



European Innovation Council 2026 Pathfinder Challenges – Info Day

- [Advanced Materials for Miniaturised Energy Harvesting Systems](#)
 - [Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing](#)
- [DeepRAP: Deep Reasoning, Abstraction & Planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI Systems](#)

Date & time: Friday, 20 March 2026, 09:00 – 13:00h CET

Connection: [Streaming link](#)

The European Innovation Council (EIC) kindly invites you to the online-only 2026 Pathfinder Challenges Info Day. It consists of a plenary session explaining the specific characteristics of EIC Pathfinder Challenge calls, and parallel sessions led by the EIC Programme Managers [Paolo Bondavalli](#), [Uschi Symmons](#) and [Hedi Karray](#) in which they will present their Challenges. The precise timing is listed below.

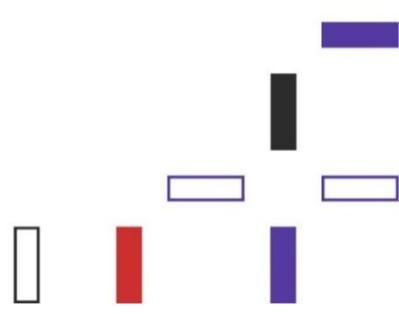
All parts of the Info Day will be livestreamed and recorded. Recordings and slides will be made available for the public after the Info Day. You can participate in the Q&A following each presentation by submitting specific questions [here](#). For general questions, you are invited to consult the EIC Pathfinder [FAQ](#) website. You can also rewatch the EIC Pathfinder section of the 2026 EIC Work Programme [Info Day](#).

Attendees have the possibility to briefly (max 2 minutes) present themselves and describe their competences relevant to their Challenge of interest and to explore the possibility of a joint application with other attendees of the Info Day. In order to do so, please register [here](#) by 16 March 2026, and indicate that you want to participate in this exercise. You will be then contacted directly before the event. You also will be asked to send your slides with your contact details to EISMEA-01@ec.europa.eu by 18 March 2026.

Agenda

Time	Agenda item	Speaker	Connection
09:00 – 09:10	Welcoming words	Keith Sequeira, Head of Unit European Innovation Council, DG RTD	Streaming link
09:10 – 09:20	Introduction to the EIC Programme Managers	Anne-Marie Sassen, Head of Unit EIC Programme Managers' Office, EISMEA	Streaming link
09:20 – 10:00	EIC Pathfinder Challenges – Introduction and evaluation, Q&A	Timo Hallantie, Head of Unit EIC Pathfinder, EISMEA	Streaming link
10:00 – 10:10	EIC pro-active portfolio management	Franc Mouwen, EIC Programme Manager for Architecture, Engineering & Construction, EISMEA	Streaming link
10:10 – 10:25	Introduction to EIC Business Acceleration Services (BAS)	Agnieszka Stasiakowska, Head of Sector of EIC Business Acceleration Services, EISMEA	Streaming link
10:25 – 10:35	Presentation by the coordinator of the EIC Pathfinder challenge-based project <i>EMERGE</i>	Davide Bacciu, Professor for Machine Learning, Università di Pisa	Streaming link
10:35 – 11:00	<i>Break</i>		

11:00 – 13:00	<p><u>Pathfinder Challenge 1:</u> Advanced Materials for Miniaturised Energy Harvesting Systems</p> <p><u>Matchmaking session:*</u> Opportunity for participants to briefly present themselves and their competences for possible collaboration.</p>	<p>Paolo Bondavalli, EIC Programme Manager for Advanced Materials for Energy, EISMEA</p>	<p>Streaming link</p>
	<p><u>Pathfinder Challenge 2:</u> Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing</p> <p><u>Matchmaking session:*</u> Opportunity for participants to briefly present themselves and their competences for possible collaboration.</p>	<p>Uschi Symmons, EIC Programme Manager for Health and Biotechnology, EISMEA</p>	<p>Streaming link</p>
	<p><u>Pathfinder Challenge 3:</u> DeepRAP: Deep Reasoning, Abstraction & Planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI Systems</p> <p><u>Matchmaking session:*</u> Opportunity for participants to briefly present themselves and their competences for possible collaboration.</p>	<p>Hedi Karray, EIC Programme Manager for Artificial Intelligence, EISMEA</p>	<p>Streaming link</p>



**If you want to make use of this opportunity, please indicate it in the registration form. Closer to the date we will confirm the order of the presentations and request the slides from the participants.*