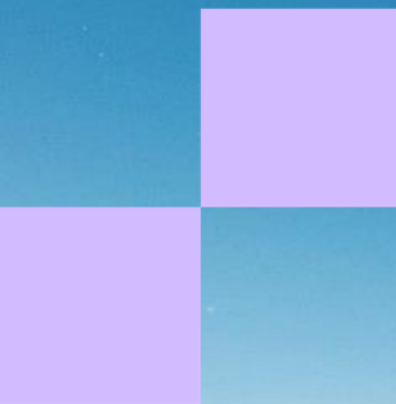


- 
- INNOVATE UK
 - Biodiversity Opportunities –
 - Horizon Europe 2026-2027

Kerry Young & Heather Birch
UK National Contact Point – Horizon
Europe



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What is Horizon Europe?

Horizon Europe is the world's largest research and innovation programme running from 2021 until 2027, providing over £90 billion in funding to address some of the greatest global challenges.

The **UK is associated** to Horizon Europe, so UK participants can fully participate*, act as Coordinator and be funded directly by the EC.

* Exceptions apply

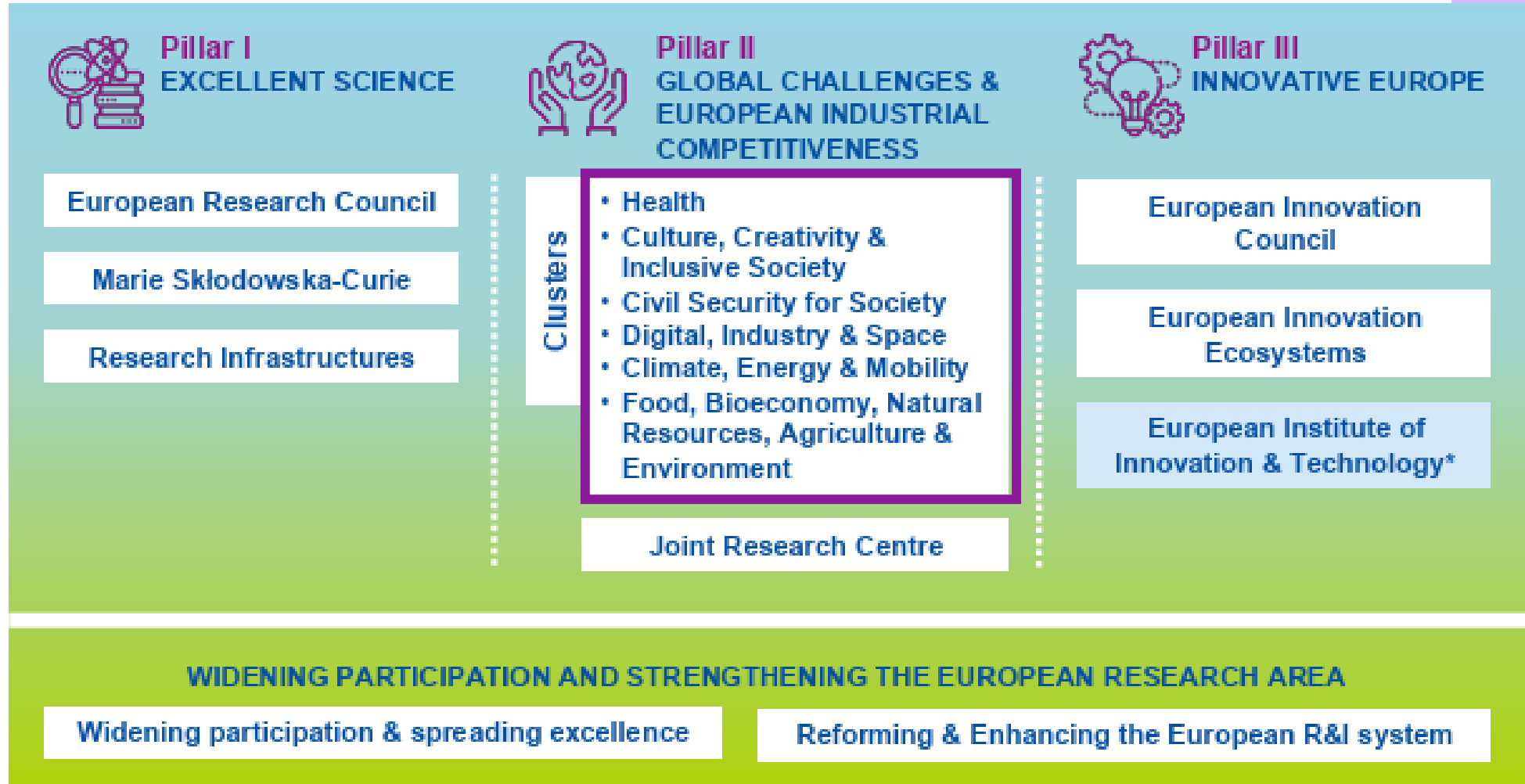


For more info please see our [Business connect website](#)



Horizon Europe structure

Three Pillars for Implementation



Already involved in a call or
need some help with an
application please let us know!

Cluster 6 Biodiversity call opportunities 2026

Topic Ref Number HORIZON-	Topic Title	Deadline 2026
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-01:	Understanding and tackling the decline of insects	17 th Sept
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-02:	Developing methods to assess the presence, functions and sensitivity of groundwater ecosystems	17 th Sept
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-03:	Pushing the frontier of knowledge and conservation action for deep sea ecosystems	17 th Sept
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-04:	Ensuring continuous effectiveness of protected areas in conserving habitats and species while facing intensifying drivers of biodiversity loss	17 th Sept
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-05:	Advancing integrated scenarios and prediction models for informing transition to a nature positive society	17 th Sept
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-06:	Boosting agrobiodiversity for food security and sustainable competitiveness	17 th Sept
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-01-two-stage:	Living labs for co-creating solutions for the restoration of ecosystems	23 rd Sept
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-02-two-stage:	Open topic: Uncovering the causes of specific species’ rapid decline and exploring actionable solutions	23 rd Sept
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-03-two-stage:	Unlocking the potential of citizen action for nature protection and restoration	23 rd Sept
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-04-two-stage:	Mainstreaming and scaling-up evidence-based Nature-Based Solutions towards a nature positive and climate-resilient economy	23 rd Sept



Cluster 6 Biodiversity call opportunities 2027

Opens: 20th April 2027

Deadline: 22nd Sept 2027

Topic Ref Number HORIZON-	Topic Title	Type of Action	Budget €m	Budget per project €m	No of projects
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01- BIODIV-01:	Integrating Remote Sensing and in-situ observations of Biodiversity, towards a fully interoperable observation and data framework	RIA	10	~5	2
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01- BIODIV-02:	Science-policy support to the implementation of EU and global biodiversity policies and strategies	CSA	7	~7	1
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01- BIODIV-03:	Technical innovation to protect ecosystems and to scale up their restoration	IA	14	~7	2
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01- BIODIV-04:	Living Labs for the eradication and/or management of invasive alien species.	RIA	24	~8	3
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01- BIODIV-05:	Accelerating the transition to a nature positive economy: Integrating biodiversity into the private sector	RIA	14	~7	2
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01- BIODIV-06:	Living labs driving transformative change via knowledge integration and inclusive governance	RIA	14	~7	2
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01- BIODIV-07:	Health of ecosystems and wild species, predictions and impacts on human health, in the face of existing and emerging stressors, from a One Health approach	RIA	14	~7	2
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01- BIODIV-08:	Fostering common farmland birds and mammals for resilient food production systems	RIA	12	~6	2
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01- BIODIV-09:	Enhancing the competitiveness of organic crop breeding: focus on intercropping adapted varieties	RIA	12	~6	2

NATURE calls - transformative change towards nature-positive economy and society

Acknowledging that humans are part of and fully dependent on nature, these calls support the European Commission's priorities:

- 'Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature'
- 'A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness'.

The NATURE Call supports additional research and innovation activities in the field of biodiversity across the entire Pillar II of Horizon Europe.

Protecting and restoring nature is the basis to build up Europe's resilience, economic risk reduction and strategic autonomy, preventing natural disasters and reducing risks to food security.

Addresses the need for sustained effort to maintain and restore healthy ecosystems with activities to support the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, using living labs.

Proposals must follow the multi-actor approach (requirements laid out in the [work programme](#)).



For more info please see our Business connect [NATURE page](#)

“Supporting the objectives of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 and the EU vision for 2050”



Transformative change towards nature-positive economy and society

Expected impact: Proposals submitted under this call should set out a credible pathway contributing to “**putting biodiversity on a path to recovery, and protecting and restoring ecosystems and their services**”, and more specifically to one or more of the following expected impacts:

- the biodiversity crisis and its consequences are better understood.
- stakeholders have at their disposal cost-effective and operational monitoring methods
- stakeholders implementing nature restoration activities
- more effective controls of wildlife trafficking and invasive alien species
- technological and non-technological innovations, knowledge and tools are available
- private actors are better equipped to comply with their legal obligations
- ecosystem health is better understood
- progress towards international commitments on biodiversity is made.



For more info please see our Business connect [NATURE page](#)

“Contribute to the objectives of the European Water Resilience Strategy, the EU Soil Strategy and the Soil Monitoring Law, the EU Forest Strategy, the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy, the EU Zero Pollution Action Plan and the European Ocean Pact”



NATURE call 01

Opens: 13th October 2026

Deadline: 14th January 2027

Dates tbc

Topic Ref Number HORIZON-	Topic Title	Type of Action	Budget €m	Budget per project €m	No of projects
HORIZON-NATURE-2027-01-01	Understanding the nature and the extent of the effects of PFAS on biodiversity and ecosystem services. <i>SSH involvement</i>	RIA	11.45	~5.7	2
HORIZON-NATURE-2027-01-02	Better understanding, anticipating and addressing the biodiversity benefits and impacts of the clean and digital industries. <i>SSH involvement</i>	RIA	18	~6.0	3
HORIZON-NATURE-2027-01-03	Systemic approaches to accelerate transformative change for biodiversity. <i>MAA, FSTP, SSH involvement</i>	RIA	12	~4	3

The current [work programme](#)

Additional requirements:

All funded projects will form a cluster and be required to participate in networking and joint activities – dedicated work package.



HORIZON-NATURE-2027-01-01: Understanding the nature and the extent of the effects of PFAS on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Scope: Proposals should

- Conduct field-based studies, to better understand the effects of PFAS and their breakdown products on species, populations and on ecosystems. Evaluate the nature and the temporal and spatial scale of the effects
- Explore and apply comparable methods to assess the impacts of PFAS on ecosystem services and estimate costs.
- Prioritise and justify the PFAS substances or groups of substances to be addressed.
- Explore approaches such as ecosurveillance to monitor ecosystem health
- Identify remaining critical knowledge gaps, for which more targeted research will be needed
- Suggest ways for policy makers to integrate the new knowledge in decisions and possible solutions



HORIZON-NATURE-2027-01-02: Better understanding, anticipating and addressing the biodiversity benefits and impacts of the clean and digital industries

Scope: Proposals should, for a minimum of five different industrial activities:

- develop typologies of biodiversity benefits, impacts and dependencies in terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems per industrial activity, building on the ENCORE database.
- taking into account the projected growth of the EU industrial and digital sector, assess holistically their direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on natural resources
- compare business-as-usual industries to decarbonized, digitalized and circular industries by providing cost-benefit assessments of biodiversity mitigation measures
- provide recommendations and tools that directly inform society, industries and decision makers on biodiversity-sensitive societal, economic and technological trajectories
- involve industrial partners, local authorities and civil society organizations in testing and operationalising the recommendations and retrieving early evidence in practical conditions



HORIZON-NATURE-2027-01-03: Systemic approaches to accelerate transformative change for biodiversity

Scope:

- identify and analyse implementation gaps in transformative change for biodiversity through a systems approach, including behavioural sciences, SSH, culture and the arts
- analyse and map cross-actor and cross-sector relationships, different worldviews and knowledge systems
- anticipate and analyse how indirect drivers of biodiversity loss interact with societal, economic and cultural values
- design, pilot and evaluate approaches to shift governance arrangements, organisational and community routines and decision-making processes
- develop guidance, building on existing networks, data sets, digital platforms and tools, to support adaptation, replication and scaling
- optimise data usage, including standardised data formats widely adopted across sectors and support stakeholders.



NATURE call 02

Opens: 13th October 2026 - tbc

Deadline: 14th January 2027 -tbc

Topic Ref Number HORIZON-	Topic Title	Type of Action	Budget €m	Budget per project €m	No of projects
HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-01	Assessing direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity decline of invertebrates. <i>Balanced portfolio, FSTP, SSH involvement</i>	RIA	15	~7.5	2
HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-02	Living labs co-creating solutions for the restoration of ecosystems addressing implementation bottlenecks and improving resilience to risks. <i>MAA, Balanced portfolio, FSTP, SSH involvement</i>	RIA	60	~10	6
HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-03	Networking to scale up living labs for nature restoration solutions and to address bottlenecks to implementation. <i>MAA, SSH involvement</i>	CSA	4	~4	1
HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-04	Innovative solutions to fight wildlife trafficking and to reduce invasion of invasive alien species. <i>Expected to achieve TRL 6-7, SSH involvement; specific beneficiary involvement</i>	IA	13	~13	1
HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-05	Cost-effective biodiversity monitoring for EU policies. <i>Balanced portfolio</i>	RIA	~16	~5-6	3



The current work programme

Additional requirements (except HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-04):
All funded projects will form a cluster and be required to participate in networking and joint activities – dedicated work package.

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-01: Assessing direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity decline of invertebrates

Scope:

- assess and rank the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity decline based on invertebrates' cases studies across representative European terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems
- better understand the drivers of invertebrates decline and how they vary spatially and temporally
- involve relevant stakeholders, develop and provide decision-support tools to competent authorities and stakeholders for effective protection and restoration strategies
- building on relevant existing ecosystem modelling frameworks, include/add an anticipatory and predictive dimension, integrating early-warning systems and stress-testing approaches able to assess future trajectories under different land-uses scenarios
- ensure that results feed into decision support tools
- Proposal should focus on invertebrate species, in particular, understudied taxonomic groups, across representative European terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, addressing Area A: Focus on insects or Area B: Focus on molluscs and crustaceans.



HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-02: Living labs co-creating solutions for the restoration of ecosystems addressing implementation bottlenecks and improving resilience to risks.

Scope:

- each project will support the set-up of three new living labs, with 8 to 15 experimental sites each, across different ecosystems, as places for co-creating, testing and demonstrating innovative solutions to restore ecosystems
- cover different geographical regions or climate zones and at least three different EU Member States and/or Associated Countries, including sites in outermost regions
- act as real-life policy experimentation environments, enabling the testing of regulatory, financial and governance innovations.
- assess the ecosystem conditions (baselines), anticipate restoration trajectories and establish sustainable monitoring mechanisms to track progress towards the objectives
- identify pertinent bottlenecks to the mainstreaming and upscaling of the implementation of nature restoration activities. Establish and use harmonised Key Performance Indicators and MRV (measurement, reporting, verification) protocols compatible with the NRR and the European Water Resilience Strategy
- identify Lighthouse sites demonstrating exemplary solutions for nature restoration
- define sustainability pathways, governance structures and business models ensuring their continuation beyond the project duration.
- proposals should address Area A: building risk-resilience with restoration or Area B: developing effective and viable restoration practices in agriculture and/or forestry.



HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-03: Networking to scale up living labs for nature restoration solutions and to address bottlenecks to implementation

Scope:

- organise a European network of living labs and lighthouses dedicated to nature restoration to ensure a cohesive development and the effective uptake of validated deployment frameworks
- ensure that living labs are adequately informed on the relevant legislation notably the NRR
- inform about nature restoration financing (existing or future) opportunities, including the Nature credits roadmap and the CRCF certification framework, and their implementation
- consolidate scientific results from the living labs and lighthouses in policy and implementation-focused outputs, fostering multi-level governance and supporting competent authorities in translating restoration challenges into operational priorities
- based on living lab and lighthouses activities, advocate ecosystem restoration and promote knowledge sharing and cultural exchanges on biodiversity
- develop a mapping of current and emerging living labs and lighthouses dedicated to nature restoration and make it available
- build on existing knowledge and on the experience of successful living labs and lighthouses to provide practical recommendations and transferable implementation models. Include relevant stakeholders.



HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-04: Innovative solutions to fight wildlife trafficking and to reduce invasion of invasive alien species

Scope:

- develop tools/prototypes, using innovative solutions for the detection of invasive alien species in trade and illegal wildlife trade, prioritising technologies and methods deployable by law enforcement and competent authorities
- ensure that technical solutions developed are interoperable with existing systems
- ensure solutions allow for lawful collection, preservation, and admissibility of digital and physical evidence
- ensure scalability and develop long-term maintenance plans and skills development
- develop skills and competences of competent authorities eg border guards, customs authorities
- develop modern and effective societal awareness raising campaigns involving civil society non-governmental organisations and companies where relevant.
- Proposals should involve, as beneficiaries, of at least 3 relevant competent authorities representing law enforcement (like customs or border guards), or nature conservation services or environmental protection services from at least 3 different EU Member States or Associated Countries.



HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-05: Cost-effective biodiversity monitoring for EU policies

Scope:

- develop scalable approaches for biodiversity monitoring with a view to improve cost effectiveness
- develop demonstration cases to test, operationalise and pilot different biodiversity monitoring approaches to fulfil practical implementation of monitoring needs
- assess and compare the different approaches regarding their potential scalability, existing gaps, limitations, or potential drawbacks
- build and further advance on already identified methods, tools and/or technologies, as well as on their integration, for species identification and quantification, such as DNA approaches, to address the gaps for their cost-effective and practical application in monitoring frameworks
- advance the use of genomic techniques in monitoring and complete or substantially advance DNA libraries
- Proposals should address Area A: Nature Restoration Regulation, namely the EU Pollinators Monitoring Scheme , Area B: Soil Biodiversity for the Soil Monitoring Law or Area C: Water Framework Directive.



NATURE call 03

Opens: 3rd June 2027 - tbc

Deadline: 16th September 2027 - tbc

Topic Ref Number HORIZON-	Topic Title	Type of Action	Budget €m	Budget per project €m	No of projects
HORIZON-NATURE- 2027-03-01	Advancing interdisciplinary, data-driven research at the biodiversity-health interface under a One Health approach.	RIA	20	~20	1

Additional requirements:

This funded project may have to join a cluster and be required to participate in networking and joint activities – dedicated work package (TBC).

The current [work programme](#)



HORIZON-NATURE-2027-03-01: Advancing interdisciplinary, data-driven research at the biodiversity- health interface under a One Health approach.

Eligibility requirements – 1 Member State and at least 6 other independent legal entities each in a different Member State or Associated Country

Award Criteria – higher thresholds

Scope:

- Develop thematic use cases (minimum six) to test and address critical challenges for biodiversity-focused inter- and transdisciplinary research
- Enhance data sharing and interoperability across thematic domains to support the use cases:
 - Select and mobilise existing datasets
 - Promote inter- and transdisciplinary research
 - Develop and validate analytical and Data Source Integration tools
 - Provide data and software governance recommendations
- Develop a proof of concept for a holistic One Health approach:
 - Build on results from the use cases to develop a proof of concept based on full integration across domains to demonstrate how holistic can enhance resilience to threats
 - Develop evidence-based actionable outputs such as recommendations, guidelines interoperable indicators and decision-support tools



NATURE call 04

Opens: 6th October 2026 -tbc

Deadline: 16th February 2027 - tbc

Topic Ref Number HORIZON-	Topic Title	Type of Action	Budget €m	Budget per project €m	No of projects
HORIZON-NATURE- 2027-04-01	A stronger Global Ocean Observing System to enhance Europe's strategic autonomy, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation.	IA	50	~50	1



The current [work programme](#)

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-04-01: A stronger Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) to enhance Europe's strategic autonomy, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation

Scope:

- focus primarily on areas beyond national jurisdiction, reinforce and expand the governance frameworks and observing networks, to help address current structural gaps at global scale
- support global strategic observation equipment deployment and coordination led by GOOS, and strengthen the integration of European biodiversity and ecosystem observing efforts into the global landscape
- build on GOOS's existing knowledge, perform observing system experiments (OSEs), observing system simulation experiments (OSSEs) and/or apply network optimisation approaches to design and better coordinate the most reliable, sustained, cost-effective global ocean observing system
- identify critical technology needs and co-create, with industry, a multiplatform technology roadmap
- ensure that infrastructures, technologies and data are effectively used, shared and sustained across regions and communities, through skills development, training, and knowledge exchange
- support the coordination efforts of GOOS and of its components



Horizon Europe **info day**: Horizontal
Activities Nature and Bridging calls

16th October

[Link here](#)

CARE4BIO Online Brokerage event
19th October

[Link here](#)

NCP organized Online Brokerage
event Oct/Nov tbc



Other opportunities

- Topic in other Clusters – [link](#),
- Other destinations in Cluster 6 - [link](#),
- Ocean Mission – [link](#), [webinar](#),
- Soil Mission - [link](#).
- Biodiversa+

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The proposal is NOT just about the science!

- **Ambition** at a European or international scale
- Clear **policy context**
- Importance of **impact** – think about the change you want as you develop your proposal
- **Multi-actor approach** to development and delivery
- **Interdisciplinary approach**
- **Financial Support to Third Parties** – easier to involve smaller players
- **Convincing delivery**
- Evidence a **winning consortium**



National Contact Points



UK NCP network - support for each area of Horizon Europe

International NCP network – support in Member States, Associated Countries and Third Countries

NCP services vary in each country, but typically include:



Informing, awareness raising – on Horizon Europe and other EU programmes



Assisting, advising and training – to improve the quality of Horizon Europe proposals



Signposting and cooperation – direct to relevant support and work with each other to support consortium development

Cluster 6 UK NCP contact details

Agrifood and Natural Resources (D1, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7)
Oceans Mission
Soil Mission

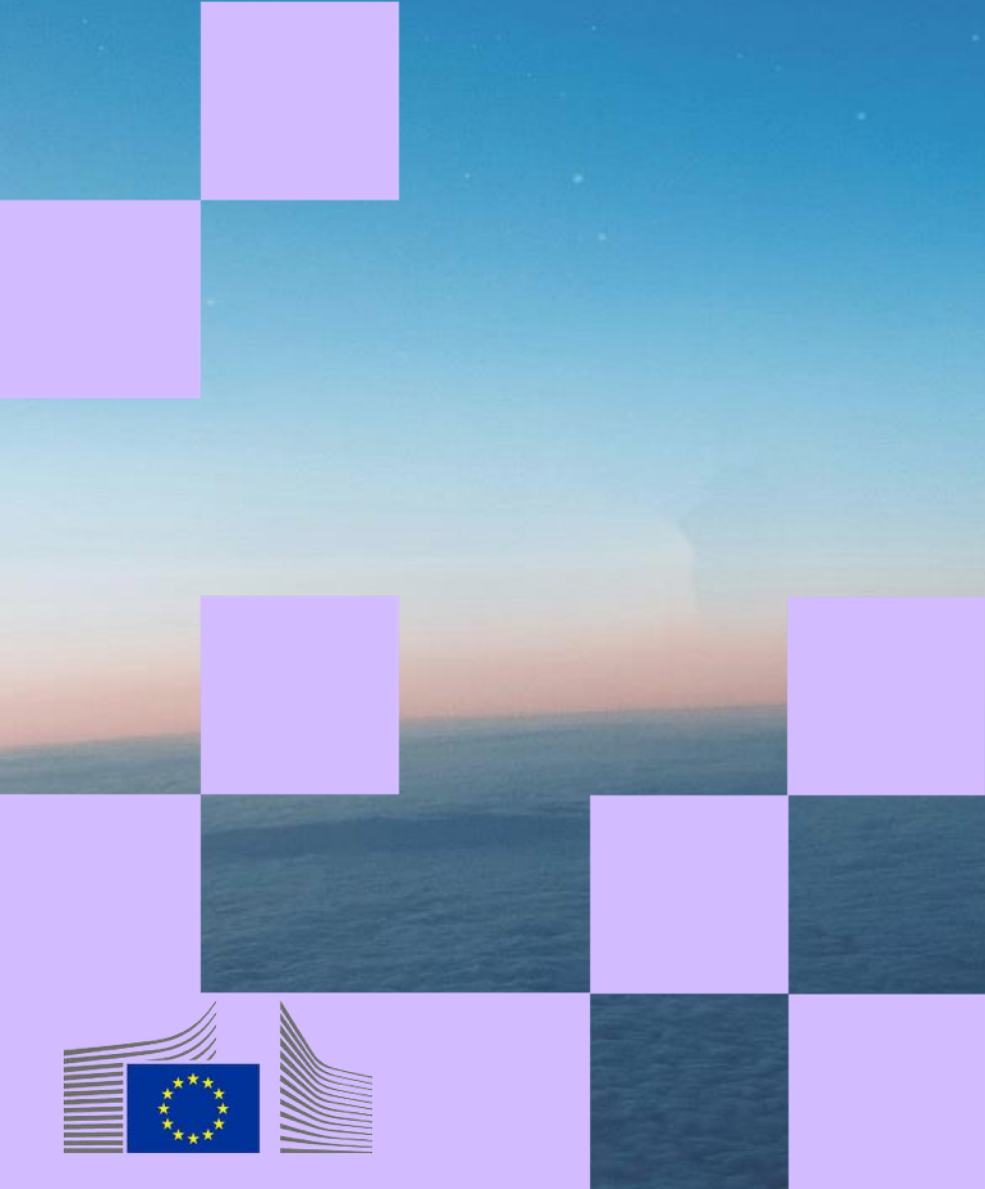
Kerry Young

Circular Bioeconomy (D3), CBE-JU, *Eureka Network*

Paul Bello

Ncp-food-bio-marine@iuk.ukri.org





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■ Thank you

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