

VOLUME 1  
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# BOOST NEWSLETTER



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### The Challenge and Our Ambition

BOOST tackles the persistent research and innovation divide in Europe by promoting brain circulation and supporting talent in Widening countries



### Our Approach: What BOOST Does

Through mobility schemes, institutional reform, and cross-sector partnerships, BOOST empowers researchers and builds stronger ecosystems



## What's Next: Activities, Impact & Engagement

From pilot actions to policy outreach, BOOST is entering its implementation phase with concrete tools, opportunities, and community engagement

Upcoming activities will support researchers directly and help institutions adopt long-term mobility and talent strategies

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## The Challenge and Our Ambition

Despite the European Union's efforts to establish a cohesive European Research Area (ERA), disparities persist among Member States in terms of research capacity, talent retention, and innovation potential. Many countries categorized as “Widening” face challenges such as brain drain, underfunded research institutions, and limited access to international networks. These structural imbalances threaten the EU's goals for cohesion, excellence, and inclusive growth.

**BOOST – *Building Outstanding Opportunities for Science and Talent*** – is a Horizon Europe project designed to reverse this trend. It brings together 16 partners from 9 countries to support researchers, enhance institutional capacity, and promote mobility and knowledge exchange. BOOST's ambition is clear: to enable **balanced brain circulation**, support the professional development of researchers, and foster long-term change within research institutions in Widening countries. By focusing on people, systems, and policy, BOOST aims to strengthen both national ecosystems and pan-European collaboration

### In brief

- The EU faces persistent research and innovation imbalances across Member States.
- BOOST addresses brain drain and limited mobility opportunities in Widening countries.
- The project supports researchers, transforms institutions, and connects talent across Europe



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The BOOST project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Programme under Grant Agreement N. 101217321

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## Our Approach: What BOOST Does

BOOST's action plan is built on four strategic pillars that address the personal, institutional, and systemic challenges limiting research careers and excellence:

1. **Support Research Careers:** BOOST enhances working conditions, mobility options, and career prospects for researchers in Widening countries.
2. **Promote Mobility and Brain Circulation:** through fellowships, secondments, and short-term placements, BOOST creates new channels for cross-border and intersectoral mobility.
3. **Foster Cross-sector Collaboration:** the project links academia, business, and society, encouraging the co-creation of knowledge and innovation through collaboration and shared resources.
4. **Build Institutional Capacity and Influence Policy:** BOOST delivers tailored support for institutional transformation and policy uptake—offering toolkits, guidelines, and mutual learning opportunities for research managers and public authorities.

### In brief

- It connects academia, industry, and society across Europe.
- It helps institutions reform HR policies and research strategies
- BOOST empowers researchers with mobility and training opportunities.



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## What's Next: Activities, Impact & Engagement

The implementation of BOOST is underway. The project is entering a dynamic phase of action and engagement with the following key activities:

- **Mapping Mobility & Brain Drain Trends:** BOOST is currently analysing national systems and identifying barriers to researcher mobility and institutional reform.
- **Launching Pilot Actions:** Fellowships, secondments, and training programs will soon be launched to directly support researchers and institutions.
- **Community and Policy Engagement:** BOOST is building a knowledge-sharing network and will publish policy briefs and toolkits to ensure that its results have long-term impact at both national and EU levels.

The project kicked off with a **two-day meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Sofia**, Bulgaria, bringing together all partners to align strategies, build synergies, and lay the foundation for successful implementation

### In brief

- Toolkits, policy briefs, and events will ensure lasting impact
- Fellowships and secondments will support talent circulation.
- BOOST is mapping research mobility challenges in 9 countries



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