

MATERIALS WEEK EUROPE



The next speaker is...

Elżbieta Pietrzykowska

National Contact Point for Horizon Europe
- Cluster 4

NCP4Industry Plus

*Horizon Europe - The Flagship R&I Programme
of the European Commission and Support
Offered by National Contact Points*



Scan below for
Conference Agenda



Horizon Europe – The Flagship R&I programme of the European Commission and Support Offered by National Contact Points

Elżbieta Pietrzykowska

25/02/2026



Agenda



- An introductory overview of Horizon Europe, with clear insights into how materials-related research and innovation fit into the programme's strategic priorities and funding opportunities
- Introduction to The NCP4Industry Plus Project and the Network
- Support services available to stakeholders through National Contact Points
- Proposal Idea Consultation

Horizon Europe Program



Pillar 1 Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

Research Infrastructures



Pillar 2 Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

Clusters

- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre



Pillar 3 Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation
ecosystems

European Institute of
Innovation
and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

Horizon Europe: Advanced Materials as the Backbone of Future Industry



New Strategy: EC Communication (27.02.2024)

Driving "Advanced Materials for Industrial Leadership"

- **Goal:** Securing Europe's position in the global technological race.
- **The 5 Pillars of the Ecosystem:**
 1. **R&I:** Accelerating innovation (Materials Informatics & AI).
 2. **Lab-to-Fab:** Building testing and pilot infrastructures.
 3. **Financing:** Mobilizing capital for scaling (STEP, Horizon Europe).
 4. **Manufacturing:** Strengthening European production capacities.
 5. **Governance:** New coordination model (Strategic Technology Board).

Advanced Materials 2030 Initiative (AMI2030)

Designing the future through sustainability and digitalization:

- **SSbD:** Safe-and-Sustainable-by-Design from the earliest stages.
- **Circularity:** Full resource recovery and closed-loop material cycles.
- **Digitalization:** Rapid discovery via "Materials Acceleration Platforms".

Strategic Impact for the EU

- **Sovereignty:** Reducing dependencies on Critical Raw Materials (CRMA).
- **Twin Transition:** No Green Deal or Digitalization without material breakthroughs.
- **Economic Strength:** Supporting **1.8 million jobs** and key GDP sectors.

Linked EU priorities:

- Green Deal
- Net-Zero Industry
- Strategic autonomy
- Critical Raw Materials Act



Materials are the starting point of every industrial value chain.

Pillar II – cooperation and economic challenges

– Global Challenges and European Industrial



Research and innovation projects implemented through international consortia that address specific EU economic and technological challenges.

- **Impact-driven Approach:** Projects must demonstrate a real-world impact on the economy, society, and the environment (aligned with the Green Deal and Digital Agenda).
- **Strengthening the Tech Base:** Building sovereignty and the competitive advantage of European industry.

Operational Requirements:

- **International Consortia:** The "Rule of 3" (minimum 3 legal entities from 3 different Member or Associated States).
- **Multidisciplinary Approach:** Integrating academia, industry (SMEs & Large Enterprises), the public sector, and Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH).
- **Value Chain Synergy:** Partners must complement each other to cover the entire innovation cycle.

Three main domains:

Digital technologies (AI, data, chips, photonics)
Advanced manufacturing & materials
Space technologies

Calls for proposals on advanced materials



Key thematic areas addressed?

- Climate-neutral, circular and digitised industrial value chains.
- Digital and industrial technologies driving human-centric innovation - Industry 5.0.
- Energy-Intensive Industries - Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency, and Circularity and Zero Pollution.
- Open strategic autonomy in Raw Materials.
- Innovative Advanced Materials for EU industrial leadership
- Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD) chemicals and mat
- AI in Science, Knowledge valorisation and Standardisation.

Key application areas:

- Energy (batteries, hydrogen, PV)
- Electronics & semiconductors
- Circular industry
- Construction & mobility
- Space & defence-related value chains



more information on the
European Commission
website



How to start: entering Horizon Europe



HORIZON EUROPE – PILLAR II From **Idea** to **Project Proposal**



NCP4Industry Plus



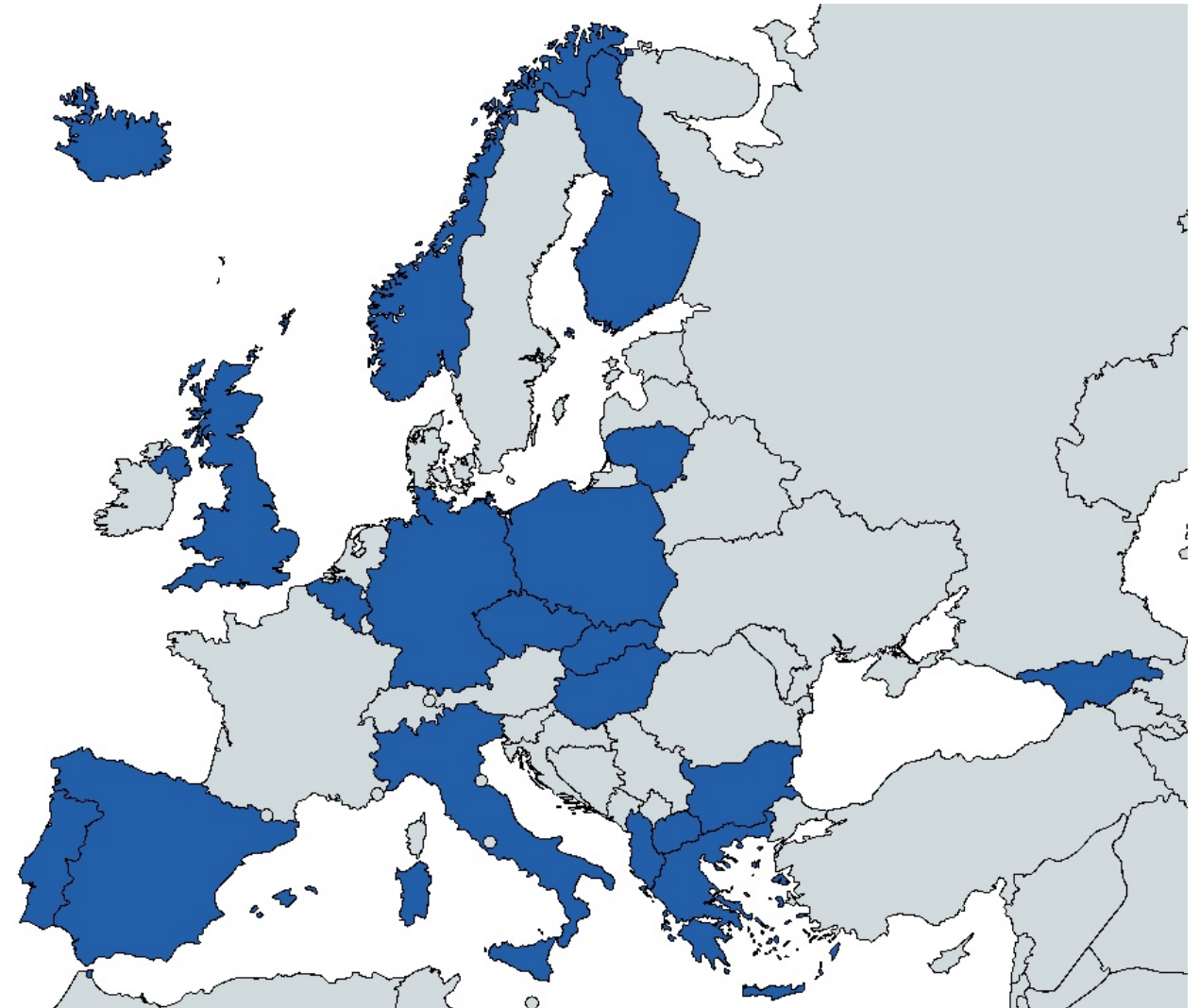
Project title The European Network of HE Cluster 4 Industry National Contact Points

Duration 36 Months (09/25-08/28)

GA No. 101207495

Support for applicants and NCPs

- Brokerage Events
- Full Proposal Check
- For NCPs: e.g. support for national events; mentor-mentee



NCP networking projects in CL4



Each thematic area has its own NCP project (CSA)



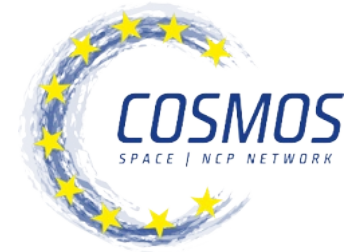
Idealist2027 (Digital)

- First NCP networking project; established in 1996
- 33 project partners



NCP4Industry Plus (Industry)

- Established in 2004 (as COOREERS and NMP TEAM projects)
- 20 project partners



COSMOS4HEplus (Space)

- Established in 2007
- 15 project partners

Objectives



The strategic objective of the Cluster 4 Industry European NCP Network project are to:



established a consistent level of NCP support services across Europe in the field of Industry R&I,



promote HE CL4 Industry funding opportunities among multiple research and innovation communities



stimulate knowledge transfer and cross-fertilization among a wide diversity of actors and institutional stakeholders' groups.

National Contact Points (NCPs)

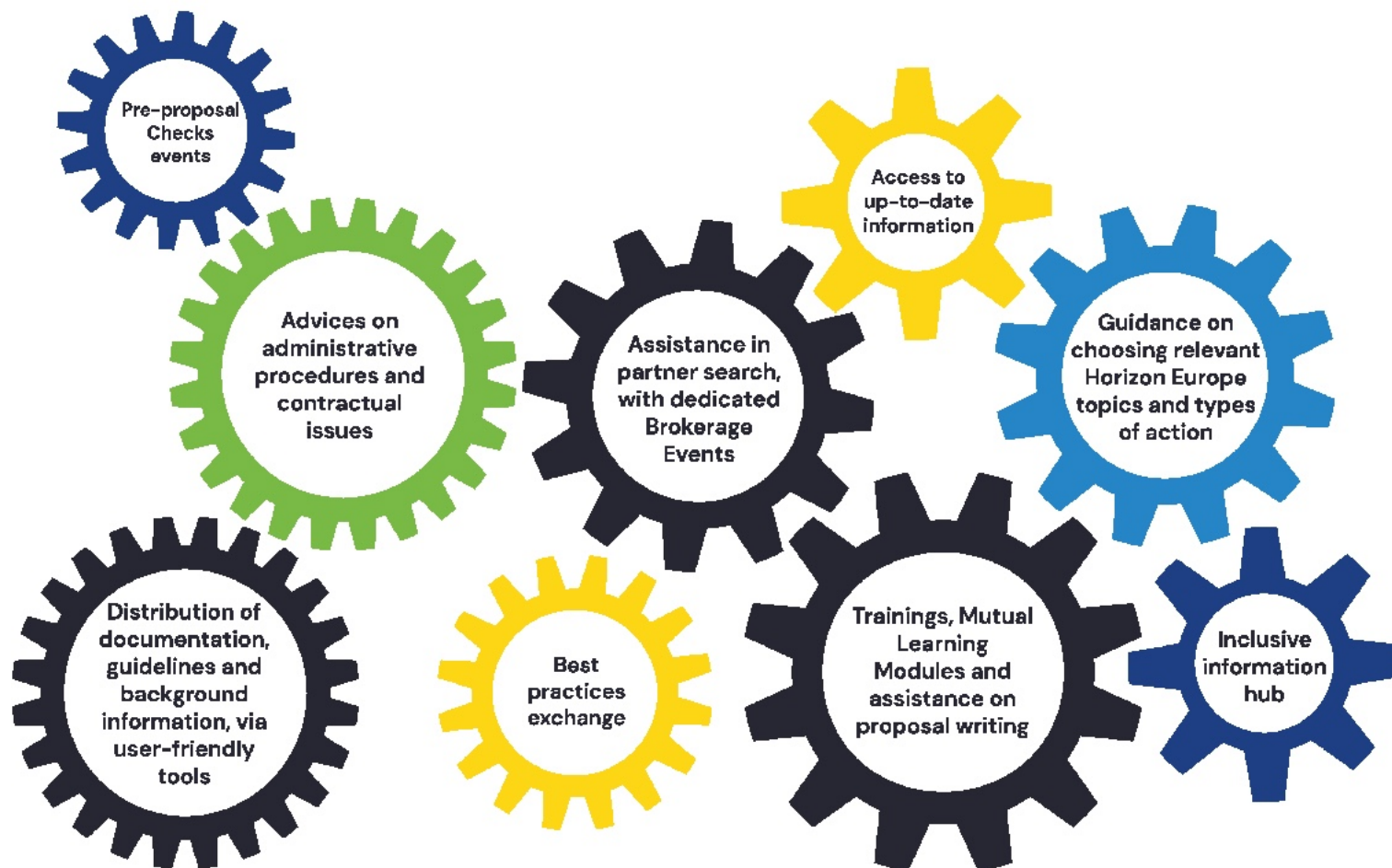


Role of NCPs in Horizon Europe and NCP support

Support interested entities in participating in the European framework programme for research and innovation, Horizon Europe:

- Advise on the **application process, project management and project implementation**
 - Guidance on choosing relevant Horizon Europe topics and types of action
 - Advice on administrative procedures and contractual issues
 - Training and assistance on proposal writing
 - Distribution of documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.)
 - Assistance in partner search

Services



NCP4Industry supports via different services:



Small and medium enterprises (SMEs)



Large enterprises



Academia



Research organisations



Non-profit organisations



Public administrations, and consultancies



NCPs' Hosting Organisations



Service for stakeholders



Consultation and Project Idea Check

Webinars, info days, conferences

Full Proposal Check

Matchmaking and brokerage events

Consultation and Project Idea Check



1. **Strategic Project Alignment:** Verification of project ideas against specific call topics and EU policy priorities.
2. **Consortium Building:** Guidance on partnership structure, partner search, and meeting geographical/sectoral balance.
3. **Financial & Admin Support:** Expert advice on budget construction, cost eligibility, and the Funding & Tenders portal.
4. **Proposal Pre-screening:** Quality review of the Excellence, Impact, and Implementation sections to ensure competitiveness.
5. **Horizontal Requirements:** Integration of mandatory elements like Open Science, gender dimension, and ethics.



*Our services are free of charge.

Webinars



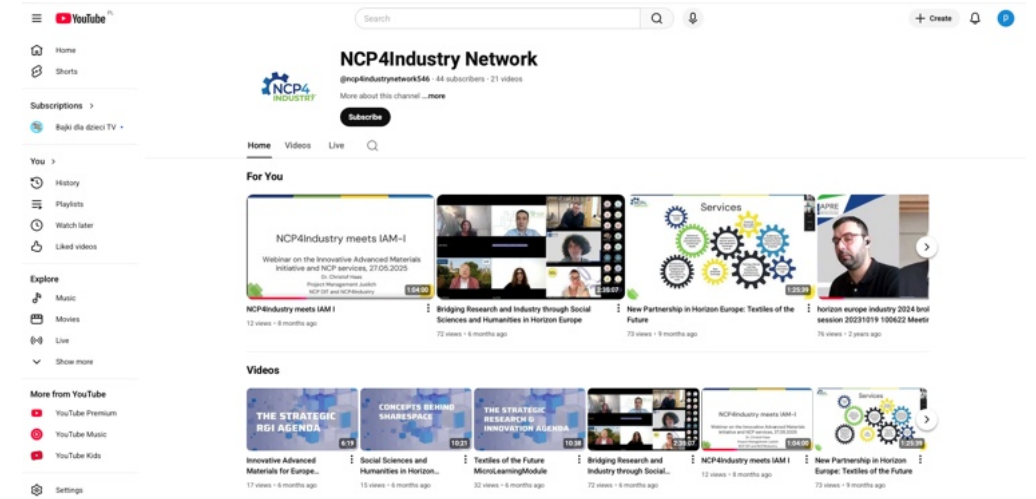
Strategic Insights

Thematic Deep Dives: Specialized sessions on Advanced Materials, Manufacturing, and Clean Steel.

Success Toolkits: Practical webinars on "How to prepare a proposal" and "Legal & Financial aspects."

Partnership Highlights: Joint sessions with European Partnerships (e.g., Processes4Planet, Made in Europe).

On-Demand Learning: Full recordings of past Info Days and Brokerage Events.



Scan and join us on YouTube.

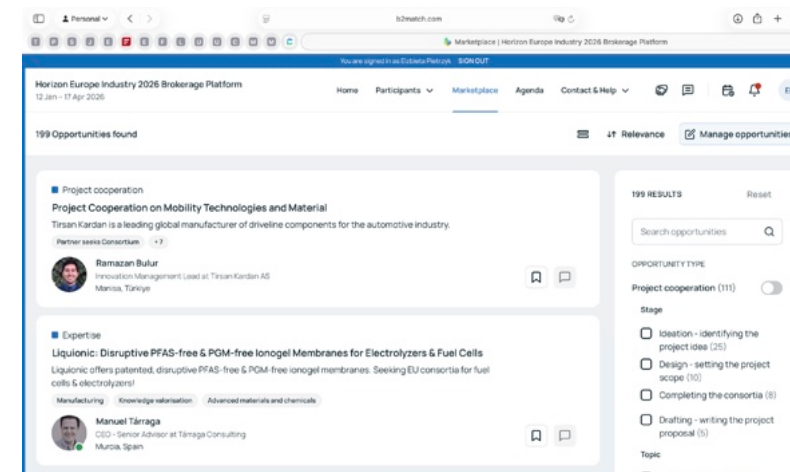
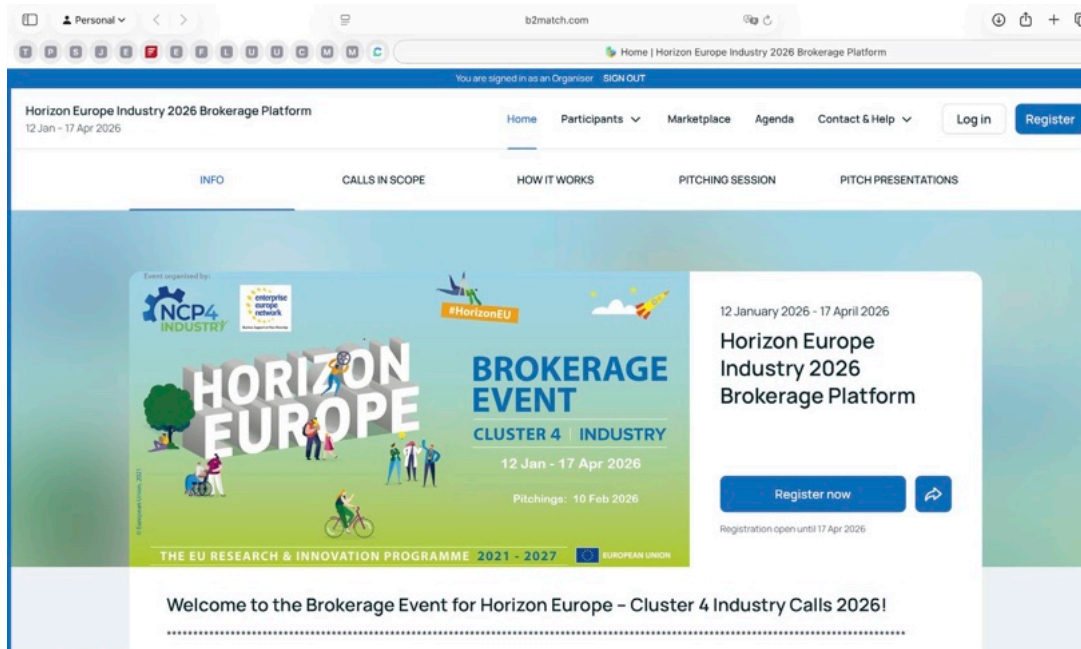
Brokerage Events



Onsite / Online / Hybrid



one-on-one meetings
marketplace
pitching sessions



Full Proposal Check



Building a better project proposal!

- Receive in-depth feedback from experienced evaluators on your advanced proposal drafts
- Boost the quality of your project proposal based on relevant early feedback
- All participating experts and NCPs will have signed a declaration of confidentiality



Current activities

Act now

— the application deadlines are approaching



Materials Week Europe 24- 26 February



PROJECT IDEA CONSULTATION

Turn your idea into a competitive project with expert support.

Thinking about applying for Horizon Europe?

PROJECT IDEA CONSULTATION

Turn your idea into a competitive project with expert support. Validate your concept and match it to the upcoming Digital, Industry and Space Work Programme 2026. We offer free, confidential 1-on-1 sessions with NCP4Industry Plus experts during Materials Week Europe.

Key thematic areas (cluster 4, Industry) :

- Climate-neutral, circular & digitised industrial value chains.
- Industry 5.0: Human-centric digital & industrial tech.
- Energy-Intensive Industries: Decarbonisation & Circularity.
- Open strategic autonomy in Raw Materials.
- Innovative Advanced Materials for EU leadership.
- Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD) chemicals.
- AI in Science, Knowledge Valorisation & Standardisation.

Meet with us!



BOOK YOUR 30-MINUTE SESSION



Booth 1114

Brokerage Events



Online Brokerage Events for Cluster 4 Calls 2026 are in preparation (stay tuned!)



KETs* 2026 – EU Brokerage Event
February 5, 2026 | Karlsruhe
Get together the day before!



**Key Enabling Technologies*

Onsite + Online Brokerage Event for Cluster 4 and Cluster 5 Calls 2026

Full Proposal Check



Building a better project proposal!

- Receive in-depth feedback from experienced evaluators on your advanced proposal drafts
- Boost the quality of your project proposal based on relevant early feedback
- All participating experts and NCPs will have signed a declaration of confidentiality



- 1. Sign Up & Submit (Deadline: March 29, 2026)**
- 2. Confirmation (Deadline: April 2, 2026)**
- 3. Feedback Meeting (April 7 – April 10, 2026)**





Schedule a 1-to-1 Meeting



ncp4industry@apre.it



ncp4industry.eu

Booth 1114

