Foster a place-based innovation culture in Widening countries
INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE HUBS WEEK:
Info Day, Projects' presentations via Excellence Hubs Community Joint Event 2026, Brokerage Event and Q&A Day

23 & 26-27-28 & 30 October 2026, MS Teams & b2match

EXCELLENCE HUBS INFO DAY
Friday, 23 October 2026

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE EVENT

Time	Activity	Host / Speaker
09:00 – 9:15 Warsaw time (CEST)	Welcome session, introduction to the first day of the event	Piotr Świerczyński, Director of the National Contact Point (NCP) Department National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), Poland
09:15 – 09:55	Excellence Hubs within the Widening programme Q&A	Nada Sirotić, DG Research & Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission (EC) Ioanna Stavridou, Research Executive Agency (REA), EC
09:55 - 10:15	The concepts of a place-based innovation culture, innovation ecosystems and the quadruple helix principle in the Excellence Hubs projects' context	Rui Munhá, NCP from Portugal, Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)
10:15 – 10:45	How to create a consortium to develop a regional quadruple helix research and innovation ecosystem? Q&A	Merve Aydemir Aydin, NCP from Türkiye, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)
10:45 – 11:15	***Break***	
11:15 – 11:35	The research component of the project: conditions and pitfalls Q&A	Maria Szlachta, NCP from Poland, NCBR
11:35 – 12:00	Project budget: eligible costs in the Excellence Hubs project Q&A	Beata Jankowska, financial expert, NCP

		Department, NCBR, Poland
12:00 – 12:45	Statistics from previous Excellence Hubs calls and analysis of expert comments on Excellence Hubs project proposals from previous calls Q&A	Petra Fedorova, NCP from Czechia, Technology Centre Prague (TC Praha)
12:45 – 13:00	The Info Day summing up. Closing of the event	Maria Szlachta, NCP from Poland, NCBR

Excellence Hubs Community Joint Event
LIVE STREAMING OF PROJECT PRESENTATIONS DAY 1
Monday, 26 October 2026

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE EVENT

Time	Activity	Host / Speaker
8:00-13:30 CET (9:00-14:30 EET (Athens time))	**Live Streaming of Excellence Hubs projects' presentations DAY 1**	
08:00 - 09:40	*Morning Session 1*	*Session Chair: João Malva, CHAngeing*
	Introductory remarks	*Event Chair: Derek Baker, SolarHub*
	Main outcomes from 2026 REA survey of Excellence Hubs projects and 2027 evaluation	*Deirdre Furlong Head of Sector European Research Executive Agency Established by the European Commission Unit REA.C3: Widening Participation*
	"Water + AgriFood" and "Health & Well-Being 1" Excellence Hubs Projects' Presentations	1. *WaterWise, Christos Makropoulos* 2. *CARBONICA, George Papapostolou* 3. *Excel4Pro, Aytunga Arik Kibar* 4. *DxHub, Angie Kolokousi*
09:25 - 09:45	*Break*	
09:45 - 11:15	*Morning Session 2*	*Session Chair: Angie Kolokousi, DxHub*

	GR NCP presentation (Invited by WaterWise as Host) Vasiliki Kalodimou PRAXI Network FORTH Athens, Greece	
	"Health & Well-Being 2" *Excellence Hubs Projects' Presentations*	5. *CHAngeing, George Papamichail* 6. *GeneH, Laetitia Gaspar* 7. *InnoThyroGen, Nikolina Pleić* 8. *ADDIT-CE, Jozef Hritz* 9. *VELES, Eva Salmatani*
11:15 - 12:30	*Break*	
12:30 - 13:30	*Afternoon Session 2*	*Session Chair: Chrysovalantis Ketikidis, COALition*
	"Blue Economy" *Excellence Hubs Projects' Presentations*	10. *SeaTecHub, Charalambos Rotsides* 11. *BCTHubs, Fabio Figurella* 12. *MarTe, Liis Kikas* 13. *INNO2MARE, Marko Simic*

Excellence Hubs Community Joint Event
LIVE STREAMING OF PROJECT PRESENTATIONS DAY 2
Tuesday, 27 October 2026

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE EVENT

Time	Activity	Host / Speaker
8:00-11:15 CET (9:00-12:15 EET (Athens time))	**Live Streaming of Excellence Hubs projects' presentations DAY 2**	
8:00 - 09:40	*Morning Session 3*	*Session Chair: Michał Kosiedowski, HERIFORGE*
	Introductory remarks	*Event Host: George Bariamis, WaterWise*

	EC Presentation: Excellence Hubs – policy aspects and outlook for the next Framework Programme Horizon Europe 2028-2034	*Joerg Niehoff* *Deputy Head of Unit* *Unit A.2 ERA, Spreading Excellence and Research Careers* *Directorate-General for Research & Innovation* *European Commission*
	"Energy" and "Digital Technologies" Excellence Hubs Projects' Presentations	*14. SolarHub, Derek Baker* *15. COALition, Chrysovalantis Ketikidis* *16. ECHO, Odysseas Spyroglou* *17. METACITIES, Tanya Politi* *18. LASER-PRO, Tomas Mocek*
09:40 - 10:00	*Break*	
10:00 - 11:15	*Morning Session 2*	*Moderator:* Nikolina Pleić, *InnoThyroGen*
	TR ministry presentation (Invited by SolarHub as Event Chair)	*Çağrı Yıldırım* *Head of EU Framework Programmes Department* *The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)* *Ankara, Türkiye*
	"Advanced Technologies" Excellence Hubs Projects' Presentations	*19. HERIFORGE, Michał Kosiedowski* *20. CHESS, Zuzana Vémolová* *21. EUSOME, Christian Vitale* *22. GlaCerHub, Peter Hostak*

EXCELLENCE HUBS BROKERAGE EVENT
Wednesday, 28 October 2026

BROKERAGE EVENT WEBSITE – PLEASE CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Time	Activity
08:00 – 22:00 CET	B2Match – Excellence Hubs Bilateral meetings and open networking (pre-arranged via the B2Match brokerage platform)

EXCELLENCE HUBS PROJECTS Q&A DAY:
Follow-up to the live streaming of projects' presentations
Friday, 30 October 2026

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT

Time	Activity	Host / Speaker
09:00 – 9:15 CET	Welcome session, introduction	Maria Szlachta, NCP from Poland, NCBR
09:15 – 11:15	Excellence Hubs Projects Q&A *Please submit your questions via the chat during the LIVE STREAMING OF PROJECT PRESENTATIONS (Day 1 & Day 2) or by email to maria.szlachta@ncbr.gov.pl as soon as possible. Please note that questions submitted after 12:00 CET on 29 October 2026 may not be answered during the Q&A Day.* ***You will also have a possibility of asking a question live, directly at the event.*** *However, due to organisational and time constraints it may not be possible to answer all the questions during the event. Thank you for your understanding.* *To help us address your question efficiently, please formulate it as precisely as possible and include the relevant project acronym if your question is directed at a specific project whose representatives will participate in the Q&A Day. For questions concerning general aspects of Excellence Hubs implementation, please indicate "General Question".*	1. SOLARHUB, Derek K. Baker 2. CARBONICA, George Papapostolou & Thanos Arampatzis 3. GeneH, Laetitia S. Gaspar 4. InnoThyroGen, Nikolina Pleić & Andrea Gelemanović 5. DxHub, Angie Kolokousi 6. ADDIT-CE, Božena Čechalová 7. MarTe, Liis Kikas 8. EUSOME, Georgios Ellinas Moderator: Maria Szlachta, NCP from Poland, NCBR
11:15 – 11:30	The Q&A Day summing up. Closing of the International Excellence Hubs Week	Maria Szlachta, NCP from Poland, NCBR

69 Chmielna Str., 00-801 Warsaw
T. +48 22 39 07 401
gov.pl/NCBR

K1-Informacja Opublikowana (Public)