





# PRESS RELEASE

 [CONVERGING Social Media](#)  
 [converging@lms.mech.upatras.gr](mailto:converging@lms.mech.upatras.gr)

## CONVERGING contributes to discussions on human-centric production at the ERF 2026

The CONVERGING project participated in the 13th Workshop on Hybrid Production Systems (HPS), held on 24 March 2026 as part of the European Robotics Forum 2026 (ERF2026) in Stavanger, Norway. The event brought together more than 1,000 participants from academia, industry, and the public sector, reinforcing its position as one of Europe's leading robotics and automation gatherings.

The Hybrid Production Systems workshop focused on the evolving relationship between automation and human-centric production, examining how robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and human factors are shaping the next generation of industrial environments. The session attracted more than 60 participants and featured keynote presentations, pitch-style project showcases, and an interactive roundtable discussion.



Co-funded by  
the European Union

CONVERGING project is co-funded by the European Union, Research & Innovation Programme, under Grant N° 101058521.



## CONVERGING

Among the key topics explored were AI-enabled robot cognition through Large Language Models (LLMs) and Vision Language Models (VLMs), safe and effective human-robot collaboration in industrial settings, and the integration of immersive Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) technologies to support future production systems.

As part of the workshop, CONVERGING engaged with researchers, technology developers, and industry stakeholders to exchange knowledge and contribute to ongoing discussions on creating production systems that are not only technologically advanced but also adaptable, collaborative, and centered around human needs.

A particularly noteworthy outcome emerged from the live polling conducted during the session. Participants were asked about the current state of human-centricity in industrial production systems. The results revealed a significant challenge: 45% of respondents considered "human-centricity" to be primarily a conceptual label rather than a practical engineering principle, while an equal percentage indicated that it is still not a genuine priority in industrial deployment. These findings highlight the importance of initiatives such as CONVERGING in translating human-centric approaches from theory into tangible industrial practices.

CONVERGING reaffirmed its commitment to advancing flexible, adaptive, and collaborative production systems that effectively combine human expertise with cutting-edge digital technologies.



Co-funded by  
the European Union

CONVERGING project is co-funded by the European Union, Research & Innovation Programme, under Grant N° 101058521.