

PRESS RELEASE

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The European Innovation Ecosystem emphasise collaboration, skills and sustainability at HaDEA Showcase Event 2026

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CONVERGING contributed to the panel discussion “Boosting Innovation and Enhancing Competitiveness” at the [HaDEA Showcase Event 2026](#), alongside key European innovation stakeholders [Nikos Dimitropoulos](#) (CONVERGING, Horizon Europe: Digital), [David Bruneel](#) (SYNTECS, Horizon Europe: Industry), [Ana Maria Martinez](#) (REEPRODUCE, Horizon Europe: Industry) and [Giusi Condorelli](#) (THCS, Horizon Europe: Health).



Representing CONVERGING, Nikos Dimitropoulos stressed the importance of training, user engagement and collaboration to close the innovation gap between academia and industry.

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“Training activities are essential to close the innovation gap between academia and industry. We need to train local industry and involve end users from the beginning of the project to gain trust in the system,” he said.

Innovation is not a straight line, collaboration with EU partners allows us to combine different expertise, access data and develop solutions faster and more efficiently.



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The discussion highlighted the importance of clear communication and a shared understanding across the entire value chain, stressing that innovation outcomes must be communicated in accessible ways beyond project environments. Participants underlined the value of simple, common terminology and visible success stories to ensure knowledge transfer, uptake and broader impact across sectors and audiences.

Sustainability emerged as a central pillar of competitiveness, with speakers emphasising the need for multidisciplinary and value-chain approaches that enable innovation to progress from concept to market. Artificial intelligence was recognised as a key accelerator, supporting faster data analysis and enabling solutions to highly complex challenges, while Europe's strong scientific and technological base was seen as a major asset. The discussion also underscored the need to scale up innovation through stronger European data infrastructures and increased agility, reinforcing the role of coordinated action in building resilient and future-ready ecosystems.

Addressing technological acceleration, David Bruneel focused on the role of artificial intelligence:



"AI is one of the ways forward. It helps identify patterns, analyse data faster and bridge the gap with highly complex phenomena that might otherwise take ages to understand," he noted, adding that Europe already has a strong pool of excellence in science and technological development.

CONVERGING's participation reinforced a shared conclusion from the panel: Europe's competitiveness depends on sustainable innovation, skills development, strong collaboration and a fully connected value chain. The discussion confirmed that European innovation is gaining global attention, and that coordinated action across sectors is essential to maintain this momentum.



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