



Cross-visit

‘Irrigation - optimising water use practices in annual (and perennial) crops’

7-8 May 2025 | Greece



Synergies between CAP & Horizon: opportunities for EIP-AGRI OGs

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Bridging practice and research





Opportunities under Horizon Europe

- ✓ **Multi-actor approach** = practitioners (end-users) are put at the center of the R&I activities all over the whole course of the project.
- ✓ **Advisory networks** connecting advisors across all EU Member States in an EU network with a view to share experiences on how to best tackle challenges/seize opportunities on farm, in forests and rural villages.
- ✓ **Thematic networks** collecting existing knowledge and best practices on a given challenge/opportunity to make it available in easily understandable formats for end users such as farmers, foresters, advisors, consumers and others.
- ✓ **Living labs** group of real-life sites across the EU in which diverse actors experiment and test solutions for soil health and agroecology in a co-creative manner
- ✓ **Lighthouses / demonstration farms** individual sites, such as a single farm, for demonstrating, training and communicating about innovative best practices



Multi-actor projects

“By respecting our diversity with a tailored approach, and by consulting with all parties involved, [...] we can shape an attractive farming and food sector for generations to come”

– Christophe Hansen, Commissioner for Agriculture and Food



Multi-actor approach = practitioners (end-users) are put at the center of the R&I activities all over the whole course of the project. In this way we can achieve much quicker and bigger impact in practice!

Definition & requirements: introduction to the [Pre-published Work Programme 2025](#), e.g., Horizon Europe Cluster 6 **WP25 p. 14-16:**

- ✓ 7 key requirements
- ✓ **involvement of EIP-AGRI OGs is encouraged!**

Eligibility and excellence criteria!



Ongoing projects with multi-actor approach

[Horizon Europe Cluster 6 Work Programme 23-24](#) included one topic with **multi-actor approach** on :

HORIZON-CL6-2024-CLIMATE-01-1: *Improving irrigation practices and technologies in agriculture*

This topic has funded two ongoing projects:

- **RAINS**, [Resilient Agricultural Irrigation systems for water Scarcity in Europe](#) (started in Nov 2024)
- **GEORGIA**, [Green Deal compliant irrigation increasing Europe's agriculture resilience to drought](#) (started in Feb 2025)

➡ Check their website and subscribe to their newsletters to stay updated on the results of these projects! ⬅



Upcoming topic with multi-actor approach

The [Pre-published Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025*](#) includes a topic with **multi-actor approach**:

- ✓ HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-03: **Overcoming the barriers for scaling up circular water management in agriculture**
- ✓ For more info: EU Funding & Tenders Portal | EU Funding & Tenders Portal ([europa.eu](https://europea.eu))

The adoption of the Horizon Europe 'main' work programme 2025 is planned for May 2025.

- ✓ **Deadline for applications:** orientatively ***September 2025***

* These drafts have not been adopted or endorsed by the European Commission. Any views expressed are the preliminary views of the Commission services and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the Commission.



Thematic networks

Thematic networks collecting existing knowledge and best practices on a given challenge/opportunity to make it available in easily understandable formats for end users such as farmers, foresters, advisors, consumers and others.

45 (34 H2020 + 22 HE) bottom up
(+ 2 with predefined theme)

9 with focus on EIP-AGRI
operational groups

ORGANIC FARMING



BIODIVERSITY



ResAlliance



Soil-X-Change



1 more bottom up in the
pipeline
(WP 2025)





Advisory networks

Advisory networks connecting advisors across all EU Member States in an EU network with a view to share experiences on how to best tackle challenges/seize opportunities on farm, in forests and rural villages.



OrganicAdviceNetwork



LIVENET



AdvisoryNetPEST



NBSOIL
Nature-based Solutions
for Soil Management

+ 1 more in the pipeline, in support of advisors (WP 2025)



Boosting place-based innovation & peer-to-peer learning: living labs & lighthouses



Living-labs

- **group of real-life sites** in which **diverse actors experiment** and **test solutions** for soil health and agroecology in a co-creative manner



Lighthouses (demo farms)

- **individual sites**, such as a single farm, for **demonstrating, training** and **communicating** about innovative best practices





EU CAP NETWORK PRESENTATION

Living-labs are based on multi-actor approach



The main goal is to establish **100 living labs** and **lighthouses** to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030.

More info: [What is the Mission Soil? | Mission Soil Platform \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/mission-soil/)



The European partnership on accelerating farming systems transition: **agroecology living labs** and research infrastructures

More info: [Agroecology Partnership](https://agroecology-partnership.eu/)



Living-labs are based on multi-actor approach

New calls for Mission Soil Work Programme 2025 are now pre-published*!

➤ 13 topics, four of which require multi-actor approach:

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-01: Living Labs for soil remediation and green redevelopment of brownfields

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-02: Social, economic and cultural drivers, and costs of land degradation

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-03: Increasing environmental resilience through a better knowledge and management of the soil-water nexus

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-04: Developing transfer functions for the Soil Monitoring Law

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-05: EU global footprint on soils

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-06: Quantifying the impact of farming practices on soil health in arable lands

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-07: Improved land suitability for soil health and sustainable biomass production

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-08: Support to the operation and further development of soil-health science-policy interfaces and national soil-health hubs

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-09: Citizen engagement for sustainable land management through local and regional authorities

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-10: Network on carbon farming and emissions reductions for agricultural and forest lands

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-11: Soil Salinity in Europe: Drivers, indicators, current levels and temporal changes

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-01-two-stage: Living labs to enhance soil health in Continental, Boreal and Alpine biogeographical regions

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-02-two-stage: Broadening the living labs approach for soil health in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

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How to find partners to participate in Horizon?

- › **Partner search** on EU Funding & Tenders Portal
- › **Horizon Europe info days** - European Commission
- › **Cluster 6 Info Days** : **20-21 May Online**
- › **Soil Mission Info Days**: **22-23 May Online**
- › **Brokerage events** organised by Care4Bio **27 May 2025** (on-site, Warsaw, Poland)
- › **EU CAP Network brokerage event**: **recently organised in Prague 29-30 April 2025**
- › **On-site training** organised by Care4Bio **28 May 2025** on relevant proposal writing aspects
- › **Other networking activities** organised by EU CAP Network | EIP-AGRI: brokerage event; cross-visits, focus groups, workshops, seminars, conferences, etc.





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Thessaloniki, Greece

All information on the cross-visit is available on the [event webpage](#).

