



TESTIMONIALS BY PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS

The events since 2009 have led to extensive collaboration between regional and European businesses and research organizations. That's why our participants are keen to meet in Düsseldorf each year as part of their proposal preparation for Horizon Europe.



Dr Marisa Sárria Pereira de Passos
RWTH Aachen University

“I was amazed by the number of valuable contacts I was able to make during and after the event. Plans for promising projects have already developed in the follow-up phase.”



Professor Mahdi Bohlouli
Petanux GmbH

“As far as new international projects are concerned, the event has been an established part of my networking activities for over 10 years. On many occasions, it has also generated fresh opportunities for marketing my company's AI solutions.”

VENUE

Van der Valk Airporthotel Düsseldorf
Am Hülserhof 57
40472 Düsseldorf
Germany

www.airporthotelduesseldorf.de/en

CONTACT

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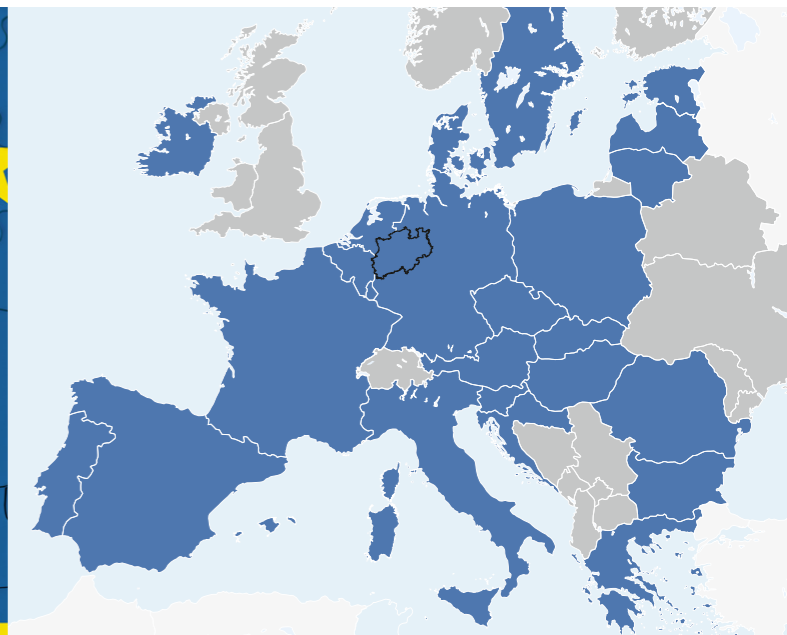
Ministry of Culture and Science
of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia
Völklinger Straße 49
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www.mkw.nrw

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SUCCESSFUL R&I IN EUROPE 2026 13th EUROPEAN NETWORKING EVENT

19 – 20 FEBRUARY 2026
VAN DER VALK AIRPORTHOTEL
DÜSSELDORF – GERMANY

<https://horizont.zenit.de/Successful2026/>



NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA (NRW) IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

Geographically central position in Europe – 18 million people – Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of € 872 billion (20 % of German GDP) – economic and scientific hub of Europe – region with the highest density of universities and research institutions in Europe: Over 70 universities, more than 50 specialized research institutes (Max Planck, Fraunhofer, Leibniz, Helmholtz, Johannes Rau) and around 100 university research institutes.

www.mkw.nrw

SUCCESSFUL R&I IN EUROPE 2026

13th EUROPEAN NETWORKING EVENT



For the thirteenth time, the conference invites researchers and entrepreneurs from North Rhine-Westphalia and regions in Europe and beyond to find new research and innovation (R&I) partners for Horizon Europe projects. The series of events has been a great success with over 3,900 participants since 2009. During the events since 2009, many productive and lasting contacts have been established between researchers and entrepreneurs from NRW, other parts of Europe and throughout the world. The event is, of course, open to researchers worldwide.

Call for presentations

Participants are invited to become involved in established and new technology networks between researchers, entrepreneurs and multipliers. Giving a short presentation of a project idea or finding a partner by talking to other decision-makers opens doors for new research and innovation projects within Horizon Europe.



The call for presentations is open until 04.01.2026 under: <https://horizont.zenit.de/Successful2026/>

Conference fee: € 150 (€ 120/one day) per person including VAT. Free participation for speakers in sessions 1 to 4. The organizers recommend that speakers participate on both days.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 19 February 2026 (DAY 1)*

- 13.00 **Welcome**
- 13.05 **Opening session**
Thorsten Menne,
Director Research Funding, Research Policy, Ministry of Culture and Science of North-Rhine Westphalia
- 13.15 **Keynote speech**
Doris Schroecker, Head of Unit Industrial Research, Strategy and Coordination
DG Research & Innovation, European Commission
- 13.35 **Success stories in Europe based in NRW**
- 13.55 **Introduction of Partner Regions and Services for Proposals and Projects**
Hans H. Stein, ZENIT GmbH
- 14.00 **Coffee/Start of parallel sessions**
- 14.15 **Session 1:** Parallel workshops
"European projects seeking partners" ■ ■ ■ ■

Coffee/Find a Partner
- 16.15 **Session 2:** Parallel workshops
"European projects seeking partners" ■ ■ ■ ■
- 18.15 **Reception and exhibition**
- 18.45 **Dinner**
- 20.30 **Get connected**

Friday, 20 February 2026 (DAY 2)*

- 9.30 **Welcome**
- 9.35 **Services for Proposals and Projects**
Jan Skriwanek, National Contact Point Health, DLR-PT
- 9.45 **Success stories in Europe based in NRW**
- 10.05 **Coffee/Start of parallel sessions**
- 10.15 **Session 3:** Parallel workshops ■ ■ ■ ■
"European projects seeking partners"

Coffee/Find a Partner
- 12.00 **Session 4:** Parallel workshops ■ ■ ■ ■
"European projects seeking partners"
- 13.00 **Interactive Lunch/Find a partner/Exhibition**

Parallel workshops will focus on eight topics:

- Cluster 1: Health
- Cluster 2: Creative Industries
- Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society
- Cluster 4: Digital Technologies
- Cluster 4: Industrial Technologies
- Cluster 5: Energy
- Cluster 5: Mobility
- Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Conference Moderator: Dr Bernd Janson, ZENIT GmbH

The conference language is English.

* Parallel exhibition: Innovations for Europe based in NRW



**100 PRESENTERS
ON 2 DAYS**

BE PART OF IT!

