



# Funding opportunities under Horizon Europe

Calls 2025



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## Colophon

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## Horizon Europe funding

**Horizon Europe**, the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, has a budget of € 95,5 billion, of which around € 9 billion is dedicated to Cluster 6: 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' for the period 2021-2027. Through Cluster 6, Horizon Europe aims to support research and innovation (R&I) projects to develop knowledge and innovative solutions for and with farmers, foresters and rural communities.

Horizon Europe supports R&I across a wide range of topics addressing global challenges. Through the 'EIP-AGRI' strand of the EU CAP Network, synergies are created between Horizon Europe and CAP-funded innovation projects, such as Operational Groups (OGs).

This brochure guides you through the different topics included in the **Horizon Europe Cluster 6 work programme** implementing a multi-actor approach, the **Mission Soil** and the **Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking** that builds on the new R&I priorities outlined in the **Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027**.



Please be aware that only the officially published Work Programme text, budget and deadlines should be taken as a reference for any proposal preparation.

All applicants should consult the **Participant Portal** to find the latest version.












## Cluster 6: Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment

Cluster 6 provides R&I opportunities to strengthen and balance environmental, social and economic goals for sustainability. It supports transformative change of the economy and of society to reduce environmental degradation, reverse the decline of biodiversity, better manage natural resources, and meet the EU's climate objectives. This happens while ensuring food and water security, and fostering sustainable prosperity and competitiveness across the EU, and taking into account the evolving geopolitical context.

## Funding opportunities under Cluster 6: Destinations

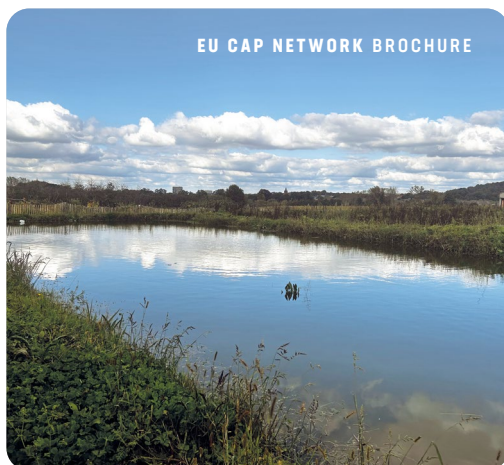
The Cluster 6 Work Programme is divided into seven different 'destinations':

DESTINATIONS	
	Biodiversity and ecosystem services (BIODIV)
	Fair, healthy and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption (FARM2FORK)
	Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors (CircBio)
	Clean environment and zero pollution (ZEROPOLLUTION)
	Land, ocean and water for climate action (CLIMATE)
	Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities (COMMUNITIES)
	Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal (GOVERNANCE)



## Biodiversity and ecosystem services

The R&I activities under the 'Biodiversity and ecosystem services' destination aim to put biodiversity on a path to recovery and protect and restore ecosystems and their services. R&I in this destination focus on preserving and restoring biodiversity and essential ecosystems, while ensuring resilient primary production through supporting the implementation of nature restoration measures and breeding aimed at enhanced multi-stress tolerance in crops.



ACRONYM HORIZON-CL6-2025	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Biodiversity and ecosystem services</b>		
<u>01-BIODIV-10</u>	Supporting the implementation of nature restoration measures for sustainable farming systems	11-5/6
› Deadline: <b>17 September 2025</b>		
<u>01-BIODIV-02-two-stage</u>	Breeding for resilience: enhancing multi-stress tolerance in crops	14-7
› Deadline 1 <sup>st</sup> stage: <b>04 September 2025</b> › Deadline 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage: <b>18 February 2026</b>		

### Inspiring projects promoting biodiversity

- **AGRI4POL** Through collaborations with farmers, policymakers and stakeholders, AGRI4POL promotes pollinator-friendly agricultural practices, aligning with sustainability goals and contributing to the EU Green Deal.
- **LAFERIA** (LANDscape FEatures Reintroduction in Intensive Agricultural land) - identifies key factors that help reintroduce landscape features in intensive farming areas, and develops strategies and business models to overcome barriers to their reintroduction.

- **LegumES** focuses on valorising and balancing the environmental and economic ecosystem service benefits offered by legumes and legume-based cropped systems.



## Fair, healthy and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption

Under the 'Fair, healthy and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption' destination, the R&I activities aim to make agriculture and food systems more competitive, resilient and sustainable. They also seek to ensure healthy food and nutrition security within planetary boundaries.



ACRONYM HORIZON-CL6-2025	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Fair, healthy and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption</b>		
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-01</u></a>	Additional activities for the European partnership on accelerating farming systems transition - agroecology living labs and research infrastructures	90
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-02</u></a>	Additional activities for the European partnership on animal health and welfare	120
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-03</u></a>	Overcoming the barriers for scaling up circular water management in agriculture	12-6
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-04</u></a>	Enhancing plant protein production to bolster the resilience of agricultural systems and EU self-sufficiency in plant protein used as feed	11-5.5
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-05</u></a>	Developing innovative phytosanitary measures for plant health - focus on systems approach for pest risk management	12-6
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-06</u></a>	Improving grassland management in European livestock farming systems	16-8
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-07</u></a>	Fostering animal breeding and genetics for climate change adaptation and mitigation, improved robustness and resilience	12-6
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-08</u></a>	Exploring the potential of controlled environment agriculture (CEA)	6
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-09</u></a>	Strengthening the EU crop breeding research and innovation ecosystem for competitive, resilient, and sustainable agriculture	3
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-16</u></a>	Developing a joint AU-EU Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) supporting the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership	6
› <b>Deadline: 16 September 2025</b>		
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-01-two-stage</u></a>	Emerging and future risks to plant health	12-6
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-02-two-stage</u></a>	Open topic: Innovating for on-farm post-harvest operations, storage and transformation of crops into food and non-food products	12-6
<a href="#"><u>02-FARM2FORK-05-two-stage</u></a>	Developing agroecology living labs and lighthouses for climate action under the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership	12-6
› <b>Deadline 1<sup>st</sup> stage: 04 September 2025</b> › <b>Deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> stage: 18 February 2026</b>		



## Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors

The research and innovation partnership on forestry under the 'Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors' destination aims to accelerate the transition to a sustainable forest bioeconomy, enhancing forest sector value, biodiversity, and climate resilience.



ACRONYM HORIZON-CL6-2025	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors</b>		
<u>01-CircBio-15</u>	European partnership: Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future	70
› <b>Deadline: 17 September 2025</b>		

### More funding opportunities in the circular bioeconomy

- The **Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking** (CBE JU) is a partnership between the European Union and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC) that funds projects advancing competitive circular bio-based industries under Horizon Europe.
- Check the CBE JU **Annual Work Programme 2025** for the complete topic text, conditions and requirements.
- **See all open calls.**

## Clean environment and zero pollution

Under the 'Clean environment and zero pollution' destination, R&I activities aim to empower farmers with innovative digital and data-driven solutions tailored to their specific needs, allowing for the sustainable management of water, nutrients, other inputs and natural resources in conventional and other types of agriculture, including organic farming systems.



ACRONYM HORIZON-CL6-2025	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Clean environment and zero pollution</b>		
<u>01-ZEROPOLLUTION-06</u>	Provide digital solutions tailored to small and medium-sized farms to monitor and sustainably manage agricultural inputs and natural resources	8
› <b>Deadline: 17 September 2025</b>		

## Land, ocean and water for climate action

The R&I activities under the 'Land, ocean and water for climate action' destination aim to better equip farmers to contribute to climate neutrality and become more resilient and better adapted to climate change.



ACRONYM HORIZON-CL6-2025	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Land, ocean and water for climate action</b>		
<u>02-CLIMATE-03</u>	Understanding and managing medium and longer-term challenges and opportunities for agriculture stemming from shifting climatic zones and changing agroecological environments	10-5
<u>02-CLIMATE-04</u>	Monitoring, reporting, verification and mitigation of non-CO <sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas emissions and related air pollutants from agriculture	12-6
› <b>Deadline: 16 September 2025</b>		

## Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities

The research and innovation activities under the 'Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities' destination aim to contribute to the achievement of the **long-term vision for EU's rural areas (LTVRA)** to be stronger, connected, resilient, and prosperous. In the work programme 2025, the R&I under this destination will focus on helping rural communities respond to demographic challenges and improving access to housing in rural areas.



ACRONYM HORIZON-CL6-2025	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities</b>		
<u>02-COMMUNITIES-01</u>	Adapting to and mitigating demographic trends in rural areas through evidence-based planning and innovative solutions	13-6.5
<u>02-COMMUNITIES-02</u>	Exploring and improving access to housing in rural areas and developing the houses and villages of the future	6
› <b>Deadline: 16 September 2025</b>		



## Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal

Under this destination, the R&I activities aim to boost effective governance and policy mixes, and support sustainability transitions thanks to evidence-based decision-making, digitalisation and enhanced flows of existing and new knowledge, solutions and skills among farmers, foresters, advisors and rural communities.



ACRONYM HORIZON-CL6-2025	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Expected grant size [M€]
<b>Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal</b>		
<u>03-GOVERNANCE-01</u>	Improving analytical capacity and understanding of the bargaining power and interactions of farmers with the operators of the value chains	6
<u>03-GOVERNANCE-02</u>	Upscaling innovative payments to support farmers in the delivery of agri-environment-climate public goods	12-6
<u>03-GOVERNANCE-03</u>	Boosting the attractiveness of agriculture and the connection between the farming community and society	12-6
<u>03-GOVERNANCE-11</u>	Enhancing the sustainability and resilience of agriculture, forestry and rural development through digital twins	12-6
<u>03-GOVERNANCE-12</u>	Increasing knowledge flows to practice within Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) via thematic networks	3
<u>03-GOVERNANCE-13</u>	Strengthening the knowledge and skills of advisors and integrating them within Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) via an EU advisory network	10
<u>03-GOVERNANCE-14</u>	Preparing farmers, their workforce and advisors for the future of agriculture by providing the relevant knowledge, skills and competences at the right time and place	8

› **Deadline: 24 September 2025**



## Stronger AKIS through advisory networks

Advisors are best placed to encourage farmers to change to practices that improve the competitiveness, sustainability and resilience of farming.

**Advisory networks (AN)** are multi-actor projects that connect advisors across the EU to help them stay up to date with cutting-edge knowledge and share experiences on how to tackle challenges and/or seize opportunities for farms, forests and rural communities.

The work programme 2025 includes a call for an overarching EU advisory network that will strengthen the knowledge and skills of advisors and integrate them within the **AKIS**. It will coordinate the efforts of all established advisory networks.

- Newly started advisory networks **LiveNet** and **FORADVISE** focus on livestock and forestry.
- The advisory networks **NBSoil** and **ClimateSmartAdvisors** were launched through previous calls to support advisors with expertise in soil health and climate-smart practices.
- **i2connect** and **FAIRSHARE** were dedicated to connecting and empowering farm advisors.



### → **Horizon Europe project CARE4BIO - Network of National Contact Points for Cluster 6:**

**Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment** cooperates with the European Commission to assist stakeholders in raising the quality of proposals by encouraging trans-cluster collaboration. National Contact Points (NCPs) play a crucial role in guiding stakeholders through Horizon calls, providing support and resources. The NCPs facilitate transnational cooperation and reinforce the European AKIS.

- **Digitalisation in a nutshell** - Digitalisation and data technologies support profitability, improve working conditions, and increase the sustainability of agriculture and forestry, while empowering rural communities. The development of digital and data-based solutions creates more knowledge-driven, innovative agricultural and forestry sectors, reinforces AKIS, and provides solutions tailored to the needs of rural communities. Discover the latest developments on the **EU CAP Network digitalisation page**.





## Thematic networks compiling knowledge ready for practice

Thematic networks (TN) are a type of multi-actor project. They collect existing knowledge and best practices in a specific area that are insufficiently known and used by farmers, foresters and rural communities.

Thematic networks translate the collected solutions into an easily understandable format and make them available beyond the lifespan of the project. Applicants have the opportunity to select specific

network themes in a 'bottom-up' approach, to ensure that the most pressing needs of farmers, foresters and rural communities are addressed.

**NEW!** Thematic networks in the 2025 Cluster 6 work programme must allocate resources to gather results from relevant EIP-AGRI OGs, promote collaboration, and identify relevant OGs in their proposals.\*



- More on **Horizon Europe thematic networks** and **Operational Groups**.
- Thematic networks **TECHCOACH** and **AQUAGRI-KNOW** connect EIP-AGRI OGs on smart farming and water management.
- **FarmBioNet** promotes biodiversity-friendly farming, **OH-FINE** shares organic farming knowledge, while **therBN** supports a sustainable circular bioeconomy.
- **DIGI-Rangeland** network focuses on digital innovation in rangeland livestock systems.



## Multi-actor approach – science and practice co-creating solutions



MAA projects are recommended to connect with interactive innovation groups, such as EIP-AGRI OGs.

- **Browse the Operational Groups database.**
- Find more information in **the Operational Groups Portal.**
- Find out more about **Horizon Europe Cluster 6.**

The Horizon Europe Cluster 6 Work Programme 2025 includes many topics that require a multi-actor approach (MAA). In such projects, people who will benefit from the project results need to be involved from the start: from developing the idea and preparing the proposal, to implementing activities and sharing, demonstrating and disseminating the results. This leads to demand-driven, reliable, innovative solutions that are more likely to be applied in practice at a wider scale.

- **Find the definition and requirements of the multi-actor approach**

### **Practice abstracts as a common format**

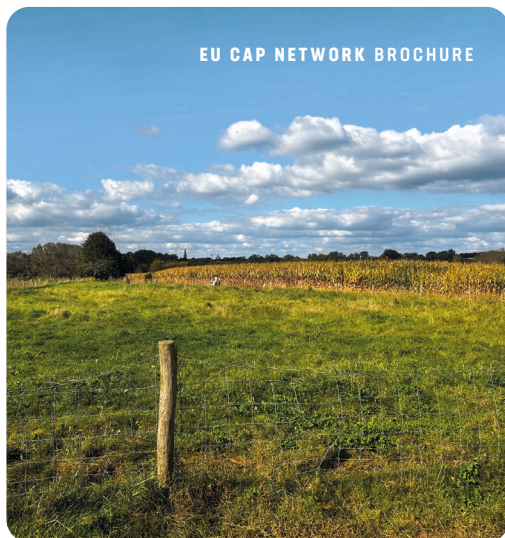
- Under the EIP-AGRI, **Operational Groups** and **Horizon projects** collaborate to share practical, innovative solutions across the EU. They use 'practice abstracts' in the 'EIP-AGRI common format' to harmonise knowledge exchange. You can find all the details on the **practice abstracts webpage**. OGs benefit from Horizon networks, while Horizon projects gain insights from OGs tackling practical needs.



# **Mission Soil**

**The Mission 'A soil deal for Europe'** is a large-scale initiative protecting and restoring soils and promoting sustainable management practices in urban and rural areas to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030. Mission Soil funds a research and innovation programme with a strong social science component, establishing a network of 100 Living Labs and Light-houses to co-create knowledge, test solutions, and demonstrate their value in real-life conditions, developing a framework for soil monitoring in Europe and raising awareness of the vital importance of soils.

The Horizon Europe Missions Work Programme 2025 is currently open for applications.  
Discover all Mission Soil topics below:



EU CAP NETWORK BROCHURE

ACRONYM HORIZON-MISS-2025	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Expected grant size (M€)
<u>05-SOIL-01</u>	Living Labs for soil remediation and green redevelopment of brownfields	12
<u>05-SOIL-02</u>	Social, economic and cultural drivers, and costs of land degradation	11-5.5
<u>05-SOIL-03</u>	Increasing environmental resilience through a better knowledge and management of the soil-water nexus	6
<u>05-SOIL-04</u>	Developing transfer functions for the Soil Monitoring Law	6
<u>05-SOIL-05</u>	EU global footprint on soils	6
<u>05-SOIL-06</u>	Quantifying the impact of farming practices on soil health in arable lands	6
<u>05-SOIL-07</u>	Improved land suitability for soil health and sustainable biomass production	6
<u>05-SOIL-08</u>	Support to the operation and further development of soil-health science-policy interfaces and national soil-health hubs	6
<u>05-SOIL-09</u>	Citizen engagement for sustainable land management through local and regional authorities	5
<u>05-SOIL-10</u>	Network on carbon farming and emissions reductions for agricultural and forest lands	3
<u>05-SOIL-11</u>	Soil Salinity in Europe: Drivers, indicators, current levels and temporal changes	6

› **Deadline: 30 September 2025**

ACRONYM HORIZON-MISS-2025	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Expected grant size (M€)
05-SOIL-01-two-stage	Living labs to enhance soil health in Continental, Boreal and Alpine biogeographical regions	36-12
05-SOIL-02-two-stage	Broadening the living labs approach for soil health in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)	12-6
> Deadline 1 <sup>st</sup> stage: 04 September 2025 > Deadline 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage: 18 February 2026		

- **Sign the Mission Soil Manifesto** to become part of a community that shares knowledge and best practices, and cares for soil.
- Keep an eye on the **Mission Soil Platform** and subscribe to the **Mission Soil newsletter** for info and updates to learn about interesting soil projects and discover what's coming up in 2025.
- Additionally, applicants interested in Living Labs and Lighthouses are encouraged to connect with **SOILL-Startup**, the dedicated Living Lab Support Structure, for tailored advice and operational guidance.







## Other funding opportunities under Horizon Europe

### Funding for innovation

- Discover funding opportunities from the European Innovation Council (EIC)
- **EIT-Food** and **EIT Digital** support innovative projects that help speed up the **transition to sustainable agriculture and food systems**. Find all open calls.
- **Climate-KIC** drives local climate action by supporting the testing, learning, and sharing of systemic solutions.

- **EU CAP Network Factsheet on funding opportunities for agriculture and rural entrepreneurs**
- **Check out the latest Research Needs from Practice report**



### European R&I partnerships

- **Agroecology Partnership**
- **European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare**

### Get started

Find all information on the Horizon Europe calls on the **Funding and Tenders portal**.


- Contact your **National Contact Point** or the **Horizon Europe Helpdesk & Support Services** for assistance.
- **Get more tips and tricks** for writing a project proposal.
- Keep an eye on the **Horizon Europe Infodays 2025 for Cluster 6**.
- The **EU CAP Network brokerage event 'Partnering for innovation with impact in agriculture and rural areas'** supported the 2025 Horizon Europe Cluster 6 calls, showcasing results and collaboration with EIP-AGRI Operational Groups.





## Visit the EU CAP NETWORK Website


 [eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu)

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