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INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE HUBS WEEK 2026

Excellence Hubs Projects Q&A Day
Follow-up to the live streaming of projects' presentations

30 October 2026

on-line: MS Teams

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INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE HUBS WEEK 2026

23, 26, 27, 28 & 30 October 2026

on-line (*MS Teams, b2match*)

Info Day

Live Streaming of Projects' Presentations via EHC Joint Event Day 1 & Day 2

Brokerage Event (b2match platform open until 31.01.27!)

Q&A Day - Follow-up to the live streaming of projects' presentations

General questions to EH projects

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1. Could you please provide some pilot examples?
2. FSTP: did your proposal include a detailed description of how the call for SMEs would be organised and how the beneficiaries would be selected, or was a general outline of the process sufficient at the proposal stage?
3. Is geographic proximity of the partners necessary in your opinion?
4. Are there any examples of umbrella organizations from different widening countries in the consortium? Can you give an example of such an organization?
5. Looking back at the previous Excellence Hubs calls, what were the most common weaknesses identified in proposals that applicants should avoid?

SOLARHUB, Derek K. Baker

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1. The "Helio Helix" concept is one of your key achievements. Which specific activities contributed most to generating follow-up collaborations and funding?
2. How did you measure whether follow-up projects were genuinely created as a result of SolarHub?
3. If you were preparing a new Excellence Hub proposal today, what would you do differently to strengthen sustainability from the start?

CARBONICA, George Papapostolou & Thanos Arampatzis

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1. How did you ensure genuine ownership of the Hub among regional stakeholders instead of treating them as consultation participants only?
2. Looking back, which type of quadruple-helix partner contributed most to the long-term sustainability of the Hub?
3. Evaluators often ask how a strategy will lead to implementation. What would you recommend applicants include in proposals to demonstrate a credible route from strategy to investments?

GeneH, Laetitia S. Gaspar

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1. What advice would you give applicants who want to avoid treating patient organisations as symbolic partners?
2. You mentioned that the establishment of a dedicated national coordination structure was essential. What functions did this structure perform that could not have been achieved through normal project governance?
3. Which aspects of GeneH were the most difficult to explain convincingly in the proposal and during evaluation?

InnoThyroGen, Nikolina Pleić & Andrea Gelemanović

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1. What was the biggest challenge in aligning the expectations of researchers, clinicians, patients, public authorities, and industry partners within a single Excellence Hub?
2. What parts of the R&I strategy evolved most during implementation compared to the original proposal?
3. Which work packages generated the highest added value and which required significantly more effort than expected?
4. How do you measure ecosystem transformation beyond scientific indicators?

DxHub, Angeliki Kolokousi

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1. Which partner type proved most difficult to engage: hospitals, researchers, companies, policy makers, or patients?
2. You mentioned adapting mobility and research activities to practical realities. What operational assumptions made during proposal writing turned out to be unrealistic during implementation?
3. What sustainability model seems most realistic for health-focused Excellence Hubs?

ADDIT-CE, Božena Čechalová

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1. What makes public authorities active co-creators rather than passive stakeholders?
2. Looking back, what evidence should applicants provide to demonstrate that proposed activities can influence policy and healthcare practice?
3. Which activities were most effective in bringing together researchers, clinicians, and policy makers?

MarTe, Liis Kikas

1. You stressed the importance of ecosystem readiness mapping. What methodology would you recommend future applicants use to assess ecosystem maturity before proposal submission?
2. At what point should applicants start planning for operational deployment and market uptake?
3. How will you secure commitment from end-users for post-project continuation?

EUSOME, Georgios Ellinas

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1. You cooperate closely with national civil aviation authorities. What advice would you give applicants whose concepts depend strongly on regulatory changes?
2. You decided to invest your own resources in research infrastructure because project funding was insufficient. Would you recommend this approach to future applicants? Under what conditions?
3. What role has shared infrastructure played in strengthening the ecosystem?

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DxHub INFECTIOUS DISEASES DIAGNOSTICS

VELES
The Smart Health Excellence Hub in SE Europe

MARTE
Marine Technology Excellence Hub for Sustainable Blue Economy in Baltics

EUSOME

Funded by the European Union

All Excellence Hub (EH) projects are funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme



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Thank you for your attention!

Good luck with your Excellence Hubs proposals!

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