

~~SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related research activities.~~

~~Proposals should involve public authorities with the legal competence to implement policy in biodiversity and nature restoration in their pilots and in their advisory boards.~~

~~Proposals should demonstrate how they will collaborate with or build upon the work of R&I projects from any of the following previous calls and projects: The climate imperative and its impact on democratic governance (HORIZON-CL2-2023-DEMOCRACY-01-05), H2020-SC6-GOVERNANCE-2020, the Green Deal Call – cross-cutting theme on empowering citizens, the projects PHOENIX and REAL DEAL under Horizon Europe Missions.~~

~~The possible participation of the JRC in the project could involve the following contributions from the side of the Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy:~~

- ~~• supporting networking activities by invitations to JRC events and the Community of Practice of the Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy;~~
- ~~• capacity building on citizen engagement;~~
- ~~• offering the use of the JRC Makerspace in Ispra, Italy.~~

~~Proposals should foresee cooperation with the EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity and the Science Service project BioAgora.~~

~~International cooperation is encouraged, in particular with Latin American and Caribbean countries.~~

~~The use of AI could be considered for the analyses needed under this topic.~~

Biodiversity friendly practices in agriculture

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-10: Supporting the implementation of nature restoration measures for sustainable farming systems

Call: Cluster 6 Call 01 - single stage	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 5.00 and 6.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 11.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions

<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	<p>The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>The following additional eligibility criteria apply: The proposals must apply the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in the introduction to this work programme part.</p>
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025).⁷⁰.</p>

Expected Outcome: In line with the targets of the European Green Deal, the common agricultural policy, and the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, a successful proposal will contribute to the expected impact of this Destination by testing and implementing biodiversity-friendly practices while supporting long-term sustainability of farming and safeguarding food security. A successful proposal will contribute to facilitating the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, aligning with the Union's overarching objectives of climate change mitigation and adaptation, for national authorities, by assessing and promoting the most suitable agricultural practices that support agrobiodiversity and a wide range of ecosystem services.

Projects are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- synergies between nature restoration/conservation and food security (production and availability) are scientifically demonstrated to farmers, land managers, advisors and policymakers;
- suitable measures and strategies, along with evidence-based recommendations, are identified and developed to assist farmers in the implementation phase, while supporting Member States competent authorities in addressing specific targets of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation in agricultural landscapes;
- collaborations and exchanges between farmers, researchers, and policymakers from competent authorities are strengthened to enable the development of integrated and effective policies that restore natural capital, generate sustainable income for farmers, while also ensuring food availability and quality.

⁷⁰ This [decision](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

Scope: Farmers play a pivotal role in addressing biodiversity loss while ensuring food production and quality, thereby contributing to overall food security. To support biodiversity-friendly agriculture, it is essential to first list demonstrated farming practices and ecosystems that benefit biodiversity. Next, there is a need to assess the socio-economic impact of nature restoration measures on the agricultural sector and the individual farm, as well as develop and improve existing incentives and their interplay. A key element for a wide adoption of such practices by farmers is demonstrating production and labour benefits, or at least maintaining economic competitiveness in the implementation of nature restoration measures. Moreover, specific targets for agricultural ecosystems outlined in the EU Nature Restoration Regulation necessitate that applied research lays the foundation for Member States to effectively comply and design appropriate and successful strategies. Therefore, environmental, economic, and social benefits, as well as potential trade-offs between nature restoration measures and food security and quality (production and availability) should be demonstrated over different time frames. These should be developed with farmers in mind: short-term and immediate impact on production, their businesses, and nature, as well as medium-, and long-term.

Proposals should:

- quantify the costs and benefits of restoration measures on farm productivity (referring to the ratio input/output) over short, medium, and long-term. Additionally, evaluate the impact of taking action versus non-action on the provision of ecosystem services, such as climate, water, soil health, pollination, nutrients, natural pest control, erosion prevention, etc., along with their associated economic impact at farm level;
- develop and assess possible science-based targets for satisfactory levels of restoration for biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems considering Art. 11 of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, a path for implementation by farmers, land managers and policymakers, and further develop, solidify, and harmonise existing indicators of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes;
- generate evidence to support and improve incentive schemes, including rewarding mechanisms for actions taken and results achieved in nature restoration/conservation on farmland, while considering synergies and trade-offs;
- assess and compare the potential of various farming approaches to contribute to ecosystem restoration. While considering all types and sizes of farming systems (conventional, organic, agroecological, etc.), prioritise those that are clearly defined to ensure compliance with legislation.

Proposals should adopt a transdisciplinary approach, engaging with relevant experts and stakeholders from farming, biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as from social sciences and humanities (SSH). Proposals must apply the multi-actor approach to ensure adequate involvement of researchers, policymakers, farmers, land managers and agricultural advisors among other relevant stakeholders. Proposals should aim to increase practical, ready to use knowledge and tools, and promote freely accessible dissemination and open capacity building channels.

Proposals should allocate adequate resources to collaborate with topic projects funded under other topics in this work programme, in particular HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-06: Assessing and modelling socio-economic impacts of nature restoration. Moreover, proposals should build on existing knowledge and the results of other relevant projects, as well as ensure cooperation with appropriate Horizon Europe Partnerships, in particular ‘Biodiversa+’ and ‘Agroecology’.

Proposals should foresee cooperation with the EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity and the Science Service project BioAgora.

~~Restoring ecosystems for resilient society and economy~~

~~Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):~~

~~HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-01-two-stage: Living labs and lighthouses co-creating innovative solutions for forests and freshwater ecosystems restoration~~

Call: Cluster 6 Call 01 - two stage	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 7.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 14.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A. The following exceptions apply: Applicants submitting a proposal under the blind evaluation pilot (see General Annex F) must not disclose their organisation names, acronyms, logos, nor names of personnel in Part B of their first stage application (see General Annex E).
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply: The proposals must apply the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in the introduction to this work programme part.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions