

M-HERO Project

Project number: 101251233

Project title: Horizon Europe Office of the Republic of Moldova – Strengthening Research, Expanding Horizons

Project acronym: M-HERO

Call: HORIZON-EURATOM-2025-MOLDOVA-IBA

Topic: HORIZON-EURATOM-2025-MOLDOVA-IBA

Project start date: 1 September 2025

Project end date: 31 August 2028

Project duration: 36 months

Project description:

The project proposal addresses the critical need to enhance the integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European Research Area (ERA) and to maximise participation in the Horizon Europe programme. As an Associated Country, Moldova faces significant structural challenges within its Research and Innovation ecosystem, despite its promising foundations and EU association status.

This project will systematically strengthen the operational capacity and professional expertise of the Horizon Europe Office in Moldova and the network of National Contact Points (NCPs) through five specific objectives:

- Strengthening institutional capacity and operational efficiency;
- Improving proposal development skills and success rates;
- Stimulating strategic international research partnerships;
- Increasing awareness of Horizon Europe opportunities;
- Establishing robust monitoring and sustainability mechanisms.

The methodology applies a strategic framework focused on quality-driven implementation, digital-first approaches, decentralisation of services, complementarity with existing initiatives, localisation of support, and institutionalisation of best practices. Implementation follows a structured progression through interconnected work packages, focused on developing a Business Process Management System, strengthening human resources, delivering support services, communication and dissemination activities, and ensuring effective project management.

The expected results directly address the call requirements: a strengthened and professionalised NCP system delivering consistent, high-quality support services; harmonised practices aligned with EU standards; increased capacity of researchers; and higher participation rates.

The long-term impacts include enhanced integration into the European Research Area, reduced research and innovation gaps, and support for the Republic of Moldova's broader European integration aspirations.

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