

## Publishable Summary for 23CBC01 CaBuCo Capacity building coordination

### Overview

The landscape of the European metrology infrastructure is constantly changing with emerging metrology systems or fields of measurements. This project aims to support EURAMET's members and associates to develop a balanced and integrated metrology system in the participating countries. It provides support and coordination of existing capacity building instruments (Researcher Mobility Support, Mentoring Scheme Award, Training Events) to address key metrological challenges and build capacities through knowledge transfer activities.

### Need

The capabilities of EURAMET National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) and Designated Institutes (DIs) vary from country to country. Many European NMIs and DIs represent the cutting edge of global measurement expertise, actively participating in research that develops new measurement technologies and new realisations of SI units. These institutes play a leading role in supporting global competitiveness of the European economy as well as the development of measurement technologies required by modern society. Some institutes however are at an earlier stage of development, focusing more on service-oriented approaches or operating as small entities, and they face the challenge of meeting stakeholders' needs with limited resources. Furthermore, these institutes often need support for European integration, including those from existing EU members (e.g., those from EU-13 or EU-25 countries) or are from countries undergoing the accession process to the EU. The capacities developed will help support free movement of goods, environment protection, health protection of citizens, consumer protection, among other aspects. In addition to supporting those NMIs and DIs with emerging metrology systems or in emerging fields of measurement, there is a demand for specific knowledge across the whole EURAMET landscape e.g., related to international quality infrastructure, the CIPM MRA, operation of a Technical Committee or piloting an interlaboratory comparison.

### Objectives

The overall objective of this coordination project is to assist EURAMET's bodies to achieve impact for the European metrology community by coordinating and managing the capacity building instruments used for and aligned with EURAMET's Capacity Building Strategy.

The specific objectives are:

1. To implement a Researcher mobility support (RMS) capacity building instrument to develop or reinforce EURAMET member NMI/DI research capability, and to award and manage at least 25 RMS during the project implementation period.
2. To implement a Mentoring Scheme Awards (MSA) capacity building instrument to support and enable the integration and active participation of all EURAMET members into EURAMET structures, and to award and manage at least 25 MSAs during the project implementation period.
3. To support building the human and institutional capacity of member NMIs and DIs necessary to respond to the demands of indirect stakeholders by the organisation of and support for at least 25

**Report Status:**  
PU – Public, fully  
open

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the European Union

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The project has received funding from the European Partnership on Metrology, co-financed from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme and by the Participating States.

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Issued: February, 2026

training events (courses, workshops and summer schools) during the project implementation period. The topics of these courses and materials to be defined following stakeholder consultation.

4. To facilitate the take up of the capacity building instruments implemented by the project by end users (in particular EURAMET NMIs/DIs), and to maximise the impact and benefits obtained from these instruments.

## Methodology and results

### Methodology

The project manages and implements three capacity-building (CB) instruments: Researcher Mobility Support (RMS), Mentoring Scheme Award (MSA), and Training Events (TE):

- RMS enables researchers from EURAMET NMIs and DIs to join an organisation in another country for one to nine months to perform research or development in a metrology-related field.
- MSA supports partnerships between staff from two metrology institutes (EURAMET NMI or DI) in different countries, allowing them to collaborate on relevant technical, managerial, comparison, or traceability topics.
- Training Events (courses, workshops, summer schools) develop technical skills among existing NMI/DI staff and support the development of newly-qualified personnel and prepare them for work in a metrological laboratory. Prioritised topics are identified annually by EURAMET bodies.

All necessary procedures for call management, applications, evaluation, and monitoring have been developed and are available on the project website (<https://cabuco.cmi.gov.cz/>). These include Application and Evaluation Guides describing clear rules and eligibility criteria for the various instruments and the applicants, how to conduct the evaluation procedure, including roles of the evaluation panel, and defining the reporting and financial support mechanisms. To ensure well-documented evaluation procedures and transparent selection processes a web-based platform has been developed for a standardised evaluation process and a transparent mediation of the submission of proposals / applications. Independent experts from the Stakeholder Committee were appointed to review applications based on a structured framework that considered excellence, impact, and efficiency. The evaluation includes clear scoring and feedback mechanisms. Templates for reporting on activities, impact, and results are available on the project website. The consortium consults EURAMET Bodies and the project's Stakeholder Committee (which includes Capacity Building representatives) to identify training events annually ((courses, workshops and summer schools) and to prioritise thematic proposals. Promotional materials such as project flyer and poster, have been prepared, with the flyer available for download on the project website. The CaBuCo project also organises regular online Information workshops for potential applicants, in cooperation with the EURAMET Capacity Building Officer (CBO).

Calls for all three CB instruments are announced on the project website, with three cutoff dates per year (January, May, September). The first cutoff was in January 2025, and the final one will be in September 2027. Applications are submitted online using downloadable proposal templates for RMS, MSA, and TE. Following eligibility checks, proposals are evaluated by the Stakeholder Committee, which issues a go/no-go decision based on alignment with objectives and expected impact. After applicants are notified and contractual steps completed, the coordinator distributes funds to participants or hosts through cascade funding (financial support to third parties) or reimbursement mechanisms.

### Results

Information about funded activities is published on the project website, and additional news and highlights are prepared for EURAMET and BIPM websites and social media channels. Relevant EURAMET bodies, including the BoD WGCB, receive regular updates. The project website also provides results from previous calls. Recipients of capacity building funding submit reports, success stories, and news items to CMI, which reviews them and publishes material demonstrating the impact of CB instruments on the project webpages.

### *Information Sessions and Stakeholder Engagement*

Three online information sessions were organised to support potential applicants and communicate updates on the CaBuCo framework:

- 27 November 2024. The first session introduced the CaBuCo project and presented the three funding instruments. The event addressed eligibility, evaluation, and implementation questions, guiding participants through the application process.  
Number of participants: 78.
- 16 January 2025. The second session focused primarily on the application process, including templates, submission requirements, evaluation criteria, and common errors.  
Number of participants: 55.
- 14 May 2025. The third session, organised in collaboration with EURAMET's Capacity Building Office, targeted new applicants and those whose proposals were not selected in Call 1.  
Number of participants: 42.

### *Calls in 2025*

In the first three calls 27 proposals in total have been accepted for funding (8 RMS, 14, MSA and 5 TE). Case studies and success stories are presented on the project website and prepared based on project outcomes.

### *Call 1 outcomes*

The first call opened on 1 October 2024 and closed on 31 January 2025. The following results were achieved:

Metric	Outcome
Total applications received	19
Total applications reviewed	18 (8 RMS, 8 MSA, 2 TE)
Accepted for funding	12 (6 RMS, 5 MSA, 1 TE)

### *Call 2 outcomes*

The second call opened on 1 February 2025 and closed on 31 May 2025. The following results were achieved:

Metric	Outcome
Total applications received	10
Total applications reviewed	10 (1 RMS, 6 MSA, 3 TE)
Accepted for funding	8 (1 RMS, 5 MSA, 2 TE)

### *Call 3 outcomes*

The second call opened on 1 June 2025 and closed on 30 September 2025. The following results were achieved:

Metric	Outcome
Total applications received	7
Total applications reviewed	7 (1 RMS, 4 MSA, 2 TE)
Accepted for funding	7 (1 RMS, 4 MSA, 2 TE)

## **Outcomes and impact**

### Outcomes for end user communities

The early project outcomes will be with the National Metrology Institutes and Designated Institutes of EURAMET. They will benefit from training courses, workshops, summers schools, research mobility support and mentoring scheme awards by:

- Building the human and institutional capacities (as technical or managerial knowledge related to measurement techniques, CIPM MRA or operation of an institute, research project management, administration and reporting)
- Implementing new measurement techniques or calibration or verification procedures
- Establishing new calibration and measurement services
- Starting activities needed for international recognition of particular calibration and measurement services

- Starting activities needed to foster integration in CIPM MRA processes and mechanisms plus integration into EURAMET structures and activities (e.g., participation in a TC or EMN, participation and piloting a international comparison, taking on the TC chair position, evaluation of a comparison, evaluation of a CMC claim)
- Starting/fostering research in particular field
- Improving an NMI's/DI's capabilities needed to address the current and emerging needs of stakeholders e.g. calibration laboratories and conformity assessment bodies, industry, legal metrology, healthcare services, environmental protection agencies, regulatory bodies, including consumer protection, national quality infrastructure bodies and academia
- Improvement of the NMI/DI management
- Widening employers' professional networks which will enable future collaboration in various forms
- Preparing and presenting scientific papers and posters (e.g. at workshops, conferences)

Project activities are regularly communicated and disseminated via the project web page, the EURAMET and BIPM web pages. EURAMET NMIs and DIs can advertise their invitations and opportunities for researchers to join their capacity building activity.

#### Wider longer-term economic, social and environmental impacts

The NMIs and DIs will benefit as direct user of project activities. Having sustainable metrological capacity building on a European level with long term planning will benefit all European NMIs and DIs because they will be able to coordinate and optimise their resources (both time and money) for that and plan staff training on the long term. Coordinated capacity building will save resources for all NMIs and the final effect will be much higher e.g., a summer school on a specific topic, with concentrated knowledge transfer from peer European experts covering a complete portfolio from that field.

The international metrology community will benefit both from the establishment of the equivalence of measurements and from the fact that more NMIs and DIs will be able to take on CIPM MRA tasks, which will distribute the workload between NMIs and DIs (e.g., piloting international comparisons, review of CMCs, hosting the CB activities).

Wider impact will be through the support provided to NMIs' and DIs' customers and stakeholders. NMIs and DIs will be able to provide the metrological services needed by industry, pharmaceuticals, food production, the energy sector as well as secondary calibration laboratories and various conformity assessment bodies (e.g., laboratories for legal metrology, health, environmental and consumer protection).

The availability of internationally comparable and recognised measurements results for many areas will have a Europe wide impact. The wider benefits include (i) new internationally recognised services of calibration laboratories and conformity assessment bodies, (ii) reducing barriers for trade (through recognition of the national quality infrastructures of the countries involved), (iii) supporting widening countries in their accession to EU, (iv) improved reliability and international recognition of national (health protection agencies and environment protection agencies, (v) strengthening of local bodies, e.g. national consumer protection agencies thus providing benefit to local consumers, and (vi) supporting European competitiveness in metrological areas which will help meet overall aims as smart concepts, environmental goals etc.

In the long term the project will help support a wide range of European aims, e.g. Including industry, circular economy, waste reduction directive, and energy directives.

Project start date and duration:	1 June 2024, 48 months	
Coordinator: Peter Kiska Tel: +420 725 557352 Project website address: <a href="https://cabuco.cmi.gov.cz/">https://cabuco.cmi.gov.cz/</a>	Organisation: Czech Metrology Institute E-mail: <a href="mailto:peter.kiska@cmi.gov.cz">peter.kiska@cmi.gov.cz</a>	
Internal Beneficiaries: 1. CMI, Czechia		