

CROSSPATHS

how it all started
and what we want to achieve



Funded by
the European Union



What are we a part of



**70 independent Institutes
in Poland**
employing **7000** people
on **5000** research positions

DIVISIONS:

- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Biological and Agricultural Sciences
(19 institutes)
- Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry
and Earth Sciences
- Engineering Sciences
- Medical Sciences





Widening countries

- low international recognition
- weak links to excellent European networks
- poor participation in competitive grant consortia
- lacking know-how on how to best valorise existing assets



Widening countries



Food Research Division



Biology of Reproduction Division





FP7 - RegPot - REFRESH - OK



Horizon2020 - EraChair - WELCOME2 - OK



ERDF – funded new site
InLife Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research PAS



~~TWINNING~~



P2S



HORIZON EUROPE



Pathways to Synergies

ERDF regional investments



state of the art research Infrastructure



acting in isolation
missing international
exposure



"sleeping beauties"

Horizon Europe





Pathways to Synergies

- Support cross-border collaboration
- Bridging the gap between local and EU funding



A common problem to be solved

We share the "pain" of a low international recognition, weak links to excellent European networks, poor participation in competitive grant consortia, and lack the know-how and skills on how to best valorise our existing assets.



How do we want to get out of isolation ?



CROSSPATHS Matchmaking Event | HE Cluster 6, Brussels

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/17/pause-reflect-and-stay-home-how-to-look-after-yourself-and-others-in-self-isolation>.





With A Little Help From My/Our Friends



Networking never to be overestimated *Foodforce*, NCP's, EIT-FOOD



FOODforce



PARTNERS



UNIVERSIDADE
CATOLICA
PORTUGUESA



Estonian University
of Life Sciences

MENTOR



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

COMMUNICATION



innotrope
INNOVATE TOGETHER. TRANSFORM SOCIETY



What do we want to achieve?



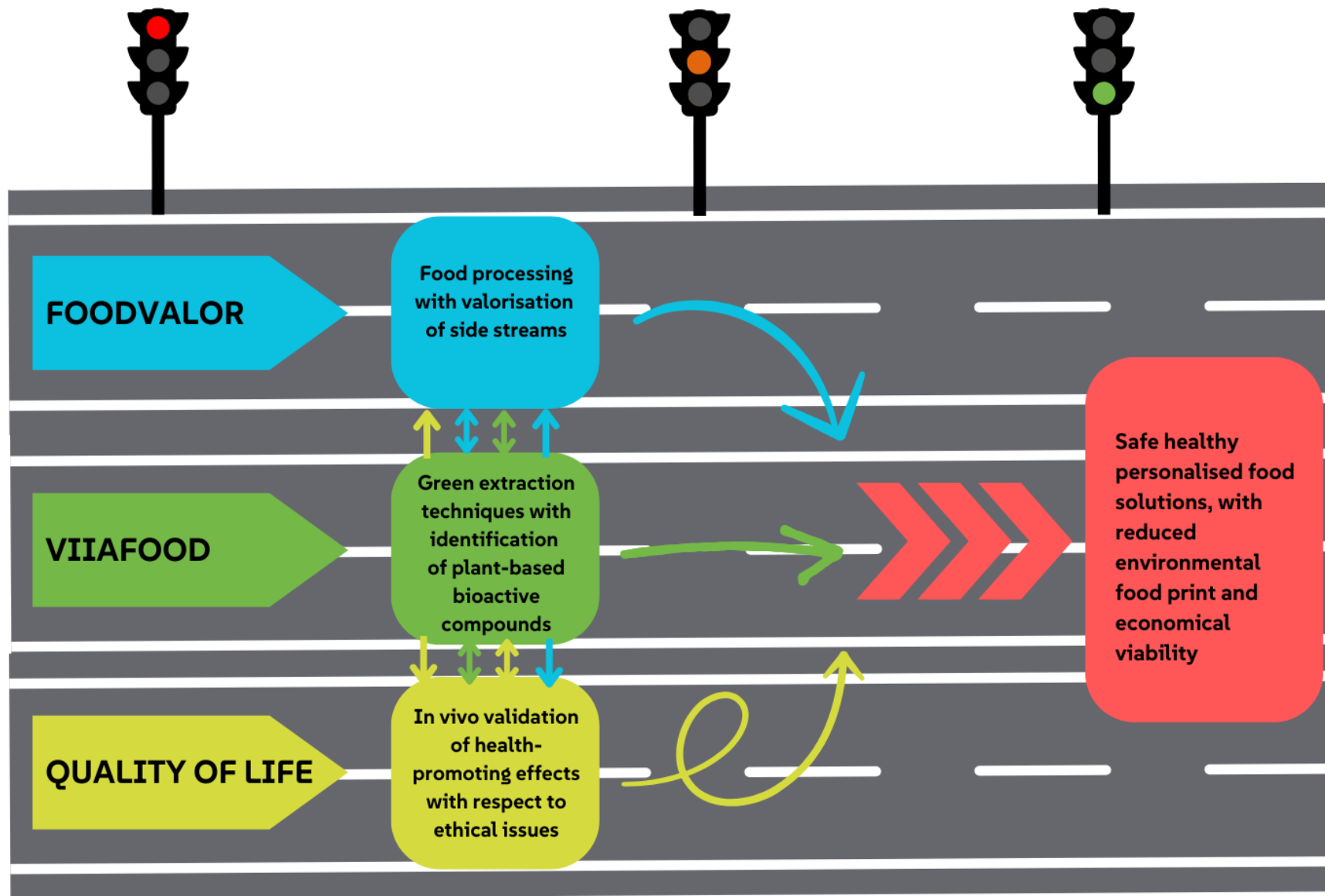
Build a highway to Horizon Europe
by pulling ERDF investments out of isolation
through a tailored sequence of synergies





mobilises nationally-recognized research
in three Widening countries
that are run in the fields
of food, health and bioeconomy





Boost the use of ERDF-funded R&I infrastructures

- Joint offer of commercialisation services
- Training programmes for lab managers



Building Human Resources capacity and skills

- HR training programme in transferrable skills
- Summer School for young researchers



Developing a joint internationalisation strategy

- More links to excellent European networks
- Cross –border integration workshops with regional 4H
- Staff exchange, Study visits for Research Support Office
- International conferences





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of Life Sciences



All for One, One for All





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Estonian University
of Life Sciences



FOODforce



In Life



FutureFoodS

Food for Positive Health
Impact Partnership

COMMUNITY
OF PRACTICE



Matchmaking Focus – Horizon Europe Cluster 6

Destinations:

- Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Fair, healthy and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption



TWINNING

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P2S

33/16



Thank you



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the European Union

Horizon Europe Cluster 6

Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Work Programme 2026-2027

Focus on the 2026 Cluster 6 calls

Crosspaths Matchmaking Event – 25 March 2026

Marialuisa DAL POZ

European Commission, DG AGRI, Unit Research & Innovation

Disclaimer: this document is shared for information and does not represent the views of the Commission



Cluster 6 Work Programme 2026-2027: general overview



Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025 - 2027



- ❑ [Adopted](#) on 20 March 2024 and presented at the R&I Days.
- ❑ Sets out 3 key strategic orientations:
 - ✓ Green transition
 - ✓ Digital transition
 - ✓ A more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe
- ❑ Raises the ambition on **biodiversity**:
 - ✓ Target of **10%** of Horizon Europe's total budget 2025-2027 being dedicated to biodiversity-related topics.
 - ✓ This new commitment complements existing targets for **climate** expenditure (35% over the lifetime of Horizon Europe) and main **digital** activities (€13 billion over the same period).

From Expected Impacts to Destinations

Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027

Impact 27 Fostering mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in areas and sectors covered by CL6

Impact 28 Putting biodiversity on a path to recovery, and protecting and restoring ecosystems and their services

Impact 29 Achieving healthy soils and forests, clean air, fresh and marine water, whilst ensuring water resilience and the transition to a clean, competitive and circular economy and sustainable bioeconomy

Impact 30 Ensuring healthy food and nutrition security by making agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and food systems sustainable, resilient, inclusive and within planetary boundaries

Impact 31 Sustainably developing rural, urban and coastal areas

Impact 32 Developing innovative governance models and tools enabling sustainability and resilience

Cluster 6 Work Programmes (2021-2027)

• **Destination 5:** Land, oceans and water for climate action

• **Destination 1:** Biodiversity and ecosystem services

• **Destination 3:** Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors

• **Destination 4:** Clean environment and zero pollution

• **Destination 2:** Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption

• **Destination 6:** Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities

• **Destination 7:** Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal

Commission priorities 2024-2029

- Cluster 6 Work Programmes (2025 and 2026/2027) are expected to contribute to the [new political priorities](#):

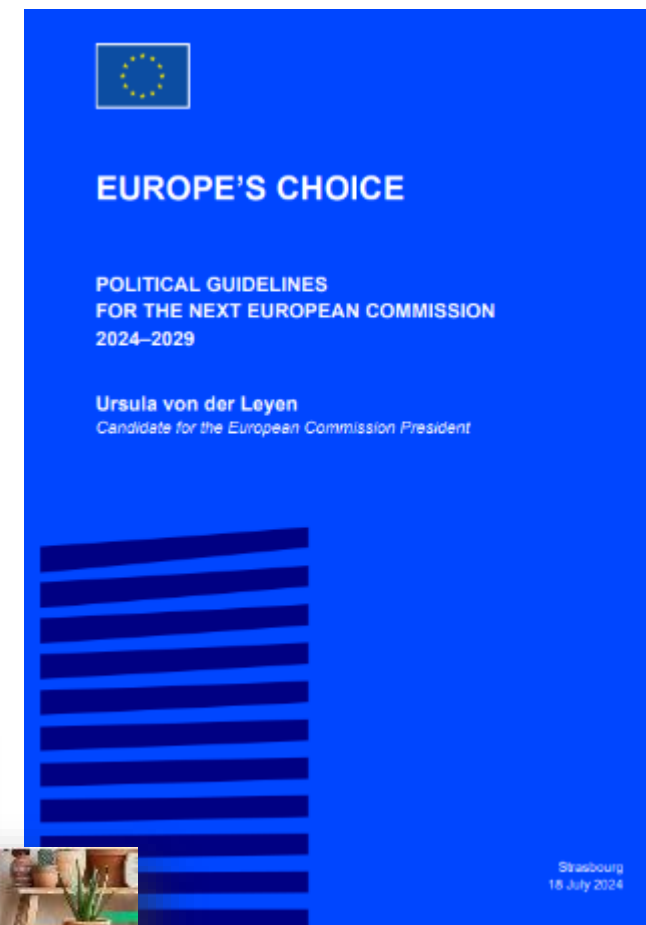
Sustaining our
quality of life: food
security, water and
nature

A new plan for
Europe's
sustainable
prosperity and
competitiveness

Supporting people,
strengthening our
societies and our
social model

Protecting our
democracy,
upholding our
values

- And to support the objectives of **new policy initiatives** such as



Main features and novelties in WP 26-27

- **Simplification:** fewer topics and higher average funding per topic and project, extensive use of lump sums, shorter proposal templates...
- **Novel approaches:** open topics, horizontal calls.
- More focus on **strategic autonomy**.
- CL6 main contributor to **biodiversity investments**.

WP 2026: overview of the calls

2026 calls overview

Cluster 6 Call 01 - **single stage (2026)** - HORIZON-CL6-2026-01



**Destination
1**

Biodiversity
and
ecosystem
services

**Destination
3**

Circular
economy
and
bioeconomy
sectors

**Destination
4**

Clean
environment
and zero
pollution

- ☐ Opening date: **17 April 2026**
- ☐ Deadline: **17 September 2026**
- ☐ Budget: **210 million EUR**
- ☐ Topics: **20**

2026 calls overview

Cluster 6 Call 01 - **two-stage (2026)** - HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-two-stage



Destination 1

Biodiversity
and
ecosystem
services



Destination 3

Circular
economy
and
bioeconomy
sectors



Destination 4

Clean
environment
and zero
pollution

- ☐ Opening date: **12 February 2026**
- ☐ Deadline 1st stage evaluation:
16 April 2026
- ☐ Deadline 2nd stage evaluation:
23 September 2026
- ☐ Budget: **105 million EUR**
- ☐ Topics: **7**

2026 calls overview

Cluster 6 Call 02 - **single stage (2026)** - HORIZON-CL6-2026-02



Destination 2

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



Destination 5

Land, ocean and water for climate action



Destination 6

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

- ❑ Opening date: **14 January 2026**
- ❑ Deadline: **14 April 2026**
- ❑ Budget: **166,4 million EUR**
- ❑ Topics: **17**

2026 calls overview

Cluster 6 Call 02 - **two-stage (2026)** - HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-two-stage



Destination 2

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

- ☐ Opening date: **12 February 2026**
- ☐ Deadline 1st stage evaluation:
14 April 2026
- ☐ Deadline 2nd stage evaluation:
15 September 2026
- ☐ Budget: **25,5 million EUR**
- ☐ Topics: **2**

2026 calls overview

Cluster 6 Call 03 - **single stage (2026)** - HORIZON-CL6-2026-03



Destination 7

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

- ❑ Opening date: **14 January 2026**
- ❑ Deadline: **15 April 2026**
- ❑ Budget: **112,5 million EUR**
- ❑ Topics: **10**



2026 calls overview

Cluster 6 Call 03 – **two-stage (2026)** - HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-two-stage



Destination 7

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

- ❑ Opening date: **12 February 2026**
- ❑ Deadline 1st stage evaluation:
15 April 2026
- ❑ Deadline 2nd stage evaluation:
30 September 2026
- ❑ Budget: **12 million EUR**
- ❑ Topics: **1**

2026 calls overview

Cluster 6 Call 04 - **single stage (2026)** - HORIZON-CL6-2026-04



Destination 7

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

- ❑ Opening date: **25 August 2026**
- ❑ Deadline: **26 November 2026**
- ❑ Budget: **60 million EUR**
- ❑ Topics: **1 European partnership**



Horizontal call in WP 26-27 relevant to CL6

- Artificial Intelligence in Science - RAISE call:
 - Thematic Networks of Excellence for AI in Science – Agriculture and Environmental Pollution (RIA)
- Call data:
 - Opening: 06 January 2026
 - Deadline: 21 Apr 2026
 - Indicative budget: EUR 12.8 million
- Where?
 - WP 26-27 Part 14 – Horizontal Activities



CL6 WP 26-27: the Destinations



D1 - BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



Consolidating
biodiversity
knowledge for nature
and society

3 topics in 2026
2 topics in 2027



Restoring ecosystems
for resilient society
and economy

4 topics in 2026
2 topics in 2027



Transformative change
towards a nature
positive economy

2 topics in 2026
3 topics in 2027



Biodiversity friendly
practices in
agriculture

1 topic in 2026
2 topics in 2027

BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-two-stage - **BIODIV**

	Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Consolidating biodiversity knowledge for nature and society	Understanding and tackling the decline of insects	RIA	2	€ 13 M
	Developing methods to assess the presence, functions and sensitivity of groundwater ecosystems	RIA	2	€ 10 M
	Pushing the frontier of knowledge and conservation action for deep sea ecosystems	RIA	2	€ 18 M
Restoring ecosystems for resilient society and economy	Ensuring continuous effectiveness of protected areas in conserving habitats and species while facing intensifying drivers of biodiversity loss	RIA	2	€ 13 M
	Living labs for co-creating solutions for the restoration of ecosystems (two-stage)	RIA	2	€ 14 M
	Open topic: Uncovering the causes of specific species' rapid decline and exploring actionable solutions (two-stage)	RIA	4	€ 12 M
	Unlocking the potential of citizen action for nature protection and restoration (two-stage)	IA	2	€ 10 M
Transformative change towards a nature positive economy	Advancing integrated scenarios and prediction models for informing transition to a nature positive society	RIA	2	€ 10 M
	Mainstreaming and scaling up evidence-based Nature-Based Solutions towards a nature positive and climate-resilient economy (two-stage)	RIA	3	€ 18 M
Biodiversity friendly practices in agriculture	Boosting agrobiodiversity for food security and sustainable competitiveness	RIA	2	€ 12 M

D2 - FAIR, HEALTHY AND ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY FOOD SYSTEMS FROM PRIMARY PRODUCTION TO CONSUMPTION



**Enabling
sustainable
farming systems**

9 topics in 2026
6 topics in 2027



**Enabling
sustainable
fisheries and
aquaculture**

1 topic in 2026
1 topic in 2027



**Transforming food
systems for health,
sustainability and
inclusion**

4 topics in 2026
2 topics in 2027



**Targeted
international
cooperation**

2 topics in 2026
2 topics in 2027

FAIR, HEALTHY AND ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY FOOD SYSTEMS FROM PRIMARY PRODUCTION TO CONSUMPTION

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-02, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-two-stage – **FARM2FORK**

Enabling sustainable farming systems

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Developing innovative phytosanitary treatments for regulated plant pests	IA	2	€ 11.800.000
Tackling pesticide resistance: early detection, management strategies, and foresight	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
Boosting the competitiveness of protein crops in Europe	IA	2	€ 12.000.000
Accelerating the development of breeding tools for perennial crops, specifically fruits and nuts	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
Boosting circularity and diversification strategies of terrestrial livestock production systems	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
Advanced innovative solutions for improved competitiveness and sustainability in controlled environment agriculture (CEA)	IA	2	€ 12.000.000
Strengthening the EU plant protection ecosystem for a future-proof agriculture	CSA	1	€ 3.000.000
Open topic: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector by enhancing the efficient and sustainable use of agricultural production factors (two-stage)	IA	3	€ 13.500.000
Open topic: Boosting organic farming for a competitive, sustainable and resilient farming sector (two-stage)	IA	2	€ 12.000.000

FAIR, HEALTHY AND ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY FOOD SYSTEMS FROM PRIMARY PRODUCTION TO CONSUMPTION

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-02, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-two-stage – **FARM2FORK**

	Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Enabling sustainable fisheries and aquaculture	Advancing basic knowledge and developing tools for sustainable management of key migratory fish species	RIA	2	€ 14.000.000
	Sustainable and healthy diets for cardiovascular diseases prevention with the support of digital applications	IA	2	€ 11.800.000
Transforming food systems for health, sustainability and inclusion	Sustainable and healthy diets based on health status and socio-economic risk factors of ageing population	CSA	1	€ 2.000.000
	Integrating a holistic perspective in microbiome research for resilient, competitive and sustainable food systems	RIA	2	€ 11.000.000
Targeted international cooperation	Leveraging R&I knowledge on microbiome	CSA	1	€ 2.000.000
	Boosting plant health and reducing losses on farm and during storage for sustainable growth in Africa (FNSSA)	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
	Green Transition Food Processing Africa	RIA	2	€ 11.000.000

D3 - CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BIOECONOMY SECTORS



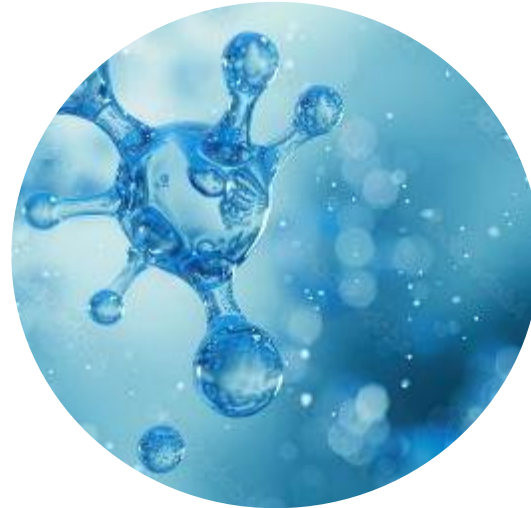
Enabling a circular economy transition

6 topics in 2026
7 topics in 2027



Innovating for sustainable bio-based systems, biotechnology and the bioeconomy

6 topics in 2026
4 topics in 2027



Innovating for blue bioeconomy and biotechnology value chains

1 topic in 2026



Safeguarding and sustainably innovating the multiple functions of EU forests

1 topic in 2027

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BIOECONOMY SECTORS

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-two-stage - CIRC BIO

Enabling a circular economy transition

Topic title	ToA	N. Projects	Topic Budget
Improving circularity of multilayer flexible plastic food contact packaging	IA	2	€ 11.000.000
Advancing recycling technologies for mixed post-consumer textiles waste from blended products	IA	2	€ 11.000.000
Advanced recovery of critical raw materials from Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)	RIA	2	€ 10.000.000
Demonstrating and deploying innovative collection, sorting-for-reuse and repair systems for textiles at city/region level (Circular Cities and Regions Initiative topic)	IA	2	€ 10.000.000
Deploying circular systemic solutions through living labs in cities and regions (Circular Cities and Regions Initiative topic) (two-stage)	IA	2	€ 10.000.000
Open topic: Using the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative to strengthen urban manufacturing in support of the Clean Industrial Deal (two-stage)	IA	3	€ 18.000.000

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BIOECONOMY SECTORS

Call HORIZON-CL6-01-2026-01 - CIRC BIO

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Understanding biomass flows in Europe	RIA	2	€ 6.000.000
Bioeconomy policy support hub for Member States, regions and sectors	CSA	1	€ 3.000.000
Advancing the European bio-based innovation enabled by biotechnology and biomanufacturing concepts	RIA	3	€ 12.000.000
Supporting pre-normative research for standardization of the bio-based products	RIA	2	€ 8.000.000
Balancing food security, bioeconomy, climate and biodiversity objectives while unlocking sustainable value chains	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
Bio-based innovation in society: supporting the sustainable way of living	RIA	2	€ 8.000.000
Harnessing the unique properties of marine organisms to deliver sustainable blue bio-based products	RIA	2	€ 10.000.000

Innovating for sustainable bio-based systems, biotechnology and the bioeconomy

Innovating for blue bioeconomy and biotechnology value chains

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND ZERO POLLUTION

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-two-stage - **ZEROPOLLUTION**



4 topics in 2026
4 topics in 2027

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic budget	
Toward a comprehensive assessment of the disturbance of marine ecosystems by anthropogenic underwater noise	RIA	1	€	10.000.000
Bioremediation of Ukraine's ecosystems contaminated by conflicts	IA	2	€	11.000.000
Developing managed aquifer recharge techniques (MAR) in a rural context	RIA	2	€	12.000.000
Decontaminate and bioremediate aquatic pollution (two-stage)	RIA	3	€	23.000.000

D4 - CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND ZERO POLLUTION



4 topics in 2026
4 topics in 2027

D5 - LAND, OCEAN AND WATERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION



2 topics in 2026
5 topics in 2027

D6 - RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE, HEALTHY AND GREEN RURAL, COASTAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES



1 topic in 2026
2 topics in 2027

LAND, OCEAN AND WATERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION



2 topics in 2026
5 topics in 2027

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-02 (single stage)

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Towards more effective, fair and coherent policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation in agriculture and forestry	RIA	1	€ 6.000.000
Towards the water infrastructures of the future	RIA	2	€ 10.000.000

RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE, HEALTHY AND GREEN RURAL, COASTAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES



1 topic in 2026
2 topics in 2027

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-02 (single stage)

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Boosting sustainable competitiveness in rural areas through innovation	RIA	2	€ 11.800.000

D7 - INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS AND DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEN DEAL



Innovating with
governance models
and supporting
policies

5 topics in 2026
3 topics in 2027



Deploying and
adding value to
Environmental
Observations

4 topics in 2026



Digital and data
technologies as
key enablers

1 topic in 2026
1 topic in 2027



Strengthening
agricultural knowledge
and innovation systems
(AKIS)

2 topics in 2026
3 topics in 2027

INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS AND DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEN DEAL

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-03, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-04 - **GOVERNANCE**

Innovating with
governance
models and
supporting
policies

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic budget
Additional activities for the European Partnership of Agriculture of Data	COFUND	1	€ 60.000.000
Additional activities for the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP)	COFUND	1	€ 38.000.000
Improving analytical capacity and understanding of social drivers in agriculture to better assess social sustainability in the sector	RIA	2	€ 10.800.000
Empowering the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development	CSA	3	€ 9.000.000
Supporting All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance	CSA	1	€ 4.500.000

INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS AND DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEN DEAL

Call HORIZON-CL6-2025-03, Call HORIZON-CL6-2025-03-two-stage - **GOVERNANCE**

Deploying and adding value to environmental observations

Digital and data technologies as key enablers

Strengthening agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS)

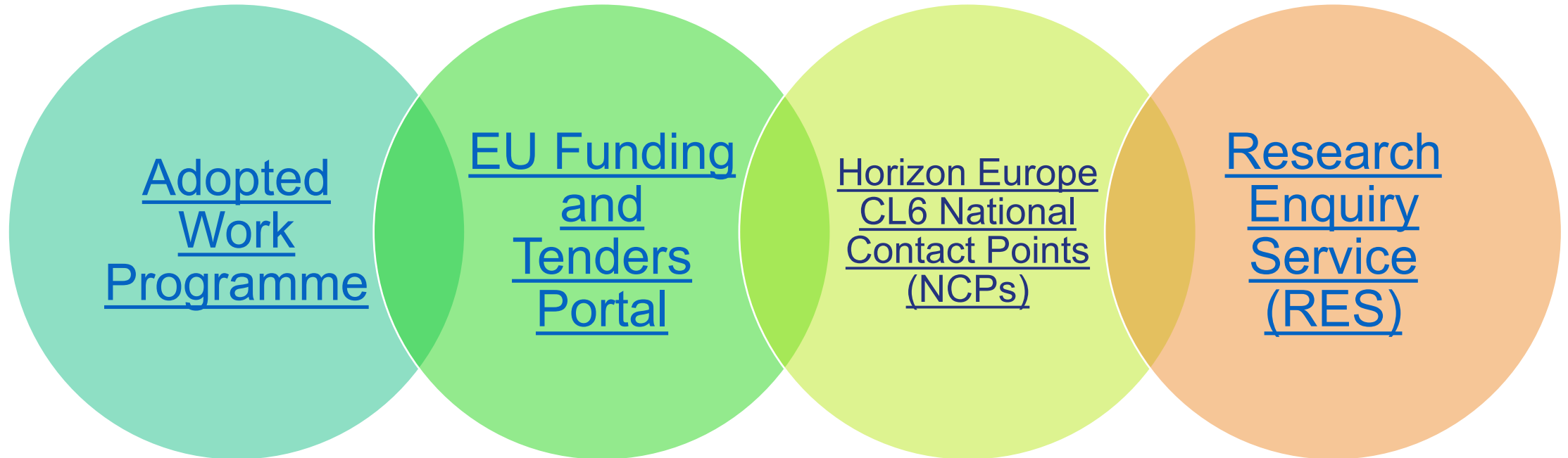
Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Coordinated European contribution to the WMO Global Greenhouse Gas Watch and its international governance	RIA	1	€ 7.000.000
A services and business incubator for geospatial open-source developments	CSA	1	€ 6.000.000
Interconnect Earth Observation research for addressing environmental policies	CSA	1	€ 5.400.000
Open topic: Develop Earth Intelligence solutions with observations and state-of-the-art AI for sustainable competitiveness and policy making (two-stage)	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
Boosting data availability and AI solutions in food for consumers and food service professionals	IA	2	€ 15.000.000
Increasing knowledge flows to practice within AKIS via EU thematic knowledge hubs	CSA	2	€ 7.000.000
Embracing innovation in agriculture by peer-to-peer learning via on farm-demonstrations and cost-benefit analysis	RIA	2	€ 9.800.000

Key cross-cutting aspects in Cluster 6



- ❑ **International cooperation** encouraged or required in several topics (Africa, Mediterranean, Latin America and Caribbean, support to Ukraine, etc.)
- ❑ **Multi-actor approach** encouraged or required by 46 topics (39% of all Work Programme)
- ❑ **SSH integration** sought after in 41 topics (35% of all Work Programme)
- ❑ **FSTP** applied in various topics, also to attract SMEs and start-ups

How to get more insights on Cluster 6?



Cluster 6 Info Days – 2026 calls: [Recordings available](#)

Register to [CARE4BIO online matchmaking platform](#)

> Participants from widening countries are particularly welcome!



Thank you



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State of Play next Horizon Europe (FP10)

Peter Jongebloed, Head Wageningen Grant Office and Head Wageningen Europe Council (European Affairs), Wageningen University & Research

25 March 2026, Brussels



The current policy landscape



MFF 2028-2035 Draft Regulation 16 July 2025

The MFF proposal 2028-2034

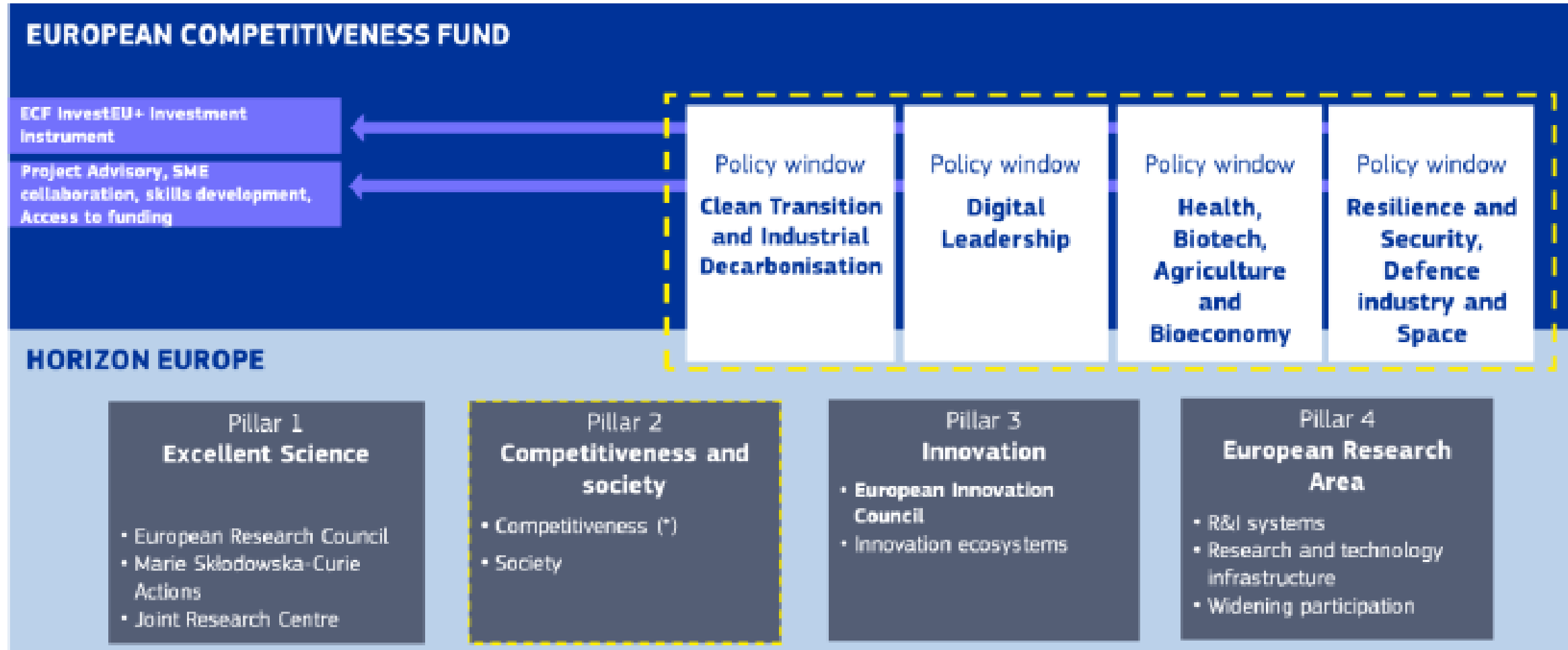
- More funding for competitiveness and research: €451 billion
- A self standing 10th FP!
- **€175 billion** for **Horizon Europe** 2028-2034
- **€276 billion** for a new 'European Competitiveness Fund' (ECF)
- Close link between Horizon Europe and the ECF, especially **through Pillar II**

Good news more budget for R&I proposed!!



EUROPEAN COMPETITIVENESS FUND/HORIZON

EUROPE WITH 4 POLICY WINDOWS



() Collaborative R&I consistent with activities in the Competitiveness Fund*



UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



FP10 PROPOSED BUDGET...DIFFERENT FOCUS!

What is the Commission proposing?

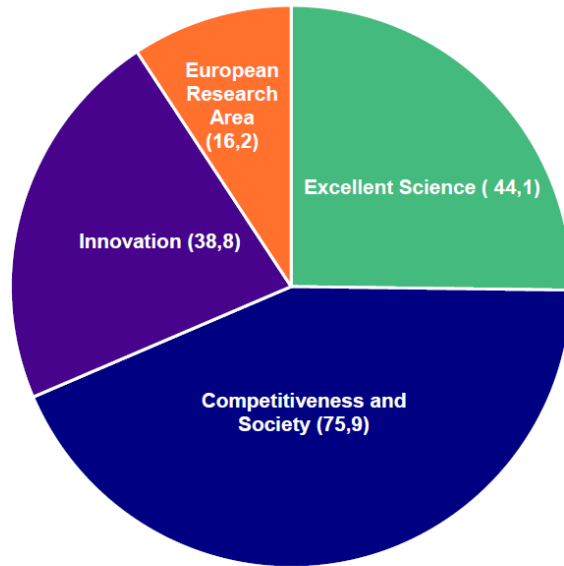
With a proposed **€175 billion** budget, the new programme will be based on four pillars.

Pillar I	Pillar II	Pillar III	Pillar IV
EXCELLENT SCIENCE	COMPETITIVENESS AND SOCIETY	INNOVATION	EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
€44.079 BILLION	€75.876 BILLION	€38.785 BILLION	€16.262 BILLION
EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL	COMPETITIVENESS ¹ :	EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL	ERA POLICIES
MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS	1. Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation	INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS AND THE KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE	RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURES
SCIENCE FOR EU POLICIES	2. Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy		WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE
	3. Digital leadership		
	4. Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space		
	SOCIETY:		
	1. Global societal challenges		
	2. EU Missions		
	3. New European Bauhaus Facility		



FP10 proposed budget...different focus!

Horizon Europe total budget EUR 175 billion (current prices)
Figures all in EUR billion



• Excellent Science (44,1) • Competitiveness and Society (75,9) • Innovation (38,8) • European Research Area (16,2)

Commission proposal for budget: €100 billion* (2021-2027)



* This envelope includes EUR 3.5 billion allocated under the InvestEU Fund.

Horizon Europe 2028-2035 Pillar I: 'Excellent Science'

- Aims to strengthen the **EU's scientific base**, **attract top talents** and promote **excellent research** in Europe.
- Proposed / indicative budget: € 44 billion (**+50%** compared to FP9), of which: €31,5 billion for an extended and **doubled European Research Council**



Horizon Europe 2028-2035 Pillar II: 'Competitiveness and Society'

- Aims to support collaborative R&I in areas of high societal impact
- Indicative budget: **€ 75.9 billion** (+50% compared to FP9), of which: **€ 68.3 billion for Competitiveness**
- **€25.3 billion** for 'Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation'
- **€19.7 billion** for 'Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy' (**only +14% compared to FP9**)
- **€ 16.9 billion** for 'Digital Leadership'
- **€6.4 billion** for 'Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space'
- **€ 7,6 billion for 'Society'**



Horizon Europe 2028-2035 Draft Regulation 16 July 2025

Pillar II 'Competitiveness and Society', with the following components, in particular:

'Society', including research and innovation activities, such as:

- (1) global societal challenges;
- (2) EU Missions;
- (3) the New European Bauhaus Facility;

- **global societal challenges address issues** such as *migration, disinformation, and the safeguarding, strengthening and promotion of democracy, as well as social and economic transformations, inclusive societies and social cohesion.*

Horizon Europe 2028-2035 Pillar III: 'Innovation'

- Aims to support innovation in Europe, with a focus on promoting the development of new products, services and business models.
- The EIC will be expanded to fund **high-risk disruptive projects** in stages and will introduce a strong focus for **defence and dual-use startups**.
- Indicative budget: **€ 38.8 billion (+191% compared to FP9)**. **EIC more than tripled** to support innovative startups.



Horizon Europe 2028-2035 Pillar IV: 'European Research Area'

- Aims to support the development of a **unified ERA** with a focus on promoting **excellence, inclusiveness** and **impact**.
- A reformed support for **research and technology infrastructures**.
- Indicative budget: € 16.3 billion **(+187%)**, of which
- €5.4 billion for a reformed '***Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence***'



Horizon Europe 2028-2035 Draft Regulation 16 July 2025

- **Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence:** This component will support the development of research and innovation capacities in all regions of Europe.
 1. **‘Widening countries’** are Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia for the purposes of funding the actions under paragraph 5, points a) and b).
 2. **‘Transition countries’** are Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Malta, Portugal and Slovenia, for the purposes of funding the actions under paragraph 5, point b).

Main 'novelties' Horizon Europe 2028-2035

- **Proposed budget expansion**
- **Strong link** with the **European Competitiveness Fund** (ECF)
- **Four Pillar Structure** (new: ERA, including technology infrastructures)
- **Simplification and Efficiency**
 - ***Streamlined Processes***: Shorter WPs with fewer, less prescriptive more open topics (bottom-up).
 - ***Accelerated Granting***: Reduced 'time to grant' (7 months).
 - ***Funding Models: lump sum funding default in combination with personnel unit costs (PUC).***
- **More strategic Focus**: e.g. through ECF and proposed 'Moonshots'
- **Dual-use R&I**: to allow for more synergy between civil and military applications.

Horizon Europe 2028-2035 Draft Regulation 16 July 2025

Main challenges / threats for our domain

- Our domain fits best in **pillar II** '*Chapter V 'Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy'* of the European Competitiveness Fund'
 - **Relatively limited budget grow** in Pillar II **for our window** '*Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy*' **FOOD seems not in yet?**
 - Consequences of **strong link between Horizon Europe and ECF** not fully clear yet. *Horizon Europe will be tightly connected with the regulation establishing the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), to guarantee a seamless flow from fundamental research to applied research to start-ups to scale-ups, comprising the single rulebook that also applies to Horizon Europe.* **this is a potential threat: more political and industrial steering of research priorities? Less or no role for MS and Research Community?**

Horizon Europe 2028-2035 Draft Regulation 16 July 2025

Main challenges / threats for our domain

- Strong focus on **Technological sovereignty / competitiveness**
 - Shift to **economic** and **technological impacts**
 - **More directionality**: stronger alignment between Industrial & RD&I policies.
- **Global challenges / SDG's / green deal** seem less important
- EC wants to further invest in public-public-private European partnerships
 - *Need for national alignment / smart linking national and European funding; so need to align with the relevant ministries*
 - *Co-funding need will grow*
- **More flexibility** for the program to adapt (also over time).
- **Technology Infrastructures** are clearly present in the proposal.

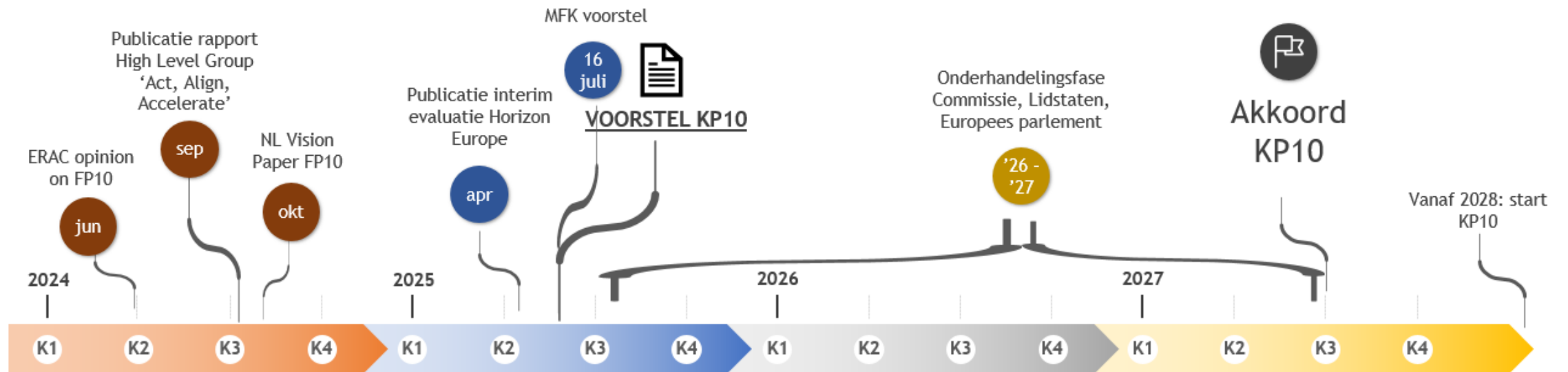
Horizon Europe Latest development in Brussels

- **Christian Ehler**, the parliament's leading voice on research and innovation (R&I) for the past two decades, published **his amendments** to the European Commission's **draft regulation of FP10**. **René Repasi**, a new member of the **European Parliament** (MEP) published his proposed amendments on the Commission's proposal for FP10's specific programme, **which addresses Horizon Europe's implementation**.
- **In general positive**: independent FP10, more budget, no governance by ECF, Excellence main principle, ply for more bottom-up research in pillar II
- For FP10 Ehler and Repasi **want experts**, appointed for five years, to operationalise these 4 thematic priorities into call texts, to ensure these are guided by the frontiers of research and innovation.

Horizon Europe Latest development in Brussels

- **The experts** would be overseen by **two councils**, one for **European competitiveness research** and one for **global societal challenges** research. With its expert members appointed for five years (renewable for another six-year term), this structure would **ensure the quality of the calls**.
- They call for some new instruments '**Fast Track to Excellence**' and '**Fast Track to innovation**'
- On big issue is that Ehler propose to change the window II '**Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy**' into Competitiveness Window II "**Biotechnology, Health, and Sustainable Prosperity**" .. So leaving out **Agriculture, Bioeconomy and Food**. **A big threat for our domain.**

Timeline FP10 negotiations



*Thank you for
your attention*





WIDERA Work Programme 2026-2027:

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Crosspaths matchmaking cluster 6

25 March 2026

Adeline Kroll

RTD.A.2 - ERA, Spreading Excellence and Research Careers

Policy context

- **Communication „A new ERA for Research and Innovation” (2020)** – four priorities:
 - I. Prioritising investments and reforms;
 - II. Improving access to excellence;
 - III. Translating R&I results into the economy;
 - IV. Deepening the ERA.
- **Pact for Research and Innovation (2022)**, demonstrating Member States’ commitment to ERA; four priority areas for joint action:
 - I. Deepening a truly functioning internal market for knowledge;
 - II. Taking up together the green transition and digital transformation and other challenges with impact on society;
 - III. Enhancing access to R&I excellence across the Union and enhancing interconnections between innovation ecosystems across the Union;
 - IV. Advancing concerted R&I investments and reforms.

List of countries eligible for hosting coordinators

‘Widening countries’ are:

- Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia;
- Associated Countries with equivalent characteristics in terms of R&I performance (Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, and once associated Morocco);
- Outermost Regions (defined in Art. 349 TFEU).

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Expected impact

- Increased science and innovation **capacities** in the R&I system in Widening countries;
- **Structural changes** leading to modernised and more competitive R&I systems;
- Mobilisation of national and European **resources** for strategic investments;
- Higher **participation in Horizon Europe** and more leadership roles in collaborative projects;
- Stronger **linkages between academia and business** and improved career permeability;
- Greater **involvement of regional actors** in the R&I process;
- Excellent **talents attracted** to institutions including research infrastructures;
- Balanced circulation of R&I talents including intersectoral **mobility**, and improved **gender equality and inclusiveness**;
- Free **circulation of knowledge and expertise** in line with ERA priorities.

2026-2027 Widening Calls

2026 (5 CALLS)

- Twinning
- Hop-On Facility
- ERA Fellowships
- Teaming Synergies
- Research Management facility

2027 (4 CALLS)

- Excellence Hubs
- ERA Chairs and Research Managers
- ERA Fellowships
- EIC Pre-Accelerator

More information

[Horizon Europe | WIDERA Work Programme 2026-2027](#)

For questions about research and Horizon Europe, you can contact [Research Enquiry Service \(europa.eu\)](#)

APPLY: [Funding & Tenders Portal | European Commission](#)

Teaming Synergies

HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-01

Expected outcomes

The Synergy action for Teaming Centres of Excellence (CoE) responds to the need to ensure the sustainability of CoE funded under the Teaming calls, facilitating stronger collaboration and strategic joint initiatives among them.

- Stronger long-term collaboration through structured joint initiatives and clustering efforts;
- Strategic transformation of R&I systems;
- Promotion of multidisciplinary and transnational cooperation;
- Promotion of ERA priorities (e.g: responsible AI usage, knowledge valorisation, commercialization, SMEs and start-ups activities);
- Stronger visibility of CoE and their recognition at national, regional and European levels;
- Improved synergies between CoE and national and EU programmes.

Call opening / closing:

23 April 2026 / 24 September 2026

Type of action: CSA

Budget: EUR 7 million

Indicative number of projects: 1

Duration: 5 years

Context and scope

Scope:

The call aims at fostering collaboration among Teaming CoE, **both existing ones and those resulting from ongoing or future calls**, in view of supporting their efforts towards sustainability and increased impact at the regional, national and European level.

Activities:

Strategic clustering for thematic collaboration; pilot implementation of thematic clusters; capacity building for knowledge valorisation; networking and matchmaking; Teaming online platform; Teaming conference; entrepreneurship and tech transfer support.

The Consortium has to provide expertise in relation with the activities; a core of the consortium should demonstrate successful implementation of sustainability strategies of the Teaming CoE; complementary members of the consortium can provide specific expertise.

Research Management Facility

HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-04

Expected outcomes

The Research Management Facility aims to provide institutions in Widening countries that want to establish or upgrade their research management capacities with tailored support and advise to develop an implementation strategy for the changes in the institutional set-up, in line with the ERA priorities. The action does not support the implementation of the strategy.

- Encourage the establishment of stronger **research management capacities in widening countries**;
- Support **institutional reforms** in research institutions and national R&I systems;
- Strengthen **human capital with entrepreneurial** and well-trained research managers;
- Promote and support **multidisciplinary and transnational cooperation** in the field of research management;
- Promote **practices in agreed ERA priorities** such as ethics, open science and data, gender equality;
- Contribute to the **knowledge-based economy and society**.

Call opening / closing:
23 April 2026 / 24 September 2026

Type of action: **CSA**

Budget: **EUR 7 million**

Indicative number of projects: **1**

Context and scope

Scope:

Create a research management and administration facility to provide services and trainings to institutions and their staff in Widening countries wishing to establish or upgrade existing capacities and competencies in research management. The facility should invite research performing organisations from Widening countries, support them to assess their needs for excellent research management capacities, and develop implementation plans to improve their institutional capacity.

Activities covered by the proposals:

- Support the assessment of **institutional needs in research management, administration and training** with the research performing institutions requesting their services;
- Support the development of **tailor-made implementation plans** to establish or upgrade research management capacities at institutional level;
- Train research managers in Widening countries to improve their **skills**, in line with the **European Competence Framework for Research Managers**;
- Provide research managers from Widening countries with **networking opportunities at European international** level to improve their integration in the broader research management community.

Proposals will: estimate the number of target institutions and individuals during the duration of the action; describe the methods to prioritise their services if demand exceeds the project resources and demonstrate the full geographical coverage for the Widening countries including Outermost Regions.

ERA Research Managers

HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02

Expected outcomes

The ERA Research Manager's leadership and the establishment of a permanent, high-quality research management group will boost excellence, visibility, and integration within the ERA, improving competitiveness in research funding and promoting institutional reforms aligned with ERA priorities.

ERA Research Managers aim to attract **experienced research managers** to universities or research organisations in Widening countries, establishing or upgrading institutional capacities for research management, fostering brain circulation and creating pockets of excellence that enhance institutional culture and performance.

At **SYSTEM** level: e.g. more R&I talent moving to Widening countries; increased international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral mobility.

At **ORGANISATION** level: e.g. strengthened research management capacities; increased attractiveness to top international research managers, and subsequently researchers; establishment of a lasting, high-performing research management group with institutional benefits.

Call opening / closing:

6 April 2027 / 14 September 2027

Type of action: **CSA**

Budget: **EUR 65 million**

Indicative number of projects: **30**

Duration: **5 years**

Context and scope

Scope: Research organisations in Widening countries to submit a proposal aimed at establishing or upgrading research management capacities in the institution and ensuring that the conditions are in place to foster **excellent research management** aligned with ERA priorities.

Self-assessment of the institutional capacities and needs in research management and administration. An **implementation strategy** enhancing the institutional capacities (actions and trainings, continuously adapted along the project duration, introducing institutional changes in research management, realistic/feasible strategy along project duration). Description of investments in research management capacity building, projects, staffing, facilities and infrastructures.

ERA Research Manager: An **excellent research manager** with international experience (appointed through open and merit-based recruitment, subject to monitoring by the European Commission).

Conditions to appoint the ERA Research Management team same as for the ERA Chair holder.

Grant covers salaries, recruitment, travel, trainings, and administrative expenses.

ERA Chairs

HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02

Expected outcomes

The ERA Chair holder's leadership and the establishment of a permanent, high-quality research group will boost excellence, visibility, and integration within the ERA, improving competitiveness in research funding and promoting institutional reforms aligned with ERA priorities.

ERA Chairs aim to sustainably **attract outstanding scientists and innovators** to universities or research organizations in Widening countries, fostering brain circulation and creating pockets of excellence that enhance institutional culture and performance.

At **SYSTEM** level: e.g. more R&I talent moving to Widening countries; increased international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral mobility;

At **ORGANISATION** level: e.g. strengthened research excellence in ERA Chair fields; increased attractiveness to top international researchers.

Call opening / closing:

6 April 2027 / 14 September 2027

Type of action: **CSA**

Budget: **EUR 175 million**

Indicative number of projects: **80**

Duration: **5 years**

Context and scope

Prospective ERA Chair holder

Any scientific domain, from any country. The research institution is **monobeneficiary**. ERA Chair holders **may relocate** permanently or temporarily, with secondments, sabbaticals, or part-time arrangements possible (minimum 50% full-time equivalent (FTE) commitment, including on-site presence). **Contractual arrangements** (salary, travel, daily allowances and other benefits) and contractual details if employment is the preferred option to be specified.

Research team

Established by the ERA Chair holder and integrated in the coordinator's institution to improve its research performance and obtain competitive funding. The team's recruitment led **by an international panel** chaired by the ERA Chair. **The leader** of the newly created research group to be appointed on a **permanent basis** within the institution **in the 3 first years** (open recruitment process monitored by the European Commission). **At least 20%** of permanent team members should have **tenure** (not including the team leader), and **no more than 50% having prior contractual** links to the institution.

Grant covers

Salaries, recruitment, travel, research costs (**up to 20% of the EU contribution**) and administrative expenses.

ERA Fellowships

HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-05

HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-03

Expected outcomes

This action builds on the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships action (HORIZON-MSCA-PF-2026; HORIZON-MSCA-PF-2027). The target group are host organisations located in Widening countries.

For the ERA Fellow(s):

- Research and transferable skills and competences,
- Improved employability and career prospects,
- New mind-sets and approaches,
- Networking and communication capacities.

For the participating organisation(s):

- Alignment of working conditions (*European Charter for Researchers*)
- Quality of research training
- Attractiveness, visibility, reputation
- R&I capacity and output, knowledge transfer.

For the Widening country(ies):

- More postdoctoral researchers attracted

Calls opening / closing:

9 April 2026 / 9 September 2026

7 April 2027 / 8 September 2027

Type of action: TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships – European Fellowships

Budget: EUR 8 million (2026), EUR 8 million (2027)

Indicative number of projects: 50 (2026), 50 (2027)

Duration: 12-24 months

Context and scope

Scope:

- Provided to excellent researchers, undertaking cross-border mobility; taking place in a Widening country.
- Open to researchers of any nationality; any discipline.
- Applications made jointly by the researcher and the legal entity in the academic or non-academic sector located in the Widening country.

Secondments: Possibility, within the overall duration of the fellowship in any country worldwide; as a single period or divided; in line with project objectives.

Placements in the non-academic sector: Possibility, at the end of the project, additional period of up to six months, in an EU MS/HEU AC; request should be an integral part of the proposal, added value explained.

Trainings: key transferable skills, innovation, entrepreneurship, good scientific conduct etc.

Career Development Plan: established jointly by the supervisor(s) and the researcher.

Call conditions: ERA Fellowships will be implemented applying the award criteria, scoring and threshold (70%) for MSCA (see: MSCA Work Programme). ☒ Application (have agreed to be considered) to MSCA PF 2026/2027 will be automatically resubmitted to this call in case the proposal falls to reach an adequate place in the MSCA ranking to be funded. **Seals of Excellence** awarded.

Twinning

HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-02

Expected outcomes

Twinning action aims to enhance networking activities collaboration between the research institutions and research infrastructures of the Widening countries, and top-class leading counterparts at European level.

The main outcomes:

- Improved research excellence and capacities in Widening countries;
- Enhanced strategic collaboration between the research institutions or higher education establishments of the Widening countries and internationally leading research institutions or higher education establishments at EU level;
- Raised reputation, research profile and attractiveness of the coordinating institution, and its staff;
- Strengthened research management capacities of the coordinating institution;
- Development of new approaches in R&I collaboration with increased mobility of researchers.

Call opening / closing:

8 January 2026 / 9 April 2026

Type of action: CSA

Budget: EUR 264,5 million

Indicative number of projects: 210

Duration: up to 3 years

Context and scope

Scope:

The **strategy** should be outlined in a defined area of R&I, explaining how joint activities will be carried out.

Activities: short-term staff exchanges, expert visits and short term on site or virtual trainings, workshops, conference attendance, organisation of joint summer schools, dissemination and outreach activities; etc.

Proposals should focus on strengthening research management capacities, through a dedicated work package or task; should demonstrate the expected outcomes based on different indicators, and the contribution of access to new research avenues, creativity, development of new approaches.

A research and innovation component not exceeding 30% of the total grant may be included; at least 50% of this budget is for the coordinator.

Eligibility conditions: research institutions and research infrastructures of the Widening countries, as coordinators, with at least two internationally leading research institutions from two different MS or AC.

Hop-On Facility

HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-03

Expected outcomes

The Hop-on Facility allows for legal entities from Widening countries to join already funded Horizon Pillar II 'main' WP and EIC Pathfinder collaborative R&I actions, subject to the agreement of the respective consortium and provided that legal entities from such countries are not yet participating as beneficiary, associated partner, or affiliated entity. Selected consortia will be invited to submit a grant agreement amendment request of the eligible already funded action.

At system level, mobilise excellence in Widening countries, increase visibility of the beneficiaries from Widening countries, improve knowledge circulation, and boost their participation in specific thematic domains;

At consortium level, open up established networks to new connections/partnerships, improve research excellence of the Widening country's institutions in specific fields, enlarge outreach of R&I actions and provide access to new talent pools;

At the level of the Widening beneficiary, develop new competencies and skills for working in transnational projects, including research management, dissemination and exploitation.

Call opening / closing:

13 January 2026 / 24 September 2026

Type of action: RIA

Budget: EUR 30 million

Indicative number of projects: 60

Context and scope

Scope

- The Hop-on Facility integrates **one additional beneficiary from a Widening country to an ongoing project under Pillar 2 or the EIC Pathfinder** scheme who contributes a relevant task, work package or another visible and distinguishable activity.

Target groups

- Demonstrate the **R&I added value of the new beneficiary** for the eligible already selected action. The proposal should include a detailed description of the profile of the new beneficiary and its R&I role and complementarity in the existing project. The additional beneficiary and activities should be presented in a dedicated proposal template with the Description of the Action (DOA) of the ongoing action uploaded as an annex;
- In case of a successful evaluation, the consortia (coordinator) of the eligible already funded action will be invited to submit an **amendment request for accession** of the Widening beneficiary, modification of the description of the action. If budget is reserved for the coordinator, the proposal should justify the amounts in terms of integration efforts for the new participant.

Timing

The **first reporting period** of the HE grant agreement is ongoing at the submission deadline. The ongoing grant agreement is **1-12 months from its starting date by the submission deadline**.

EIC Pre-Accelerator

HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-01

Expected outcomes

Boost the innovation potential of early-stage deep-tech startups in Widening countries by enhancing their business, investor, and technology readiness to secure funding from the EIC Accelerator or other sources.

Increased business, investor, and technology readiness towards commercialisation and deployment (at least all aspects of TRL 5 completed) **of high potential deep-tech startups** in Widening countries to a level where they will:

- be successful in applying and attracting **the EIC Accelerator** funding and/or;
- manage to secure other **private investment** and/or;
- attract successfully **national or regional funding** as alternative funding sources (e.g. through Seal of Excellence programmes).

Call opening / closing:
5 May 2027 / 18 November 2027

Type of action: **CSA**

Budget: **EUR 40 million**

Indicative number of projects: **60**

Context and scope

Scope:

Early-stage deep tech startups which:

- have high-impact innovation that could create **new markets or disrupt existing ones** (technology validated in the lab – at least TRL 4 at the proposal stage to 6 at the end of the project);
- possess the necessary IPR to ensure **freedom to operate** and adequate protection of the idea;
- have a clear vision on the intended **pathway to market** (milestones together with concrete and verifiable KPIs to assess progress towards the market);
- have the ambition and commitments **to scale up**.

Specific conditions:

- **Eligibility:** mono-beneficiary projects with legal entities as SMEs established in the Widening countries.
- **Proposal template:** CSA adapted to the EIC Pre-Accelerator evaluation criteria.
- **Evaluation:** single stage.
- **Form of support:** grant, 70% reimbursement = between 500K-1M EUR (lump-sum for max 2 years).

In addition: free access to tailored **EIC Business Acceleration Services** to improve investor readiness; **Fast Track** to the EIC Accelerator; **Seals of Excellence**.

Excellence Hubs

HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04

Expected outcomes

Teaming up of innovation ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond; creating better linkages between academia, business, government and society; fostering place-based innovation culture in Widening countries based on strategic agenda aligned with smart specialisation strategies.

Outcomes:

- Excellent and sustainable regional R&I ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond;
- Long-term joint R&I strategies underpinned by concrete action plans of European relevance;
- Common investment plans for R&I leveraging other funding;
- R&I pilot projects, in line with regional and national strategies;
- New competences and skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in R&I intensive domains;
- Strengthened linkages in the quadruple helix;
- New business opportunities, especially in deep-tech.

Call opening / closing:

2 September 2026 / 4 March 2027

Type of action: CSA

Budget: EUR 100 million

Indicative number of projects: 30

Duration: up to 5 years

Context and scope

Scope:

- Fostering regional innovation culture in Widening countries, aligned with smart specialisation strategies.
- Legal entities from non-Widening countries may join if necessary to achieve expected impact.

Eligibility:

- **Coordinators:** legal entities established in Widening countries.
- Proposals must involve **at least two R&I ecosystems from two different Widening countries**; each comprising **four different categories of actors**: academic institutions; business entities; public authorities/agencies; societal actors. „Umbrella” organisations or individual legal entities (if individual, at least one business entity per ecosystem is an established firm with turnover).

Legal and financial set-up of GA: funding rate is 70% of eligible costs (explanation needed on the remaining 30%). **FSTP:** grants, limited to SMEs or start-ups; max. 60.000 EUR per third party.

Activities:

- Design and implementation of cross-border joint R&I strategy;
- R&I collaboration strengthening academia-business linkages (R&I component in a distinct work package);
- Development of investment plans to implement the strategy;
- If applicable, conceptual design and pre-planning for pilots and demonstrators (other sources);
- Complementary activities.

RESEARCH FUNDING MADE EASY



Scan & submit your
questions on R&I funding



Research
Enquiry
Service

Pitching session

Biodiversity and ecosystem services



Who I am

Name: KarolinaE.Mazur

Position: Project Specialist

Institution: W. Szafer Institute of Botany Polish Academy of Science

Email: k.mazur@botany.pl

Country: Poland

LinkedIn:

Key expertise (max. 5)

- ➡ Bio-based and sustainable materials for environmental and biological applications
- ➡ Circular bioeconomy and eco-design supporting sustainable resource management
- ➡ Interdisciplinary integration of materials science with ecological and biological systems

Key projects (max. 3)

- ➡ Materials for soil health and environmental applications
- ➡ Circular bioeconomy solutions in food industry

HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- ➡ Soil health and land resilience (EU Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”, soil biodiversity, living labs)
- ➡ Zero pollution and environmental remediation (bioremediation, water and soil quality, ecosystem recovery)

Role in the project

Partner in Consortium

Horizon Europe Cluster 6 – Matchmaking Pitch

Jiri Sedlak, PhD
Research and Breeding Institute of Pomology Holovousy Ltd. (Czech Republic)

<i>WHO I AM</i>	<i>EXPERTISE</i>	<i>INFRASTRUCTURE / METHODS</i>	<i>WHAT I OFFER</i>	<i>LOOKING FOR</i>
Senior researcher and Head of the Plant Genetic Resources Department. Expert in plant biotechnology, in vitro culture, cryopreservation of plant genetic resources and plant virology.	• Plant biotechnology • In vitro culture • Cryopreservation • Plant virology • NGS diagnostics	• Remote sensing • Satellitedata (Sentinel 1–3) • UAV monitoring • AI-based data analysis	Expertise in plant genetic resources, plant health diagnostics, biotechnology methods and integration of Earth observation technologies in agriculture.	• Climate-resilient crops • Biodiversity monitoring • Digital agriculture • Satellite + UAV + AI integration



Who I am

Name: Katrin Kaldre

Institution: Estonian University of Life Sciences

Country: Estonia

Position: Assistant Professor of Aquaculture Biology

Email: katrin.kaldre@emu.ee

LinkedIn: Katrin Kaldre



Key expertise

- Ecology and monitoring of invasive crayfish species
- Crayfish physiology and diseases
- Population genetics and molecular methods including eDNA
- Conservation of noble crayfish (*Astacus astacus*)
- Sustainable aquaculture and feeding technologies



Key projects

- Microfluidic origami paper-based eDNA biosensor for community surveillance of aquatic invasive species
- Molecular methods for detecting crayfish plague and burnspot disease in wild and farmed crayfish populations to assess ecosystem health and disease risks for restocking and restoration programmes from a One Health perspective



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests

HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-04

- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-01-two-stage
- HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-07
-



Role in the project

Developing and implementing molecular diagnostic approaches and expertise



Who I am

Name: Błaszczyk Karolina; Szczepanek Małgorzata

Institution: **Bydgoszcz University of Science and Technology, Poland**
Department of Agronomy and Food Processing

Country: Poland

Position: Research Assistant

Email: karolina.blaszczyk@pbs.edu.pl; malgorzata.szczepanek@pbs.edu.pl

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4669-7638>
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1354-5627>



Key expertise (max. 5)

- ➡ Sustainable crop production and agroecosystem management
- ➡ Agrobiodiversity and alternative crop species
- ➡ Soil quality and ecosystem functioning in agricultural systems
- ➡ Low-input and environmentally friendly farming systems



Key projects (max. 3)

- ➡ Agrobiodiversity and resilient crop systems
- ➡ Sustainable farming practices and soil health
- ➡ Sustainable agriculture and rural development



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- ➡ Boosting agrobiodiversity for food security and sustainable competitiveness
- ➡ Ensuring continuous effectiveness of protected areas in conserving habitats and species while facing intensifying drivers of biodiversity loss
- ➡ Living labs driving transformative change via knowledge integration and inclusive governance



Role in the project

- ➡ Research partner contributing to **agrobiodiversity research, field experiments on crop diversity and sustainable farming systems, and soil quality assessment.**
- Research Partner** (partner / WP leader / task leader)

Destination HE Cluster 6: *Biodiversity and ecosystem services* *Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors*



Who I am

Name: Agnieszka Klembalska

Institution: Institute of Plant Protection – National Research Institute

Country: Poland

Position: Head of Projects Department

Email: a.klembalska@iorpib.poznan.pl

LinkedIn:

- agnieszka-klembalska-940277199
- company/88419255



Key expertise (max. 5)

- use of biological agents of plant protection
- flower strips in agricultural crops, biodiversity
- activities increasing organic farming in agriculture
- demonstrations for stakeholder (including farmers, advisors)
- actions leading to the protection of the soil environment



Key projects (max. 3)

- ROSA** - „Revitalising orchard soil for apples” – HE, LivingSoiLL, 2025-2028
- AGROWISE** - „Guideline for farm-specific rules or crop-specific for mitigating pesticide impacts while ensuring sustainable agriculture” - LIFE-2023-PLP, 2024-2025
- Next-IPM** - „Next Generation EU-wide IPM Demonstration Farms” H2020



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-06** Living labs driving transformative change via knowledge integration and inclusive governance
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-06** Boosting agrobiodiversity for food security and sustainable competitiveness
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-09** Balancing food security, bioeconomy, climate and biodiversity objectives to unlock sustainable value chains



Role in the project

PARTNER



Who I am

Name: Aude Zingraff-Hamed

Position: Head of Chair

Institution: TU Dortmund (CNRS ITES)

Email: Aude.zingraff-hamed@tu-dortmund.de

Country: Germany (France)

LinkedIn: aude-zingraff-hamed-b020161b1



Key expertise (max. 5)

- ➡ Landscape Planning Water
- ➡ Governance
- ➡ Nature-based solutions
- ➡ GISand eDNA
- ➡ WaterJustice forhuman and non-human



Key projects (max. 3)

- ➡ PHUSICOS.eu
- ➡ TRESOR
- ➡ PC7 Water Common Good



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- ➡ HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-04:Ensuringcontinuouseffectiveness of protected areas in conserving habitats and species while facing intensifying drivers of biodiversity loss
- ➡ HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-07: Health of ecosysems and wild species, predictions and impacts on human health, in the face of existing and emerging stressors, from a One Health approach
- ➡ HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-06: Living labs driving transformative change



Role in the project

Lead Partner
(WP Lead)



Who I am



Name: Barbara Sowińska-Świerkosz

Institution: University of Life Sciences in Lublin (public)

Country: POLAND

Position: Associate Professor, NBS Research Team Leader

Email: barbara.swierkosz@up.edu.pl

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/barbara-sowinska-swierkosz-b4a023275/>



Key expertise

- **Wetlands Management:** design, implementation, monitoring, protection, effectiveness assessment, and landscape impacts.
- **Living Labs for Urban NBS:** co-design and co-development, social perception, stakeholder engagement and serious board games.
- **Health Benefits and Risks of NBS:** categorization, cross-comparison, synergies and trade-offs.
- **Urban NBS:** effectiveness assessment and implementation potential.
- **Spatial analysis** of the environmental impacts of NBS.



Key projects

- [NBS4Drought - Wetlands as Nature-Based Solutions for Europe's Water Future.](#) HORIZON-CL6-2024-BIODIV-02
- [About – NatureScape.](#) Enhancing Urban Sustainability for Environmental Quality and Human Well-being through Nature-Based Solutions Transformation Labs; Biodiversa+ 2023 (BiodivNBS)
- [LILY COST Action launched – lily-project.](#) Large-scale Interdisciplinary Alliance on Nature-based SoLutions and Health: Indicators, Inequality and Innovation (LILY); CA23133



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests

- **Assessment of Freshwater Wetlands Protection Measures:** management effectiveness and future conservation impacts.
- **Set up and run Living Labs for NBS:** a 'Non-Human-Centric Approach' and/or considering both cultural and natural heritage.
- **Analysis of Nature Restoration and Conservation Projects:** human health benefits and risks, social perception, and ecosystem services provision.



Role in the project

- **Partner** (WP / Task Leader)
- **Showcase provider (terrestrial, freshwater):** all types of wetlands, various protected areas, large and mid-sized cities, and rural communities
- **Technical / Design / Social Partner**



Who I am

Name: Simona Poláková

Institution: Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Country: Czech Republic

Position: Project manager, researcher

Email: Simona.polakova@entu.cas.cz

LinkedIn:



Key expertise (max. 5)

- Conservation biology of insect
- Genetic analyses – populations, individuals
- Conservation biology of fish
- Alternative managements
- Restoration ecology



Key projects (max. 3)

- Molecular Life of Plants – - Horizon Europe Programme - ERA-Chairs
- Cure4Aqua - Horizon Europe Programme
- NextGenBioPest - Horizon Europe Programme



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- Restoring ecosystems for resilient society and economy
- Ensuring continuous effectiveness of protected areas in conserving habitats and species while facing intensifying drivers of biodiversity loss
- Uncovering the causes of specific species’ rapid decline and exploring actionable solutions



Role in the project

- Consortium leader
- Partner



Who I am

Name:Magdalena Frac

Institution:Instituteof Agrophysics, PolishAcademyof Sciences

Country: Poland

Position:Full Professor/ Headof Department

Email:m.frac@ipan.lublin.pl

LinkedIn: -



Key expertise (max. 5)

- **Soilmicrobiology**—diversity, activityand functionsof soilmicroorganisms
- **Plant holobiome**—soil-plant-microbiome interactions, plant health
- **Environmentalbiotechnology**—microbiome-basedsolutionfor agriculture
- **Agricultureand soilhealth**—soilquality, microbialinoculants, biopreparations
- **Microbiomes in agroecosystems**—plant and soilmicrobiome management



Key projects (max. 3)

- **EcoFruits**, BIOSTRATEG3, NCBR –Project Coordinator
New biotechnological solutions for the diagnosis, control, and monitoring of key fungal pathogens in organic soft fruit cultivation
- **LEGUMINOSE**, Horizon Europe –Project Partner, WP Leader
Legume-cereal intercropping for sustainable agriculture across Europe
- **potatoMETAbiome**, ERA NET SusCrop, NCBR –Project Partner, Coordinatorof Polish Consortium
Harnessingthepotato-microbiomeinteractionsforthedevelopmentofsustainable breeding and production strategies



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- **HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-06:** Boosting agrobiodiversity for food security and sustainable competitiveness
- **HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-06:** Living labs drivingtransformative change viaknowledge integration and inclusive governance
- **HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-07:** Health of ecosystemsandwild species, predictions and impacts on humanhealth, in the face of existing and emerging stressors, from a One Health approach



Role in the project

- Coordinator
- Partner in Consortium

We are a leading research institution in Poland, specialising in interdisciplinary studies on rural development and the functioning of the agri-food sector in the European Union and beyond.

Currently, the institute carries out 6 Horizon Europe projects, 3 more received positive evaluation and will initiate in 2026. Two DG Agri framework contracts are being implemented by IRWiR PAN (one as a co-leader).

IRWiR PAN

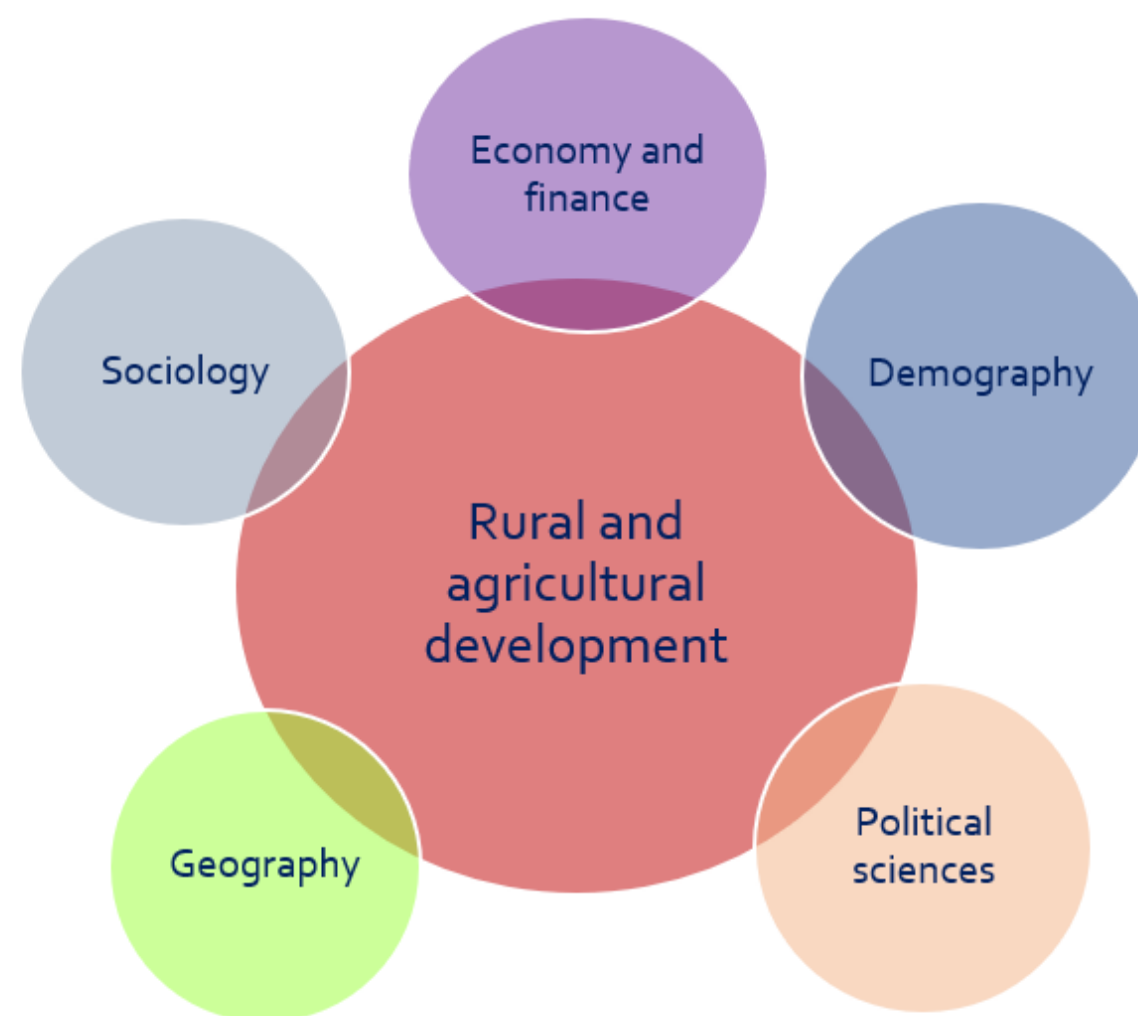
Website: <https://www.irwirpan.waw.pl>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/irwirpan>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/irwir-pan>

E-mail: vitaliy.krupin@gmail.com, vkrupin@irwirpan.waw.pl

Our expertise:



IRWiR PAN team is ready to contribute to the project proposal aimed at the “**Boosting agrobiodiversity for food security and sustainable competitiveness**” call, having good understanding of the agrobiodiversity monitoring, conservation and enhancement based on the ongoing Horizon Europe project “BioMonitor4CAP: Advanced biodiversity monitoring for results-based and effective agricultural policy and transformation” (<https://www.biomonitor4cap.eu>, 2022-2026).

In this project IRWiR PAN is leading the WP on policy implementation, upscaling and replication. **Our main focus is on social sciences and humanities (SSH) with a particular focus on quantitative and qualitative assessment** of stakeholders’ perspective, their needs, willingness to accept and participate in particular actions (farming practices, local initiatives), willingness to actively contribute to rural development and implementation of agri-environmental policy.

For the upcoming call, **we are ready to play a key role (WP leader) providing the required SSH expertise**, our experience in participatory research and stakeholder engagement would bring valuable insight to the consortium, we are ready to take the responsibility of the policy analysis, defining in a systemic way the existing conditions (barriers, enablers), understanding key criteria to adjust and improve the current or propose future policies and policy measures.

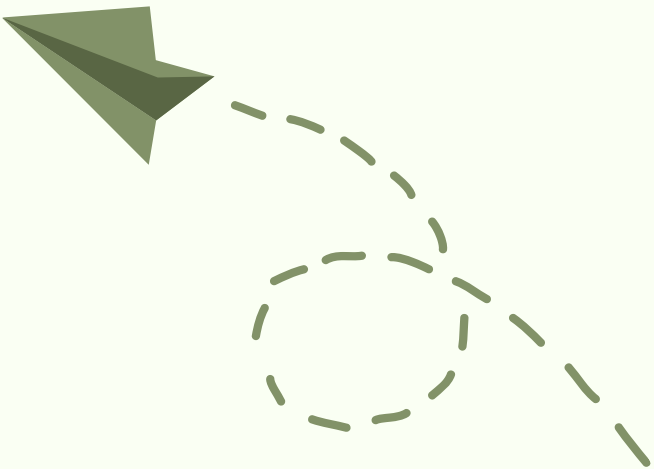
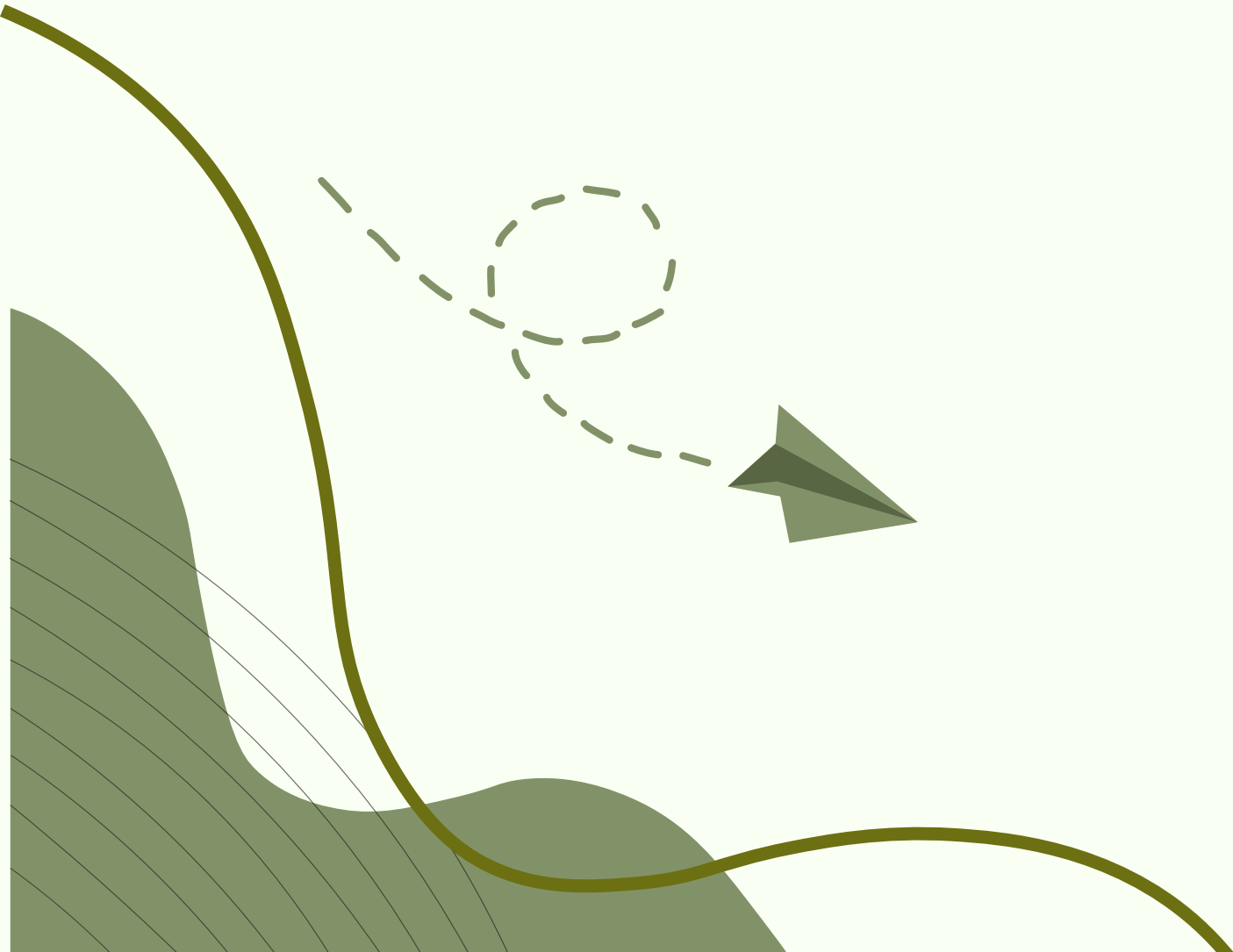
We are ready to contribute with scientific validation and impact assessment on policy mainstreaming; developing business and finance models within the value chains to support the implementation of policy measures.



Matchmaking Event | HE Cluster 6

Promoting strong research partnerships throughout Europe

Thank you!



Pitching session

Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors





Who I am

Name:AlirezaFazeli

Position: Professor

Institution: Estonian University Of Life Sciences

Email: Fazeli@EMU.ee

Country: Estonia

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alireza-fazeli-08001422/>



Key expertise (max.5)

- Extracellular Vesicles-based biotechnology
- Microbiome and Algae based modulation
- One Health
- Antimicrobial Resistance



Key projects (max. 3)

-
- Combivet
- EUPHON-

Boost



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)



Role in the project

- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-07: Advancing the European bio-based innovation enabled by biotechnology and biomanufacturing concepts
- HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-02: Increasing mitigation of GHG emissions and feed efficiency through feed additives
- HORIZON-CL6-2027-03-GOVERNANCE-01: Strengthening the resilience of European farmers through improved capacity in coping with risks and crises



Who I am

Name: Malgorzata Krzywonos

Institution: Wrocław University of Economics and Business

Country: Poland

Position: Professor, Director BioR&D Center

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LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/malgorzatakrzywonos/>



Key expertise (max. 5)

-  Food waste valorisation
-  Upcycled food
-  Sustainable food system
-  Multicriteria decision analysis
-  Stakeholder engagement



Key projects (max. 3)

-  CircularFoam—Systemic expansion of territorial CIRCULAR Ecosystems for end-of-life FOAM; Horizon2020
-  *From Definitions to Acceptance: Communication and Perception of Upcycled Food in Poland—national project, submitted*
-  Communication value of sustainable products and consumer behavior 2023-2026
Inter-University Research Grant SGHUEW- UEK-UEP-UEKat



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

-  HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-09
-  HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-10
-  HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-CIRCBIO-09



Role in the project

Partner/coordinator



Who I am

Name: Christian von Wallbrunn

Position: Senior Scientist & Lecturer

Institution: Department of Microbiology & Biochemistry,
Hochschule GeisenheimUniversity

Email: Christian.wallbrunn@hs-gm.de

Country: Germany

LinkedIn:



Key expertise (max. 5)

- ➡ Beverage Technology
- ➡ Food Biotechnology
- ➡ Fermentation
- ➡ Quality Control + Food Security
- ➡ Aromaproduction



Key projects (max. 3)

- ➡ AROMAnoALK-Optimisingdealcoholisedwine quality by microbiological contributions from grape pomace fermentation
- ➡ AROMAplus-From plant-based raw materials to microbiological production -aroma and functional ingredients from vines and fruit



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- ➡ HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-CIRCBIO-09: Increasing the circularity of bio-based sector: upcycling and recycling for higher value and environmental benefits
- ➡ HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-07: Towards commercialization of food systems microbiome solutions
- ➡ HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-07: Advancing the European bio-based innovation enabled by biotechnology and biomanufacturingconcepts



Role in the project

Who I am

Name: Sara Silva

Institution: Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Country: Portugal

Position: Auxiliary Researcher

Email: snsilva@ucp.pt

LinkedIn:

Key expertise

-  • Green extraction technologies (e.g. enzymatic hydrolysis; fermentation)
-  • Multicellular models for nutraceutical potential evaluation
-  • Cellular models for cosmetic/cosmeceutical screening
-  • Ingredient incorporation & demonstration
- 

Key projects (max. 3)

-  • WiSe | Aged Wine Sediments as a dietary supplement for inflammatory bowel disease.
-  • DeepTech Transfer | Scientific and Technological Knowledge Transfer in DeepTech: Food Biotechnology, Biomedical/Health, Environment, Information Technologies
-  • BioShoes4All | Innovation and Training of the Footwear Sector for the Sustainable Bioeconomy

HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests

-  • HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-07: Advancing the European bio-based innovation enabled by biotechnology and biomanufacturing concepts
-  • HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-09: Balancing food security, bioeconomy, climate and biodiversity objectives to unlock sustainable value chains
-  • HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-CIRCBIO-07: Improving biomass flows for a sustainable and circular bioeconomy

Role in the project

- Develop ‘Zero-waste’ processes with cascading-use mind frame; demonstrate ingredients/products value in different applications
- Exploit new processes for attaining biomolecules for food, feed, cosmetic or material application



Who I am

Name: Ambra Guarnaccio

Institution: CNR-ISM
ItalianNationalResearchCouncil(CNR) –Institute of Structureof Matter
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche -Istituto di Struttura della Materia(ISM)

Country: ITALY

Position: Researcher

Email: ambra.guarnaccio@cnr.it

LinkedIn: 



Key expertise (max. 5)

- Nanocompositehybridmaterials:polymers(e.g.PETG,PP,etc.) and biopolymers(e.g. PolylacticAcid (PLA)) enrichedwith fillers
- Circular economy: recycling waste and end-of-life polymers
- Smart activeand memoryshape-polymermaterials
- Extrudableand 3D printablepolymersand biopolymers



Key projects (max. 3)

- **RI-CIRCOLA - "Thefactory towards a circular economy: from plastic recovery to the end-of-life of vehicles"** - Project funded by the Ministry of Economic Development - MISE – Horizon 2020/PON 2014-2020
- **ARPA - "AutonomousandflexibleManufacturingandAugmentedReality techniques for Processes Automation"** - Project funded by the Ministry of Economic Development – MISE - Fabbrica Intelligente HORIZON 2020/PON I&C 2014-2020.



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- CL6-2027-01-CIRCBIO-09 - Increasing the circularity of bio-based sector: upcycling and recycling for higher value and environmental benefits
- CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-07 - Advancing the European bio-based innovation enabled by biotechnology and biomanufacturing concepts
- CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-09: Balancing food security, bioeconomy, climate and biodiversity objectives to unlock sustainable value chains



Roleinthe project

Partner



Who I am

Name: Sana Ben-Othman

Position: Researcher

Institution: Estonian University of Life Sciences
Chair of Food Science and Technology

Email: sana.ben_othman@emu.ee

Country: Estonia



Key expertise

- ➡ Plant origin by-product valorisation
- ➡ Innovative green extraction technologies for effective recovery of bioactive compounds
- ➡ Purification and characterization of bioactive compounds
- ➡ Production of functional food ingredients for gut health



Key projects

- ➡ **VALORTECH** -ERA-Chair for Food (By-) Products Valorisation Technologies
- ➡ **PlantValor** – enhancing the scientific research and cooperation on valorizationofplantoriginrawmaterials,and increasingsectorial innovation capacity
- ➡ **TEM-TA28**Health-promoting whey products with high added value



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests

- ➡ **HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-CIRCBIO-09:** Increasing the circularity of bio-based sector: upcycling and recycling for higher value and environmental benefits



Role in the project

Partner in Consortium

Who I am

Name: Claudia BELVISO

Institution: CNR - IMAA

Country: Italy

Position: Senior Researcher

Email: claudia.belviso@cnr.it

LinkedIn:

Key expertise

- Biomass and industrial wastes as secondary raw material for zeolite synthesis
- Industrial symbiosis: zeolite from combined wastes or/and bio polymer matrix
- Water/soil remediation using zeolites formed from (bio)wastes
- Circular economy: cascading biomass use
- Zeolites from (bio)wastes in agriculture: reservoirs of water and nutrients

Key projects

- RI-CIRCOLA - "The factory towards a circular economy: from plastic recovery to the end-of-life of vehicles" - Project funded by the Ministry of Economic Development - MISE – Horizon 2020/PON 2014/2020
- ARPA - "Autonomous and flexible Manufacturing and Augmented Reality techniques for Processes Automation" - Project funded by the Ministry of Economic Development - MISE

HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests

- CL6-2027-01-CIRCBIO-09 - Increasing the circularity of bio-based sector: upcycling and recycling for higher value and environmental benefits
- CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-09 -Balancing food security, bioeconomy, climate and biodiversity objectives to unlock sustainable value chains
- CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-07 - Advancing the European bio-based innovation enabled by biotechnology and biomanufacturing concepts

Role in the project:
- **Coordinator - Partner in Consortium**



Who I am



Name:FrédéricBourgaud

Institution: University of Lorraine & Botanical Gardens & CNRS

Country: France

Email: [frederic.bourgaud@univ-Lorraine.fr](mailto:frederic.bourgaud@univ-lorraine.fr)

Position: Prof., Sci. Dir. Nancy' Botanical Gardens



Key expertise (max. 5)

- ➡ Plant NaturalCompounds
- ➡ Plant Biodiversity/Bioprospection (temperate& tropical –seeoverseeterritories)
- ➡ Plant BiosyntheticPathways
- ➡ Precisionfermentation –MetabolicEngineering
- ➡ Entrepreneurship(markets: pharma, cosmetics, nutraceuticals)



Key projects (max. 3)

- ➡ Hiveto Health»: Bee-Assisted discovery and bioproduction of new active ingredients in a One Health approach
- Centeredon propolis & new Omicsapproaches& precisionfermentation for production
- Usedto bea Cluster 6 project–but nowshiftingto MSCA-Doctoral Network ?



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- ➡ **HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-07**
- ➡ Advancing the European bio-based innovation enabled by biotechnology and biomanufacturing concepts
- ➡



Role in the project

- ➡ CoordinatorifMSCA-Doctoral Network
- ➡ Readyto bepartnerin otherprojects



Who I am

Name:	Piotr Oleskowicz-Popiel	Position:	Professor/Director of Institute
Institution:	Poznan University of Technology	Email:	piotr.oleskowicz-popiel@put.poznan.pl
Country:	Poland	LinkedIn:	https://www.linkedin.com/in/popopiel/



Key expertise (max. 5)

- ➡ Fermentation processes Agro-and bio-waste
- ➡ cascade valorisation
- ➡ Biorefinery
- ➡ Bioprocessing
- ➡ Techno-economic analysis



Key projects (max. 3)

- ➡ Rural Biorefarmeries – CBE JU
- ➡ Multiplenalprojectson chainelongationproces for carboxylicacidsproductionfrom waste
- ➡ Leveraging Anaerobic Digestion through environmental stresses: Doctoral Networks MSCA



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)



Role in the project

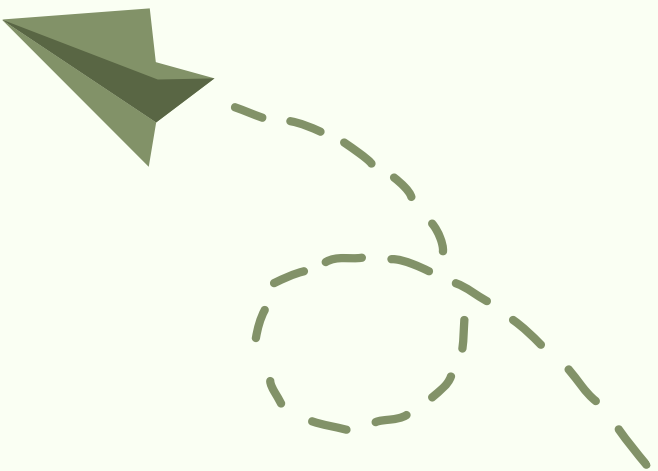
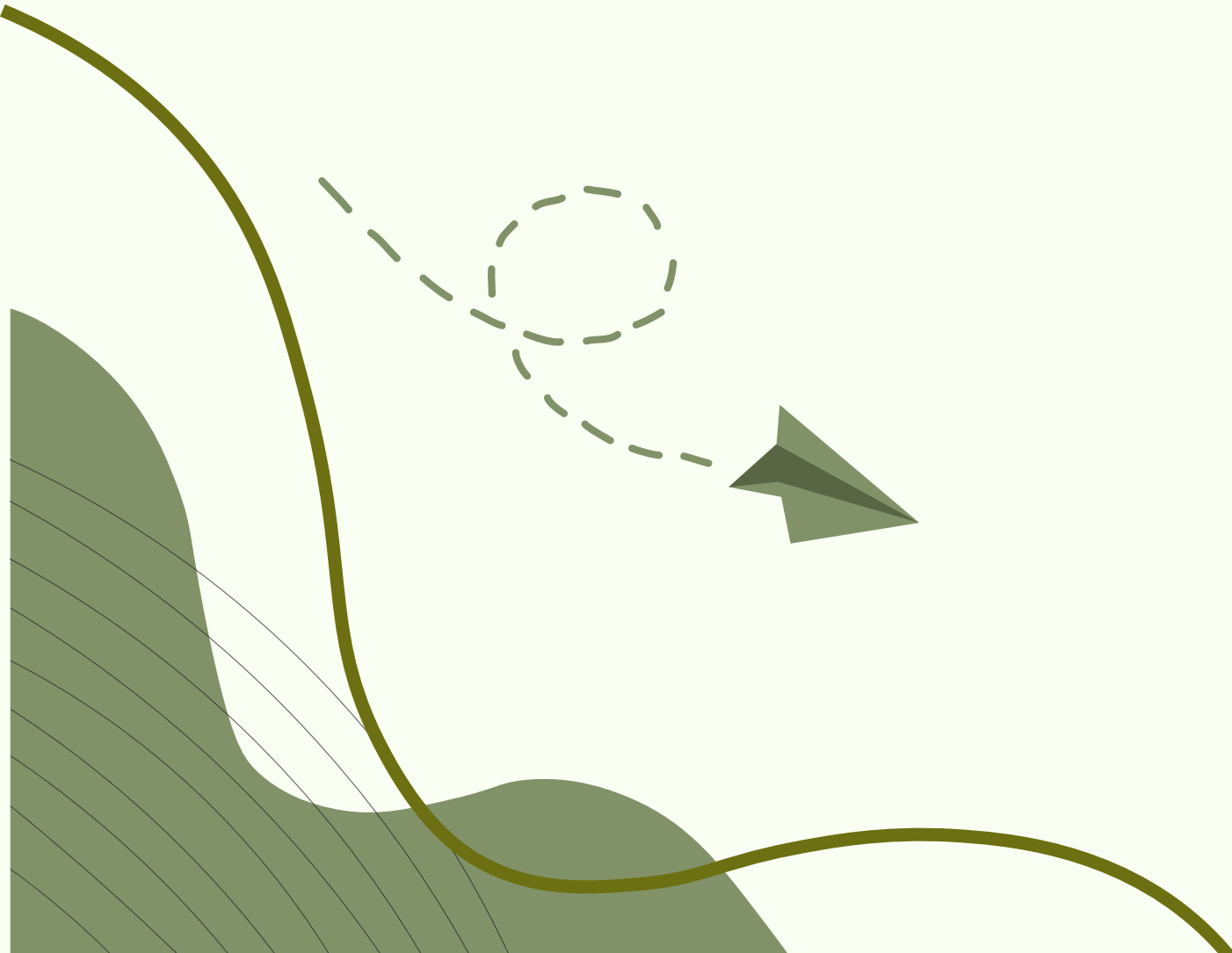
- ➡ HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-07: Advancing the European bio-based innovation enabled by biotechnology and biomanufacturing concepts- partner
- ➡ HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-10: Bio-based innovation in society: supporting the sustainable way of living-partner



Matchmaking Event | HE Cluster 6

Promoting strong research partnerships throughout Europe

Thank you!



PolSCA
Polish Science
Contact Agency
in Brussels



Pitching session

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





Who I am

Name: MariliisMia Topp

Institution Tallinn University of Technology

Country: Estonia

Position : FoodScience&TechnologyResearchGroup,
researcher

Email : m a r i l i i s.topp @ta l tec h.e e

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mariliistopp/>



Key expertise (max. 5)

- ➡ Food fermentation and microbial biotechnology
- ➡ Flavour chemistry and sensory science
- ➡ Food reformulation (reduced sugar, salt, additives)
- ➡ Microbiome-active foods and probiotics
- ➡ Translation of research into market products (e.g. fermented functional beverages)



Key projects (max. 3)

- ➡ **TEM-TA50 – Food Reformulation Programme**
Developing healthier food products with reduced sugar, salt and fat
- ➡ **ASTRA Salivarius**
Development of functional food formats containing *Lactobacillus salivarius*.
- ➡ **FIBRE-MATCH**
Investigating gas formation pathways of gutmicrobiomes when metabolising common dietary fibres usingin vitro models.



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- ➡ **HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-07**
Towards commercialization of food systems microbiome solutions
- ➡ **HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-07**
Advancing European bio-based innovation enabled by biotechnology
- ➡ **HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-CIRCBIO-09**
Increasing circularity of bio-based sectors through upcycling



Role in the project

Consortium partner



Who I am

Name: Katarzyna Hryniewicz

Institution: Department of Microbiology, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

Country: Poland

Position: Professor

Email: hrynk@umk.pl

LinkedIn:



Key expertise (max. 5)

- Plant microbiomes
- Soil microbiology
- Soil biodiversity
- Sustainable agriculture
- Microbiome-based applications



Key projects (max. 3)

- 2021-2025: “NAPERDIV – Nature-based perennial grain cropping as a model to safeguard functional biodiversity towards future-proof agriculture” [EU, BiodivERsA] – **coordinator of WP2 and coordinator for NCU**
- 2025-2028: “Salty symphonies: bringing back BiodivErsity in mArginal Saltlands” (SaltyBEATS) – (EU, BIODIVNBS) – **coordinator for NCU**
- 2026-2029: Priority Research Area “OBSIDIAN – Organic Biodiversity Solutions Driving Innovation in Agriculture and Nutrition” – **coordinator**



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)



Role in the project



Who I am

Name: DAGMARA ZŁOTKOWSKA

Institution: InLife Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research
Polish Academy of Sciences

Country: POLAND

Position: Assistant Professor

Email: d.zlotkowska@pan.olszyn.pl

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/dagmara-zlotkowska-5a76a21a



Key expertise (max. 5)

- Mucosal immune responses to modified food proteins (denatured, glycated, and model-digested).
- Influence of bioactive food components on mucosal immunity.
- In vitro (pre-clinical), ex vivo, and in vivo studies of immune-cell mechanisms in response to bioactive food molecules.
- Immune modulators arising from interaction between food components and he microbiome



Key projects (max. 3)

- **National Science Center projects (6)** have investigated the immune response mechanisms induces by modified and naive food proteins **ROLE: PI, mentor and coworker**
- **EIT Food Solution (2022-2025)** – aimed to develop innovative, health-oriented food that improved nutrition, support immune and metabolic health. **ROLE: leader task on behalf of the Institute**
- **Protein2Food** – development of high quality food protein through sustainable production and processing; **Era Chair project** which develop **nutrigenomic team** in Institute for optimizing health



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- Microbiome for terrestrial livestock sustainability and health within a One Health approach
- Towards commercialization of food systems microbiome solutions



Role in the project

- Partner (WP Leader) :
- designs experiment and study protocols;
 - P?tro models
 - perform immunological, microbiome and digestive analyses
 - dissemination of project results



Who I am

Name: Evelin Loit-Harro

Institution: Estonian University of Life Sciences

Country: Estonia

Position: Professor of Sustainable Agriculture

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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/evelin-loit-harro-74061329a



Key expertise (max. 5)

- Analysis of the cropping systems impact on nutrient use and yield
- Connecting management and weather info with yield quality (dietary fiber)
- Making connections with gene expression and field management
- Facilitating farmers' experience
- Engaging agronomy students



Key projects (max. 3)

- Yield and quality stability and sustainability in long-term cropping systems
- Valorization of cereals and oilseed crops
- BioFoodOnMars - Biofortified food and fodder production on marginal soil. Project studied the effect and mechanisms of addition of microelements and organic fertilizers on the yield and quality of grasses and cereals.



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- Boosting organic farming for a competitive, sustainable and resilient farming sector
- Boosting the competitiveness of protein crops in Europe



Role in the project

To conduct field experiments, collect and analyse field data in the Nordic-Baltic region (experimental fields and/or farmer fields).

To make connections with the farmers (knowhow, practical implementing).

Opportunity to meet and discuss www.esa2026.ee



Destination HE Cluster 6:

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



Who I am

Name: Anna Ogrodowczyk

Institution: InLife Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research
Polish Academy of Sciences

Country: Poland

Position: Assistant Professor

Email: a.ogrodowczyk@pan.olsztyn.pl

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/anna-maria-ogrodowczyk-030219276/>



Key expertise (max. 5)

- ➡ Food Science
- ➡ Fermentation
- ➡ One Health
- ➡ Food safety
- ➡ Microbiome



Key projects (max. 3)

- ➡ The role of milk matrix lipids in programming the immunoreactivity of proteins derived from lactic acid bacteria, NSC Poland 2021/43/D/NZ9/02814;
- ➡ DaiDriLyo- Dairy Drinks with Lyophilized Additives, Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education; InIn4.0; 2020/318/DIR:.
- ➡ EIT Food RIS Consumer Engagement Labs; Innovative dairy beverage 2024



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- ➡ FARM2FORK-03 Microbiome for terrestrial livestock sustainability and health within a One Health approach
- ➡ FARM2FORK-07 Towards commercialization of food systems microbiome solutions
- ➡ FARM2FORK-08AI-powered foodome characterization



Role in the project

Partner in Consortium

- Providing advanced omics-based and *in vitro*, *in vivo*, *in silico* assessment of microbial safety, immunogenicity and host responses.
- Developing and evaluating lipid-modulated microbial, fermented and post-biotic solutions.
- Supporting One Health-aligned strategies to improve gut health, resilience and sustainability in food systems.



Who I am

Name: Dieuwertje Bartels

Institution: Delphy

Country: Netherlands



Position: Project manager-Projects & Innovation

Email: d.bartels@delphy.nl



Key expertise

- Applied agricultural & horticultural research
- **100+ specialised advisors (international!)**
- **Own horticulture and open-field fieldlabs**
- Practice validation & on-farm demonstration
- Technology & innovation validation



Key projects



NUTRI-CHECK NET
OPTIMISING CROP NUTRITION



**BEST4
SOIL**



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests

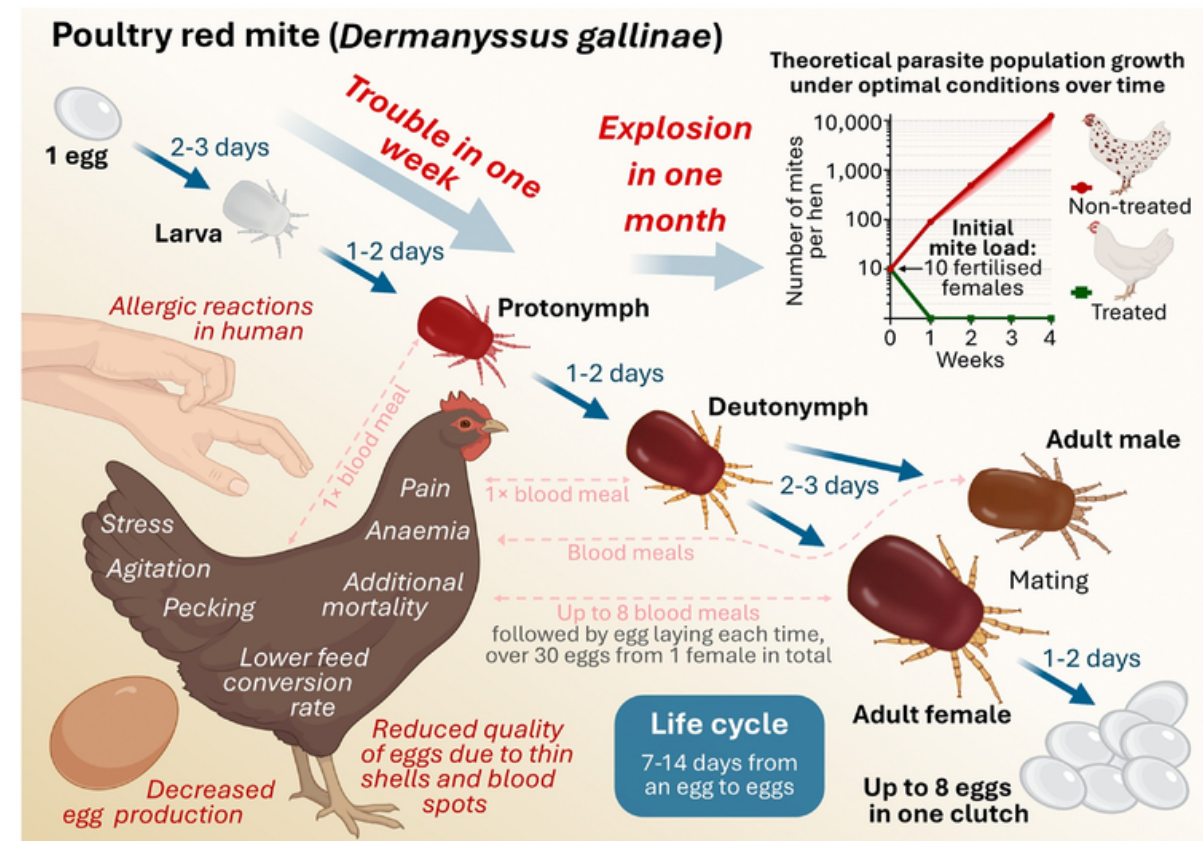
- Towards commercialization of food systems **microbiome solutions**
- **African Union- European Union Partnership** on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture
- (Boosting **agrobiodiversity** for food security and sustainable competitiveness)



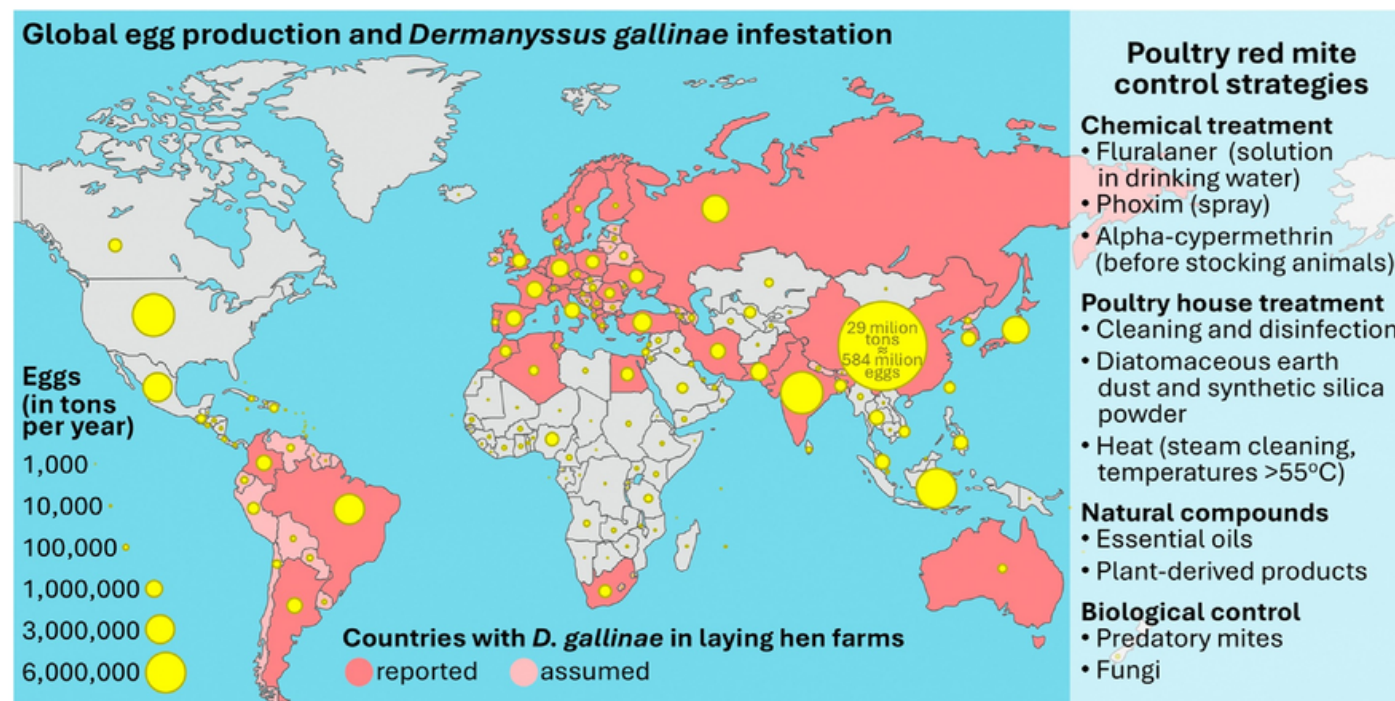
Role in the project
Partner in Consortium



Sustainable Biocontrol against Mites and Ticks



Trends in Parasitology



Trends in Parasitology

Insect Bioconversion of Waste Streams





Who I am

Name: Prof. Dr Stephanie Krieger-Güss

Institution: University of Applied Science Osnabrueck

Country: Germany

Position: Professor

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LinkedIn:



Key expertise (max. 5)

- Quality management and assurance
- Food packaging material
- Food safety
- sustainability
- Circular economy



Key projects (max. 3)

- Partner in EU FutureFood Project
- Eu project Moniqa
- EU project Promstap



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems (from production to consumption)
- Circular economy & bioeconomy



Role in the project



Who I am

Name: Nuno Oliveira
Institution: COLAB4FOOD
Country: Portugal



Position: Manager at Innovation & Funding Department
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Key expertise

- Circular Economy and Food Sustainability
- Innovative ingredients and products for health and well-being
- New Processes & Technologies
- Collaborative Ecosystem
- Technology Transfer



Key projects

- WASTELESS (Horizon Europe) aimed to develop tools and recommendations for measuring and monitoring food losses and waste.
- Agenda VIIAFOOD - Platform for Commercial Valorisation, Industrialisation and Innovation for Agri-Food
- InsectERA aims to enable the industrialisation and commercialisation of innovative insect-based products, in the food area and in other industries.



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests

- HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-07: Towards commercialization of food systems microbiome solutions
- HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-08: AI-powered foodome characterization



Role in the project

- New product development;
- Nutrition and healthy food;
- Sustainable & competitive food processes (Techno-economic analysis – TEA);
- Sustainability (Life Cycle Assessment – LCA and Environmental Product Declaration – EPD);
- A great network of food industry/academia contacts;
- Support on dissemination activities, such as organisation of workshops/open days.



Who I am

Name: Alexandre Gonçalves

Institution: MORE CoLAB

Country: Portugal

Position: Scientific Coordinator for Biobased
Products and Processes

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Key expertise (max. 5)

- Sustainable agri-food value chains
- Bio-based products from Mediterranean crops
- Food innovation & post-harvest tech
- Rural bioeconomy & mountain contexts
- Project leadership in EU-aligned funding



Key projects (max. 3)

- **CisWEFE-NEX** (GA 101135062); supported by Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI). 2024-2029.
- **NutCheelnov** (NORTE2030-FEDER-01469400): co-financed by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). 2026-2028
- **BioLivingLABS** (Projecto nº 17807): co-financed by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). 2025-2028.



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-07: Towards commercialization of food systems microbiome solutions



Role in the project

- Co-lead; Scale-up and demonstration of technologies



Who I am

Name: Adam Hruška

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Country: Czechia

Position: Assistant professor

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Key expertise (max. 5)

- Machine Learning
- Food Security
- Large Language Models
- Policymaking
- Sustainability



Key projects (max. 3)

- CEE2ACT - A more bottom-up approach is needed to foster the bioeconomy transition in Europe.
- OSIRIS project – Reproducibility of R&D, across all domains.
- COMUNIDAD project - project is set to establish a comprehensive framework for utilizing Copernicus data in agriculture, forestry, and rural development.



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests (max. 3)

- HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-09: African Union – European Union Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-09: Balancing food security, bioeconomy, climate and biodiversity objectives to unlock sustainable value chains
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-06: Boosting agrobiodiversity for food security and sustainable competitiveness



Role in the project

- Partner in Consortium/ project coordinator
- Partner in Consortium
- Partner in Consortium



Who I am

Name: Lillian Barros

Institution: Polytechnic Institute of Bragança

Country: Portugal

Position: Principal Researcher

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Key expertise

- ➡ Natural products chemistry
- ➡ Extraction and chemical characterization of bioactive compounds
- ➡ Agro-food by-products valorisation
- ➡ Development of functional ingredients (food, nutraceuticals and cosmetic)
- ➡ Circular bioeconomy and sustainable food systems



Key projects

- ➡ CBE (ex: Up4Health – valorisation of agro-food by-products into high-value nutraceutical and cosmetic ingredients; BeOnNat - bioeconomy approaches for the sustainable valorisation of natural resources and agro-food by-products)
- ➡ PRIMA projects on sustainable food systems and agro-food by-products valorisation (ex: Pulplng; Medacornet; LocalNutLeg; Valmedalm; ValueFarm)
- ➡ Development of functional ingredients and bioactive compounds from natural resources – ongoing projects funded by NORTE2030-FEDER (ERDF co-financed), 2026–2028.



HE Cluster 6: Calls of interests

- ➡ HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-07: Towards commercialization of food systems microbiome solutions
- ➡ HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-09: African Union – European Union Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)
- ➡ HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-08: AI-powered foodome characterization



Role in the project

Co-lead; Partner



Brightlands Future Farming Institute



Vision

- A resilient, sustainable, and data-driven agricultural system
- Producing **more with less**: fewer inputs, lower emissions, higher efficiency
- Accelerating the transition to **circular and climate-smart farming**
- The BFFI conducts research on agrifood in a so-called **value chain approach** by combining the different disciplines within and outside the institute in close collaboration with companies.

Mission

- Develop and validate **innovative farming systems** (open field & CEA)
- Bridge **research → practice → market adoption**
- Support farmers and stakeholders with **data, technology, and knowledge**
- Enable **scalable solutions** for food security and sustainability

Plant Envirogenetics Department

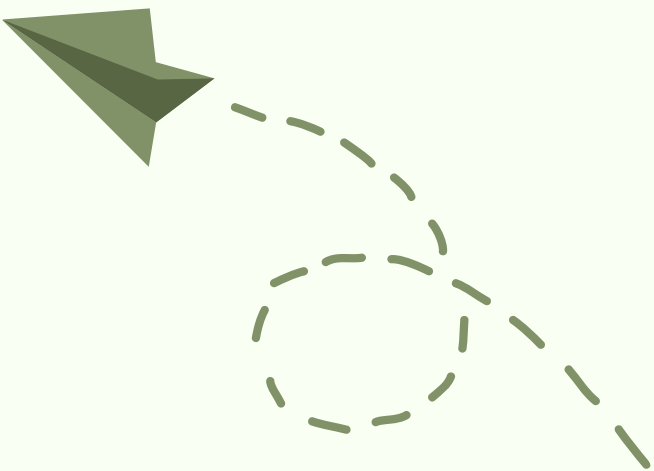
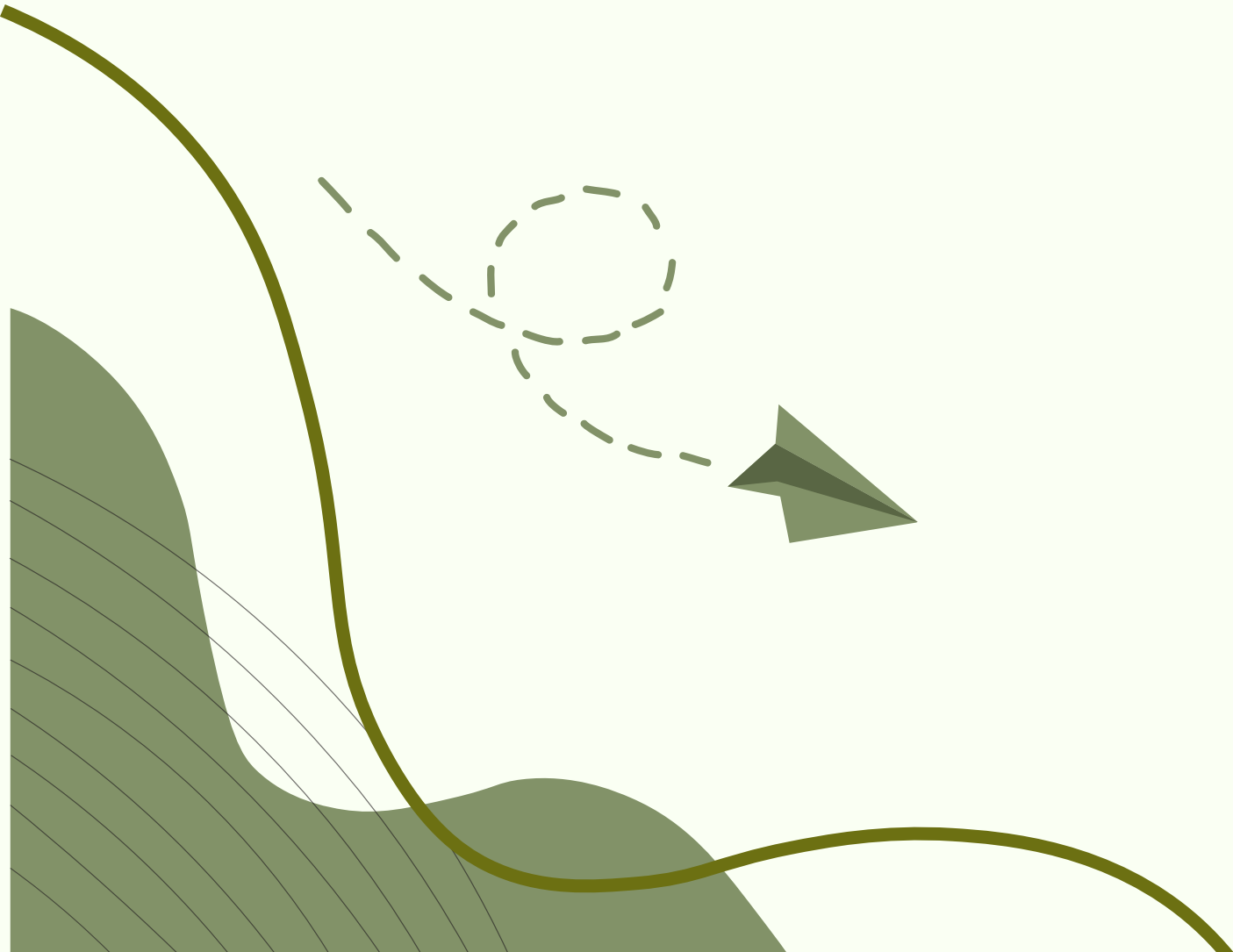
- Understand how **genetics × environment** drives plant performance and **bioactive production**
- Develop **data-driven breeding strategies** for **resilient, nutritious crops**



Matchmaking Event | HE Cluster 6

Promoting strong research partnerships throughout Europe

Thank you!



PolSCA
Polish Science
Contact Agency
in Brussels

