



Accessing Funding in the areas of 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'

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Forthcoming Calls

The Commission published final versions of the work programmes for 2026-2027 on 11th December. Calls open from mid-January. **All published work programmes can be found on this page:** [Horizon Europe work programmes - Research and innovation](#). Learn more about the forthcoming funding opportunities at each INFO DAY.

Call area: Cluster 6 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'

The EC's Research Executive Agency (REA), which manages Cluster 6 calls, has summarised information on the [Cluster 6-related web-page](#).

- **Call Documents:** [Work Programme 2026-27](#)
- **Info days:** 22-23 January 2026 from 08:00 (GMT+00:00); Link: [info days - Cluster 6](#)
- **Matchmaking:** 21 Jan 2026, Brussels, Belgium - [Horizon Europe on-site Matchmaking for Cluster 6 - Calls 2026](#) (Fully booked; may reopen for online after event)



Funding opportunities are broken down by call and area; each call has a link to the individual topics on the

Funding & Tenders Portal. The areas are:

Biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Single-stage (7 topics) - Next call for proposals opens on 17 April 2026
- Two-stage (3 topics) - Next call for proposals opens on 12 February 2026

Fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food systems from primary production to consumption

- Single-stage (14 topics) - Next call for proposals opens on 14 January 2026
- Two-stage (2 topics) - Next call for proposals opens on 12 February 2026

Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors

- Single-stage (11 topics) - Next call for proposals opens on 17 April 2026
- Two-stage (2 topics) - Next call for proposals opens on 12 February 2026

Clean environment and zero pollution

- Single-stage (3 topics) - Next call for proposals opens on 17 April 2026
- Two-stage (1 topic) - Next call for proposals opens on 12 February 2026

Land, oceans and water for climate action

- Single-stage (1 topic) - Next call for proposals opens on 12 February 2026

Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities

- Single-stage (1 topic) - Next call for proposals opens on 14 January 2026

Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal

- Single-stage (10 topics) - Next call for proposals opens on 14 January 2026
- Single-stage (1 topic) - Next call for proposals opens on 25 August 2026
- Two-stage (1 topic) - Next call for proposals opens on 12 February 2026

Call area: EU Missions

- **Call Documents:** [EU Missions Work Programme 2026/2027](#).
- **Info days:** 20-21 January 2026 from 08:00 (GMT+00:00)
Link: [Horizon Europe info days - EU Missions](#)
- **Matchmaking:** 28-29 January 2026 - [ONLINE-Registration Open: EU Missions Brokerage Event 2026](#)
- **Matchmaking (for Soil Mission Living Labs):** Online – anytime – [SOILL - Online Matchmaking for Soil Health Living Labs and Lighthouses](#)



It is not too late to find partners and join a consortium addressing the mission calls. Companies, Local Authorities and those with specialist local knowledge of locations for ‘on-the-ground’ action are especially needed in collaborative proposals.

EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe

- Single-stage (6 topics) – Next call for proposals opens on 4 February 2026
- Two-stage (1 topic) – Next call for proposals opens on 12 February 2026

EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission.

- Single-stage (5 topics)- Next call for proposals opens on 4 February 2026

(note the Ocean Mission topics have not yet been published on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal)

Call area: Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)

The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) is a €2 billion partnership between the European Union and the [Bio-based Industries Consortium \(BIC\)](#). Together they fund projects under the rules of [Horizon Europe](#) in an annual call for proposals to advance competitive circular bio-based industries in Europe.

- **Call Documents:** The new work programme for 2026 was published on 15th December: [€170.7 million for new bio-based innovations | Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking \(CBE JU\)](#).
- **Info days:** 12 March 2026 – Online- [CBE JU Info Day 2026](#)
- **Matchmaking:** - online - a networking and partner search site for those seeking partners is [under construction](#).
- **Networking Event:** 21 April 2026 – Brussels - [CBE JU Networking Event](#)

The call for proposals will open on 23 April and close on 22 September 2026. Here is the list of topics:

- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-01: Boosting biorefinery competitiveness through biotech
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-02: SSbD bio-based alternatives for fertilising and/or crop protection products
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-03: SSbD bio-based solutions for home and/or personal care
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-04: Diversification of nutritional food ingredient sources for increased EU resilience and strategic autonomy
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-01: Biotech routes for valorisation of residual biomass
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-02: Bio-based additives as alternatives to unlock and increase recyclability and/or biodegradability
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-03: Bio-based chemicals and/or materials from woody residues
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-04 High-performance, circular-by-design, bio-based thermosets
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-05: Films and coatings for circular packaging
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-RIA-01: Addressing separation and purification challenges in biorefineries
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-RIA-02- SSbD bio-based polymers from alternative sources
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-RIA-03-Develop breakthrough and sustainable bio-based textile fibres
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-CSA-01: Supporting industry in the switch to sustainable and circular bio-based products and processes

CBE JU Stakeholder Forum 2026

The CBE JU Stakeholder Forum 2026 will focus on ***‘Driving Impact – Bio-based innovation for a competitive, sustainable Europe’*** and take place on **24 March 2026** at The Square, Brussels. The event will explore how CBE JU stakeholders’ community is delivering real impact for Europe’s competitiveness and resilience, supporting the green transition and how it continues driving change.

The forum will bring together more than 400 representatives from the circular bio-based sector, including primary producers, industry, policymakers and researchers to reflect on the lessons learned and discuss the role of CBE JU in unleashing the full potential of Europe's bioeconomy. It will be a platform to discuss how to scale up bio-based innovations, support market uptake, ensure better access to finance, create green jobs and ultimately drive sustainable economic growth. [Registrations are now open for the CBE JU Stakeholder Forum 2026](#). See also (longer term) research priorities in the CBE JU [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#).

Addressing the Needs of Primary Producers

Earlier this year CBE JU set up a [Working group on primary producers](#) to address the challenges that primary producers face in ensuring that they benefit from being part of new and innovative circular and bio-

based value chains. There are no UK Working Group [Members](#); the following Irish organisations are members: Bantry Marine Research Station; CAP Network Ireland; Ceres Consulting; Commercial Mushroom Producers; Irish Co-operative Organisation Society; Irish Farm Accounting Cooperative; Redrose Developments Ltd (Forbiarti Rosrua Teoranta).

Finding partners and developing proposals

Cluster 6, Mission and CBE JU proposals are collaborative; most requiring at least three independent legal entities from different countries in line with eligibility rules. Do read this very comprehensive [Factsheet on Horizon Europe consortium building \(PDF\)](#), which is full of advice and tips.

Before you seek to connect with others do make sure your proposed contribution(s) are appropriate. Understand what work has been previously funded: are your ideas novel enough? Are they ambitious enough? Do your interests still fall in a 'hot area' or are they 'done to death'? CORDIS <https://cordis.europa.eu/> provides a database of projects the EU has funded under all its research framework programmes. You can find information on specific topics or projects, or just browse articles. This can be a valuable source of ideas for small companies and researchers alike.

Resources: The European Commission's Research Executive Agency (REA)

REA manages the Cluster 6 calls. The following links provide general advice on the application process and what to include when applying for funding:

- [Who should apply](#) Information on how to compose your project team and find partners
- [How to apply](#) Overview of the application process and what types of projects can be funded
- [Support for applicants](#) Resources to help you prepare your proposal
- [How to build a successful consortium](#) Tips to help you find partners when applying for Horizon Europe funding
- [Open science](#) What you should comply with when applying for funding and implementing your project
- [Gender in EU research and innovation](#) What to comply with when applying for funding and implementing your project

How to manage your project:

- [10 tips to manage your project](#) Comply with the conditions defined in your grant agreement
- [Communication](#) Tips and requirements on communicating your project
- [Disseminating and exploiting results](#) - Advice and resources on how to disseminate and exploit your project results
- [Grants & reporting](#) Guidelines on the contractual management of your project and reporting
- [10 steps to reach and inform policymakers](#) How to effectively inform policymakers of your findings and maximise your policy impact

Resources: CARE4BIO

CARE4BIO is a project funded by the European Commission under the Horizon Europe programme bringing together a network of National Contact Points (NCPs) for Cluster 6. It will operate up until the end of the framework programme itself. CARE4BIO supports Cluster 6 applicants by organising brokerage events and providing information and training.

[CARE4BIO Annotated Templates](#) - four annotated templates specifically for Cluster 6 containing comments, tips & tricks, guiding questions and do's and don'ts. Using the application form templates for the three types of funding instrument (Research and Innovation Actions, Innovation Actions, Coordination and Support Actions), these are intended for both advisory purposes for NCPs and applicants preparing a

proposal.

Proposal Strategy Canvas - a powerful tool designed to help teams quickly frame their project within the relevant call. This canvas facilitates defining expected outcomes, addressing EU priorities, and outlining your core innovation.

CARE4BIO's Stakeholder Map - a comprehensive overview of the direct and broader environment of Horizon Europe Cluster 6, compiling key stakeholders and their contact information

Horizon Europe Cluster 6 Policy Database - an excel sheet with separate tabs for all of Cluster 6 destinations. Each tab contains relevant policies and strategies with links. You will need to refer to these in proposals.

Addressing the Multi-Actor Approach

PREMIERE is a funded project that aims to strengthen the multi-actor approach by supporting the development of better-prepared project proposals. The multi-actor approach (MAA) was introduced in Horizon 2020 and continues in Horizon Europe to make research and innovation processes more collaborative and inclusive, ensuring that those who will benefit from the results are actively involved throughout the course of the project, from proposal design and early implementation, through to project completion and the post-funding phase.

- Toolbox: [PREMIERE Multi-Actor Toolbox](#);
- Videos: [PREMIERE_multiactor - YouTube](#)

Other Open Calls and Opportunities

Cascading funding opportunities

Cascading Funding arises from projects which were asked to set aside funding under Financial Support for Third Parties (FSTP), which is a European Commission mechanism to distribute funding to wider beneficiaries who were not ready for or not successful in applying to the original funding call. It also helps uptake of methods and knowledge developed by projects across a wider geographical area than the original grant. Open and forthcoming opportunities can be viewed at the following link on the [Cascading funding on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#). Examples of Cascading funding:

- **BIOKET Bioeconomy event - Extra Call4Travel Vouchers**

Aim: to facilitate access for start-ups/SMEs to this key European bioeconomy event, **the BIOKET 2026 event, organised on 17-19 March 2026 at the at the Forum Fribourg, Switzerland**. TWENTY (20) TRAVEL VOUCHERS, each worth €500, are available to start-ups or SMEs attending and pitching / presenting their technologies at the BIOKET 2026 event. The travel voucher can cover travel and/or accommodation. **Who can apply?** Bioeconomy innovators: start-ups, spin-offs, scale-ups and SMEs. [Details and application here.](#)

- **AGRO-WELL Demonstration of smart farming technologies to enhance working conditions.**

This call (funding 4 x €37,500 projects) is targeted toward innovators with solutions at TRL5 and looking to demonstrate their solution in a real-farm environment, as well as farms interested in hosting demonstrations for innovative data-based and automated solutions. A second goal of this call is to attract talented individuals working on Augmented Reality and Artificial Intelligence. [Details and application here.](#) Deadline: 04 February 2026

MICROBES-4-CLIMATE Transnational Access (TNA) programme

MICROBES-4-CLIMATE (M4C) is a project coordinated under the Research Infrastructure (Ri) MIRRI-ERIC which aims to advance the understanding and facilitate the applied research directed at enhancing the

resilience of plants and crops to the effects of Climate Change, thereby fostering sustainable and resilient agricultural methods. A Transnational Access (TNA) call, **open until 08 March 2026**, will facilitate access to the resources, training, and assistance available in this RI, offering:

- free access to cutting-edge services, facilities, and technologies,
- flexible access options, from in-person to remote access.

There are 9 services available which can be explored here: [TNA call](#) and [Transnational Access Programme – Microbes-4-Climate](#)

New COST Actions now online: apply to join

70 recently approved research networks are available on the COST website. COST Actions are different to many other EU funded projects because it is possible to join and participate in a research network once it has started running, this feature applies throughout the entire lifespan of the Action. The new projects can be viewed on the [approved COST Action list](#). All new Actions begin with CA24. See also [What are COST Actions?](#) for how to participate. Examples:

- [CA24132](#) Accelerating Innovation and Development of European Microbial Foods (Mic2Food) (21/10/2025 - 20/10/2029) investigating new, non-pathogenic microorganisms with desired properties for their application as microbial foods and optimising their production properties in line with food regulations.
- [CA24156](#) Seed Priming Solutions: Boosting Crop Resilience for a Sustainable Future (PrimSeedPower) (15/10/2025 - 14/10/2029), aims to develop scalable and efficient seed priming technologies to enhance crop resilience against the effects of climate change.

European Partnerships - Transnational Calls

European Partnerships are co-funded partnerships involving EU Member States and Associated Countries, with **research funders and other public authorities** at the core of the consortium. Such Partnerships may open research funding calls to fund transnational research. Successful projects operate at European level; each partner is funded by their own national funder and under the rules of the national funder.

If there is no UK funder in a partnership, UK applicants may participate but bearing their own cost of participation (eligible to participate, but not eligible to receive funding). If you are on the DAFM mailing list, you will receive alerts to calls opening in which there is an Irish funder, but those in NI are not eligible for funding.



[Biodiversa +](#)

UK Funder: UKRI



[Water Security for the Planet](#)

UK Funder: UKRI



[Homepage | Bluepartnership](#)

No UK Funder



[Agroecology Partnership](#)

No UK Funder

(call open until 18 Feb 2026)



[European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare](#)

UK Funder: DEFRA

Call open until 13 Feb 2026



[“Agriculture of Data” \(AgData\) Partnership](#)

No UK Funder

(call open until 21 Jan 2026)



[SFS Partnership](#)

No UK Funder
(call open until 11 Feb 2026)



European Partnership on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance

[Home - EUP OHAMR](#)

UK Funders: UKRI & DSHC
Call open until 02 Feb 2026



Circular Bio-based Europe
Joint Undertaking

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

A public-private partnership under Horizon Europe – no national funders.

National and Local Supports

Innovate UK Business Connect

Travel support for UK businesses to attend European events in 2025 & 2026

Innovate UK is offering Travel Support of up to £750 for companies to attend Horizon Europe consortia-building events in Europe. Applications for support usually close about 1 month before event date: early application is advised. More here: [Travel support for UK businesses](#)

Webinars and Recordings

Webinars include those providing information for specific types of funding instrument and on how to apply. More here: [Events - Innovate UK Business Connect](#)

InterTrade Ireland Travel Vouchers

A **Cross-Border Collaboration Voucher** offers up to £500 to early-stage partnerships travelling across the border to scope out potential project ideas. The **EU Travel Voucher** can be redeemed against the cost of travel or accommodation for up to £350. The purpose of this scheme is to facilitate existing North-South partnerships to travel to consortium meetings, information days and other events to meet with the European Commission and potential partners from other EU member states. [Travel vouchers](#) are open to the research community and to innovative SMEs.

The Northern Ireland Contact Point (NICP) Network

The 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



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