

# Horizon Europe Cluster 6

*Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment*

## Work Programme 2026-2027

Focus on the 2026 Cluster 6 calls

CZ Info Day – 15 January 2026

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# CL6 WP 2026-2027: general overview



# Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025 - 2027



- Adopted on 20 March 2024 and presented at the R&I Days.
- Sets out 3 key strategic orientations:
  - ✓ Green transition
  - ✓ Digital transition
  - ✓ A more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe
- Raises the ambition on **biodiversity**:
  - ✓ Target of **10%** of Horizon Europe's total budget 2025-2027 being dedicated to biodiversity-related topics.
  - ✓ This new commitment complements existing targets for **climate** expenditure (35% over the lifetime of Horizon Europe) and main **digital** activities (€13 billion over the same period).

# From Expected Impacts to Destinations

## Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027

**Impact 27** Fostering mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in areas and sectors covered by CL6

**Impact 28** Putting biodiversity on a path to recovery, and protecting and restoring ecosystems and their services

**Impact 29** Achieving healthy soils and forests, clean air, fresh and marine water, whilst ensuring water resilience and the transition to a clean, competitive and circular economy and sustainable bioeconomy

**Impact 30** Ensuring healthy food and nutrition security by making agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and food systems sustainable, resilient, inclusive and within planetary boundaries

**Impact 31** Sustainably developing rural, urban and coastal areas

**Impact 32** Developing innovative governance models and tools enabling sustainability and resilience

## Cluster 6 Work Programmes (2021-2027)

- **Destination 5:** Land, oceans and water for climate action

- **Destination 1:** Biodiversity and ecosystem services

- **Destination 3:** Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors
- **Destination 4:** Clean environment and zero pollution

- **Destination 2:** Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption

- **Destination 6:** Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities

- **Destination 7:** Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal

# Commission priorities 2024-2029

- Cluster 6 Work Programmes (2025 and 2026/2027) are expected to contribute to the [new political priorities](#):

Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness

Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model

Protecting our democracy, upholding our values

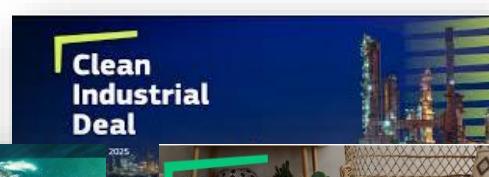


## EUROPE'S CHOICE

POLITICAL GUIDELINES  
FOR THE NEXT EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
2024–2029

Ursula von der Leyen  
*Candidate for the European Commission President*

- And to support the objectives of **new policy initiatives** such as



Strasbourg  
18 July 2024

# Main features and novelties in WP 26-27

- **Simplification:** fewer topics and higher average funding per topic and project, extensive use of lump sums, shorter proposal templates...
- **Novel approaches:** open topics, horizontal calls.
- More focus on **strategic autonomy**.
- CL6 main contributor to **biodiversity investments**.

# WP 2026: overview of the calls

# 2026 calls overview

## Cluster 6 Call 01 - single stage (2026) - HORIZON-CL6-2026-01



### Destination 1

Biodiversity and ecosystem services

### Destination 3

Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors

### Destination 4

Clean environment and zero pollution

- Opening date: 17 April 2026
- Deadline: 17 September 2026
- Budget: 210 million EUR
- Topics: 20

# 2026 calls overview

## Cluster 6 Call 01 - two-stage (2026) - HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-two-stage



**Destination 1**  
Biodiversity and ecosystem services

**Destination 3**  
Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors

**Destination 4**  
Clean environment and zero pollution

- Opening date: 12 February 2026
- Deadline 1<sup>st</sup> stage evaluation: 16 April 2026
- Deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> stage evaluation: 23 September 2026
- Budget: 105 million EUR
- Topics: 7

# 2026 calls overview

## Cluster 6 Call 02 - single stage (2026) - HORIZON-CL6-2026-02



### Destination 2

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

### Destination 5

Land, ocean and water for climate action

### Destination 6

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

- Opening date: 14 January 2026
- Deadline: 14 April 2026
- Budget: 166,4 million EUR
- Topics: 17

# 2026 calls overview

## Cluster 6 Call 02 - two-stage (2026) - HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-two-stage



**Destination 2**  
Fair, healthy and  
environment-friendly food  
systems from primary  
production to  
consumption

- Opening date: **12 February 2026**
- Deadline 1<sup>st</sup> stage evaluation:  
**14 April 2026**
- Deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> stage evaluation:  
**15 September 2026**
- Budget: **25,5 million EUR**
- Topics: **2**

# 2026 calls overview

## Cluster 6 Call 03 - single stage (2026) - HORIZON-CL6-2026-03



**Destination 7**  
Innovative governance,  
environmental observations  
and digital solutions in  
support of the Green Deal

- Opening date: 14 January 2026
- Deadline: 15 April 2026
- Budget: 112,5 million EUR
- Topics: 10



# 2026 calls overview

## Cluster 6 Call 03 – **two-stage (2026)** - HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-two-stage



**Destination 7**  
Innovative governance,  
environmental observations  
and digital solutions in  
support of the Green Deal

- Opening date: **12 February 2026**
- Deadline 1<sup>st</sup> stage evaluation:  
**15 April 2026**
- Deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> stage evaluation:  
**30 September 2026**
- Budget: **12 million EUR**
- Topics: **1**

# 2026 calls overview

## Cluster 6 Call 04 - single stage (2026) - HORIZON-CL6-2026-04



**Destination 7**  
Innovative governance,  
environmental observations  
and digital solutions in  
support of the Green Deal

- Opening date: 25 August 2026
- Deadline: 26 November 2026
- Budget: 60 million EUR
- Topics: 1 European partnership



# Horizontal call in WP 26-27 relevant to CL6

- Artificial Intelligence in Science - RAISE call:
  - Thematic Networks of Excellence for AI in Science – Agriculture and Environmental Pollution (RIA)
- Call data:
  - Opening: 06 January 2026
  - Deadline: 21 Apr 2026
  - Indicative budget: EUR 12.8 million
- Where?
  - WP 26-27 Part 14 – Horizontal Activities



# WP 2026: overview of the Destinations

# BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



**Consolidating  
biodiversity  
knowledge for nature  
and society**

**3 topics**



**Restoring ecosystems  
for resilient society  
and economy**

**4 topics**



**Transformative change  
towards a nature  
positive economy**

**2 topics**



**Biodiversity friendly  
practices in  
agriculture**

**1 topics**

# BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-two-stage - BIODIV

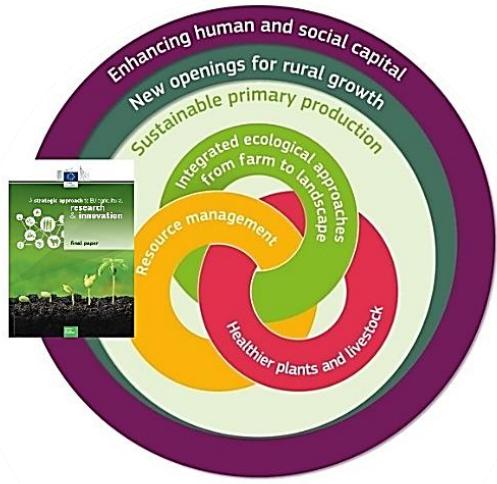
	Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Consolidating biodiversity knowledge for nature and society	Understanding and tackling the decline of insects	RIA	2	€ 13.000.000
	Developing methods to assess the presence, functions and sensitivity of groundwater ecosystems	RIA	2	€ 10.000.000
	Pushing the frontier of knowledge and conservation action for deep sea ecosystems	RIA	2	€ 18.000.000
Restoring ecosystems for resilient society and economy	Ensuring continuous effectiveness of protected areas in conserving habitats and species while facing intensifying drivers of biodiversity loss	RIA	2	€ 13.000.000
	Living labs for co-creating solutions for the restoration of ecosystems <b>(two-stage)</b>	RIA	2	€ 14.000.000
	Open topic: Uncovering the causes of specific species' rapid decline and exploring actionable solutions <b>(two-stage)</b>	RIA	4	€ 12.000.000
	Unlocking the potential of citizen action for nature protection and restoration <b>(two-stage)</b>	IA	2	€ 10.000.000

# BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-two-stage - BIODIV

	Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Transformative change towards a nature positive economy	Advancing integrated scenarios and prediction models for informing transition to a nature positive society	RIA	2	€ 10.000.000
Biodiversity friendly practices in agriculture	Mainstreaming and scaling up evidence-based Nature-Based Solutions towards a nature positive and climate-resilient economy <b>(two-stage)</b>	RIA	3	€ 18.000.000
	Boosting agrobiodiversity for food security and sustainable competitiveness	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000

# FAIR, HEALTHY AND ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY FOOD SYSTEMS FROM PRIMARY PRODUCTION TO CONSUMPTION



Enabling sustainable farming systems

9 topics



Enabling sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

1 topic



Transforming food systems for health, sustainability and inclusion

4 topics



Targeted international cooperation

2 topics

# FAIR, HEALTHY AND ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY FOOD SYSTEMS FROM PRIMARY PRODUCTION TO CONSUMPTION

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-02, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-two-stage – **FARM2FORK**

Enabling sustainable farming systems

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Developing innovative phytosanitary treatments for regulated plant pests	IA	2	€ 11.800.000
Tackling pesticide resistance: early detection, management strategies, and foresight	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
Boosting the competitiveness of protein crops in Europe	IA	2	€ 12.000.000
Accelerating the development of breeding tools for perennial crops, specifically fruits and nuts	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
Boosting circularity and diversification strategies of terrestrial livestock production systems	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
Advanced innovative solutions for improved competitiveness and sustainability in controlled environment agriculture (CEA)	IA	2	€ 12.000.000
Strengthening the EU plant protection ecosystem for a future-proof agriculture	CSA	1	€ 3.000.000
Open topic: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector by enhancing the efficient and sustainable use of agricultural production factors <b>(two-stage)</b>	IA	3	€ 13.500.000
Open topic: Boosting organic farming for a competitive, sustainable and resilient farming sector <b>(two-stage)</b>	IA	2	€ 12.000.000

# FAIR, HEALTHY AND ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY FOOD SYSTEMS FROM PRIMARY PRODUCTION TO CONSUMPTION

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-02, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-two-stage – **FARM2FORK**

	Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Enabling sustainable fisheries and aquaculture	Advancing basic knowledge and developing tools for sustainable management of key migratory fish species	RIA	2	€ 14.000.000
Transforming food systems for health, sustainability and inclusion	Sustainable and healthy diets for cardiovascular diseases prevention with the support of digital applications	IA	2	€ 11.800.000
	Sustainable and healthy diets based on health status and socio-economic risk factors of ageing population	CSA	1	€ 2.000.000
	Integrating a holistic perspective in microbiome research for resilient, competitive and sustainable food systems	RIA	2	€ 11.000.000
Targeted international cooperation	Leveraging R&I knowledge on microbiome	CSA	1	€ 2.000.000
	Boosting plant health and reducing losses on farm and during storage for sustainable growth in Africa (FNSSA)	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
	Green Transition Food Processing Africa	RIA	2	€ 11.000.000

# CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BIOECONOMY SECTORS



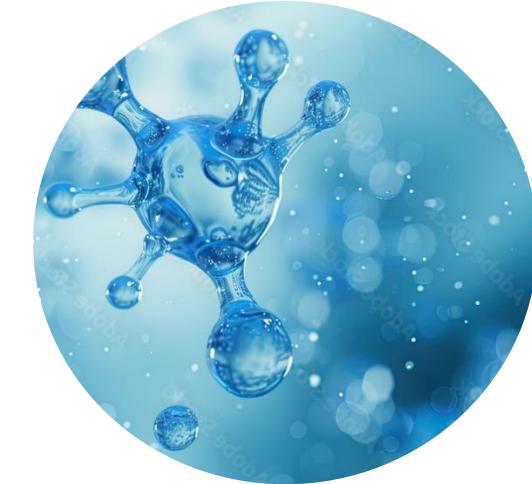
Enabling a circular economy transition

**6 topics**



Innovating for sustainable bio-based systems, biotechnology and the bioeconomy

**6 topics**



Innovating for blue bioeconomy and biotechnology value chains

**1 topics**

# CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BIOECONOMY SECTORS

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-two-stage - CIRCBIO

Enabling a circular economy transition

Topic title	ToA	N. Projects	Topic Budget
Improving circularity of multilayer flexible plastic food contact packaging	IA	2	€ 11.000.000
Advancing recycling technologies for mixed post-consumer textiles waste from blended products	IA	2	€ 11.000.000
Advanced recovery of critical raw materials from Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)	RIA	2	€ 10.000.000
Demonstrating and deploying innovative collection, sorting-for-reuse and repair systems for textiles at city/region level (Circular Cities and Regions Initiative topic)	IA	2	€ 10.000.000
Deploying circular systemic solutions through living labs in cities and regions (Circular Cities and Regions Initiative topic) <b>(two-stage)</b>	IA	2	€ 10.000.000
Open topic: Using the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative to strengthen urban manufacturing in support of the Clean Industrial Deal <b>(two-stage)</b>	IA	3	€ 18.000.000

# CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BIOECONOMY SECTORS

Call HORIZON-CL6-01-2026-01 - CIRCBIO

Innovating for sustainable  
bio-based systems,  
biotechnology and the  
bioeconomy

Innovating for blue  
bioeconomy and  
biotechnology value  
chains

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Understanding biomass flows in Europe	RIA	2	€ 6.000.000
Bioeconomy policy support hub for Member States, regions and sectors	CSA	1	€ 3.000.000
Advancing the European bio-based innovation enabled by biotechnology and biomanufacturing concepts	RIA	3	€ 12.000.000
Supporting pre-normative research for standardization of the bio-based products	RIA	2	€ 8.000.000
Balancing food security, bioeconomy, climate and biodiversity objectives while unlocking sustainable value chains	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
Bio-based innovation in society: supporting the sustainable way of living	RIA	2	€ 8.000.000
Harnessing the unique properties of marine organisms to deliver sustainable blue bio-based products	RIA	2	€ 10.000.000

# CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND ZERO POLLUTION

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-two-stage - **ZEROPOLLUTION**



4 topics

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic budget
Toward a comprehensive assessment of the disturbance of marine ecosystems by anthropogenic underwater noise	RIA	1	€ 10.000.000
Bioremediation of Ukraine's ecosystems contaminated by conflicts	IA	2	€ 11.000.000
Developing managed aquifer recharge techniques (MAR) in a rural context	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
Decontaminate and bioremediate aquatic pollution <b>(two-stage)</b>	RIA	3	€ 23.000.000

# LAND, OCEAN AND WATERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION



2 topics

## Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-02 (single stage)

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Towards more effective, fair and coherent policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation in agriculture and forestry	RIA	1	€ 6.000.000
Towards the water infrastructures of the future	RIA	2	€ 10.000.000

# RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE, HEALTHY AND GREEN RURAL, COASTAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES



1 topic

## Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-02 (single stage)

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Boosting sustainable competitiveness in rural areas through innovation	RIA	2	€ 11.800.000

# INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS AND DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEN DEAL



Innovating with governance models and supporting policies

5 topics



Deploying and adding value to Environmental Observations

4 topics



Digital and data technologies as key enablers

1 topic



Strengthening agricultural knowledge and innovation systems

2 topics

# INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS AND DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEN DEAL

Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-03, Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-04 - GOVERNANCE

Innovating with governance models and supporting policies

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic budget
Additional activities for the European Partnership of Agriculture of Data	COFUND	1	€ 60.000.000
Additional activities for the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP)	COFUND	1	€ 38.000.000
Improving analytical capacity and understanding of social drivers in agriculture to better assess social sustainability in the sector	RIA	2	€ 10.800.000
Empowering the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development	CSA	3	€ 9.000.000
Supporting All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance	CSA	1	€ 4.500.000

# INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS AND DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEN DEAL

Call HORIZON-CL6-2025-03, Call HORIZON-CL6-2025-03-two-stage - **GOVERNANCE**

	Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Deploying and adding value to environmental observations	Coordinated European contribution to the WMO Global Greenhouse Gas Watch and its international governance	RIA	1	€ 7.000.000
Digital and data technologies as key enablers	A services and business incubator for geospatial open-source developments	CSA	1	€ 6.000.000
	Interconnect Earth Observation research for addressing environmental policies	CSA	1	€ 5.400.000
	Open topic: Develop Earth Intelligence solutions with observations and state-of-the-art AI for sustainable competitiveness and policy making ( <b>two-stage</b> )	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
	Boosting data availability and AI solutions in food for consumers and food service professionals	IA	2	€ 15.000.000
Strengthening agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS)	Increasing knowledge flows to practice within AKIS via EU thematic knowledge hubs	CSA	2	€ 7.000.000
	Embracing innovation in agriculture by peer-to-peer learning via on farm-demonstrations and cost-benefit analysis	RIA	2	€ 9.800.000

# Key cross-cutting aspects in Cluster 6

International Cooperation

Multi-Actor Approach

Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)

- ❑ **International cooperation** encouraged or required in several topics (Africa, Mediterranean, Latin America and Caribbean, support to Ukraine, etc.)
- ❑ **Multi-actor approach** encouraged or required by 46 topics (39% of all Work Programme)
- ❑ **SSH integration** sought after in 41 topics (35% of all Work Programme)
- ❑ **FSTP** applied in various topics, also to attract SMEs and start-ups

# Cluster 6 Info Days – 2026 calls



## Info Days on Cluster 6 calls 2026

- 22-23 January 2026 in Brussels & online (hybrid)
- Registrations open
- Brokerage event on 21 January 2026 (Brussels) organised by the CARE4BIO project.

# How to get more insights on Cluster 6?

Adopted  
Work  
Programme

EU Funding  
and Tenders  
Portal

Horizon  
Europe CL6  
National  
Contact  
Points  
(NCPs)

Research  
Enquiry  
Service  
(RES)

# Thank you



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