# Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
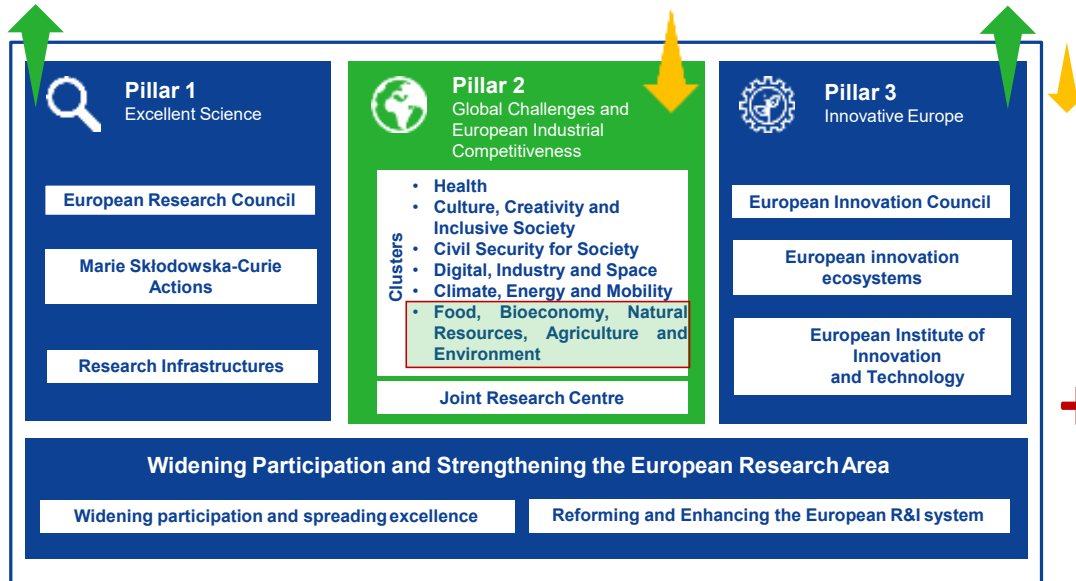
## Understanding opportunities, priorities and 2025 calls

**Maria João Fernandes**
ANI, CARE4BIO project

# Cluster 6 landscape

**CARE4BIO**

**Pillar 1**
Excellent Science

- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

**Pillar 2**
Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

Clusters
- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

**Pillar 3**
Innovative Europe

- European Innovation Council
- European innovation ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology

**Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area**
- Widening participation and spreading excellence
- Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

D1   D2   D3   D4   D5   D6   D7

**CLUSTER 6: Food, Bio-economy, Agriculture, Env...**

- Circular Bio-based Europe
- R&I in the Mediterranean Area (Art. 185)
- Biodiversa+
- Climate Neutral, Sustainable & Productive Blue Economy
- Water4All
- Animal Health & Welfare
- Accelerating Farming Systems Transitions
- Agriculture of Data
- Safe and Sustainable Food System
- Forests and Forestry for sustainable Future*

■ Institutionalised partnerships (Art 185/7)
■ Co-funded

**+**

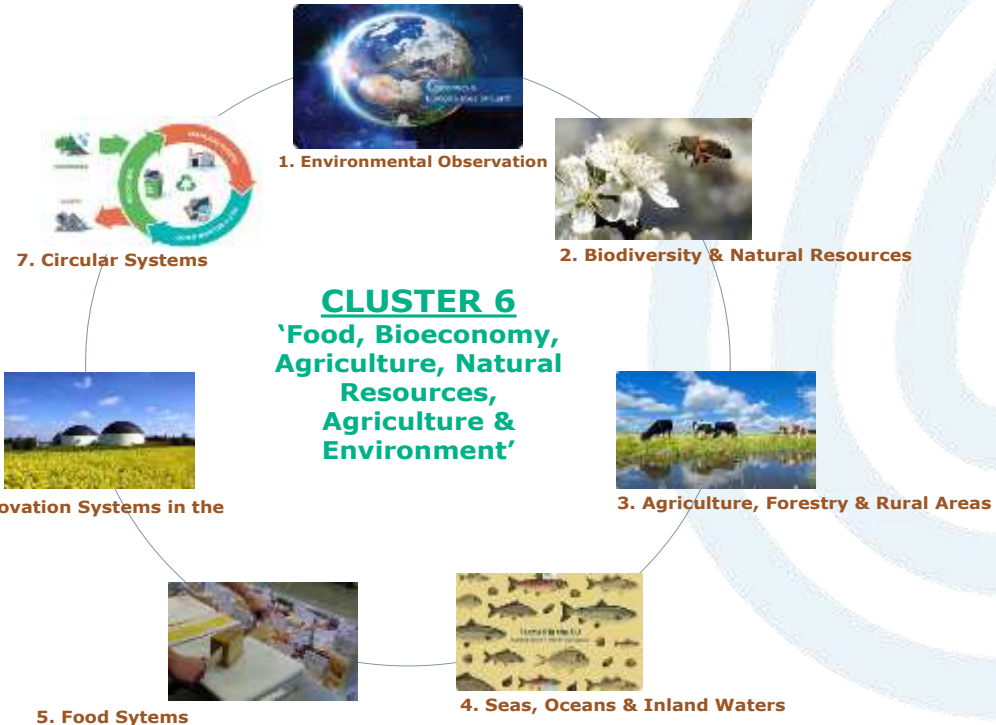EU MISSIONS
DEAL FOR EUROPE

**+**

RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

**CLUSTER 6** aims to protect biodiversity and natural resources by addressing environmental degradation and promoting sustainable social and economic transitions in both urban and rural areas

**7 Intervention Areas (2021-2027)**

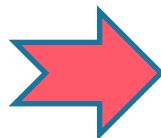1. Environmental Observation

2. Biodiversity & Natural Resources

3. Agriculture, Forestry & Rural Areas

4. Seas, Oceans & Inland Waters

5. Food Sytems

6. Bio-based Innovation Systems in the EU Bioeconomy

7. Circular Systems

**CLUSTER 6**
'Food, Bioeconomy, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment'

~9 b€

# From Intervention Areas to Work Programme Destinations

**7 INTERVENTION AREAS 2021-2027 (7YRS)**

- Environmental Observation
- Biodiversity and Natural Resources
- Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Areas
- Seas, Oceans and Inland Waters
- Food Systems
- Bio-based Innovation Systems in the EU Bioeconomy
- Circular Systems

**STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2027 (3YRS)**

- **Impact 1** Fostering mitigation of and mitigation of climate change
- **Impact 2** Putting biodiversity on a path to recovery, protecting and restoring ecosystems and their services
- **Impact 3** Achieving healthy soils and forests, clean air, fresh & marine water, ensuring resilience and transition to clean, competitive, circular and sustainable bioeconomy
- **Impact 4** Ensuring healthy food and nutrition security by making agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and food systems sustainable, resilient, inclusive
- **Impact 5** Sustainably developing rural, urban and coastal areas
- **Impact 6** Developing innovative governance models and tools enabling sustainability and resilience

**WORK PROGRAMME 2025 (1YR)**

- **Destination 5**: Land, oceans and water for climate action
- **Destination 1**: Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- **Destination 3**: Circular economy and bioeconomy
- **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

# Get to know the general Orientations & Impacts

**IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE THROUGH THE STRATEGIC PLAN**

# And the broad EU Policy Context



## Commission priorities 2024-2029

- Work Programme 2025 is also expected to contribute to the new political priorities

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

**Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment**

### Introduction

This document sets out the context and overview of the policies and strategies and other initiatives relevant to Horizon Europe's Cluster 6. The document will show how they fit together to create a coherent approach to R&D that continues to support policy and strategy development. Information for this document has been gathered from the Cluster 6 Work Programme and from European Commission websites. Hyperlinks have been included for ease of reference, to take the reader to the source documents, legal texts and relevant web pages. This overview will describe the Global UN Sustainable Development Goals, the European Green Deal and Commission Priorities and the legal base for Horizon Europe. This will be followed by specific sector strategies and policies and the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan and then to the Cluster 6 Calls and Topics for funding.

**HE: Cluster 6 Policy Database**

Horizon Europe Cluster 6 Policy Database

If you're writing a Cluster 6 proposal take a look at our Policy Database This is an excel sheet with separate tabs for all of Cluster 6 destinations. Each tab contains relevant policies and strategies with links.

| Destination 1 | Destination 2 | Destination 3 | Destination 4 | Destination 5 | Destination 6 | Destination 7 | Missions | Partnerships |

# CL6 Work Programme 2025: calls overview

## Work Programme CL6: slight differences

306 pp

EN

Horizon Europe

Work Programme 2025

9. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

(European Commission Decision C(2025) 2779 of 14 May 2025)

September 2025
(different dates)

# Call 01 – <u>single-stage</u>: HORIZON-CL6-2025-01

**Destination 1**
Biodiversity and ecosystem services
(10)

**Destination 3**
Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors
(15)

**Destination 4**
Clean environment and zero pollution
(7)

✓ Number topics: 32
✓ Budget: 445 M€
✓ Deadline: **17 September 2025**

**biodiversa+**
European Biodiversity Partnership

Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future   *New*

# Call 01 – <u>two-stage</u>: HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-two-stage



**Destination 1**
Biodiversity and ecosystem services
(2)

**Destination 3**
Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors
(1)

**Destination 4**
Clean environment and zero pollution
(1)

✓ Number topics: 4

✓ Budget: 48 M€

✓ Deadlines:

**1st stage: 4 September 2025**

2nd stage: 18 February 2026

# Call 02 – single-stage: HORIZON-CL6-2025-02

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

(17)

**Destination 5**
Land, ocean and water for climate action

(5)

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

(4)

✓ Number topics: 26
✓ Budget: 634,5 M€
✓ Deadline: **16 September 2025**

# Call 02 – <u>two-stage</u>: HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-two-stage

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

(5)

**Destination 5**
Land, ocean and water for climate action

(1)

✓ Number topics: 6
✓ Budget: 74 M€
✓ Deadlines:
   **1st stage: 4 September 2025**
   2nd stage: 18 February 2026

# Call 03 – single-stage: HORIZON-CL6-2025-03



Destination 7

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

(14)

- ✓ Number topics: 14
- ✓ Budget: 129,4 M€
- ✓ Deadline: **24 September 2025**

# Key cross-cutting issues to address in CL6 topics of WP 2025

*ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS*

MAA

JRC

COPERNICUS GALILEO

*ADMISSIBILITY CONDITIONS*

EVALUATION (1st stage)

*L&F SET-UP OF THE GA*

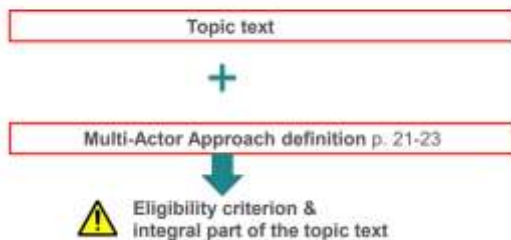LUMP SUM

FSTP

*TARGETED RECOMMENDATIONS*
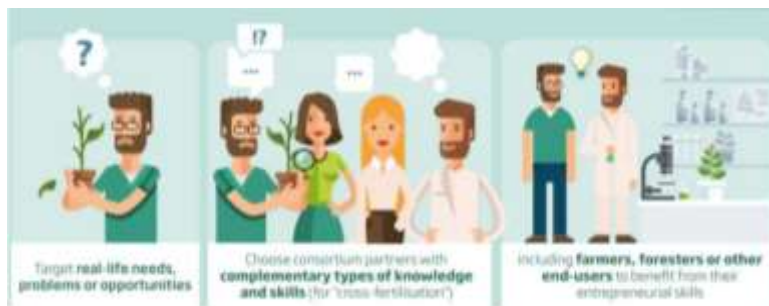
INT. COOP.

SSH

AI

COLLAB SYNERG

*AND SOME OTHER*

Research Infra, NEB, CCF

# MAA | Multi-Actor Approach

## Key topic information

Topic text

+

Multi-Actor Approach definition p. 21-23

⚠️ Eligibility criterion &
integral part of the topic text

**+50% CL6 topics in 2025 are MAA**



Online training for applicants
**HOW APPLY THE MULTI ACTOR
APPROACH IN CLUSTER 6 PROPOSALS**
organised by CARE4BIO project

PREMIERE

**MAA Q&A**

Initiating · Planning · Executing · Closing

**Definition & requirements:** introduction to the Work Programmes, e.g., Horizon Europe Cluster 6 **WP23-24** p. 21-23:

✓ 7 key requirements

✓ 'practice abstracts' in areas related to agriculture, forestry and rural areas

✓ involvement of EIP-AGRI OGs

**Eligibility** criteria!

researchers · advisors · citizens

farmers / farmers' groups & associations

foresters / foresters' groups & associations

fishers / fishers' groups & associations

aquaculture producers

food and bioeconomy businesses

other businesses

consumer associations

local communities

government representatives · civil society organisations incl.NGOs

Target real-life needs, problems or opportunities

Choose consortium partners with **complementary types of knowledge and skills** (for 'cross-fertilisation')

including **farmers, foresters or other end-users** to benefit from their entrepreneurial skills

# JRC | Joint Research Centre



Knowledge Centres

✓ JRC **cannot** participate in drafting the project proposal

✓ Applicants **should consider** the JRC's potential contribution based on the topic text

✓ **After proposal selection,** discussions will define JRC's participation terms

✓ If agreed, the **JRC may join** the grant agreement as a beneficiary or an associated partner (requesting zero funding)

Applicants are encouraged to consider, where relevant, their possible contribution to Joint Research Centre (JRC) relevant platforms for capitalizing on the knowledge developed in their projects, and becoming more policy relevant, contributing in terms of data, indicators and knowledge [28]. For instance, they could make reference to: the European Platform on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and to the Environmental footprint method when applying LCA; the Raw Materials Information System; the European Soil Observatory; the Integrated Natural Capital Accounting platform; the EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity; the EC Knowledge Centre for Global Food and Nutrition Security, the EC Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy, the Africa Knowledge Platform; the EC Knowledge Centre on Earth Observation; Innovation in the Built Environment (iBUILT+) and/or the EU Forests Observatory.

**JRC funds its activities in collaborative projects with consortia from its own budget**

# International Cooperation

CL6 is normally the cluster with the most topics explicitly marked for international participation (**42% of topics in 2025**). However, participation does not mean that international partners are also eligible for funding.

List of Participating Countries

International Cooperation: Co-funding mechanism (CFM)

• Flagging of call topics specifically relevant for international cooperation in the work programmes, e.g. in
  • Strategic thematic areas (topics)
  • Geographical areas (countries/region's)
  • Multilateral initiatives
  • Collaboration with key partners

In the 2025 WP, depending on the topic, **encouragement to collaborate** with:
• **CN** (under the EU-CN FAB flagship initiative); **US, JP, KR, IN** (Biotech & Manufaturing Initiative);
• **LA** & **Caribbean** countries;
• **BR**;
• **Africa**/target actions

# Open topics

A novelty that comes straight from the TOP

## What does this mean?

- Applicants have more flexibility to define their own research questions or approaches.
- They must align with the overall objectives and expected impacts of the call.
- AIM: be disruptive / innovative / use that research you haven't seen in topics thus far
- IA in F2F (TRL 6-7) & CIRCBIO (TRL 6-8); two-stage evaluation

## Example of what not to do:

- Don't resubmit proposals from previous topics – this isn't the aim
- Take care your proposal isn't covered by other topics

# Two-Stage & Blind Evaluation

No identification data can be mentioned by applicants in the proposal's Part B, otherwise inadmissible proposal

[WP General Annexes](#)

Blind Evaluation: only for the 1st stage of a 2-stage call

**Part A**
· No need to hide information!
· The IT system will automatically hide consortium details from evaluators.

**Part B**
· It is up to the applicant to hide personal information in the first-stage application.
· If any information is found, the proposal is inadmissible.
· Evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
· Mention of country of the applicant does not necessarily mean that a proposal will be deemed inadmissible
· Blacked out names and information are not preferred but accepted.

**Tips**
· Applicants cannot mention publications as theirs, but they can mention them from a neutral point of view.
· The consortium structure cannot be mentioned in the first stage application
· You can mention country of demonstration pilots / type of farms / climate regions

**Example of what not to do:**
· we will follow the methodology described by project partner (Dalin *et.al.*)"
· The consortium includes the larges producer in Spain
· Most consortium members were involved in project Horizontest2020

# Thank You!



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