

CONSORTIUM BUILDING ACTIVITIES: TOPICS

Room 1: Opportunities in Health

Topic 1. HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-TOOL-02: Advancing cell secretome-based therapies.

Room 2: Opportunities in Social Transformations

Topic 1. <u>HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-01: Tackling gender-based violence in different social</u> and economic spheres.

Topic 2. <u>HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-07: Impact of the learning environment and the use</u> of digital tools in everyday life on key skills and competence development.

Topic 3. <u>HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-09</u>: Good practices for increased autonomy of persons with disabilities, including physical, mental, intellectual and sensory disabilities.

Room 3: Opportunities in Technologies for the Future

Topic 1. <u>HORIZON-CL5-2025-01-Two-Stage-D3-23</u>: Critical elements for energy security of grid and storage technologies.

Topic 2. HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-05: Programme-level collaboration.

Topic 3. <u>HORIZON-CL6-2025-03-GOVERNANCE-11:</u> Enhancing sustainability and resilience of agriculture, forestry and rural development through digital twins.

Room 4: Opportunities in Food and Biodiversity

Topic 1. <u>HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-03-two-stage</u>: <u>Making food systems more resilient</u> to food safety risks through the deployment of technological solutions</u>.

Topic 2. <u>HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-04: Enhancing plant protein production to bolster</u> the resilience of agricultural systems and EU self-sufficiency in plant protein used as feed.

Topic 3. <u>HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-09: Citizen engagement for sustainable land management</u> through local and regional authorities.









DESCRIPTION OF TOPICS

According to the draft pre-publication of the Work Program 2025

These drafts have not been adopted or endorsed by the European Commission. Any views expressed are the preliminary views of the Commission services and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the Commission.

Expected EU	9-13M€
contribution per	
project	
Indicative	40M€
budget	
Numer of	3-5
expected	
projects	
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Eligibility	In recognition of the opening of the US National Institutes of Health's
conditions	programmes to European researchers, any legal entity established in the
	United States of America is eligible to receive Union funding.
	The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the
	consortium selected for funding.
	If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation
	and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of
	Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may
	additionally be used).
	This topic aims at supporting activities that are enabling or contributing
	to one or several expected impacts of destination "Developing and using
	new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society". To that
	end, proposals under this topic should aim to deliver results directed
	towards and contributing to several of the following expected outcomes:
	• Researchers and biopharmaceutical developers work together with
	clinicians striving to translate innovative therapeutic approaches into
Expected	healthcare solutions.
Outcome	• Producers of innovative health technologies use standardised
	manufacturing processes.
	• Healthcare providers get access to a new type of innovative therapies
	with demonstrated health benefits as compared to traditional treatments.
	• Patients benefit from innovative therapies for conditions for which there
	are currently no or only insufficient therapeutic strategies.
	• Health systems ultimately benefit from improved patient outcomes,
	superior to the current standard of care.
Scope	Secretome-based therapies have emerged as a promising alternative to
	cell-based therapies. The secretome of cells is defined as the repertoire of
	molecules and biological factors that are secreted into the extracellular

HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-TOOL-02: Advancing cell secretome-based therapies.









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Carrying out of all the above-mentioned activities in close interaction with and in compliance with all requirements of the relevant competent authorities, allowing to perform clinical trials.
Conduct of an interventional randomised controlled clinical trial

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• Conduct of an interventional randomised controlled clinical trial comprising phase 1 and phase 2 to generate scientific evidence demonstrating safety and efficacy of the proposed secretome-based therapy.

• Applicants are expected to deliver no later than at month 12 of the project the documentation needed for the GMP-conform production (e.g. SOP - Standard Operating Procedures) and no later than at month 24 the documentation needed for the conduct of the clinical trial (e.g. IMDP186), enabling to get the regulatory approval for the clinical trial. The overall goal is to perform and finalise the phase 1 and phase 2 clinical trials during the lifetime of the project and further achieve authorization of the proposed secretome-based therapy.

• Optionally and if essential for the chosen secretome-based therapy, the work should also include an engineering step of the secretome to achieve the desired profile for increased safety and improved therapeutic effect. To this end, the secretome or its bioactive component(s) may be modified either pre- or post-biogenesis, by use of classical methods on the parent cells, except their genetic modification, or by physico-chemical modification of the bio-active secretome component. The effected modifications of the secretome should lead to the improvement of the functional properties/features and/or of the delivery to target site (organ, tissue, etc.) for the bioactive secretome component. All these modifications should not alter the main mechanism of action and retain the proposed secretome-based therapy within the boundaries of substances of human

origin. The therapeutic effect of the secretome or its components should come from its/their endogenous capabilities and functionalities; exogenous loading with drugs (using the secretome or its components as drug carrier), be it pre- or post-biogenesis, is

not in scope.

All types of diseases, dysfunctions or health impairments may be targeted, preference should be given to conditions that affect larger patient populations and/or represent a high burden on public health systems.

Sex differences should be taken into consideration, both with regard to the parent cells and for the targeted therapeutic application. Participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is strongly encouraged and if an exploitation strategy is developed, it should commit to a first deployment in the EU.

Proposals should consider the involvement of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) as a potential interface between research activities and pre-normative regulatory science and in relation to the potential validation of test methods fit for regulatory purpose. In that











respect, the JRC will consider collaborating with any successful proposal
and this collaboration, when relevant, should be established after the
proposal's approval.
Applicants should provide details of their clinical studies in the dedicated
annex using the template provided in the submission system. As proposals
under this topic are expected to include clinical studies, the use of the
template is strongly encouraged.

HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-01: Tackling gender-based violence in different social and economic spheres.

Expected EU	3.40M€
contribution per	
project	
Indicative	10.20M€
budget	
Numer of	3
expected	
projects	
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Legal and	Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum.
financial set-up	
of the Grant	
Agreements	
Expected	Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes: •
Outcome	Collect data and analyse the prevalence and impact of gender-based
	violence (GBV), including tech-facilitated GBV, in different socio-economic
	contexts and legislative frameworks, and provide policymakers at regional,
	national and EU level with recommendations to address it.
	• Support employers, policymakers, practitioners, and civil society
	organisations in their work on the prevention, protection, prosecution, and
	provision of services in addressing GBV, including through promoting best
	practice sharing, mutual learning and education material focused on
	consent.
Scope	Gender-based violence (GBV) is a prevalent issue, with 1 in 3 women in the
	EU having experienced physical and/or sexual violence, 22% of women in
	the EU having experienced violence by an intimate partner, and 55% having
	been sexually harassed. GBV has destructive consequences for individuals,
	organisations, the economy, and society as a whole. Gender-based
	violence is violence directed against a person because of that person's
	gender or violence that affects persons of a particular gender
	disproportionately. It can be sexual, physical, verbal, psychological, or
	economic and occur in different forms, including threats of such acts,
	coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty. However, important knowledge
	gaps remain on the prevalence and impact of gender-based violence across
	different social and economic areas. For example, in certain sectors,









occupations and work arrangements, like night work, healthcare, hospitality, social services, emergency services, transport and education, workers are more exposed to violence and harassment, although comparable, intersectional data is often still lacking in these fields. While the restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic led to an increase in domestic violence, still little is known about the impact of the associated rise in teleworking on women's working conditions, including the safety of their working environment. Moreover, in sports, initial studies on sexual GBV showed that a significant percentage of female athletes in Europe are exposed to sexual harassment, but no comprehensive pan-European data is available on this.

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Another research field, which requires further attention is the impact of tech-facilitated GBV, including non-consensual sharing of sexually explicit images, manipulated intimate images (e.g., deepfakes and other forms of generative AI), or child sexual abuse online, as well as the potential positive and negative use and effects of AI on GBV. Therefore, proposals should look at gender-based violence in one or more of the following areas: 1) GBV in the world of work, 2) GBV in sports 3) GBV on online platforms.

Across these areas, proposals should take into account online and offline forms of genderbased violence, and consider intersecting factors, such as age, socio-economic and migrant background, disability, racial or ethnic origin , religion, geography, as well as gender identity and sexual orientation. Proposals should also address the role of bystanders and superiors in addressing gender-based violence and assess the availability and effectiveness of victim support. For data collection, proposals should make use of surveys, as well as administrative data, where available, to assess how public services respond to the needs of GBV survivors and can foster a safe environment. Where appropriate, proposals should seek the involvement of law enforcement, prosecutors and judges, together with academia/SSH research to optimise input and uptake. For proposals addressing the world of work, the involvement of social partners is encouraged. Where applicable, proposals should leverage the data and services available through European Research Infrastructures federated under the European Open Science Cloud, as well as data from relevant Data Spaces. Particular efforts should be made to ensure that the data produced in the context of this topic is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable). The outcomes of this research will be particularly important in view of recent policy developments, including the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention, the EU Directive on Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, Commission Recommendation on integrated child protection to protect children from all forms of violence, as wells the ILO Convention no.190 on eliminating violence and harassment in the World of Work. Synergies with projects under the DAPHNE strand of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme are encouraged. International cooperation is









encouraged, in line with the Gender Equality Strategy for External Action
(GAPIII).

HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-07: Impact of the learning environment and the use of digital tools in everyday life on key skills and competence development.

Expected EU	2 AONA£
expected EU	5.40101€
contribution per	
Indicativo	10.20M£
hudgot	
Numerof	
Numer of	3
expected	
projects	
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Legal and	Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum.
financial set-up	
of the Grant	
Agreements	
Expected	Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes: •
Outcome	Provide analyses of the impact of digital tools in everyday life on wellbeing
	and how children learn.
	• Provide analyses and evidence-based recommendations on how to
	provide opportunities for high quality education that uses digital
	technologies in ways that support the wellbeing of the school community
	(students, teachers and school leaders).
Scope	Digital devices and tools are an integral part in the lives of children and
	teenagers as they grow. There is discussion about the impact of the use of
	digital tools in everyday life on children's wellbeing (cognitive, emotional,
	social) and development, but the evidence is often piecemeal. Proposals
	should investigate the impact that the expansion and normalisation of
	children's use of digital technologies (including generative AI) in everyday
	life has on their learning, at a time in their lives when literacy and
	numeracy skills are developing, and during adolescence.
	Proposals may select different target groups to investigate how
	intersecting factors influence children's experiences with digital tools,
	paying a particular attention to age, gender, disabilities, digital exclusion of
	marginalised groups, and socio-economic status. In this context, proposals
	should investigate how the school learning environment can support
	learning and identify effective interventions to support children's social
	emotional and academic needs. Proposals should focus on primary and/ or
	secondary general compulsory education, and they could choose to
	address one or several age groups.
	While educational institutions cannot act in isolation, students spend
	thousands of hours within buildings, and the same holds for teachers and
	school leaders. Sustainable Development Goal (4.a.) emphasises the







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importance of physical learning environment in education facilities. Proposals could investigate the impact of learning environments on education outcomes and how its design responds to changes in teaching and learning. Proposals should propose methods that address the complex nature of the topic under study, the existing data and the rapid changes in the technological landscape. Proposals are encouraged to use mixed methods approaches, and deepen inter- and transdisciplinary research in education (including from SSH disciplines), involving multiple perspectives, with the aim to improve learning and educational settings. Proposals can choose on which aspect of student well-being (cognitive, emotional, social) and skill development they focus. Proposals should include the voice of children and young people through active and meaningful participation and other relevant stakeholders as part of the data collection. Where applicable, proposals should leverage the data and services available through European Research Infrastructures federated under the European Open Science Cloud, as well as data from relevant Data Spaces. Particular efforts should be made to ensure that the data produced in the context of this topic is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable).

Expected EU	3.40M€
contribution per	
project	
Indicative	10.20M€
budget	
Numer of	3
expected	
projects	
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Legal and	Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum.
financial set-up	
of the Grant	
Agreements	
Expected	Projects should contribute to some of the following expected outcomes
Outcome	(minimum three outcomes):
	• Develop innovative evidence-based policy approaches to promote the
	autonomy of persons with disabilities of any age and any origin of the
	disability or impairment.
	• Develop practices that facilitate the full inclusion and participation of
	persons with disabilities in different areas of life, including education,
	family life, employment, living arrangements, leisure, arts, culture and
	sport on equal basis with others.
	• Address the seamless use of accessible and assistive technology,
	including digital technologies and artificial intelligence, in the community

HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-09: Good practices for increased autonomy of persons with disabilities, including physical, mental, intellectual and sensory disabilities.







	 and related services and infrastructure. If possible, identify specific measures and tools for different addressed areas of lives of persons with disabilities, such as education, recruitment, hiring, return to work, and independent life. Identify and compare the usefulness of different options for policies and measures aiming to increase the autonomy and quality of life of persons with disabilities, as well as the quality of life and well-being of their families, using a person-centred approach, taking into account the individual needs of persons with disabilities and ensuring their full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on equal basis with others. Identify relevant actors to achieve effective results (public actors, civil society organizations, private sector, social economy actors, etc.) and explore their roles and interaction, with a view to assessing integration among different social, support and essential services (including e.g. transport or housing) necessary to promote autonomy and inclusion in the community.
Scope	The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognises the right to individual autonomy and independence for persons with disabilities, including the freedom to make their own choices. Ensuring this right requires a differentiated landscape of measures in all areas of society, including ensuring accessibility and quality person-centred support services. Having affordable and community-based services and measures in place, which meet the individual needs of persons with disabilities, is a basic pre-condition for autonomy and independence. Social and support services and measures need to be inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities of any age and with any disability. The proposals may focus on a specific disability or address several of them. Research (including from SSH disciplines) should address barriers and solutions with regard to specific disabilities to increase inclusiveness, decision-making and autonomy, taking into account the integrated and personcentred support provided by families. The role of the family as carers and as the first agent to promote inclusive housing could also be explored. A key aspect of the autonomy and independence of persons with disabilities is the access to inclusive education, training, active labour market measures and employment in the open labour market. Promising support practices in these areas should be mapped, analysed and tested, including the integration and communication between different services for a usercentred approach. European Education Area initiatives such as the Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success aim to address equity and inclusion in education. A wide range of actions and peer learning activities aimed at supporting inclusive education Area strategic framework Working Groups: Working Group on Equality and Values in Education and Training and Working Group on Schools – Pathways to

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School Success. The proposals should consider the impact – including the impact on the self-esteem of persons with disabilities - of inclusive education versus special needs education or special schools/classes for promoting the autonomy of persons with disabilities. The proposals may also consider the role of special training and lifelong learning adapted to persons with physical, mental, intellectual or sensory disabilities. New and innovative ways of increasing the autonomy of persons with disabilities need to be explored and tested with the objective to reduce inequalities, promote their full inclusion in society in different areas of life, including education, family life, employment, living arrangements, leisure, arts, culture and sport, and improve their guality of life, as well as the quality of life and well-being of their families. This includes the use of assistive technology and other accessible digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) measures and tools to increase accessibility in society and overall communication, social participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities. The possible loneliness, impact on emotional well-being and inactivity status of many persons with disabilities needs to be addressed when designing approaches to increase their autonomy and independence. Moreover, the higher risk of persons with disabilities to be exposed to abuse, neglect (including self-neglect), scams and aggression needs to be considered, including when disability is combined (from an intersectional perspective) with other conditions which may be a source of vulnerability (e.g. age, gender, migrant status, discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin). Loneliness and other mental health issues (e.g. burnout) suffered by family carers or other informal carers may be also considered. Proposals should include civil society engagement and dialogue, for wider input and uptake. Proposals are encouraged to seek synergies and collaboration whenever possible with projects funded under the topic HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-STAYHLTH-01: Improving the quality of life of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families. Where applicable, proposals should leverage the data and services available through European Research Infrastructures federated under the European Open Science Cloud, as well as data from relevant Data Spaces. Particular efforts should be made to ensure that the data produced in the context of this topic is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable).

HORIZON-CL5-2025-01-Two-Stage-D3-23: Critical elements for energy security of grid and storage technologies

Expected EU	3M€
contribution per	
project	
Indicative	9M€
budget	
Numer of	3
expected	
projects	









Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: Proposals are expected to clearly address only one of the areas within the scope (area 1, 2 or 3). To ensure a balanced portfolio covering all above areas, grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but at least also to one project that is the highest ranked within each area, provided that the applications attain all thresholds (and subject to available budget).
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum.
Expected outcome	 Project results are expected to contribute to some of the following expected outcomes: Development of advanced solutions contributing to strengthen the energy security of energy network and/or storage technologies for renewable energy; Contribution to strengthened European technology knowledge base on energy system security; Solutions addressing key aspects improving the technological and cross-cutting value chain aspects for energy security of grid and/or storage technologies are developed; Contribution to improved security of the future European renewables-based energy system as an important factor in its cost-effectiveness and therefore directly impacting European competitiveness; Contribution to the creation of European technological leadership in the energy security field and creation of a knowledge base for European industrial competitiveness.
Scope	Development of novel solutions, which address specifically critical aspects affecting the energy security of energy network and/or storage technologies in respect of uninterrupted and cost-effective access to energy. As energy security of the energy grid and safe storage of variable renewables is directly related to a cost-effective and sustainable European energy system and therefore essential to European competitiveness, not only energy security aspects of the grid and storage technologies as such, but also those related to their respective value chains need to be addressed. Proposals should focus on development of solutions for grid and/or storage technologies, which can highly improve their sustainability, resilience, and overall energy security performance in the European context in the long run. Proposals should take into consideration the results of the Study on clean energy R&I opportunities to ensure European energy security by targeting challenges of distinct energy value chains for 2030 and beyond. Project should address precisely only one of the following areas: Area 1- Advanced tools to address cybersecurity risks to 1) energy system transmission and distribution and 2) renewables to storage and storage to

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energy network interface technologies; Area 2- Increasing circular economy processes, recycling, re-use or substitution of sustainably supplied critical materials and electronics for energy network and storage technologies; Area 3- Sustainability and public perception of energy network and storage technologies as a limiting factor for their required capacity build-up and efficient performance in a secure energy system (e.g., hydropower, CAES storage). Furthermore, a framework for decent working conditions, most notably essential skills, and efficient skills management within the overall energy network and storage system are essential for inclusivity and competitiveness of these systems. They should be addressed as an important transversal value chain component.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-05: Programme-level collaboration

Expected EU	2M€
contribution per	
project	
Indicative	4M€
budget	-
Numer of	2
expected	
projects	
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply: Applications must
	be submitted by a consortium including participation, as beneficiaries, of at least three independent legal entities:
	• Each established in a different Member State, Associated Country or non- associated third country: and
	• Two of which are established in a Member State. Due to the scope of this
	topic, legal entities established in non-associated third countries are
	established in non-associated third countries may exceptionally participate
	in this coordination and support action as a beneficiary or affiliated entity.
Expected	Successful proposals will deliver on the following impact: "Common
outcome	priority setting and sustainable joint activities and funding programmes
	among national and regional research and innovation programmes". The
	research and innovation (R&I) funding programmes by pooling national
	and regional resources and align national and regional research and
	innovation policies, with the overall aim to enhance collaborative R&I
	efforts to address global challenges. Projects are expected to contribute to
	all of the following expected outcomes:
	• Identification of common research and innovation priorities among
	national and regional R&I programmes, with consideration given to
	relevant international R&I policy developments and trends, and leading to
	coordinated R&I funding agendas;









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	• Implementation of multiannual joint calls, resulting in the funding of
	transnational collaborative R&I projects;
	 Implementation of additional joint activities supporting technology and
	regulatory policy, and societal and market uptake;
	 Contribution to participating states meeting global challenges, including
	relevant contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals.
Scope	Since the introduction of the European Research Area (ERA) in 2000 and
	starting with Framework Programme 6 and the introduction of the ERA-
	NET scheme, programme-level collaboration among EU Member States
	and Associated Countries and their research and innovation funding
	programmes has become a cornerstone of the ERA. Hundreds of networks
	among research funders have been created over time, serving different
	research needs, but always coordinating public research investments
	across borders and allowing researchers to apply for calls for transnational
	research projects funded by the participating states. Horizon Europe
	introduces a new approach to incentivise programme level collaboration.
	Concerted R&I initiatives, which mobilise efforts and resources of public
	and private actors, are implemented through EU Missions and the co-
	funded, co-programmed and institutionalised European Partnerships. The
	FRA part of Horizon Europe complements this new strategic approach by
	providing the possibility for Member States. Associated Countries, their
	legal entities, including regional authorities and agencies and civil society
	organisations to maintain existing and establish new collaborations on
	priorities of their choice, thereby continuing the spirit of the successful
	FRA-NET scheme funded under Horizon 2020
	This action supports bottom-up initiatives that allow stakeholders to
	define new collaborations on chosen priorities, align national and regional
	research funding nool resources, and ensure complementarity with the
	Framework Programme activities European Partnershins and Ell
	Missions thereby supporting the EPA. The action contributes to the
	chiectives of the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe to increase
	the share of national public research and development expenditure
	committed to the European Dartnerships and Ell Missions. In order to
	committee to the European Partnerships and Eo Missions. In order to
	The action allows to strongthon collaboration with third countries and
	normete shared European values and principles for research and
	promote shared European values and principles for research and
	Involvement of non-associated third countries must be clearly evaluated
	and justified in the proposal
	and justified in the proposal.
	succession proposals should align national and regional research funding
	programmes on agreed phontiles common to the countries participating in
	The action and, where appropriate, implement joint calls for transhational
	Kei projects as well as other joint calls or joint activities. Applicants should
	demonstrate clear commitments from participating programmes to pool
	resources. The necessary resources should be pooled from the
	participating national or regional research programmes as well as, where

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appropriate, leveraged from pertinent foundations, charities and transnational initiatives, with a view to implementing calls for proposals, either within the context of this action or in possible follow-up actions, resulting in grants to third parties without EU co-funding in this area. Proposals should also demonstrate potential impact at national, regional and transnational level. Proposals should demonstrate that activities exclude overlaps with on-going actions cofunded by the EU under Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe. Proposals are expected to envisage a duration of up to 3 years without prejudice to a longer duration if duly justified by the ambitions and complexity of the proposed activities.

HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-03-two-stage: Making food systems more resilient to food safety risks through the deployment of technological solutions.

Expected EU	6M€
contribution per	
project	
Indicative	12M€
budget	
Numer of	2
expected	
projects	
Type of Action	Innovation Actions
Admissibility	The conditions are described in General Annex A. The following
conditions	exceptions apply: Applicants submitting a proposal under the blind
	evaluation pilot (see General Annex F) must not disclose their
	organisation names, acronyms, logos nor names of personnel in the
	proposal abstract and Part B of their first-stage application (see General
	Annex E).
Eligibility	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions
conditions	apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply: The proposals must
	apply the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach
	in the introduction to this work programme part.
Technology	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 8 by the end of the project – see
Readiness Level	General Annex B.
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions
	apply: This topic is part of the blind evaluation pilot under which first stage
	proposals will be evaluated blindly.
Expected	The successful proposal will be in line with the European Green Deal
outcome	priorities and the farm to fork strategy for a fair healthy and
	environmentally friendly food system. This topic is also in line with the
	overall challenges highlighted in the updated Food 2030 pathways for
	action 2.0 report, particularly on the food safety systems of the future
	pathway, this report was published in December 2023 by the European
	Commission. Project results are expected to contribute to all the following
	expected outcomes:









 a new level of ambition and creativity is implemented to tackle innovation creation, enhancing the deployment of solutions in the field of food safety and/or food fraud using existing knowledge, available technologies (such as molecular methods, genomic strategies, photonics, biotechnology, etc.) and the results achieved by European framework programmes projects. The EU's strong knowledge base is translated into marketable results addressing the "innovation paradox" (i.e. the fact that knowledge does not always translate to marketable products and services); food systems become more resilient to food safety risks through the use and exploitation of available knowledge and technologies; increased food chain and food systems competitiveness creating close to the market impactful applications that will benefit and connect solutions for food systems actors (i.e., farming, raw materials and ingredients suppliers, food industry, etc.); increased complementarities and results uptake in the field of food safety and/or food fraud with past and existing European framework programmes projects, and synergies with programmes and their associated project results from the European Research Council (ERC) and the European Innovation Council (EIC); contribute to EU climate action: deployment of clean technologies in the
food industry, to boost food manufacturing efficiency and reduce carbon footnrint
 in the areas of food safety and food fraud a lot of efforts have been invested in European framework programme projects generating knowledge and potential applications. Proposals should contribute to further develop existing knowledge and technological results in the areas to reach higher TRLs aligned with user's needs and estimating the potential impact on cost for the consumers; support innovation to foster advances along the food system implementing digital and technological solutions in high TRL's covering existing food safety and/or food fraud gaps. Proposals should develop and implement innovative solutions close to the market. This should be based on an initial food chain needs and technology gap analysis in the area of food safety hazards (including climate-related ones when applicable) and/or food fraud justifying the followed decision-making process. When
 selecting the food safety and/or food fraud technologies the most innovative clean technologies should be favoured in scenarios of equal conditions to reduce GHG emissions. The exploitation plan should include preliminary plans for commercialisation and deployment (feasibility study, business plan) indicating the possible funding sources to be potentially used; identify existing regulations and give recommendations about which technologies could use sandboxes to foster future commercialisation;

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Activities are expected to achieve TRL 8 by the end of the project. Proposals should clearly define the TRL starting point for each involved technology and the plan to reach more advanced TRL. Applicants should seek complementarities and leverage on the results of past and ongoing research and innovation projects (including projects under the same topic) in the areas of food safety and/or food fraud (i.e. HORIZON-CL6-2023-FARM2FORK-01-12, HORIZON-CL62024-FARM2FORK-01-3, HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-01-4 among others). Therefore, proposals should include a dedicated task, appropriate resources, and a plan on how they should collaborate with other ongoing projects under this theme. In the case of already finished projects applicants will define the best way to engage relevant stakeholders of such projects and the cooperation agreements (also in terms of technology transfer and intellectual property) that are needed. Governmental and food safety regulatory authorities (i.e. EFSA) should, alongside with other stakeholders (startups, SMEs, investors, etc.) be involved. The multi-actor approach applies to this topic. Proposals are encouraged to consider, where relevant, the services offered by European research infrastructures such as METROFOOD-RI (the infrastructure for promoting metrology in food and nutrition) or other relevant research infrastructures. Proposals are also encouraged to consider citizens and

societal engagement in their activities for the implementation of technological results better aligned with consumer's needs. To achieve the expected outcomes, international cooperation is encouraged.

HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-04: Enhancing plant protein production to bolster the
resilience of agricultural systems and EU self-sufficiency in plant protein used as feed.

Expected EU	5.50M€
contribution per	
project	
Indicative	12M€
budget	
Numer of	2
expected	
projects	
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Eligibility	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions
conditions	apply: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the
	consortium selected for funding.
	The following additional eligibility criteria apply: The proposals must apply
	the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in the
	introduction to this work programme part.
Legal and	Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum.
financial set-up	







of the Grant	
Agreements	
Expected outcome	In line with the European Commission's food security communication, the successful proposals will support the reduction of the EU's import dependency on key agricultural products and inputs by boosting EU plant proteins production and use for feed while increasing the sustainability and resilience of Europe's agricultural systems. Successful proposals should support the objectives of the common agricultural policy (CAP), as well as the EU Green Deal strategies, the EU climate action, and the communication on boosting biotechnology and biomanufacturing in the EU. Successful proposals will deliver on the expected impacts of the destination by enabling agrifood systems to contribute to EU strategic autonomy by fostering food and nutrition security and safeguarding long-term sustainability of EU farming systems. Projects results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes: farmers capacity to sustainably produce and use protein crops for feed in the EU is fostered; farmers and advisors understanding about protein crops cultivation and share in animals' diets is improved; knowledge and innovation of the diverse actors across the protein crops value chain on preservation and transformation processes of protein crops for feed is increased;
	• contributions to move towards a more competitive EO protein crop sector are provided, rendering agricultural systems more resilient to climate change, external shocks and supply chain disruptions, while more committed to biodiversity preservation and conservation.
Scope	Currently, protein crops cultivation, such as grain legumes and fodder legumes, only accounts for a small proportion (around 3%) of the EU agricultural area. While there is little shortage in the protein supply for food purposes in the EU, there is a more important shortage in the feed sector, resulting in high levels of imports (especially of soya) originating from countries often with different environmental and social standards. It is, therefore, strategical for the EU to expand the domestic production of protein crops, including in mixed crops as a feed source. Increasing the EU' plant protein autonomy would allow for reducing imports of protein feed from third countries, and thereby, would contribute to the decrease of environmental and climate footprints. Additionally, promoting locally produced protein crops would contribute to the sustainable development of EU rural areas, in line with the EU long-term vision on rural areas, for example through the development of new regional value chains that are selfsustaining. Developments in this area should at the same time be coherent with the new Regulation on deforestation-free products by reducing the impact of plant protein feed needs on deforestation and forest degradation globally.

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The benefits of increasing the share of protein crops, in particular nitrogen-

fixing leguminous crops, in EU farming systems, are also reflected in the climate and the environment, through the improvement of soil quality (restoring and enhancing biodiversity, increasing soil fertility, cycling nutrients, improving soil structure, increasing water retention capacity, etc.) which in turn improves the sustainability and resilience of farms. Proposals should: The benefits of increasing the share of protein crops, in particular nitrogen-fixing leguminous crops, in EU farming systems, are also reflected in the climate and the environment, through the improvement of soil quality (restoring and enhancing biodiversity, increasing soil fertility, cycling nutrients, improving soil structure, increasing water retention capacity, etc.) which in turn improves the sustainability and resilience of farms. improve the knowledge about local production and utilization of various available protein crops used for animal feed across different regions; • identify gaps, needs, barriers and enablers for taking up and scaling up sustainable protein crops intended for feed use in the EU, from production to processing and trade levels. Draw up a strategic roadmap with research and innovation priorities based on the identified challenges, including for the optimization of manufacturing processes of locally produced plant protein into feed; identify, test and showcase biodiversity-friendly management practices in farming systems (crop production and livestock raising) containing protein crops intended for feed use. Prioritise the use of climate and pest resilient protein crops adapted to different EU pedoclimatic conditions; assess the social, economic and environmental impacts and trade-offs for up- and downstream actors of the feed value chain, of the increased share of different protein crops in different farming systems; • generate comprehensive capacity building material, trainings and information tools for farmers, advisors and extension services, including a visualization tailored to different geographical regions and pedoclimatic zones in the EU. Address the most cost-effective production systems with protein crops and combinations of crops, based on local agronomic features as well as on local market data such as demand for feed. All farming approaches, including organic farming, are in the scope of this topic. Proposals must implement the 'multi-actor approach' and ensure adequate involvement of the main actors relevant for domestic plant protein feed value chain, such as farmers, other land managers, advisors, feed manufacturers, industry (including small and medium enterprises), policy-makers, etc. Proposals should ensure an effective knowledge, cocreation and exchange between researchers and field actors as well as with the whole feed value chain actors concerning the benefits, challenges and opportunities of producing and integrating local protein crops for feed in the EU. To this end, proposals should develop diverse practice oriented dissemination materials presenting R&I solutions (e.g. audiovisuals, brochures, fact sheets, etc) and should share all generated data and







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knowledge through existing digital tools or platforms. out Proposals should include a dedicated task, appropriate resources, and a plan on how they will collaborate with the other project funded under this topic and with relevant activities to be carried under topic HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-02-5-two-stage and HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-06. Proposals should ensure coherence and complementarity with ongoing relevant Horizon Europe projects and with relevant activities of the Horizon Europe Partnership 'Agroecology'. Likewise, proposals should capitalise on existing relevant research findings and tools, such as those resulting from Horizon 2020 projects. The possible participation of the JRC in the project could consist of support analysis, applying its tools such as the integrated agro-economic modelling platform (iMAP), for scenario assessment.

HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-09: Citizen engagement for sustainable land management through local and regional authorities.

Expected EU	5M€
contribution per	
project	
Indicative	5M€
budget	
Numer of	1
expected	
projects	
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Actions
Legal and	Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. The support to
financial set-up	third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. The maximum
of the Grant	amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 60 000.
Agreements	
Expected	Activities under this topic contribute to the implementation of the
outcome	Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe', in particular to its specific objective 8
	"improve soil literacy in society", and to strengthening the capacities of
	local and regional authorities in line with the proposal for a Directive on
	Soil Monitoring and Resilience.
	Activities should also contribute to meeting the Sustainable Development
	Goal (SDG) 15 on Life on land and SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and
	Communities.
	Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected
	outcomes:
	• Substantially increased awareness and understanding among citizens
	and local and regional policy makers of the value of soils, soil health
	challenges and drivers (both biophysical and socio-economic dimensions)
	across Europe.











	• An increased number of regions and municipalities across Europe have
	adopted Territorial Management Agreements co-designed with citizens
	and stakeholders to foster sustainable land management practices.
	• Local and regional authorities have improved access to capacity building
	activities on how to implement solutions for the protection and restoration
	of soil health and enhance citizen engagement in sustainable land
	management
Scone	Citizen engagement is one of the building blocks of the Mission Soil but
Scope	despite the advances in recognising the importance of soil health and the
	momentum for soil in the political agenda, active participation in soil
	notection and restoration and understanding of soil health importance
	often remain limited among nen experts. Activities under this tenis should
	involve least and regional outbarities in the protection and restartion of
	involve local and regional authonities in the protection and restoration of
	soli field and establish participatory processes that take into account
	citizens priorities. Local and regional participatory processes should result
	In Territorial Management Agreements almed at the protection and
	restoration of soil health for the provision of ecosystem services, including
	biodiversity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
	Proposed activities should:
	Provide training and technical support to public authorities to design and
	run inclusive and effective participatory processes at local and regional
	level that lead to the adoption of Territorial Management Agreements to
	foster sustainable land management and contribute to climate change
	adaptation and mitigation.
	• Launch the implementation of at least 40 Territorial Management
	Agreements, one per local or regional authority involved, and provide
	guidelines and resources to sustain and monitor their implementation in
	the long term.
	• Organise capacity-building activities for representatives of local and
	regional authorities including training, peer-to-peer learning and
	knowledge-sharing activities to promote the adoption of solutions for the
	restoration of soil health at their level of governance.
	Proposals should actively involve local and regional authorities as
	beneficiaries or through the use of financial support to third parties. If
	making use of financial support to third parties, the support should be
	provided in the form of grants following an open call of European
	dimension for local or regional authorities to run participatory processes
	to co-design with citizens Territorial Management Agreements and launch
	their implementation. The maximum amount to be granted to each third
	party is EUR 60 000.
	The local and regional authorities involved in the project are expected to
	engage citizens and stakeholders at the local and regional level for the
	protection and restoration of soil health.
	Proposals should bring together expertise on environmental and soil
	sciences, as well as transdisciplinary expertise on spatial planning and

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social sciences and humanities (SSH), including gender studies, to design
and organise training and successful capacity building
activities for local and regional authorities and support them in the
implementation of effective participatory processes. The engagement of
citizen and stakeholders in the design of Territorial Management
Agreements should be representative of the local community and
stakeholders and be inclusive. Thus, proposals must incorporate gender
perspectives and give attention to the inclusion of people in vulnerable
situations.
Proposals should include dedicated tasks and appropriate resources for
coordination measures and joint activities with other relevant projects and
initiatives funded under the Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe", including
engagement with the relevant cluster activities.
Proposals should demonstrate a route towards open access, longevity,
sustainability and interoperability of knowledge and outputs through close
collaboration with the European Union Soil Observatory (EUSO) and
SoilWise.







