

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 JOIN THE EVENT		
Time	Activity	Host / Speaker
9:00 – 9:15 Warsaw time (CEST)	Welcome session, introduction to the first day of the event	National Contact Point (NCP) Department representative National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), Poland
9:15 – 09:55 CEST	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 10:35 CEST	The concepts of a place-based innovation culture, innovation ecosystems and the quadruple helix principle in the Excellence Hubs projects' context TBC	Rui Munhá, NCP from Portugal, Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)
10:15 – 10:45 CEST	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 CEST	Break	
11:15 – 11:35 CEST	The research component of the project: conditions and pitfalls Q&A	Maria Szlachta, NCP from Poland, NCBR
11:35 – 12:00 CEST	Project budget: eligible costs in the Excellence Hubs project Q&A	Beata Jankowska, financial expert, NCP

		Department, NCBR, Poland
12:00 – 12:45 CEST	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 CEST	The Info Day summing up. Closing of the event	NCP Department representative NCBR, Poland

Excellence Hubs Community Joint Event
LIVE STREAMING OF PROJECT PRESENTATIONS DAY 1
Monday, 26 October 2026
[JOIN THE EVENT](#)

Time	Activity	Host / Speaker
8:00-13:30 CET (9:00-14:30 Athens time)	Live Streaming of Excellence Hubs projects' presentations DAY 1 (draft agenda below)	
08:00 - 09:40	<i>Morning Session 1</i>	<i>Session Chair: CHAngeing</i>
	<i>Introductory remarks</i>	<i>SolarHub as Event Chair</i>
	<i>Main outcomes from 2026 REA survey of Excellence Hubs projects and 2027 evaluation</i>	<i>Deirdre Furlong Head of Sector European Research Executive Agency Established by the European Commission Unit REA.C3: Widening Participation</i>
	<i>“Water + AgriFood” and “Health & Well-Being 1” Excellence Hubs Projects’ Presentations</i>	1. WaterWise 2. CARBONICA 3. Excel4Pro 4. DxHub
09:25 - 09:45	<i>Break</i>	
09:45 - 11:15	<i>Morning Session 2</i>	<i>Session Chair: DxHub</i>
	<i>GR ministry/ NCP presentation (Invited by WaterWise as Host)</i>	
	<i>“Health & Well-Being 2” Excellence Hubs Projects’ Presentations</i>	5. CHAngeing 6. GeneH 7. InnoThyroGen 8. ADDIT-CE 9. VELES

11:15 - 12:30	Break	
12:30 - 13:30	Afternoon Session 2	Session Chair: TBD
	“Blue Economy” Excellence Hubs Projects’ Presentations	10. SeaTechHub 11. BCTHubs 12. MarTe 13. INNO2MARE
Excellence Hubs Community Joint Event LIVE STREAMING OF PROJECT PRESENTATIONS DAY 2 Tuesday, 27 October 2026 JOIN THE EVENT		
Time	Activity	Host / Speaker
8:00-11:15 CET (9:00-12:15 Athens time)	Live Streaming of Excellence Hubs projects’ presentations DAY 2 (draft agenda below)	
8:00 - 09:40	Morning Session 3	Session Chair: TBD
	Introductory remarks	WaterWise as Event Host
	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 15. COALition 16. ECHO 17. METACITIES 18. LASER-PRO
09:40 - 10:00	Break	
10:00 - 11:15	Morning Session 2	Moderator: TBD
	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 20. CHeSS 21. EUSOME 22. GlaCerHub
EXCELLENCE HUBS BROKERAGE EVENT Wednesday, 28 October 2026 BROKERAGE EVENT WEBSITE – REGISTER NOW!		
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 REGISTER TO THE EVENT		
Time	Activity	Host / Speaker
9:00 – 9:15 CET	Welcome session, introduction	Maria Szlachta, NCP from Poland, NCBR
9:15 – 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. 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" in the subject line or at the beginning of your message.)	1. SOLARHUB - prof. Derek K. Baker, 2. ADDIT-CE - Božena Čechalová, 3. MarTe - Liis Kikas, 4. GeneH - Laetitia S. Gaspar, PhD, 5. DxHub, Angie Kolokousi, PhD TBC
11:15 – 11:30 CET	The Q&A Day summing up. Closing of the International Excellence Hubs Week	Maria Szlachta, NCP from Poland, NCBR