

# BOOST NEWSLETTER



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### Desk Research

A structured review of sources, policies, and prior projects in Widening regions to map career support, innovation skills needs, and academia and industry evidence.



### Identified Core Gap Categories and Preliminary Competence Shortages

Synthesised findings from the desk research into gap categories and early competence shortages, showing where researchers and host organisations in Widening regions struggle most.



### Best practices

BOOST's Best Practices Report collects and analyses education, training, and collaboration models that strengthen R&I talent in Widening countries. It highlights approaches for research capacity, inclusivity, university industry cooperation, labour market alignment, upskilling, and readiness for green and digital transitions.

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## Desk research

Desk research combined policy review and evidence scanning across BOOST partner countries and selected benchmark ecosystems to map how research and innovation talent is trained, supported, and retained. It reviewed strategies, programmes, and available training, then organised evidence using three EU competence frameworks (EntreComp, ResearchComp, RMComp). Findings were structured around five themes: alignment with the European Research Area, education and training supply, academia-industry and labour-market links, inclusivity and accessibility, and new demands from green and digital transitions.

Across countries, a recurring pattern emerged: strong ambitions but ***weak implementation and monitoring, fragmented*** project-based support, collaboration concentrated in a few hubs, and ***uneven measures for underrepresented groups***. These insights directly inform BOOST learning content and personalised career development plans.

### In brief

- Reviewed national policies and programmes shaping research talent training, support, and retention.
- Mapped evidence using EntreComp, ResearchComp, RMComp across five strategic themes for action.
- Identified gaps: weak implementation, fragmented support, hub concentration, uneven inclusion measures persist.



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## Identified Core Gap Categories and Preliminary Competence Shortages

Building on the desk research, BOOST consolidated evidence into six core gap categories to turn analysis into intervention design. First, a ***governance and implementation gap***: institutions align with ERA priorities but lack operational skills for EU project management, grant administration, monitoring and evaluation, compliance, and coordination. Second, a ***research-to-market gap***: weak technology transfer, IP management, valorisation planning, investment readiness, and innovation project management. Third, a ***labour-market alignment gap***: fragile career frameworks and limited cross-sector mobility, with shortages in industry engagement, proposal writing, impact planning, and teamwork.

Two cross-cutting gaps follow: ***digital and data capacity*** (data management, analytics/AI, interoperability, cybersecurity) and ***green transition hybrid skills*** (sustainability assessment, regulation/permitting, systems coordination). Finally, ***uneven territorial capacity*** and ***inclusion*** amplify all gaps, especially for smaller or peripheral organisations. These preliminary shortages feed the workshop, training materials, and personalised career development plans.

### In brief

- Six gap categories highlight governance weakness in EU project implementation capacity.
- Research-to-market gap includes IP, valorisation, transfer, and investment readiness skills.
- Cross-cutting shortages span digital data skills, green transition, territorial inclusion.

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## Best practices

BOOST's Best Practices Report turns the diagnosis into a catalogue of transferable solutions. It compiles 36 practices (four from each of the nine consortium countries) selected at national, regional, EU, or international level. The collection prioritises approaches that strengthen research capacity across the R&I lifecycle, improve education–labour market alignment, foster inclusive participation, support green and digital readiness, and accelerate knowledge transfer.

The analysis groups practices into six themes: (C1) permanent *university–industry collaboration* and knowledge-transfer structures; (C2) *entrepreneurship and research-to-market* acceleration models; (C3) researcher development and *career sustainability* initiatives; (C4) *digital and ICT skills* programmes for R&I; (C5) *green transition* and societal challenge-oriented initiatives; and (C6) *inclusion and gender-equality* measures. These examples will feed BOOST training materials, Personal Career Development Plans, and project benchmarking.

### In brief

- Collected 36 transferable practices from nine countries at multiple levels.
- Prioritised solutions improving research capacity, skills alignment, inclusion, and transfer.
- Organised practices into six themes covering collaboration, careers, digital, green.



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