Call 2026

Webinar

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Agenda

- Introduction – F. Quist
- General presentation of the Network – R. Brandenburg
- Presentation of the Work Programme – R. Fernández Reyes / J. Anta
- Presentation of the RRI guidelines – C. A. Mathiesen
- Presentation of the guide for proposers & general procedures
  - Participating countries & general eligibility – F. Nikowitz
  - Schedule and workflow – L. Chaperman
  - Call documents – S.-L. Lee Müller
- Questions and answers

General information

1. This session is recorded. Presentation and recording will be posted on the M-ERA.NET website.

2. Please use the Q&A button to ask your questions. Questions will be replied to either orally or in writing

M-ERA.NET:
Strengthening the European advanced materials ecosystem through transnational programme collaboration

Roland Brandenburg
M-ERA.NET coordinator
Call 2026 webinar, 18 March 2026

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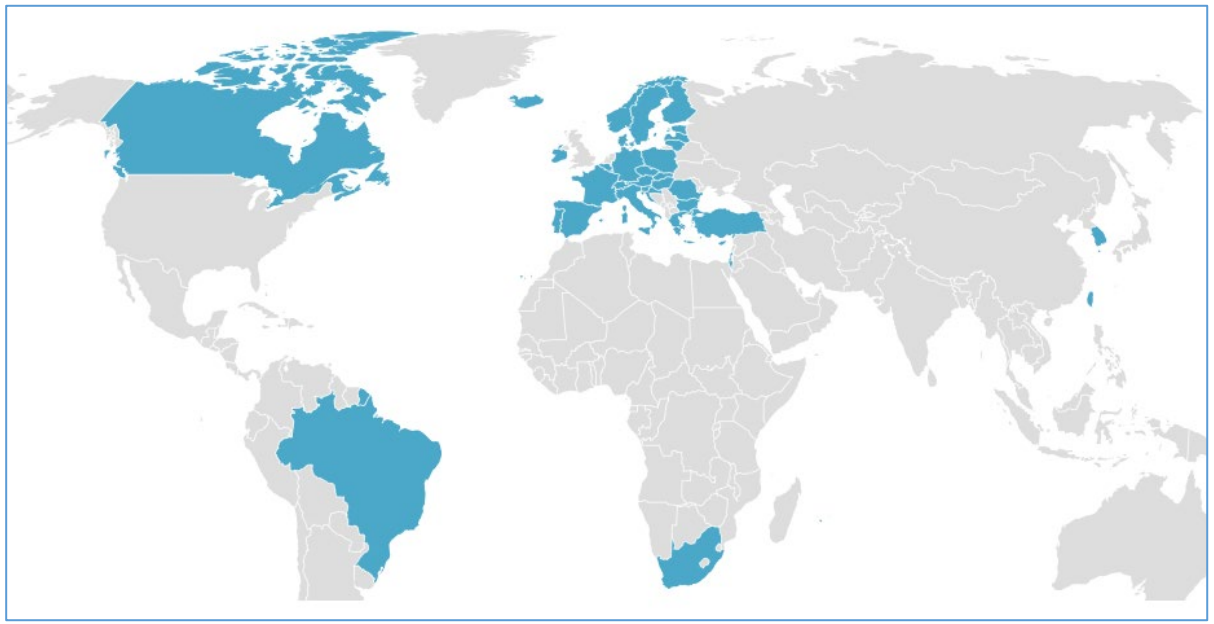
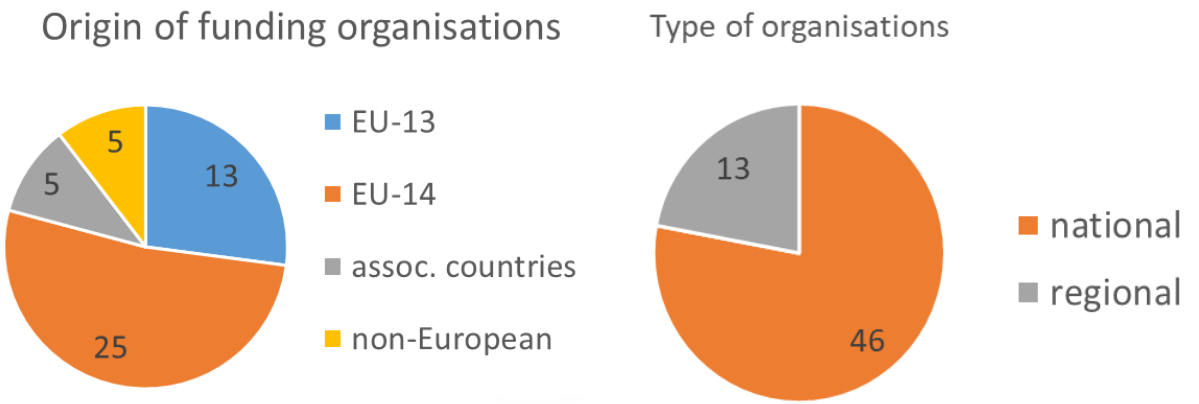
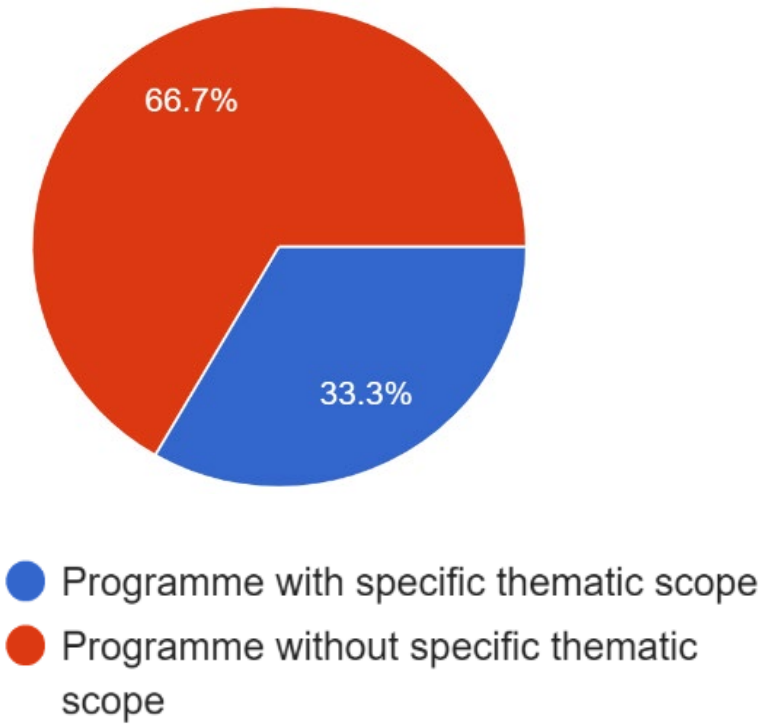
- a funded EU project
- **large network of** public funding organisations
  - currently 49 agencies, councils & ministries
  - 35 countries:
    - **25 EU Member States**
      - **11 EU regions**
    - **5 Associated Countries**
    - **5 non-European countries**



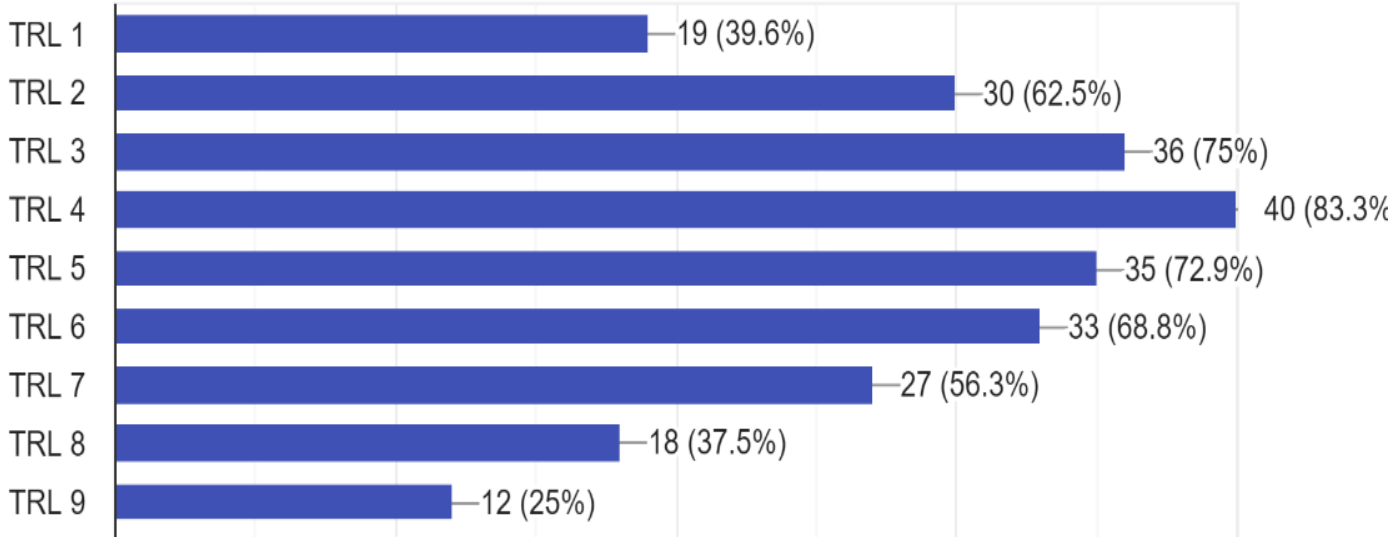


Involved national/regional funding schemes

- **flexibility to address emerging priorities**



- **broad overall TRL range <u>eligible for national/regional funding</u>**



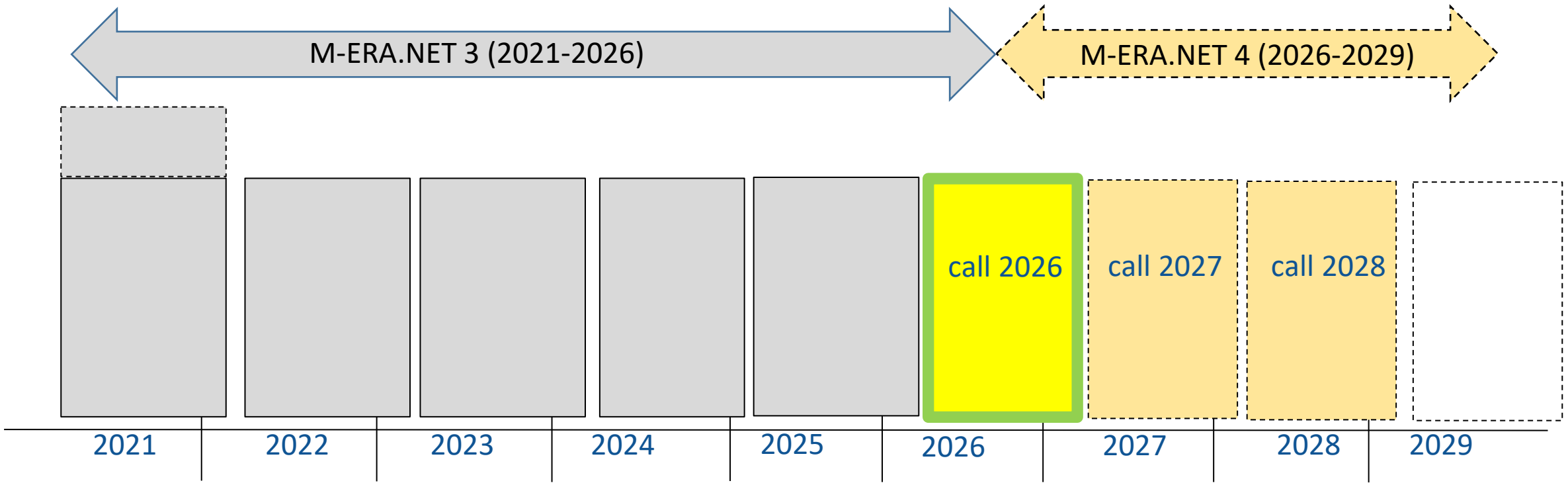
M-ERA.NET objectives 2026-2029

- address upcoming **societal challenges and global technological priorities** in an interdisciplinary approach to support the European Research Area (ERA)
- establish a continuous **dialogue with relevant European R&I initiatives**
- pool resources & mobilise **large financial contributions** from EU-MS/AC & industry
- **strengthen the European advanced materials community**
- enhance **scientific research and upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors** to enable a substantial contribution towards **European technology leadership and competitiveness**
- **valorise results** of funded projects and **promote societal and market uptake** through dissemination of good and responsible practices and targeted knowledge transfer actions
- support specific **technology and regulatory policy alignment** at regional, national and international level
- continue being an integral part of **European advanced materials ecosystem**

M-ERA.NET thematic objectives

- align with **broader EU political priorities** (*European Green Deal, Clean Industrial Deal, Net Zero Industry Act,..)*
- align with policies related to the **future of Advanced Materials (***Communication on Advanced Materials for Industrial Leadership*, *Safe-and-Sustainable-by-Design (SSbD) framework, Critical Raw Materials Act, Advanced Materials Act (2026)*
- support **excellence in key R&I priorities,** targeting the circular economy, the triple transition, and SDGs
  - **SDG 6 ("Clean water and sanitation")** by developing materials and processes for water treatment
  - **SDG 7 (“Affordable and clean energy”)** supporting future battery technologies, and
  - **SDG 9 (“Industrial innovation and infrastructure”)** by enhancing scientific research and upgrading the technological capabilities of industrial sectors.
  - **SDG 12 (“Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”)** through an environmentally sound management of natural resources and reduced waste generation

M-ERA.NET: overall timeline of joint calls



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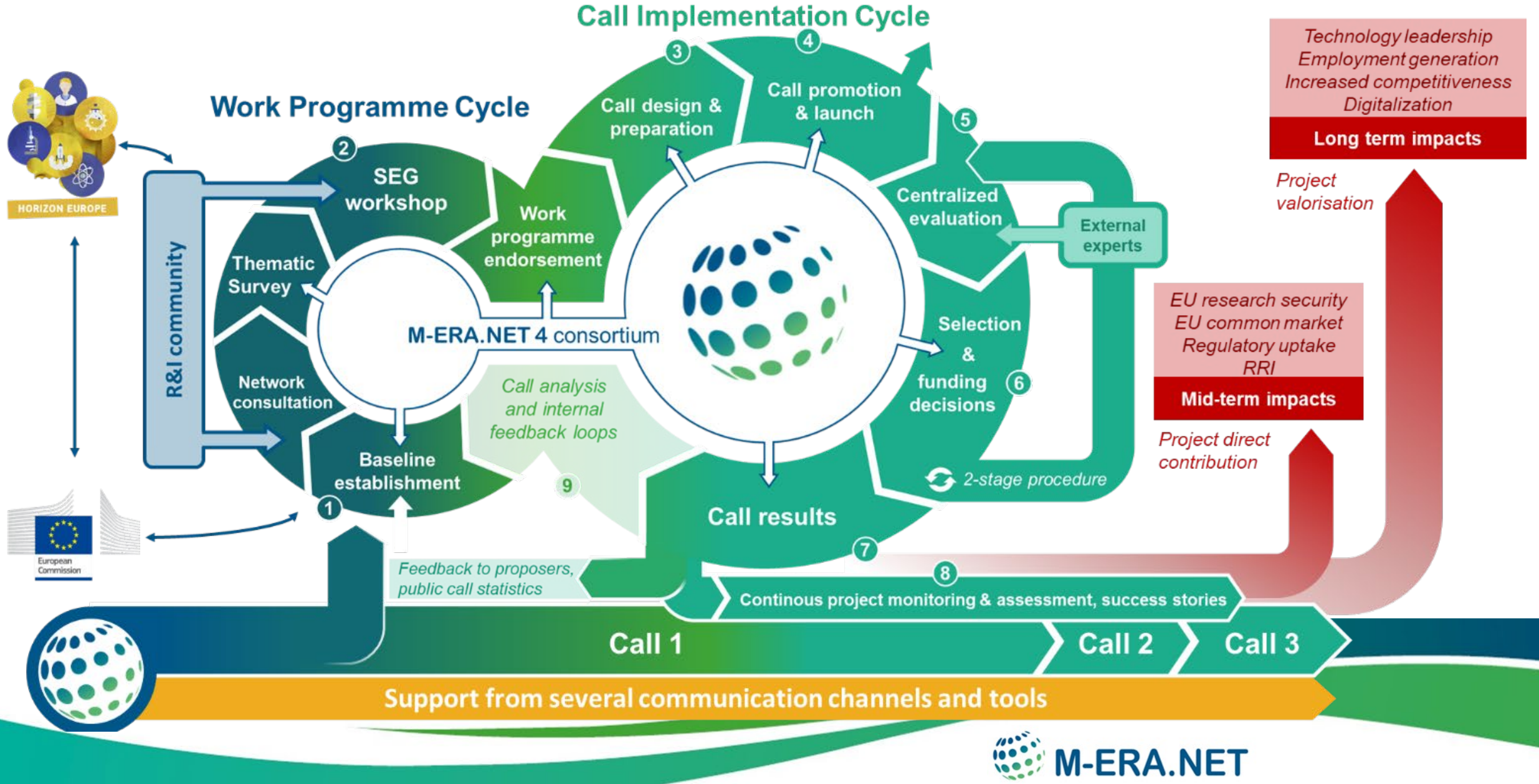
Involve relevant stakeholders in the annual joint programming cycle

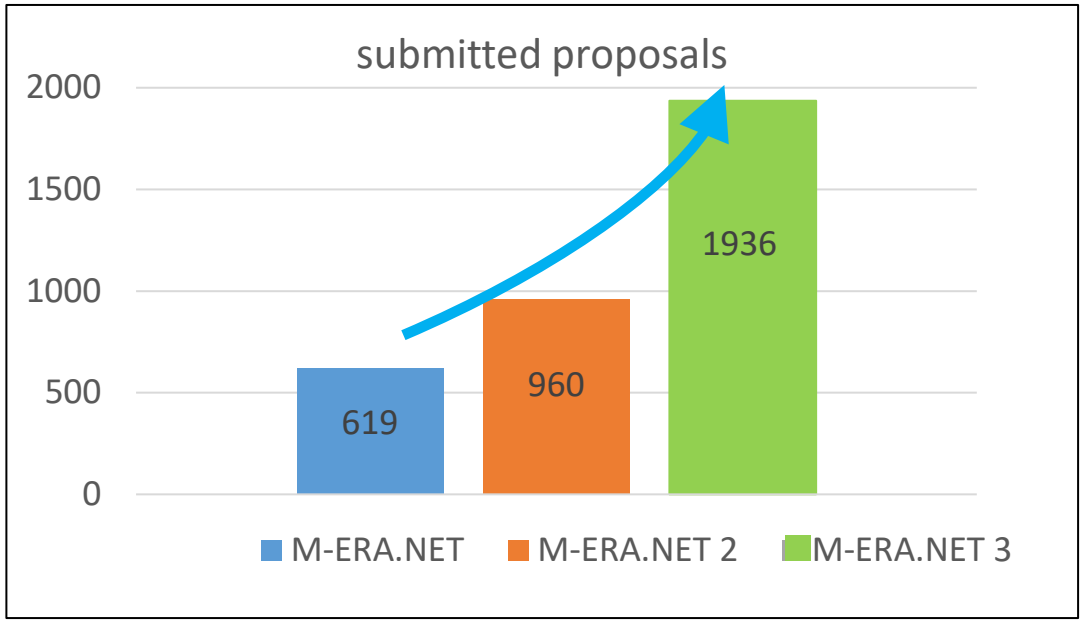


M-ERA.NET 2&3: Thematic priorities: continuity & flexibility as needed

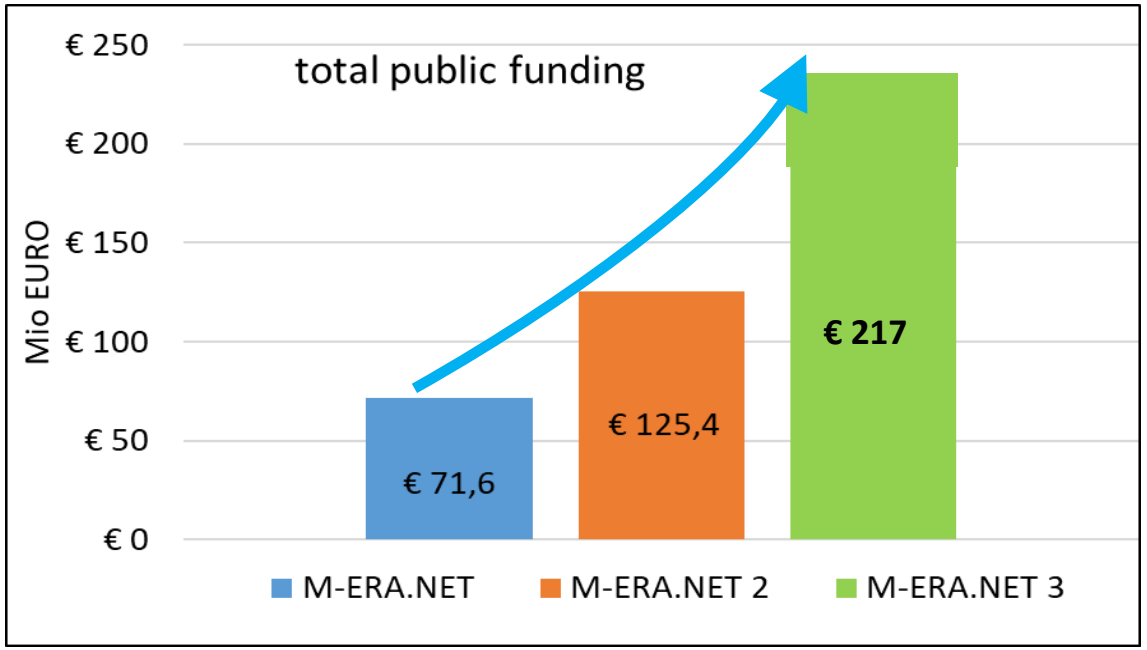
Call 2016	Call 2017	Call 2018	Call 2019	Call 2020	Call 2021	Call 2022	Call 2023	Call 2024	**Call 2025**
Integrated computational materials engineering	Integrated computational materials engineering	Multiscale modeling for materials engineering and processing	Modeling for materials engineering and processing	Modeling for materials engineering and processing	Modeling for materials engineering and processing	Materials for energy	Sustainable advanced materials for energy	Sustainable advanced materials for energy	Sustainable materials for energy applications
Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces	Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces	Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces	Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces	Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces	Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces	Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces	Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces	Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces	Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces
High performance composites	High performance composites	High performance composites	High performance composites	High performance composites	High performance composites	High performance composites	High performance composites	High performance composites	Advanced composites and **lightweight materials**
Functional materials	Multifunctional materials	Functional materials	Functional materials	Functional materials	Functional Materials	Functional Materials	Functional Materials	Functional Materials	Functional Materials
Interfaces between materials and biological hosts for health applications	New strategies for advanced material-based technologies for health applications	New strategies for advanced material-based technologies for health applications	New strategies for advanced material-based technologies for health applications	New strategies for advanced material-based technologies for health applications	New strategies for advanced material-based technologies for health applications	New strategies for advanced material-based technologies for health applications	New strategies for advanced material-based technologies for health applications	Materials addressing environmental challenges	Materials addressing environmental challenges
Materials for additive manufacturing	Materials for additive manufacturing	Materials for additive manufacturing	Materials for additive manufacturing	Materials for additive manufacturing	Materials for additive manufacturing	Materials for electronics	Next Generation Materials for Advanced Electronics	Next Generation Materials for Advanced Electronics	Next Generation Materials for Electronics

M-ERA.NET Calls: increasing demand – stable success rate

- **reaching an increasing community**



- **mobilising increasing nat./reg. budgets (million €)**



M-ERA.NET Calls 2012-2015
M-ERA.NET 2 Calls 2016-2020
M-ERA.NET 3 Calls 2021-2025

➢ **approx 480 projects funded**

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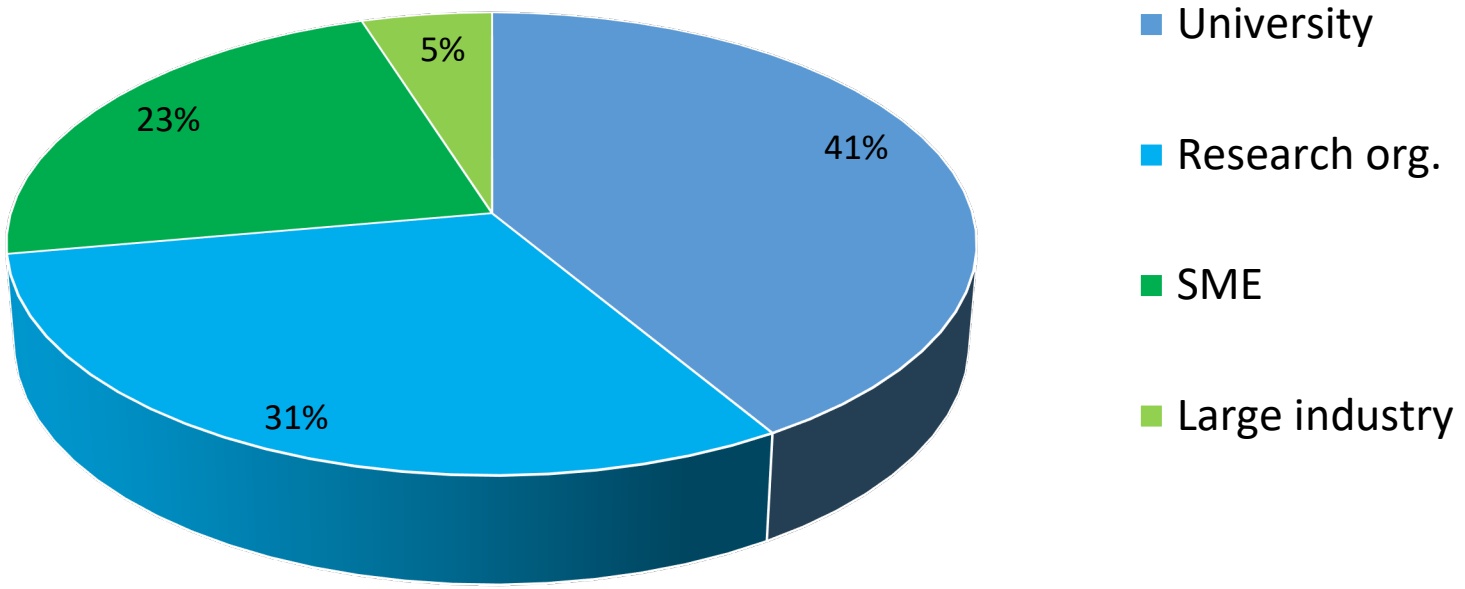
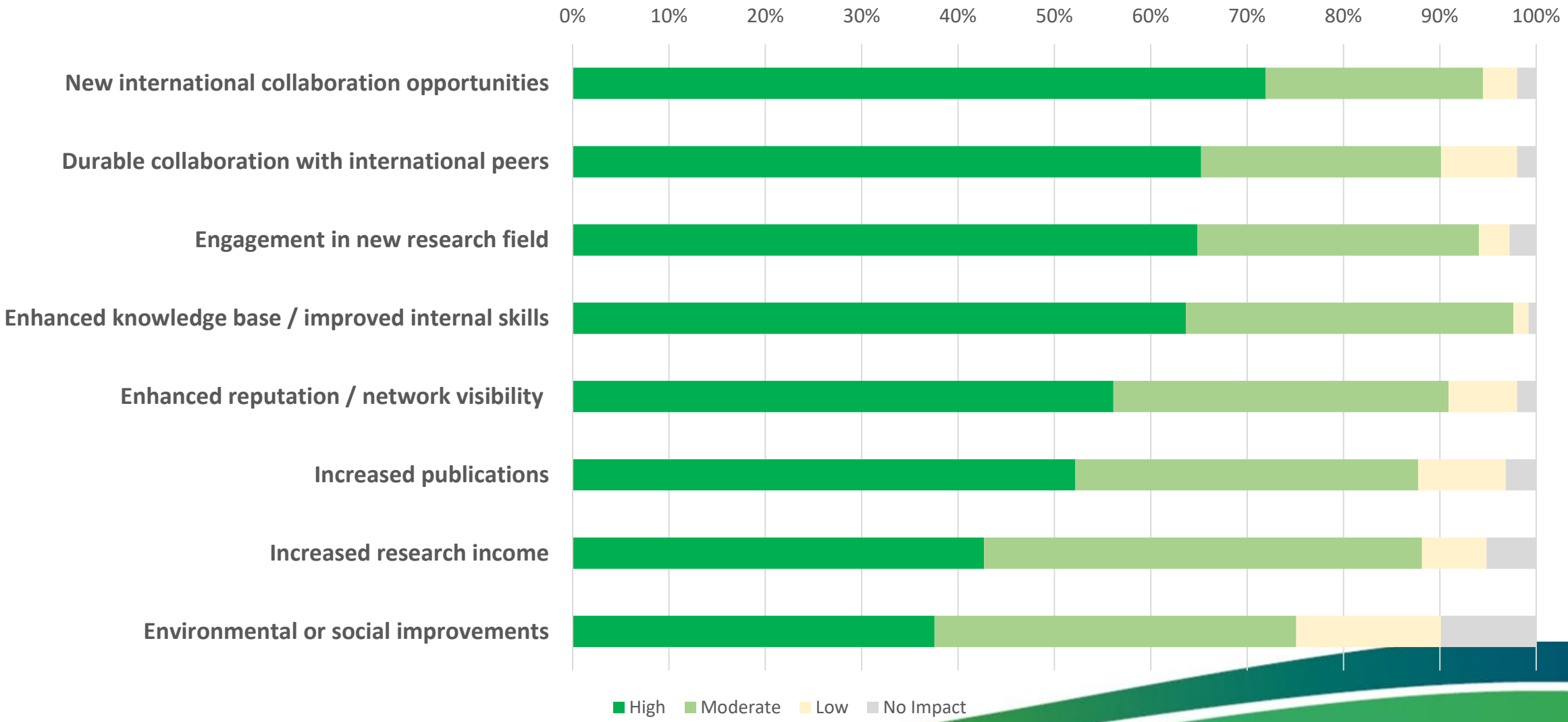
M-ERA.NET Calls: who are our beneficiaries?

Calls 2021-2025:



What our clients say: impacts of funded projects



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Promotion of project results

- ✓ „**Materipedia**“ online database containing >450 funded projects
- ✓ **joint monitoring** of funded RTD projects & **joint assessment** of completed projects - analysis of **benefits & impact on industry & academia –environmental, technological, economic, societal**
- ✓ publication of results & **success stories**
- ✓ **events**

Thank you !

www.m-era.net

- *https://www.m-era.net/about/**voices-from-the-consortium***
- *https://www.m-era.net/**success-stories***
- *https://www.m-era.net/**materipedia** (database of >450 projects)*

- *https://www.m-era.net/**newsletter** (currently: 6000 subscribers)*
- *https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/m-era-net*

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Topics and Objectives (Call 2026)

AGENCIA ESTATAL DE INVESTIGACIÓN

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GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA | MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA, INNOVACIÓN Y UNIVERSIDADES

FECYT INNOVACIÓN

Raquel Fernández-Reyes and Juan A. Anta,
AEI/FECYT
M-ERA.NET webinar
18 March 2026

Joint Programming for establishment of thematic priorities

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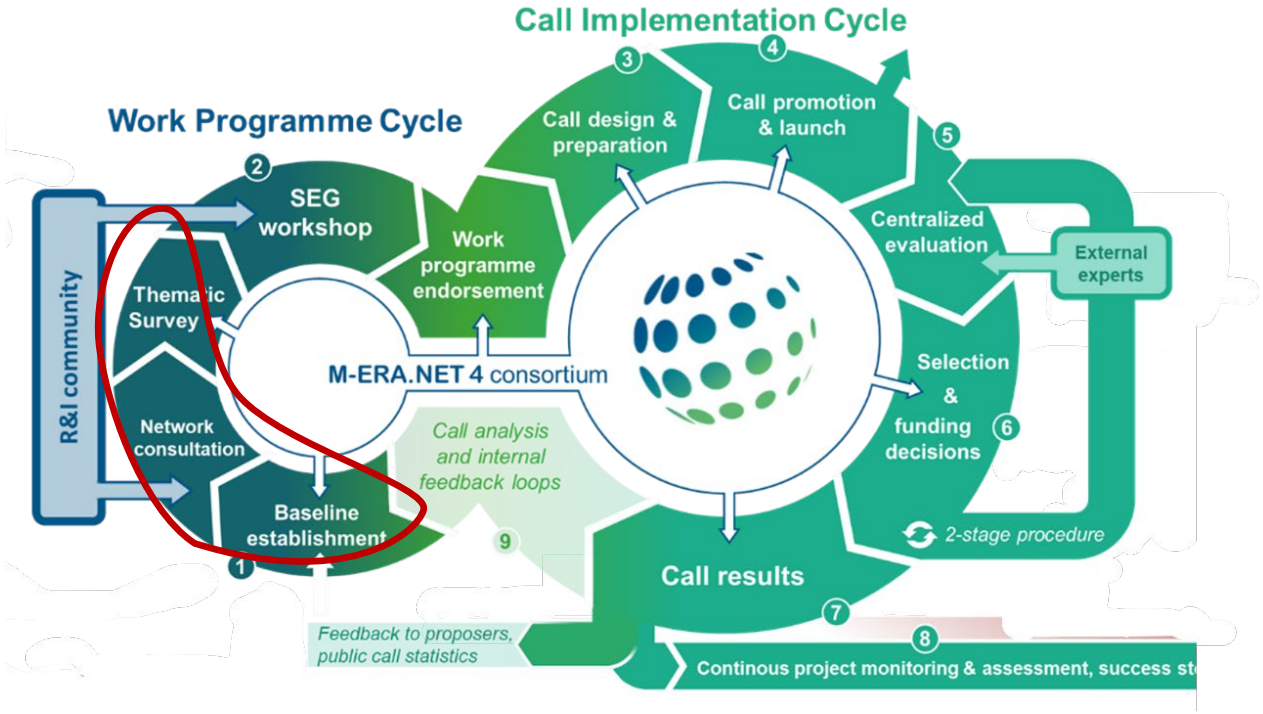
Joint Programming for establishment of thematic priorities



Analysis

- Background: Previous calls and procedures
- Comprehensive picture: Policies and other initiatives in the field

Advanced Materials for Industrial Leadership (2024)

Energy
- Conversion & Generation
- Energy Storage
- Distribution & Transmission
- Renewable Fuels

Construction
- Energy Efficiency
- Robust & Long-Lasting Structures
- Wellbeing in Buildings
- Circularity & Environmental Impact

Mobility
- Energy Storage & Alternative Fuels
- Lightweight & High-Performance Materials
- Protection, Resilience & Durability
- Circularity & Environmental Performance

Electronics
- Performance & New Functionalities
- Chip Production & Packaging

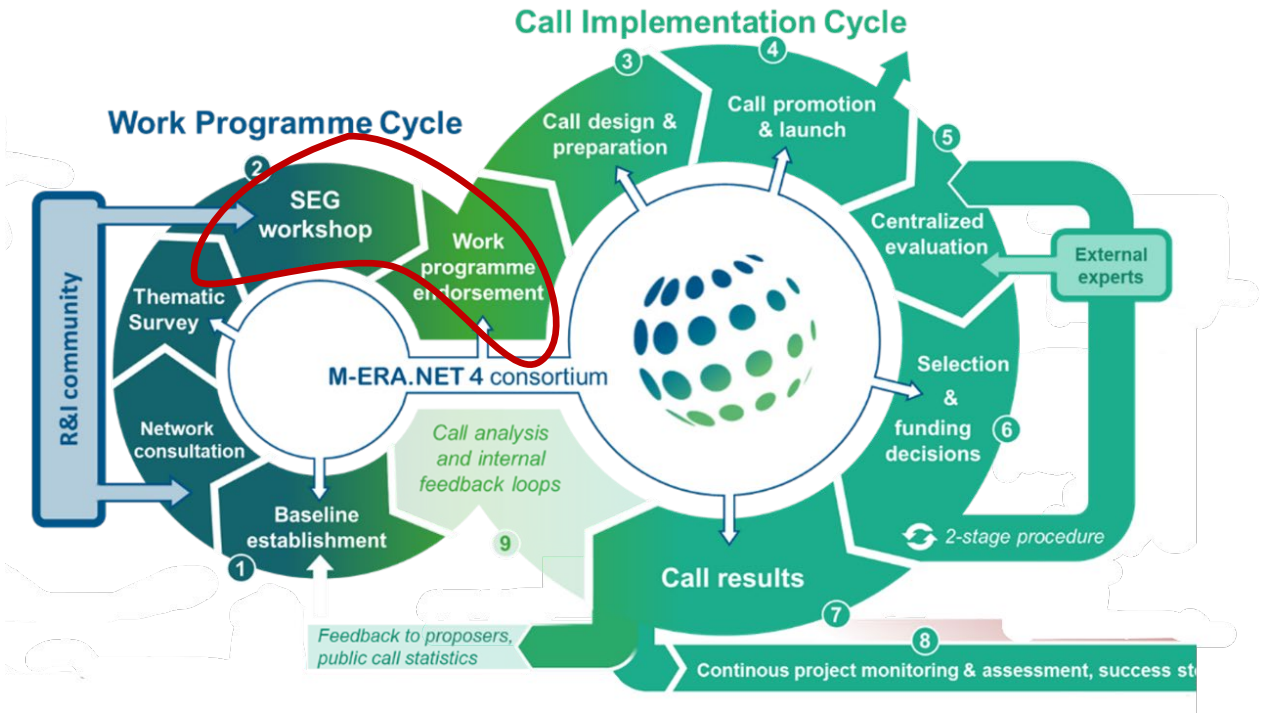
Key players actively involved – synergies with other platforms

MANUFUTURE-EU, Processes4Planet, EUMAT, EMIRI, BATTERY 2030+, NANOfutures, AMI2030

M-ERA.NET Survey for Work Programme 2026 preparation (M-ERA.NET call 2026)

- Support on topics and scope
- Identification of national/regional experts to participate in SEG workshop

Joint Programming for establishment of thematic priorities



Strategic Expert Group (SEG) Workshop - Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain 25th-26th November 2025

Operational

A panel of selected experts (named Strategic Experts Group (SEG)) covering different fields was invited to assist the M-ERA.NET consortium with external expertise. 24 experts from 15 different countries participated to assist the M-ERA consortium to define the priorities for the call.

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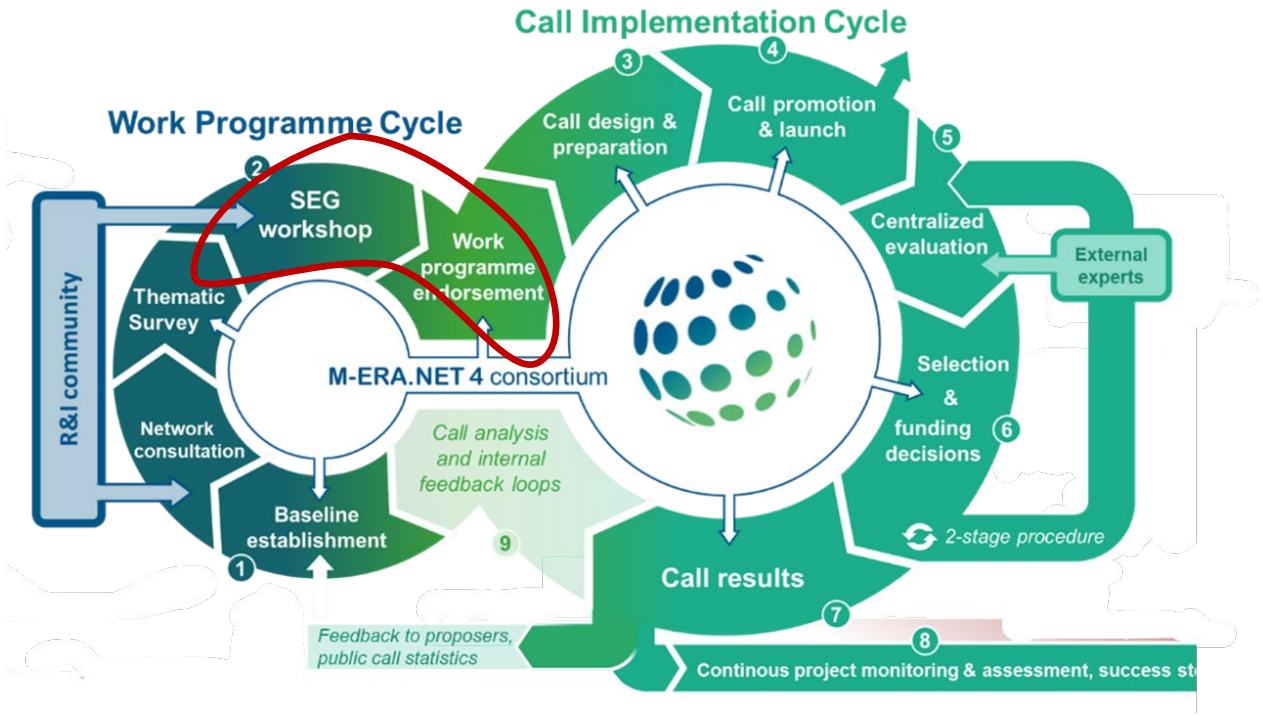
Joint Programming for establishment of thematic priorities



Strategic Expert Group (SEG) Workshop - Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain 25th-26th November 2025

Objectives of SEG workshop

Support M-ERA.NET Steering Board (SB) in the selection and definition of M-ERA NET 2026 call at scientific and technical level.

Reflect Regional, National, European/International priorities and programmes of M-ERA.NET partners tailoring funding agencies preferences into topics.

Identify opportunities for transnational and international cooperation in the framework defined by the Advanced Materials for Industrial leadership Communication and preparing our ecosystem for the Advanced Materials Act coming next year; identify gaps and opportunities.

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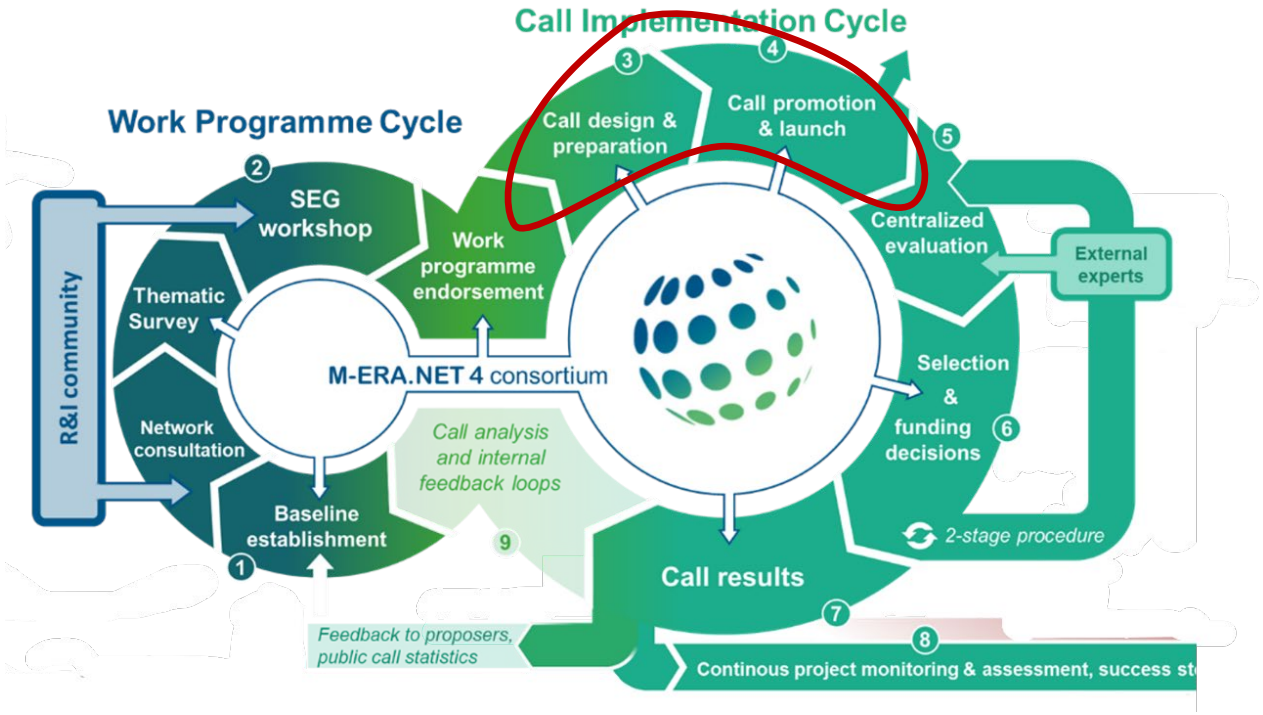
Joint Programming for establishment of thematic priorities



Results of SEG workshop

Define the thematic priorities for the M-ERA.NET Call 2026, providing a comprehensive overview on needs, possibilities and trends at European and international levels in order to help M-ERA.NET.

Input for the section "Objectives and thematic priorities" in the Work Programme

Main updates to Work Programme

- Topic description template with recommendations to get homogenous topic descriptions(Horizontal objectives, Objectives and transversal aspects)
- AI and Machine Learning tools, Multiscale modelling

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AI and Machine Learning tools, Multiscale modelling.

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1.3.1 *Topic 1: Materials for energy storage and distribution systems*

Cross-cutting aspects

Inclusion of one or more of the following cross-cutting aspects would be considered a strength:

- Development of additive manufacturing (AM) strategies for advanced energy storage and distribution systems that enable the production of tailored architectures with improved performance and reduced waste.
- Multiscale and data-driven modelling including AI and ML tools to develop and optimise materials for energy storage and distribution.
- Substitution of Critical Raw Materials (CRM) and/or hazardous materials in new energy storage and distribution systems, products or processes.
- Materials processing with high sustainability and lower costs, to improve energy optimization through flexible design for repurposing and recycling.

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1.3.2 *Topic 2: Materials for energy conversion*

Cross-cutting aspects

Inclusion of one or more of the following cross-cutting aspects would be considered a strength:

- *In situ* and/or *in operando* experimental data mining.
- Implementation of *in silico* and/or high-throughput screening approaches for new energy conversion materials. The development of these tools, that include Machine Learning (ML) approaches, will be positively considered if properly integrated within the project.
- Reduction and replacement of Critical Raw Materials (CRM) and/or hazardous materials with alternative new materials in energy related products or processes

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1.3.3 *Topic 3: Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces*

Cross-cutting aspects

Inclusion of one or more of the following cross-cutting aspects would be considered a strength:

- Consider aspects such as mechanistic understanding and experimental verification. Where relevant, include prototyping, up-scaling, and manufacturing, with validation and demonstration in a relevant operational environment with a view to end-user applications
- Address complementary characterisation techniques (including New Approach Methods (NAMs)) and/or, where relevant, modelling techniques, AI and Machine Learning (ML).
- Develop protocols to replicate the failure mechanism of the surface/coating interface in the lab in order to predict and improve lifetime and formulate future standards.
- Address how coatings and/or thin films will impact the recyclability of the core material
- Ensure relevance for different partners in the value chain by stating clear concepts for application(s) in targeted industrial sector(s).
- Include proportional lifecycle, environmental, economic, and social assessments to address sustainability

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1.3.4 *Topic 4: Innovative functional materials with defined architectures*

Cross-cutting aspects

Inclusion of one or more of the following cross-cutting aspects would be considered a strength:

- New strategies to replace toxic or critical raw materials (CRM)
- Application of green, safe and sustainable fabrication techniques
- Improved end-of-life strategies: separation, repairability, disassembly and recyclability
- Development of scalable processing routes to ensure cost-effective manufacturability and application-specific integration
- Development of additive manufacturing (AM) strategies to produce tailored architectures with improved performance and reduced waste
- Use of computational modelling / simulation, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), or advanced data management tools to accelerate materials design, behaviour prediction, characterization, development, manufacturing or system optimisation

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1.3.5 *Topic 5: Materials addressing environmental challenges*

Cross-cutting aspects

Inclusion of one or more of the following cross-cutting aspects would be considered a strength:

- additive manufacturing for sustainable production and resource efficiency
- methodologies supported by digitalization (e.g. computational modelling, artificial intelligence, machine learning, etc.)
- strengthening the whole innovation chain covering materials processing, application, and recycling. Such integration could be further enhanced by fostering collaboration between academia and industry, and by a consortium covering the whole circular value chain and life-cycle.
- Assesment of the project´s economical, environmental, societal and safety impacts.

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1.3.6 *Topic 6: Next Generation Materials for Electronics*

Cross-cutting aspects

Inclusion of one or more of the following cross-cutting aspects would be considered a strength:

- High throughput manufacturing approaches for electronic components (printing technologies, additive manufacturing techniques, laser-induced processes, etc.).
- The consideration of SSbD materials.
- Where relevant, the integration of computational modelling, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and advanced data management tools to accelerate materials design, modelling, characterization, development and system optimisation.

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Topics Call 2026

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Topics

In **red**: Changes with respect to call 2025

1. **Materials for energy storage and distribution systems**
2. **Materials for energy conversion**
3. **Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces**
4. **Innovative functional materials with defined architectures**
5. **Materials addressing environmental challenges**
6. **Next generation materials for electronics**

Topics

Changes explained:

Advanced Materials for Industrial Leadership (2024)

SUGGESTION-FOCUS

Materials for energy storage and distribution systems

Energy storage: Thermal, chemical, mechanical, and electrical energy storage systems.
Batteries, supercapacitors, hydrogen, ammonia, ethanol, gas or thermal storage systems.

Energy distribution: Heat transfer, power transmission, smart grids…
Materials for electrical, thermal, or chemical distribution

Materials for Energy Conversion and Clean Mobility

Energy conversion: Chemical, photothermal, photoelectrochemical, thermionic, thermoelectric, bioenergy (biomass).

Turbines, combustion engines, electric motors, photocatalysis, photovoltaics, solar cells and concentrators, fuel cells, electrolysers, catalysts for hydrogen production, synthetic fuels, membranes?

Energy use, clean mobility: lightweight and functional materials for transportation, aimed at improving energy efficiency and reducing environmental impact. (DISCUSS IN WHICH TOPIC-My view: Functional materials).

1. Materials for energy storage and distribution systems
2. Materials for energy conversion
3. **Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces**
4. **Innovative functional materials with defined architectures**
5. **Materials addressing environmental challenges**
6. **Next generation materials for electronics**

Merged former “Advanced composites and lightweight materials” and “Functional materials” **objectives and transversal characteristics repeated**

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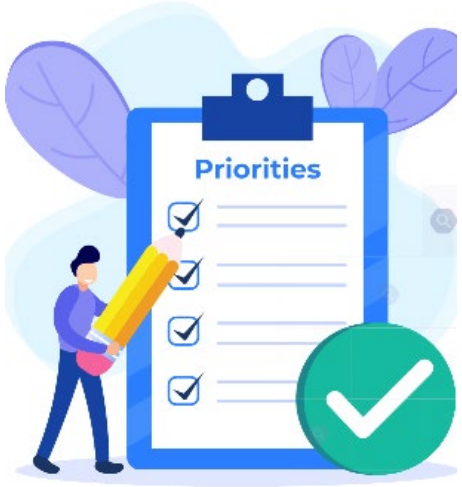
Topics

1. **Materials for energy storage and distribution systems**
2. **Materials for energy conversion**
3. **Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces**
4. **Innovative functional materials with defined architectures**
5. **Materials addressing environmental challenges**
6. **Next generation materials for electronics**



Clean energy

Innovation & functionality

Sustainability & circularity

Topics

Summary of most significant changes with respect to 2025 call:

- **Batteries, energy carriers and other energy storage systems** covered in **Topic 1**
- **Materials for electrolysis, fuel cells, solar cells, wind and hydro energy** covered **in Topic 2**
- **Lightweight materials for more sustainable mobility** covered in **Topic 2,** others covered in **Topic 4.**
- **Materials for structural (e.g. lightweight) or functional applications (e.g. photonics, catalysts)** covered in **Topic 4**
- **TRLs** definition/adjustments and **industrial partners involvement**

NOT CHANGED BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT (In common with all the topics):

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (RRI) REQUIREMENTS

M-ERA.NET requires that all proposers explain how their projects demonstrate a commitment to RRI by investigating and addressing the environmental, social, ethical, political, or cultural dimensions of the proposed research:

Proposals should provide a **preliminary assessment** regarding (but not limited to):

- **Resources:** the use of **environmentally friendly materials** and **green technologies**, the use of **critical raw materials**, water, etc.
- **Production process: energy consumption**, **use of solvents**, **hazardous elements**, **substances of concern**, etc.
- **Use phase:** the sustainability of the conditions under which the material can be used (releases to the environment, life span, etc.).
- **End-of-life**: (when relevant) the entry of the material into the **circular economy**, including re-use, re-manufacturing or **recycling** considerations.
- Involvement of relevant **societal stakeholders** as appropriate.

1. Materials for energy storage and distribution systems

TECHNICAL CONTENT AND SCOPE: Development of **materials, devices** and **systems** that **store** and **distribute** any kind of **energy** (**electrical, chemical, mechanical, thermal energy,** among others).

PRIORITIES

- SUSTAINABILITY
- DURABILITY
- MANUFACTURABILITY
- RECICLABILITY
- REDUCED RELIANCE ON CRMs

ADDITIONAL ASPECTS

- ✓ LIFE CYCLE ASSESMENT (LCA)
- ✓ TECHNO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (TEA)
- ✓ DIGITAL SUPPORTED METHODOLOGIES (AI, ML, multiscale modelling)

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1. Materials for energy storage and distribution systems

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop **safe** and **sustainable** materials for **energy storage** and **distribution**.
2. Create materials for short, medium, and long-duration **thermal storage**.
3. Engineer materials for medium and long-duration **electrochemical storage**.
4. Design novel material concepts for **energy carrier storage** and **distribution** (e.g., H_2, NH_3).
5. Innovate material-based solutions for **hybrid energy storage** systems.
6. Improve active **materials/electrolytes** for **high-capacity**, **long-cycling** batteries (beyond Li-ion, V-free redox flow).
7. Integrate **recycled materials** into functional storage components, validating performance and sustainability.
8. Advance **surface engineering** and **corrosion science** for durable energy systems.
9. Implement **risk-based analysis** for material selection to ensure **durability** and **low degradation**.

CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS

1. Additive manufacturing.
2. Multiscale and data-driven modelling
3. No critical raw materials
4. Recycling and low-cost

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1. Materials for energy storage and distribution systems

OBJECTIVES

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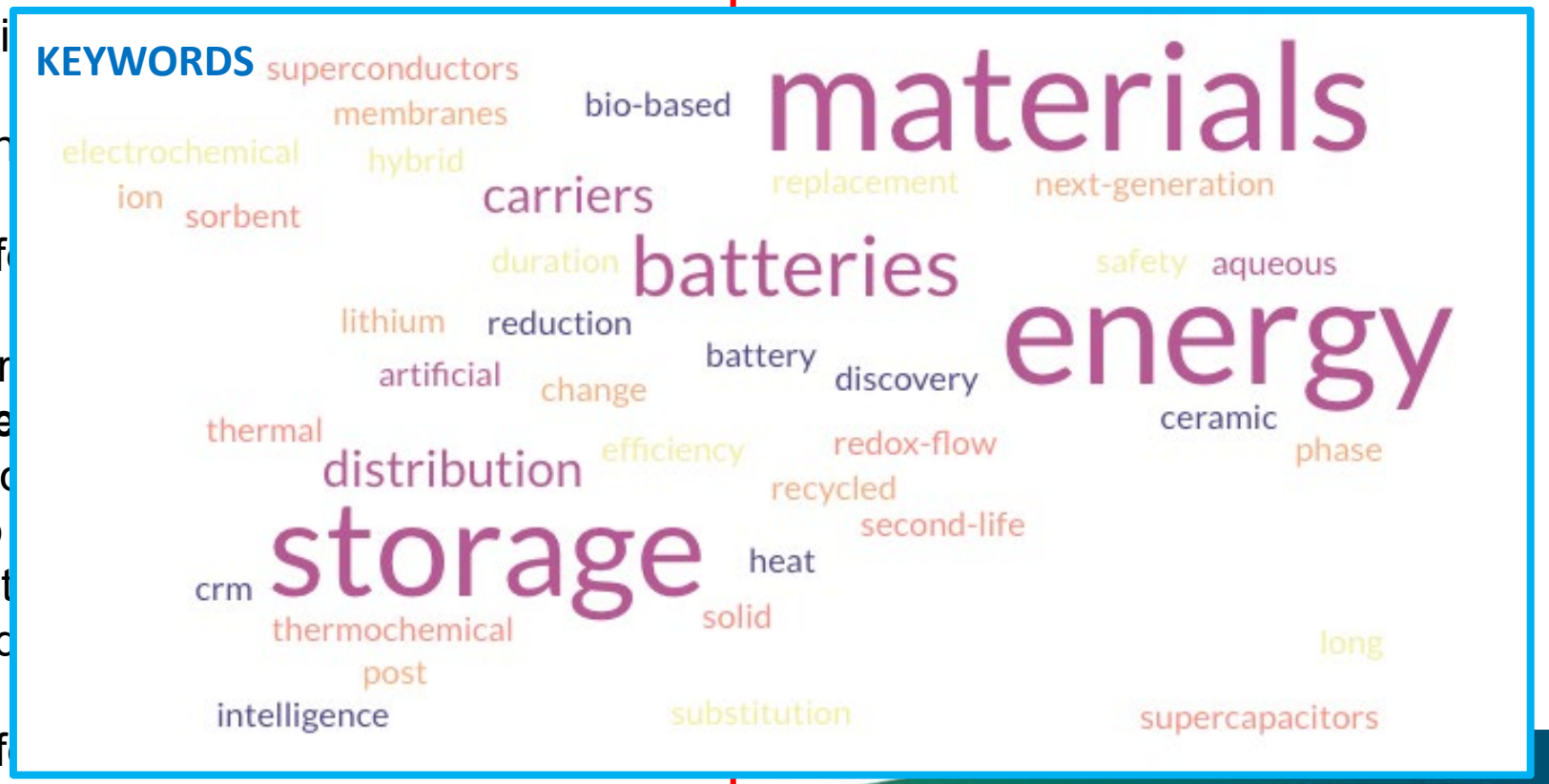

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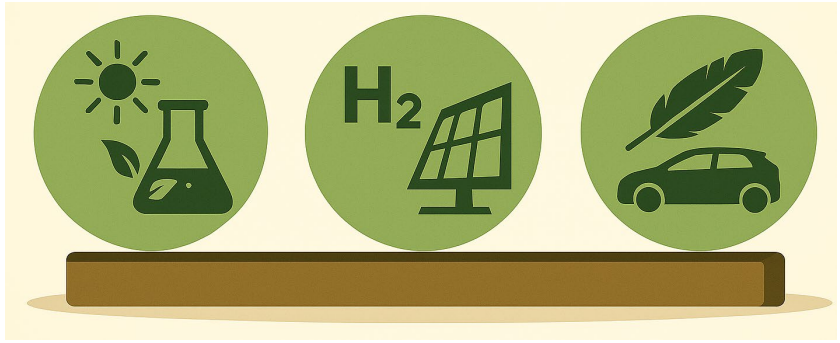
2. Materials for energy conversion

TECHNICAL CONTENT AND SCOPE: The main scope is the development and deployment of **advanced materials** and **processes** that **accelerate the energy transition** across generation, conversion and mobility.

PRIORITIES

- ELECTROLYZERS, FUEL CELLS & PHOTOVOLTAICS
- DISRUPTIVE CONCEPTS FOR ENERGY HARVESTING
- REDUCED RELIANCE ON CRMs
- LIGHTWEIGHT SOLUTIONS FOR MOBILITY



ADDITIONAL ASPECTS

- ✓ MATERIALS DISCOVERY
- ✓ LIFE CYCLE ASSESMENT (LCA)
- ✓ TECHNO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (TEA)
- ✓ DIGITAL SUPPORTED METHODOLOGIES (AI, ML, multiscale modelling, in-silico approaches)

2. Materials for energy conversion

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop materials for **electrolyzers** and **fuel cells**.
2. Optimize **active materials** for **photovoltaics**.
3. Investigate **new material concepts** for efficient energy harvesting, including **wind energy, hydroelectric energy, ocean energy, thermoelectric, triboelectric, piezoelectric, chemical, photothermal, photoelectrochemical, thermionic, bioenergy**, or other technologies.
4. Find **innovative materials** and **processes** for **sustainable e-fuels production** (e.g. ammonia, biodiesel, sustainable aviation fuels (SAF)…).
5. Develop **lightweight materials** for **clean mobility**.

CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS

1. In situ and/or operando experimental data mining.
2. In silico, machine learning and high-throughput screening
3. No critical raw materials
4. Recycling and low-cost
5. Additive manufacturing and standarization

References: https://aeml.mines.edu/, https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41918-019-00045-3

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2. Materials for energy conversion

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop materials for **electrolyzers** and **fuel cells**.
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4. Find **innovative materials** **fuels production** (e.g. am aviation fuels (SAF)…).
5. Develop **lightweight mate**

KEYWORDS

References: https://aeml.mines.edu/, https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41918-019-00045-3

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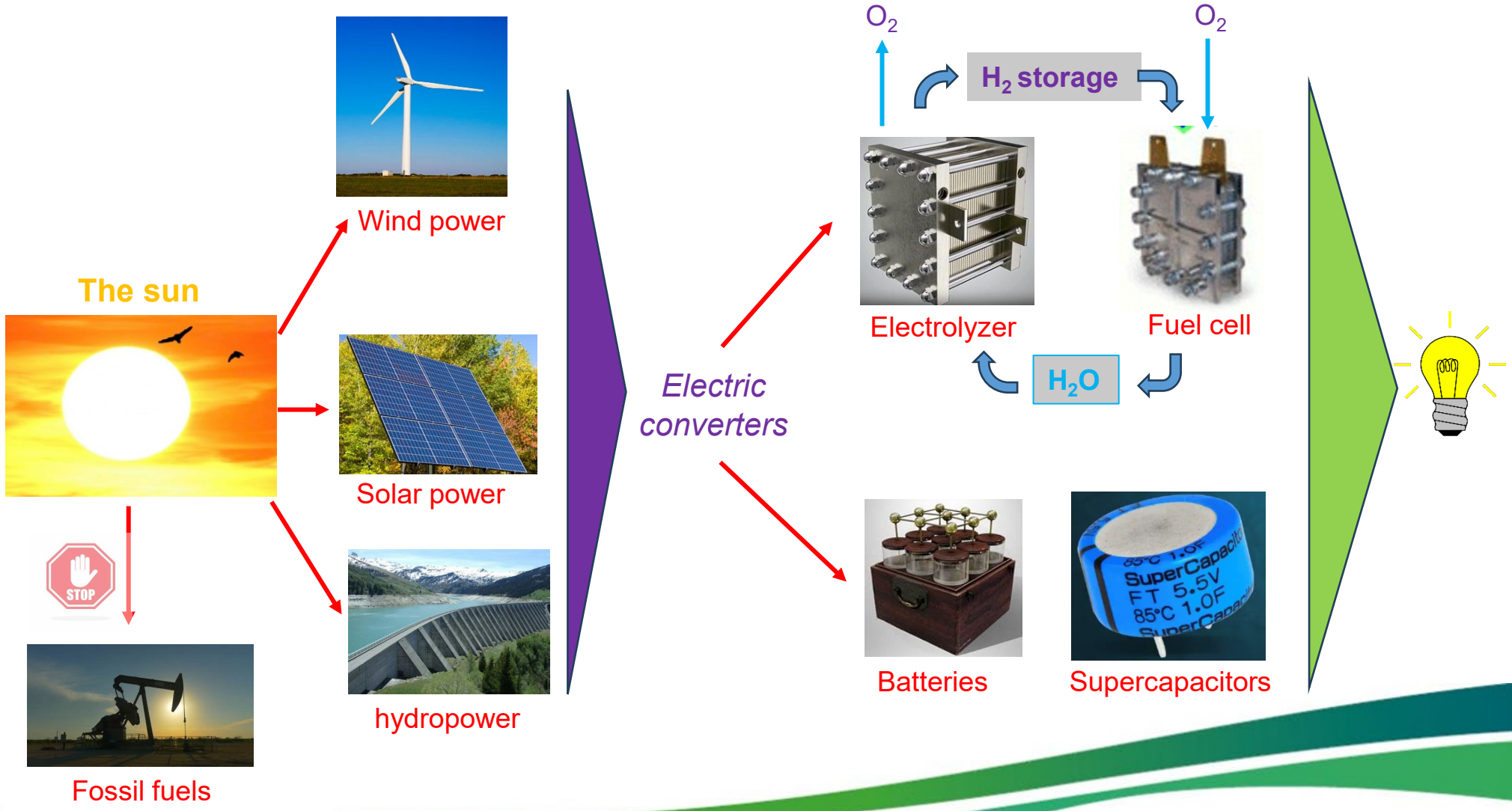
CLARIFY POTENTIAL OVERLAPS BETWEEN TOPICS 1 (STORAGE) AND 2 (CONVERSION)

The flow of electricity



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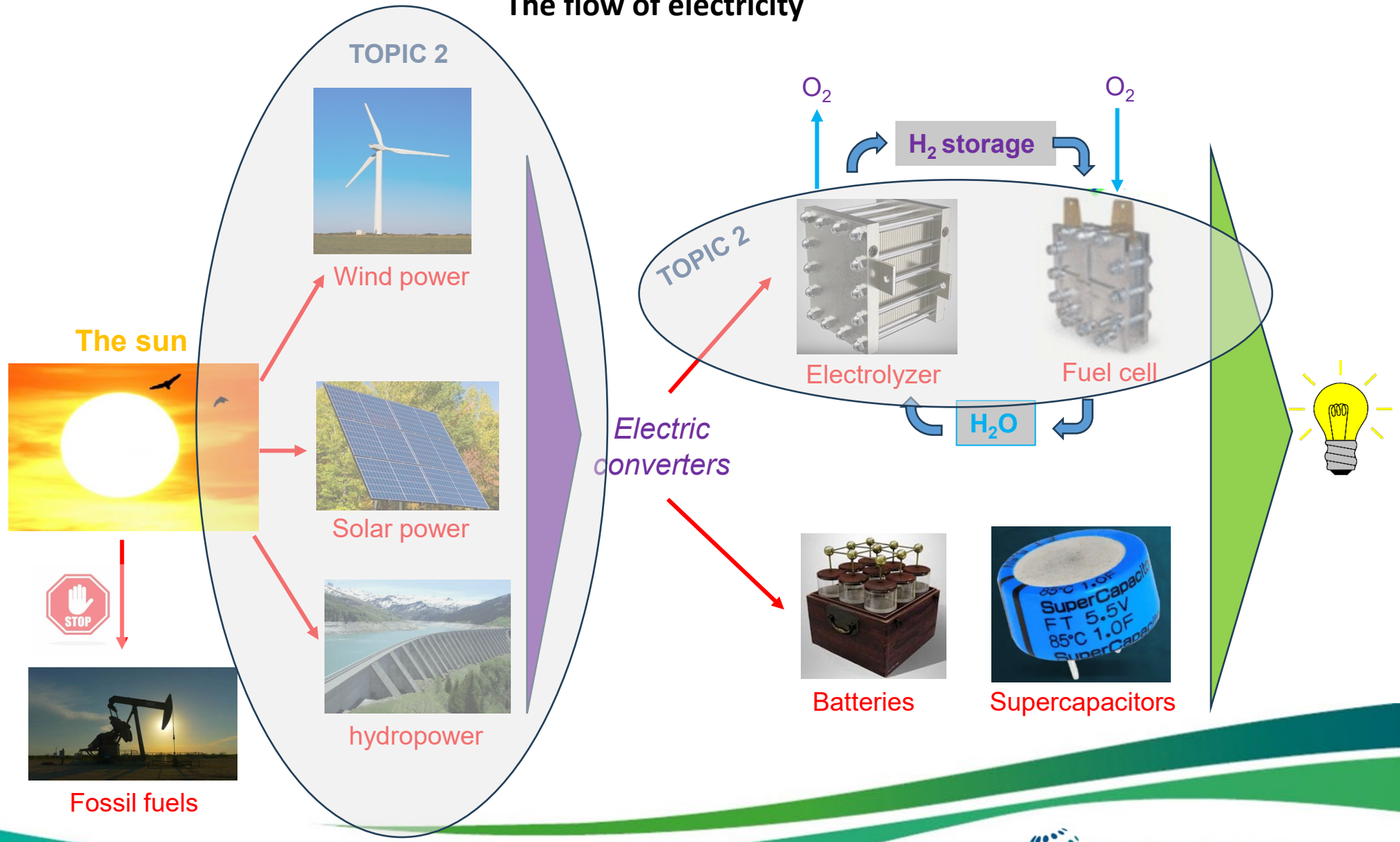

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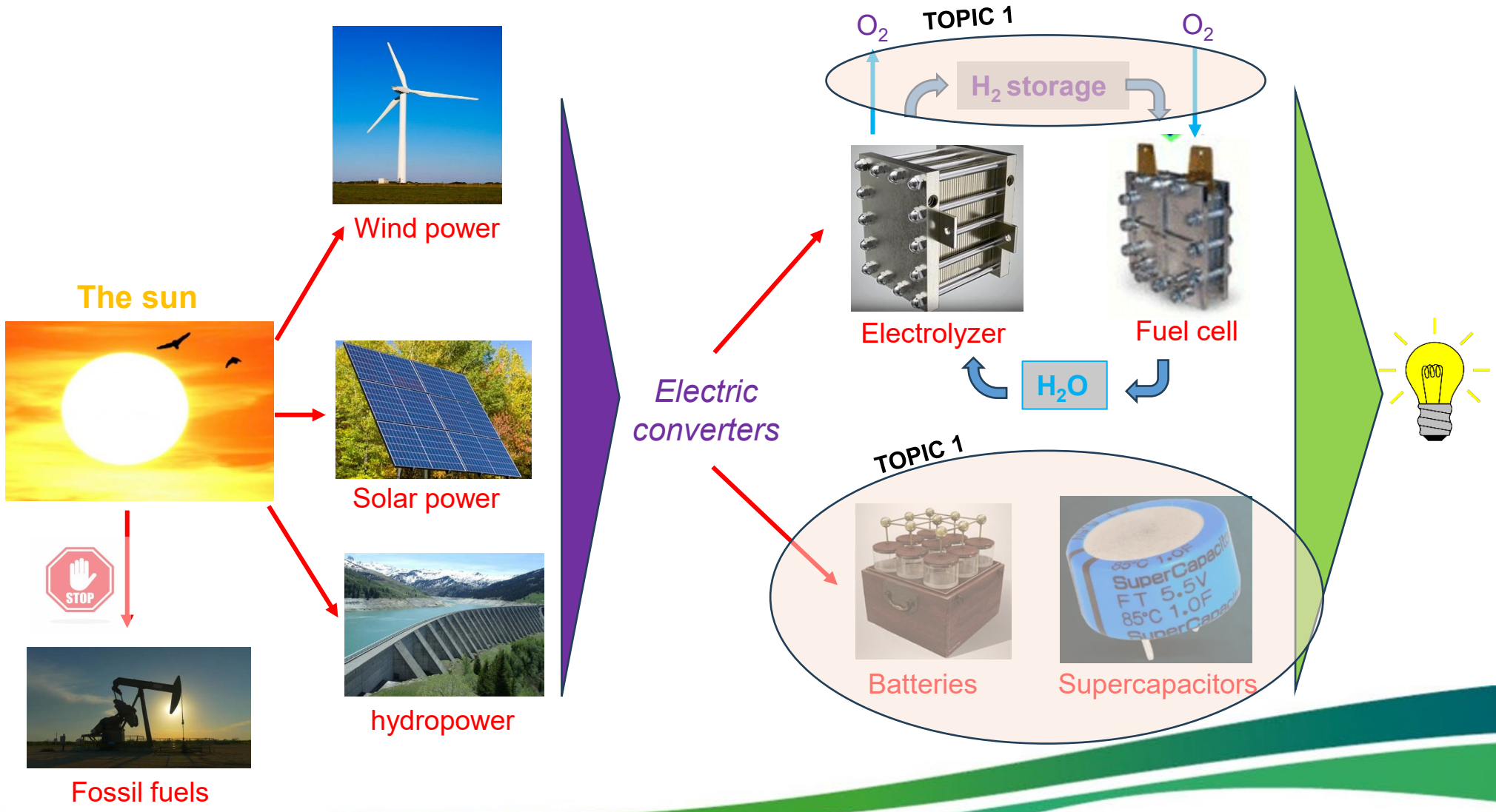

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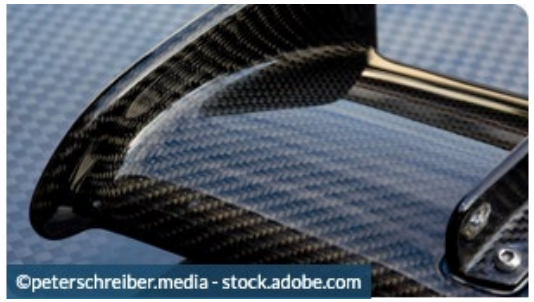
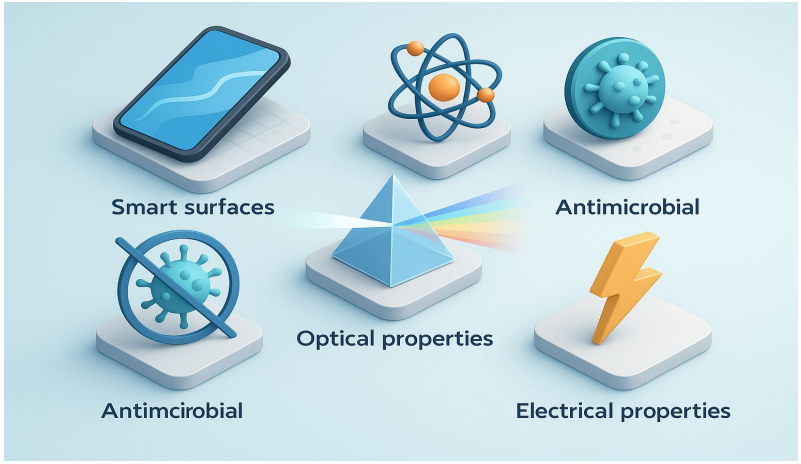


3. Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces

TECHNICAL CONTENT AND SCOPE: **Application-driven** development of **innovative surfaces**, **thin films**, **coatings**, **interfaces**, and related process technologies.

PRIORITIES

- STIMULI-RESPONSIVE AND ADAPTIVE COATINGS
- CATALYTIC SURFACES
- ANTI-CORROSION, ANTI-ICE, ANTI-SLIP SURFACES
- OPTICAL, ELECTRICAL AND MAGNETIC PROPERTIES
- ANTI-MICROBIAL, BIOCOM



ADDITIONAL ASPECTS

- ✓ SYNERGY INDUSTRY<--> ACADEMIA
- ✓ CIRCULARITY AND NO CRMs
- ✓ DIGITAL SUPPORTED METHODOLOGIES (modelling)

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3. Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop & optimize **advanced surfaces** technologies and **multifunctional coatings**, including **thin films**, **interfaces** and/or **interphases**.
2. Develop **surface texturing** to achieve targeted performance
3. Develop **surface modification** and recovery by additive manufacturing
4. Develop new or improved **processing technologies** considering **circular economy** and energy efficiency
5. Develop thin films and coatings for **sensing** applications, including **biosensing**
6. **Engineered functional interfaces** between artificial and biological systems.
7. Surfaces based on **engineered living materials** .

CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS

1. Include prototyping, up-scaling, manufacturing
2. Modelling & machine learning
3. No critical raw materials
4. Recycling and sustainability

References: https://aeml.mines.edu/ , https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41918-019-00045-3

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3. Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces

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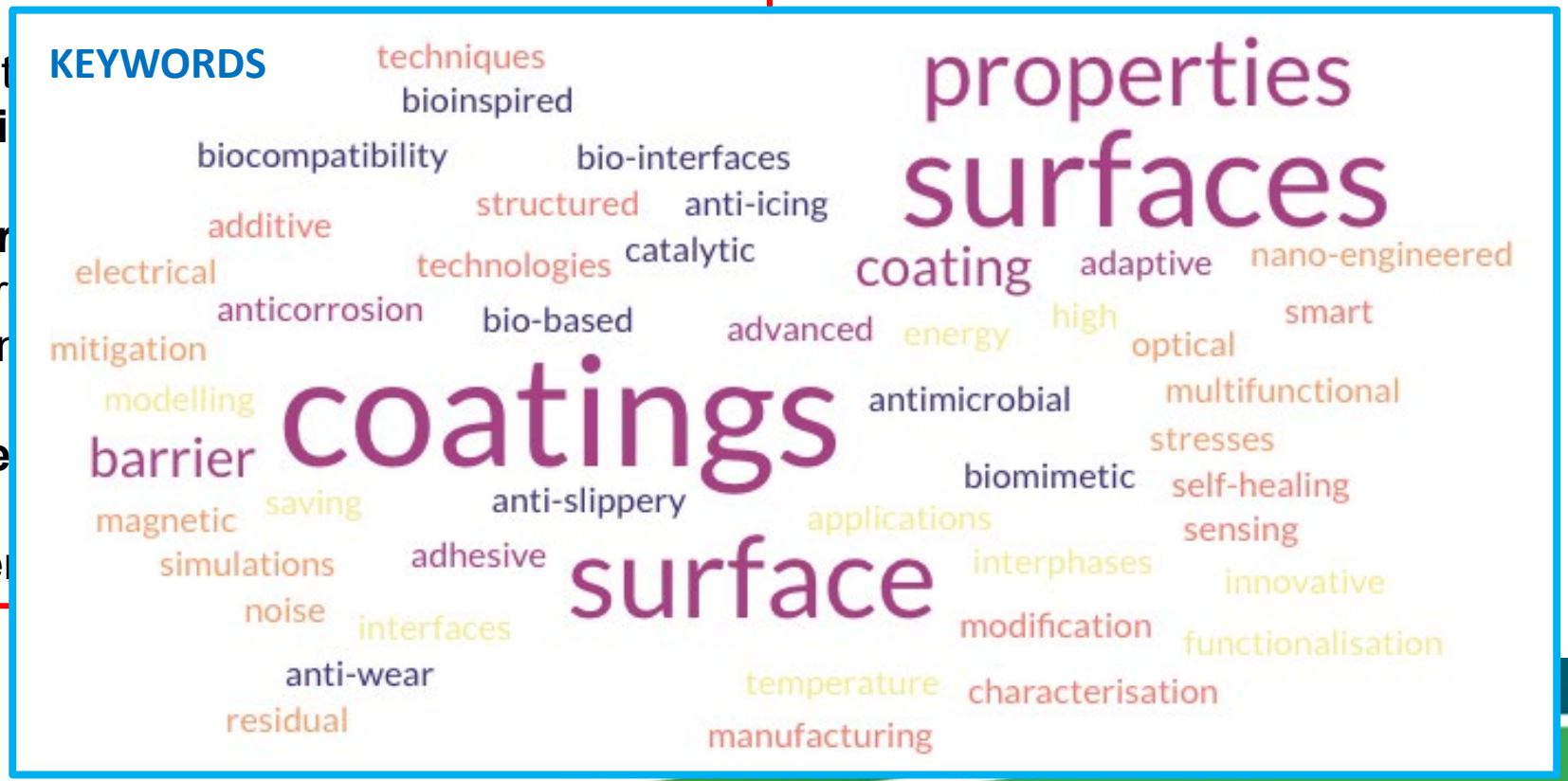

References: https://aeml.mines.edu/, https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41918-019-00045-3

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4. Innovative functional materials with defined architectures

TECHNICAL CONTENT AND SCOPE: The scope includes the development of materials and material systems possessing **defined architectures** (scale, complexity, hierarchy, arrangement, hybrid or (nano)composite structures, etc.), with specific characteristics (**mechanical, physical, thermal, chemical, electromagnetic, optical, biological**, etc.) leading to **desired functionalities**.

PRIORITIES

- CONDUCTIVITY,
- REACTIVITY
- ADAPTABILITY
- BIO-INTEGRATION
- STIMULI-REPONSIVE
- SENSING
- ACTUATION
- LIGHTWEIGHT
- DESIGN, SYNTHESIS & PROCESSING

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4. Innovative functional materials with defined architectures

OBJECTIVES

1. Design **metamaterials**, **heterostructures**, **hierarchica**l structures or topologies with **unconventional responses**.
2. Develop **smart materials** (textiles, composites, packaging materials, etc.) that include **sensing, detection, self-monitoring**, **adaptation** or **actuation** functions.
3. Develop **biocompatible, antimicrobial** or **bioactive** materials / materials architectures for **healthcare** or **agricultural** applications.
4. Design materials for **smart, energy efficient**, and / or **sustainable buildings** and construction (**thermal insulation**, **thermal management**, alternative materials, etc.).
5. Design materials for efficient **separation, liquid / gas purification** and **storage**.
6. Develop advanced **composites**, **lightweight** and **hybrid materials** with **enhanced strength-** or **stiffness-to-weight** ratios and / or functionalities.
7. **Enhanced durability of materials under harsh or extreme conditions**

CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS

1. Scalable processing routes
2. Modelling & machine learning
3. No critical raw materials
4. Recycling and sustainability

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4. Innovative functional materials with defined architectures

OBJECTIVES

1. Design **metamaterials**, **heterostructures**, **hierarchica**l structures or topologies with **unconventional responses**.
2. Develop **smart materials** (textiles, composites, packaging materials, etc.) that include **sensing**, or **actuation** functions.
3. Develop **biocompatible, a** materials architectures for
4. Design materials for **smar** **buildings** and constructio **management**, alternative
5. Design materials for efficie and **storage**.
6. Develop advanced **compo** with **enhanced strength-** functionalities.
7. **Enhanced durability of n conditions**

KEYWORDS

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5. Materials addressing environmental challenges

TECHNICAL CONTENT AND SCOPE: Support the transition towards a **circular economy** by addressing **design, synthesis, shaping, production, use** and **recovery** of advanced materials

PRIORITIES

- BIODEGRADABILITY,
- SUBSTITUTION OR REDUCTION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES
- SUBSTITUTION OR REDUCTION OF FOSSIL-BASED MATERIALS
- SUBSTITUTION OR REDUCTION OF CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS
- SENSING AND REMOVAL OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS
- MATERIALS RECYCLING

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5. Materials addressing environmental challenges

OBJECTIVES

1. **SSbD**, product and **material life extension** (self-healing; reparability, etc.), resource optimization (materials; water; energy, etc.), waste reduction and/or valorisation, life cycle perspective
   prediction assessment (failure, risk reduction, etc.)
2. **Biodegradable**, **bio-based** materials (biodegradable polymers, fibers, composites, etc.; new (bio)chemical processes that reduce sources of (nano/micro)plastic (e.g. for packaging, in agriculture, etc.)
3. **Substitution or reduction of hazardous substances, fossil-based** and/or **critical materials**, e.g. alternative to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
4. Advanced materials for **sensing** and **removal of hazardous substances** from air, water or soil
5. Clean and efficient **materials recycling,** easy dismantling and sorting; clean recovery and recycling technologies; **use of European secondary materials sources** to reduce the dependency on imported materials and to limit supply risks

CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS

1. Additive manufacturing for sustainable production
2. Modelling & machine learning
3. Industry-Academia collaboration
4. Assessment of economical and environmental impacts

References: https://aeml.mines.edu/ , https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41918-019-00045-3

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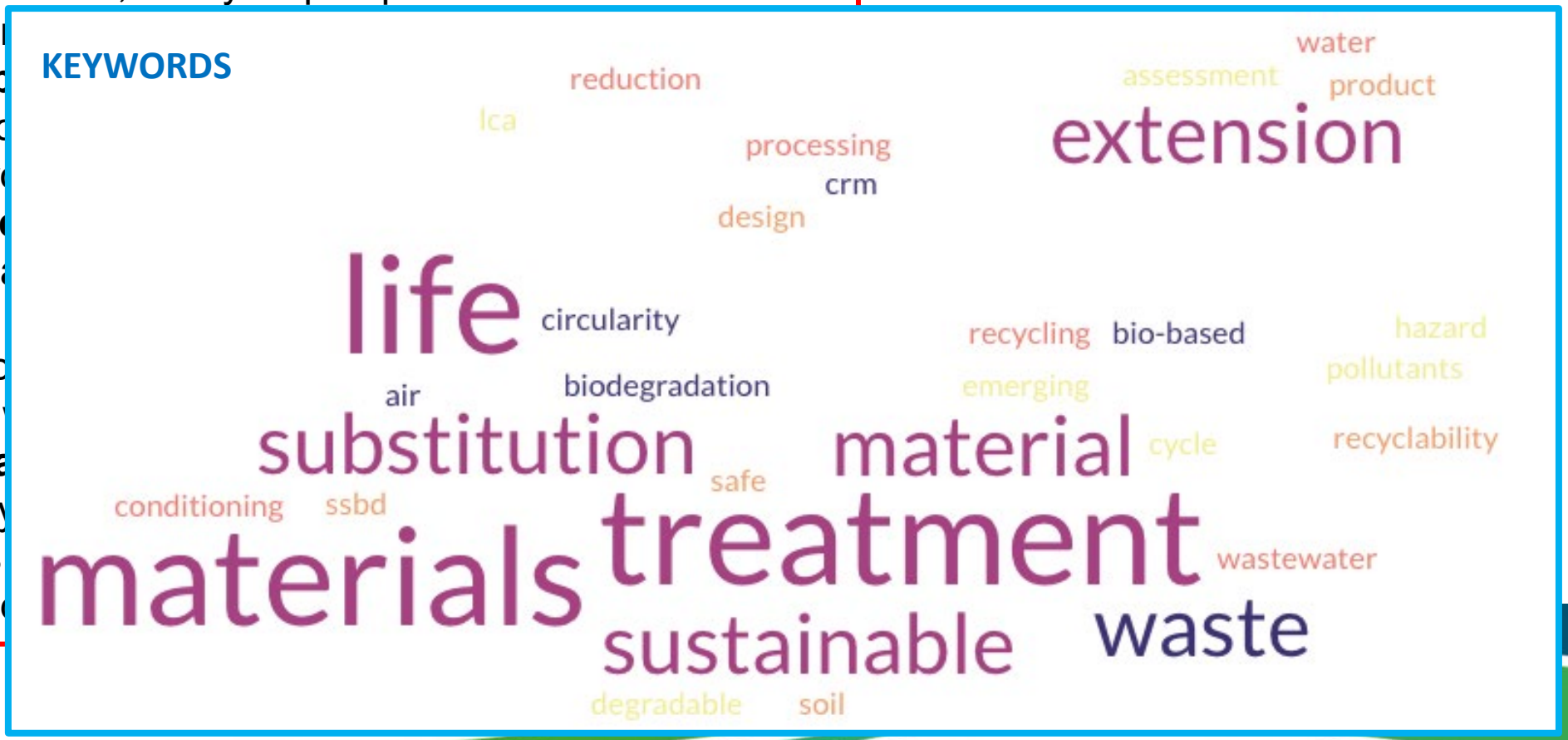
5. Materials addressing environmental challenges

OBJECTIVES

1. **SSbD**, product and **material life extension** (self-healing; reparability, etc.), resource optimization (materials; water; energy, etc.), waste reduction and/or valorisation, life cycle perspective
   prediction assessme
2. **Biodegradable**, **bio-b**
   fibers, composites, etc
   sources of (nano/micr
3. **Substitution or reduc**
   and/or **critical materi**
   substances (PFAS)
4. Advanced materials fo
   substances from air,
5. Clean and efficient **ma**
   sorting; clean recovery
   secondary materials
   imported materials an

KEYWORDS



References: https://aeml.mines.edu/ , https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41918-019-00045-3

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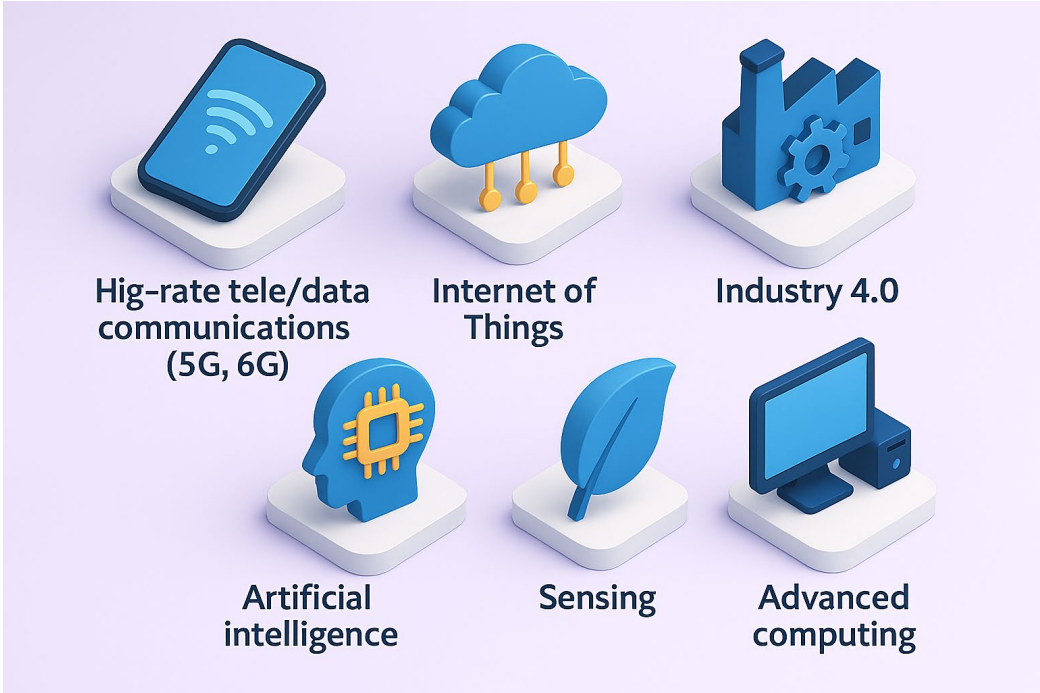
6. Next Generation Materials for Electronics

TECHNICAL CONTENT AND SCOPE: Research and design of a **next generation** of materials for **sustainable electronics**, with **improved performance** and **energy efficiency**, **reduced electronic waste** and **enhanced recyclability**.

PRIORITIES

- HIG—RATE TELE/DATA COMMUNICATIONS (5G, 6G CONNECTIVITY)
- INTERNET OF THINGS
- INDUSTRY 4.0
- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
- ADVANCED COMPUTING



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6. Next Generation Materials for Electronics

OBJECTIVES

1. Materials **complementary to silicon electronics** (low-dimensional materials, hybrid heterostructures, topological materials, etc.)
2. Materials for **sensors, actuators, transducers, processors**
3. Materials for **thermal management** in electronics
4. **Wearable, flexible, stretchable**, organic and/or **conformable** materials for responsible electronics
5. **Implantable, ingestible** and **bioresorbable** materials.
6. Materials for **ultralow-power** memories and electronics
7. Materials for **high-power electronics** (GaN, GaxOy, SiC, C, etc.)
8. Materials for **More-than-Moore electronics** (spintronics, orbitronics, valleytronics, etc.)
9. Materials for **optoelectronics**, **photonics** and integrated photonics
10. **Substitution of hazardous or critical raw materials**, reduced carbon footprint and green electronics

CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS

1. Additive manufacturing for sustainable production
2. Modelling & machine learning
3. SSbD materials

References: https://aeml.mines.edu/, https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41918-019-00045-3

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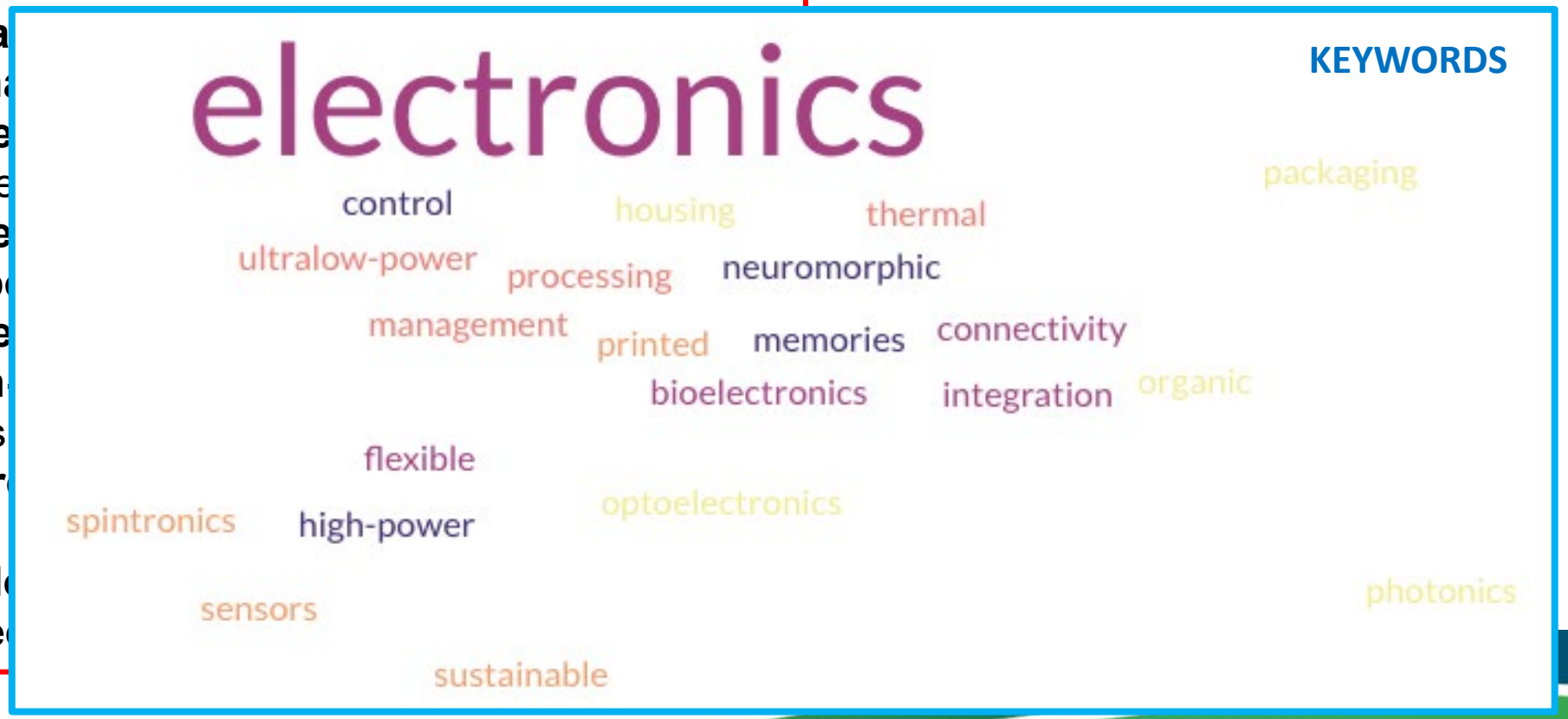
6. Next Generation Materials for Electronics

OBJECTIVES

1. Materials **complementary to silicon electronics** (low-dimensional materials, hybrid heterostructures, topological materials, etc.)
2. Materials for **sensors, a**
3. Materials for **thermal ma**
4. **Wearable, flexible, stre** materials for responsible
5. **Implantable, ingestible**
6. Materials for **ultralow-p**
7. Materials for **high-powe**
8. Materials for **More-than** orbitronics, valleytronics
9. Materials for **optoelectr** photonics
10. **Substitution of hazard** carbon footprint and gre



References: https://aeml.mines.edu/, https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41918-019-00045-3

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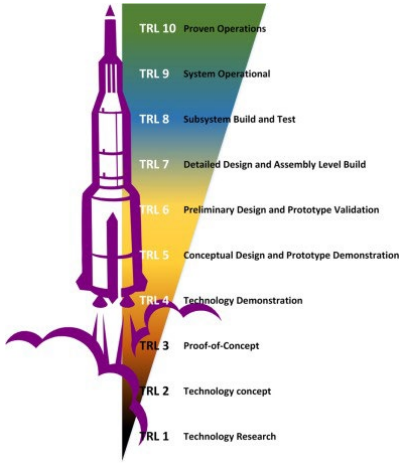
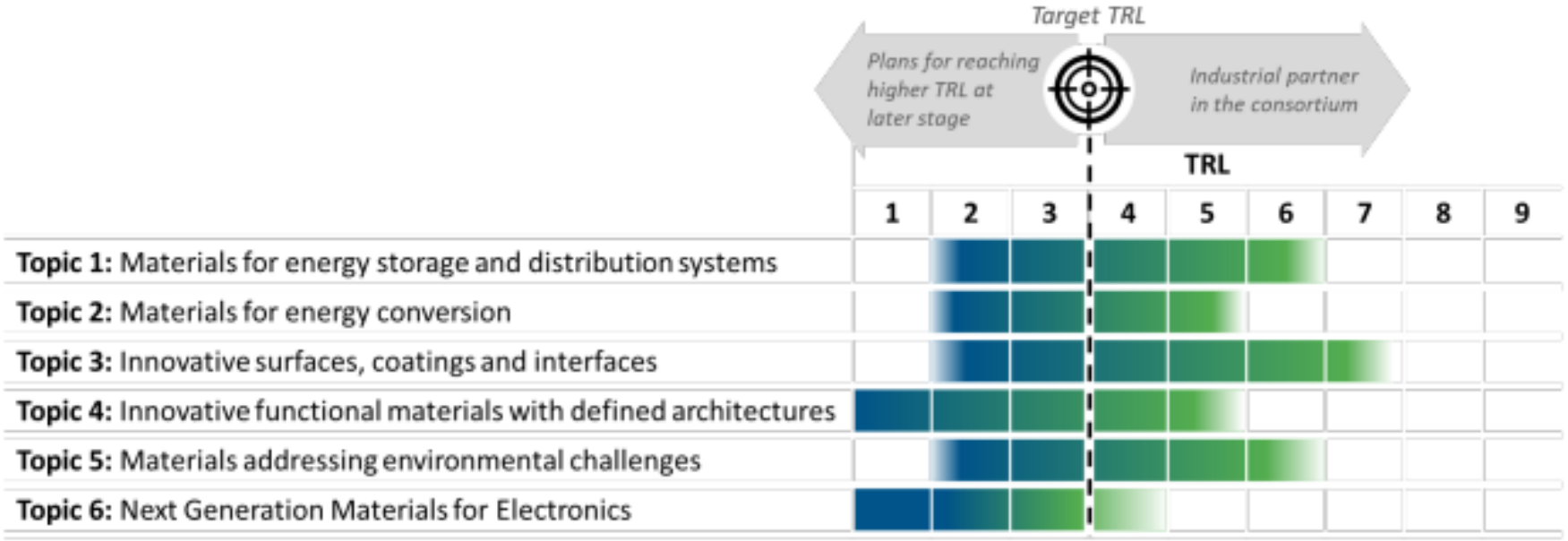
Thematic Priorities - TRLs





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Thanksiiii

Questions:
era-mat@aei.gob.es

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FECYT INNOVACIÓN

AGENCIA ESTATAL DE INVESTIGACIÓN

Call 2026 webinar
Responsible Resarch and Innovation (RRI) and sustainability

Cecilie A. Mathiesen, Task leader RRI

M-ERA.NET

M-ERA.NET Call 2025 webinar
18.3.2026

This presentation

- M-ERA.NET's approach to RRI
- RRI Guidelines version 1.2
- What is RRI?
- Why do we need it?
- RRI tailoring
- M-ERA.NET and sustainability
- Call text example
- How does M-ERA.NET support and evaluate RRI?
- Web resources for including RRI in your project

Horizontal objectives

Supporting the achievement of the United Nations' SDGs:

M-ERA.NET will contribute to a wider public debate on the impact of materials research and its potential to achieve the SDGs. In particular, M-ERA.NET will support SDG 6 ("Clean water and sanitation") through the development of materials and processes for water treatment, SDG 7 ("Affordable and clean energy") through fostering research on sustainable energy storage technology, SDG 9 ("Industrial innovation and infrastructure") by upgrading the technological capabilities of industrial sectors and SDG 12 ("Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns") through an environmentally sound management of natural resources and reduced waste generation.

Creating socio-ecological benefits in the context of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI):

M-ERA.NET joint calls will address EU areas of socio-ecological relevance, illustrating the leveraging effects materials research and innovation have on areas that reflect meaningful societal needs. M-ERA.NET will develop responsible research and innovation processes to systematically address socio-ecological, ethical and political dimensions of material research, development and use. Please refer to the topic descriptions and the M-ERA.NET RRI guidelines

M-ERA.NET's approach to RRI

We recognise that the materials resulting from the programme need to be designed for a sustainable society in the near to medium future

- The RRI **aproach** is a good approach to achieving just that
- We highlight the need to address **the social, environmental, political, cultural or ethical dimensions** of the proposed research
- **RRI offers four dimensions** that researchers, funders and technologists should engage with to maintain focus on the social context of their work

What is RRI? The four AIRR dimensions of an RRI «mindset»:

Anticipation

Anticipate the future known and unknown **risks** associated with a science or technology;

Inclusion

Include a broad range of **stakeholders** in the development of science and technologies;

Reflexivity

Reflect on the underlying **assumptions and values** driving a scientific research project;

Responsiveness

Respond to **these processes** by incorporating their outcomes into the design of or corse in research projects and funding programmes.

Photo: C. Mathiesen @RRI Guidelines Workshop by EuroNanoMed3 in 2019

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Horison Europe programe guide update May 2025

The Horizon Europe Programme Guide had a very inspiring and important update:

- programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf (page 22)
- “Creation of a new Part 11. ‘Societal Readiness (SR)’» also including “Societal Readiness informed by Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)”, explained as AIRR

Societal Readiness informed by Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) is a research framework used to anticipate and assess potential implications and societal needs and expectations with regard to research and innovation (R&I), and has underpinned the development of key concepts related to societal readiness. RRI initiatives are designed towards a comprehensive participation of all stakeholders involved in the process of R&I starting from a very early stage, from design and co-creation to implementation and evaluation.

RRI outlines to the following dimensions to be practiced in research[13,14]:

- **Reflection** on the goals, values, and activities of R&I: Reflection is about reasoning on the underlying motivations, assumptions, and commitments driving the R&I work.

[11] Definition informed by NewHoRRizon project’s Societal Readiness Thinking Tool (for Applicants) and Geels “Socio-technical transitions to sustainability” https://newhorrizon.eu/thinking-tool/

[12] See https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/vulnerable-person_en

[13] Owen, R., Macnaghten, P., & Stilgoe, J. (2012). Responsible Research and Innovation: From science in society to science for society, with society. Science and Public Policy, 39(6), 751–760. https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scs093

[14] Burget, M., Bardone E., Pedaste M., (2017). Definitions and Conceptual Dimensions of Responsible Research and Innovation: A Literature Review. Science and Engineering Ethics, 23, 1-19 https://doi.org/10.1007/s11948-016-9782-1

23

- **Inclusion** of broader, diverse groups of stakeholders and participants: Closely related to public engagement and stakeholder involvement, inclusion is about involving relevant societal actors in R&I activities from an early stage, and ensuring continuous, open dialogue about desirable outcomes throughout the project.
- **Anticipation** of possible consequences, knock-on effects, unintended consequences of R&I: Anticipation is about carefully examining both the intended and possible unintended consequences arising from R&I activities, including environmental, health-related, economic, and social impacts.
- **Responsiveness** to recommendations and changes to improve R&I processes in the service of improved public impact: Responsiveness is about aligning R&I activities with the new perspectives, insights, awareness, and values that emerge in the process of being more anticipatory, reflexive, and inclusive in R&I processes. It presupposes a will to learn from practical experience and a capacity to translate this learning into responsible R&I solutions.

RRI in a nutshell

(From the M-ERA-NET guidelines for Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in the context of materials science v 1.2)

For M-Eranet, **RRI is about making sure science and new technologies help people and the planet**. It asks scientists to think about **who might benefit or face challenges** from their work and **to prepare** for possible problems. RRI encourages **involving others**, like future users or communities, to understand their needs and concerns. It also **pushes researchers to reflect on their goals and change plans** if new issues come up. By focusing on **sustainability and fairness**, RRI helps ensure that science and innovation **supports global goals** like protecting the environment and creating a better future for everyone. Rather than providing strict rules, **RRI offers a flexible framework with techniques and tools to guide researchers in considering the ethical, environmental, and social aspects of their work**.

How can you include RRI in your proposal?

1. M-ERA.NET's philosophy is to have **RRI as an integrated part of the project** involving all project participants.
2. Developing a **shared understanding of the project's RRI aspects** as early as possible is important.
   - having conversations about their importance and potential actions
   - will evolve in a learning process throughout the project
3. Considering RRI-related issues and acting upon them, must be done as a cross-cutting part of the project or a separate work package. RRI in the project needs to be **coordinated** and should have a **lead**

Why do we need the RRI approach? A shared responsibility

Science is separate neither from society nor the environment, but part of them

Funders, researchers and other key groups involved in the development of science, technology and innovation should think about:

(i) the potential directions of research being taken
(ii) who might benefit and who might not from new inventions
(iii) how consideration of the potential social, environmental and ethical issues can be considered throughout the science and innovation process.

RRI tailoring

RRI is not a one-size-fits-all methodology but **must be adapted** to the actual social, environmental and ethical issues raised by the **R&I activities in the proposal**/funded in the programme.

- Foundational, exploratory research will require a different approach to (RRI than) applied, high-TRL research

- Disruptive, pathbreaking research may require a more substantive approach to RRI than tentative, incremental research

M-ERA.NET and sustainability

- M-ERA.NET has fundamental commitments to sustainability in line with frameworks such as
  - the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and
  - the European Green Deal

- Thus, methods analysing the current or future ecological impacts of materials and their supply chains are appropriate

- **In sum RRI provides a framework to ask *how* research and innovation should be carried out in order to ensure that we achieve the sustainability goals in an open and inclusive way**

- **RRI methodology can contribute to increase both excellence, impact and implementation of a project.**

Sustainability and RRI in the M-ERA.NET calls

- **The specific requirements for each topic in the current call** are detailed in a section labelled **"sustainability and RRI requirements"**.
- **M-ERA.NET requires that all proposers explain how their projects demonstrate a commitment to RRI by investigating and addressing the environmental, social, ethical, political, or cultural dimensions of the proposed research**
- Example on next slide
- The "Expected impact" text is also important when shaping your RRI methods.

Topic 1: Materials for energy storage and distribution systems

Sustainability and RRI requirements

M-ERA.NET requires that all proposers explain how their projects demonstrate a commitment to RRI by investigating and addressing the environmental, social, ethical, political, or cultural dimensions of the proposed research.

In line with the M-ERA.NET RRI annex, proposals should consider the following points:

- Resources: the use of resources overall, the environmental properties of the materials, the use of critical raw materials, energy, water, etc.
- Green-production-processes: use of environmentally friendly solvents, avoiding hazardous elements, substances of concern, minimizing energy and water consumption during production and preserving worker's health.
- Use phase: the sustainability of the conditions under which the material can be used (continuous energy use, releases to the environment, life span, etc.).
- End of life: the entry of the material into the circular economy, including re-use, remanufacturing or recycling considerations.
- Involvement of relevant societal stakeholders as appropriate.

Proposals should describe potential trade-offs between sustainability burdens and benefits, and include an activity where relevant aspects are further investigated, potentially with corresponding impacts on the design of the material(s).

How does M-ERA.NET support and evaluate RRI?

- **Responsibility must be shared,** RRI is a cross-cutting issue for M-ERA.NET.
- RRI is considered in development of the annual work programme and the resulting funding calls.
- RRI components evaluated by experts as integral components within the scope of all evaluation criteria (Excellence, Impact, and Implementation).
- Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) - M-ERA.NET

Web resources for including RRI in your project:

- M-ERA.NET RRI Guidelines v1.2
- toolbox | 'Toolbox' for researchers, technology developers and engineers (cta-toolbox.nl)
  is a small but fine collection of tools that are broadly addressing how you can become aware of the downstream consequences of your research.
- https://thinkingtool.eu/ The Societal Readiness Thinking Tool guides you through the steps of including RRI in a project.
- The Digital Life Centre offers practical advice that may help develop your approach.
- Tools for public engagement: https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/resources and http://actioncatalogue.eu/
- RRI in M-ERA.NET (YouTube)

Thank you!

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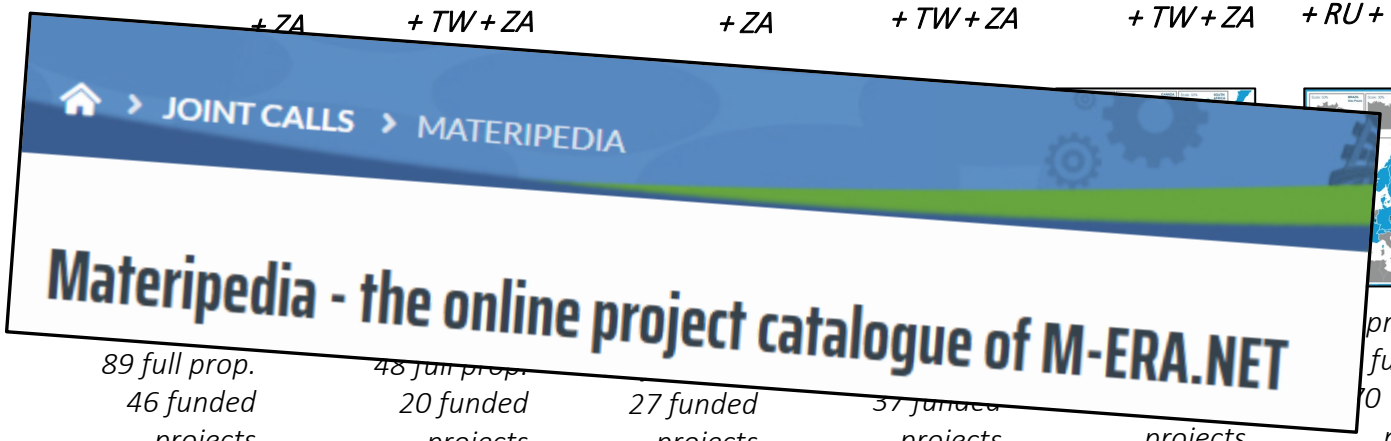
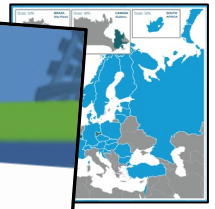
M-ERA.NET Call 2026: participating countries

Fabienne Nikowitz
M-ERA.NET call secretariat
Call 2026 webinar, 18 March 2026

M-ERA.NET

Annual joint calls: variable geometry

- **Openness**: network activities (e.g. additional joint calls) are **open to additional countries/regions/organisations**

Call 2016:	*Call 2017:*	*Call 2018:*	*Call 2019:*	*Call 2020:*	*Call 2021:*	*Call 2022:*	*Call 2023:*	*Call 2024:*	*Call 2025:*
35 funding orgs.	*31 funding orgs.*	*33 funding orgs.*	*35 funding orgs.*	*28 funding orgs.*	*45 funding orgs.*	*34 funding orgs.*	*38 funding orgs.*	*35 funding orgs.*	*38 funding orgs.*
22 EU MS/AC + BR + RU + TW + ZA	*22 EU MS/AC + BR + KR + RU + TW + ZA*	*20 EU MS/AC + BR + RU + TW + ZA*	*21 EU MS/AC + BR + CA + RU + TW + ZA*	*16 EU MS/AC + BR + CA + RU + TW + ZA*	*26 EU MS/AC + BR + CA + KR + RU + TW + ZA*	*21 EU MS/AC + BR + CA + KR + TW + ZA*	*24 EU MS/AC + BR + CA + KR + TW + ZA*	*22 EU MS/AC + BR + CA + KR + TW + ZA*	*25 EU MS/AC + BR + CA + KR + TW + ZA*
									
89 full prop. 46 funded projects	*48 full prop. 20 funded projects*	*27 funded projects*	*37 funded projects*	*projects*	*pre-prop. full prop. 0 funded projects*	*289 pre-prop. 127 full prop. 46 funded projects*	*382 pre-prop. 110 full prop 43 funded projects*	*389 pre-prop. 103 full prop 31 funded projects*	*383 pre-prop. 106 full prop 28 funded projects*

[Materipedia]

[Links & Downloads]

https://www.m-era.net/joint-calls

M-ERA.NET

Participating countries

- **34 national/regional funding organisations participate in the M-ERA.NET Call 2026**
  https://www.m-era.net/joint-call-2026/participating-countries-regions-call-2026
  - 19 EU Member States
  - associated countries: M-ERA.NET adopts the Association to Horizon Europe
    → 6 associated countries incl. 1 new association: CH (transitional arrangement)
  - + 3 third countries: BR + TW + ZA
- matrix of countries/regions & supported topics
  - detailed information on national/regional programmes:
    - national/regional requirements
    - contacts (see also Guide for Proposers, Annex)

Call 2026:
eligibility

M-ERA.NET

Eligibility

1. M-ERA.NET eligibility criteria

2. National/Regional eligibility criteria

- see FAQs, Guide for Proposers:
  - https://www.m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2026

M-ERA.NET

M-ERA.NET eligibility criteria

- ✓ minimum requirement: Project consortia must consist of
  - at least **3 partners** (all requesting funding from a funding organisation listed in Annex 3) from at least **3 different countries** (at least **2 EU member** states or Horizon Europe **associated countries**) **participating in the M-ERA.NET Call 2026**.
  - additional further partners are allowed, including applicants not asking for funding (self-funded)
  - the coordinator is eligible and must request funding from a participating funding organisation
  - applicants affiliated to Russian institutions are excluded from Call 2026
- ✓ only one M-ERA.NET Call 2026 topics can be selected
- ✓ TRLs of planned activities must be within eligible range of the selected Call 2026 topic
- ✓ project duration: max 36 months
- ✓ total effort of one single applicant cannot exceed 60% of the total project efforts (measured in person months)
- ✓ total effort of applicants from one country cannot exceed 70% of the total project efforts (measured in p.m.).
- ✓ Mandatory proposal forms must be used, written in English, submitted before deadline. Forms must be completed (including tables). The structure of the proposal forms must not be changed. **Any restructuring and change of the formatting conditions of the proposal forms will result in the formal rejection of the proposal.** This includes changing the font and its size, interline interval, spacing, margins, document size, tables, individual sections of the template.
- ✓ PIC (Participant Identification Code) is required for all partners (available via EC portal)

National/Regional eligibility criteria

- defined by respective funding organisation –see country/region sub-pages
  - https://www.m-era.net/joint-call-2026/participating-countries-regions-call-2026
- examples/categories:
  - type of applicants (SMEs, large companies, academic research groups, universities, public research organisations or other research organisations)
  - financial status of applicants (especially industrial applicants);
  - selected call topics;
  - range of TRLs for the selected topic
  - specific national/regional application forms (if applicable)
  - limited number of Pre-Proposals per applicant
  - consortium composition
  - potential limitation of requested budgets per pre-proposal.

Contact your funding organisation

Result of eligibility checks

- eligibility checks are carried out in both stage: pre- and full-proposal stage
- only eligible proposals are sent to M-ERA.NET central evaluation
- if one or more partner(s) responsible for more than 15% of the total project efforts (measured in persons month) is/are deemed ineligible, the project will not be invited for pre- or full-proposal evaluation

M-ERA.NET Call 2026

Schedule & workflow
Evaluation procedures

Larissa Chaperman – ANR/FR

Call 2026 Information Webinar

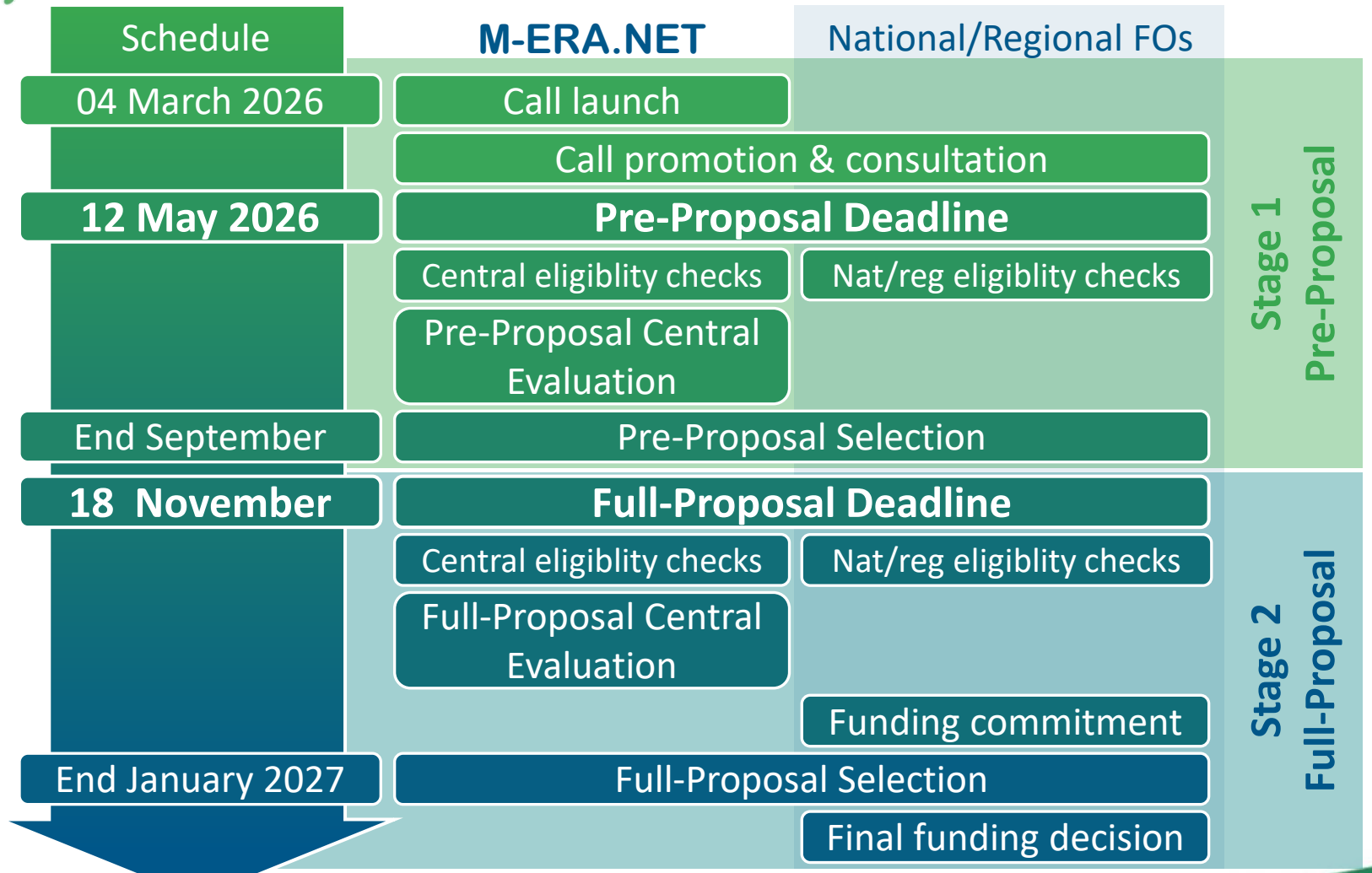
18/03/2026

M-ERA.NET

M-ERA.NET call 2026

Date	Step
4 Mar 2026	Launch of the Call 2025
12 May 2026	**Deadline for submission of Pre-Proposals** *(12:00 noon, Brussels time)*
Jun – Sept 2026	Central evaluation of Pre-Proposals
Sept 2026	**Pre-Proposal Selection Meeting** – selection of pre-proposals invited to full-proposal submission **and feedback to applicants**
18 Nov 2026	**Deadline for submission of Full-Proposals** *(12:00 noon, Brussels time)*
Nov 2026 – Jan 2027	Central evaluation of Full-Proposals
end Jan 2027	**Selection Meeting** – selection of full-proposals recommended for funding **and feedback to applicants**
Feb 2027	Contract negotiations for selected proposals on national/regional level
Feb - May 2027	Start of funded projects
May 2030	End of all funded projects
Jul 2030	Deadline for final reporting

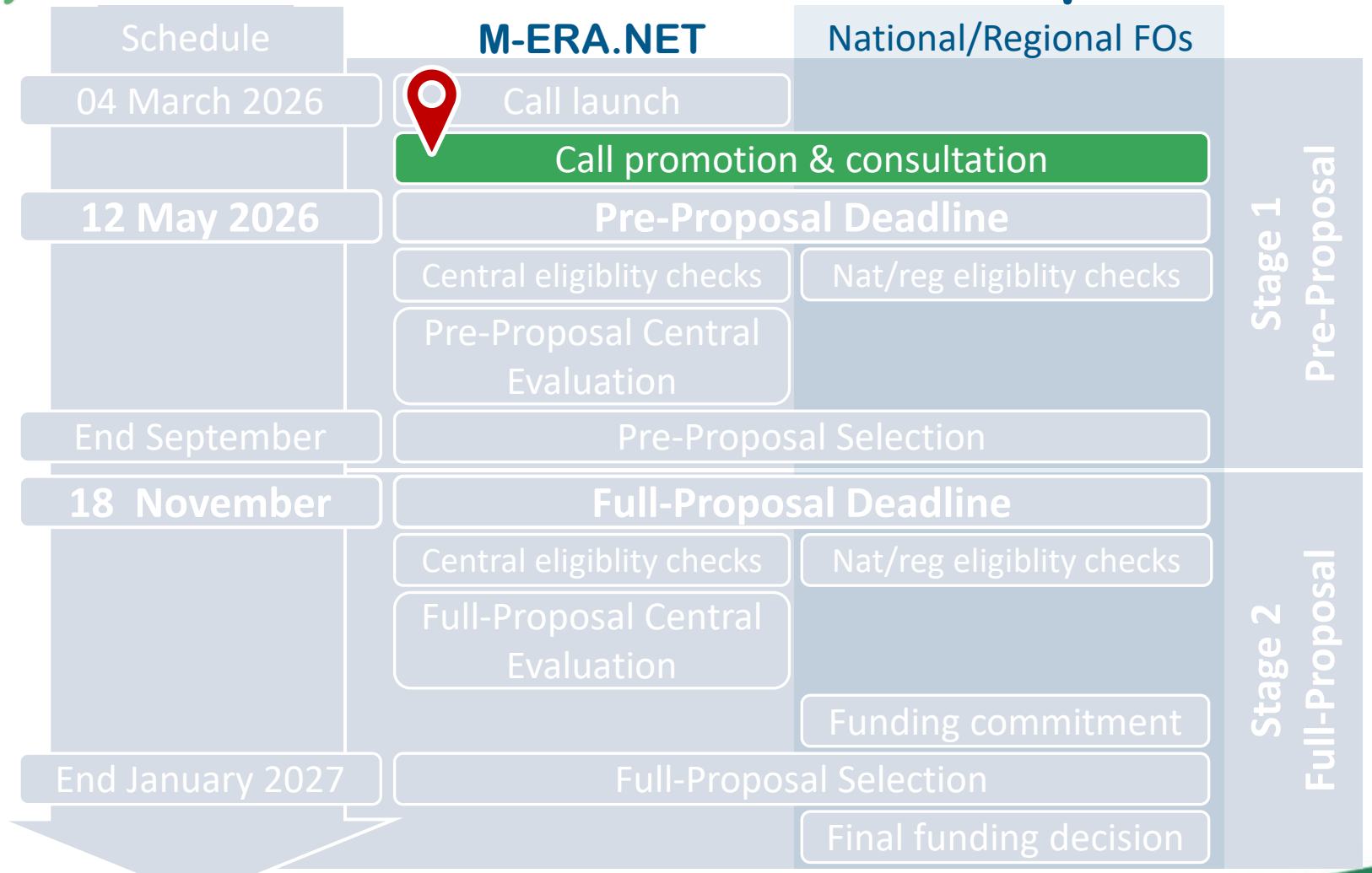
M-ERA.NET call 2026 - workflow



M-ERA.NET's calls follow a two-stage procedure.

Only pre-proposals invited to stage 2 can submit a full proposal.

M-ERA.NET call 2026 – call open



Formation of the consortia and elaboration of the proposals

Useful resources:

- Materipedia
- Success stories
- Partner search tool
- Call results/statistics
- Various assessments/reports
- Call 2026 webpage
  - Call text
  - National/regional rules
  - FAQ

M-ERA.NET call 2026 - submission

Schedule	M-ERA.NET	National/Regional FOs	
04 March 2026	Call launch		Stage 1 Pre-Proposal
	Call promotion & consultation		
12 May 2026	**Pre-Proposal Deadline**		
	Central eligiblity checks	Nat/reg eligiblity checks	
	Pre-Proposal Central Evaluation		
End September	Pre-Proposal Selection		
18 November	**Full-Proposal Deadline**		Stage 2 Full-Proposal
	Central eligiblity checks	Nat/reg eligiblity checks	
	Full-Proposal Central Evaluation		
		Funding commitment	
End January 2027	Full-Proposal Selection		
		Final funding decision	

Start of funded proposals: February-May 2027

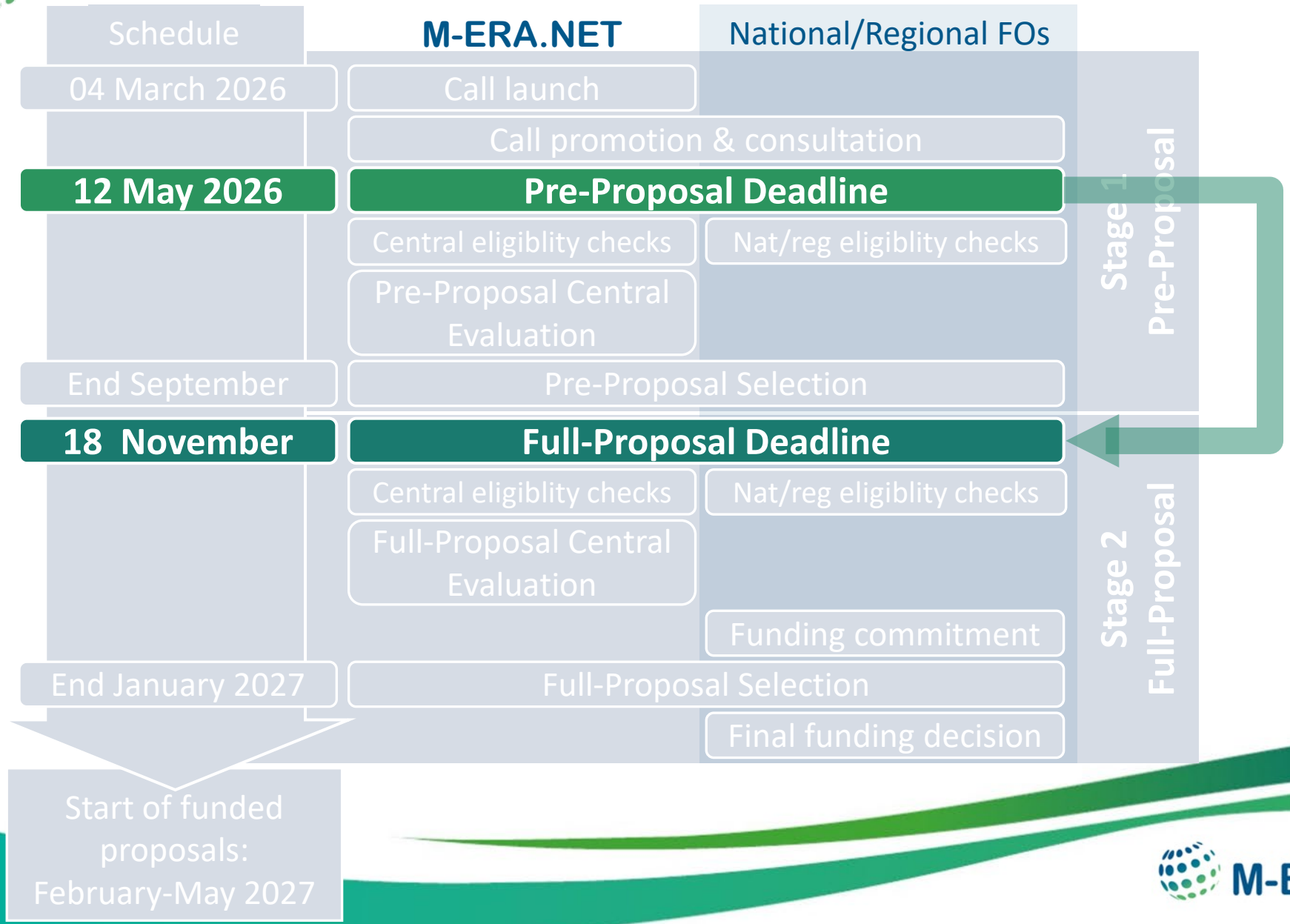
- At M-ERA.NET level, each proposal must be submitted by the coordinator partner
- Additional submission procedures and documents may be necessary at national/regional level

➢ Each partner is required to verify that they comply with the rules of their funding organisation

➢ Link to submission tool and a tutorial will soon be available

No submission or modification of documents will be accepted after the deadlines

M-ERA.NET call 2026 - submission



Workflow highlight:

Changes from Pre- to Full-Proposal

Changes from Pre- to Full-Proposal

- **Project objectives stated in the Pre-Proposal cannot be changed**
- **Changes in the consortium should be avoided.** Modifications of the consortium are restricted to partners from countries already part of the Pre-Proposal consortium. It is not accepted to introduce new countries into the existing consortium.
- **In general, changes from Pre- to Full-Proposal should be avoided.** In any case, changes from Pre- to Full-Proposal stage have to be coordinated by the consortium leader with all involved funding organisations.

*This means that major changes regarding content, project duration, costs, funding or consortium have to be communicated and approved by all involved funding agencies at least **2** weeks before Full-Proposal deadline. The consortium leader is responsible for coordinating and ensuring the acceptance of these changes by all the involved project partners, funding organisations and the call secretariat.*

(*see M-ERA.NET Guide for Proposers, p.37*)

M-ERA.NET call 2026 - eligibility

Schedule	M-ERA.NET	National/Regional FOs	
04 March 2026	Call launch		Stage 1 Pre-Proposal
	Call promotion & consultation		
12 May 2026	**Pre-Proposal Deadline**		
	Central eligiblity checks	Nat/reg eligiblity checks	
	Pre-Proposal Central Evaluation		
End September	Pre-Proposal Selection		
18 November	**Full-Proposal Deadline**		Stage 2 Full-Proposal
	Central eligiblity checks	Nat/reg eligiblity checks	
	Full-Proposal Central Evaluation		
		Funding commitment	
End January 2027	Full-Proposal Selection		
		Final funding decision	

Start of funded proposals: February-May 2027

- For both stages, eligibility checks are carried out both at national/regional level and at central level
- Only eligible proposals are sent to central evaluation

Each partner is funded directly by their respective Funding Organisation and is responsible for ensuring they comply with the applicable ***National/regional rules***

M-ERA.NET call 2026 - evaluation

Schedule	M-ERA.NET	National/Regional FOs	
04 March 2026	Call launch		Stage 1 Pre-Proposal
	Call promotion & consultation		
12 May 2026	**Pre-Proposal Deadline**		
	Central eligiblity checks	Nat/reg eligiblity checks	
	Pre-Proposal Central Evaluation		
End September	Pre-Proposal Selection		
18 November	**Full-Proposal Deadline**		Stage 2 Full-Proposal
	Central eligiblity checks	Nat/reg eligiblity checks	
	Full-Proposal Central Evaluation		
		Funding commitment	
End January 2027	Full-Proposal Selection		
		Final funding decision	

Start of funded proposals: February-May 2027

For both stages, the evaluation is **centralized**, organized by the Call Secretariat, and takes place online, via the M-ERA.NET evaluation platform

Evaluation Process Overview

Stages 1 and 2 have the same structure

Individual evaluation of the Pre-/Full-Proposal by three independent international experts

Discussion and consensus between the three experts, the rapporteur compiles a final report with a score. The final report is subjected to the approval of all three experts and of the M-ERA.NET Call Secretariat

The comments of the final reports are made available for the applicants (feedback emails)

Discussion between the Funding Agencies to decide which projects are recommended for Stage 2 of for Funding, according to the evaluation results and budget limitations

The **eligible** proposals are distributed among the registered evaluators in the M-ERA.NET database, according to:

- Compatible expertise
- Gender balance
- Geographic distribution
- RRI and Industrial expertise
- Balance between newcomers and those with previous M-ERA.NET experience

The public abstracts and the keywords chosen during the submission procedure are important during this process, please choose them accurately. A specific guide (and the complete list of keywords) will be available in the submission tool.

Call 2026 – Pre-proposal step: evaluation criteria

Scoring & Threshold:
based on H2020 system

- max. score of each main criterion is 5.0
- max. total score is 15.0
- overall threshold (sum of the main scores) is 10.0
- threshold for each main criterion is 3.0
- no thresholds for sub-criteria

(*see M-ERA.NET Guide for Proposers, p.44*)

Projects are evaluated according to the specified criteria and the thematic priorities for the specific topic.

*Please note that the structure of the mandatory templates reflects the structure of the evaluation criteria and, therefore, must **not** be altered.*

Main Criteria	Sub Criteria	Score (points)
Excellence	Clarity and pertinence of research objectives and hypotheses	max. 1.5
	Novelty, originality, position of concepts and approaches in relation to the state of the art (ambition, innovation potential, ground-breaking objectives)	max. 2.0
	Appropriateness of the methodology, credibility of the proposed approach and soundness of the concept, including TRL and the approach to RRI	max. 1.5
Impact	Relevance to the objectives of the specific call topic and to the cross-cutting objectives	max. 2.0
	Contribution at the European or international level to the expected impacts listed in the Guide for Proposers under the relevant topic	max. 2.0
	Engagement of the proposed research with the horizontal objectives, sustainability and RRI	max. 1.0
Implementation	Competences, experience and complementarity of each of the consortium members and the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, balance, inter- or transdisciplinarity)	max. 2.0
	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan including the overall management of the project	max. 2.0
	Overall appropriateness of the proposal budget and other resources to be committed by individual partners (overall person month balance)	max. 1.0

Call 2026 – Full-proposal step: evaluation criteria

Scoring & Threshold:
based on H2020 system

- max. score of each main criterion is 5.0
- max. total score is 15.0
- overall threshold (sum of the main scores) is 10.0
- threshold for each main criterion is 3.0
- no thresholds for sub-criteria

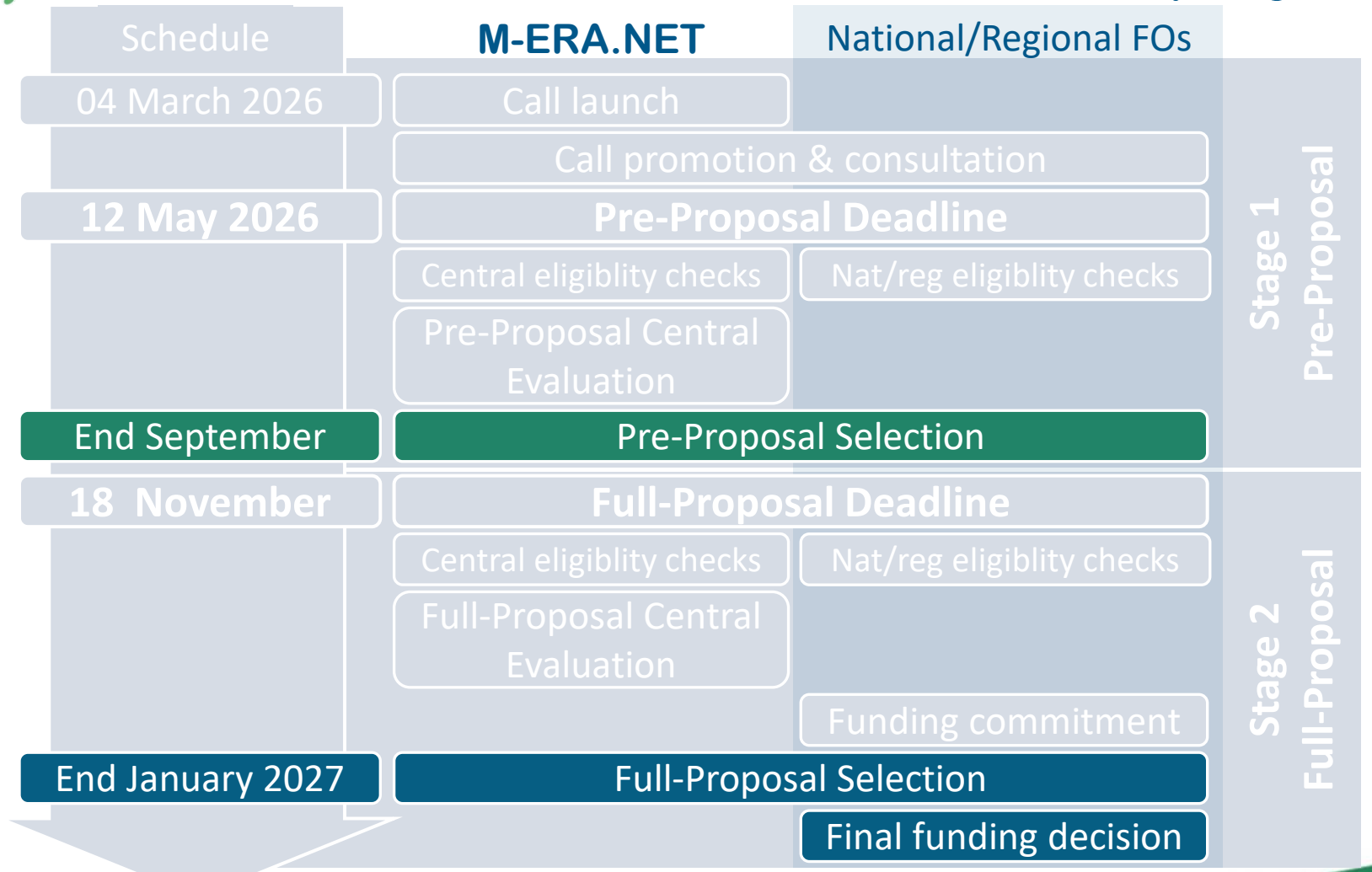
(*see M-ERA.NET Guide for Proposers, p.45*)

Projects are evaluated according to the specified criteria and the thematic priorities for the specific topic.

*Please note that the structure of the mandatory templates reflects the structure of the evaluation criteria and, therefore, must **not** be altered.*

Main Criteria	Sub Criteria	Score (points)
Excellence	Clarity and pertinence of research objectives and hypotheses	max. 1.0
	Extent of the proposal's ambition and innovation potential beyond the current state of the art. Originality of the strategies to reach the project's objectives, use of novel concepts and approaches.	max. 2.0
	Soundness of the methodology proposed to reach the project's objectives, credibility of the proposed TRL range and coherence of the approach to RRI.	max. 2.0
Impact	Contribution at the European or international level to the expected impacts listed in the Guide for Proposers under the relevant topic	max. 1.0
	Enhancing innovation capacity and integration of new knowledge to facilitate replicability and valorisation of the project results.	max. 1.5
	Strengthening the competitiveness and growth of companies by developing innovations meeting the needs and values of European and global markets; and, where relevant, by delivering such innovations to the markets	
	Engagement of the proposed research with circularity, environmental as well as ethical, political, social and/or cultural dimensions	max. 1.0
	Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), to communicate the project, engage with stakeholders and user groups, and to manage research data where relevant	max. 1.5
Implementation	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall	max. 1.5
	Quality of the consortium as a whole including complementarity, balance, inter- or transdiciplinarity and appropriateness of the management structures and procedures	max. 1.5
	Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants	max. 1.0
	Appropriate allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and allocation and justification of the resources to fulfil that role (including overall person month balance)	max. 1.0

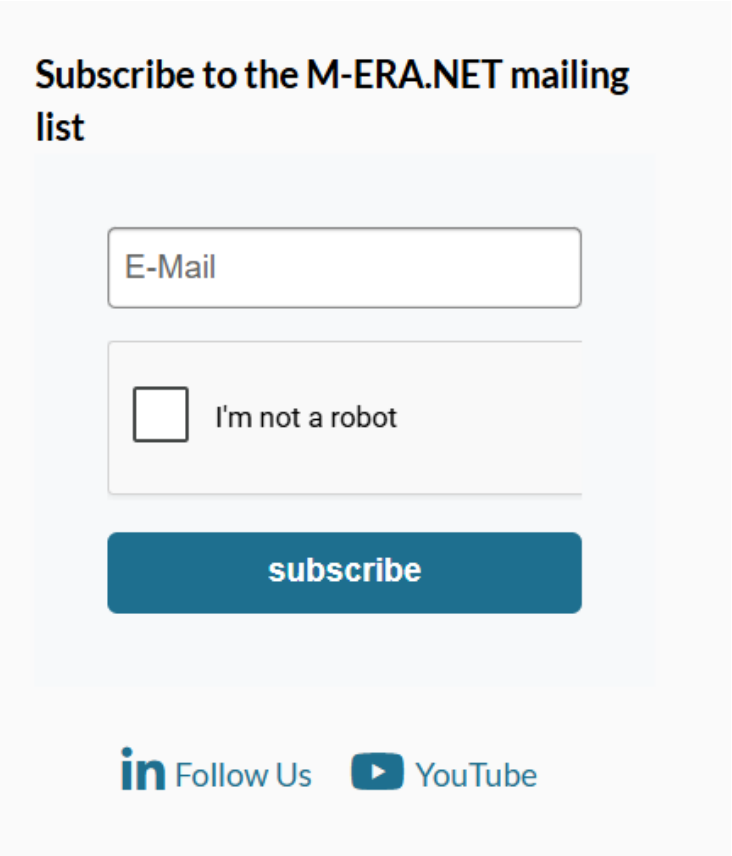
M-ERA.NET call 2026 – selection & proj. implementation



- The selection of proposals is made according to the evaluation results and available national/regional budgets
- Proposers receive feedback emails with evaluation results and selection decisions
- Funding arrangements or contracts are signed directly between each funded partner and their respective FO.

Latest news and call information

- Newsletter: https://www.m-era.net/newsletter
- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/m-era-net/
- YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@m-eranet



Thank you for your attention

Call 2026 Documents

Show-Ling Lee-Müller, PtJ
M-ERA.NET Call 2026 webinar
18 March 2026

M-ERA.NET

Call 2026 website: www.m-era.net/joint-call-2026

The call 2026 website includes all relevant information for the call

- Call schedule
- Call topics + description
- Link to submission tool
- Call documents needed for the PP stage
  - Guide for Proposers
  - Pre-Proposal form
  - FAQs
- Link to Partner Search Facility
- Links to nat./reg. Call 2026 webinars

→ most important!

List of participating countries and regions

Including national / regional regulations

M-ERA.NET

https://www.m-era.net/joint-call-2026/participating-countries-regions-call-2026

M-ERA.NET HOME ABOUT JOINT CALLS SUCCESS STORIES OTHER JOINT ACTIVITIES NEWS LINKS & DOWNLOADS

		Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4	Topic 5	Topic 6	Indicative call budget (Mio €)	national / regional regulations
Austria	FFG-KLWPT			X	X			3.00	FFG-KLWPT
Belgium (Flanders)	HERMESFUND/VLAIO	X	X	X	X	X	X	1.00	HERMESFUND/VLAIO
Belgium (French Speaking Community)	F.R.S.-FNRS	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.30	FRS
Belgium (Wallonia)	SPW	X	X	X	X	X	X	1.00	SPW
Brazil (Sao Paulo)	FAPESP	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.80	FAPESP
Bulgaria	BNSF	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.45	BNSF
Canada (Québec)	PRIMA	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.60	PRIMA
Croatia	MSEY	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.15	MSEY
Czech Republic	TA CR	X	X	X	X	X	X	1.50	TA CR
Estonia	ETAG	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.15	ETAG
France	ANR	X	X		X		X	1.00	ANR
Germany	BMBFTR / PtJ (Batteries)	X	X	X	X			5.00	BMFTR/PtJ (Batteries)
Germany	BMBFTR / PtJ (Mat2Twin)			X	X	X		2.00	BMFTR/PtJ (Mat2Twin) DE Info
Germany (Saxony)	SMWK	X	X	X	X	X	X	3.00	SMWK
Hungary	NKFIH	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.30	NKFIH
Israel	MOST	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.20	MOST
Italy (Calabria)	Regione Calabria	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.30	Regione Calabria
Latvia	LZP	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.60	LZP
Lithuania	LMT	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.50	LMT
Luxembourg	FNR	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.35	FNR
Malta	XM	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.30	XM

For example: national annex of FFG (Austria)

M-ERA.NET *Call 2026 – National-Regional Annex*

AT – FFG-KLWPT

Name of Funding agency	FFG - Austrian Research Promotion Agency
Geographical coverage (national/regional)	National
Name of the programme/initiative	Kreislaufwirtschaft und Produktionstechnologien
Programme website	https://www.ffg.at/advanced-materials/meranet2026
Contact person(s) (e-mail, tel.)	Name: Fabienne Nikowitz Phone: +43 (0) 57755 5081 E-mail: fabienne.nikowitz@ffg.at
Funding Commitment	3.000.000 EUR
Anticipated number of fundable research partners	At least 1 Austrian company
Maximum funding per grant awarded to a partner	500.000 EUR
Type of research eligible for funding: eligible TRL range	TRL 2-7
Funding rates (approx.)	Depending on TRL: 35%-85%

M-ERA.NET *Call 2026 – National-Regional Annex*

Major eligibility criteria (e.g. types of organisations, thematic restriction, cost types and caps)	Consortium restriction: minimum 1 Austrian industry partner. Thematic restriction: KLWPT only supports the M-ERA.NET topics "Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces" and "Innovative functional materials with defined architecures". Within the Austrian part of the consortium, Austrian companies must cover at least 40% of the eligible costs. Further restrictions: see under "Further guidance"
Submission of the proposal at national/regional level (schedule, cut-off dates, deadlines, etc.)	Deadline for proposal submission via FFG eCall (https://ecall.ffg.at): National pre-proposal ("Kurzantrag"): 19 May 2026, 12:00 C.E.T. National full-proposal ("Nationale Ergänzung"): 19 November 2026, 12:00 C.E.T.
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national/regional level	Reports are submitted on an annual basis. Further information: see under "Further guidance"
Further guidance	Further information on conditions and restrictions are given in the national call: https://www.ffg.at/advanced-materials/meranet2026

Compilation of the national / regional regulations of all participating funding organisations resp. programmes

M-ERA.NET *Call 2026 – National-Regional Annex*

AT – FFG-KLWPT

Name of Funding agency	FFG - Austrian Research Promotion Agency
Geographical coverage (national/regional)	National
Name of the programme/initiative	Kreislaufwirtschaft und Produ
Programme website	https://www.ffg.at/advanced-
Contact person(s) (e-mail, tel.)	Name: Fabienne Nikowitz Phone: +43 (0) 57755 5081 E-mail: fabienne.nikowitz@ffg
Funding Commitment	3.000.000 EUR
Anticipated number of fundable research partners	At least 1 Austrian company
Maximum funding per grant awarded to a partner	500.000 EUR
Type of research eligible for funding: eligible TRL range	TRL 2-7
Funding rates (approx.)	Depending on TRL: 35%-85%

Each partner is requested to
contact
the respective
national/regional funding
organisation
before
Pre-Proposal submission

M-ERA.NET *Call 2026 – National-Regional Annex*

Major eligibility criteria (e.g. types of organisations, thematic restriction, cost types and caps)	Consortium restriction: minimum 1 Austrian industry partner. Thematic restriction: KLWPT only supports the M-ERA.NET topics "Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces" and "Innovative functional materials with defined architecures". Within the Austrian part of the consortium, Austrian companies must cover at least 40% of the eligible costs. Further restrictions: see under "Further guidance"
	ne for proposal submission via FFG eCall (https://ecall.ffg.at): al pre-proposal ("Kurzantrag"): 19 May 2026, 12:00 C.E.T. al full-proposal ("Nationale Ergänzung"): 19 November 2026, 12:00
	s are submitted on an annual basis. information: see under "Further guidance"
	formation on conditions and restrictions are given in the national ://www.ffg.at/advanced-materials/meranet2026

Guide for proposers

1. Objectives and thematic priorities of Call 2026
1.1 M-ERA.NET mission
1.2 Horizontal objectives
1.3 Thematic priorities
1.4 Technology Readiness Level
2. Call design 2026
2.1 Structure and schedule of the Call 2026
2.2 Call 2026 documents
2.3 Call 2026 procedures
- 2.3.0 Funding conditions and eligibily
- 2.3.1 Call announcement and support
- 2.3.2 Application and proposal submission
- 2.3.3 Proposal assessment
- 2.3.4 Monitoring and reporting of funded projects
- 2.3.5 Dissemination of projects results

be aware of the eligibility criteria

- at M-ERA.NET level
- at national / regional level

Annex 1: Central Evaluation of PP and FP

Annex 2: Evaluation criteria, scoring and thresholds

Annex 3: participating funding organisations

Annex 5: RRI Guidelines

M-ERA.NET

Pre-Proposal template

Colour code: blue text in the templates indicates information and can be deleted by the proposers

1. Summary
2. Consortium overview
3. Excellence
   - 3.1 Objectives of the project and expected results
   - 3.2 Ambition
   - 3.3 Concept and approach
4. Impact
   - 4.1 Relevance of the objectives to the call topic
   - 4.2 Contribution at the European or international level to the expected impacts listed under the selected call topic
   - 4.3. Sustainability and RRI
5. Implementation

page limit and formatting conditions

page limit for the pre-proposal: 17 pages
page limit for the full-proposal: 40 pages
Annex 1 to FP for partner profilies etc – no page limitation!

- The following **formatting conditions** apply.
  - The reference font for the body text and formatting of proposals is not to be modified from the current setting: font **Arial, minimum size allowed is 11 points,** standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables.
  - Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formulas, figures, may deviate, but must be legible. Evaluators will be instructed to ignore information which is not easily legible.
  - The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should not be any narrower than the current setting (15 mm, not including any footers or headers).
  - The structure, the order and number of chapters as well as the formatting conditions of the proposal form must not be changed.
- **Any deviations from the above-mentioned formatting conditions will result in a formal rejection of the proposal. No modifications or corrections will be allowed after the submission deadline.**

How to write a proposal? - Tips for applicants

→ go to PP template

- Use the PP form
- Make use of graphics and diagrams
- Build your project consortium in time with complementary partners
- Are at least 3 partners from at least 3 different countries in the consortium?
- Find a good balance of staff efforts from different partners (max. 60% single partner, max. 70% - one country)
- Check the M-ERA.NET funding conditions and eligibility criteria
- Check your national / regional eligibility with your respective nat./reg. funder(s)
- During proposal writing – check your proposal regullary with the evaluation criteria
- Submit the proposal in time: Proposals can be saved as drafts, revised and re-submitted again before deadline

Call 2026: links, support, news

Links

- M-ERA.NET Call website: https://www.m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2026
- Partner Search Tool: https://www.m-era.net/joint-calls/partnersearch
- RRI video link on the Call 2026 webpage
- Submission Tool: soon available on the Call website

Additional (regional) call webinars

- Check out at the Call 2026 website: Spanish funders, Quebec, Xjenza Malta

News & Social Media

- Follow us on LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/m-era-net/
- YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@m-eranet
- Subscribe to the Newsletter: https://www.m-era.net/newsletter