Horizon Europe Cluster 6

Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Work Programme 2026-2027

Focus on the 2026 Cluster 6 calls

IT Info Day – 16 December 2025

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

Disclaimer: this document is shared for information and does not represent the views of the Commission

European Commission

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).

European Commission

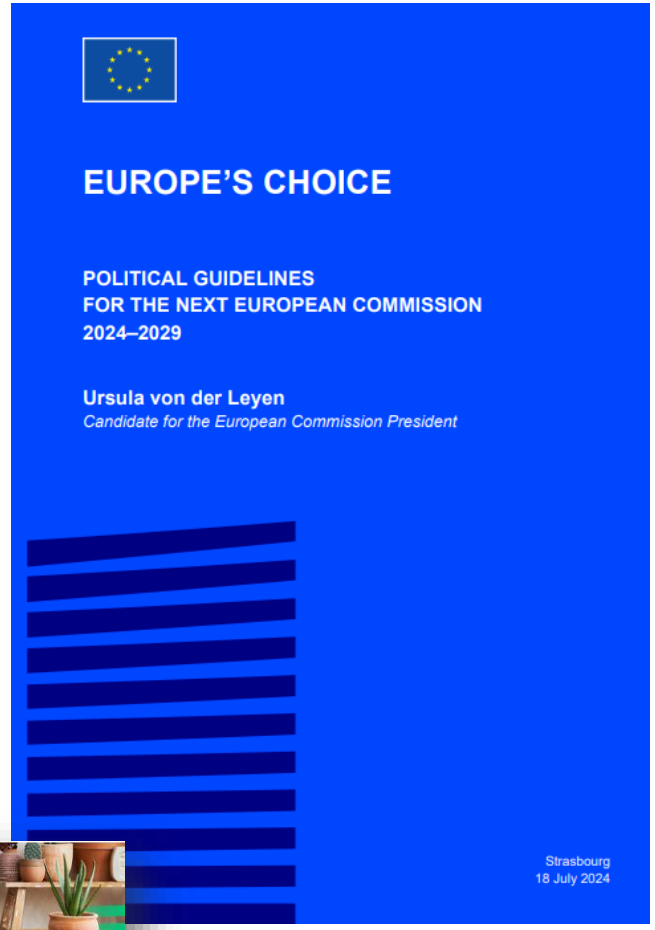
From Expected Impacts to Destinations

Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027	Cluster 6 Work Programmes (2021-2027)
Impact 27 Fostering mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in areas and sectors covered by CL6	• **Destination 5:** Land, oceans and water for climate action
Impact 28 Putting biodiversity on a path to recovery, and protecting and restoring ecosystems and their services	• **Destination 1:** Biodiversity and ecosystem 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	• **Destination 3:** Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors • **Destination 4:** Clean environment and zero pollution
Impact 30 Ensuring healthy food and nutrition security by making agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and food systems sustainable, resilient, inclusive and within planetary boundaries	• **Destination 2:** Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption
Impact 31 Sustainably developing rural, urban and coastal areas	• **Destination 6:** Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities
Impact 32 Developing innovative governance models and tools enabling sustainability and resilience	• **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

European Commission

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**

European Commission

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**

European Commission

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**

European Commission

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**

European Commission

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**

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

European Commission

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**

European Commission

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**

European Commission

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

European Commission

WP 2026: overview of the Destinations

European Commission

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

European Commission

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

European Commission

BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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

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

European Commission

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

European Commission

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

European Commission

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 fisheries and aquaculture

Transforming food systems for health, sustainability and inclusion

Targeted international cooperation

Topic title	ToA	N. project	Topic Budget
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
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
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

European Commission

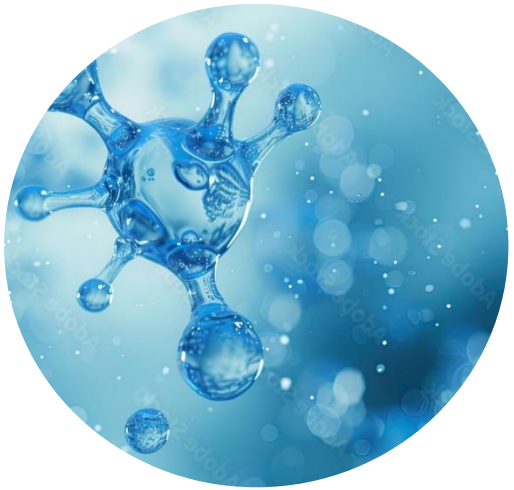
Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Sectors

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

European Commission

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) **(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

European Commission

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

European Commission

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

European Commission

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

European Commission

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

European Commission

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

European Commission

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**

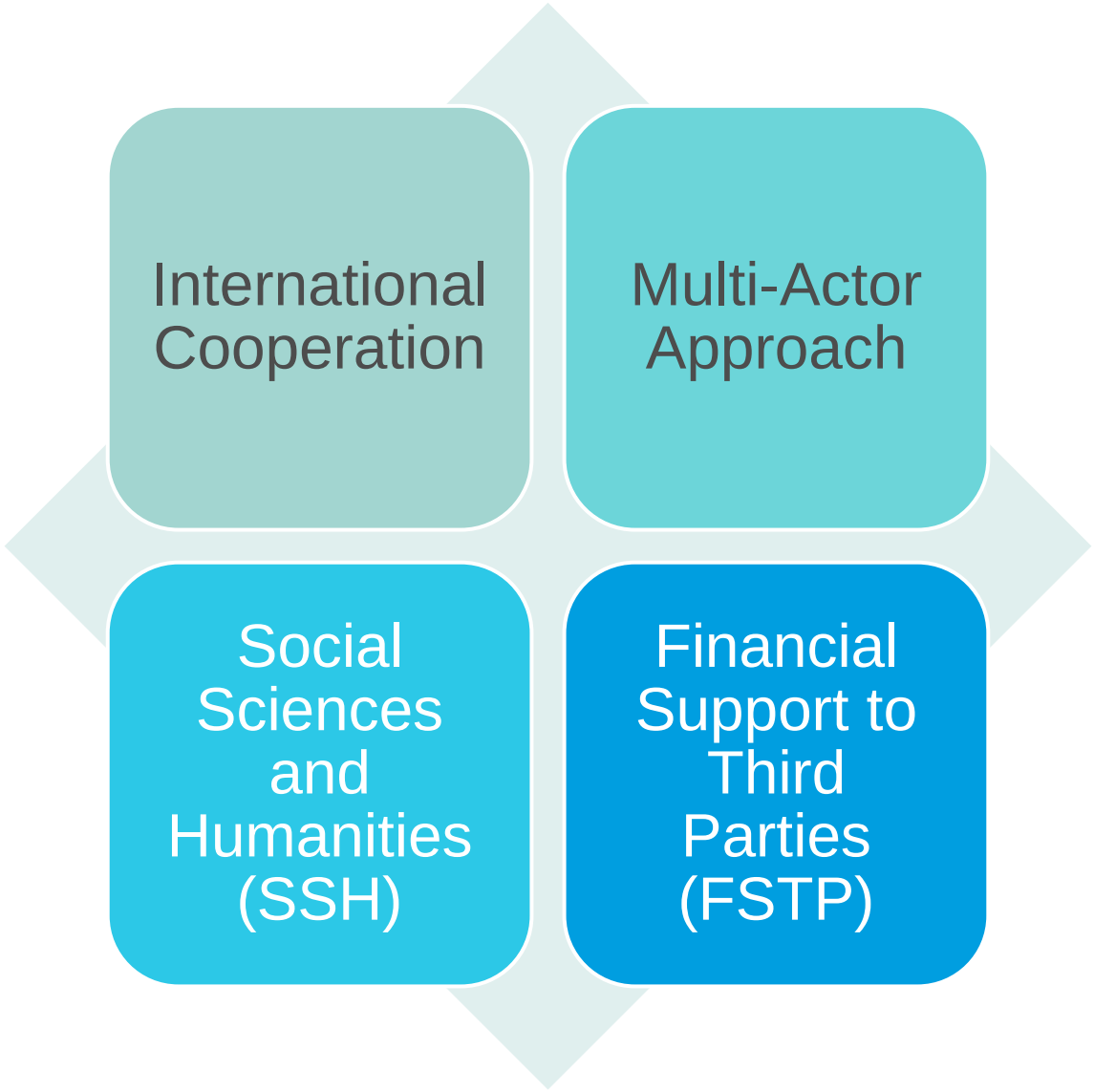
Deploying and adding value to environmental observations

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

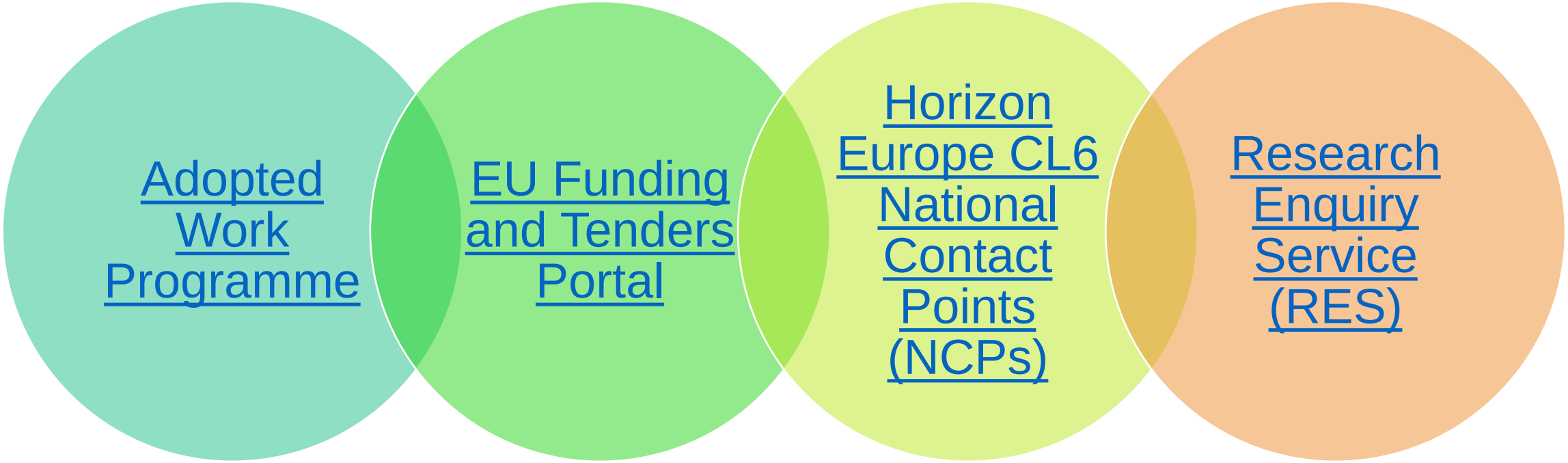
Cluster 6 Info Days – 2026 calls

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.

European Commission

How to get more insights on Cluster 6?



European Commission

Thank you

© European Union 2025

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the CC BY 4.0 license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.