



Developments and thinking on Horizon Europe Funding for Cluster 6 ‘Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment’

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Northern Ireland – High Success Rate in Cluster 6

According to the most recent statistics, the overall success rate of applications to Horizon Europe is just over 16%. Under Horizon 2020 the success rate across all applications was 12%. Northern Ireland has submitted 204 proposals (227 individual applications) with 38 retained for funding – a success rate of 19%.



The SME Instrument and MSCA funding have always very high levels of applications, and consequently lower success rates. Pillar II (Clusters and Missions) has much higher success rates, and that in Cluster 6 is 26%, compared to 13% in Horizon 2020. The top ten applicant countries for Cluster 6 (ES, IT, DE, FR, BE, NL, UK, GR, PT, DK) all have success rates in the range 25-33%.

Northern Ireland submitted 38 proposals (47 individual applications) with 14 retained for funding (currently 11 signed grants) – a success rate of 37%. This means that more than a third of the success in NI in 2021-2022 was achieved from Cluster 6 grants. Beneficiaries are: Queen’s University with eight projects, Ulster University, Devenish Nutrition Ltd, AFBI and DAERA with one each.

Update on UK Participation in Horizon Europe

Following the announcement of the Windsor Framework, discussions between the Commission and UK Government to agree terms for association to Horizon Europe have recommenced. **The latest information on UK funding for Horizon Europe is available [here](#).**

Continue to apply to Horizon Europe: Successful UK Horizon Europe applicants will receive funding from UKRI regardless of the outcome of the UK’s efforts to associate with Horizon Europe. This applies to all Horizon Europe competitions with a final deadline date now extended to 30th June 2023, where the delay to UK association to the programme may prevent them from signing grant agreements. The latest data from UKRI [Horizon Europe guarantee: application and grant offer statistics](#) now include NI successful applications and grants up to the end of March 2023.

Advice for Applicants: UK is a candidate **Associated Country** (AC) and you should continue to apply as a full **beneficiary partner** with a Euro budget in any Horizon Europe proposal while UK still has AC status. Do not allow your organisation to be added as an **associated partner** and without a Euro budget in a proposal while UK is still seeking AC status, unless you are not seeking any funding for the project.

UK Horizon alternative ‘Pioneer Programme’

The UK Government has published its ‘[Pioneer Prospectus](#)’ for an alternative programme to Horizon Europe, should it be required if the UK and EU fail to agree association to Horizon Europe. This is intended to protect and support the UK research and innovation sector. It is possible also that elements of the programme could be delivered alongside Horizon Europe.

Horizon Europe Calls

Open Calls - Missions

The 2023 Missions call was launched by the Commission in January, opening on 10th January 2023 with the main deadline on 20th September 2023. There are 23 topics of relevance to the Cluster 6 area.

Mission: Ocean, seas and waters (11)

Mission: Soil health and food (9)

Mission: Adaptation to climate change (3)

Joint Call between Mission 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030 and Mission Adaptation to Climate Change (1)

Joint Call between Mission Restore our Ocean and Seas by 2030 and Mission A Soil Deal for Europe (1)

Info Days took place on 17th and 18th January. Links to the recorded videos are available on the [event webpage](#). The missions Work Programme for 2023-2024 can be downloaded [here](#).

Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 Mission

The Horizon Europe work programme will invest €118.7 million to boost Mission Ocean and Waters projects in 2023. Info Day Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqGs3pQrBvA>

Note. Mission activity is based on ‘basins’. Research outside of these areas is eligible, providing it has application or contributes to implementation within the target basin.

Objective 1 - Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity	
HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-01	European Blue Parks – Protection and restoration of marine habitats
HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-02	Danube river basin lighthouse – Demonstration of effective and sustainable management of sediments in the Danube river-Black sea system
HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-03	Atlantic and Arctic sea basin lighthouse – Addressing climate change and human activities threats to marine biodiversity
HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-04	European natural lakes: demonstration of integrated approaches for protection and restoration of natural lake ecosystems and their biodiversity
Objective 3 – Sustainable, carbon-neutral and circular Blue economy	
HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-05	Lighthouse in the Baltic and the North Sea basins - Lighthouse in the Baltic and the North Sea basins - Green and energy-efficient small-scale fishing fleets
HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-06	Cross-basin topic - Innovative nature-inclusive concepts to reconcile offshore renewables with ocean protection
HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-07	Cross-basin topic - Analysis of the obstacles and opportunities for repurposing aged/unused offshore infrastructures
Mission Enabling activities: Digital Ocean and Water Knowledge System, public mobilisation and engagement, dynamic investment ecosystem	
HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-08	Integration of socio-ecological models into the Digital Twin Ocean
HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-09	Roadmap towards the integration of inland waters into the Digital Twin Ocean
HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-10	Choose your fish: a campaign for responsible consumption of products from the sea
HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-11	Ocean & water and arts: the contribution of creative sectors to Mission Ocean and waters

A Soil Deal for Europe Mission

The Horizon Europe work programme will invest €126 million to boost Soil Deal for Europe Mission projects in 2023. Info Day recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpUFbYR6_Mg

HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-01	Discovering the subsoil
HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-02	Soil pollution processes – modelling and inclusion in advanced digital decision-support tools
HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-03	Onsite digital technologies to monitor nutrients and chemical or biological stressors in soil and plants with relevance for food safety and nutrition
HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-04	Innovations to prevent and combat desertification
HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-05	Soil-friendly practices in horticulture, including alternative growing media

HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-06	Soils in spatial planning
HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-07	Back to earth: bringing communities and citizens closer to soil
HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-08	Co-creating solutions for soil health in Living Labs
HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-09	Carbon farming in living labs

The [NATIOONS Project](#) (National engagement activities to support the launch of the Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' 100 Living Labs and Lighthouses) presented its planned activities at the info day. These include:

- **Training of Mentors/Coaches.** NATIOONS will train professionals to coach stakeholders at national level in the issues specific for the soil Living Lab calls. The NICP, Elaine Groom has been trained as a UK national mentor through NATIOONS.
- **National Engagement Sessions.** NATIOONS presented at a UK Soil Mission event on 1st March and a UK engagement session is planned for next year. A recording of the Irish National Engagement Session can be watched here: <https://nati00ns.eu/events/national-engagement-event-eu-soil-mission-ireland>.
- **Matchmaking.** NATIOONS manages online matchmaking, enabling international stakeholders to meet online for creating partnerships and establish Living Labs or Lighthouses in line with the EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe. Link for registration: <https://nati00ns.eu/matchmaking-opportunities>

Adaptation to climate Change Mission

Call - Demonstration of climate resilience solutions in support of the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2023-CLIMA-01-01	Testing and demonstrating transformative solutions increasing climate resilience of the agriculture and/or forestry sector.
HORIZON-MISS-2023-CLIMA-01-02	Testing and demonstrating transformative solutions to protect critical infrastructure from climate change, mainstreaming nature based solutions.
HORIZON-MISS-2023-CLIMA-01-03	Testing and demonstrating transformative solutions to build resilience towards health risks caused by the effects of climate change

Cross Mission topics

Joint Call between Mission 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030 and Mission Adaptation to Climate Change - Opens 10 Jan 2023; Deadline 27 Apr 2023

HORIZON-MISS-2023-CLIMA-CITIES-01-01	Urban greening and re-naturing for urban regeneration, resilience and climate neutrality
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Joint Call between Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030, Mission Adaptation to Climate Change and Mission A Soil Deal for Europe - Opens 17 Jan 2023; Deadline 20 Sept 2023

HORIZON-MISS-2023-CLIMA-OCEAN-SOIL-01-01	Mission Climate adaptation, Mission Ocean & waters and Mission Soil Deal for Europe – Joint demonstration of an integrated approach to increasing landscape water retention capacity at regional scale
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Forthcoming Call: Circular Bio-Based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)

The second annual call of the Public-Private Partnership – the Circular Bio-Based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) - will open on 26th April. CBE JU calls follow the rules and procedures of [Horizon Europe](#).



- Call identifier: **HORIZON-JU-CBE-2023**
- Call launch: **26 April 2023**
- Call deadline: **20 September 2023 17:00 CET**
- Call budget: **€215.5 million**

Call details, the topics available and details of how to apply can be found on the CBE-JU [Apply for Funding](#) page. Check the [Annual Work Programme 2023](#) for the complete topic text, conditions and requirements, and the [FAQ](#) for the frequently asked questions. The topics for submission will also be published on the [Funding & tender opportunities portal](#).

CBE JU Info Day 2023

The recording of the info day which took place on 20th April is available on [the event webpage](#). This is an opportunity to gain insights into the CBE JU call 2023 and to have a better understanding of:

- The submission & evaluation of proposals
- Call management rules & conditions
- How to write a good CBE JU proposal

If you are considering applying for the CBE JU call for project proposals 2023 or are interested in developing contacts for future collaboration in the area of the Circular bioeconomy, the [CBE JU networking platform](#), which is open until 31 December 2023, will allow you to:

- Create your profile and explain your organisation, experience, project ideas and services you offer
- Express your interest in one or several CBE JU Call 2023 topics
- Find partners for your project proposal or join a consortium in development
- Direct messaging and Scheduling b2b meetings

Forthcoming: Cluster 6 Calls 2024 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment'

Calls for 2023 under Cluster 6 have now closed. The Cluster 6 work programme for 2023-2024 can be downloaded from the Funding and Tenders Portal [here](#). The following list provides a link to each of the individual calls on the Funding and Tenders Portal where topics can be viewed, along with the terms and conditions.

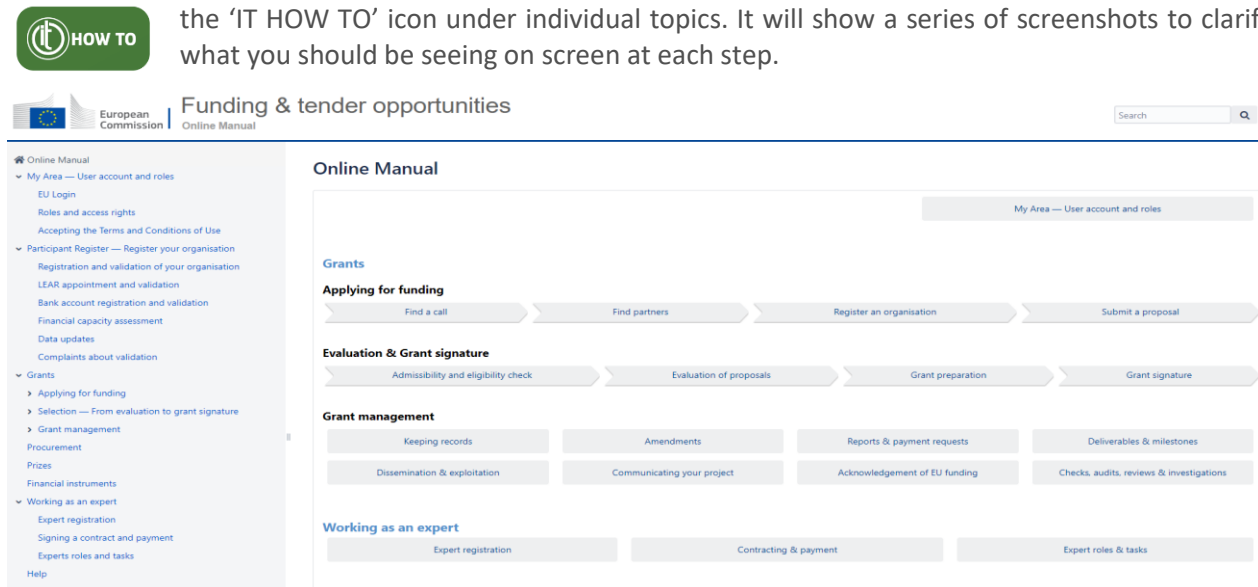
- Destination 1 - Biodiversity and ecosystem services ([Biodiv](#) call 2024 - 12 topics)
- Destination 2 - Fair, healthy and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption ([Farm2Fork](#) call 2024 – 18 topics)
- Destination 3 - Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors ([CircBio](#) call 2024 – 16 topics)
- Destination 4 - Clean environment and zero pollution ([ZeroPollution](#) call 2024 – 5 topics)
- Destination 5 - Land, ocean and water for climate action ([Climate](#) call 2024 – 7 topics)
- Destination 6 - Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities ([Communities](#) call 2024 – 5 topics)
- Destination 7 - Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal ([Governance](#) call 2024 – 12 topics)

The 2024 calls are expected to open on 17 October 2023, with deadlines in February and March 2024. If you would like to discuss how your interests and ideas might fit into the forthcoming calls, and explore the next steps to take, please do get in touch and arrange a time to discuss them with NICP Elaine Groom (contact details below).

Common mistakes to avoid when applying for Horizon Europe funding

Submitting a project proposal under Horizon Europe is a challenging task that requires careful planning, precise budgeting, and a seamless collaboration with partners. The European Research Executive Agency has prepared a useful webpage listing some Dos and Don'ts to help you prepare a quality proposal [Common mistakes to avoid when applying for Horizon Europe funding](#).

The [Horizon Europe On Line Manual](#) is another valuable source of guidance and information. Look out for the 'IT HOW TO' icon under individual topics. It will show a series of screenshots to clarify what you should be seeing on screen at each step.



The screenshot shows the 'Online Manual' interface. On the left is a navigation menu with categories like 'My Area', 'Participant Register', 'Grants', and 'Working as an expert'. The main content area is titled 'Online Manual' and features a 'My Area — User account and roles' button. Below this, there are three main sections: 'Grants' with a flowchart for 'Applying for funding' (Find a call, Find partners, Register an organisation, Submit a proposal) and 'Evaluation & Grant signature' (Admissibility and eligibility check, Evaluation of proposals, Grant preparation, Grant signature); 'Grant management' with a grid of tasks like 'Keeping records', 'Amendments', 'Reports & payment requests', 'Deliverables & milestones', 'Dissemination & exploitation', 'Communicating your project', 'Acknowledgement of EU funding', and 'Checks, audits, reviews & investigations'; and 'Working as an expert' with 'Expert registration', 'Contracting & payment', and 'Expert roles & tasks'.

Other Opportunities

Cascading funding (Funding managed by on-going projects)

Opportunities for cascading funding (calls issued by projects) can be found [here on the Funding and Tenders Portal](#). Calls that are currently open and relevant to the Cluster 6 area include the EIT Food Public Engagement Proof of Concepts Call for Proposals (Deadline 15th August 2023).

ICRAD Era-Net – ‘Helminth infections and changing climate: tackling the challenges for animal health’.

Animal health research funders, from 8 countries **including DEFRA in UK** will fund research that will focus on the impacts of helminth disease and climate change on livestock health, together with development of control strategies such as novel vaccine and diagnostic technologies.

DEFRA encourage applications in respect of the ICRAD call and anticipate a contribution up to €1.65M. Proposals are encouraged within a maximum UK budget of €0.825m per proposal. See Page 41 of the [call announcement](#) for Funding Contact Point details.

Research Area 1: Research to improve understanding of anthelmintic resistance mechanisms, the impacts of anthelmintic resistance on livestock health, and development of tools to help diagnose, prevent, and manage it.

Research Area 2: Research to increase understanding of the impacts of climate change and vector borne diseases on animal health, including development of tools to prevent, prepare and respond to animal health emergencies triggered by climate change.

Research Area 3: Research to support the development of novel and improved vaccine and diagnostic tools and platforms will be supported, as will research to assess the utility and efficacy of existing technology platforms. Proposals with a focus on anthelmintic vaccines, or which include an industrial partner are strongly encouraged in this research area.

- a. **Vaccine Technology Platforms** Robust and flexible vaccine platform technologies, fit for multiple, and rapidly changeable vaccine targets, can reduce the technical and regulatory time for vaccines against emerging pathogens.
- b. **Diagnostic Technology Platforms** Novel and point of care diagnostic platforms are needed to accurately detect disease presence in animals. Although reagents are available to develop diagnostics in many animal species, these are not always practical in the field or effective at detecting the presence or exposure to pathogens. We are particularly interested in proposals that focus on the development of novel vaccines or diagnostic tools targeting helminths.

Introductory Webinar 20th April 2023. <https://www.icrad.eu/portfolio-items/third-icrad-call-introductory-webinar-20-april-2023/>

ICRAD Call 3 Webpage <https://www.icrad.eu/call-3/>

Partner Search Platform <https://www.submission-icrad.eu/partner-search>

Germany Bilateral: Collaborative R&D

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, will work with The Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz (BMWK), (The Federal Ministry For Economic Affairs And Climate Action), to invest up to £4 million in innovation projects. This competition has an open scope. UK registered organisations must apply to and will be funded by Innovate UK. German partners will be funded by BMWK and must apply to the [German ZIM programme](#). Both UK and German applications must be successful to receive grant funding. The aim of this competition is to support UK and German business-led collaboration in innovation with grant funding. Innovate UK will support UK businesses to collaborate successfully with German counterparts and build your global growth prospects.

Proposals must contribute to the development of commercial products, processes or technical services and must have an obvious advantage and added value as a result of the cooperation between the participants from the two countries. Examples of these could be increased innovation capability, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure or new fields of application.

The matchmaking website is a virtual marketplace to search and profile project opportunities as well as facilitate partner-matching for the UK – Germany Bilateral: Collaborative R&D call.

- Online Applicant Briefing: 8 February 2023 – UK organisations ([recording here](#))
- Competition closes: 7 June 2023 11.00am (GMT)
- Applicants notified: 1 September 2023

MSCA Ireland - Promotional Event for MSCA Doctoral Networks call 2023

The Irish Marie Skłodowska-Curie Office is hosting a webinar on the MSCA Doctoral Networks call 2023. The call is open to all disciplines and sectors and funds consortia of organisations (universities, research institutions, businesses, SMEs, charities, and other non-academic organisations) to implement doctoral training programmes. The objective of these networks is to train highly skilled doctoral candidates, stimulate their creativity, enhance their innovation capacities, and boost their employability in the long-term.

Note re UK Participation: If interested in MSCA, please keep abreast of progress on UK Association to Horizon Europe. If UK becomes a Third Country (does not agree association) UK partners are not eligible to recruit students or receive direct funding as a beneficiary. In this case you can still be part of a network and host (unpaid) a student for a 3-month secondment – **placements in industry are much valued and indeed necessary for most applications**. This can still be a valuable experience, especially as a first experience of Horizon Europe.

When: 26 April 2023, 11:00 – 12:30 (Irish time)

Register in advance at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KpBAAFBEQbOrtyv4mkwalg

COST Actions - Info Day

The COST programme (Cooperation in Science and Technology) (www.cost.eu) is an EU programme supporting the development of bottom-up interdisciplinary networks lasting for four years. For more information on COST Actions see the Open Call Announcement on the [Documents and Guidelines](#) page.

The next collection date for proposals for evaluation is 24th October.

In advance of this, the Info Day is open to all researchers and innovators at any career stage and from any field of research, especially young researchers, as well as R&I staff. The aim is to inform researchers and innovators about how to connect with COST Actions or submit a COST Action proposal, the role and impact of the COST programme, and the benefits of participating in COST for researchers' careers, with a focus on young researchers.

Date: 24 May 09.00-11.00 (UK Time)

Registration in advance is required to receive the active link for the webinar <https://cost.eu/cost-events/online-cost-info-day-2023/...>

The COST scheme is independent of Horizon Europe. **UK applicants are eligible and can contact COST@beis.gov.uk for free advice.**



Conferences, Seminars and Events



2023 EU AgriResearch Conference

Knowledge, innovation and skills for sustainable horizons.

This event will provide an overview of European research and innovation activities and their achievements in agriculture, forestry and rural development. Participants will also be invited to share their views on how to shape the future EU agricultural research and innovation agenda.

Registration and details: [2023 EU AgriResearch Conference](#) (Registration deadline - 1st May)

When: Wednesday 31 May 2023, 13:30 CEST - Thursday 1 June 2023, 18:00 CEST

Where: Brussels, Belgium

Livestream (for those not attending in person): Starts on Wednesday 31 May 2023, 12:00 CEST

Who should attend: Agricultural Research and Innovation stakeholders

European Healthy Soils Conference



The topic Healthy Soils is a key element of the European Soil Strategy. This first edition of the European Healthy Soils Conference Series will address the relevance of healthy soils and soil fertility as prerequisite for a functioning society, environment, economy, and climate. The 3-day conference aims to bring together soil scientists, along with stakeholders from industry, agriculture, and the public sector, to discuss the maintenance of and opportunities in healthy soils.

Dates: 13 September 2023 15 September 2023, Muttenz, Switzerland

Details and Registration: <https://www.efbiotechnology.org/healthysouils>

Commission Webinars

- [Two factor authentication becoming mandatory in the Funding & Tenders Portal – all you need to know](#) **Date:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 - 09:00 (10:00H to 12:00H CEST, Brussels time); Organised by the European Commission, this webinar is designed for all users of the Funding and Tenders Portal. **Website:** <https://ec.europa.eu/research/partici...>
- [Lump Sum Funding in Horizon Europe: How does it work? How to write a proposal?](#) **Date:** Thursday 11 May 2023 **Time:** 10:00 - 12:00pm (CEST) **Target group:** Applicants and beneficiaries who are or will be involved in lump sum grants.
- [Info session on Horizon Results Booster – steering research towards a strong societal impact](#) **Date:** Wednesday 24 May 2023 **Time:** 10:00 - 12:30pm (CEST)
- [Coordinators' Day on Horizon Europe Grant Management](#) **Date:** Thursday 8 June 2023 **Time:** 09:30 - 1:00pm (CEST)

UK Department for Transport Call for Environmental Experts

The Department for Transport is looking for environmental experts for scientific and technical consultation. One of the issues with DfT expert engagement is that they have access to plenty of engineers, chemists and computer scientists but they are trying to also build a bank of environmental scientists. This is the link to the recruitment ([| College of Experts, Department for Transport \(cabinetoffice.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/college-of-experts-department-for-transport)) and the deadlines are quite tight so if you are interested please have a look as soon as possible.

The Northern Ireland Contact Point Network

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 Horizon 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

NICP Network Bulletin

NICP Horizon Europe Newsletter Issue 2 (November 2022) is now available on the NICP website [here](#). Issue 3 is under development. You can sign up with email subscription for the NICP Network Bulletin at <https://horizoneuropeni.com/> and follow us on Twitter @HORIZONEUROPE NI

NICP Cluster 6 Newsletter

Previous editions of this Cluster 6 newsletter are available for download: <https://horizoneuropeni.com/cluster-6-newsletter-archive/>



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