TECHNOLOGY CENTRE PRAGUE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOOD SCIENTISTS IN HORIZON EUROPE

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HORIZON EUROPE

2021 – 2027 - 95,5 BILLION € - DIRECTLY MANAGED BY EC

PILLAR I EXCELLENT SCIENCE	PILLAR II GLOBAL CHALLENGES & INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS	PILLAR III INNOVATIVE EUROPE
European Research Council (ERC)	**Clusters** ▪ Health ▪ Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society ▪ Civil Security for Society ▪ Digital, Industry & Space ▪ Climate, Energy & Mobility ▪ Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment	European Innovation Council (EIC)
Marie Sklodowska-Curie (MSCA)		European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE)
Research Infrastructures	Joint Research Centre (JRC)	European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)

EU Missions | **European Partnerships**

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence | Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

BASIC RULES OF PILLAR 2



- **Minimum consortium composition:** 3 different partners from 3 EU Member States or countries associated with Horizon Europe (in practice, there are much more)
- Eligible participant: **any legal entity** (universities, research institutes, large companies, small and medium-sized enterprises, public authorities, non-profit organisations, hospitals, museums, etc.)
- Pre-defined **topics that proposals must "fit"**
- Types of actions:
  - Research and Innovation Actions (**RIA**) = research + limited demonstration
  - Innovation Actions (**IA**) = demonstration + limited research
  - Coordination and Support Actions (**CSA**) = networking, sharing of good practices

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

What about countries outside EU MS and Associated countries?

- Generally supported in all topics
- „Encouraged“ in some topics:
  - often with a specific region, e.g. topic on „*Developing agroecology living labs and lighthouses for climate action under the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership*“ (project must involve at least three independent legal entities established in Africa)

Funding

- EU Member States and Associated Countries (newly Japan, Republic of Korea, Canada, New Zealand) on equal terms
- Participants from ca 130 low- and middle-income countries automatically funded
- Developed countries only in exceptional cases

FUNDING



- for RIA, CSA for all types of subjects: **100 % total eligible costs**
- for IA for profit subjects: **70 %** (again 100 % for non-profit)
- Overhead rate = 25% of direct costs

Eligible costs

- Personnel costs
- Subcontracting
- Purchase costs
  - Travel
  - Equipment
  - Other goods, works & services
- Other

CLUSTER 6 WORK PROGRAMME 2027



- Work programme with 50 topics available here
- deadlines starting in April 2027, main part in September 2027
- **7 destinations**:

1. **Biodiversity and ecosystem services**
   - e.g. biodiversity observations, ecosystems restoration, alien species, living labs, organic crop breeding, …

2. **Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption**
   - e.g. agriculture in water and nutrient-scarce environment, organic farming, emerging plant pest risks, ,…

3. **Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors**
   - e.g. circularity of consumer electronics or construction products, footwear recycling, biomass flow, living labs in cities and regions,…

4. Clean environment and zero pollution

- e.g. replacing hazardous substances in biocidal products, air quality planning strategies, air pollution from agriculture, …

5. Land, oceans and water for climate action

- e.g. resilience of agriculture and forestry again crises, carbon farming innovation, safe operating space for Antarctica, …

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

- e.g. strengthening rural communities to shocks, urban food system innovation, …

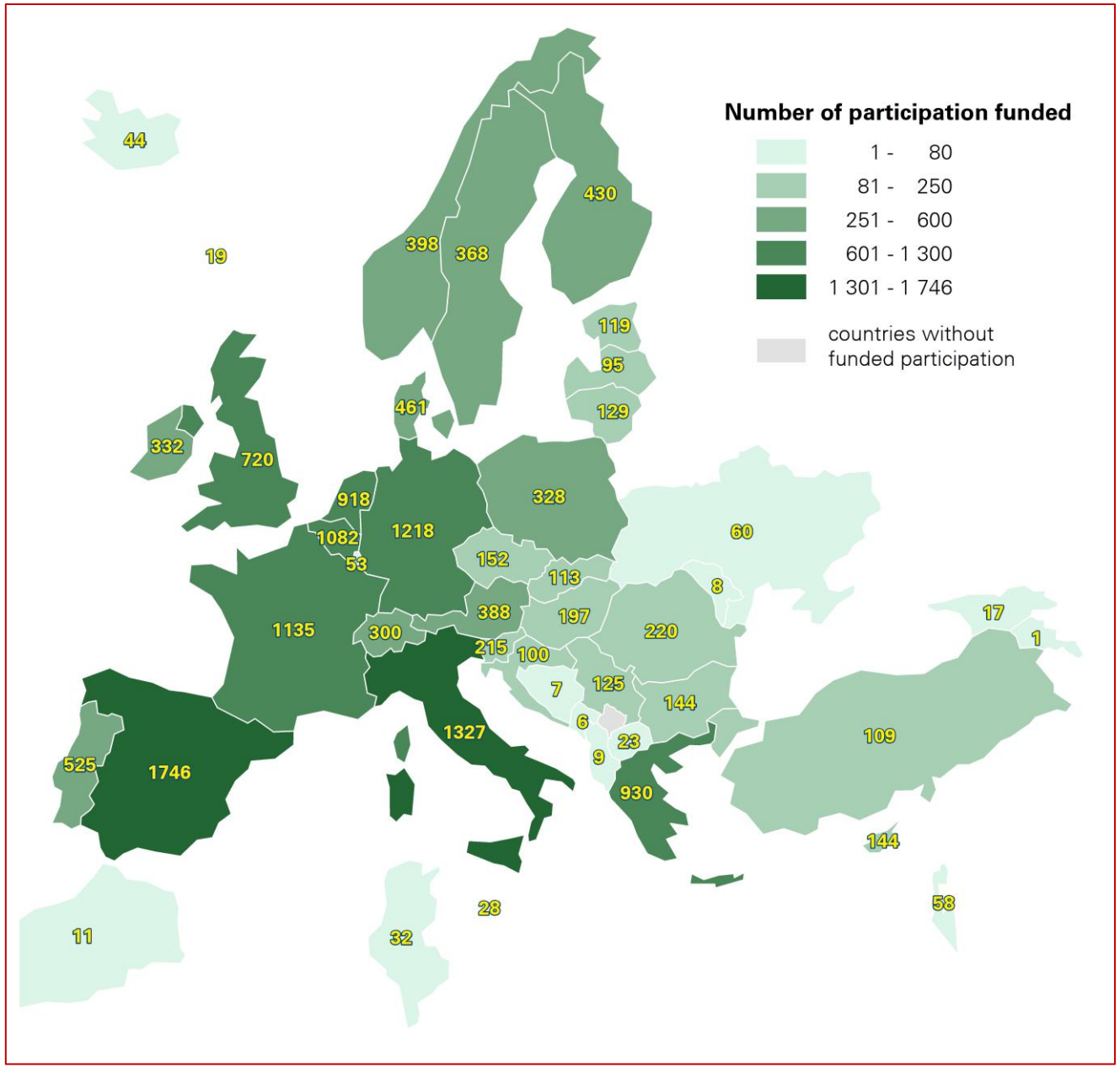
7. Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal

- e.g. strengthening farmers resilience, AI supporting advice for farmers and foresters, …

CLUSTER 6 TOPIC EXAMPLES

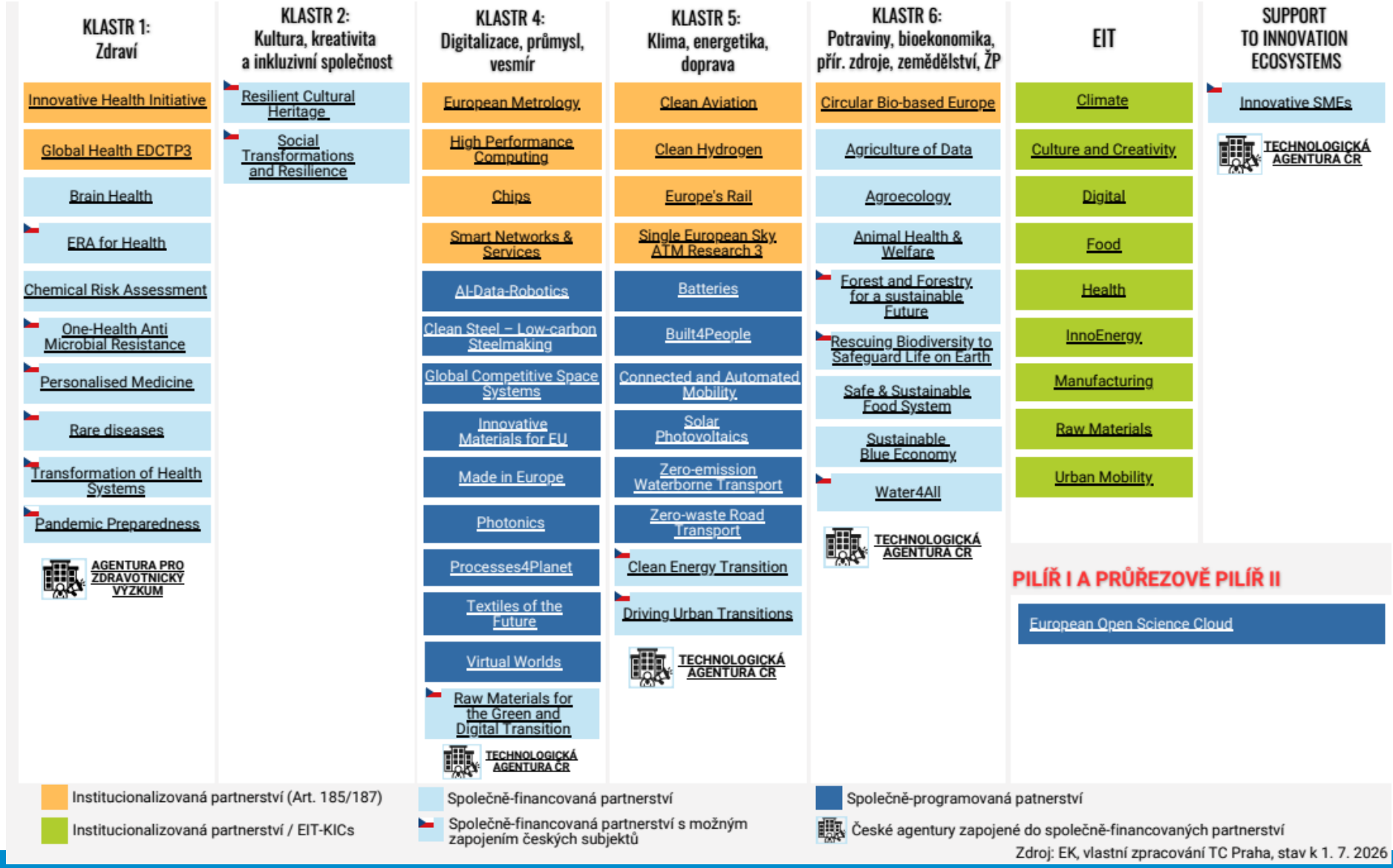
- ✓ **HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-08: AI-powered foodome characterization**
  - IA, 1 project, 7,8 mil. eur / project
  - AI tool able to accelerate the analysis of complex foodomics data to speed up the identification, structural characterisation, and quantification of chemicals present in food
  - improving capacity and synergies in foodomics research between academia, research infrastructures and industry
- ✓ **HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-07: Towards commercialization of food systems microbiome solutions**
  - IA, 2 projects, 7-8 mil. eur / project
  - promote the access to EU market of innovative microbiome solutions (technologies or products supporting microbial communities and their interaction with their host and/or environment)
  - develop technologies, standards and/or methodologies enabling cost-effective and reliable production and deployment at scale of microbiome solutions
- ✓ **HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-06: Unleashing the potential of sustainable small-scale aquatic food production and recreational fisheries for prosperous local communities**
  - IA, 2 projects, 5 mil. eur / project
  - management and further development of small-scale aquatic food production
  - fresh, brackish and marine waters
  - small-scale fisheries, small-scale mollusc, seaweed and fish farms, recreational fisheries, urban aquaculture and aquaponics

NUMBER OF SUCCCESSFUL PARTICIPATIONS IN CLUSTER 6



Source: Eureopean Commission – eCORDA Grants – 18.8.2026, prepared by Vladimír Vojtěch, TC Prague

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS



FUTUREFOODS – EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

FutureFoodS

- co-funded partnership with 87 partners from 29 countries
- 3rd call for proposals:
  - **GETS – Getting Everyone Together for Sustainable food systems: empowered consumers, innovative sustainable products and trusted value chains**
    - ✓ Topic 1: Trusted and transparent sustainable food value chains
    - ✓ Topic 2: Consumer agency and enabling food environments for healthy, safe and sustainable food practices
    - ✓ Topic 3: Innovative processing for sustainable, safe and nutritious food products

Call launch:	Beginning of November 2026
Deadline for pre-proposal submission:	~ mid of January 2027
Deadline for full-proposal submission:	~ end of June 2027 (only by invitation)
Start of projects:	between November 2027 and March 2028

Check participating countries here!

HORIZON EUROPE CASCADE FUNDING

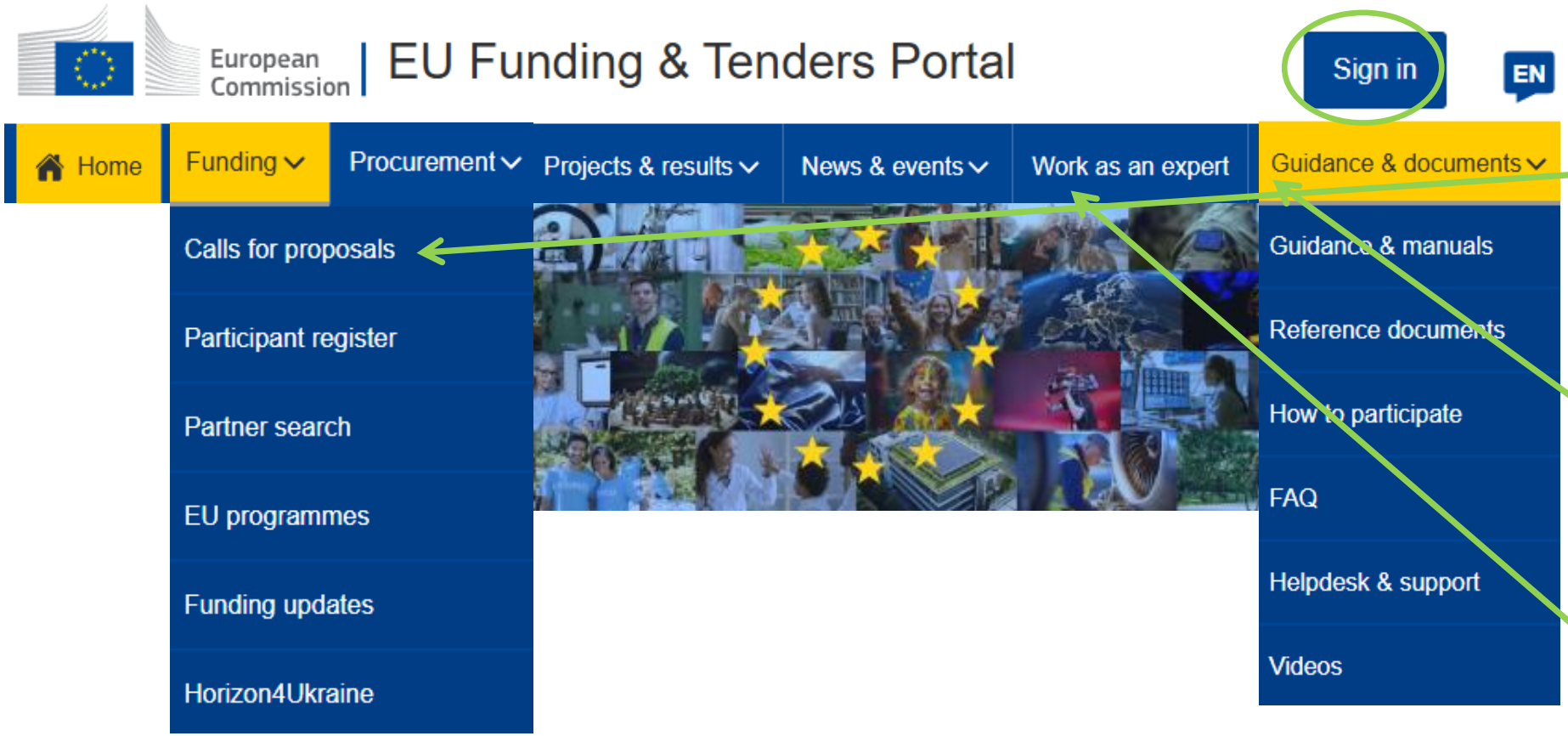


- Cascade funding, also known as Financial Support for Third Parties (FSTP)
- **Open calls under Horizon Europe running projects**
- The current calls available here
- Example:

  - NOSTRADAMUS
    - Goal: to develop, test and validate open-source digital applications for farm decision-making, with a particular focus on cereal-based agricultural systems and food security
    - Applicants: SMEs and start-ups, small mid-caps, (research organisations, sectoral and end-user representation organisations) from EU or associated countries
    - Funding: up to € 50.000
    - Deadline: 2 December 2026

EC FUNDING & TENDERS PORTAL

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home



- *Registration*
  - ✓ Organisations, individuals
  - ✓ Project management
- *Call for proposals*
  - ✓ Search according key words or structure of programme
- *Reference Documents*
  - ✓ Work programmes
  - ✓ Templates
  - ✓ Model agreement
- *Work as an expert*
  - ✓ Evaluator, rapporteur
  - ✓ workshop TC Prague

BROKERAGE EVENTS

Aim: to establish cooperation in a specific area with a view to submitting a project

Registration → Preparation of profile → Selectin of partners → Bilateral meetings

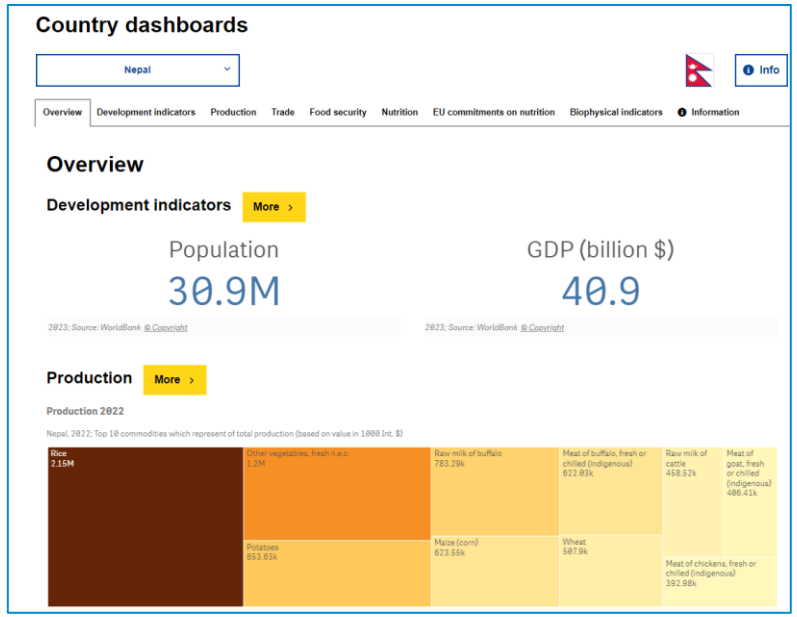
- Usually in connection to call opening
- Online or in person
- Free of charge
- Pitch presentation
- List of BEs here



JRC – JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

- department of the EC
- provides independent evidence-based knowledge and science
- support for EU policies
- works closely with research and policy organisations in the MS, European agencies, scientific partners
- 2 800 staff, > 50 large scale research facilities
- Knowledge and competence centres (10 centres)
  - ➢ Knowledge Centre for Global Food and Nutrition Security
    - a one-stop source of curated information
    - shared understanding of the facts
  - ➢ Knowledge Centre for Food Fraud and Quality
    - databases, monthly reports, testing methodology, …
- portfolio approach (33 portfolios)





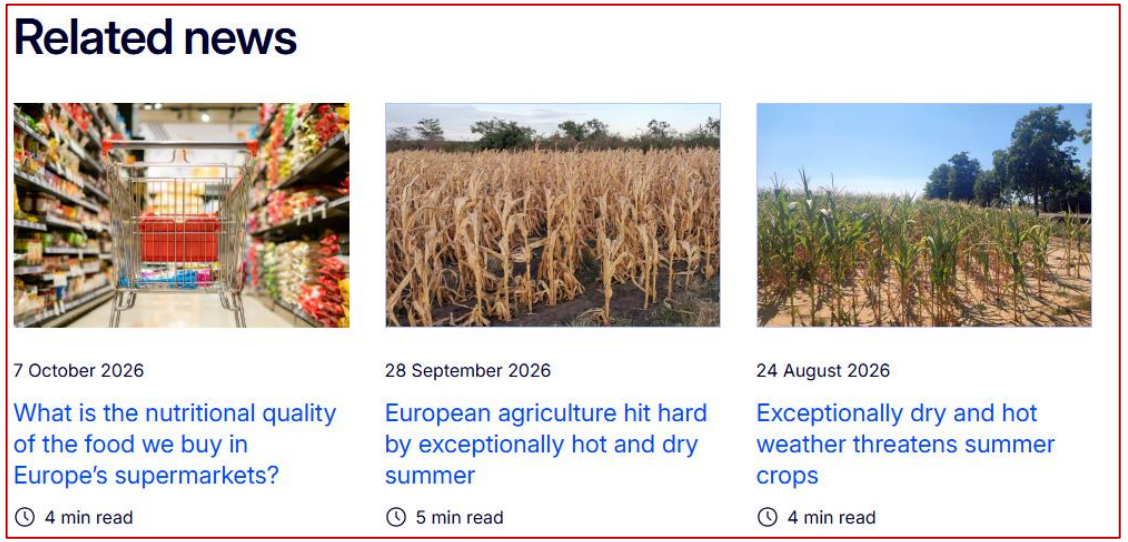
PORTFOLIO 11: SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Related laboratories

- European Union Reference Laboratory for Genetically Modified Food and Feed
- Food fraud laboratory
- Reference Material Production Laboratory
- Nanobiotechnology Laboratory (open acces – regular calls)

Objectives

- Support transition to sustainable food systems
- Identify requirements for sustainable food systems
- Develop monitoring and evaluation tools
- Provide science for food-systems legislation support
- Advise on food systems sustainability
- Support EU accession countries to comply with food laws
- Contribute to food security knowledge



- JRC vacancies
- JRC *Science Flash for You*



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