



Funded by
the European Union

Capacity building, mobility and training program for R&I talent in robotics & related fields in Widening Countries

Info Session

Online, 15th January 2026

ROBO-KNOT: 101216484. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor European Research Executive Agency can be held responsible for them.



Agenda

- Project overview
- 1st Open Call details
- Eligibility conditions, common requirements & mandatory participation
- How to apply
- Q&A

Project Overview



What is ROBO-KNOT

Robo-Knot is an **EU-funded mobility programme** that places **R&I** talent from Greece, Portugal and Slovenia into leading industry and innovation hubs in Estonia, Greece, Portugal, and Spain to accelerate ROBOTics KNOWledge Transfer.

Funded under
Horizon Europe.

DURATION

2025-2028

24 RESEARCHERS

12 R&I SUPPORT
STAFF.

TWO CALLS

Winter
2025 & 2026

FOCUS AREAS

ROBOTICS

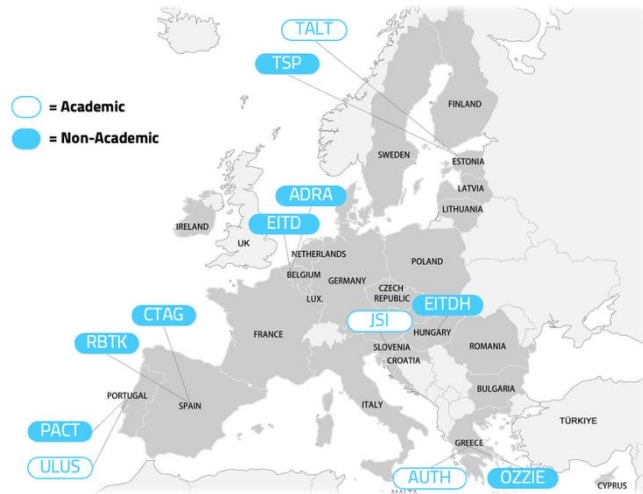
AI

AUTOMATION

INNOVATION MANAGEMENT



Project Consortium



Non-Academic

1. **EITDH** - EIT Digital Hungary - Hungary (HU)
2. **EITD** - EIT Digital - Belgium (BE)
3. **ADRA** - AI, Data and Robotics Association - Belgium (BE)
4. **RBTK** - Robotnik Automation SL - Spain (ES)
5. **CTAG** - Fundación para la Promoción de la Innovación, Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico en la Industria de Automoción de Galicia - Spain (ES)
6. **TSP** - Tartu Science Park Foundation - Estonia (EE)
7. **PACT** - PACT Parque do Alentejo de Ciência e Tecnologia - Portugal (PT)
8. **OZZIE** - OZZIE Idiotiki Kefalaiouschiki Etaireia - Greece (EL)

Academic

9. **AUTH** - Aristotelio Panepistimio Thessalonikis - Greece (GR)
10. **JSI** - Institut Jožef Stefan - Slovenia (SI)
11. **ULUS** - COFAC Cooperativa de Formação e Animação Cultural CRL (Universidade Lusófona) - Portugal (PT)
12. **TALT** - Tallinna Tehnikaülikool (TalTech) - Estonia (EE)



ROBO-KNOT's Website

Visit the **ROBO-KNOT** website and the **1st Open Call** webpage for project information and application documents.

A screenshot of the ROBO-KNOT website homepage. The background is a dark blue with a faint, wireframe-style image of a robotic arm. In the top left corner is the ROBO-KNOT logo. In the top right corner, there is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About us", "Call for secondments", and "Skills development", followed by an orange "Contact us" button. The main content area features the text "YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN ROBO-KNOT" in orange, followed by the large white heading "First call for secondments". Below this, there is a paragraph of text: "We invite researchers and R&I support staff from AUTH, JSI and ULUS to apply for funded secondment opportunities across Europe. Take part in a cross-border mobility programme designed to strengthen robotics research, skills development, and knowledge transfer." At the bottom left of the main content area is an orange "Apply now" button.

URL: <https://www.roboknot.eu/1st-open-call/>

1st Open Call



1st open Call

The call is open to researchers and R&I staff from:

- **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH),**
- **Jožef Stefan Institute (JSI)**
- **Lusófona University (ULUS),**

offering cross-border mobility to leading robotics companies, technology centres and innovation parks in Europe.

Secondments are designed to build skills, strengthen inter-sectoral cooperation and support innovation ecosystems in the Horizon Europe widening countries.

Who can apply?



1. Researchers

Employed or enrolled at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Jožef Stefan Institute (JSI) or Lusófona University (ULUS).



All career stages (R1–R4) are eligible, with a focus on R1 (doctoral candidates) and R2 (recognized researchers)

Background in robotics or closely related fields



2. Research and Innovation Staff

Administrative, technical or managerial staff employed at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Jožef Stefan Institute (JSI) or Lusófona University (ULUS).

Roles that support research & innovation



Research expertise and/or interest areas for researchers

1. Researchers

- Mechanical Engineering (Robotic Design and Prototyping, Kinematics and Dynamics).
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering (Sensors and Actuators, Power Systems).
- Computer Science, Software Engineering (AI/ML, Embedded Robotic Control Systems, Computer Vision).
- Mathematics and Theoretical Foundations (Robotic Motion Planning, Optimization, Control Theory).
- Human-Robot Interaction (User Interface Design, Ergonomics, Ethics and Social Implications)
- Autonomous Systems (Autonomous Systems, Multi-Robot Systems, Robotic Simulation and Testing).
- Robotics Applications and Integration (Industrial Robotics, Agriculture Robotics, Mobile Robotics).
- Cybersecurity (Secure Robotic Systems, Privacy).





2. Research and Innovation Staff

Any administrative, managerial and technical staff supporting R&I activities in their organisations

Priority areas:

- Knowledge valorisation & tech transfer.
- Entrepreneurship / incubators / accelerators.
- Business development & innovation management.
- Academia–industry liaison & collaboration research facilitation.
- Research policy, IP and legal affairs.
- Project management & funding acquisition.



**R&I
activities
areas for
R&I support
staff**



Timeline

Call publication: 19 December 2025

Info session: 15 January 2026, 13:00 CET

Application deadline: 31 January 2026 (23:59 CET)

Eligibility check & evaluation (including interviews): 1 February – 1 March 2026

Results publication: 5 March 2026

Personal Development Plan finalisation: by 31 March 2026

Secondments start: from April 2026 onwards (exact start dates agreed individually between secondees, sending institution and host)



Available positions for researchers



Posting #	Job title	Host partner & town	Who can apply	Type	Duration
2.1	Researcher (Doctoral Candidate or Doctorate degree Holder) for aeronautics and industry 4.0 fields	PACT – Évora, Portugal	AUTH, JSI	Researcher	4 months
2.2	Researcher (Doctoral Candidate or Doctorate degree Holder) for healthcare solutions	PACT – Évora, Portugal	AUTH, JSI	Researcher	4 months
2.3	Researcher (Doctoral Candidate or Doctorate degree Holder) for circular economy and renewable energy fields	PACT – Évora, Portugal	AUTH, JSI	Researcher	4 months
2.4	Researcher (Doctoral Candidate or Doctorate degree Holder) for the agro-food field	PACT – Évora, Portugal	AUTH, JSI	Researcher	4 months
3.1	Test before invest demonstration project team member – quality control	TSP – Tartu, Estonia	AUTH, JSI, ULUS	Researcher	3 months (splittable)
3.2	Test before invest demonstration project team member – production planning	TSP – Tartu, Estonia	AUTH, JSI, ULUS	Researcher	3 months (splittable)
4.1	Robot swarming software developer	OZZIE Robotics – Thessaloniki, Greece	JSI, ULUS	Researcher	3 months (splittable)
4.2	Robot cybersecurity software developer	OZZIE Robotics – Thessaloniki, Greece	JSI, ULUS	Researcher	3 months (splittable)
4.3	Robot vision software developer	OZZIE Robotics – Thessaloniki, Greece	JSI, ULUS	Researcher	3 months (splittable)
5.1	Robotics Software Test Engineer	Robotnik Automation – Valencia, Spain	AUTH, JSI, ULUS	Researcher	5 months
5.2	Robotics Integration Engineer (Fleet Management)	Robotnik Automation – Valencia, Spain	AUTH, JSI, ULUS	Researcher	5 months
5.3	Electrical & Safety Systems Engineer	Robotnik Automation – Valencia, Spain	AUTH, JSI, ULUS	Researcher	5 months
5.4	Robotics Compliance & Documentation Engineer	Robotnik Automation – Valencia, Spain	AUTH, JSI, ULUS	Researcher	5 months
6.1	Researcher at CTAG	CTAG – Porriño, Spain	AUTH, JSI, ULUS	Researcher	3 months



Available positions for R&I research stuff



Posting #	Job title	Host partner & town	Who can apply	Type	Duration
1.1	R&I Support Staff (posting at TalTech AIRE)	TalTech AIRE – Tallinn, Estonia	AUTH, JSI, ULUS	R&I support staff	1.5 months
1.2	R&I Support Staff (posting at TalTech)	TalTech – Tallinn, Estonia	AUTH, JSI, ULUS	R&I support staff	1.5 months
2.5	R&I Project Manager	PACT – Évora, Portugal	AUTH, JSI	R&I support staff	1.5 months
2.6	R&I Project Manager	PACT – Évora, Portugal	AUTH, JSI	R&I support staff	1.5 months
3.3	Sparkup Incubator R&I support staff	TSP – Tartu, Estonia	AUTH, JSI, ULUS	R&I support staff	1 month
3.4	Business Incubation Scout	TSP – Tartu, Estonia	AUTH, JSI, ULUS	R&I support staff	2 months

What is offered



Funded international secondments

- Researchers: 3–5 months, splittable into stays of ≥ 6 weeks at the same host.
- R&I support staff: 1–2 months, splittable into up to 4 stays

What costs are covered?

ROBO-KNOT provides **up to €1,500 per secondment month for travel and subsistence costs** for secondees from the project budget **plus a monthly allowance**.

The exact scheme (per-diem, monthly allowance, reimbursement rules, advances, etc.) follows each institution's internal procedures and will be communicated in writing to selected candidates before they confirm their secondment.

Eligibility conditions, common requirements & mandatory participation



Eligibility conditions



- Applicant must be employed by an eligible sending organisation (AUTH, JSI, ULUS), for the required period.
- All required documents must be submitted by the open call's deadline (31st of January 2026, 23:59 CET).
- Secondment must be between eligible organisations/countries and within the allowed secondment types/durations (e.g. the host must be in a different country from the sending organisation).
- R&I support staff secondments must be cross-border. They are normally inter-sectoral (university -> non-academic host). Academic-to-academic secondments are allowed only when the host is TalTech (TALT).
- Researchers' secondments must be cross-border and inter-sectoral (academic -> non-academic). Secondments between academic organisations only are not eligible for researchers.
- Applicant must be available to perform the secondment within the 1st open call's timeframe (between the months of April 2026 and October 2026).



Common requirements

- English level \geq B2 (CEFR).
- Written approval for participation from line manager / supervisor.
- Ability to undertake a cross-border secondment between independent organisations (travel, stay abroad, procure a European Health Insurance Card).

Job posting requirements

As each job posting includes role-specific requirements, please consult the posting [webpage](#) for further information.

We encourage you to apply even if you don't meet every single requirement as stated in the job posting. ROBO-KNOT values transferable skills and a passion for the role

Mandatory participation



Selected
applicant
s will...

	Researchers	R&I Support Staff
Before the secondment	Create and agree a Personal Development Plan (PDP) and a Return Plan (where relevant) with clear objectives and planned activities.	Create and agree a Personal Development Plan (PDP) and a Return Plan (where relevant) with clear objectives and planned activities.
During the secondment	Submit Monthly Progress Reports (progress vs PDP, issues/changes).	Submit Monthly Progress Reports (progress vs PDP, issues/changes).
During the secondment (if requested)	Join a mid-secondment online check-in with host/sending organisation to review progress and address issues.	Join a mid-secondment online check-in with host/sending organisation to review progress and address issues.
After return	Submit a post-secondment report (validated by the host), and support post-secondment objective review and knowledge-transfer back to the sending organization.	Submit a post-secondment report (validated by the host), and support post-secondment objective review and knowledge-transfer back to the sending organisation.
Post-secondment training (mandatory)	SPIN : Explore (online) + Robotics Commercialisation Bootcamps (in-person).	Innovation Leadership Bootcamp (1 week, in-person, Brussels – EIT House).

How to Apply



How to apply

1. Choose a position

Review the job postings (www.roboknot.eu/1st-open-call/) and decide which host(s) and position(s) best fit your profile and interests.

You can apply to **multiple positions** but must **indicate your order of preference** in your application form.



How to apply

2. Prepare your documents

- Complete the right application form:
[Researchers](#)
[R&I Support Staff](#)
- CV (preferably Europass), max 3 pages.
- Proof of English proficiency (level B2 and above)
- Motivation letter (max 500 words).
- Written approval / Endorsement letter for participation from line manager / supervisor.
- Any relevant certificates



How to apply

3. Send your application by email

- To: applications@roboknot.eu
- Subject line: **ROBO-KNOT Application – [Applicant Name] – [Researcher / R&I Staff]**
- Attach the Application Form + required annexes (CV, motivation letter, etc.).
These must be in the form of a single .pdf file of size ≤ 10 MB with merged Application Form and all the required documents from step 2
- **Deadline:** 31 January 2026 (23:59 CET)

Selection Process

Applications undergo an eligibility check by the three sending institutions and a merit-based evaluation by a joint Talent Selection Committee (one representative per partner, who does not evaluate candidates from their own institution).

1

quality of the motivation expressed and learning objectives they envision for the secondment

2

ranking of hosting organisations according to the applicant's preference and motivation behind their choice

3

alignment of the candidate's motivation with the hosting institutions' mission and activities

Selection Process

1

expected impact of the secondment on the candidate's employability

2

proposed knowledge-sharing activities upon return to the sending organisation.

Each application is scored 1–5 per criterion, and only applications with a total score of at least 15 are shortlisted.

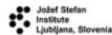
Shortlisted candidates may be invited to interviews with potential hosts before final allocation. ROBO-KNOT applies gender equality and diversity principles throughout the selection process, aiming at balanced participation of under-represented groups, including especially women in robotics.



Funded by
the European Union



ROBO-KNOT: 101216484. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor European Research Executive Agency can be held responsible for them.



Q&A Section

ROBO-KNOTs website:

<https://www.roboknot.eu>

**Send us your questions
at:**

info@roboknot.eu

