

HORIZON
EUROPE

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Horizon Europe (HEU) short presentation

*Cluster of Research Excellence
(CoRE) Sustainable Food Systems
(SFS)*



What does HEU do?

- Tackles **Climate Change**
- Helps to achieve the **17 UN's Sustainable Development Goals**
- Boosts the **competitiveness and growth**
- Facilitates **collaboration and strengthens the impact of R&I** in developing, **supporting and implementing policies** while **tackling global challenges**
- Supports the **creation and diffusion of excellent knowledge and technologies**
- **Creates jobs**, boosts economic growth, promotes industrial competitiveness and optimises investment impact

Horizon Europe (HEU): the structure

Pillar 1

Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2

Global Challenges and
European Industrial
Competitiveness

Clusters

- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3

Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation
ecosystems

European Institute of
Innovation
and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

Focus on Pillar I: specific objectives and key elements

Pillar 1 Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

Research Infrastructures

MSCA Doctoral Networks will implement doctoral programmes, by partnerships of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond. MSCA Doctoral Networks are indeed **open to the participation of organisations from third countries**, in view of **fostering strategic international partnerships for the training and exchange of researchers**.

For more info: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/calls/msca-doctoral-networks-2024>

Focus on Pillar II: specific objectives and key elements / Clusters



- Top-down approach: **the EC defines the topics and the priorities**
- To generate knowledge, strengthen the impact of R&I in supporting and implementing **Union policies**
- Support the access to and uptake of **innovative solutions in European industry, notably in SMEs**, and society to address global challenges
- Collaborative, interdisciplinary, intersectoral and impact-based approach
- Essential role of the **industry** to gain objectives

Focus on Cluster 6 – Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment

Destination 1 - Biodiversity

R&I supported under this destination will ensure that mainstreaming biodiversity in society and the economy takes into account justice, fairness and global aspects

Destination 2 - Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems

Support the transition to more resilient and environmentally, socially and economically sustainable food systems on land and sea (Farm to fork strategy)

Destination 3 – Circular economy

Climate change is exacerbating existing risks to livelihoods, biodiversity, human and ecosystem health

Destination 4 – Clean environment and zero pollution

Ensure the sustainability of primary production activities and safeguard the well-being of humankind

Destination 5 - Land, ocean and water for climate action

Consumer-based transitions are accelerated towards a sustainable, inclusive and just circular economy and bioeconomy

Destination 6 – Rural, coastal and urban communities

Transdisciplinary R&I with a strong social, behavioural and humanities sciences dimension (SSH) and attention to gender aspects, will enable a sustainable development of rural, coastal and urban areas

Destination 7 - Innovative governance

R&I activities aim to experiment with new ways to govern the transition process by ensuring i) appropriate engagement with stakeholders ii) knowledge is made available

African Union (AU) – European Union (EU) collaboration in HEU

Destination 2. FARM2FORK is the Destination where **AU-EU collaboration** is strongly encouraged. In particular, **AU-EU collaboration** is **essential** in the following 4 topics:

- **HORIZON-CL-2025-02-FARM2FORK-03: Overcoming barriers for scaling up circular water management in agriculture**
- **HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-19: Developing agroecology living labs and lighthouses under the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership**
- **HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-20: Developing a joint AU-EU Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) supporting the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership**
- **HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-21: Nutrition emergency situations- Ready-to-use Supplementary Food (RUSF) and Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)**

Besides the essential **collaboration requested** in these 4 topics, the AU-EU collaboration is possible in several other Destinations and related topics.

These are:

- **Destination 2. Fair, healthy and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption (FARM2FORK, 8 topics)**
- **Destination 1. Biodiversity and ecosystem services (BIODIV, 8 topics)**
- **Destination 3. Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors (CIRCBIO, 3 topics)**
- **Destination 4. Clean environment and zero pollution (ZEROPOLLUTION, 4 topics)**
- **Destination 5. Land, ocean and water for climate action (CLIMATE, 3 topics)**
- **Destination 6. Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities (COMMUNITIES, 1 topic)**

See next slides for more detail

African Union (AU) – European Union (EU) collaboration in HEU, Pillar II, Cluster 6 – Other topics – FARM2FORK

Destination 2. Biodiversity and ecosystem services (FARM2FORK)

- HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-05: Emerging and future risks to plant health
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-06: Developing innovative phytosanitary measures for plant health - focus on systems approach for pest risk management
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-08: Fostering animal breeding and genetics for climate change adaptation and mitigation, improved robustness and resilience
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-09: Improving on-farm innovations for transformation and storage of food and non-food products
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-11: Diversifying aquaculture production with emphasis on low-trophic species
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-15: Nutrients produced by microbes capturing CO₂ from the air, with the support of biotechnology
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-16: Making food systems more resilient to food safety risks through the deployment of technological solutions
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-17: Research and innovation for food waste prevention and reduction at household level through harmonised measurement and monitoring

African Union (AU) – European Union (EU) collaboration in HEU, Pillar II, Cluster 6 – Other topics - BIODIV

Destination 1. Biodiversity and ecosystem services (BIODIV)

- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-03: Strengthening taxonomic approaches for biodiversity
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-04: Large-scale in situ biodiversity observations for better understanding of biodiversity state, drivers of its decline and impacts of policies
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-05: Assessing and modelling ecosystems' dynamic processes to guide restoration activities and to improve models used for climate and land-use policies
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-06: Assessing and modelling socio-economic impacts of nature restoration
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-07: Integrated and coordinated approaches for coral reefs and associated ecosystems (mangroves and seagrass beds) conservation, restoration, and adaptation potential
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-08: Strengthening pathways to alternative socio-economic models for continuous improvement of biodiversity
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-10: Supporting the implementation of nature restoration measures for the social, economic and environmental sustainability of farming systems
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-11: Towards breeding for resilience: enhancing multi-stress tolerance in crops

African Union (AU) – European Union (EU) collaboration in HEU, Pillar II, Cluster 6 – Other topics - CIRCBIO

Destination 3. Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors (CIRCBIO)

- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-01: Novel circular business models to enable the just transition to a sustainable and circular economy
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-10: Unleashing the potential and advancing the impact of the digitalization/AI of the bio-based value chains
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-14: Reconstructing areas affected by conflicts: the role of the bio-based solutions

African Union (AU) – European Union (EU) collaboration in HEU, Pillar II, Cluster 6 – Other topics - ZEROPOLLUTION

Destination 4. Clean environment and zero pollution (ZEROPOLLUTION)

- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-02: Environmental sustainability criteria for primary agricultural crops for industrial bio-based systems
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-04: Environmental biotechnology applications in service of restoration of polluted ecosystems
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-07: Accelerating the uptake of solutions to monitor and sustainably manage water, nutrients and other natural resources in agriculture
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-08: Reducing pollution from the food and drink industries

African Union (AU) – European Union (EU) collaboration in HEU, Pillar II, Cluster 6 – Other topics - CLIMATE

Destination 5. Land, ocean and water for climate action (CLIMATE)

- HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-CLIMATE-03: Understanding and managing medium and longer-term challenges and opportunities for agriculture from shifting climatic zones
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-CLIMATE-04: Innovative solutions for monitoring, reporting and verification of non-CO2 greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture
- HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-CLIMATE-05: Strengthening the resilience of water systems and water sector to climate and global socio-economic change impacts

African Union (AU) – European Union (EU) collaboration in HEU, Pillar II, Cluster 6 – Other topics - COMMUNITIES

Destination 6. Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities (COMMUNITIES)

- HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-COMMUNITIES-01: Adapting to and mitigating demographic trends in rural areas through evidence-based planning and innovative solutions

What are the main policies that promote AU-EU partnership?

AU–EU: a quick glance on the legal framework

The main policies that drive AU-EU partnership are:

- **The AU-EU Innovation Agenda** (19 July 2023). “Research and Innovation endeavours are to be translated into actual products, services, businesses and jobs thereby developing a long-term sustainable AU-EU cooperation model”. *Prof. Mohamed Belhocine, Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, African Union Commission*. Read more [here](#).
- **AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) - Science, Technology and Innovation** (5 May 2023). The AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) serves as a platform for regular exchanges on research and innovation policy and aims to formulate and implement long-term priorities to strengthen Africa-Europe cooperation on STI. It was adopted at the third Africa-EU Summit in Tripoli in 2010 as an important element of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES). Read more [here](#).

...and now let's get into business!

What does a coordinator expects from your participation in the proposal?

First and foremost every project proposal must have a consortium of partners that develops it. **The consortium (or partnership) is composed by 1 Coordinator and several number (it is up to the coordinator) of Partners.** Let's have a look at the different roles.

- **The role of the coordinator (only EU members):** in multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as a consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator among them, who will manage and coordinate the project and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be the coordinator.
- **The role of the partner:** when setting up the consortium, applicants should think of organisations that can help them reach objectives and solve problems. The roles should be attributed according to the degree of participation of each participant in the project. Main participants should participate as beneficiaries/partners or affiliated entities; other entities may participate as associated partners, subcontractors, or third parties giving in-kind contributions, provided that the related conditions are fulfilled. Associated partners and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding).

For more info see HE General Annexes [here](#).

Title

Mining the topic

HORIZON-CL6-2024-CircBio-01-2: Circular solutions for textile value chains based on extended producer responsibility

Topic Identifier

Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 7.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 14.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project see General Annex B.

Type of Action

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.

Eligibility conditions

Focus - Types of projects

Horizon Europe funds different types of collaborative projects including, for example:

- Research and innovation action (**RIA**) that establishes new knowledge or explores a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. The EU funding covers up to 100% of the project costs.
- Innovation action (**IA**) that produces plans or designs for new or improved products, processes or services including prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication. The EU funding covers up to 70% of the project costs.
- Coordination and support action (**CSA**) that improve cooperation among EU and associated countries to strengthen the European Research Area including, for example, standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising, communication and networking activities, policy dialogues, mutual learning or studies. The EU funding covers up to 100% of the project costs.
- Programme co-fund action (**COFUND**) that provides multi-annual co-funding for European partnerships bringing together public and private partners. The EU funding covers between 30 and 70% of the project costs.

For more details, please refer to the official documents of the EU Commission

- Reference documents: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents>
- Pillar I – MSCA <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/calls/msca-doctoral-networks-2024>
- Pillar II – Cluster 6 https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-6-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment_en
- How to apply https://rea.ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe-how-apply_en



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