

Widening Impacts Spring 2026 Webinar Series



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BCThubs' Story

From Idea Conception to Post-Project Ambitions and Vision

Date: Thursday, 22 May 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CET (1.5 hours)

Presenter: TBC – BCThubs Management Team

Moderator: Michał Kosiedowski
HERIFORGE Excellence Hub Project

Registration: [Register Here](#)

Abstract

BCThubs – Blue Culture Technology Excellence Hubs in EU Widening Member States is a European Union Excellence Hub (EH) project funded under the Horizon WIDERA call (Grant Agreement No. 101087146). The objectives for this webinar are to:

- Support the formation of an Excellence Hub (EH) Community among EU Widening projects;
- Increase awareness of BCThubs specifically, and EH projects and the Widening Programme more generally;
- Catalyze new collaborations in Blue Technology, underwater archaeology, and heritage preservation;
- Disseminate best practices and lessons learned from designing the BCThubs proposal and executing the project.

The primary target audiences are:

- Other EH projects and their external stakeholders in the Blue Economy, marine technology, and cultural heritage sectors;
- Researchers, archaeologists, and diving professionals interested in advanced underwater technologies;
- Stakeholders and policy makers involved in the EU Widening Program and Horizon Europe projects;
- Technology transfer officers, investors, and innovation ecosystem actors in participating countries.

The webinar will begin with the background and vision that led to the BCThubs concept and consortium creation, cover the R&I solutions developed during the project, including prototype demonstrations and field validation results in Greece, Malta, Bulgaria, and beyond, and conclude with the post-project ambitions and a roadmap for uptake. Key achievements include: a multi-sensor ROV for 3D/4D seabed reconstruction; a Virtual Reality underwater diving application; an Augmented Reality system for divers; AI-powered UCH safeguarding tools; and the DiveSense wearable health & safety system. The webinar is structured as a **~60 min. presentation** followed by a **~30 min. Q&A and open discussion**.



BCThubs has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101087146. Views and opinions expressed are those of the project only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

About BCThubs

Keywords: Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH), Blue Technology, Robotics, VR/AR, Diver Safety, Remote Sensing, Excellence Hub, Widening.

Summary: Europe's seas, lakes, and rivers hide an extraordinary wealth of submerged cultural heritage — shipwrecks, ancient harbors, submerged settlements — that are largely inaccessible, at risk of looting and degradation, and invisible to the public. The EU-funded BCThubs project addresses this challenge by bringing together excellence ecosystems from Greece, Malta, Bulgaria, and Italy to develop cutting-edge underwater technologies that protect, study, and valorise Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH). The establishment of BCT Excellence Hubs aims to reinforce knowledge transfer among the stakeholders, enhance accessibility to UCH, support sustainable development, drive innovation as well as raise public awareness.

Objectives: BCThubs aims to create Blue Culture Technology Excellence Hubs across EU Widening Member States by developing and validating a suite of advanced R&I solutions for Underwater Cultural Heritage. The project develops technology prototypes reaching TRL6 in four key areas: (1) underwater research support — including a multi-sensor ROV with opto-acoustic 3D reconstruction, high-resolution electro-resistivity surveys, and shallow-water sediment coring; (2) on-site and remote accessibility — through cloud-based Virtual Reality diving experiences and an Augmented Reality underwater navigation system; (3) UCH asset safeguarding — via AI-powered 3D/4D reconstruction and degradation monitoring; (4) diver health & safety — with the DiveSense wearable system and DANA Health platform providing real-time physiological monitoring and decompression risk analysis.

Partners: RoT, UoT, CERTH, SDC, HIMA, ATL (Greece) · DAN Europe, SCH, ITS, ABT (Malta) · CUA, IICT, BHF, APROM (Bulgaria) · 3DR (Italy)

Follow, More Information, and Contact:

Website: www.bcthubs.eu

EU CORDIS: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101087146>

YouTube – BCThubs Tech Showcase 2025: <https://youtu.be/CCvCH7q6ilc>

About the Widening Impacts Spring 2026 Webinar Series

Background: The Widening Impacts 2025–2026 Webinar Series was seeded by the SolarHub Excellence Hubs project with an overall aim to increase the impacts of EU Widening Projects by creating a platform for Widening Projects to showcase their capacities, activities, and impacts to a large and diverse set of key stakeholders for the EU's Widening Program.

The webinar series' specific objectives are to:

- Catalyze inter-project collaborations;
- Create new opportunities by reaching new audiences;
- Increase ecosystem and hub knowledgeability;
- Gain competitive advantage by sharing knowledge & best-practices;
- Better exploit project results and improve project impacts;
- Achieve critical mass when engaging with key funding and policy decision makers at institutional, regional, and national levels.

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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/wideningimpacts

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Privacy Statement: All activities that are part of the Widening Impacts Spring 2026 Webinar Series are committed to compliance with GDPR Regulations.

Informed Consent: By attending a webinar all participants consent to the webinars being recorded with the intent to make this recording publicly available using an appropriate channel such as YouTube.

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