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widerAdvance Facility

Mutual Learning Event

Unlocking Funding Potential: Leveraging Fundings for Knowledge Valorisation

11 February 2026

Czech Technical University, Penthouse, Prague, Czechia

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Mutual Learning Event

Unlocking Funding Potential: Leveraging Fundings for Knowledge Valorisation

Wednesday, 11 February 2026

Programme

About the Mutual Learning

The Mutual Learning activity aims to exchange and strengthen the understanding of effective practices for the dissemination and exploitation (D&E) of project results, with a special focus on enhancing the capacity to attract additional funding through the complementarity of programmes such as ERDF, Horizon Europe, and RRF. Through mapping funding opportunities and showcasing successful case studies, participants will gain practical insights and inspiration for future initiatives.

Participation

The Mutual Learning activity will host up to 40 participants in a hybrid format. Preference will be given to service beneficiaries.

Each participant organisation will be asked to send, before the Mutual Learning, up to three opportunities / best practices and up to three challenges when using synergies. These will be discussed in the two interactive sessions foreseen in the Mutual Learning. The aim of this exercise is to come up with recommendations which can be referred to the national authorities, NCPs, and EC for consideration and will be a concrete output from this event.

Venue

On-site: Czech Institute of Robotics (CIIRC), Czech Technical University – Penthouse, Prague, Czechia

Online: The connection link for the call will be provided soon.



Agenda

Unlocking Funding Potential: Leveraging Fundings for Knowledge Valorisation

10:00 – 10:30 **Registration & Welcome Coffee**

Welcome & Setting the Scene

10:30 – 10:35

- Katarzyna Walczyk-Matuszyk, Coordinator of widerAdvance Facility, Deputy Head of Centre for EU funded projects, IPPT PAN
- Ian Gauci Borda, Senior Executive, Xjenza Malta

Keynote: EC expectations on knowledge valorisation as a driver for additional funding

10:35 – 11:00

- Federica Roffi, Deputy Head of 'Widening Participation' Unit, European Research Executive Agency

Synergy tools of the widerAdvance Facility

11:00 – 11:20

- Evelyne Tarnus, Co-Director, RUIZIA
- Carolina Medeiros, Senior Project Manager, FRCT

Showcase of success stories

11:20 – 12:10

- Dušan Galusek, Centre for Functional and Surface Functionalized Glass
- Fabio Figurella, BCTHubs
- Viera Pechancová, TwinVECTOR
- Tomáš Mozga, MOLIPEC

Policy instruments supporting synergies

12:10 – 13:00

- Omar Cutajar, Senior Director, Xjenza Malta
- Piotr Świerczyński, Director of NCP Department, National Centre for Research and Development
- Alžběta Plachá, Project Manager, Technology Agency of the Czech Republic

13:00- 14:00 **Networking lunch**

14:15 – 16:00 **Interactive case exchange on best practices, enablers and barriers**

16:00 – 16:15 **Wrap-Up & Conclusions**

Moderated by:

- Ian Gauci Borda, Senior Executive, Xjenza Malta
- Paola Gortan, Policy officer, APRE



Profile of organisations and experts

APRE – Italian Agency for the Promotion of European Research

[APRE](#) is the Italian Agency for the Promotion of European Research, supporting national stakeholders in engaging with EU research and innovation programmes. Acting as the National Contact Point for the Horizon Europe Framework Programme, APRE provides information, training, and advisory services to enhance participation in Horizon Europe.

BCThubs

[BCThubs](#) is a project whose aim is to build Blue Culture Technology Excellence Hubs in EU widening countries to strengthen research and innovation capacities in the Blue Economy, particularly for the sustainable protection, restoration, valorisation and management of Underwater Cultural Heritage. The network of interconnected hubs brings together research, business, public and societal actors to reinforce knowledge transfer, promote innovative solutions and foster cross-border collaboration toward sustainable blue growth.

Centre for Functional and Surface Functionalized Glass – FunGlass

[FunGlass](#) is a Centre of Excellence established in 2018 under the Horizon 2020 Teaming Phase 2 programme, building on the former CEKSiM. It is hosted by Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín, Slovakia, in the “Euro-region of Glass,” with strong industrial presence. FunGlass focuses on functional glass materials, including luminescent glasses, glass-based phosphors, and nuclear-related applications. The Centre combines research, training, and industry collaboration with leading European partners to achieve international excellence.

FRCT – FCT Foundation for Science and Technology

[FRCT](#) is Portugal’s primary public agency dedicated to promoting scientific research, technological development, and innovation. It provides funding for research projects, supports capacity building in universities and research institutions, and facilitates national participation in European and international research programmes.



MOLIPEC: Molecular Life of Plants ERA Chair

The EU-funded [MOLIPEC](#) project will create a research centre of excellence in plant molecular biology to increase research quality and capacity at Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences (BC) and establish it as a leading centre for excellent plant research in central Europe. The project will improve the International Advisory Board under the ERA Chair's direction and centralised facilities.

National Centre for Research and Development

The [National Centre for Research and Development](#) (NCBR) is a leading executive agency dedicated to advancing innovation in Poland. It supports the development of modern technological and social solutions and fosters a comprehensive ecosystem for innovation knowledge and information.

RUIZIA

[Ruizia](#) is a research and intervention organisation specialized in social sciences and supporting the sustainability and innovation capacity of island and peripheral systems. Its multidisciplinary work focuses on the regional dimension of research and innovation (R&I) systems, strengthening their performance and internationalisation, understanding socio-ecosystem dynamics, and contributing to widening participation in the ERA across underrepresented regions.

TAČR – Technology Agency of the Czech Republic

The [Technology Agency of the Czech Republic](#) is a national public funding body that supports applied research, experimental development, and innovation in Czechia. It designs and administers grant programmes that help companies and research organisations collaborate and bring research results into practice.

TwinVECTOR

The [TwinVECTOR](#) project aims to create a centre of excellence at the Tomas Bata University in Zlín TBU, focusing on next generation battery sustainable design, energy business models, and sustainability assessments, with the support of upgraded research and administration unit (RAU). The RAU therefore coordinates the capacity building measures of the partners' activities to emphasise the synergy and the creation of the centre of excellence at TBU.



Xjenza Malta

[Xjenza Malta](#) is the government agency responsible for promoting and coordinating scientific research, technological innovation, and science communication in Malta. It oversees the national R&I strategy, manages national funding streams, acts as the National Contact Point for the Horizon Europe Framework Programme, and supports the development of Malta's space sector.

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