

## Developments and thinking on European Framework Programme Funding for ‘Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment’

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### UK Participation in Horizon Europe

#### UK government announces new financial safety net for successful Horizon Europe applicants as association delays continue.

Under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement terms were agreed for the UK to become an Associated Country for participation in Horizon Europe, and UK applicants have been able to join consortia and submit proposals since the launch of initial calls. (see: [European Commission Q&A](#))

As the EU has yet to formalise UK association, a new scheme announced on 29<sup>th</sup> November will guarantee funding for successful UK applicants for Horizon Europe grant awards, regardless of the outcome of the UK’s efforts to associate to Horizon Europe. The funding will be delivered through UK Research and Innovation, which will publish further details about eligibility, scope and how to apply in the coming weeks. Further details here -> [UK government financial safety net for Horizon Europe applicants](#)

#### Calls: ‘Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment’

The main collaborative funding for agri-food research and innovation is a cluster of seven calls (Cluster 6) under the area of Global Challenges. The work funded under the calls in Cluster 6 will contribute to the objectives of the [European Green Deal](#) such as the [Biodiversity Strategy to 2030](#), the [Farm to Fork strategy](#), as well as the [long-term vision for rural areas](#), and the Sustainable Development Goals. A more detailed list of policy areas covered by this call and to which applicants will need to refer can be found on [this page](#).

The European Research Executive Agency (REA) has a Cluster 6 page summarising each call, linking to the infoday recordings and to the call page on the Funding and Tenders Portal where you can get detailed information on what is requested under each topic, download additional documents and, for intending coordinators, register an application.

On the last page of this document you can find details of the support and assistance that are provided by the NI Contact Points, who can assist and advise you of the fit of your ideas to specific topics

There follows a summary and a link to the REA page for each call.



**Call Opening & Closing Dates - 2022**

- Open – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- Close – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 for Single Stage and Stage One of 2-stage topics

Two-stage topics 2022 – on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept or 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (depending on the individual call)

**BIODIVERSITY Call: [Biodiversity and ecosystem services](#)**

Planned Impact: Biodiversity is back on a path to recovery, and ecosystems and their services are preserved and sustainably restored on land, inland water and at sea through improved knowledge and innovation.

**13 topics; €46 million to fund up to 24 projects**

Understanding biodiversity decline ◇ Valuing and restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services ◇  
 Managing biodiversity in primary production ◇ Enabling transformative change

Topics:

- Observing and mapping biodiversity and ecosystems, with particular focus on coastal and marine ecosystems
- Building taxonomic research capacity near biodiversity hotspots and for protected areas by networking natural history museums and other taxonomic facilities
- Network for nature: multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to promote nature-based solutions
- Natural capital accounting: Measuring the biodiversity footprint of products and organizations
- Intercropping – understanding and using the benefits of complexity in farming and value chains
- Monitoring and effective measures for agrobiodiversity
- Protection and sustainable management of forest genetic resources of high interest for biodiversity, climate change adaptation, and forest reproductive materials
- Assessing the nexus of extraction, production, consumption, trade and behaviour patterns and of climate change action on biodiversity in the context of transformative change
- Understanding the role of behaviour, gender specifics, lifestyle, religious and cultural values, and addressing the role of enabling players (civil society, policy makers, financing and business leaders, retailers) in decision making
- Maintaining and restoring pollinators and pollination services in European agricultural landscapes
- Boosting breeding for a sustainable, resilient and competitive European legume sector
- Resilient beekeeping

[See all topics on the Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal](#) >

**FARM2FORK Call: [Fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food systems from primary production to consumption](#)**

Planned Impact: Set out credible pathways to fair, healthy, safe, climate- and environment-friendly, resilient food systems from primary production to consumption, ensuring food and nutrition security for all within planetary boundaries in the EU and globally.

**20 topics; € 227 million to fund up to 37 projects**

Enabling sustainable farming and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture ◇ Transforming food systems for health, sustainability and inclusion ◇ Targeted international cooperation

Topics:

- Risk assessment of new low risk pesticides
- Socio-economics of pesticide use in agriculture
- Enhancing biosecurity in terrestrial livestock production
- Innovative solutions to prevent adulteration of food bearing quality labels: focus on organic food and geographical indications

- Integrated and sustainable freshwater bioeconomy: Combining aquaculture, biodiversity preservation, biotechnology and other uses
- Biosecurity, hygiene, disease prevention and animal welfare in aquaculture
- Building alternative protein-friendly sustainable and healthy food environments
- Research and innovation for food loss and waste prevention and reduction through harmonised measurement and monitoring
- Microbiomes in food production systems
- Integrated surveillance system to prevent and reduce diet-related Non Communicable Diseases
- Effective systems for authenticity and traceability in the food system
- Agro-ecological approaches in African agriculture systems
- AU-EU Combatting all forms of malnutrition
- African Food cities
- Support for international research on infectious animal diseases
- Agroecological approaches for sustainable weed management
- Emerging and future risks to plant health
- Ecology of infectious animal diseases
- Smart solutions for the use of digital technologies for small- and medium-sized, farms and farm structures
- Innovative food from marine and freshwater ecosystems

[See all topics on the Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal >](#)

### **CIRCBIO Call: [Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors](#)**

Planned Impact: Set out a credible pathway to achieving sustainable and circular management and use of natural resources, prevention and removal of pollution, unlocking the full potential and benefits of the circular economy and the bioeconomy, ensuring competitiveness and market uptake of innovative technologies and other solutions.

#### **13 topics; €142 million to fund up to 27 projects**

Enabling a circular economy transition ◊ Innovating sustainable bio-based systems and the bioeconomy ◊ Safeguarding the multiple functions of EU forests ◊ Innovating for blue bioeconomy and biotechnology value chains

#### Topics:

- Circular Cities and Regions Initiative’s Project Development Assistance (CCRI-PDA)
- Marginal lands and climate-resilient and biodiversity-friendly crops for sustainable industrial feedstocks and related value chains
- Benefits of the transition towards sustainable circular bio-based systems from linear fossil-based
- Maximizing economic, environmental and social synergies in the provision of feedstock for bio-based sectors through diversification and increased sustainability of agricultural production systems
- EU-China international cooperation on unlocking the potential of agricultural residues and wastes for circular and sustainable bio-based solutions
- Strengthening the European forest-based research and innovation ecosystem
- Marine microbiome for healthy oceans and a sustainable blue bioeconomy
- Integrated solutions for circularity in buildings and the construction sector
- Exploring extreme environments: novel adaptation strategies at molecular level for bio-based innovation
- Sustainable biodegradable novel bio-based plastics: innovation for sustainability and end-of-life options of plastics
- Photosynthesis revisited: climate emergency, “no pollution and zero-emission” challenge and industrial application

- Life sciences and their convergence with digital technologies for prospecting, understanding and sustainably using biological resources
- Harnessing the digital revolution in the forest-based sector

[See all topics on the Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal >](#)

### ZEROPOLLUTION Call: [Clean environment and zero pollution](#)

Planned Impact: Pollution must be halted and eliminated to guarantee clean and healthy soils, air, fresh and marine water for all.

#### 4 topics; €51 million to fund up to 11 projects

Halting emissions of pollutants to soils and waters ◊ Protecting drinking water and managing urban water pollution

Topics:

- Preventing groundwater contamination and protecting its quality against harmful impacts of global and climate change
- Piloting innovative governance solutions to limit nitrogen and phosphorus emissions at the interface of rural/coastal and urban/industrial environments
- EU-China international cooperation on nature-based solutions for nutrient management
- Securing drinking water quality by protecting water sources against pollution, providing innovative monitoring and treatment solutions and ensuring safe distribution

[See all topics on the Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal >](#)

### CLIMATE Call: [Land, ocean and water for climate action](#)

Planned Impact: Set out a credible pathway to contributing to climate action on land, oceans and water.

#### 5 topics; €75 million to fund up to 7 projects

Topics:

- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- Climate sensitive water allocation systems and economic instruments
- Understanding the oceanic carbon cycle
- Demonstration network on climate-smart farming – boosting the role of advisory services
- Fostering the resilience of food security: from observation of changes to the development of resilience strategies
- Forestry - European observatory of climate change impacts and demonstration network of climate smart restoration pilots

[See all topics on the Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal >](#)

### COMMUNITIES Call: [Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities](#)

Planned Impact: Contribute to resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities.

#### 7 topics; €42 million to fund up to 12 projects

Topics:

- Boosting women-led innovation in farming and rural areas
- Assessing and improving labour conditions and health and safety at work in farming
- Integration of marine ecosystem service valuation, conservation and restoration in socio-economic models
- Social innovation in food sharing to strengthen urban communities' food resilience
- Assessing the socio-politics of nature-based solutions for more inclusive and resilient communities

- Smart solutions for smart rural communities: empowering rural communities and smart villages to innovate for societal change
- Developing nature-based therapy for health and well-being

[See all topics on the Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal](#) >

**GOVERNANCE Call: [Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal](#)**

Planned Impact: Set out a credible pathway to contributing to innovative governance and sound decision making in policy for the green transition.

**15 topics; €147 million to fund up to 32 projects**

Innovating with governance models and supporting policies ◊ Strengthening agricultural knowledge and innovation systems ◊ Deploying and adding value to Environmental Observations ◊ Digital and data technologies as key enablers

Topics:

- Mobilization of society to transform food systems for co-benefits
- European Partnership for a climate neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy
- Multi-layer governance performance of marine policies
- Consumer-focused labelling options for bio-based products
- Innovative tools and methods to evaluate the design and support, monitoring and implementation of effective CAP Strategic Plans
- Water governance, economic and financial sustainability of water systems
- New technologies for acquiring in-situ observation datasets to address climate change effects
- Uptake and validation of citizen observations to complement authoritative measurement within the urban environment and boost related citizen engagement
- Environmental observations solutions contributing to meeting “One Health” challenges
- Piloting approaches and tools to empower citizens to exercise their “data rights” in the area of food and nutrition
- Upscaling (real-time) sensor data for EU-wide monitoring of production and agri-environmental conditions
- Thematic networks to compile and share knowledge ready for practice
- Broaden EIP Operational Group outcomes across borders by means of Thematic networks, compiling and sharing knowledge ready for practice
- Improving preparation of multi-actor projects to enable the relevant actors to work in a co-creative way
- Developing EU advisory networks on water use

[See all topics on the Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal](#) >

## Forthcoming calls

### Missions

The EU Missions are intended to develop solutions to some of our greatest challenges in a defined timescale (by 2030). Each mission will operate as a portfolio of actions – such as research projects, policy measures or even legislative initiatives - to achieve a measurable goal that could not be achieved through individual actions. Three of the five missions are most relevant to the agri-food area. These are:

- [Adaptation to Climate Change](#)
- [Soil Deal for Europe](#)
- [Restore our Oceans and Waters](#)

The first Horizon Europe work programme for **Missions** was published in June 2021. **It included** actions that lay the ground for the [implementation of Missions](#). **A full research and innovation agenda is expected by the end of this year, followed by specific work programmes and calls.**

For the Soil mission two work programmes are in development:

- The 2021 Soil Mission Work Programme will be published in December (there will be an Infoday), with an expected deadline in March 2022. One of the recent updates has been about creating structures for engagement with regions.
- A 2022 Work Programme is expected in April/May, with more specific topics and research areas.

### Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)

**‘Building a greener, safer and better Europe’**



The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU), a €2 billion partnership between the European Union and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC), was launched on 30th November 2021.

It will build on the success of Bio-Based Industries JU to advance competitive circular bio-based industries in Europe and will take over its activities. The main goals of the new European partnership are:

- 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

Publication of the first CBE JU **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** is expected in 2022 Q1, setting out draft details of its first calls, which are expected in Q2-Q3, with closing dates for the calls before the end of 2022.

More information on the CBE JU can be found here: <https://www.bbi.europa.eu/about/circular-bio-based-europe-joint-undertaking-cbe-ju>

Details of BBI JU success can be found in the publication [7 years advancing the European bio-based industry](#)

### Other Calls and Opportunities

#### ERA-Net [ICRAD](#) Call: One Health Approach to Zoonoses Research and Innovation

The overall goal of this call is to support cross-cutting research and innovation to better understand zoonoses, focusing on the animal-human-environment interface and by developing novel vaccine and diagnostics technology platforms to improve animal health and by consequence animal welfare. Pre-proposals should address one of the following research areas

- Research area 1: Improved understanding of animal-human-environment interface
  - Pathogen (Re)-Emergence and Host Adaptation
  - Host/Pathogen Interactions
- Research area 2: Detection and Prevention
  - Vaccine Technology Platforms
  - Diagnostic Technology Platforms

The research funded through this call is to improve health of livestock, therefore, research that mainly focuses on the below are not in scope of the call and are excluded: improving human health; AMR; companion animals; climate/ecology/environment; food-borne pathogens; animal welfare.

ERA-Nets bring together national funding in calls that are coordinated at a European level. Two UK funders (DEFRA and UKRI) are participating in this call. Please contact the funder’s contacts which can be found in the [pre-announcement document](#).

Pre-Proposal Deadline - 15/12/2021 Two Stage - Call with pre-proposals and full proposals submissions.

Website <https://www.icrad.eu/calls/pre-announcement/>

### **Cascading Funding**

All opportunities can be found [here on the Funding and Tenders Portal](#). Those below are most relevant to the agri-food area.

### **DIH4AI – AI on-demand platform for regional interoperable Digital Innovation Hubs Network**

DIH4AI is looking for innovative SME-driven experiments on the AI domain with the participation of DIHs, both at Regional and Cross-Regional collaboration level. The DIHs will support the SMEs through the Service Pipeline methodology proposed in the DIH4AI Project, and, in particular, with the delivery of L-BEST services. The objective is to enlarge the AI DIH network to as many European Regions as possible, at the same time that those experiments achieve to develop and integrate new assets of AI technologies, thus, complementing and extending the AI on-demand catalogue of solutions. SMEs will also be allowed to take advantage of the platform and experiments developed in the Project and the Open APIs provided on top of them, towards enhancing the DIH4AI-compliant systems with additional functionalities and features.

Deadline: 30 December 2021, at 17.00 (CET); more information: [www.dih4ai.eu/copy-of-open-calls](http://www.dih4ai.eu/copy-of-open-calls)

### **EIT FOOD CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2022**

This EIT Food call supports the translation and application of advanced research, innovation and transformative business ideas and practices which help solve major systemic barriers to impact as they arise in key Focus Areas within the food system. The call targets four primary Impact Goals for food system change which will lead to a long-term contribution to the United Nations Societal Development Goals (SDGs) and the priorities of the EU Green Deal:

- Improvement in conditions for enhanced public trust in the food system.
- Reduction in relative risk of obesity & Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) prevalence in target populations due to known dietary factors.
- Improved Environmental Impact of Agri-Food systems.
- Enabling Transition to a Circular & Sustainable Economy.

Deadline: 14 January 2022, at 23.59 (CET); More information: [www.eitfood.eu/opencall2022](http://www.eitfood.eu/opencall2022)

### **SmartAgriHubs - Connecting the dots to unleash the innovation potential for digital transformation of the European agri-food sector**

Aim: projects shall develop, innovate, provide, validate and/or improve services provided by Digital Innovation Hubs. Tangible innovation services shall be provided by DIHs. They shall aim at supporting the set-up and realisation of digital innovation activities realised by stakeholders of agri-food communities and related networks. The proposed project shall support individual or groups/networks of stakeholders in the DIH's region or in several regions based on the cooperation of several DIHs proposing a project.

Deadline: 29 June 2022, at 17.00 (CEST). Open for continuous submission. Proposals will be evaluated in batches at several dates. Further information: [www.smartagrihubs.eu/portal/open-call](http://www.smartagrihubs.eu/portal/open-call)

### **METABUILDING - GROW/HARVEST Call**

Proposals are targeted at the Construction Sector to address cross-sectoral challenges including

- Nature-Based solutions (NBS);
- Recycling and circular economy
- Additive Manufacturing (Waste reuse / 3D Printing)

Register on [www.metabuilding.com](http://www.metabuilding.com); Use the tools of the METABUILDING platform to find a consortium partner, technology asset and/or a service provider.

### Seeking experts for 3 new EIP-AGRI Focus Groups

EIP-AGRI Focus Groups are temporary groups of selected experts focusing on a specific subject, sharing knowledge and experience. Each group explores practical innovative solutions to problems or opportunities in the field, and draws on experience derived from related useful projects. Each EIP-AGRI Focus Group meets twice and produces a recommendations and outcomes report. For more information on EIP-AGRI Focus Groups and their tasks, please see the [EIP-AGRI Focus Group brochure](#) and [Focus Group Charter](#).



Farmers, foresters, advisers, scientists and others, if you have specific knowledge and experience on one of the topics below, then please apply by **Tuesday 11 January 2022 23:59 hrs CET (Brussels time)**.

- Sustainable ways to reduce the use of pesticides in pome and stone fruit production
- Digital tools for sustainable nutrient management
- Water: Nature-Based Solutions for water management under climate change

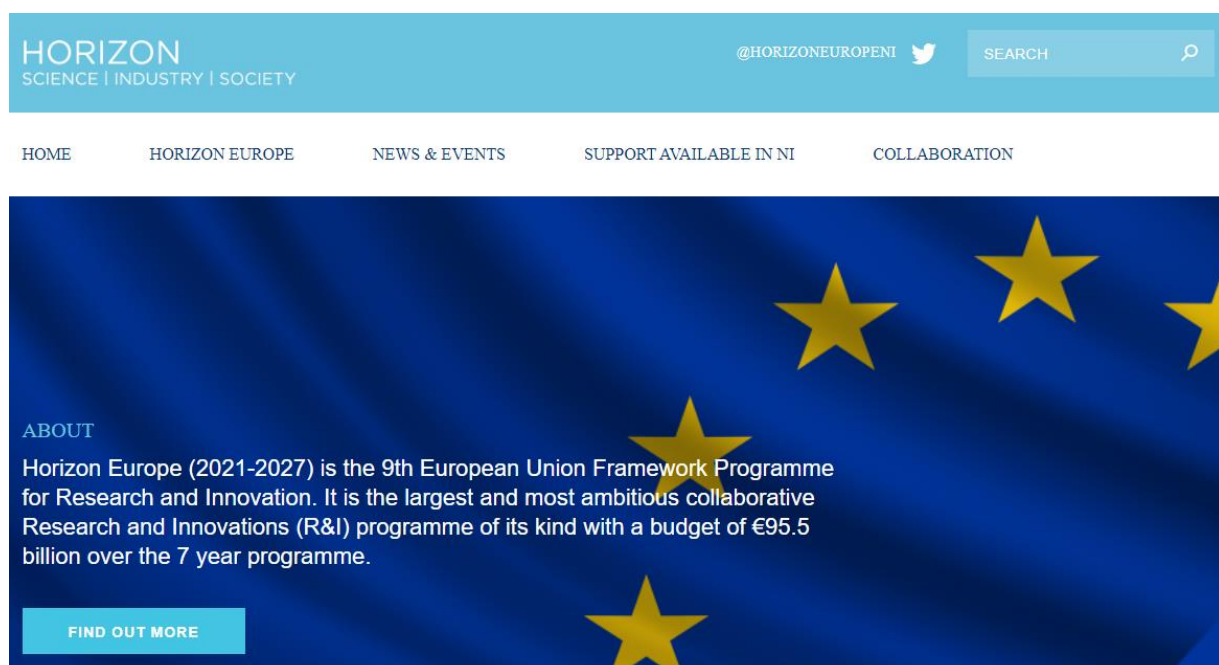
[For more detail on the topics, and to apply, click here for the call text](#) (you can find the link to the application form in the PDF call text).

### Travel Vouchers for developing cross-border partnerships

InterTradeIreland is encouraging highly-innovative SMEs and the research community in Northern Ireland and Ireland to explore opportunities for funding under Horizon Europe. North-south partnerships between Ireland and Northern Ireland have had a relatively high success rate of accessing H2020 funding.

InterTradeIreland's Cross-Border Collaboration Voucher offers up to £500 to early-stage partnerships travelling across Ireland and Northern Ireland to scope out potential project ideas. They can even help identify potential partners for you – just contact [horizon2020@intertradeireland.com](mailto:horizon2020@intertradeireland.com) or download an application form from [this page](#).

### The Northern Ireland Contact Point Network



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Horizon Europe website. The header includes the text 'HORIZON SCIENCE | INDUSTRY | SOCIETY', the Twitter handle '@HORIZONEUROPE', a search bar, and a navigation menu with links for HOME, HORIZON EUROPE, NEWS & EVENTS, SUPPORT AVAILABLE IN NI, and COLLABORATION. Below the navigation is a banner with a blue background and yellow stars, featuring the text: 'ABOUT Horizon Europe (2021-2027) is the 9th European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. It is the largest and most ambitious collaborative Research and Innovations (R&I) programme of its kind with a budget of €95.5 billion over the 7 year programme.' A 'FIND OUT MORE' button is located at the bottom left of the banner.



The Northern Ireland Contact Point (NICP) network was set up in 2014 to support local applicants applying for European Horizon funding. Details are available on the [network's website](#) which has been updated for Horizon Europe. Services offered by the NICPs include:

- **Guidance** on choosing relevant H2020 topics and types of action
- **Advice** on administrative procedures and contractual issues
- **Training**, assistance and advice on proposal writing, to improve the quality of proposals
- **Signpost** to documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.) and other supports available
- **Assistance** in partner searches



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