

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

Marco CITELLI (DG RTD, Unit B.1 – Green Transitions)

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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:

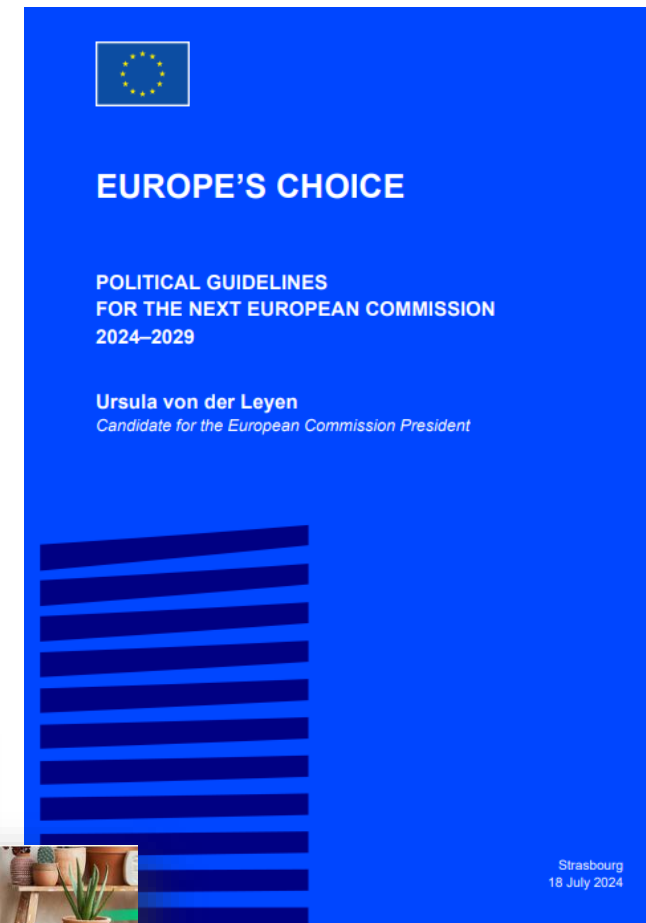
Sustaining our
quality of life: food
security, water and
nature

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

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



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 1st stage evaluation:
16 April 2026

☐ Deadline 2nd 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 1st stage evaluation:
14 April 2026
- ☐ Deadline 2nd 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 1st stage evaluation:
15 April 2026
- ❑ Deadline 2nd 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**

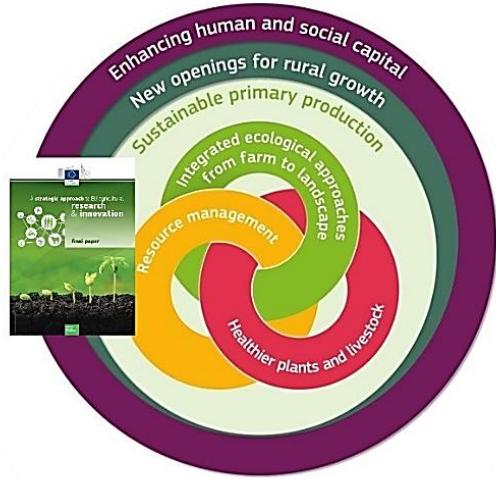
	Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Consolidating biodiversity knowledge for nature and society	Understanding and tackling the decline of insects	RIA	2	€ 13.000.000
	Developing methods to assess the presence, functions and sensitivity of groundwater ecosystems	RIA	2	€ 10.000.000
	Pushing the frontier 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 (two-stage)	RIA	2	€ 14.000.000
	Open topic: Uncovering the causes of specific species' rapid decline and exploring actionable solutions (two-stage)	RIA	4	€ 12.000.000
	Unlocking the potential of citizen action for nature protection and restoration (two-stage)	IA	2	€ 10.000.000

BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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

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

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 (two-stage)	IA	3	€ 13.500.000
Open topic: Boosting organic farming for a competitive, sustainable and resilient farming sector (two-stage)	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
	Sustainable and healthy diets for cardiovascular diseases prevention with the support of digital applications	IA	2	€ 11.800.000
Transforming food systems for health, sustainability and inclusion	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
	Leveraging R&I knowledge on microbiome	CSA	1	€ 2.000.000
Targeted international cooperation	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



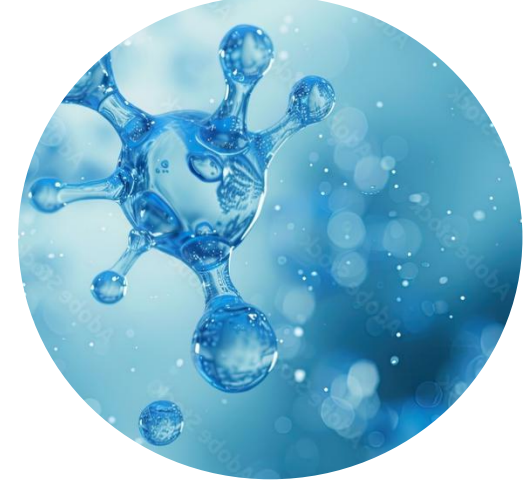
Enabling a circular economy transition

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 - CIRC BIO

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) (two-stage)	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 (two-stage)	IA	3	€ 18.000.000

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BIOECONOMY SECTORS

Call HORIZON-CL6-01-2026-01 - CIRC BIO

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 (two-stage)	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**

Deploying and adding value to environmental observations

Digital and data technologies as key enablers

Strengthening agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS)

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
Coordinated European contribution to the WMO Global Greenhouse Gas Watch and its international governance	RIA	1	€ 7.000.000
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 (two-stage)	RIA	2	€ 12.000.000
Boosting data availability and AI solutions in food for consumers and food service professionals	IA	2	€ 15.000.000
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** 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

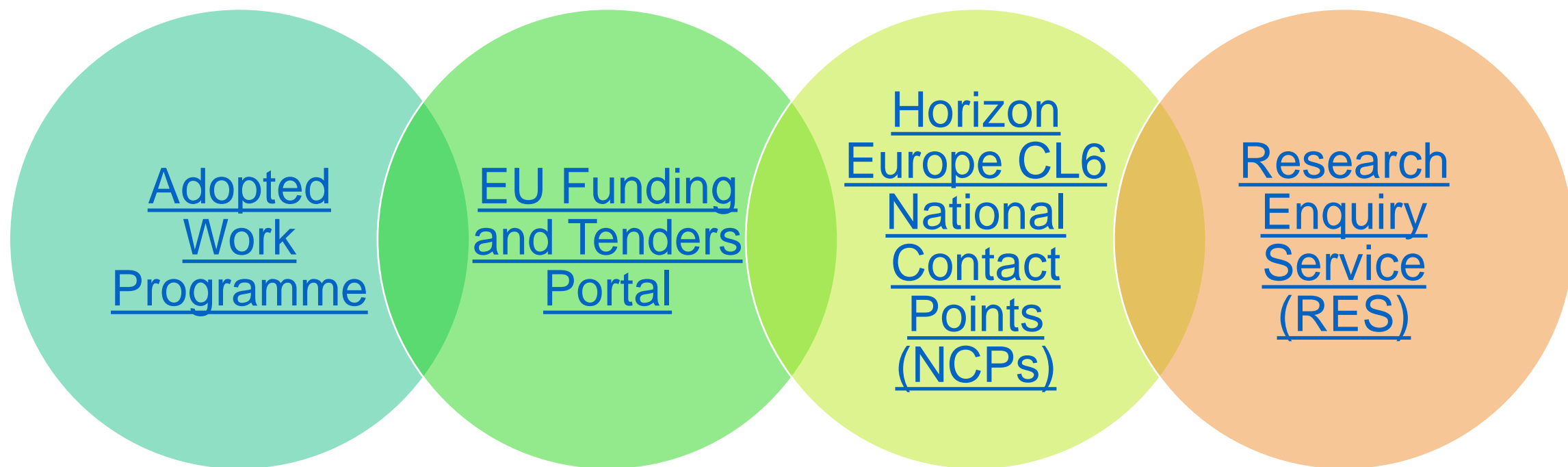
Cluster 6 Info Days – 2026 calls



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?



Thank you



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