



Funding opportunities under Horizon Europe

Calls 2026

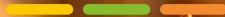
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Colophon

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Horizon Europe funding

Horizon Europe, the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation (R&I), 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 R&I projects that develop knowledge and innovative solutions for and with farmers, foresters and rural communities.

Horizon Europe addresses a wide range of global challenges through R&I. Within the EU CAP Network, the EIP-AGRI creates synergies between Horizon Europe and CAP-funded innovation projects, such as EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (OGs), fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange across the EU's innovation ecosystem.

This brochure guides you through the different topics included in the **Horizon Europe Cluster 6 Work Programme 2026**, implementing a multi-actor approach and relevant topics from **the Mission Soil**.



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












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 society and the economy 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, fostering sustainable prosperity and competitiveness across the EU, and responding to an evolving geopolitical context.

Funding opportunities under Cluster 6: Destinations

The Cluster 6 Work Programme is divided into seven '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

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. They also support viable and resilient primary production by enabling the implementation of nature restoration measures.



		
ACRONYM	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET
HORIZON-CL6-2026		Number of projects x expected grant size per project
Biodiversity and ecosystem services		
<u>01-BIODIV-06</u>	Boosting agrobiodiversity for food security and sustainable competitiveness	12 M€ (2 x 6 M€)
> Open: 17 April 2026 > Deadline: 17 September 2026		

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. The R&I in this destination will also support the objectives of the 'Vision for Agriculture and Food'.

ACRONYM HORIZON-CL6-2026	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Number of projects x expected grant size per project
02-FARM2FORK-01	Developing innovative phytosanitary treatments for regulated plant pests	11.8 M€ (2 x 5.9 M€)
02-FARM2FORK-02	Tackling pesticide resistance: early detection, management strategies, and foresight	12 M€ (2 x 6 M€)
02-FARM2FORK-03	Boosting the competitiveness of protein crops in Europe	12 M€ (2 x 6 M€)
02-FARM2FORK-05	Boosting circularity and diversification strategies of terrestrial livestock production systems	12 M€ (2 x 6 M€)
02-FARM2FORK-06	Advanced innovative solutions for improved competitiveness and sustainability in controlled environment agriculture (CEA)	12 M€ (2 x 6 M€)
02-FARM2FORK-07	Strengthening the EU plant protection ecosystem for a future-proof agriculture	3 M€ (1 x 3 M€)
> Open: 14 January 2026 > Deadline: 14 April 2026		

ACRONYM HORIZON-CL6-2026	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Number of projects x expected grant size per project
<u>02-FARM2FORK-01- two-stage</u>	Open topic: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector by enhancing the efficient and sustainable use of agricultural production factors	13.5 M€ (3 x 4.5 M€)
<u>02-FARM2FORK-02- two-stage</u>	Open topic: Boosting organic farming for a competitive, sustainable and resilient farming sector	12 M€ (2 x 6 M€)
<div>› Open 1st stage: 12 February 2026 › Deadline: 14 April 2026</div> <div>› Deadline 2nd stage: 15 September 2026</div>		

VALPRO Path is a Horizon Europe project boosting sustainable, competitive plant-protein production in Europe. Through co-creation and five living labs, it designs and tests new crop systems and value chains, helping farmers capture more value, strengthen resilience, diversify rotations and meet environmental goals with evidence-based, real-life innovations. Check out their business innovations and online Knowledge Point.



The Horizon thematic networks **OK-Net Arable** and **OK-Net Ecofeed** developed the **Organic Farm Knowledge platform**. It provides access to a wide range of tools and resources about organic farming that can help improve production, and serves as a virtual meeting place for cross-border learning. The platform promotes the exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisors, and scientists to increase the productivity, quality and sustainability of organic farming across Europe.

Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors

The European 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-CL6-2026	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Number of projects x expected grant size per project
Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors		
<u>01-CircBio-09</u>	Balancing food security, bioeconomy, climate and biodiversity objectives to unlock sustainable value chains	12 M€ (2 x 6 M€)
> Open: 17 April 2026 > Deadline: 17 September 2026		

More funding opportunities in the circular bioeconomy

The **Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking** (CBE JU), a partnership between the European Union and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC), funds projects advancing competitive and sustainable circular bio-based industries under Horizon Europe. Check out the **Annual Work Programme 2026** for topics, conditions and requirements.

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-CL6-2026	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Number of projects x expected grant size per project
Clean environment and zero pollution		
<u>01-ZEROPOLLUTION-03</u>	Developing managed aquifer recharge techniques (MAR) in a rural context	12 M€ (2 x 6 M€)
> Open: 17 April 2026 > Deadline: 17 September 2026		

The Horizon Europe project **ECONUTRI** develops and tests nature-based solutions to reduce nutrient loss and cut emissions in farming, and shares these with farmers and scientists to improve air, soil and water quality.



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

The R&I activities under this destination aim to contribute to the achievement of the **long-term vision for the EU's rural areas (LTVRA)** to be stronger, connected, resilient, and prosperous. In the Work Programme 2026, the R&I in this destination will also support the objectives of the **'Vision for Agriculture and Food'** and the **'Generational renewal in agriculture'** strategy.



ACRONYM HORIZON-CL6-2026	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Number of projects x expected grant size per project
Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities		
02-COMMUNITIES-01	Boosting sustainable competitiveness in rural areas through innovation	11.8 M€ (2 x 5-6 M€)
> Open: 14 January 2026 > Deadline: 14 April 2026		



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-CL6-2026	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Number of projects x expected grant size per project
Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal		
<u>03-GOVERNANCE-09</u>	Increasing knowledge flows to practice within AKIS via EU thematic knowledge hubs	7 M€ (2 x 3.5 M€)
<u>03-GOVERNANCE-10</u>	Embracing innovation in agriculture by peer-to-peer learning via on farm-demonstrations and cost-benefit analysis	9.8 M€ (2 x 4-5 M€)
<u>03-GOVERNANCE-02</u>	Improving analytical capacity and understanding of social drivers in agriculture to better assess social sustainability in the sector	10.8 M€ (2 x 5-6 M€)
> Open: 14 January 2026 > Deadline: 15 April 2026		

Farmtopia - democratising digital farming for small-scale farms

This Horizon Europe project connects farmers and providers of agricultural digital solutions. Together, they co-create affordable, cost-effective tools that address the needs of small-scale farms, focusing on strategic crops and livestock in 15 European countries. The project also aims to develop reusable software components and innovative business models.





EU thematic knowledge hubs

A novelty in the Work Programme 2026 - 2027

The EU thematic knowledge hubs will build on the strengths of the **thematic and advisory networks** to improve the **flow of knowledge within Europe's AKIS**. They will aim to widely disseminate information on specific themes among practitioners, contributing to a more informed, interconnected and engaged AKIS community.

The hubs will serve as central reference points for valuable content, making it easier for users to access **thematic research results, innovative solutions, practical knowledge and inspirational ideas**.

Knowledge hubs will put a stronger focus on **how innovations and results are communicated**, using formats tailored to practitioners' needs: videos, interactive workshops and digital tools. Beyond gathering thematic results, they will **offer services that enhance networking, cross-fertilisation and knowledge exchange between the different AKIS actors**.



The first two hubs will focus on **protein crop competitiveness** and **sustainable water management**. They will align and connect results from Horizon projects, EIP-AGRI Operational Groups, and national funded projects, ensuring that knowledge is shared and applied across **AKIS actors throughout Europe**.

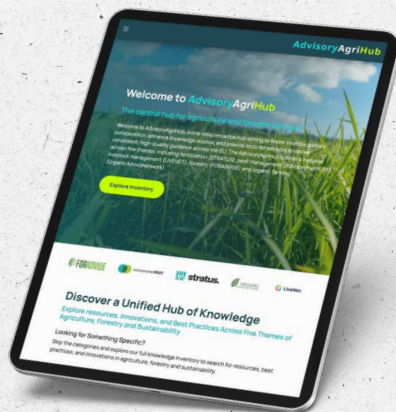
Although knowledge hubs are new, they will build on **earlier initiatives and projects**, ensuring complementarities between them:



- The **Swedish Knowledge Hub for the Digitalisation of Agriculture** promotes digital technologies in agriculture. Led by Linköping University, it connects farmers, researchers and tech firms, shares knowledge, offers advice, identifies needs, tests solutions on farms, and supports EU projects such as Tools4CAP and Farmtopia.

Examples from EIP-AGRI projects:

- Horizon Europe project **SHERPA** developed a rural knowledge repository, increasing access to rural innovation outcomes.
- Horizon Europe project **AdvisoryAgriHub** pools results from five advisory networks (fertilisation, pest management, livestock, forestry, organic farming) into one shared platform.
- EIP-AGRI Operational Group **HARMONY** is a farmer-controlled digital hub integrating livestock data for real-time decisions and sector innovation.





European Partnerships

Co-funded European Partnerships connect European farmers, researchers, businesses and policymakers to develop practical solutions for agriculture, forestry, and rural areas. They fund projects, create networks, and promote innovation to help farms and rural businesses become more sustainable, productive, and resilient.

- **European Partnership on Agroecology** joins the forces of the European Commission and 72 partners across Europe to fund research and innovation for more sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.
- **European Partnership 'Agriculture of Data'** uses digital and earth observation tools to help farmers, improve resilience and EU policy.
- **European Partnership on Animal Health & Welfare (EUPAHW)** works to improve animal welfare and control diseases in livestock and aquaculture.

New partnerships are proposed on '**Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future**' and '**Raw Materials for the Green and Digital Transition**'.

Insights from an EUPAHW project, developing biosecurity measures for livestock farming:



"In the project 'Biosecurity measures to prevent and control aid on farm and during transport taking into account effects on AW', funded under the EUPAHW, we are identifying effective biosecurity measures to improve production & housing systems, whilst considering the effects on animal welfare - all very important for sustainable livestock production."

SØREN SAXMOSE NIELSEN

Main coordinator of the project



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

Multi-actor approach (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**

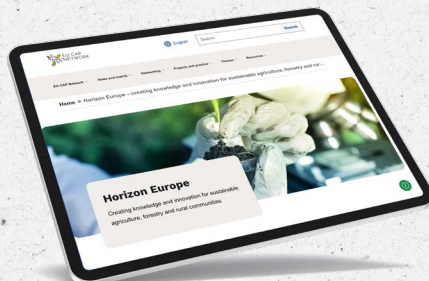
The Horizon Europe Cluster 6 Work Programme 2026 includes many topics requiring a multi-actor approach, involving stakeholders from idea development to implementation and dissemination. This ensures demand-driven, reliable innovations that are more likely to be widely applied in practice.

- See the **definition of Multi-actor approach by the European Commission**
- **Multi-actor approach in practice** - EU CAP Network website
- **PREMIERE** is providing support to develop well-prepared MAA projects

Practice abstracts: innovative, practice-oriented solutions

Under the EIP-AGRI, **Operational Groups** and **Horizon projects** share their results and practice-oriented solutions across the EU, in concise summaries, known as 'practice abstracts'. They follow the 'EIP-AGRI common format' to harmonise knowledge exchange.

The EIP-AGRI project database has a new feature - you can now **search practice abstracts**, filtering by project type, topic, geographical location, keyword, free text search, etc.





Mission Soil

The Mission ‘A soil deal for Europe’ is a large-scale initiative protecting and restoring soils and promoting sustainable management practices to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030. One of its main building blocks is to fund a R&I programme of over € 700 million in total to address soil health challenges. The Mission’s target is to establish a network of 100 Living Labs and Lighthouses to co-create knowledge, test solutions, and demonstrate their value in real-life conditions. Other building blocks are to support a European framework for soil monitoring, to raise soil literacy and awareness of the vital importance of soils. Discover some Mission Soil topics below:



ACRONYM HORIZON-MISS-2026	TOPIC	TOPIC BUDGET Number of projects x expected grant size per project
05-SOIL-04	Leveraging long-term field experiments and other datasets to develop AI-ready decision support systems for sustainable soil management	9 M€ (1 x 9 M€)
› Open: 4 February 2026 › Deadline: 23 September 2026		
05-SOIL-01-TWO-STAGE	Living labs to enhance soil health in Alpine and Atlantic biogeographical regions	24 M€ (2 x 12 M€)
05-SOIL-02-TWO-STAGE	Living labs to enhance soil health in managed forests and in natural/semi-natural lands	24 M€ (2 x 12 M€)
› Open 1 st stage: 12 February 2026 › Deadline: 14 April 2026		
› Deadline 2 nd stage: 15 September 2026		

- See the **Mission Soil Platform** for information on projects, Mission progress (Dashboard), funding opportunities, news, and events.
- Subscribe to the **Mission Soil newsletter** to stay up to date on Mission activities and opportunities to engage.
- Sign the **Mission Soil Manifesto** to join a community sharing knowledge, good practices and caring for soil.



Help to get you started

- Find all information on the Horizon Europe calls on the **EU Funding & Tenders Portal**.
- Contact your **National Contact Point**, the **Horizon Helpdesk and support services** or the **Care4bio network** for assistance.
- **Get more tips and tricks** for writing a project proposal.
- Keep an eye on the **Horizon Europe Infodays for Cluster 6**, 22-23 January 2026.
- The **EU CAP Network brokerage event** 'Innovating for competitive, resilient and sustainable agriculture and rural areas' - Warsaw, Poland, 25-26 February 2026 - supports the 2026 Horizon Europe Cluster 6 calls by connecting research and practice, promoting multi-actor participation, and inspiring EIP-AGRI Operational Groups to join new project proposals.

Explore the latest '**Research needs from practice**' report to see what research farmers, advisors and others need to boost regenerative agriculture, soil health, circular water management and more.



Other funding opportunities

Discover **key EU funding opportunities** that support **innovation in agriculture and forestry**, such as **LIFE**, **ERASMUS** and **InvestEU**, in the **EU CAP Network factsheet on funding opportunities for agriculture, forestry and rural entrepreneurs**.



ERASMUS project **European Circular Farmers Network (ECFN)** connects young farmers across Europe to promote circular agriculture.




The **Life ADA (Adaptation in Agriculture)** project helps farmers to face climate change challenges in Emilia-Romagna, Italy. See the **EIP-AGRI challenge video**.


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