

EMERGE-EU

ADVANCED MATERIALS NETWORKING VISIT FOR EMERGING RESEARCHERS

-  Location: Brussels + Institutional Study Visit to the University of Ghent
-  21 - 23 January 2026

The purpose of the study visit

is to enhance the ability of emerging researchers in advanced materials to navigate the European research and innovation landscape and to strengthen their engagement with key EU-level stakeholders. The target group consists of early-career scientists (R2–R3) from Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, and the United Kingdom.

Over the course of a 3-day study visit, participants will learn about major EU funding instruments and opportunities for researchers, as well as effective ways to build networks and collaborative projects. The programme includes presentations from the European Commission, COST Association, ERC Executive Agency, FEMS, and national contact points, offering practical insights into advancing scientific careers and developing successful research proposals.

The first two days in Brussels will focus on Horizon Europe opportunities, science-for-policy engagement, and exchanges with expert communities in advanced materials. The final day will be dedicated to an institutional visit to Ghent University, where participants will explore research coordination practices and visit advanced materials laboratories, gaining hands-on understanding of the research environment and cooperation mechanisms.

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A Networking Study Visit for Emerging Researchers

📍 Location: Brussels + Institutional Study Visit to the University of Ghent

📅 21 - 23 January 2026

Programme

16.01.2026

Friday

Online session

Study visit programme presentation by its co-organisers

11:00 - 12:00

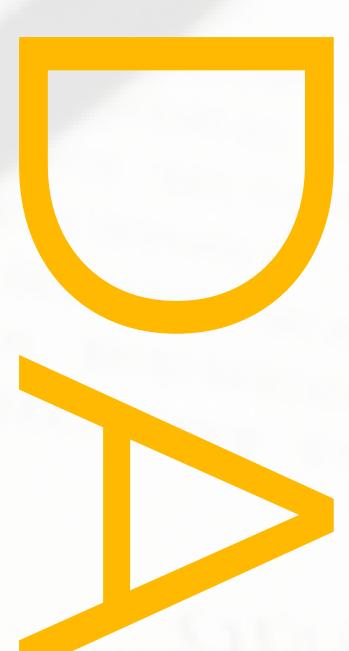
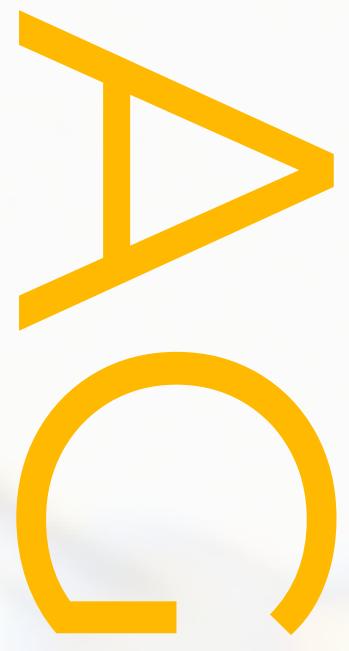
Making the most of brokering events by Perry Guess - Horizon Europe UK National Contact Point (Cross-Cutting), InnovateUK

21.01.2026

Wednesday

Permanent Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to the EU

Sq. Marie-Louise 49, 1000 Brussels, Belgium



13:00 - 14:30

Welcome lunch

Welcome address by Petia Vassileva - Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU of the BG PermRep

14:30 - 15:00

Introduction to the study visit and icebreaker programme by its co-organisers

Advanced Materials for Industrial Leadership Communication

15:00 - 16:00

Javier Sanfelix & Wide Hogenhout - Policy Officers, Directorate-General for Research & Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission,

16:00 - 17:00

Science for Policy initiatives in JRC

Anastasia Deligkiaouri - Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission

17:00 - 18:00

Exchange with Federation of European Materials Societies (FEMS)

Prof. Paula Vilarinho - President of FEMS & Centre for Research in Ceramics and Composite Materials (CICECO) at the University of Aveiro, Portugal

Dr. Frans Vos - FEMS Board member & Director at the Materials Consult

19:00

Dinner and evening networking @ Bouillon Bruxelles

Rue des Dominicains 7-9, 1000 Bruxelles

21:30

Free time to enjoy Brussels city centre

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22.01.2026

Thursday

9:00 - 09:15

Leibniz Association - Europe Office

Rue Trone 98 (4th floor), 1050, Brussels, Belgium

9:15 - 10:15

Opportunities of ERC and tips on how to write a successful proposal

Claudia Marenco, Scientific Research Programme Officer - ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA), European Commission

10:15 - 10:30

Coffee break

10:30 - 11:15

COST opportunities with a focus on advanced materials

Katalin Alfoldi - International cooperation Task Leader, COST Association



11:15 - 12:00

Better Research Careers
Dario Capezzuto - Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Research & Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission



12:00 - 13:00

Lunch



13:00 - 13:45

IAM-I Partnership - presentation of its work and opportunities

Eva-Kathrin Schillinger - Secretary General, IAM-I Partnership



13:45 - 14:30

Upcoming opportunities under Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 in advanced materials

Jakob Kuhs - EU Account manager for Digital, Industry and Space at EU team, Ghent University



14:30 - 15:15

Unlocking EIC Pathfinder for Emerging Researchers in Advanced Materials

Grzegorz Ambroziec, PhD - Deputy Head of Unit & Paolo Bondavalli, PhD - EIC programme manager Advanced Materials for Energy, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA), European Commission



15:15 - 15:30

Coffee break



15:30 - 17:30

Matchmaking session among participants

17:30 - 18:00

Feedback session

18:00 - 20:00

Brussels city tour - European Quarter and surrounding area

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23.01.2026 University of Ghent
Friday

8:45 - 09:45

Travel to Ghent

Visit to the Research Coordination Office, Ghent University

Room Raadzaal, Building UFO, Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 33, 9000 Gent

10:00 - 11:30

Ghent University and central University Services in Research - Dr. Sean Bex, Head of Research Projects

Services central EU-team of Ghent University - Dr Margo Baele, Team leader EU Team

11:30 - 12:00

Transfer with university campuses

Laboratory site visits at the Department of Chemistry, Ghent University

Krijgslaan 289, Building S3, 9000 Gent

Lunch among participants and host researchers

12:00 - 15:00

Prof. Pascal Van Der Voort - COMOC research group

Prof. Kristof Van Hecke - XStruct Bio-Inorganic research group

15:00

Return to Brussels

DAY
OF
VISIT