

Deliverable report
D3.8

Project name – GA no.:	CARE4BIO - 101059839
Document identifier:	D3.8
Due Date:	31.05.2025
Document date:	31.05.2025
Deliverable Title:	Publication and update of Stakeholders Map - Update 1
Level of dissemination:	Public
Work package and task:	WP3 Facilitating synergies with network stakeholders T3.4 Synergies with other key stakeholders
Lead Beneficiary:	FFG
Other Beneficiaries:	Luxinnovation, ANI, MESRI, APRE, CDTI
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Version	Date	Changes	Authors
Version 1	31.05.2025	First draft	FFG, Luxinnovation, ANI, MESRI, APRE, CDTI



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Deliverable 3.8, “Publication and Update of Stakeholders Map - Update 1,” is part of Task 3.4, “Synergies with Other Key Stakeholders,” within the Care4Bio project. This document provides a comprehensive overview of the direct and broader environment of Horizon Europe Cluster 6, compiling key stakeholders such as relevant Missions, European Partnerships, and synergistic programmes and projects—including the EU CAP Network, LIFE, EIT-KICs, COST, JRC, and other major initiatives relevant to the thematic areas of Cluster 6.

The Stakeholders Map is a living document, regularly discussed and updated to ensure the information remains current and relevant. It includes not only listings of stakeholders, but also general information about each initiative or programme, useful links, and contact details.

This deliverable is published in the library section of the Care4Bio website and is accessible to all interested parties, including NCPs and applicants. Ongoing updates will ensure that the information remains valuable and relevant throughout the duration of the project.



Cluster 6 “Ecosystem” – Map of relevant programmes and initiatives

(May 2025, by Care4Bio)



WELCOME TO THE CLUSTER 6 STAKEHOLDERS MAP

This document is designed to support your involvement in Horizon Europe Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment. Whether you are an NCP, researcher, industry professional, or policymaker, this tool provides a structured overview of the direct and broader environment of Cluster 6. The Stakeholders Map offers a comprehensive overview of key initiatives, actors, and networks relevant to your work and interests.

Within these pages, you will find clearly organized information, including concise profiles and contact details for the most relevant stakeholders in Cluster 6. The Stakeholders Map will help you navigate the complex landscape of Cluster 6, identify potential funding streams, and connect with actors across Europe.

We wish you every success in your Cluster 6 activities and hope this document will be a valuable resource for your work.

The CARE4BIO Network

Do you have questions or suggestions? Please contact CARE4BIO by e-mail:

contact@care4bio.eu

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1 EUROPEAN MISSIONS

The EU Missions are a new and ambitious approach by the European Commission to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing society today. They aim to deliver tangible solutions through a coordinated effort that brings together funding programmes, policies, regulations, and a wide range of supporting activities. Each Mission focuses on a specific societal challenge and is guided by a set of clearly defined, measurable objectives. The five EU Missions are: Adaptation to Climate Change, Cancer, Restore our Ocean and Waters, 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030, A Soil Deal for Europe.

For stakeholders in Cluster 6 two Missions are especially relevant: the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters and the Mission A Soil Deal for Europe. In addition, the Missions on Climate Adaptation and Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities are also linked to Cluster 6 topics and objectives.

Each Mission is supported by a dedicated [Implementation Plan](#), which outlines its goals, approach, timelines, and key activities. It is a vital resource for both NCPs and applicants, and should be consulted when preparing proposals.

Furthermore, Missions are integrated into the EU's research and innovation funding through an annual Work Programme, which includes specific calls for proposals for each Mission. These calls present opportunities for researchers, innovators, and other stakeholders to contribute to the Missions' objectives.

Want to know more https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe_en

1.1 NCP4MISSIONS: THE NETWORK OF THE NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS FOR THE FIVE EU MISSIONS

NCP4Missions is a project that brings together National Contact Points (NCPs) from 19 EU Member States and Associated Countries to support the five EU Missions. The project serves as a central support structure for both NCPs and applicants, helping them navigate and succeed in Horizon Europe Missions funding opportunities.

What is in it for me?

- The project focuses on strengthening the capacity of NCPs through targeted activities such as e-learnings, deep dives, meet & share sessions, and regular Mission updates—ensuring NCPs are well-equipped to advise applicants and stakeholders.
- For applicants, NCP4Missions helps lower entry barriers and improve proposal quality by offering tailored support, including brokerage events, workshops, and digital tools for partner search and proposal development.
- Acting as a bridge between the European Commission, national authorities, and the NCP community, the network facilitates the exchange of information and best practices to boost participation in the EU Missions.

Want to know more <https://horizoneuropencpportal.eu/eu-missions>

Contact: ncp4missions@fz-juelich.de



1.2 EU MISSION: RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS

What is in it for me?

The Mission Ocean aims to protect and restore the health of Europe’s ocean and waters by 2030, supporting the European Green Deal through three core objectives: restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, eliminating pollution, and making the blue economy carbon-neutral and circular. Cross-cutting actions include developing the Digital Twin Ocean—a digital knowledge system for ocean and water data—and fostering broad public awareness and engagement.

Implementation in the first phase relies on area-based “lighthouses” in major sea and river basins (Atlantic-Arctic, Mediterranean, Baltic-North Sea, Danube-Black Sea), which serve as sites to pilot and demonstrate solutions. These lighthouses help prove that the Mission’s objectives are achievable on a large scale. In the second phase (2026–2030), the Mission will focus on scaling up successful projects across the EU, increasingly leveraging private funding.

Overall, Mission Ocean combines innovation, digital tools, and regional cooperation to drive systemic change for healthy waters and oceans.

Provides funding for	Funding for projects that support the restoration of ocean and water ecosystems, the prevention and elimination of pollution, and the development of a sustainable, carbon-neutral blue economy. This funding is part of the EU’s goal to restore the health of oceans and waters by 2030, in line with the European Green Deal. Supported activities include research, innovation, and demonstration projects. The Mission also encourages broad collaboration among researchers, industry, and civil society to maximize impact.
Funding dimension of projects	Between 1.4M€ and 8.8M€ per project, depending on the type of action
Dimension of consortium	Average size of consortia: 10-30 partners, depending on the type of action
Envisaged impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area-based lighthouses demonstrate that the Mission Ocean’s objectives are achievable on a large scale. • These lighthouses will serve as regional hubs for piloting, deploying, and showcasing innovative solutions across major sea and river basins. • Enabling actions, such as the Digital Twin Ocean knowledge system and broad public mobilisation and engagement, will complement lighthouse activities by enhancing data access, collaboration, and awareness. • After 2025, the scaling up successful projects across the EU will be supported through increased private funding and investment.
Average success rate	42% (based on information on the Monitoring Dashboard)



Want to know more https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters_en

<https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters/mission-ocean-and-waters-service-portal>

Contact: EU-MISSION-OCEAN-AND-WATERS@ec.europa.eu

1.3 EU MISSION: A SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE

What is in it for me?

The main goal of the Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' is to establish 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030.

It leads the transition towards healthy soils by:

- Funding an ambitious R&I programme with a strong social science component
- Putting in place an effective network of 100 living labs and lighthouses to co-create knowledge, test solutions and demonstrate their value in real-life conditions
- Developing a harmonized framework for soil monitoring in Europe
- Raising people's awareness on the vital importance of soils

Provides funding for	Projects that will be part of a wider portfolio of activities and will contribute to laying the foundations for a structured rollout of mission activities. The network of living labs will be created in phases to allow all actors involved to learn by doing and to enable adaptations along the mission implementation: Induction & pilot (2021-2024); Gradual expansion (2025-2026); Scaling-up & mainstreaming (2027 onwards).
Funding dimension of projects	Between 3M€ and 12M€ per project, depending on the type of action
Dimension of consortium	Average size of consortia: 20 partners, depending on the type of action
Envisaged impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the transition towards healthy soils by 2030 by putting in place an effective network of 100 living labs and lighthouses in rural and urban areas • Advance the development of a harmonized framework for soil monitoring in Europe and increase people's awareness on the vital importance of soils • Raise public awareness and improve soil literacy • By addressing key challenges such as desertification, soil pollution, erosion, and loss of soil organic carbon, the Mission supports the EU's Green Deal targets on sustainable farming, biodiversity, climate resilience, and zero pollution



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultimately, the Mission is expected to drive systemic change in land and soil management, benefiting agriculture, forestry, urban planning, and society at large, while safeguarding soil as a critical resource for future generations.
Average success rate	24% (based on participations in calls 2021-2023)

Want to know more https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/soil-health-and-food_en

<https://mission-soil-platform.ec.europa.eu>

Contact: EU-HORIZON-MISSION-SOIL@ec.europa.eu

1.4 EU MISSION: ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

What is in it for me?

The Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change focuses on supporting EU regions, cities and local authorities in their efforts to build resilience against the impacts of climate change. Climate change affects all sectors and key systems of our life: water, land and food systems, ecosystems, health and wellbeing, among others.

The Mission contributes to putting the [EU's adaptation strategy](#) in practice by helping the regions, communities and local administrations to:

- better understand the climate risks they are and will be confronted with in the future
- develop their pathways to be better prepared and cope with the changing climate
- test and deploy on the ground innovative solutions needed to build resilience

The Mission's objective is to accompany by 2030 at least 150 European regions and communities towards climate resilience.

Provides funding for	<p>The Mission approach is systemic, focusing on several cross-cutting themes and areas of innovation in two big groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transforming key community systems (community and social infrastructures, human health and wellbeing, nature and ecosystem services, water management, land and sustainable food systems) • creating enabling conditions (knowledge and data, governance and engagement, behavioural change, sustainable and circular local economy systems, finances and resources) <p>Projects are aimed to provide solutions on all these areas bringing together all relevant actors, from public administrations to private sectors and civil society, (inclusive approach).</p>
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Funding dimension of projects	Between 2M€ and 30M€, depending on the type of action
Dimension of consortium	Average size of the consortia: 24 partners, depending on the type of action
Envisaged impact	<p>The Communication on Managing Climate Risks sets out how the EU can effectively get ahead of the growing climate-related risks and build greater resilience to the impacts of climate change. The Communication is a response to the findings highlighted by the European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA), which provides the latest analysis of how changing temperatures will affect Europe. Fast development, test and deployment of actionable solutions is needed in a changing environment.</p> <p>The Communication highlights that the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change serves as best practice for all interested parties and will be further leveraged to respond to Europe’s climate risks. It also acknowledges the role of R&I to provide us with knowledge and solutions to the greatest challenges ahead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mission promotes the rapid development, testing, and deployment of innovative, actionable solutions to address climate impacts in a changing environment • It seeks to accompany at least 150 regions and communities by 2030, helping them develop pathways to adapt and build resilience against climate-related hazards • It aligns with the European Green Deal, aiming to integrate adaptation into policy frameworks and foster a climate-resilient Europe
Average success rate	25% (based on participations in calls 2021-2023)

Want to know more https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change_en

<https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission>

Contact: EU-CLIMATE-ADAPTATION-MISSION@ec.europa.eu

1.5 EU MISSION: CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES

What is in it for me?

Cities play a pivotal role in achieving climate neutrality by 2050, the goal of the European Green Deal. Since climate mitigation is heavily dependent on urban action, we need to support cities in accelerating their green and digital transformation. In particular, European cities can substantially contribute to the Green Deal target of reducing emissions by 55% by 2030.



The Cities Mission will involve local authorities, citizens, businesses, investors as well as regional and national authorities to:

- deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030
- ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050

Provides funding for	Projects are aligned with the priorities in the Mission Implementation Plan and, in practical terms, in developing solutions to offer cleaner air, safer transport and less congestion and noise to citizens living in cities; (cities take up only 4% of the EU's land area, but they are home to 75% of EU citizens). The Mission takes a cross-sectoral and demand-led approach, creating synergies between existing initiatives and basing its activities on the actual needs of cities.
Funding dimension of projects	Between 5M€ and 25M€, depending on the type of action
Dimension of consortium	Average size of consortia: 20 partners, depending on the type of action
Envisaged impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make 100 EU cities and 12 associated cities climate-neutral by 2030, turning them into innovation and experimentation hubs for sustainable urban transformation • Cities are piloting cross-sectoral approaches, including citizen engagement, stakeholder management, and improved governance, to accelerate progress toward climate neutrality • Each city will develop a Climate City Contract—a comprehensive, co-created plan for climate neutrality across all sectors (energy, buildings, waste, transport), including detailed investment strategies • Generate scalable solutions and best practices, enabling all European cities to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 • This Mission supports the European Green Deal by reducing emissions, improving urban quality of life, and strengthening climate resilience in cities across Europe
Average success rate	20% (based on participations in calls 2021-2023)

Want to know more https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/climate-neutral-and-smart-cities_en

Contact: RTD-HORIZON-EUROPE-MISSION-CITIES@ec.europa.eu



2 EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS

European Partnerships bring the European Commission and private and/or public partners together to address some of Europe's most pressing challenges through concerted research and innovation initiatives. They are a key implementation tool of Horizon Europe, and contribute significantly to achieving the EU's political priorities.

Find more general info on https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe_en and <https://www.era-learn.eu/>

2.1 CIRCULAR BIO-BASED EUROPE JOINT UNDERTAKING (CBE JU)

CBE JU is a 2 billion Euro partnership between the European Union and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC). It operates (with some exceptions) under the Horizon Europe rules and funds projects that promote competitive circular bio-based industries in Europe. CBE JU is the legal and universal successor of BBI JU, that operated under Horizon 2020, with an increased focus on environmental sustainability and circularity of bio-based systems in all life-cycle stages, from sourcing to processing, market applications and consumption.

CBE JU launches annual open calls for proposals to fund projects in research, demonstration, and industrial deployment. These calls are based on a Work Programme co-created annually by the European Commission, BIC, the programme office, and advisory bodies (such as the Scientific Committee and the States' Representatives Group). The Work Programme translates the R&I priorities and challenges identified in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for the circular bio-based economy into concrete call topics, while also defining eligibility criteria, funding instruments, and evaluation procedures.

Projects funded under CBE JU stimulate collaboration among a variety of actors across Europe and along the value chains, from biomass producers and waste managers to researchers and processing industries.

What is in it for me?

CBE JU objectives are to:

- Accelerate the innovation process and development of bio-based innovative solutions
- Accelerate market deployment of the existing mature and innovative bio-based solutions
- Ensure a high level of environmental performance of bio-based industrial systems

Provides funding for	Projects in the area of bio-economy and circular economy. The main areas addressed include biomass processing in bio-refineries and the application of circular economy concepts such as the use of organic bio-wastes from various sources, e.g. agri-food, forestry, aquatic origin, industry, as well as from the municipal sector.
Funding dimension of projects	Between 1M€ and 20M€ per project, depending on the type of action

Dimension of consortium	Transnational project teams working together with industry partners, average size of consortia, depending on the type of action, between 7 and 25.
Envisaged impact	Circular bio-based industries in Europe are strengthened, leading to increased sustainability and circularity of production systems in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal.
Average success rate	21% (based on participations in calls 2022 and 2023)

Want to know more <https://www.cbe.europa.eu/>

Contact: Send your questions and requests to info@cbe.europa.eu

2.2 THE EUROPEAN BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: BIODIVERSA+

Biodiversa+ is a European co-funded biodiversity partnership supporting research on biodiversity with an impact for policy and society. Biodiversa+ is part of the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 that aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030. The Partnership aims to connect science, policy and practice for transformative change. It currently gathers 81 research programmers and funders and environmental policy actors from 40 European and associated countries. Biodiversa+ outlines its long-term strategic vision in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ([SRIA](#)), which defines key research themes set to shape a wide array of activities.

What is in it for me?

Biodiversa+ objectives are to:

- Plan and support research and innovation on biodiversity through a shared strategy, annual joint calls for research projects and capacity building activities
- Set up a network of harmonised schemes to improve monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services across Europe
- Contribute to high-end knowledge for deploying nature-based solutions and valuation of biodiversity in the private sector
- Ensure efficient science-based support for policymaking and implementation in Europe
- Strengthen the relevance and impact of pan-European research on biodiversity in a global context

Provides funding for	Projects in the area of Biodiversity with an impact on society and policy.
Funding dimension of projects	Biodiversa+ funds medium-sized projects with a total budget of on average 1.2M€-1.5M€; but note that this constitutes an indication rather than a formal limit and each funding agency defines the maximum funding per partner, depending on the country. The



	requested funding should be justified and relevant to the work planned within the project.
Dimension of consortium	Biodiversa+ aims at supporting medium size research projects with an average size of 5 different countries per project, though this remains flexible.
Envisaged impact	Better knowledge on biodiversity and its dynamics, restored and protected biodiversity, implementation of transformative change, and better knowledge of nature-based solutions in a global change context
Average success rate	Not available

Want to know more <https://www.biodiversa.eu>

Contact <https://www.biodiversa.eu/contact/>

2.3 WATER SECURITY FOR THE PLANET: PARTNERSHIP WATER4ALL

The vision of Water4All is to enable water security for all on the long term, by boosting systemic transformations and changes across the entire research - water innovation pipeline, fostering the matchmaking between problem owners and solution providers.

Based on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ([SRIA](#)), the partnership proposes a portfolio of multi-national, multi-faceted and cross-sectoral approach, encompassing policy, environmental, economic, technological and societal considerations. In the long run, it intends to achieve improved access to water, adequate water supplies for the various uses, restoration and increased protection of freshwater ecosystems and enhanced resilience, mitigation and adaptation of water systems and of populations to global changes.

What is in it for me?

Water4All objectives are to:

- Strengthen the water research and innovation collaboration at European and international levels
- Coordinate and leverage the activities of the water research and innovation community
- Support and promote the demonstration and access to market of innovative solutions
- Produce, share and better communicate water-related knowledge and data, from local to global scales
- Enhance talent development of water research and innovation professionals
- Foster capacity development and life-long training of water policymakers, stakeholders and civil society
- Design and implement approaches for participatory development of innovation

Provides funding for	Projects that aim at enabling water security for all in the long term through boosting systemic transformations and changes across the
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	entire research – water innovation pipeline, fostering the matchmaking between problem owners and solution providers.
Funding dimension of projects	Water4All funds medium size projects with a total budget of on average 1M€-2M€; but note that this constitutes an indication rather than a formal limit and each funding agency defines the maximum funding per partner, depending on the country. The requested funding should be justified and relevant to the work planned within the project. Project duration is typically 36 months.
Dimension of consortium	The project must be a transnational project involving eligible research partners from at least three different countries participating in the call. In addition, at least two eligible partners must be from different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries participating in the call. Consortia can comprise a maximum of 7 partners (including a potential self-funded partner).
Envisaged impact	Tackle water challenges as means to face climate change, help to achieve the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals and boost the EU’s competitiveness and growth.
Average success rate	20% on average (considering the calls 2022 and 2023)

Want to know more <http://water4all-partnership.eu/>

Contact: <https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/contact-us> or the Water4All Secretariat water4all@agencerecherche.fr

2.4 SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP (SBEP)

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership represents an effort of 74 Partner institutions from 30 countries to pool research and innovation investments and align national programmes at pan-European scale. Its strategy takes into consideration the R&I agendas of the sea basins (Mediterranean, Black Sea, Baltic and North Sea) and the Atlantic Ocean and builds on lessons learned from previous initiatives. The SBEP outlines its long-term strategic vision in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ([SRIA](#)).

What is in it for me?

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership objectives are to:

- Steer and support a just and inclusive transition to a climate-neutral, sustainable, productive, and competitive blue economy.
- Restore the ocean’s health, resilience, and ecosystem services for people by enabling economic activity that is both sustainable and climate-neutral.
- Catalyze research and innovation to develop solutions for sustainable use, management, and governance of marine and maritime resources.
- Foster collaboration across countries, sectors, and stakeholders—including science, industry, policy, and civil society—to maximize impact and societal relevance.



- Align with and contribute to major EU and global policy goals, such as the European Green Deal, the UN Decade of Ocean Science, and the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring the long-term well-being of coastal communities and the ocean

Provides funding for	Projects aiming at restoring the ocean’s health, resilience and services to people by enabling economic activity that is climate-neutral, sustainable and productive.
Funding dimension of projects	SBEP funds medium size projects with a total budget of on average 1M€-2M€; but note that this constitutes an indication rather than a formal limit and each funding agency defines the maximum funding per partner, depending on the country. The requested funding should be justified and relevant to the work planned within the project. Project duration is typically 36 months.
Dimension of consortium	Each consortium must be composed of eligible partners from at least three different countries participating in the call and requesting financial support from at least three different PFO participating in this call. In addition to the abovementioned condition, the projects must involve at least two independent legal entities from two different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries eligible for EU funding. Partners from the same country cannot request more than 60% of the total funding requested by a proposal.
Envisaged impact	Contribution to the transformation into a sustainable blue economy, supporting a more resilient future and advancing carbon neutrality targets
Average success rate	Not available

Want to know more <https://www.bluepartnership.eu/>

Contact: sbep@mur.gov.it

2.5 EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF FOOD SYSTEMS: FUTUREFOODS

FutureFoodS aims for the transformation of national, EU and global food systems, making them safe, sustainable, healthy, resilient and trusted – for everyone and within planetary boundaries. It will bring policymakers, businesses, researchers and civil society to coordinate, align and leverage European and national R&I efforts to future-proof food systems through an integrated and transdisciplinary approach. FutureFoodS’s Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ([SRIA](#)) outlines the plans and goals to accelerate the shift to sustainable food systems, including clear actions and targets for lasting impact.



The partnership’s activities are structured around four main thematic areas: changing the way we eat, changing the way we process and supply food, changing the way we connect with food systems, changing the way we govern food systems.

What is in it for me?

The FutureFoodS Partnership objectives are to:

- Understand what sustainable food systems (SFS) are, how they function and how to enable their development
- Launch up to six transnational R&I calls over ten years
- Co-create with various actors in a diversity of Living Labs to develop SFS concepts and definitions
- Organizing knowledge-sharing events and policy-science agendas
- Demonstrate that a systemic approach functions as a catalyst to transform food systems into SFS during, but also beyond, the lifetime of the Partnership
- Ensure that the well-governed Partnership contributes to SFS via frameworks and evidence-supporting policy options for EC objectives (F2F, missions, Green Deal and UN-SDG)

Provides funding for	FutureFoodS provides funding to accelerate the transformation of food systems towards sustainability, health, and resilience. It supports research and innovation activities that promote safe, healthy, and sustainably produced diets, aligning with the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork strategy. The partnership funds projects that focus on changing consumption patterns, improving food processing and supply chains, and enhancing governance within food systems. It emphasizes systemic approaches, including the development of living labs and knowledge hubs, to test and implement sustainable food system pathways.
Funding dimension of projects	There are no overall rules for a maximum budget per proposal, but like most co-funded partnership, the average size for proposals is medium (1-2M€ per average), and each funding agency defines the maximum funding per partner, depending on the country.
Dimension of consortium	Consortia must include at least three eligible partners requesting funding from at least three different countries and from three different Funding Parties who contribute funds to the co-funded call. There is no maximum number of partners or countries.
Envisaged impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable, healthy, and inclusive food systems are established, supporting climate goals, environmental protection, and circular resource use. • Food production and processing become more efficient and low-impact, with reduced waste, emissions, and environmental footprint • Citizens and communities are empowered, contributing to reduced food poverty and improved public engagement in food system transformation



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long-term Food System Observatory is created to monitor progress, support evidence-based policymaking, and guide innovation
Average success rate	Not available

Want to know more <https://www.futurefoodspartnership.eu>

Contact: <https://www.futurefoodspartnership.eu/contact>

2.6 EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP ON ACCELERATING FARMING SYSTEMS TRANSITION THROUGH AGROECOLOGY LIVING LABS AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES: AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

The Agroecology Partnership unites the European Commission and 72 partners across 26 Member States, Associated Countries, and Third Countries will support an agriculture sector that is fit to meet the targets and challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, food security and sovereignty, and the environment, while ensuring a profitable and attractive activity for farmers. The Partnership brings together funding from the European Commission and participating countries to support advanced research that creates useful knowledge and technologies in line with the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ([SRIA](#)).

What is in it for me?

The Agroecology Partnership objectives are to:

- Accelerate the transition of European farming systems towards sustainability, resilience, and profitability by promoting agroecological practices that address climate change, biodiversity loss, food security, and environmental challenges.
- Structure and support a network of Living Labs and Research Infrastructures to enable real-life, multi-stakeholder experimentation and innovation in agroecology across diverse European regions.
- Generate and share knowledge, technologies, and ready-to-adopt solutions that empower farmers and stakeholders to implement agroecological approaches at scale for positive economic, environmental, and social impacts.
- Foster collaboration among researchers, farmers, policymakers, and civil society to co-create, test, and disseminate agroecological innovations, ensuring place-based and inclusive approaches.
- Support evidence-based policy development and implementation by providing science-policy dialogue, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms to guide and assess the agroecology transition at local, national, and European levels

Provides funding for	Projects driving the transition to agroecology, addressing global challenges and societal demands. Key focuses include resilience improvement, nutrient and energy flow closure, input/resource efficiency enhancement, and agrobiodiversity promotion.
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Funding dimension of projects	There are no overall rules for a maximum budget per proposal, but like most co-funded partnership, the average size for proposals is medium (1-2M€ per average), and each funding agency defines the maximum funding per partner, depending on the country.
Dimension of consortium	Consortia must include at least three eligible partners requesting funding from at least three different countries and from three different Funding Parties who contribute funds to the co-funded call. There is no maximum number of partners or countries. In the first co-funded call the size of consortia ranged from 5-16 partners.
Envisaged impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transition to sustainable and resilient farming systems is accelerated through the promotion of innovative agroecological practices that enhance biodiversity, ecosystem services, and climate adaptation • Projects generate actionable knowledge, technologies, and decision-support tools, empowering farmers and stakeholders to adopt agroecology at scale while ensuring economic viability and social inclusion • Contribution to measurable improvements in environmental sustainability, food security, and rural prosperity are achieved across Europe
Average success rate	Not available

Want to know more <https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu>

Contact: <https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/contact-us>

2.7 EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

The vision of the EU Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUPAHW) is to provide society with sustainable livestock, poultry and aquaculture production. Infectious animal diseases are optimally prevented and controlled with appropriate means, antimicrobials are used prudently, and animal welfare is respected in every phase of the production cycle. The Partnership’s Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ([SRIA](#)) outlines a long-term vision and key research themes that will shape the partnership’s work in the years ahead.

What is in it for me?

The EUPAHW objectives are to:

- Support the strategic research and innovation agendas from member states and associated countries
- Contribute to a robust R&I system for AH&W in Europe, including an improved and comprehensive framework, access to innovative methodologies and products for animal



infectious diseases, animal welfare monitoring and control, as well as an increased evidence base for policymakers

- Contribute to better prevention, detection and control of animal health and welfare and to reinforce the preparedness of all actors against upcoming and emerging threats to animal health including zoonoses and vector borne diseases
- Place animal welfare at the foreground of animal production

Provides funding for	Projects focusing on either terrestrial and aquatic animals, bee health, or additionally wildlife, where relevant (transmission of diseases of consequence to livestock, or zoonotic diseases).
Funding dimension of projects	There are no overall rules for a maximum budget per proposal, but like most cofunded partnership, the average size for proposals is medium (1-2M€ per average), and each funding agency defines the maximum funding per partner/coordinator, depending on the country. A proposal. Total funding of partners in one country must not exceed 60% of the total funding budget of the proposal in order to achieve balanced partnerships and ensure that responsibility and risks are shared.
Dimension of consortium	Consortia must include a minimum of three partners from a minimum of three different countries being eligible and requesting funding from funding organisations (FOs) participating in this call and a maximum of eight partners requesting funding. The associated partners will not count towards the maximum or minimum number of partners required.
Envisaged impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced socio-economic and environmental impacts of animal infectious diseases through improved prevention, surveillance, and control measures • Enhanced animal welfare and well-being across livestock and aquaculture sectors by promoting best practices and innovative management approaches • Decreased use of antimicrobials and improved antimicrobial stewardship, contributing to the fight against antimicrobial resistance • Strengthened public health and food safety by minimizing disease transmission risks and supporting the development of effective vaccines and diagnostic tools • Increased sustainability and resilience of food systems, leading to measurable benefits for farm productivity and rural livelihoods
Average success rate	Not available

Want to know more: www.eupahw.eu

Contact: eupahw@ugent.be



2.8 AGRICULTURE OF DATA (AGDATA)

The partnership Agriculture of Data aims to enhance climate, environmental and socio-economic sustainability, and productivity of agriculture and to strengthen policy monitoring and evaluation capacities through exploiting the potential of earth and environmental observation and other data, in combination with innovative data technologies.

What is in it for me?

The AgData objectives are to:

- Enhance the climate, environmental, and socio-economic sustainability and productivity of agriculture by leveraging Earth Observation (EO), environmental, agricultural, and other relevant data together with advanced digital and data technologies.
- Strengthen policy monitoring and evaluation capacities at European and national levels by providing robust, data-driven tools and solutions for better decision-making and policy assessment.
- Support the implementation of the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy, Common Agricultural Policy, and Sustainable Development Goals by enabling data-based solutions that address environmental, climate, and food security challenges.
- Foster the integration, sharing, and harmonization of data across public and private sectors, promoting interoperability and the development of innovative, end-user-oriented applications for farmers, policymakers, and other stakeholders.
- Build capacities and infrastructures for the effective use of data technologies, including artificial intelligence, to drive sustainable agricultural transformation and support economic competitiveness

Provides funding for	Not available
Funding dimension of projects	Not available
Dimension of consortium	Not available
Envisaged impact	Not available
Average success rate	Not available

Want to know more: The AgData partnership has developed its [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#). The partnership is in the process of being established, but as of May 2025, it is not yet operational.

2.9 ERA-LEARN

ERA-LEARN supports research funding organisations, policy makers and researchers with general information and services on the European Partnerships.



ERA-LEARN operates a unique database of partnership initiatives, calls and funded projects. The ERA-LEARN portal provides guidance and practical information on Partnerships together with manuals, tools, reports and good practice examples on governance models and legal issues, the implementation of joint calls, and additional activities carried out by the Partnerships.

ERA-LEARN provides:

- Services: support the Strategic Coordinating Process, support the implementation of the partnerships through mutual learning, emerging themes and strategic foresight
- Data: evidence and analysis
- Engagement, communication and outreach: facilitate communication

NCPs can find a lot of information related to the partnerships: general information on the types of partnerships, current partnerships, country reports, calls, annual reports on partnerships, etc.

Some examples:

- ERA-LEARN is the reference point for European Partnerships and P2P Networks. It provides evidence and support for their preparation, implementation and evaluation. It is a trusted support platform and service provider for the European Partnership and P2P communities, the European Commission, policy makers and other stakeholders at the national/regional level.
- Collectively, the project aims to increase the effectiveness of the design and implementation of the European Partnerships and P2P Networks. ERA-LEARN implements a responsive communication and outreach strategy with various tools and channels for communicating with the broadened Partnership community and the dissemination of results including a strategic and frequent use of social media.
- The ERA-LEARN consortium exploits the experience of the previous phases of ERA-LEARN and builds on achievements and lessons learned.

NCPs can find in particular information on:

- Background material on partnerships: <https://www.era-learn.eu/partnerships-in-a-nutshell>
- Network and Call Database, where you can display a country view <https://www.era-learn.eu/network-information/countries>
- Support for partnerships and networks e.g. detailed information about ERA-NET Cofund implementation and reporting <https://www.era-learn.eu/support-for-partnerships/cofunded-p2p/era-net-cofund>
- Lots of important documents like country reports (https://www.era-learn.eu/documents?my_type=Report&text=Country%20Report)
- Event documentation like all videos of the First European Partnership Stakeholder Forum (<https://www.era-learn.eu/news-events/events/european-partnership-stakeholder-forum-one-year-review-of-european-partnership-initiatives-in-horizon-europe>)
- Regular Newsletter, where new information on European Partnerships and P2P Networks is published: <https://www.era-learn.eu/newsletter>

Want to know more <https://www.era-learn.eu/> or <https://www.linkedin.com/company/era-learn/>



3 SYNERGY PROGRAMMES

3.1 THE CAP NETWORK

EU countries implement the 2023-27 **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** through tailored national [CAP strategic plans](#), targeting local needs while supporting EU objectives and the European Green Deal.

The European Commission set up the EU CAP Network in line with the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council to support:

- the design and implementation of the CAP strategic plans
- innovation and knowledge exchange, including EIP-AGRI
- evaluation and monitoring of the CAP

What is in it for me?

The CAP Network brings together stakeholders from the European Network for Rural Development and EIP-AGRI by:

- involving people interested in agriculture, forestry and rural areas across the European Union;
- providing opportunities for European peer-to-peer networking and exchange;
- sharing information, including good practices and funding opportunities;
- improving skills;
- encouraging the exchange of knowledge;
- Supporting the uptake of innovations in agriculture; and
- Strengthening AKIS approaches

Want to know more https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en

3.1.1 AKIS

AKIS stands for Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System. AKIS refers to the organization and interaction of people and institutions who produce, share, and use knowledge and innovation for agriculture and related fields. Its main players include farmers, advisors, researchers, businesses, NGOs, networks, policymakers, and other stakeholders. An effective AKIS brings these actors together on a structured and regular basis to foster continuous knowledge exchange, bridge the gap between science and practice, and accelerate the flow and implementation of innovations in agriculture and rural areas.

What is in it for me?

In Cluster 6, AKIS is crucial for ensuring that research results and innovative solutions are widely adopted by end-users. Strengthening AKIS also supports the EU's policy objectives, including those of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the European Green Deal, by empowering rural communities and enhancing the impact of research and innovation investments.

Projects supporting the AKIS approach

- **ATTRACTISS** - AcTivate and TRigger ACTors to deepen the function of Innovation Support Services



ATTRACTISS is a 6-year Horizon Europe project (2022–2028) focused on strengthening Innovation Support Services (ISS) as key actors within AKIS. By empowering ISS providers, such as advisory services, NGOs, and research institutions, the project aims to accelerate grassroots innovation for sustainable agriculture and forestry.

What is in it for me?

- **AKISConnect:** ATTRACTISS offers opportunities to connect with a broad EU-wide network of Innovation Support Services (ISS) and AKIS actors, enabling exchange of best practices, peer learning, and collaboration, which can enhance project quality and impact
- **Capacity building and tools:** benefit from access to capacity building activities, effective methods, and supportive tools designed to improve the preparation and implementation of innovative, multi-actor projects

Want to know more <https://attractiss.eu/>

Contact <https://attractiss.eu/contact-us/>

- **modernAKIS** - Modernisation of Agriculture through more efficient and effective Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

modernAKIS is a seven-year Horizon Europe project (2022–2029) dedicated to strengthening AKIS across Europe. The project's main aim is to enhance the capacities of AKIS actors—such as advisory services, research and education institutions, policymakers, and farmers—so they can better leverage individual, organisational, and systemic resources for the transformation towards more coherent, effective, and efficient knowledge and innovation systems in agriculture and forestry.

What is in it for me?

- Access to a broad European AKIS network and the modernAKIS platform, enabling valuable connections, knowledge exchange, and collaboration opportunities for stronger project proposals
- Participation in capacity-building activities (AKIS in action) that enhance skills and support in understanding policy developments and best practices relevant to AKIS

Want to know more <https://modernakis.eu/>

Contact: e.miron@lk-oe.at

3.1.2 EIP-AGRI

The European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI) was launched in 2012 to contribute to the European Union's strategy 'Europe 2020' for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Since the end of 2022 the EIP-AGRI is part of the EU-CAP Network.

EIP-AGRI works to stimulate innovation and improve the exchange of knowledge for agriculture, forestry, and rural areas. It contributes to ensuring a steady supply of food, feed and biomaterials, developing its work in harmony with the essential natural resources on which farming depends.

What is in it for me?

The European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) is a European initiative designed to accelerate innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas by



connecting diverse actors and integrating different funding streams for greater impact. EIP-AGRI brings together farmers, advisers, researchers, businesses, NGOs, and other stakeholders into an EU-wide network focused on developing practical solutions to real-world challenges.

A central feature of EIP-AGRI is the funding and support of Operational Groups (OGs), which are project-based partnerships that address specific problems or opportunities in agriculture or forestry. These groups are typically composed of actors with complementary expertise—such as farmers, researchers, advisers, and businesses—who work together to co-create and implement innovative solutions. Operational Groups are primarily funded through the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) via national or regional Rural Development Programmes.

Since 2014, more than 3,700 Operational Groups have been established across Europe, with thousands more planned under the current CAP framework. The projects they undertake can range from developing new products and technologies to testing and adapting practices for specific local conditions, improving resource efficiency, and addressing climate and environmental challenges. The Multi-actor Approach is a key element in the OGs, ensuring that solutions are relevant, widely disseminated, and ready for practical uptake.

Want to know more: Have a look at the EIP-AGRI project database https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/search_en

3.1.3 Multi-actor Approach

The Multi-actor Approach (MAA) is a core eligibility criterion in many Horizon Europe Cluster 6 and selected Mission call topics, requiring genuine and active involvement of a diverse range of actors—such as researchers, farmers, advisers, businesses, NGOs, and end-users—throughout the project lifecycle. The MAA ensures that research and innovation processes are demand-driven, co-created, and relevant to real-world needs, leading to practical results that are widely shared and readily implemented by practitioners and society.

Operational Groups (OGs), funded under EIP-AGRI, exemplify the MAA by bringing together partners with complementary expertise to co-create innovative solutions for concrete challenges in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas. OGs are formed in response to practical needs, operate on a bottom-up basis, and ensure that results are ready for practice and broadly disseminated through relevant networks.

Want to know more https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/multi-actor-projects-research-and-practice-co-creating-solutions_en

On 4 December 2023, CARE4BIO organized a 3h training about the EU CAP Network, EIP-AGRI and Multi-actor approach. <https://horizoneuropencportal.eu/academy/online-training-applicants-how-apply-multi-actor-approach-cluster-6-proposals-presentations>

Projects that support the Multi-actor Approach (MAA)

- **PREMIERE** - Preparing multi-actor projects in a co-creative way

PREMIERE contributes to improving the drafting of Multi-Actor Approach (MAA) project proposals and supports the CAP cross-cutting objective of modernising the sector by fostering and sharing knowledge, innovation, and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas, and encouraging their uptake. The project connects actors and policies, encourages wider use of available knowledge and innovation, and stimulates the transposition of innovative solutions into practice. Additionally,



PREMIERE helps communicate to scientists the research needs of practice, ensuring that research activities are closely aligned with real-world challenges and opportunities.

What is in it for me?

PREMIERE is one of several EU projects, which provide support for co-innovation processes across Europe (coordination and support action). The project is running from January 2023 to December 2027. PREMIERE will foster the effective preparation of successful multi-actor proposals for Horizon Europe and beyond by developing a suite of support activities and easy-to-use materials:

- Organisation of brokerage events for forthcoming Horizon Europe calls for multi-actor projects
- Pilot seed funding for project proposal development, including specific to engage EIP-AGRI Operational Groups in Horizon Europe
- Multi-actor training through a multi-actor simulation game, an online Serious Game, an Online Academy, and a MOOC as well as offline training-for-trainers
- Diverse output such as online videos, creative videos and How-to-Guides
- Recommendations and briefings for the European Commission, their services and external evaluators to help to ensure the implementation of the multi-actor approach

NCPs can also participate in PREMIERE trainings, helping them to understand the process of applying the MAA, get deeper understanding of the subject and the interpretation of published documents, so that they can then use it in their services.

Want to know more <https://premiere-multiactor.eu/>

Contact: premiere@hnee.de

- **EU-FarmBook** – The Online Knowledge Platform for Agriculture and Forestry

EU-FarmBook is a Horizon Europe project developing an open-access, EU-wide digital platform that collects, shares, and preserves practical, ready-to-use knowledge for agriculture and forestry. The platform brings together results and materials from Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, EIP-AGRI Operational Groups, and other relevant projects, making them easily accessible for farmers, foresters, advisors, researchers, and all AKIS actors.

What is in it for me?

- Access to a central, user-friendly platform with practical solutions, training materials, and project results from across Europe, helping you find, share, and apply knowledge for sustainable agriculture and forestry
- Visibility and long-term preservation for your project outputs: By uploading practice-oriented materials, you ensure your results are findable, accessible, and reach a wide audience of practitioners, advisors, and policymakers

Want to know more <https://welcome.eufarmbook.eu>

Contact: info@eufarmbook.eu

3.2 EU LIFE PROGRAMME

What is in it for me?

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action and it plays a crucial role in supporting the implementation of EU legislation and policies in those areas.



It is structured in 4 sub-programmes: Nature and Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Quality of Life, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation and Clean Energy Transition.

LIFE supports entities established in Europe of all sizes, and both private and public, including NGOs.

LIFE presents good synergies/complementarities to Horizon Europe projects, and gives the possibility of implementing those innovative solutions developed in the R&I programme.

Provides funding for	There are different types of projects supported by the LIFE programme from a strategic approach, like the Strategic Integrated Projects or the Strategic Nature Projects, to the Technical Assistance projects. All of them must be aligned with one of the four sub-programmes in LIFE.
Funding dimension of projects	Different size depending on the type of action. In terms of duration, it depends on the sub-programme and type of action, the average is 4-5 years.
Dimension of consortium	Depends on the type of action and the conditions of the calls. A difference compared to Cluster 6 projects is that in many cases a transnational consortium is not needed because the actions are going to be implemented at national, regional or local level.
Envisaged impact	The expected impact is to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. To protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment and climate related risks and impacts. Contributions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable economy, circular, energetically efficient, based on renewable energies, climate neutral and resilient against climate change • Protect, recover and improve the quality of environment and the health • Stop and reverse biodiversity loss
Average success rate	Between 20% and 25%, depending on the sub-programme

Want to know more https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en

Contact: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/life2027> and https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/history-life/life-contacts_en

3.3 NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS (NEB) FACILITY

What is in it for me?

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is an EU policy and funding initiative launched by the European Commission in 2021 that fosters sustainable solutions for transforming the built environment and lifestyles under the green transition. The NEB has been formally included in the Horizon Europe Mission Work Programme. In April 2024, an amendment to the 2023–2025 Work Programme introduced a dedicated “Destination New European Bauhaus” with a budget of €20 million. This destination features three specific calls which lay the groundwork for the NEB Facility. The New European Bauhaus (NEB) Facility is a multi-annual EU funding instrument to support the transformation of European neighborhoods into more sustainable, inclusive, and aesthetically pleasing spaces, while respecting the diversity of places, traditions, and cultures in Europe and beyond. The Facility comprises two main components:

- **The Research & Innovation (R&I) component**, funded with approximately €120 million annually, focuses on developing innovative solutions. The R&I component targets three key areas: integrating green transformation with social inclusion and local democracy; promoting circular and regenerative approaches in the built environment; and exploring innovative funding and business models for neighborhood transformation.
- **The roll-out component** aims to deploy and scale these solutions through various EU programmes, but also national or private funds. It complements the R&I efforts by facilitating the implementation of these innovations on the ground, including support for education, capacity-building, and technical assistance.

Provides funding for	The NEB Facility provides funding for projects that support the sustainable transformation of the built environment in line with New European Bauhaus values. It funds research and innovation in areas such as green transition, social inclusion, circular design, and new business models for neighbourhood development. Additionally, it supports the roll-out of these solutions through education, capacity-building, and technical assistance across EU programmes.
Funding dimension of projects	Between 2.5M€ and 8M€ per project, depending on the type of action
Dimension of consortium	Not available
Envisaged impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable, inclusive, and aesthetically pleasing neighbourhoods are created, reflecting Europe’s cultural and spatial diversity • The green transition is accelerated through the integration of social inclusion and local democratic participation • Circular and regenerative approaches are promoted in the built environment, leading to a reduction in environmental impact • Innovative funding and financing models are developed and applied, resulting in increased investments in the revitalisation of neighbourhoods
Average success rate	Not available



Want to know more: Website: https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en

Dashboard: <https://web.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dashboard/NEB/index.html>

Contact: vera.winthagen@ec.europa.eu Head of Unit New European Bauhaus (JRC.B.4)

3.4 DIGITAL EUROPE PROGRAMME (DEP)

What is in it for me?

The Digital Europe Programme (DEP) is a flagship initiative launched by the European Union to shape the digital transformation of Europe's society and economy. It was formally proposed as part of the long-term EU Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2021-2027. The DEP aims at fostering digital innovation, enhancing digital skills and reinforcing Europe's position in the global digital landscape. The DEP does not address challenges in isolation as it complements the funding available through other EU programmes, such as [Horizon Europe](#), [Connecting Europe Facility](#), [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#) and the [Structural funds](#), among others.

The DEP seeks to harness the full potential of digital technologies for the benefit of actors from science and industry, infrastructure operators, public administrations and all European citizens. It supports industry, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and public administration in their digital transformation with a reinforced network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH).

Provides funding for	With an overall budget of over €7.9 billion for the period 2021-2027, DEP supports projects in key capacity areas such as: supercomputing (€2.2 billion), artificial intelligence (€2.1 billion), cybersecurity (€1.7 billion), advanced digital skills (€580 million), and ensuring a wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society (€1.1 billion).
Funding dimension of projects	Funding is provided in different forms, with varying funding rates depending on the type of action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple Grants (50% of total eligible costs for all beneficiaries) • SME Support Actions (50% of total eligible costs except for SMEs where a rate of 75% applies) • Coordination and Support Actions (100% of eligible costs) • Grants for Procurement (50% of total eligible costs for all beneficiaries) • Grants for Procurement of Advanced Capacities (50% of total eligible costs) • Grants for Financial Support (100% of eligible costs for the consortium, co-financing of 50% of total eligible costs by the supported third party) • Specific Grant Agreement (50% of total eligible costs) • Lump Sum Grant (50% of total eligible costs)
Dimension of consortium	The type of beneficiaries and the dimension of the consortium depend on the type of action.
Envisaged impact	The DEP aims to advance strategic technologies crucial for Europe's future by addressing climate and environmental challenges through innovative digital solutions, ensuring secure and energy-efficient secure sectorial common data spaces, accelerating AI technologies adoption



	across various sectors, enhancing cyber threat preparedness, improving digital education and talent development, and fostering blockchain integration and interoperable digital public services.
Average success rate	55% (since the launch of the programme)

Want to know more <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>

Contact: DG Connect <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/write-us> and the [NCPs for DIGITAL](#)

4 EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an EU body created by the European Union in 2008 to strengthen Europe’s ability to innovate. The EIT is an integral part of [Horizon Europe](#) (HE), which means they get funding from Horizon Europe. The EIT brings together leading organizations from business, education and research, the so-called ‘knowledge triangle’, to form dynamic cross-border partnerships - EIT Innovation Communities. EITs Innovation Communities have been established in various areas such as Food, Climate, Energy. One more is intended to be created in the area of Water. **Want to know more** <https://eit.europa.eu/>

4.1 EIT FOOD

What is in it for me?

EIT Food is a very large food innovation network including key industry players, businesses, agrifood startups, research centers and universities from across Europe. By putting the consumer in the heart of their work, EIT Food aims at stimulating news ideas and inventions to drive change. EIT Food invests in projects, organisations and individuals that share the same goals for a healthy and sustainable food system.

Important: To get full access to the variety of activities, organizations should consider a partnership in EIT Food is a strategic decision affecting the entire organization. There are different partnership models and they require a partnership fee – see: <https://www.eitfood.eu/eit-food-partnerships>

Provides funding for	<p>EIT-Food is not a funding programme per se, but it offers Calls for proposals, ideas and educational courses, which are also available for non-members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls for innovative projects in the areas of protein diversification, circular food systems, digital traceability, sustainable agriculture, sustainable aquaculture and targeted nutrition (Innovation calls) • Mix of online learning and in-person courses at different locations across Europe; ranging from short-term courses, summer schools, online learning, PhD programmes, degree-awarding Master’s programmes to certified professional education. • Strenghtening Entrepreneurship:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The EIT Food Seedbed Incubator is a six-month programme for entrepreneurial science and engineering teams, offering equity-free funding and tailored support to address the unique challenges of commercializing lab-validated research innovations ○ The EIT Food Accelerator Network is a four-month programme offering equity-free grants and investments that support pilot-ready startup companies ○ The EIT Food RisingFoodStars is a three year programme offering scaleup support and world-leading industry networking opportunities to high-impact agrifood companies
Funding dimension of projects	<p>The EIT Food Seedbed Incubator offers a potential funding up to a maximum of €100,000.</p> <p>In Open Innovation Calls the dimensions vary according to the challenge and the different phase of implementation of the idea chosen. Funding is mostly awarded as prizes.</p>
Dimension of consortium	varies
Envisaged impact	EIT Food aims to drive innovation and sustainability in the agrifood sector by fostering collaboration between businesses, research institutions, and consumers. Its impact includes creating a healthier, more trusted, and resource-efficient food system while supporting entrepreneurship and education to tackle global food challenges.
Average success rate	No data available for NCPs

Want to know more <https://www.eitfood.eu/>

Contact: EIT Food is a pan-European organisation with headquarters in Leuven, Belgium, and regional offices in different locations. Find the one nearest to you here:

<https://www.eitfood.eu/contact>

4.2 EIT WATER

What is in it for me?

The EIT on Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems (WMM) is in preparation. The Call for Proposals for the new KIC (Knowledge and Innovation Community) was published in 2025 and the designated EIT KIC will be launched in 2026. The KIC will unite water, marine, and maritime innovators to join the EIT Community and build a pan-European partnership that addresses the most pressing challenges facing water-related innovation ecosystems. More detailed information is available online:



Website >> <https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/call-for-eit-communities/eit-water>

Factsheet >> <https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-06/EIT%20Water%20Factsheet%20final%20%281%29.pdf>

Important: As this is a very large strategic initiative, preparation for a potential involvement on national level should start early.

Provides funding for	Not available at the moment
Funding dimension of projects	Not available at the moment
Dimension of consortium	Not available at the moment
Envisaged impact	Not available at the moment
Average success rate	Not available at the moment

Want to know more <https://eit.europa.eu/tags/water>

4.3 EIT CLIMATE-KIC

What is in it for me?

Climate-KIC brings together large and small companies, scientific institutions and universities, city authorities and other public bodies, start-ups, and students. With over 350 formal organisational partners from across 25 countries, the Climate-KIC works on innovation to mitigate climate change and to adapt to its unavoidable impacts.

Important: To get full access to the variety of activities, organizations should consider a partnership in Climate KIC is a strategic decision affecting the entire organization. There are different partnership models and they require a partnership fee – see: <https://www.climate-kic.org/our-community/join-the-community/>

Provides funding for	<p>The Climate KIC is not a funding programme per se.</p> <p>However, there are research and innovation activity areas that have Calls for proposals or ideas, where not members can also take part:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open Innovation Calls: Open Innovation Calls are a relatively new concept designed to source and co-develop new solutions. Over the last three years Climate-KIC has been running events across global cities like Copenhagen, Hamilton,
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	<p>Sofia, Singapore, Malmo and Trondheim who are seeking new innovative ways to achieve their ambitious climate targets.</p> <p>2. Pathfinder: Pathfinder is an ideator programme that helps innovators test, refine and confirm assumptions about their innovation ideas, so that they are suitably developed to be applied and implemented.</p>
Funding dimension of projects	<p>The Pathfinder programme is designed to enable the collaboration of research and business stakeholders, and typically lasts between three to six months, with potential funding up to a maximum of €100,000.</p> <p>In Open Innovation Calls the dimensions vary according to the challenge and the different phase of implementation of the idea chosen. Funding is mostly awarded as prizes.</p>
Dimension of consortium	Varies
Envisaged impact	<p>The Climate-KIC's vision is for a prosperous, inclusive, climate-resilient society founded on a net zero-carbon, circular economy. This is a new climate-conscious economy, where finance flows to green projects and activities, and where motivated people are empowered with the skills and capacity they need to take action.</p> <p>This can only be achieved through wholesale systemic change – change that encompasses not just the technical and material, but regulation, governance structures, values and mindsets.</p>
Average success rate	No data available

Want to know more <https://www.climate-kic.org/>

Contact: <https://www.climate-kic.org/contact-us/>

5 JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE (JRC)

What is in it for me?

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is a department of the European Commission that provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting European Union policies to positively impact society. Operating at the interface between science and policy, the JRC plays a key role at multiple stages of the policy cycle and has a strategic role in helping identify solutions to the planetary challenges Europe is facing, ranging from climate change and ecosystem degradation to digital acceleration, changing demographics, shifting human geography, and the future of work, all against a rapidly evolving geopolitical context.



The JRC operates according to a work programme that outlines its strategic priorities and activities, in line with the Commission’s political priorities and initiatives. The JRC thus contributes to the implementation of the Horizon Europe and Euratom research and training programme. The JRC dedicates significant efforts to sharing best practices and organizing training events in Member States, regions, and with its international partners.

The JRC is organized in eleven directorates. Two have corporate responsibilities for ‘strategy and impact’ and ‘support services’, respectively. Eight are scientific directorates of which six are thematically organized and two are horizontal ‘innovation in science and policymaking’ and ‘digital transformation and data’. In addition, there is a directorate in charge of nuclear decommissioning and waste management. A Communication Unit is directly linked to the Director-General. The JRC also manages scientific infrastructures and nuclear facilities.

The JRC is operating using a portfolio-based approach to foster intra- and inter-portfolio collaborations for a more integrated view across the policy areas it addresses. In the JRC 2023–2024 Work Programme, 33 portfolios are covered and constitute the main building blocks of its strategic activities, among which several portfolios overlap with Cluster 6 thematic areas: portfolio 9 “Economic governance and structural reforms”; portfolio 13 “Shaping the green transitions for a sustainable and fair Europe”; portfolio 29 “Transition to sustainable food systems in a European and global context”; portfolio 30 “Sustainable materials and products for a circular and resilient Europe”; and portfolio 33 “Zero pollution for planetary health - Integrated responses.”, etc.

Provides funding for	Not a funding programme
Funding dimension of projects	Not available
Dimension of consortium	The JRC is spread across six sites in five EU countries: in Belgium (Brussels and Geel), Germany (Karlsruhe, Institute for Transuranium Elements), Italy (Ispra), the Netherlands (Petten), and Spain (Seville).
Envisaged impact	The JRC's work has a direct impact on the lives of Europeans through internationally recognized research for crisis and emergencies response, a healthy and safe environment, secure energy supplies, sustainable mobility and consumer health and safety. The JRC thrives on impacting EU policies by using science, and continuing to support their design, monitoring and performance measurement. To maximize its impact, the JRC has forged strong connections with international partners, including partners within the United Nations system.
Average success rate	Not available

As the JRC aims at facilitating the implementation of Horizon Europe programme, the participation of the JRC, as a member within the funding consortia, is encouraged .

For Cluster 6, projects should consider how they could contribute to the JRC's "CI6-relevant" platforms by sharing and leveraging the knowledge generated by the projects, ensuring it feeds into policy-making processes and it enhances the datasets, indicators, and overall knowledge of the JRC platforms. The JRC platforms relevant to Cluster 6 are listed below:



5.1 EUROPEAN PLATFORM ON LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (EPLCA)

Policy context: The EC's Integrated Product Policy Communication, since 2003, identified Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) as the "best framework for assessing the potential environmental impacts of products". This Communication highlighted the necessity for a Platform on LCA to increase the availability of quality life-cycle data and methods.

Platform highlights: The EC, through its DG Environment and JRC, responded to these needs by establishing the EPLCA. The EPLCA aims at supporting the use of LCA into business and policies.

Want to know more: <https://eplca.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

5.2 RAW MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEM (RMIS)

Policy context: The RMIS is a commitment in the 2015 Circular Economy Action Plan, led and maintained by the JRC.

Platform highlights: RMIS covers the entire value chains of raw materials (mostly metals and minerals from primary and secondary sources) and takes into consideration the materials' full life cycle. It provides knowledge on raw materials and associated value chains in the context of sustainability, including supply risks and circularity.

Want to know more: <https://rmis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

5.3 EUROPEAN SOIL OBSERVATORY (EUSO)

Policy context: The EUSO supports EU soil policies by ensuring that the Commission can make full use of the information made available through integrated data flows by transitioning from simply monitoring to understanding. The EUSO will support the implementation of all soil related objectives of the European Green Deal.

Platform highlights: The EUSO is a dynamic and inclusive platform that provides the relevant Commission Services, together with the broader soil user community, with the knowledge and data flows needed to safeguard and restore soils.

Want to know more: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/eu-soil-observatory>

5.4 INTEGRATED NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING (INCA)

Policy context: On 11 March 2021, the United Nations (UN) adopted a new statistical framework (the System of integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts, SEEA EA) to better account for ecosystems and ecosystem services in national economic planning and policy decision-making. This framework would enable countries to use a common set of rules and methods to track changes in ecosystems and their services. The EC supported the UN in the development of this framework with contributions from scientists, statisticians, and policymakers throughout the Knowledge Innovation Project on Integrated Natural Capital Accounting (INCA).

Platform highlights: The INCA project is jointly undertaken by EC services (Eurostat, the JRC, DG Environment and DG Research and Innovation) and the European Environment Agency. INCA addresses key policy objectives of the EU; in the context of the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 is calling for the establishment of an international natural capital accounting initiative.

Want to know more: <https://ecosystem-accounts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>



5.5 KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY (KCBD)

Policy context: As mandated in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the Commission established in 2020 the KCBD in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency.

Platform highlights: The KCBD is co-chaired by DG Environment and the JRC. It is foreseen that the KCBD will i) track and assess progress by the EU and its partners, including in relation to implementation of biodiversity-related international instruments; ii) foster cooperation and partnership, including between climate and biodiversity scientists; and iii) underpin policy development.

Want to know more: https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/biodiversity_en

5.6 KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR GLOBAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY (KC-FNS)

Policy context: The KC-FNS supports EU global commitment to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable food systems through a dedicated, reinforced science-policy interface and a fostered inter-policy dialogue.

Platform highlights: The Knowledge Centre's steering group is co-chaired by DG JRC and DG INTPA. The KC-FNS contributes to better policy making by offering a one-stop source of curated information and building a shared understanding of the facts.

Want to know more: https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/global-food-nutrition-security_en

5.7 KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR BIOECONOMY

Policy context: A sustainable and circular bioeconomy needs coherent, evidence-based policies, across sectors, enabled by a common and robust knowledge base. Here is where the European Commission's Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy comes into play.

Platform highlights: The Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy i) identifies and filters relevant information and makes it accessible; ii) brings together researchers, policymakers and other experts in the field; iii) analyses, synthesises and communicates available evidence; iv) enhances the knowledge base for policymaking on the bioeconomy.

Want to know more: https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/bioeconomy_en

5.8 AFRICA KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM (AKA)

Policy context: The development of AKA aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063, a strategic framework aimed at achieving inclusive and sustainable development in Africa. The platform also supports the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Platform highlights: The AKP offers an extensive range of services for Earth Observation and other geospatial products, metrics, and indicators. Developed by the JRC in collaboration with several partners, AKP serves as a comprehensive data hub for the African continent. With more than 350 datasets, 34 interactive narratives, and 19 analytical tools at the user's disposal, AKP delves into a variety of areas ranging from demography and raw materials to economics, among others.

Want to know more: <https://africa-knowledge-platform.ec.europa.eu/>



5.9 KNOWLEDGE CENTRE ON EARTH OBSERVATION

Policy context: The Knowledge Centre on Earth Observation is a European Commission initiative to maximise the policy uptake of products and information from Copernicus, the Earth Observation (EO) programme of the EU.

Platform highlights: The Knowledge Centre on Earth Observation helps EU policymakers to fully exploit the growing amount of EO data, products and applications by i) assessing needs of EU policies and translating these into technical requirements for EO products and services, ii) analysing research needs and priorities for innovating EU Earth Observation programmes, and iii) bringing together an active community of scientists, policymakers and specialists.

Want to know more: https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/earthobservation_en

6 ARTICLE 185 INITIATIVES

6.1 PRIMA – RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

What is in it for me?

PRIMA is a long-term partnership (established under Article 185 TFEU – Decision (EU) 2017/1324 - 4th of July 2017), aiming to foster joint research and innovation approaches among Participating States with a regional focus on the Mediterranean region to improve water availability, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable food production in a region heavily distressed by climate change, urbanization, and population growth.

It was launched during Horizon 2020 (H2020), with an initial duration of ten years, since August 2017, based on the Decision (EU) 2017/1324, and has been recently extended through amended Decision (EU) 2024/1167 which pertains to the continuation of PRIMA under Horizon Europe for three additional years (2025-2027), until the end of the program.

As of 10 April 2018, the PRIMA programme counts 19 Participating States (PS): Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. Bulgaria has joined PRIMA in 2024, which accounts 20 Participating States.

The Partnership has a robust strategic dimension based on equal footing applied through co-decision, co-financing and co-management and a distinctive geographical focus on the Mediterranean Region.

<p>Provides funding for</p>	<p>The PRIMA-IS (PRIMA Implementation Structure) implements the PRIMA programme based on Annual Work Plans. PRIMA Annual Work Plans are developed in compliance with the objectives and provisions set out in Decision (EU) 2017/1324, based on the priorities described in the PRIMA SRIA (Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda) under the three thematic areas addressed by the programme, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thematic Area 1 Integrated and sustainable management of water for arid and semi-arid Mediterranean areas
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	<p>2. Thematic Area 2 Sustainable farming systems under Mediterranean environmental constraints</p> <p>3. Thematic Area 3 Sustainable Mediterranean food value chain for regional and local development</p>
Funding dimension of projects	<p>PRIMA launches calls once a year, following a two-stage evaluation procedure.</p> <p>Project size is described in the call text. Section 1 projects have a recommended budget of up to 5 million € and section 2 around 1.5 million €. Specified in the AWP (Annual Work Plan)</p>
Dimension of consortium	<p>The PRIMA Programme is structured along a three-section funding scheme. Section 1 corresponds to calls with EU financial contribution from H2020 and now Horizon Europe (managed by PRIMA-IS), following H2020 and HE rules, and section 2 corresponds to calls with Participant States' contributions (managed by National Funding Agencies – NFAs). Section 3 includes Activities and actions organized, managed and funded by the PS – not open for applicants)</p>
Envisaged impact	<p>PRIMA project have a duration of 36 months.</p>
Average success rate	<p>Section 1 has a success rate of 5-10% and section 2 has a success rate of 20-25%</p>

Want to know more: <https://prima-med.org/>

National Contact Points: <https://prima-med.org/ncps-contacts/>

Contact: <https://prima-med.org/who-we-are/contact-us/>

6.2 BONUS – JOINT BALTIC SEA PROGRAMME

What is in it for me?

The joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme (BONUS) ran from 2010 to 2020, following its piloting phase and 16 BONUS+ projects implemented in years 2008-2011. BONUS Art. 185 issued five competitive calls and funded 48 projects. It was funded jointly by the national research funding institutions in the eight EU member states around the Baltic Sea and the European Union for a total of EUR 100 million. Russia participated in BONUS through bilateral agreements. The Secretariat office closed on 31 December 2021. Until December 2026 some key BONUS information remains available on the BONUS Portal web page for ease of access, information and use.

Want to know more: <https://www.bonusportal.org/>

Contact: Contact of respective BONUS consortium members on the BONUS Portal web page.



7 OTHER RELEVANT INITIATIVES

7.1 STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (SCAR)

What is in it for me?

SCAR advises the European Commission, the EU Member States and the Associated Countries on R&I priorities to address Europe’s challenges in agriculture, fisheries, food systems, forestry, and the wider bioeconomy. It plays an important role in establishing a European Research Area with a common agricultural and wider bioeconomy research agenda including fisheries (SCAR Fish), which enhances cooperation, coordination, and information exchange between the Member States using four main activities: strategic policy advice, developing a foresight process, developing common research agendas and mapping R&I capacities.

The SCAR organizational structure involves the Plenary Meeting (SCAR’s governing body), the Steering Group (prepares the plenary meetings and aligns the agenda with the current EU Presidency priorities), the Working Groups focusing on specific priority areas (Collaborative & Strategic) and the Foresight Group (identifies future bioeconomy challenges and opportunities, publishing reports with recommendations for research, innovation, and policy-making).

The SCAR Working Groups form offers unique platforms to develop R&I agendas, co-construct European R&I partnerships, and exchange experiences and best practices. There are currently nine SCAR Working Groups:

- **Collaborative Working Groups:** Agroecology, AKIS, ARCH, Bioeconomy, Fish, Food Systems, Forests;
- **Strategic Working Groups:** Animal Health & Welfare Research, Sustainable Animal Production.

Some of these working groups played an important role in preparing the concept for the Horizon Europe Cluster 6 co-funded partnerships: Agroecology, Food Systems and Animal Health and Welfare, under the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan (2021-2024) and, more recently, the planned Partnership on Forests & Forestry, under the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan (2025-2027).

Funded under the 2021 work programme of Horizon Europe Cluster 6, the [RefreSCAR project](#) (2023-2027 and coordinated by TEAGASC, IE) aims to enhance and strengthen the strategic role and functioning of the SCAR Working Groups within the EU's agricultural and bioeconomy research landscape, improving coordination among the national and European R&I programmes.

Provides funding for	Not a funding programme
Funding dimension of projects	n.a.
Dimension of consortium	More than 35 countries represented (EU Member States, Associated Countries), representatives mainly from ministries of agriculture, research institutes and universities.
Envisaged impact	



	<p>The SCAR Working Groups offer unique platforms to develop R&I agendas, to co-construct European R&I partnerships, and to exchange experiences and best practices. Being a member of the SCAR helps delegates and scientists to implement national research priorities at the European level, and helps on the alignment of national and European R&I agendas.</p> <p>Through all its activities and with its various instruments, SCAR's most essential output is on research and innovation related policy advice.</p>
<p>Average success rate</p>	<p>n.a.</p>

Want to know more: <https://scar-europe.org/>

SCAR Induction Pack: <https://scar-europe.org/home-scar/refrescar/refrescar-docs>

Contact: RTD-SCAR@ec.europa.eu

7.2 EUROPEAN JOINT PROGRAMME “SOIL”

What is EJP Soil?

EJP SOIL is a European Joint Programme Cofund on Agricultural Soil Management contributing to key societal challenges including climate change, water and future food security. The objectives are to develop knowledge, tools and an integrated research community to foster climate-smart sustainable agricultural soil management that:

- Allows sustainable food production
- Sustains soil biodiversity
- Sustains soil functions that preserves ecosystem services

This initiative was funded under Horizon 2020 and gets co-funding for their activities from the European Commission. A consortium of 26 partners (lead INRAE from France) has access to the full range of activities of EJP Soil. Check out, if partners from you country are in: <https://ejpsoil.eu/about-ejp-soil/consortium>

However, organisations outside the consortium can participate in open workshops or benefit from knowledge sharing activities such as project results of EJP Soil, as a lot of projects are implemented in the frame of this initiative, mainly through internal calls.

While f.e. the Mission „A Soil Deal for Europe“ is focussing on various soils, EJP Soil concentrates on agricultural soils. It is a huge and important initiative in the area of soil research.

Duration: until 31 January 2025.

Want to know more: <https://ejpsoil.eu/>



Contact: <https://ejpsoil.eu/about-ejp-soil/contact>

7.3 EUROPEAN JOINT PROGRAMME “ONE HEALTH”

What is in it for me?

EJP One Health is a European Joint Programme Cofund with the aim to create a sustainable European One Health framework by integration and alignment of medical, veterinary and food institutes through joint programming of research agendas matching the needs of European and national policy makers and stakeholders.

This initiative was funded under Horizon 2020 and gets co-funding for their activities from the European Commission. A consortium of 41 partners (lead ANSES from France) has access to the full range of activities of EJP One Health. Here a full list of consortium members:

<https://onehealthjep.eu/about/consortium/consortium-members>

Duration: until 30 September 2023.

Want to know more: <https://onehealthjep.eu/>

Contact: <https://onehealthjep.eu/about/contacts>

7.4 PREVENTING ZONOTIC DISEASE EMERGENCE (PREZODE)

What is Prezode?

PREZODE (Preventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence) is an innovative international initiative with the ambition to understand the risks of emergence of zoonotic infectious diseases, to develop and implement innovative methods to improve prevention, early detection, and resilience in order to ensure rapid response to the risks of emerging infectious diseases of animal origin. PREZODE was launched in January 2021, during the One Planet Summit on Biodiversity. Announced by French President Emmanuel Macron, the initiative is supported by the European Commission and the Quadripartite: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Want to know more: <https://prezode.org/>

8 EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS

European Technology Platforms (ETPs) are industry-led stakeholder fora recognised by the European Commission as key actors in driving innovation, knowledge transfer and European competitiveness.

ETPs develop research and innovation agendas and roadmaps for action at EU and national level to be supported by both private and public funding. They mobilise stakeholders to deliver on



agreed priorities, share information across the EU and help deliver solutions to major challenges of key concern to citizens.

8.1 EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY (ETP SUSCHEM)

SusChem is the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry and is a forum that brings together industry, academia, policy makers and the wider society. SusChem was officially launched in 2004 as a European Commission supported initiative to revitalise and inspire European chemistry and industrial biotechnology research, development and innovation in a sustainable way. SusChem is also a network of national platforms as the European vision needs to be firmly rooted in the national strategies. SusChem depends vitally on the partnerships with member states to provide information on national strategies and priorities. The national platforms work on initiatives within their own countries and also in joint NTP initiatives through the network organisation.

Check if you can find your SusChem National Technology Platform:

<https://suschem.org/about/ntps/>

Want to know more: <http://www.suschem.org/>

8.2 FOOD FOR LIFE (ETP FOOD)

The inclusion of a food-themed ETP as an important element in the EU innovation ecosystem is justified by the challenging opportunities for improving welfare and wellbeing in the EU through research and innovation in the food area. Moreover, the EU and drink industry is the largest manufacturing industry in the EU in terms of turnover, value added and employment, and therefore represents a key pillar of the EU economy.

The ETP 'Food for Life' aims to deliver:

- A platform for quicker and more effective, consumer-oriented food innovation, by enabling the appropriate environment for pre-competitive research and competitive consortium establishment;
- A forum for ensuring an effective multidisciplinary/integrating approach and exchange of best practices;
- An effective means of generating and leveraging funding;
- Better education and training of persons in various disciplines;
- Durable career opportunities within the European food and drink sector

Want to know more: <https://etp.fooddrinkeurope.eu/>

8.3 EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION PLATFORM (EATIP)

The European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP) is an international non-profit association dedicated to developing, supporting and promoting aquaculture and, especially and specifically, technology and innovation in aquaculture in Europe so as to:



- Establish a strong relationship between aquaculture and the consumer
- Assure a sustainable aquaculture industry
- Consolidate the role of aquaculture in society

EATIP has been designed to include all members of the European aquaculture value chain, from suppliers through producers to processors within the profession, accompanied by leading research groups and key representative organisations

Want to know more: <https://eatip.eu/>

8.4 FARM ANIMAL BREEDING AND REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM (FABRE TP)

The Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Technology Platform (FABRE TP) promotes research and innovation for sustainable animal breeding and reproduction in Europe. FABRE TP is the main contact point for farm animal breeding and reproduction organisations in Europe, aiming to mobilise the research efforts, technological development and innovation efforts in Europe. Key stakeholders around a common vision for the development of technologies and practises around farm animal breeding and reproduction are brought together. FABRE TP started as an initiative of pro-active partners in breeding in 2005, then continued as an EC funded project in 2006, and is since 2009 an official European Technology Platform. Main objectives of FABRE TP:

- Promotes sustainable farm animal breeding and reproduction in the EU
- Connects private sector, knowledge institutes and policy
- Develops research and innovation agendas and sets priorities
- Supports innovation

Want to know more: <https://www.fabretp.eu/european-technology-platform.html>

8.5 WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM – NOW WATEREUROPE

Founded in 2004 as the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform (WssTP), it was established by the European Commission as a European Technology Platform (ETP) to confront water-related challenges across the continent. This initiative took a significant leap forward in 2007 when it evolved into a member-driven, multi-stakeholder platform. This transformation marked a pivotal shift, widening its impact and reinforcing its foundational mission of securing a sustainable water future. In 2019, the organisation changed its name from WssTP to WaterEurope, marking a new period in which the name of the organisation captured the essence of its mission as the recognised voice and promoter of water-related innovation, research, and technology development in Europe.

With a focus on the entire water value chain, Water Europe advocates for building a water secure, sustainable, and resilient, Water-Smart Society across Europe and beyond.

Want to know more: <https://watereurope.eu/>



8.6 PLANTS FOR THE FUTURE EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM (PLANT ETP)

Plants for the Future ETP (Plant ETP) is a multi-stakeholder platform representing the plant sector from fundamental research to crop production and distribution. Plant ETP brings stakeholders from the plant sector together to consider the challenges and opportunities of agricultural value chains in a holistic way, while developing a vision for future systems spanning food, feed, and biobased raw materials. In this way, Plant ETP provides strategic direction and recommendations of essential research & innovation for the benefit of policymakers, research funding providers, practitioners, and innovators throughout agricultural value chains.

Want to know more: <https://www.plantetp.eu/>

8.7 FOREST-BASED SECTOR TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM (FTP)

The Forest-based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) is a European Technology Platform dedicated to the forest-based sector. It is the meeting place for industry, forest owners and public authorities, to discuss and build up a critical mass of knowledge on common research and innovation needs for the sector, and to decide on the best ways to cooperate. The main aim of FTP is to develop, promote and implement a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, to advance competitiveness and sustainability of the forest-based sector through innovation. FTP is the primary focal point for the European Commission with regard to forest-based research and innovation. Through its strong representation in various EU advisory bodies and expert groups, FTP advises policymakers on the sector's RTDI priorities. FTP also collaborates with other organizations in various initiatives and projects aimed at profiling the forest-based sector as the key actor in and enabler of the bioeconomy. FTP is open to the entire forest-based sector. You can contact the National Support Group for your country to engage with the activities of the network at national level (<https://www.forestplatform.org/members/other-stakeholders/>).

Want to know more: <https://www.forestplatform.org/>

9 JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES

Joint Programme Initiatives (JPIs) coordinate national research areas and launch joint calls providing the opportunity to cooperate at a European level. The aim of the joint programming process is to pool national research efforts in order to make better use of Europe's research and development resources and tackle common European challenges more effectively. These initiatives address key societal challenges such as climate change, energy and food security, and healthy aging, which cannot be solved at the national level alone. They are designed to pool the limited resources for research and development and leverage complementary expertise. Funding for the Joint Programming Initiatives largely comes from the participating Member States. Through funds from Horizon 2020, the European Commission has supported the establishment of organisational structures for individual initiatives in the form of Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs). There have been 10 Joint Programming Initiatives launched so far, 5 of them with a thematic relevance to Cluster 6. **Many of these JPIs are the foundation for the Horizon Europe partnerships.**



9.1 AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (JPI FACCE)

FACCE is a Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change, launched in 2010. It promotes the integration and alignment of national research resources in Europe under a common research strategy, to address the diverse challenges in agriculture, food security and climate change. FACCE-JPI brings together 20 countries committed to building an integrated European Research Area.

Want to know more: <https://www.faccejpi.net/en/faccejpi.htm>

9.2 HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE SEAS AND OCEANS (JPI OCEANS)

JPI Oceans is a pan-European platform aiming to increase efficiency and impact of research and innovation for sustainably healthy and productive seas and oceans. The member states' national strategies and priorities are the main building blocks for a joint Strategy Framework to address marine and maritime issues. JPI Oceans consists of 19 member countries and one associated member country, in total 42 organisations.

Want to know more: <https://www.jpi-oceans.eu/en>

9.3 A HEALTHY DIET FOR A HEALTHY LIFE (JPI HDHL)

The initiative Healthy Diet, Healthy Life (HDHL) brings together 17 countries that align research programming and fund new research to prevent or minimise diet-related chronic diseases, by promoting, aligning and funding research in the areas of nutrition, health, lifestyle, and food.

Want to know more: <https://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/>

9.4 WATER CHALLENGES FOR A CHANGING WORLD (JPI WATER)

The Joint Programming Initiative on "Water challenges for a changing world" aims to tackle the ambitious grand challenge of "Achieving sustainable water systems for a sustainable economy in Europe and abroad". Water is vital and essential for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Better results and optimization of public funds are obtained through the alignment of water research agendas and programmes at European and international level. This initiative has emerged into the Water4All Partnership.

Want to know more: <http://www.waterjpi.eu/>

9.5 CONNECTING CLIMATE KNOWLEDGE FOR EUROPE (JPI CLIMATE)

The Joint Programming Initiative "Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe" (JPI Climate) is a pan-European intergovernmental initiative gathering European countries to jointly coordinate climate research and fund new transnational research initiatives that provide useful climate knowledge and services for post-COP21 Climate Action.

Want to know more: <https://jpi-climate.eu/>

10 OTHER FUNDS

10.1 EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is designed to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union. It finances programmes in shared responsibility between the European Commission and national and regional authorities in Member States. The Member States' administrations choose which projects to finance and take responsibility for day-to-day management. Funding priorities/investments for 2021-2027 to make Europe and its regions:

- more competitive and smarter, through innovation and support to small and medium-sized businesses, as well as digitisation and digital connectivity
- greener, low-carbon and resilient
- more connected by enhancing mobility
- more social, by supporting employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare, as well as by enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism
- closer to citizens, supporting locally-led development and sustainable urban development across the EU

Want to know more: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/erdf_en

10.2 EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND PLUS (ESF+)

The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) is the European Union's main instrument for investing in people. With a budget of 142.7 billion euros for the period 2021-2027, the ESF+ will continue to provide an important contribution to the EU's employment, social, education and skills policies, including structural reforms in these areas. As part of cohesion policy, the ESF+ will also continue its mission to support economic, territorial and social cohesion in the EU – reducing disparities between Member States and regions.

Want to know more: <https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en>

10.3 JUST TRANSITION FUND (JTF)

The Just Transition Fund (JTF) is a new instrument of the Cohesion Policy 2021-2027, as the first pillar of the Just Transition Mechanism in the context of the European Green Deal aiming at achieving the EU climate-neutrality by 2050. The JTF supports the territories most affected by the transition towards climate neutrality to avoid regional inequalities growing, in line with EU cohesion policy's aim to reduce regional disparities and to address structural changes in the EU. Member States may, on a voluntary basis, transfer to the JTF additional resources from their national allocations under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+). The Commission has set up a Just Transition Platform to help EU countries and regions to unlock the support available through the Just Transition Mechanism:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/just-transition-fund/just-transition-platform_en

Want to know more: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/just-transition-fund_en



10.4 INVESTEU

InvestEU is a dedicated scheme in the second pillar of the Just Transition Mechanism and is implemented through the InvestEU programme across four policy windows. InvestEU can support investments in the framework of the Territorial Just Transition Plan (TJTP, submitted by each Member State) in a wider range of projects, such as projects for energy and transport infrastructure, including gas infrastructure and district heating, but also decarbonisation projects, economic diversification and social infrastructure. The European Commission provides a budgetary guarantee to implementing partners to provide financing directly or indirectly to project promoters located in just transition territories with an approved TJTP. The InvestEU Advisory Hub will act as a central entry point for advisory support requests to any project under pillars 2 and 3 of the JTM, as well as for some projects to be financed under the JTF. It will provide tailor-made technical assistance and capacity-building support depending on the need of the project promoter.

Want to know more: https://investeu.europa.eu/index_en

10.5 EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB)

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is jointly owned by the EU countries. It seeks to:

- boost Europe's potential in terms of jobs & growth
- support action to mitigate climate change
- promote EU policies outside the EU

The Bank borrows money on capital markets and lends it on favourable terms to projects that support EU objectives. About 90 % of loans are made within the EU. None of the money comes from the EU budget. The EIB provides 3 main types of products and services:

- lending – about 90 % of its total financial commitment. The Bank lends to clients of all sizes to support growth and jobs, and this support often helps to attract other investors
- 'blending' - allowing clients to combine EIB financing with additional investment
- advising and technical assistance - maximising value for money

The EIB makes loans above EUR 25 million directly. Where smaller loans are involved, it opens credit lines for financial institutions that then lend funds to creditors.

Want to know more: <https://www.eib.org/en/index.htm>

10.6 EUROPEAN MARITIME, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE FUND (EMFAF)

The EMFAF runs from 2021 to 2027 and supports the EU common fisheries policy (CFP), the EU maritime policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance. It provides support for developing innovative projects ensuring that aquatic and maritime resources are used sustainably. To see if your project is eligible for EMFAF support, first check with the national authority in charge of managing the operational programme in your country. Then follow the relevant application procedures so that the managing authority can check the eligibility of your project and whether it meets the relevant selection criteria and investment priorities.



List of EMFAF National authorities: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/emfaf/list-emfaf-national-authorities_en

Want to know more: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/emfaf_en

11 EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (COST)

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding organisation for research and innovation networks, thereby facilitating the mutual exchange of ideas. The so-called COST Actions provide funding for scientific events (e.g. workshops, training schools and conferences), cover relevant travel expenses (Short-Term Scientific Missions, Management Committee meetings etc.) and fund publications. COST does not fund research itself but enables experts from science and industry from all over Europe and the World to collaborate. The strong involvement of young researchers, investigators and experts from so-called Inclusiveness Target Countries as well as gender balance are of key concern under COST. COST follows a bottom-up approach. COST Actions may cover all scientific fields and take intersectoral and interdisciplinary composition into account.

Who can submit? COST invites experts to submit project proposals through a continuous Open Call with an annual Collection Date per year, usually in autumn. Following evaluation of these proposals, approximately 60 new COST Actions are funded.

Experts have also the opportunity to join running COST Actions (Working Groups, Short Term Scientific Missions, Workshops etc.). Furthermore, each member country may nominate up to two experts as national representatives into the Management Committee of an Action:

<https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions-event/browse-actions/>

Want to know more: <https://www.cost.eu/>

12 WIDER NETWORK OF STAKEHOLDERS

12.1 EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF MOUNTAIN AREAS (EUROMONTANA)

Euromontana is the European multi-stakeholder network for sustainable development and quality of life in the mountains. It brings together mountain stakeholders from all over Europe and facilitates exchanges and cooperation between territories facing similar challenges. Through various activities and events, such as the European Mountain Conventions, we create synergies between the different mountain massifs and builds bridges between mountain stakeholders and sectors with the aim of developing a common vision for the future of Europe's mountains.

Want to know more: <https://www.euromontana.org/en/>



12.2 NETWORK FOR EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN RESEARCH (NEMOR)

The Network for European Mountain Research (NEMOR) is a network of institutions – public or private – undertaking research in mountain areas, who want to promote research in, and for the sustainable development of, these areas. NEMOR was established in 2017. It builds on concerted collaboration between researchers across different disciplines and European countries, particularly through initiatives led by the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), and especially in the framework of the former Swiss-Austrian Alliance for Mountain Research (CH-AT). The key objectives are:

- Advocate for European mountain research, covering the spectrum from basic to applied, transdisciplinary, research;
- Enable discussion of research priorities addressing mountain regions, particularly in relation to the vision of Euromontana;
- Foster and connect mountain networks and inter/trans-boundary partnerships;
- Initiate, coordinate and enhance activities with reference to the priority topics of the “Mountains for Europe’s Future” with a view toward the European Commission’s research programme (FP9) and other funding instruments;
- Recognize the functions of mountains for Europe as a whole and enable connections to relevant organizations and institutions;
- Serve as the interlinkage from European to global mountain topics in support of MRI’s vision.

Want to know more: <https://nemor.creaf.cat/>

12.3 EUROPEAN REGIONS RESEARCH & INNOVATION NETWORK (ERRIN)

The European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN) is a well-known Brussels-based platform that gathers around 120 regional organisations from more than 20 European countries. Established in 2001, ERRIN supports members to enhance their regional and local research and innovation capacities and further develop their R&I ecosystems. The network maintains a long-standing relationship with the EU institutions and other organisations to strengthen the regional and local dimension in EU Research and Innovation policy and programmes.

ERRIN offers a platform for knowledge exchange and facilitates regional collaboration, supporting its members through the project development process and providing project opportunities. ERRIN members collaborate through 13 Working Groups and two Task Forces, covering both thematic areas and overarching policy issues based on members’ priorities and on current funding opportunities. Working Group meetings are at the heart of ERRIN’s activities, as this is where members meet regularly to exchange information, present regional examples, build new partnerships, develop joint projects, network and much more.

Want to know more: <https://errin.eu/>

12.4 EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ENRD)

The European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) serves as a hub for exchange of information on how Rural Development policy, programmes, projects and other initiatives are working in practice and how they can be improved to achieve more. The ENRD is not a



membership organisation. Its work aims to engage and reach anyone with an interest in and commitment to rural development in Europe. The ENRD supports the effective implementation of EU Member States' Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) by generating and sharing knowledge, as well as through facilitating information exchange and cooperation across rural Europe. These activities are facilitated by two support units: the ENRD Contact Point and the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development.

Recently, ENRD has become part of the EU CAP Network. The website will no longer be updated, but remains available in a static form as a reference of all the previous activities. You will find all the new and up to date information on the EU CAP Network website: https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en

Want to know more: <https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>