

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

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# 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 environmental 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.

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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# Goodbye Horizon 2020 - Hello Horizon Europe



Horizon 2020 (European Framework Programme 8 for Research and Innovation) ran under the seven year Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020 and ended with final calls (Green Deal) closing in January 2021. Projects funded under Horizon 2020, some only commencing later this year, may run for up to 5 years and projects should be unaffected by the UK leaving the EU, apart perhaps from minor changes in relation to how data is handled.

There were important shifts in thinking behind the Green Deal and this paved the way for Horizon Europe., The results for the Green Deal Call should be available before the end of June at the latest with projects starting in November or December. It will fund a small number of large and highly visible projects demonstrating the feasibility of new technologies and solutions and paving the way to their commercialization, as well as critical experimentation, social innovation and citizen engagement. The emphasis is on achieving impact for society through scaling up, dissemination and uptake.

Horizon Europe is expected to build on this with a more holistic systems approach within and across different programme areas and the involvement and consultation of external stakeholders/citizens as well as impact-driven programming.

## NI Performance under Horizon 2020

The Northern Ireland Executive set a target to secure at least €145m from Horizon 2020. Despite the uncertainty from Brexit, which did reduce numbers of applications, **296** successful NI participants across academia, the private and public sectors have, so far, secured a total of **€95.7 million** through competitive open calls under Horizon 2020.

Under Societal Challenge 2 'Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy' there were 81 proposals of which 22 (**27 participants**) were awarded funding totalling €10.6 million – a success rate of 27%.

## **Horizon Europe Soft Launch**

On 2 February the European Commission together with the Portuguese EU Council Presidency held a virtual launch event for Horizon Europe. The event brought together speakers from across Europe and featured



contributions by researchers, business leaders as well as political and governmental officials with the aim of promoting "Horizon Europe" and its association with national programmes of recovery and resilience. Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyjoJv-Kqe4">www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyjoJv-Kqe4</a>

## **UK Participation in Horizon Europe**

Following the signature of the EU UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (EU-UKTCA) in December, UK will associate to the Horizon Europe programme, subject to the finalisation of the Horizon Europe Programme regulations and adoption of the protocols agreed under the EU-UKTCA.

Following formal association to the programme, UK will be able to participate in the first work programme and calls. Association agreements with all countries (e.g. Norway, Switzerland) are still to be signed, and statements about association are expected in the work programmes, if agreements are not finalised before publication. UK organisations will have equivalent rights to those from Member States and will be able to access funding from all parts of the programme. UK partners will count towards the minimum eligible consortium numbers, and UK partners can still coordinate projects and influence key collaborative projects. With a few exceptions, which should not unduly impact the main areas of interest to agri-food, it should be business as usual.

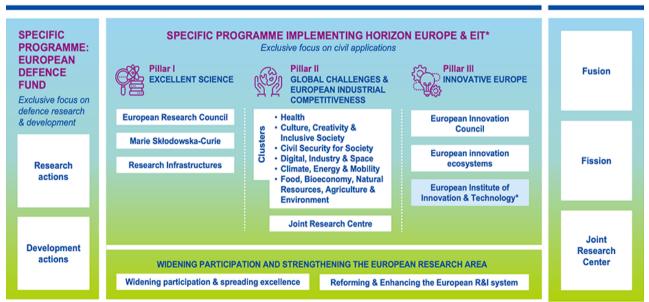
## Horizon Europe - What do we know so far?

The European budget for approved Horizon Europe was approved before Christmas, with €95.5 billion funding available over the 7 year programme. Horizon Europe regulations have yet to be signed. Overall the application process is unchanged, and for the most part funding rates remain the same. There have been some changes to the financial rules, mostly simplifying them, and there is an updated proposal template.

The overall structure of the 'three pillars' remains familiar, but with "Societal Challenge 2: 'Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy' and part of Societal Challenge 5 'Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials' combined into Cluster 6 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' under Pillar 2. We are awaiting the publication of the work programmes — expected in April - with call openings to follow soon after.

# HORIZON EUROPE

#### **EURATOM**



<sup>\*</sup> The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

# NICP Northern Ireland Contact Point Infortions 2920

# NICP Agri-Food - Update - February 2021

# Cluster 6 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' 2021

Under Cluster 6, there will be seven call areas, or 'Destinations' with a total budget in 2021-2022 of €1.8 billion. We expect the 2021 calls (€923 billion) to open on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

The following is a brief overview of the call areas.

versity and Ecosystem Services 22 topics €218 million
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This destination will deliver on the expected impact that "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". All actions funded under this destination must contribute to deliver this main impact, supporting the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

## Areas under this call are:

- Understanding biodiversity decline
- Valuing and restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Managing biodiversity in primary production
- Enabling transformative change on biodiversity
- Interconnecting biodiversity research and supporting policies

stination 2 – Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food tems from primary production to consumption	18 topics	€175 million
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Proposals for topics under this destination should set out credible pathways contributing to fair, healthy, safe, climate and environmentally-friendly and resilient food systems from primary production to consumption, ensuring food and nutrition security for all within planetary boundaries in the EU and globally.

#### Areas under this call are:

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

See also: Farm to Fork Strategy <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork">https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork</a> en

Destination 3 – Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors	8 topics	€93 million
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This destination and its topics target climate-neutral circular and bioeconomy transitions, covering safe integrated circular solutions at territorial and sectoral levels, for important material flows and product value chains, such as the textile, electronics, plastics and construction sectors, as well as key bioeconomy sectors such as sustainable bio-based systems, sustainable forestry, small-scale rural bio-based solutions, and aquatic value chains.

#### Areas under this call are:

- 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

See also: details under the Circular Economy Action Plan & Stakeholder Platform



Destination 4 – Clean environment and zero pollution	10 topics	€65 million
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In line with the objectives of the European Green Deal, particularly its Zero Pollution Ambition, and the 2030 Climate Target Plan, and other relevant EU legislation300, Destination 4 seeks to halt and prevent pollution by focussing on fresh and marine waters, soils, air, including from nitrogen and phosphorus emissions, as well as on the environmental performance and sustainability of processes in the bio-based systems.

#### Areas under this call are:

- Halting emissions of pollutants to soils and waters
- Protecting drinking water and managing urban water pollution
- Addressing pollution on seas and oceans
- Increasing environmental performances and sustainability of processes and products

Destination 5 – Land, oceans and water for climate action	10 topics	€108 million
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Topics under this destination should set out a credible pathway to contributing to climate action on land, oceans and water and more specifically to one or several of the following impacts:

- Better understanding and enhancing the mitigation potential of ecosystems and sectors based on the sustainable management of natural resources;
- Advanced understanding and science to support adaptation and resilience of natural and managed ecosystems, water and soil systems and economic sectors in the context of the changing climate;
- Efficient monitoring, assessment and projections related to climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation potential in order to bring out solutions for tackling emerging threats and support decision-making in climate change mitigation and adaptation policies at European and global levels;
- Fostered climate change mitigation in the primary sector, including by the reduction of GHG emissions, maintenance of natural carbon sinks and enhancement of sequestration and storage of carbon in ecosystems;
- Improved adaptive capacity of water and soil systems and sectors including by unlocking the potential of nature-based solutions;
- Better managed scarce resources, in particular soils and water, thus mitigating climate related risks, in particular desertification and erosion, thanks to informed decision-makers and stakeholders and integration of adaptation measures in relevant EU policies.

Destination 6 – Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities	6 topics	€52 million
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Under this destination, multidisciplinary research and innovation with strong social and behavioural sciences dimensions will foster the sustainable, balanced and inclusive development of rural, coastal and urban areas in three ways:

- Increase understanding of the impacts of climate, environmental, socio-economic and demographic changes on rural, coastal and urban areas to identify ways to turn changes into equal opportunities for people wherever they live.
- Explore innovative ways to tailor policy responses to place-based challenges identified at various levels of governance.
- Support bottom-up community-led innovation to empower communities to develop, test and upscale solutions that answer global challenges in locally adapted ways.



€184 million Destination 7 - Innovative governance, environmental 25 topics observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal

Activities under this destination aim at experimenting with new ways to govern the transition outlined under the Green Deal and modernising governance, making information and knowledge available and accessible. Research and innovation for governance should provide insights into institutional barriers such as lock-ins, path dependency, political and cultural inertia power imbalances and regulatory inconsistencies or weaknesses. This destination will also develop innovative digital and data based solutions to support communities, society, and economic sectors relevant for this Cluster to achieve sustainability objectives. Activities will add value to the knowledge and cost-effectiveness of innovative technologies in and across primary production sectors, food systems, bioeconomy, oceans and biodiversity.

#### Areas under this call are:

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

#### **Cross-cutting with other cluster areas**

The systems approach used in planning and programming research and innovation activities under Horizon Europe ensures that clusters will work closely together to achieve overall aims. The image below shows the high level areas in Clusters 1-5 that offer opportunities cross-cutting with interests under Cluster 6.

# Cluster 1 (Health) Living and working in a health promoting environment Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden

# Cluster 2 (Society) Management of social and economic transformations (cultural landscapes...)

#### Prevention and reduction of disasters. whether natural or man-made; reduce harm to health and the environment. ensure food security

Cluster 3

(Security)

### Adaptation of Furone's industry to planetary boundaries Fostering climate-neutral, circular and

#### clean industry Accelerating economic and societal transitions

Cluster 4

(Digital)

#### Cluster 5 (Climate)

- · Climate science.
- to make the energy and mobility systems climate- and environmentfriendly
- Decarbonisation of energy and transport systems



# **Missions in Horizon Europe**

Also sitting in Pillar II, the Missions under Horizon Europe aim to deliver solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing our world. As yet there is relatively little detail on how these will be implemented. 'Mission Boards' were formed in 2019 to design, monitor and assess the missions and to support the European Commission in specifying, designing and implementing missions for Horizon Europe. These Boards consist of up to fifteen experts coming from innovation, research, policymaking, civil society and relevant organisations. Each mission area also gathers a larger number of high-level experts to provide an additional pool of ideas, knowledge and expertise that will be actively called upon to contribute to the success of the missions.

During the September 2020 Research & Innovation Days of the European Commission, each Mission Board described their respective mission area. The missions will launch in 2021 as part of Horizon Europe.



The two missions of most interest to the agri-food sector are:

Healthy oceans, seas coastal and inland waters: Mission Starfish 2030: Restore our Ocean and Waters Targets by 2030: cleaning marine and fresh waters, restoring degraded ecosystems and habitats, decarbonising the blue economy in order to sustainably harness the essential goods and services they provide.

#### Soil health and food: Caring for Soil is Caring for Life

Targets by 2030: at least 75% of all soils in the EU are healthy for food, people, nature and climate. The proposed mission combines research and innovation, education and training, investments and the demonstration of good practices using "Living labs" (experiments and innovation in a laboratory on the ground) and "Lighthouses" (places to showcase good practices).

## Preparing for activity in Horizon Europe

If you intend to seek funding under Horizon Europe, we cannot stress enough the importance of knowing what has been funded previously and of learning the language the Commission is using in its priorities.

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 who has been funded and to read a summary and reports from projects. CORDIS also produces periodic results packs and magazines bringing together the latest results in specific areas. Two of the most recent results packs are in the areas of Rural Innovation and Environmental Observations.



# Rural innovation: Developing real solutions for smart and resilient rural areas in Europe







Almost one third of Europeans live in rural areas that make up over three quarters of the EU's total land area. These areas contribute an enormous amount to European societies and culture and are also a key arena in the fight against climate change and for better resource...



# Environmental Observations for informing citizens and supporting policymaking through innovative applications







Observing the environment from space, from the ground and from mobile platforms provides a constant and consistent flow of information about the health of the planet, the changing climate and the human activities and their impacts. By supporting the GEO initiative and th...

The European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) annual report 'Ten issues to watch in 2021' provides a briefing on what its policy analysts identify as the key issues to watch in 2021. Food for all and digitisation for the circular economy are two of the issues covered in the 25 pages. Read the full report here.

Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) 5th Foresight Exercise. One of SCAR's main activities is horizon scanning through foresight studies which are intended to inform both Member States' and the Commission's future thinking and strategy. The publication of SCAR Foresight Report and the SCAR Reflection paper Natural resources and food systems: Transitions towards a 'safe and just' operating space in December is therefore a chance to examine such future thinking. SCAR is also planning to make the web stream of the 5th SCAR Foresight Conference, (15 December 2020) available at https://scar-europe.org/.

The publication "FOOD2030 Pathways for Action" frames the deployment phase of the European Commission's Food 2030 initiative and is meant to guide future research and innovation policy reflections relevant to Horizon Europe, the Farm to Fork strategy and European Green Deal, and beyond. The report sets out 10 Pathways where research and innovation can concretely deliver co-benefits to nutrition, climate, circularity and communities, at multiple levels: from local to global. It also underlines that a



systemic and transdisciplinary approach to research and innovation is crucial for success and improved impact. The COVID-19 crisis has shown that transformations are not only technical and academic; they also encompass social, legal, economic, financial, ethical and philosophical dimensions, which need to be fully embedded in future R&I policy and programmes. Publication: FOOD2030 Pathways for Action: Research and innovation policy as a driver for sustainable, healthy and inclusive food systems - Video. See also the two updated web pages on Food Systems and Food 2030.

# **Opportunities**

# **EIT Food Seedbed Incubator Programme**

# By Michaela Fox and Kerri Crossey

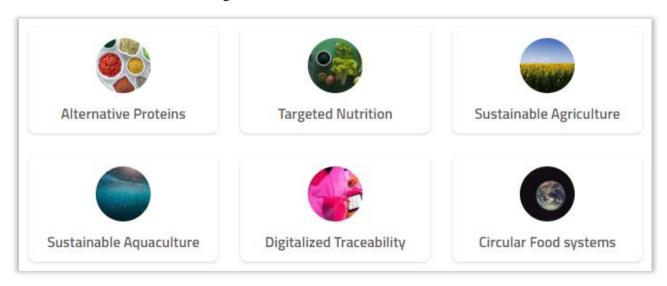
EIT Food, Europe's Food Innovation Initiative working to make the food system more sustainable, healthy and trusted, has just opened applications for its 2021 <u>business creation programmes</u>. EIT Food works with entrepreneurs at all stages of their journey, from validating their market to scaling up their business to achieve impact.

Within the UK and Ireland, Queens University, Belfast is leading the EIT Food Seedbed Incubator Programme, a 6 month programme that aims to transform innovative ideas into market validated business propositions. Participating teams will receive access to expert training, personalised business support and funding of up to 6k Euro for proof of market activities, not to mention access to a pan-European network of stakeholders working within the agri-food sector.



If you have a technology, underpinned by science, that you think could be applied to the food system, register your interest here or get in touch with Kerri (k.crossey@qub.ac.uk).

EIT Food has a focus on the following six areas.



Several programmes are available: the EIT Food Rising Food Stars Programme is also open for applications which is aimed at established companies seeking to grow and scale; Seedbed, which will open later in the year, supports companies, offering an intrapreneurship programme.



# Irish Bioeconomy Foundation reaches out to Northern Irish companies

## By Filippo Giancarlo Martinelli

The Irish Bioeconomy Foundation (IBF - <a href="https://bioeconomyfoundation.com/">https://bioeconomyfoundation.com/</a>) is Ireland's national bioeconomy association and innovation cluster and we aim to promote the conversion of the Island of Ireland's natural land & sea resources to high value products for the development of a sustainable bioeconomy that is globally competitive. We do this by providing a range of services to our members such as Design & Scale Up, Private & Public Finance, and Promotion & Outreach.

Over the past few months, in conjunction with Intertrade Ireland, we are developing an 'All Island BioMap' which involves mapping stakeholders in the Bioeconomy and seeking opportunities where collaboration / cooperation may be relevant. To date we have documented more than 500 organizations that are relevant to the Circular bioeconomy. One of our goals for the BioMap project is to brokerage cross border industry collaboration which will hopefully lead to access to funding and the development & scale-up of new technologies, R&D or co-product development. A work-in-progress version of the BioMap can be accessed <a href="here">here</a> and an introductory video is also available <a href="here">here</a>.

We are also involved in the MPowerBIO project which is a Biobased Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI-JU) funded project. The projects objective is to maximise access to public and private funding for SMEs with biobased innovations. There are a number of ways in which MPowerBIO will go about this including tailored business support services to secure investment. With the current Covid-19 situation, the objectives of the



project have become even more relevant and important with many SMEs struggling for capital and growth in the months to come.

Due to these ongoing projects, we are thus able to offer some of our services to organisations that are not yet members of Irish Bioeconomy Foundation, in line with our ethos of "growing the bioeconomy together". To that end we hope to explore possible synergies between your company and other bioeconomy stakeholders, with a particular regard to potential cross-border exchanges.

Filippo Giancarlo Martinelli is IBF's 'European Ambassador'.

Contact Details for Filippo and his colleagues Stephen Napier, Simon Porphy and Kevin Ryan:



00353-872737941

info@bioeconomyfoundation.com



National Bioeconomy Campus (former Lisheen Mine) Lisheen, Moyne, Co. Tipperary, E41 R622



# One Health interventions to prevent or reduce the development and transmission of AMR

An international call for projects has been launched under the umbrella of the JPIAMR and within the framework of the ERA-NET JPIAMR-ACTION. The call will receive financial support from the European Commission and will include 30 funding organisations from 21 JPIAMR member countries, see complete list at link. <a href="https://www.jpiamr.eu/activities/joint-calls/upcoming-calls/interventions-and-transmission-call-2021/">https://www.jpiamr.eu/activities/joint-calls/upcoming-calls/interventions-and-transmission-call-2021/</a>. The total estimated call budget is 24.9 million Euro.

Proposals will be evaluated in a two-step procedure (pre-proposals/full proposals). Applicants have up to March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 12:00 (CET) to submit their pre-proposals. A webinar for applicants was held on the 28th of January 2021 (links to YouTube) presenting the call and the partner search tool (see below).

#### **Partner Search Tool**

A match-making tool has been created for applicants, to facilitate networking and the creation of consortia. Link to tool: <a href="https://ncn.gov.pl/partners/amr13th/">https://ncn.gov.pl/partners/amr13th/</a>. The tool can be consulted for several purposes:

- Partner looking for project: As individual researcher or a representative of a lab or research team, searching for a project to join.
- Project looking for partner: If you want to build a consortium around an existing project and want to find partners for your project ideas.

### Participating funding agencies - 21 countries including Argentina, Canada and Israel

- United Kingdom Medical Research Council (MRC)
- United Kingdom Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
- United Kingdom Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

**NOTE** This is an ERA-Net which uses national funding for projects coordinated at EU level. Each funder appoints a specific NCP for the call and it is a requirement that you contact the NCP early in the process of preparing your application.

# Pre-announcement of the 2021 Joint Call on "Circularity in mixed crop and livestock farming systems, with emphasis on greenhouse gas mitigation"

The ERA-NET Cofunds **SusAn** (Sustainable Animal Production Systems), **FACCE ERA-GAS** (Monitoring & Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases from Agri- and Silvi-culture), **ICT-AGRI-FOOD** (ICT-enabled agri-food systems) and **SusCrop** (Sustainable Crop Production) will launch a joint call for transnational interdisciplinary research projects. **Summary of Call:** research on (re-) integration of crop and livestock farming systems with the aim to enhance circularity between these systems and thereby improve the sustainability of farms. The call announcement is <u>expected during February 2021</u>; more details are available on the pre-announcement page.

# **Cascading funding - Open Calls**

Cascading funding is funding arising from projects that have already been funded and have planned to open calls to third parties, usually SMEs. You can view all cascade funding calls on the funding and tenders portal <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls</a>. The following are three of the most relevant with forthcoming deadlines:

- **1. SmartAgriHubs** (Connecting the dots to unleash the innovation potential for digital transformation of the European agri-food sector) <a href="https://www.smartagrihubs.eu/portal/open-call">https://www.smartagrihubs.eu/portal/open-call</a>
  - RESTART & EXPAND open calls submit proposals until July 28<sup>th</sup> 2021. At several deadlines during that period, batches of proposals will be evaluated and can be started accordingly.
- **2. TRUBLO** (Trusted and reliable content on future blockchains) <a href="https://www.trublo.eu/apply/">https://www.trublo.eu/apply/</a> The TRUBLO Open Call aims to stimulate research teams led by developers, innovators, researchers, SMEs, entrepreneurs and academia to define and implement small scale research projects on one of two topics:



- Trust and reputation models on blockchains;
- Proof-of-validity and proof-of-location.

Expected duration of participation: 15-months programme split in 2 phases (9 + 6 months). Deadline: 19 March 2021, at 17:00 CET

- 3. S3FOOD "Smart Sensor System for Food Safety, Quality Control and Resource Efficiency in the Food Processing Industry" <a href="https://s3food.eu/">https://s3food.eu/</a> The scheme is meant to support SMEs from the food production and processing chain, digital solution providers or process technology providers to test and analyse for future development (e.g., market analysis, analysis of regulatory framework, etc.), to validate a digital solution for a new application case related to a selected challenge of the food sector and implement new digital solutions in real environment on site of the food company.
  - Innovation vouchers for SMEs Digital Innovation in the Food Industry. Deadline: 10 March 2021 at 17:00 (Brussels time)

## **Commission Consultations on new policies**

The following links to new policy area consultations are provided for information and awareness:

- Soil and Land in the EU
- Public consultation on the 'EU Action Plan Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition for air, water and soil'
- Public consultation on 'nature restoration targets'
- Public consultation on the 'new EU Forest Strategy'
- Public consultation on 'Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry review of EU rules'

# **ERASMUS+ - Seeking hosts for EU4EU Program**

EU4EU – European Universities for the EU program – facilitates the transition between university education and access to employment, through professional Erasmus + internships with focus on EU-funded projects at companies. EU4EU invites companies to register and seek international Erasmus + professional trainees to join their work teams. Host Organizations will host Trainees with Erasmus+ scholarships for professional internships in Europe, in 2021 and 2022. Registrations are open free of charge for Companies, Public institutions and No Profit Associations. Internships can be done remotely until the COVID emergency is overcome. Register on the <u>EU4EU PORTAL</u> and interview the best candidates, from 1 February until 15 March 2021. Contact info@eu4eu.org for information. More information:

- Announcement of Extraordinary Procedure EU4EU Opening of extraordinary procedure 2021
- Summary and the Rules to participate as Host Organizations EU4EU Summary and rules
- Guidelines to the registration process <u>How to join EU4EU</u>

**Note** – **ERASMUS+ under Horizon Europe**: Following the UK's decision not to participate in the new Erasmus+ programme, the Irish Government subsequently announced plans to facilitate continued access to Erasmus+ for third level Northern Ireland students. The Commission is still looking at the legality of this. Also, in NI DfE, which was not involved in advance of the announcement, will assess the potential implications from a Northern Ireland perspective.

## 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, with €110m funding already secured by H2020 projects including partners in both jurisdictions.

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 <a href="https://horizon2020@intertradeireland.com">horizon2020@intertradeireland.com</a> or download an application form from <a href="mailto:this.page">this.page</a>.