

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

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# Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is an EU research and innovation programme. It has a budget of €95.5 billion and runs until 2027. The Commission is still finalising documents laying out the timelines, budget and scope of the many calls for proposals in 2021 and 2022. Draft versions of documents have been leaked or published by the Commission and a collection of all documents is available [here](#) (Science Business Magazine, free - registration required).

Publication of the work programmes and opening of calls, originally promised for mid-April, has been put back to mid-May and may even be postponed until the end of May. Note below there is a provisional date for information days for Cluster 6 on 26-28 May. Deadlines for the calls will not change despite the later publication of the call texts. You are advised to work from the draft texts to prepare collaborations for proposals.

## UK Participation in Horizon Europe

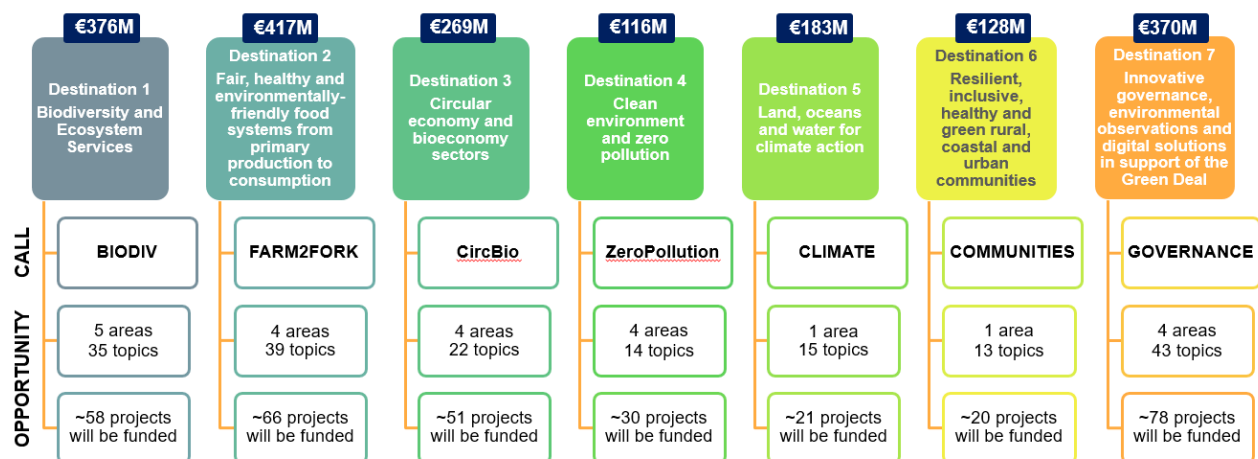
UK-based researchers and innovators can apply to most Horizon Europe funding opportunities on the same terms as EU-based applicants.

In January, the government announced that the UK will associate to Horizon Europe. The EU is still in the process of formalising the UK’s association, but UK-based applicants can begin applying straight away. You do not need to wait for the EU to formalise association. Find out more in the [European Commission Q&A on the UK’s participation in Horizon Europe \(PDF, 712KB\)](#)

## Cluster 6 ‘Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment’

The draft two-year work programme 2021-2022 for Cluster 6 can be downloaded from [here](#). Although this is still a draft, there have been only very minor changes in the last two drafts. The biggest changes have been in the budget.

Make no mistake – the budget for Cluster 6 is huge. The overall 7-year headline figure for Cluster 6 is €9 billion, an increase from the €3.7 billion for the agri-food-focused Societal Challenge 2 (SC2) under Horizon 2020. The increase is due to a reorganisation of areas under the Global Challenges with climate, environment, biodiversity and sustainability falling under Cluster 6 and assuming a much greater level of importance than a decade ago when the work programme for Horizon 2020 was under development.



2021: €1021M, 103 topics, ~170 projects      2022: €901M, 68 topics, ~120 projects

Figure 1. Overview of Cluster 6 calls, budget and topics.

Figure 1 summarises the budget and number of topics under each call in Cluster 6. The Farm2Fork Call (Destination 2) is the largest with €417 million spread over 4 areas and 39 topics; the ZeroPollution call (Destination 4) is the smallest with just €116 million covering 14 topics in 4 areas. For comparison in 2014, the initial year of Horizon 2020, there were just 3 calls with 37 topics and total funding of €251 million.

One disappointment is that Cluster 6 topics have budget only to fund one or two projects as was the case under SC2 in H2020. This means that competition for individual topics can be very high with a low success rate. On the other hand, the very many topics available provide a lot of choice and it is possible that competition for some topics will be low.

All calls this year are single stage, meaning that a full application needs to be submitted at the deadline. This, together with the reduced preparation time, will put off many coordinators. **The calls this year are therefore expected to be much less competitive than those next year.** 2022 calls will be published shortly with those for 2021, leaving 8+ months preparation time.

### Call Opening & Closing Dates

- 2021 Calls (all Single Stage) open – May 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 (provisional date)
- 2021 Calls close – September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

#### Single and Two-Stage Calls 2022

- Open – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- Close – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Two-Stage Calls 2022 - close – early September 2022 (check individual calls for details)

The draft proposals template (for the three main types of proposal: Research and Innovation Actions (RIA), Innovation Actions (IA), Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)) can be found [here](#) (Science Business Magazine, direct download, no registration required).

## Information Events –Recordings

### UK Webinar: Introduction to Horizon Europe (11 March 2021)

KTN Global Alliance and Innovate UK recorded a webinar to provide advance information to potential applicants. You can watch the **recording** of the webinar and view the **slides** and the **Q&A** document here: <https://ktn-uk.org/events/introduction-to-horizon-europe-webinar/>

### EC Webinar: How to prepare a successful proposal in Horizon Europe - (24 March 2021)

This covered:

- The submission and evaluation of proposals - Proposal template, basic principles, evaluation criteria
- The rules of the game - the Model Grant Agreement
- Standard application form (RIA/IA)
- General Model Grant Agreement
- Gender Equality in Academia and Research - GEAR tool

Event page and recording: <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/other/event210324.htm>

### EC Webinar: A successful proposal for Horizon Europe: Scientific-technical excellence is key, but don't forget the other aspects (21 April 2021)

This covered:

- New approach to impact following the Key Impact Pathways
- Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication

- Open Science
- Gender dimension
- “Do no significant harm” principle

Event page and recording: <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/other/event210421.htm>

### **UK Webinar: Overview of Horizon Europe Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Cluster (23rd March 2021)**

A recording and slides from this event are available [here](#) (scroll down for video)

### **Horizon Europe Marine and Maritime Information and Network Event (28 April 2021)**

The Enterprise Europe Network in partnership with Enterprise Ireland, Invest N. Ireland, Scotland, Denmark, Norway and Iceland's National Contract Points (NCPs) held an international partnering event on Horizon Europe's Marine calls.

This introduced the Marine calls for proposals for the next two years, presented insights and expectations and the latest information from the European Commission about Horizon Europe Marine Calls in Clusters 5 and 6.

The recording and slides from the event are available on the Enterprise Ireland Horizon Europe website at <https://horizoneurope.ie/horizon-europe/horizon-europe-marine-network-event>.

- Initial high level overview => 29 minutes
- Cluster 5 (maritime transport etc.) 29 => 55 minutes
- Cluster 6 (marine) 55 => 1h 30 mins
- Individual 5 minute pitches for collaboration at 1h 45

Information and profiles of those seeking collaboration are on the event webpage here: <https://horizon-europe-marine-brokerage-event.b2match.io/>

## **Information Events – Forthcoming**

### **EC Webinar: The Funding & Tenders Portal for beginners, 27 May 2021, 10.00 CEST**

The Funding & Tenders Portal is the single gateway for participants in many EU funding programmes and procurement actions. This webinar is addressed in the first instance to (potential) new users of the Portal. We will explain and demonstrate the search for funding opportunities and partners, registration of your organisation, submission of proposals, managing your profile, exploring funded projects and statistics, and many more features. The participation does not require pre-registration; access will be via YouTube web stream only. All details are [available here](#).

### **SAVE THE DATE - European Info Day on Horizon Europe Cluster 6 (26-28 May, tbc)**

The official publication of the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 for Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment is expected on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The European Info days for Cluster 6 are now planned on **the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May. A matchmaking event on May 28<sup>th</sup> will aid participants to find potential consortium partners.**

Dates are not yet confirmed. It will be officially announced under events on the funding and tenders portal – also keep an eye on social media.

## Forthcoming Networking and Partnering Events

### European Maritime Days (20-21 May) – Register by 17 May

Live streaming online and matchmaking event - >1500 participants registered. Registration on **B2Match**, under **Agenda**: <https://european-maritime-day-2021.b2match.io/agenda>

- EU Policy session "The sustainable seafood sector and the EU's Green Deal" - [more details](#)
- EU Blue Economy Report 2021 - [more details](#)
- EU Policy session "Marine and freshwater Research & Innovation" - [more details](#)

EU Policy Sessions

Matchmaking

Others

Pitch Session

Plenary sessions

Stakeholders Workshops

### ERRIN – Horizon Europe Matchmaking (Cluster 6 - 3-4 June) – Register by 21 May

ERRIN (European Regions Research and Innovation Network) together with the Research Council of Norway and the Norwegian EU networks have organized this event to help participants to build regional innovation ecosystems aiming to solve European challenges under two areas:

- Cluster 5 - Climate, Energy and Mobility – 31<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June
- **Cluster 6 - Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June**

The format of each day is to present information and topics for specific call destinations, followed by a selection of 5 minute pitches, then 1:1 meetings booked by participants.

Tip - Register for 1:1 meetings with other participants:

- Have a clear idea of your/your organisation's interests – which calls and/or topics are you interested in?
- Know your/your organisation's skills and expertise – what can you bring to a project proposal?
- Know what role you would like to see for your organisation in a potential project proposal

Registration is open until 21<sup>st</sup> May <https://horizon-europe-matchmaking-clusters-5and6.b2match.io/>

### European Research and Innovation Days - 23 and 24 June

The [Draft Programme](#) for this year's European Research and Innovation Days is now available. It includes **60 live sessions**, ranging from high-level plenaries to immersive panel discussions and workshops. Session topics include **Horizon Europe**, the new European Research and Innovation Programme, our **recovery** from the Coronavirus pandemic, the **European Research Area**, **European Innovation Ecosystems** and **specialised workshops** to discuss, interact, build new networks and work together to find solutions for the global challenges.

### Building Demonstrative Capacity in Plant Production – (June 30 – 02 July) – Register by 29 June

An Italian region-led virtual Cluster Event for the plant production industry in Europe, <https://pic-2021.b2match.io/home> offers a range of events, and focuses on two main themes:

- 2 Matchmaking events to exchange with speakers and participants in 1-to-1 Meetings
- 2 Conferences:
- Bio-based innovation for/from plant production
- High-tech zero carbon footprint horticulture

## Other Calls and Opportunities

### Transcontinental research for sustainable food systems in a changing climate



FOSC is the European Research Area Network (ERA Net) Cofund action on Food Systems and Climate, which started in October 2019 and will run for 5 years until September 2024. The FOSC consortium consists of 28 partners from Europe, Africa and Latin America – funding agencies and research organisations.

Main challenge of FOSC is to contribute to the achievement of food and nutrition security under climate change within the context of sustainable food systems, considering the three dimensions of sustainability (social, environmental, and economic).

#### Pre-Announcement JOINT CALL 2021 on “Food Systems”

The ERA-NETs SUSFOOD2 (SUSTainable FOOD production and consumption) and FOSC (Food Systems and Climate) build a network with 13 funding bodies (including UK-DEFRA) to launch a Joint Call for Proposals on **Innovative solutions for resilient, climate-smart and sustainable food systems**

- **Topic I: Innovations to improve food systems sustainability, with a focus on increasing resource efficiency and reducing waste**
- **Topic II: Food Systems adaptation and resilience to system shocks**

The Joint Call 2021 will be launched at the **17<sup>th</sup> of May** and follows a one-stage procedure with a deadline for the submission of proposals on **16<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 - 3 p.m. (CEST)**.

For more information about the Call, please check the websites of SUSFOOD (<https://susfood-db-era.net>) or FOSC (<https://www.foscera.net>).

#### Call for Experts.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/experts/call-for-expression-of-interest\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/experts/call-for-expression-of-interest_en.pdf)

Experts will be called on to support the Commission and other European institutions in the implementation of the programmes, e.g. **the evaluation of project proposals in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon Europe** or in providing advice on specific issues. The call remains open for the entire programming period and interested parties can register at any time in the European Commission's expert database via the [Funding & Tenders portal](#). Depending on the specified areas of expertise and programme requirements, the experts can be requested ad hoc for specific activities and will receive a corresponding expense allowance. **Experts already registered in the database are requested to update the information in their profile.**

Acting as an expert for evaluation of proposals is one way to gain experience of what is required in proposal writing, as well as gaining an insight into developments in your area. Experts from industry have a good chance of being asked to join panels. Experts are selected in advance of calls. They are asked to commit a number of days, depending on the proposals submitted and are paid a day rate, calculated by the number of proposals evaluated. Under H2020 the day rate was €450. Training is also provided.

## CORDIS – Do your homework!



HOME

RESULTS PACKS

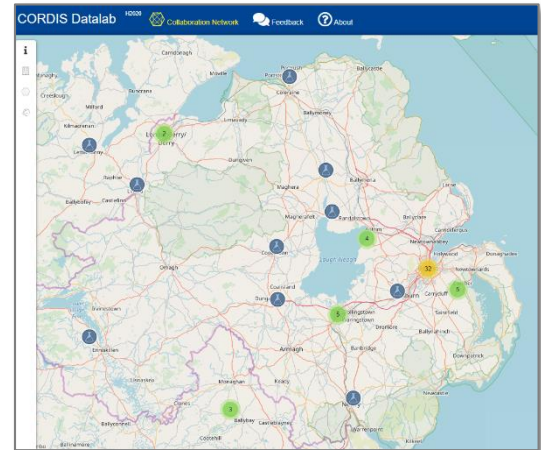
RESEARCH\*EU MAGAZINES

NEWS & EVENTS

PROJECTS & RESULTS

We cannot stress enough the importance of investigating **what has been funded previously**. All projects funded under Horizon 2020 (and previous programmes) can be viewed on CORDIS, the Commission’s EU Results service at <https://cordis.europa.eu/>. This is searchable and results can be filtered by domain of application (e.g. Food and Natural Resources), allowing you to see what has been funded, to read a summary and reports from projects. CORDIS also produces periodic [results packs](#) and [magazines](#) bringing together the latest results in specific areas.

The [Collaboration Data Map](#) (right) allows visual exploration of organisations and their projects and funded networks, and is searchable.



### 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

A network of Northern Ireland Contact Points (NICPs) was set up in 2014 to encourage and support local businesses, research and innovation organisations in developing Horizon 2020 applications. Details can be found on the [network’s website](#) which will soon be updated for Horizon Europe.

I am the NICP in the agri-food area, funded by the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). I have a science background, broad experience of research with industry covering several areas, and 20 years’ experience of EU applications and funded projects (since FP5). I can provide specialist advice and assistance across Northern Ireland to academics and businesses applying for Horizon funding under agri-food-related areas. I aim to send out this update 3-4 times per year to provide some of the latest intelligence, and also send short email alerts about opportunities.

### How can I help you?

As an NICP my remit is to help applicants based in Northern Ireland to develop and submit applications for topics under the Cluster 6 calls. My goal is to improve the quantity and quality of proposals from NI – that doesn’t matter if this is your first experience of EU funding or you’re an expert.

The 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

We expect renewed interest in Horizon funding and I am refreshing the mailing list. **Please do pass this on to others.** If you have received this via a colleague and wish to be added to the mail list please email me.



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