

**CHALLENGING
CONVENTIONAL
THINKING**



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ECIU Research Labs: the concept

▪ Objectives

- ✓ Develop new exchanges within ECIU and foster EU-funded projects in the research fields '**Transport & Mobility**', '**Energy & Sustainability**', '**Health and Wellbeing**' and '**Digital transformation**'
- ✓ Strengthen networking between ECIU researchers (with a focus on early-stage researchers)
- ✓ Identify relevant funding opportunities and submit project proposals in 2027

▪ Principle

- ✓ Process with two-stage networking procedure: online meeting followed by an in-person workshop, and continuing interactions inbetween

▪ Expected outcomes

- ✓ Joint collaborative research projects
- ✓ Networking projects (e.g. COST)
- ✓ Collaboration for the Doctoral Training

- **STEP 1: April 9th, 2026 (11:00 – 13:00 CET) ECIU Researchers' Online Networking Event**
 - **Before the online event:** Interested researchers draft a research idea with expectations/ proposals to be shared on the R&I Hub
 - **Main session + Thematic Sessions (break-out rooms)**
 - Participants pitch their research idea, sought or proposed competences/expertise for collaborative research projects
- **STEP 2: Preparation & Selection of project proposals for in-person workshop**
 - April–May 2026 : Researchers interact remotely to prepare a one-page description of their project idea
 - 5th June 2026: One-page proposal submitted to ECIU
 - 25th June 2026: selection of the idea by the ECIU Vice Presidents Group
 - July– October 2026: Researchers continue to interact remotely

- **STEP 3: 4th–5th November 2026: In-person workshop at Lodz University of Technology TUL (Poland)**
 - Participants from Step 1 & 2 structure their project proposals
 - ECIU R&I Expert Group works jointly with research teams to provide funding opportunities and initial support in drafting a proposal
- **Post-workshop proposal preparation**
 - Researchers prepare their proposals to 2027 EU calls in 2027 or in other calls
 - ECIU R&I Expert Group/local grant offices support researchers with proposal preparation

Thank You



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