



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

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### UK Participation in Horizon Europe

The UK’s association to the world-leading Horizon Europe and Copernicus programmes was officially signed today (Monday 4 December) in Brussels. The **UK will be an Associated Country to the Horizon Europe Programme from 01 January 2024**; full details [here](#).

All calls within the 2024 Horizon Europe Work Programmes and beyond will be funded by the UK’s Association to Horizon Europe.



- UK will be listed as an ‘Associated Country’ with full rights equivalent to those of Member States for grant funding for the 4 years (2024-2027) remaining of the Horizon Europe programme.
- We will once again be a full beneficiary partner, signing the grant agreements with the Commission.
- **Funding for successful projects will come directly from the European Commission.**



The UK Government Horizon Europe guarantee remains active and has been extended to cover any remaining Horizon Europe grant calls under the 2023 Work Programme. **If you are successful in a proposal under the 2023 work programme, you will still have to apply for funding from the UK Guarantee even if the grant agreement signature and project commencement are after 01 January 2024.**

Q&A on UK Association [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_23\\_4373](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_23_4373)

## Open Calls relevant to Agri-Food, Environment and Bioeconomy etc.

### Cluster 6 ‘Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment’ 2024

List of open calls under Cluster 6: Submit your proposal by 22 February 2024:

- 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

#### Supporting information for Cluster 6 activity:

- Information Days: Link to [recordings](#) from the Commission’s Information days
- Full Work Programme: The Cluster 6 Work Programme 2023-2024 (PDF) can be found [HERE](#).
- Link to all Cluster 6 topics open for application [on the Funding and Tenders Portal](#).
- Information Page from REA (the Research Executive Agency manages Cluster 6 calls and projects on behalf of the Commission) [LINK](#)
- Brokerage event: For applicants interested in finding potential collaboration partners, the CARE4BIO network provides a [matchmaking portal](#) for the Horizon Europe Cluster 6 - Calls 2024. The website will stay open for registration and matchmaking until 25th December 2023.
- CARE4BIO has also published annotated proposal templates for proposals under Cluster 6. The comments are intended to provide guidance to applicants and are based on the current knowledge of Cluster 6 NCPs.
  - [CARE4BIO Coordination and Support Action \(CSA\) Annotated Template](#)
  - [CARE4BIO RIA IA 1st stage Annotated Template](#)
  - [CARE4BIO RIA IA \(full proposal\) Annotated Template](#)

## **Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space**

- [Horizon-CL4-2024-resilience-01-35](#) **Biodegradable polymers for sustainable packaging materials.** Innovation Action; Two stage; total budget €31M; expecting to fund up to 4 grants, €6-8M each; Opening date; 19 September 2023. Deadlines; 07 February 2024 (Stage 1); 24 September 2024 (Stage 2)

## **Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility**

- [Climate sciences and responses \(HORIZON-CL5-2024-D1-01\)](#) (cross-cutting relevance to Cluster 6)  
Deadline 05 March 2024
  - [HORIZON-CL5-2024-D1-01-01](#): Enhanced quantification and understanding of natural and anthropogenic methane emissions and sinks
  - [HORIZON-CL5-2024-D1-01-04](#): Improved toolbox for evaluating the climate and environmental impacts of trade policies
  - [HORIZON-CL5-2024-D1-01-05](#): Next generation low-emission, climate-resilient pathways and NDCs for a future aligned with the Paris Agreement
  - [HORIZON-CL5-2024-D1-01-06](#): The role of climate change foresight for primary and secondary raw materials supply
  - [HORIZON-CL5-2024-D1-01-07](#): Quantification of the role of key terrestrial ecosystems in the carbon cycle and related climate effects

## **Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions – Staff Exchanges**

MSCA Staff Exchanges enhancing the research and innovation potential of organisations through staff mobility. They stimulate innovation, transfer knowledge, and boost the careers of researchers working in academia or industry. Consortia may submit a proposal in any scientific or technical area.

- [HORIZON-MSCA-2023-SE-01-01](#) MSCA Staff Exchanges 2023 (NB. 2023 Work Programme – funded under UK Guarantee)

Funds international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research collaborations. Note staff salaries are not funded – this should be work you are already doing (not funded by European funding) – the grant will fund travel expenses during exchanges to further the objectives of the planned research collaboration.

**An online info session is scheduled for 8 December 2023** The agenda and webstream link is available on the European Research Executive Agency [webpage](#).

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## **Forthcoming Calls**

### **Circular Bio-Based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)**

In preparation for the 2024 call, the [CBE JU Stakeholder Forum 2023](#) 'What next for the European bio-based sector?' will take place in Brussels on the 6-7 December. The forum will focus on three questions that are crucial for the successful development of the circular bio-based sector across Europe:

- How to stimulate demand for circular bio-based solutions?
- How to facilitate access to finance to scale up circular bio-based production in Europe
- What R&I do we need to keep European leadership in the bio-based sector in the medium-long term?

In advance of the publication of the draft annual work programme check out the [CBE JU Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) (SRIA), which sets out detail of areas to be funded (and pay attention to what has already been funded in calls in the last two years – see 'Apply for Funding' => 'Closed Calls for Proposals').

The Annual Work Programme is expected in Spring 2024. If it follows the pattern of previous years the call is likely to open in June with a deadline in September.

### Missions

Updated work programmes with details of 2024 Calls are imminent for the [EU Missions](#), including 'A Soil Deal for Europe' and 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030'.

Calls may follow the pattern of last year (opening in January 2023; deadline in September). The missions Work Programme for 2023-2024 can be downloaded [here](#) but note that as of 04 Dec 2023 this only shows details for the 2023 calls.

### European Innovation Council Info Day for Work Programme 2024 (Pillar 3)

- The [European Innovation Council](#) will host an Information Day for the Work Programme 2024 on **14 December 2023** (8:00-16:15 UK time).
- The event will be held online and will focus on the EIC funding opportunities in 2024. In addition, an overview of the achievements of previously funded projects will be presented.

#### Supporting information for other areas of activity:

- [UK National Contact Point \(NCP\) Events 'What is Horizon Europe' 1 hour Introduction and 'How to Build or Lead a consortia in Horizon Europe' Overview](#) - 6 Dec 2023 (online)
- [Opportunities in Horizon Europe - Digital Research and Innovation](#) - 29 Dec 2023
- [European Commission Infodays on Horizon Europe Research Infrastructures funding](#) - recording and slides available.

#### Horizon Implementation Days 2023 webinars

- Finding opportunities and submitting a proposal in Horizon Europe [Weblink](#)
- Grant Agreement Preparation in Horizon Europe [Weblink](#)
- Grant Management in Horizon Europe [Weblink](#)
- [Lump Sum Funding in Horizon Europe: How does it work? How to write a proposal?](#) Please also see the EC's website on [lump sum funding in Horizon Europe](#).

#### Trade secrets in Horizon Europe

- In a recent news article EU IP Helpdesk says that project partners should keep in mind that the reporting and dissemination obligations applicable in Horizon Europe are not a barrier to trade secret protection. Advice and general guidelines are summarised: [Safeguarding trade secrets in Horizon Europe \(europa.eu\)](#).

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## Other Funding Opportunities

### JPIAMR forthcoming research call on AMR interventions

The Joint Programming Initiative on AntiMicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR) will launch a competition for funding for international collaborative research projects aiming to improve, compare and evaluate the effectiveness, cost effectiveness, and uptake of existing interventions against bacterial or fungal infections and/or to design new interventions against fungal infections. This involves 21 funding organisations from 19 countries **including funders from UK** and has an estimated total call budget of over 19 M€. It will fund:

- Interventions to counteract the emergence and spread of bacterial and fungal resistance and to improve treatments.

- Opens 10 January 2024 – a live webinar for applicants is planned for 24th of January 2024 – details will be updated on the call page.
- For topic details and out-of-scope sub-topics [read more \(call page\)](#).

### Tenfold NetZero Challenge Accelerator Programme

Digital Catapult and DAERA have launched a Tenfold NetZero Accelerator Programme pilot project in Northern Ireland. The aim of this is to begin development of an innovation ecosystem and to identify up to six challenges from organisations within sectors under DAERA’s remit that would benefit from innovative digital solutions and take them to the proof of concept stage. **Further Details:** [Link](#)

**Who should apply:** Northern Ireland-based businesses in Agri-food, environment, marine and fisheries, forestry and rural affairs who are facing challenges in the drive towards NetZero within their industry and want to tackle these real-world problems together with small groups of highly talented, carefully selected innovators. **Closing date:** Friday 19 January 2024

### Forthcoming: EIT Food Public Engagement Proof of Concepts Call for Proposals

EIT Food is looking for innovative public engagement project ideas with the potential for societal impact, to be tested in a Proof of Concept (PoC) phase. A Proof of Concept is a scoping exercise to test whether an idea, a certain concept or approach when turned into reality, would bring societal impact as envisioned.

Via this call, EIT Food offers an opportunity for individual organisations or small consortia to spend sufficient time on testing and demonstrating the relevance of the proposed approach for establishing the societal impact feasibility of the idea.

**Deadline:** 15 August 2024, at 12.00 (CEST - Brussels time)

**Expected duration of participation:** Activities may last up to 6 months

**Further information:** [Public Engagement Call 2023 - Proof of Concepts - EIT Food](#)

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## Looking Ahead

### European Commission’s Research and Innovation (R&I) Days 2024

The R&I Days 2024 will take place on **20 and 21 March 2024** both **physically in Brussels and online**. This annual flagship research and innovation event brings together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and the public to discover successful EU-funded research and innovation projects and debate the importance of continued investment in research and innovation.

**NB.** This is part of the Commission’s engagement with stakeholders to assess needs and influence development of the next work programmes.



Find out more: [European Commission Research and Innovation \(R&I\) Days 2024](#)

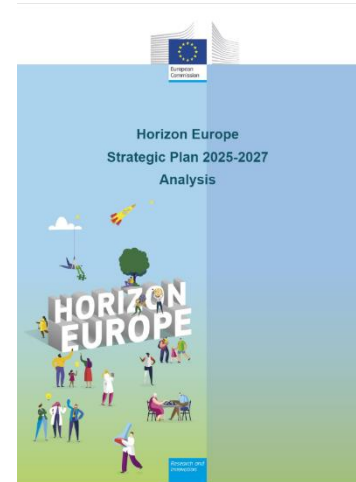


### Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027 Analysis

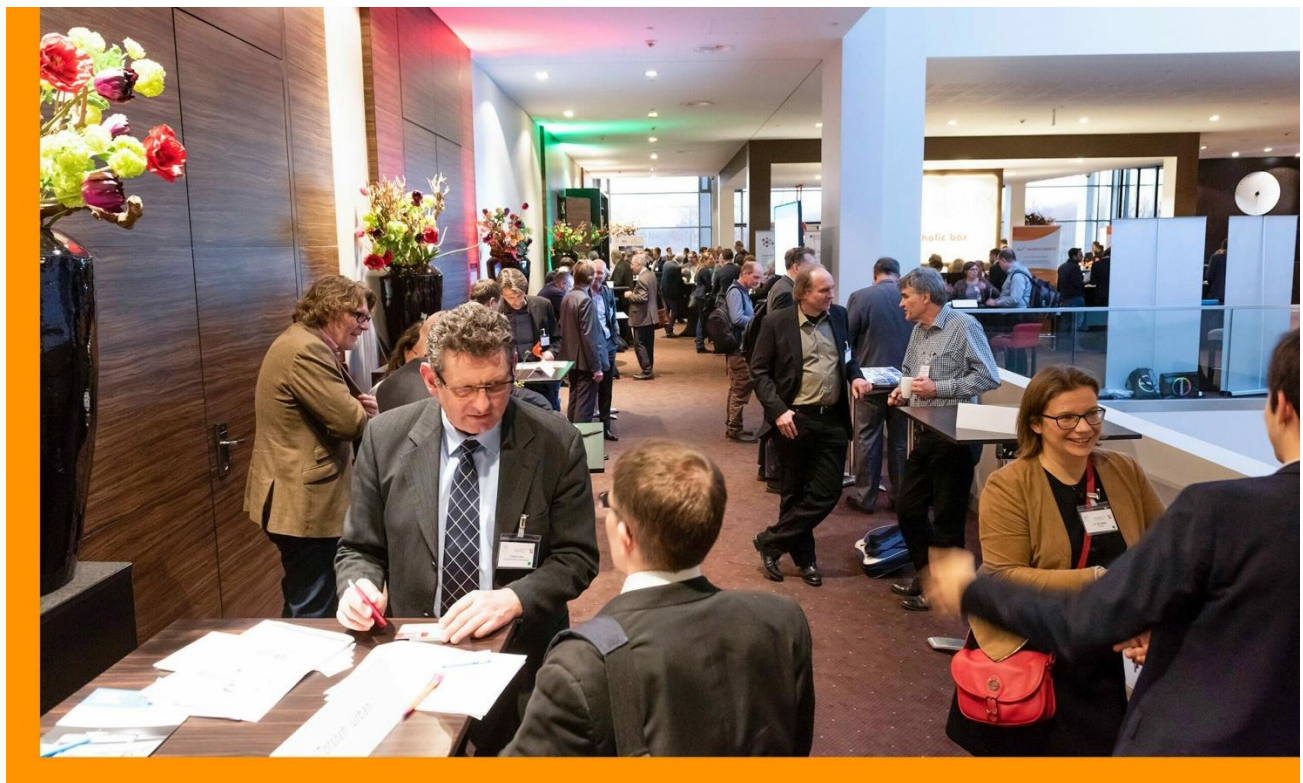
The Horizon Europe Strategic Plan defined the main orientations for the research and innovation investments over the period **2021-2024** for the European Union. In 2024 we are now at the mid-way point for Horizon Europe and a gap analysis of what has been funded and what remains requiring investment and intervention underpins the development of the next Horizon Europe Strategic Plan.

This gives an insight into what might be in the forthcoming work programmes under each “Intervention Area”. Here is a summary of the Commission’s Gap Analysis for Cluster 6 areas in advance of development of WPs for 2025-2027. LINK: [Draft Horizon Europe Strategic plan 2025-2027](#)

For Cluster 6 we have been told there will be a single year work programme for 2025. The Commission will begin drafting it after adoption of the Strategic Plan 2025-2027 in Q1 of 2024, and we will expect publication probably in September or early October 2024. This will be followed by a two-year work programme for 2026-2027.



### European Networking Event “Successful R&I in Europe



This is a very long running and successful networking and matchmaking event organised by the regional development office in North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany. Participants invited as speakers give a short presentation (ideas and/or results) with a focus on Horizon Europe calls, with the aim of finding future potential collaborators or becoming involved in established and new technology networks between researchers, entrepreneurs and multipliers related to Horizon Europe.

You can submit a pitch to become a speaker. If you are accepted the conference fee is waived and you get to present your idea and meet potential partners. The deadline for submitting proposals in the call for

presentations is **12 January 2024**. For others, seeking to meet speakers and other participants, a fee is charged. The registration deadline is **8 February 2024**.

[Successful R&I in Europe](#) 2024 will take place on 15-16 February at the Van der Valk Airport hotel, Düsseldorf, Germany.

### Future collaboration opportunities in energy and climate resilience and adaptation

As part of the [RIPEET project final event](#) in January 2024, ERRIN will host a **future collaboration opportunities session**, which will see the active participation of RIPEET pilot ecosystems and partners, and ERRIN Working Groups.

With the aim of further supporting its members in the **development of successful project proposals related to stakeholders' engagement** in the field of **energy, climate resilience and adaptation and built environment**, ERRIN has created a brief survey on upcoming calls. ERRIN members and their regional ecosystems are invited to express their interest by completing the [online survey](#) by **6 January 2024**.

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## 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 @HORIZONEUROPENI

### 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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