU	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-07	Fostering competences for the green transition	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-08	Strengthened implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum focusing on inclusion, integration, and health	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-09	Persons with disabilities: opportunities for labour inclusion and social protection through the life course	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-10	Rethinking long-term care policy in the face of EU demographic shifts	RIA	4.00
TRANSFO-11	Creation of a Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)-Action for the fostering integration (and cooperation between) SSH and STEM research and innovation in EU and national R&I policies	CSA	3.50
TRANSFO-12	Co-funded European partnership for Social Transformations and Resilience	COFUND	

# Social & Economic Transformations

CONFIDENTIAL

2027

Topic ID	Topic title	Action	Grant size (M€)
TRANSFO-01	Impact of in-kind benefits on income distribution and on vulnerable populations	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-02	How a competitive social economy can boost sustainable European competitiveness?	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-03	Perspectives for EU labour mobility	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-04	The effective use of artificial intelligence in learning environments in pre-primary and primary education	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-05	The impact of the use of digital tools for leisure on educational outcomes	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-06-two-stage	Improving social and socio-economic outcomes for people with dementia and informal caregivers	RIA	2.00 to 4.00
TRANSFO-07-two-stage	Scaling and deploying innovations in migration	IA	3.00 to 5.00

# 6 TOWARDS THE WORK PROGRAMME 2026-27

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## *Discussion*





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# CULTURAL HERITAGE & CCIs

## *Destination 2*



# Cultural Heritage & CCIs

2026

Topic ID	Topic title	Action	Grant size (M€)
HERITAGE-01	<b>“Artistic intelligence”: harnessing the power of the arts to address complex challenges, enhance soft skills and boost innovation and competitiveness</b>	RIA	4.00 to 5.00
HERITAGE-02	<b>Towards a consolidated culture and creativity driven European innovation ecosystem</b>	CSA	5.00 to 6.00
HERITAGE-03	<b>AI integration in CCSI work practice: catalysing innovation and competitiveness</b>	IA	4.00 to 5.00
HERITAGE-04	<b>Towards a fair and transparent market for cultural and creative content in the era of generative AI and other emerging technologies</b>	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
HERITAGE-05	<b>Creative alliances: Fostering global partnerships in cultural policies and CCI innovation</b>	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
HERITAGE-06	<b>Safeguarding linguistic diversity in Europe</b>	RIA	5.00 to 6.00
HERITAGE-07	<b>Fighting illicit trafficking of cultural goods</b>	CSA	5.00 to 6.00

**CONFIDENTIAL**

# Cultural Heritage & CCI

2027

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Topic ID	Topic title	Action	Grant size (M€)
HERITAGE-01	Boosting creative startups for disruptive innovation	RIA	4.00 to 6.00
HERITAGE-02	AI4Creatives Support Platform: embracing a fair AI revolution	CSA	5.00 to 6.00
HERITAGE-03	Crafting routes to a circular economy	RIA	3.00 to 3.50
HERITAGE-04	Culture and creative industries for well-being	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
HERITAGE-05	Re-imagining the creative economy: the interplay between the cultural and creative sectors and industries and the social economy	RIA	3.00 to 3.50
HERITAGE-XX	Culture and heritage shaping future technologies and societies		
HERITAGE-06	Future-proofing sustainable cultural tourism	RIA	4.00 to 5.00
HERITAGE-07	Societal impact of cultural heritage	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
HERITAGE-08	Strategies for safeguarding & transmission of intangible cultural heritage	RIA	3.00 to 4.00
HERITAGE-09-two-stage	Impact-driven research on realising the full potential of cultural heritage, arts and cultural and creative industries	RIA	2.00 to 4.00

# 6 TOWARDS THE WORK PROGRAMME 2026-27

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## *Discussion*



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***Lunch break***





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# DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

*Destination 1*



# Innovative Research on Democracy & Governance 2026

Area (PC 12th Feb)	Topic ID & Topic title	Action	Grant size (M€)
Promoting equality and inclusiveness	<b>01: Understanding and addressing gender-based violence against politically active women and LGBTIQ people</b>	RIA	3.50-4.00
International dimensions	<b>02: Understanding the forms of local democracy in low-income and low-middle income countries</b>	RIA	3.50-4.00
Governance and public administrations	<b>03: Government in transition – how governments change the way they work and prepare the civil service for the future</b>	RIA	3.50-4.00
Media freedom & pluralism	<b>04: Sustainable paths to media viability</b>	IA	3.50-4.00
Promoting equality and inclusiveness	<b>05: Research and Innovation Network for a Union of Equality</b>	CSA	5.00
International dimensions	<b>06: Governing global goods and commons sustainably</b>	RIA	3.50-4.00
International dimensions	<b>07: Supporting post-conflict democracy and reconstruction</b>	RIA	3.50-4.00
AI & digital transformation of democracy	<b>08: Electoral integrity in the digital context</b>	RIA	3.50-4.00
Citizen participation and inclusive policymaking	<b>09: Lifelong learning of citizenship education and citizen participation</b>	RIA	3.50-4.00
Societal resilience and preparedness	<b>10: Democratic resilience and civic preparedness</b>	RIA	3.50-4.00

**CONFIDENTIAL**

# Innovative Research on Democracy and Governance<sup>2027</sup>

## CONFIDENTIAL

Area (PC 12th Feb)	Topic ID & Topic title	Action	Grant size (M€)
<i>Societal resilience and preparedness</i>	01: Advisory support and network for countering and preventing radicalisation, extremism, hate speech and polarisation	CSA	3.50
<i>Promoting equality and inclusiveness</i>	02: Women's, LGBTIQ and minority rights in a context of autocracy, conflict and geopolitical shifts	RIA	3.50-4.00
<i>Citizen participation and inclusive policymaking</i>	03: Student and parental engagement for developing a culture of democratic/civic participation	RIA	3.50-4.00
<i>AI &amp; digital transformation of democracy</i>	04: Addressing the impact of AI, cyberviolence, and deepfakes on equality, democracy and inclusive societies	RIA	3.50-4.00
<i>International dimensions</i>	05: Development aid and democratic governance	RIA	3.50-4.00
<i>Media freedom &amp; pluralism</i>	06: Mapping EU news media sectors of special relevance for democracy	RIA	3.50-4.00
<i>Corruption and rule of law</i>	07: The role of private companies in democracy	RIA	3.50-4.00
<i>International dimensions</i>	08: Global Human Rights and EU values	RIA	3.50-4.00
	09-two-stage: Open topic on reinvigorating and shielding European democracy	RIA	2.00-4.00

# 6 TOWARDS THE WORK PROGRAMME 2026-27

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## *Discussion*



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# 7 INFORMATION BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION





# 7 INFORMATION BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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## *Update on Art. 40 of the Digital Services Act*

***DG CNECT F.2***



# Policy updates: Union of Skills

- [Europe's plan](#) to improve high quality education, training, and lifelong learning.
  - **1 in 4 young people (15 year olds)** fall short in **reading, maths and science**.
  - Nearly **4 in 5 companies** say it is generally difficult for them to find **workers with the right skills**
- Key initiatives:
  - **Build skills for quality lives and jobs**
    - Pilot a basic skills support scheme; [STEM Education Strategic Plan](#)
  - **Upskill and reskill** for the digital & green transition
    - pilot a **Skills Guarantee** to offer workers at risk of unemployment the opportunity to gain new skills; roll-out of EU Skills Academies to support skills needs for the [Clean Industrial Deal](#)
  - **Helping the free movement of workers**
    - Strengthen [European Universities alliances](#) and [Centres of Vocational Excellence](#);
  - **Attract, develop and retain talent** for Europe's future.
    - EU Talent Pool
    - MSCA 'Choose Europe' project



# Policy update: Clean Industrial Deal

[Clean Industrial Deal](#) presented on 26/02/2025, highlighting employment and social rights aspects:

Clean Industrial Deal across sectors:

- **Industrial Action Plan for an Automotive Sector** adopted on 05 March, together with a new [Pact for European Social Dialogue](#)
- **Steel and metals action plan:** adopted on 19 March
- **Chemicals Industry Package:** Q4 2025

Employment and social considerations under the Clean Industrial Deal:

- Work on a **Quality Jobs Roadmap** with social partners to support- Member States and industry with decent working conditions, high standards of health and safety, restructuring processes and fair job transitions for workers and self-employed (Q4 2025)
- Development of a **European Fair Transition Observatory** to strengthen the evidence base on fairness aspects of the green transition and develop standardised indicators (Q1 2026)



# News regarding Cultural Heritage & CCI R&I



The **ECHOES project** launched a [consultation](#) to help shape the Cultural Heritage Cloud with and for heritage communities. Their questionnaire is open until the end of April.

The **First Call of the ECHOES Cascading Grants Programme** will open for submission in April as well. Visit the [website](#) for more information.



The project **AUTOMATA** has [launched a survey](#) on the use and perception of 3D modelling, non-destructive archaeometry, AI and robotics in archaeology.

The project wants to hear from anyone who is currently working on - or has previous experience in - the archaeological domain on the use and future expectations of these technologies.

# News regarding Cultural Heritage & CCI R&I

The [Osaka world exhibition](#) takes place from **13/04 to 13/10**. Two CL2 projects will be showcasing their work:



The project [Odeuropa](#) created a library of historic smells with the help of AI.



The project [GreenArt](#) produces safe and effective solutions for the conservation of culture heritage, using environmentally friendly materials from renewable sources or recycled waste.



The [LibrarIn international conference](#): 'Innovation and value creation for a new generation of libraries' takes place from **22-23 May 2025**.

The [European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science](#) (E-RIHS) has officially become a [European Research Infrastructure Consortium](#) (ERIC)

# News regarding democracy R&I

The [consultation on the European Democracy Shield](#) initiative is open until **26 May 2025**. The initiative will have four themes, taking into account both the internal and external dimension of the issue:

1. Countering disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference
2. Ensuring the fairness and integrity of electoral processes and the strengthening of democratic frameworks and checks and balances, incl. free, plural and independent media and CSOs
3. Strengthening societal resilience and preparedness (incl. digital and media literacy, critical thinking)
4. Fostering citizens' participation and engagement



Have your say on the new [LGBTIQ strategy](#) to combat inequalities experienced by LGBTIQ people. It will build on the 2020-2025 LGBTIQ equality strategy and focus on hate-motivated harassment and violence and on banning conversion practices: Deadline: **24 June 2025**

[New call for proposals to foster Citizens' engagement and participation](#) of the Citizen, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV) is open, with deadline **29 April 2025**. The presentation of the online info session is available [here](#). For more on the CERV and Justice programmes, click [here](#).



# News regarding democracy R&I

## EVENTS

The project [RESPOND](#) organizes a series of seminars:

- [‘What can be gained by engineering the concept of “corruption”](#) - **14 April**.
- [Awareness of Corruption and Attitudes Toward Socio-Economic Inequality: Experimental Evidence from Lithuania, Hungary, and Moldova](#) – **15 April**

The [Road-STEAMer](#) project will be at the [Ecsite2025](#) conference in Warsaw from **3-5 June**.

The project [ARM](#) hosts a panel on information suppression among African diasporas in Europe at the [European Conference on African Studies](#): The flipside of disinformation in the Afropean - Information suppression in African autocracies and their diasporas. Prague, **25-28 June 2025**.

Registration is open for the [Summer School on Gender \(In\)Equality](#) - It is organised by the project [RE-WIRING](#) - Realising Girls’ and Women’s Inclusion, Representation and Empowerment – and takes place from **14-18 July**.

# News regarding democracy R&I

## PUBLICATIONS



### [Fostering gender equality - Key figures from Horizon Europe : R&I monitoring flash:](#)

This report offers an overview of gender equality in EU R&I programmes, focusing on indicators such as team balance and addressing gender gaps through initiatives like Gender Equality Plans.

The European Commission's [annual report on Gender Equality 2025](#) is now available. It provides an in-depth look at progress made and areas where further efforts are needed. This report outlines key achievements and challenges, offering insights to inform future strategies aimed at advancing gender equality.



# More information

## Events & calls:

- **RESONANT** - [Cambridge Disinformation Summit](#) – Cambridge (UK) - 23-25 April
- Push\*Back\*Lash - [Call for Papers](#) - Resisting the Backlash: Defending Intersectional, Decolonial, and Postcolonial Feminisms for an international conference on 1-2 October 2025 in Dresden, Germany
- €5 Million [call for proposals](#) under DEP to **Strengthen European Fact-Checking Network**: open from 15 April- 2 September

## Publications and project outputs:

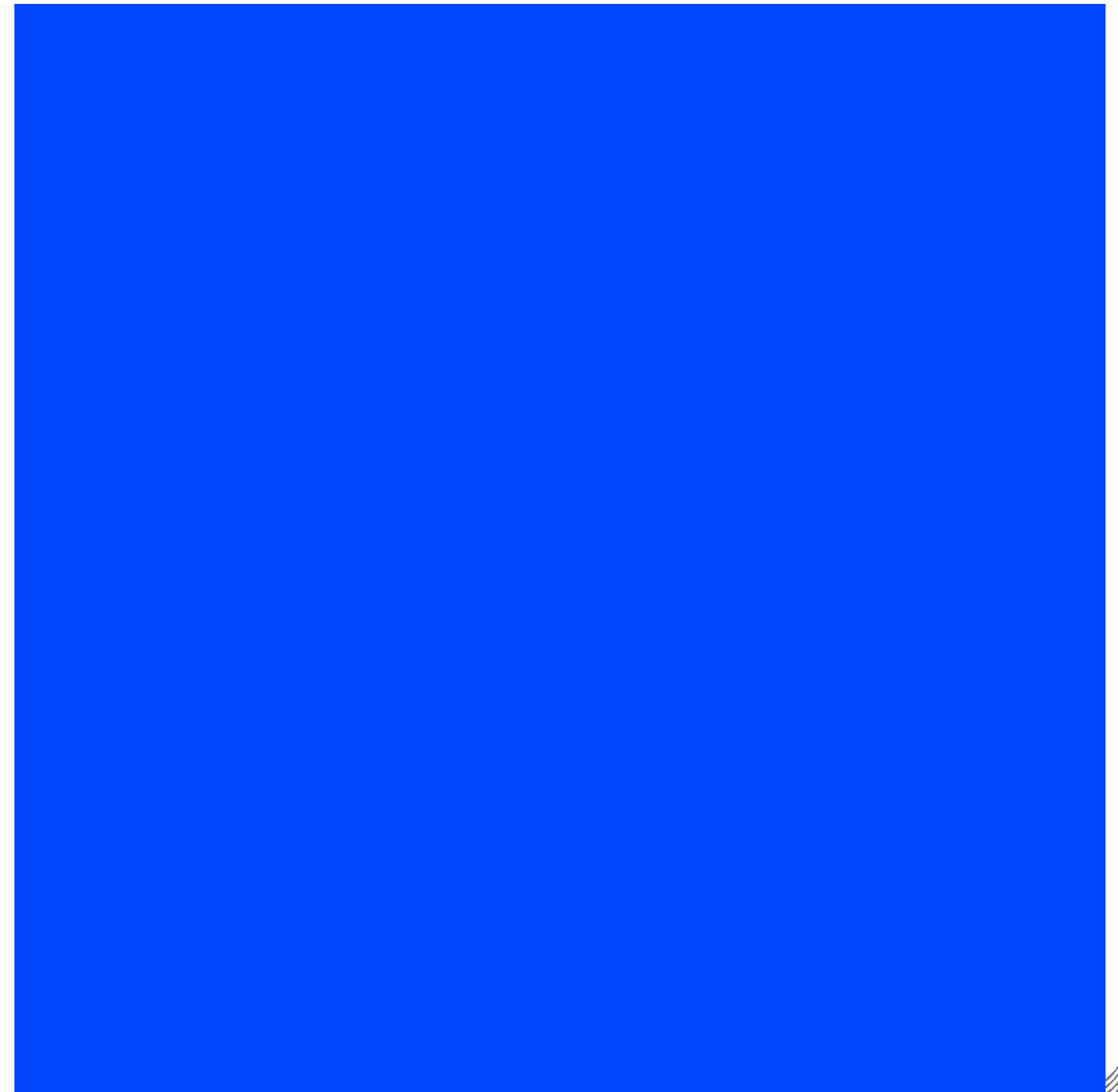
- Release of the [iDEM App](#) – application to support people who face difficulties understanding complex political and policy-related texts, enabling them to engage fully in democratic discussions”
- **CCINDLE** policy brief - [“Advancing Equality in Parliaments in Times of Anti-Gender Hostilities”](#)
- [Framework for the integration and evaluation of inclusive gender analysis in research and innovation content](#) (ERA Forum subgroup on Inclusive Gender Equality & European Commission) to guide national authorities and research funding organisations in integrating the gender dimension into research and innovation content from an intersectional perspective.
- **G-EPIC** - [Call for Abstracts](#) for the Early Career Researcher Conference on Education, Inequalities, and Democracy
- [She Figures 2024](#) report with comparable, Europe-wide statistics on gender equality in Research and Innovation, incl. country fiches

# 8 AOB



# Just Europe podcast

- **Concept:** explore how results from Research & Innovation in SSH deliver on a range of issues related to **employment, skills, social affairs, and just transition**
- **Format:** Studio-based discussions, interviews and field reports around Europe.
- **Goal:** identify **research gaps**, and support **feedback** to employment and social affairs policies, in line with a **whole-of-society approach**.



# Just Europe podcast

- **30-minute episodes**, published on a monthly basis on [Spotify](#), [Apple podcasts](#), EC AV portal
- **Target audience:** stakeholder communities active in just transition policies (CSOs, social partners, researchers, policymakers and decision-makers at local, regional and national levels, as well as specific audience segments in sectors affected by the just transition)
- **Episode one:** How to reduce territorial inequalities and ‘left-behindedness’ in the EU?
  - Featuring two HE projects ([ESSPIN](#) and [EXIT](#)), a German rapper and the Director of the Just Transition institute in Spain.
- **Episode two:** “Union of Skills: game on. Gamification to develop soft skills and increase employability in a changing world of work”.
  - Featuring HE project [MEGASKILLS](#), youth dialogue and [Employment and Social Rights Forum](#) participants (05-06 March), a leading Irish digital skills lecturer, as well as Mario Nava (DG EMPL)
- Feel free to share: [Just Europe podcast](#)





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## 9 CLOSING



# Cluster 2 PC - Next meetings

**11 June 25**

PC meeting #19  
*Hybrid (Brussels & MS Teams)*

**03 July 25**

PC meeting #20  
*Virtual (MS Teams)*

**23 October 25**

PC meeting #21  
*Virtual (MS Teams)*



# Thank you!

## # HorizonEU

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe>



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