BlueLink Foundation | Horizon Europe WIDERA / ERA 2027

This portfolio outlines BlueLink's potential contributions to Horizon Europe WIDERA / ERA 2027 calls, organised by call and thematic area. It identifies possible research, training, policy and public engagement roles for future consortia and points to relevant evidence and previous work. The document is intended for partnership matchmaking and discussion; all proposed contributions are indicative and subject to agreement.

For ERA-02, the call supports sustainable cross-sector ecosystems for early research careers, not stand-alone thematic research. BlueLink could connect researchers with civil society, public-interest journalism and policy practice, while specialist institutional partners would lead formal research-career infrastructure and Charter-related commitments.

Call-by-call partnership opportunities

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For contact and partnership enquiries:

Pavel P. Antonov, PhD
Executive Director
BlueLink Foundation.
Email: office@bluelink.net
Telephone: +359 888 704 661
Website: https://www.bluelink.net/en
Address: 20 Serdika Str., Novator Level 2, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

ERA-04 | Area 1 — Youth, science and democracy

Proposed offer: co-design participatory research with young people around climate change, environmental justice, public health, digital inequality and democratic participation; engage groups not habitually represented in science; facilitate youth–researcher–policymaker dialogue; study what makes participation inclusive and effective; co-produce handbooks and recommendations for European Research Area (ERA) practice.

Evidence base: ENRICH work on children's participation in environment and climate decisions, including a 2026 publication drawing on 217 respondents; Our Eye on the EU (EEU), which involves youth in European policy debates; BlueLink's climate-rights research and relevant journalism and training.

Illustrative consortium roles: participatory research and co-creation lead; national case-study partner; youth and civil society stakeholder engagement; policy learning and guidance; research communications.

ERA-04 | Area 2 — Scaling up science engagement at EU level

Proposed offer: connect researchers with civil society organisations, community groups and journalists across national and linguistic contexts; facilitate structured visits and dialogues; help co-design accessible digital engagement and multilingual science communication formats; document outcomes and develop evidence-informed guidance for scaling engagement.

Evidence base: BlueLink's climate communication research, journalism partnerships and 3CTV television climate journalism activities; trainings for journalists, civil society and environmental defenders; regional and international networks.

Illustrative consortium roles: civil society engagement and network mobilisation; science journalism and communication research; multilingual dialogue facilitation; evaluation and lessons learned.

ERA-02 | Area 1 — Clean transition: energy and transport

Proposed offer: applied modules and placements on climate governance, environmental rights, science–policy communication, public participation, just transition and responsible reporting of scientific evidence; dialogue with environmental defenders, media and decision-makers. Potential research-to-practice mentoring and co-development of competencies for non-academic career pathways.

Experience: climate rights and litigation publications, BeLIFE training, STELLAR strategic litigation work, journalism and climate communication, and engagement with environmental civil society.

ERA-02 | Area 2 — Health

Proposed offer: evidence-to-policy and science communication training in public health, particularly tobacco control and industry influence; research ethics, public-interest scrutiny of corporate claims, and policy dialogue; placements or collaborative learning involving public health researchers, civil society and journalism.

Evidence base: peer-reviewed work on smoking cessation among young adults; EU Tobacco Products Directive support study; analyses of heated tobacco products and tobacco industry interference.

ERA-02 | Area 3 — Biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy

Conditional fit. BlueLink may contribute expertise in environmental governance, participatory policy processes, transparency and science communication, but should not be presented as a biotechnology or agricultural research centre. Any role should be defined alongside specialist research institutions.

ERA-02 | Area 4 — Digital and AI technologies

Proposed offer: training and research-to-practice dialogue on digital rights, civic digital autonomy, online safety and participation, disinformation and information integrity, platform dependence, and implications of AI for public knowledge and democracy. BlueLink can help connect digital researchers with civil society users and affected communities.

Experience: CIRDA concept on civic digital autonomy; DiEHaRD research and toolkit work on digital advocacy for environmental human rights defenders; research on social media moderation and collaboration on online gender-based violence.

ERA-03 | Pillar III: Science comes to town 2029

This is a city-based science engagement initiative spanning 3–6 cities in at least three eligible countries and incorporating EUCYS and EU TalentOn. It requires strong city leadership, formal local authority commitments and event-production capacity.

Proposed offer: design inclusive participatory activities on climate, public health and digital society; link local researchers, journalists, community groups and youth; develop multilingual accessible communications; convene public debates and co-creation events; evaluate public engagement and translate lessons into policy-relevant guidance.

Likely role: scientific and civic engagement partner within a city-led consortium, rather than sole event coordinator. Subject themes would be BlueLink-proposed contributions, not official sub-areas of this call.

ERA-01 | Pillar I: Institutional open access policies through retention of intellectual property rights

This topic focuses on policies for research-performing organisations (RPOs), open-access repositories and rights-retention strategies. BlueLink is a complementary partner, not a substitute for university, library, scholarly publishing and intellectual-property specialists.

Proposed offer: public-interest perspectives on access to knowledge; comparative analysis of the civic and policy value of open science; stakeholder engagement and communication; co-developed guidance and training for uptake by researchers, civil society and policy users; connections with digital rights and open-knowledge networks.

ERA-05 | Pillar IV: Independent EU knowledge on China's STI system

Not a current priority for BlueLink. The call requires specialised China-focused science, technology and innovation research. No independent BlueLink expertise in that field is claimed here.

3. Selected evidence and publications

Research and publications catalogue: https://www.bluelink.net/publications

STELLAR — Guide to Strategic Rights and Litigation (2026): https://www.bluelink.net/dokumenti/patevoditel-za-strategicheski-prava-i-dela-svarzani-s-okolnata-sreda-i-klimata.html

Our Climate Rights (DACE, 2024): https://www.bluelink.net/climate_rights_book

Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Services on the Science–Policy–Practice Nexus (peer reviewed, 2018): https://doi.org/10.1080/21513732.2017.1417330

Climate Communication: As Observed in Bulgaria (2025): https://www.bluelink.net/en/novini/how-to-defend-public-interest-in-climate-commnuication.html

Demythologising the 'Russification' of Bulgarian Media's Treatment of Civil Society (2021): https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5903390

Factors Contributing to Smoking Cessation among Young Adults (2024): https://cml.mu-sofia.bg/bg/spisania/obshta-meditsina/faktori-sadeystvashti-za-otkazvane-ot-tyutyunopusheneto-na-mladite-pushachi-na-vazrast-18-35-g-v-balgaria/

EU Tobacco Products Directive — Support Study (2021): https://mail.bluelink.net/en/dokumenti/support-study-to-the-report-on-the-application-of-directive-201440eu-final-report.html

Heated Tobacco Delusions (2024): https://www.bluelink.net/dokumenti/nagrevaemi-tyutyunevi-zabluzhdeniya.html

Bulgaria Tobacco Industry Interference Index (2025): https://coalicia.bezdim.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/DOKLAD_Bulgaria_TIII2025.pdf

Free Online — Civic Voices and Facebook Moderation (2023): https://www.bluelink.net/novini/zashto-ni-sanktsionirat-vav-fejsbuk-i-kak-da-protivodejstvame-doklad.html

After the Storm — Gender-Based Violence Online (2021, collaborative): https://firn.genderit.org/research/after-storm-how-restore-policy-dialogue-and-supportive-discourse-against-gbv-online

ENRICH — Children Participate in Decisions on the Environment and Climate (2026): https://www.bluelink.net/novini/novo-izdanie-na-blulink-detsata-uchastvat-v-resheniyata-za-okolnata-sreda-i-klimata.html

DiEHaRD — Digital Advocacy for Environmental Human Rights Defenders (2026): https://www.bluelink.net/en/novini/diehard-defending-the-defenders-of-nature-and-human-rights-in-the-digital-environment.html

4. Selected engagement and training experience

DACE — European climate-rights journalism training (Vienna, 2024): https://www.bluelink.net/en/novini/20-journalists-from-across-europe-gather-in-vienna-to-discuss-climate-rights-and-climate-liti

STELLAR — Budapest workshop on litigation and climate stories (2025): https://www.bluelink.net/en/novini/fundamental-court-cases-for-fundamental-rights-a-rain-of-european-climate-stories-in-budapest

BeLIFE — legal and media defence training for activists (Sofia, 2025): https://mail.bluelink.net/en/novini/environmental-and-climate-activists-train-for-legal-and-media-defence.html

Our Eye on the EU — youth European-policy training (2026): https://mail.bluelink.net/en/novini/beyond-stereotypes-the-new-generation-shapes-the-european-debate.html

BlueLink journalism programme, including climate TV journalism: https://www.bluelink.net/en/journalism.html

5. International cooperation and contact

BlueLink is connected internationally through the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), Justice and Environment, and the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF), alongside project-specific scientific and civil society partnerships.

Organisation: BlueLink Foundation / BlueLink.net | Website: https://www.bluelink.net/ | Executive Director and co-founder: Dr Pavel Antonov

Partnership approach: BlueLink welcomes consortium discussions in which its research, training and civic engagement capacity is assigned a substantive, adequately resourced role. The fit and deliverables should be tailored to the precise topic and its eligibility and implementation requirements.

Basis: Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026–2027, Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area, calls HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-01 through ERA-05. This is a partnership profile, not a legal eligibility assessment or an assertion of project approval.