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Horizon Europe Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment: Call 01 – two-stage; Deadline Proposal: 16.04.2026

The Horizon Europe mandate for Cluster 6 is to provide research and innovation (R&I) opportunities to strengthen and balance environmental, social and economic goals and to set human economic activities on a path towards sustainability. Cluster 6 supports transformative change of the EU economy and society to reduce environmental degradation, halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity, better manage natural resources, and meet the EU's climate objectives. This needs to happen while ensuring food and water security and fostering the sustainable prosperity and competitiveness of the EU, taking into account the evolving geopolitical context. The Work Programme builds on the new R&I priorities outlined in the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027.

Activities in this Work Programme contribute to all Key Strategic Orientations (KSOs) defined by the Strategic Plan, namely: 1) the green transition; 2) the digital transition; and 3) a more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe.

R&I activities in this cluster help meet the long-term priority objectives to 2030 set out in the 8th Environment Action Programme and contribute to ensuring that policy development is firmly anchored to the latest science and knowledge. This cluster also contributes to achieving the target of dedicating 10% of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 annual spending to biodiversity as of 2025 and the at least 35% of the Horizon Europe expenditure to climate action.

Cluster 6 helps accelerate the transition to competitive, resilient, sustainable, healthy and inclusive food systems to achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal, the Vision for agriculture and food and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). R&I activities aim at empowering farmers, fishers and aquaculture producers to efficiently transform their production methods, making the best use of Nature-based Solutions, technological, digital and social innovations and transferable knowledge while supporting fair incomes and the competitiveness of the entire EU food value chain. This will accelerate climate mitigation and result in positive environmental outcomes, increased climate resilience and reduced dependency on pesticides and antimicrobials, fostering multi-disciplinary approaches including the One Health approach. Furthermore, it will also provide consumers with affordable, safe, nutritious, healthy and sustainable food.

R&I also seek to stimulate sustainable practices at all stages of the food system, (from production to processing services, the use and valorisation of waste and by-products and surplus management) and to ensure safe and sustainable food and enable a shift to sustainable and healthy diets for all. The cluster also supports the design, implementation and monitoring of the common agricultural policy (CAP), the common fisheries policy (CFP) and the EU General Food Law.

To ensure that projects results will not lead to negative consequences for the environment and the climate, R&I actions in Cluster 6 are designed in compliance with the 'Do no significant harm' (DNSH) principle. Where relevant, proposals should benefit from the use of advanced digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, to accelerate and maximise the impact of policies on environmental protection and climate change, as stated in the European Green Deal.

To be more effective in achieving a positive impact, proposals should synergise with relevant Horizon Europe initiatives, including European Partnerships, Missions and the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Through Cluster 6, special attention will be given to ensuring cooperation between universities, scientific communities and industry, including SMEs, citizens and civil society and their representatives. This allows bridging gaps and reducing inequalities between genders, territories, generations and regional cultures, supporting women innovators and caring for the needs of young people in shaping Europe's future.

Cluster 6 activities will support international cooperation, which should take place in a value- based way – creating linkages, not dependencies – and will sustain the EU's ambition in international fora on biodiversity, climate change, natural resources management, seas and ocean, zero pollution, sustainable agriculture, food safety and food and nutrition security. In line with the EU's global approach to R&I, and in support of the global gateway strategy, projects involving international partners will lead to increased scientific knowledge and transfer of technology, to address global challenges while fostering

sustainable growth and job creation in the sectors covered by the cluster. Special attention is given to the EU-African Union Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA). Eligibility to participate is also subject to the 'Participation of Chinese universities linked to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)' eligibility condition.

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-01-two-stage: Living labs for co-creating solutions for the restoration of ecosystems
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-02-two-stage: Open topic: Uncovering the causes of specific species' rapid decline and exploring actionable solutions
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-03-two-stage: Unlocking the potential of citizen action for nature protection and restoration
- 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
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-01-two-stage: Deploying circular systemic solutions through living labs in cities and regions (Circular Cities and Regions Initiative topic)
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-02-two-stage: Open topic: Using the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative to strengthen urban manufacturing in support of the Clean Industrial Deal
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-01-two-stage: Decontaminate and bioremediate aquatic pollution

Submission of Proposal Deadline: 16 April 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

Further information:
https://www.nks-bio-umw.de/ausschreibungen/ausschreibungen-in-cluster6

Horizon Europe SNS R&I Work Programme 2026; Deadline Proposal: 29.04.2026

This Coordination and Support Action (CSA) will support interaction and synergies between SNS projects, as well with other relevant stakeholders, building on results, tools and lessons from Phases 1 and 2, while linking with activities in Phase 3. This will notably include structured collaboration among projects, operation of thematic working groups and diffusion of knowledge. More specifically, it will organise the EuCNC & 6G Summit conferences in 2027 and 2028. All these activities will be carried out in close coordination with the SNS JU Office and SNS JU members (the Commission and the 6G-IA). The CSA should take into account and build as possible on publicly available outcomes of previous SNS CSA projects, in view to ensure continuity of community-support activities and avoid duplication of efforts.

1) HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-CSA-02: 6G Devices
The challenge is to define a European roadmap towards 6G ready devices together with a companion implementation strategy, widely shared by the sector actors and essential application verticals, with the objective of stimulating a European industrial supply side in particular for a "long tail" of devices serving a multiplicity of application domains.

The primary outcome of this work is a widely endorsed European roadmap outlining options based on device complexity, target markets, and connectivity capabilities, accompanied by a strategy to revitalize European industrial capabilities in 5G/6G devices, which:
- Address in priority part of the end device market, notably that related to vertical specific use-cases with the objective of generating huge downstream production volumes, beyond the sole infrastructure segment.
- Support the telecom industry, through evidence-based recommendations and requirements, towards the provision of end-to-end capabilities serving key vertical markets with comprehensive EU offers across the value chain.
- Support the emergence of a complete European device-network ecosystem fuelling the deployment of 5G SA solutions towards 6G.
- Identify key and priority vertical use cases which could be early adopters of such device capabilities, in particular looking into novel 6G potential markets.

Altogether, the scope of the CSA should cover the full definition of a European industrial programme to relaunch a device

capability in Europe, which may be implemented either at EU level or/and at national level.

2) HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-CSA-03: EU-India International Collaboration
This SNS JU International Cooperation activity targets a closer collaboration with India, including Indian SDO (e.g. TSDSI), Indian Government institutions and Indian stakeholders (including Bharat 6G). The goal of this CSA is to establish in-depth working relationships to assess further industrial cooperation opportunities and divergences to be taken into account from an EU perspective.

Expected outcomes include:
▪ In depth analysis of the 6G Indian vision, including Indian SDO, Indian Government institutions and Indian stakeholders, with commonalities and differences between the European and Indian perspectives.
▪ A comprehensive analysis of the industrial ecosystems in India and EU in relation to 6G, including supply chain cooperation opportunities.
▪ Alignment of views on future exploitation in international standardisation as well as contributions to standardisation bodies and fora, supporting global views on open standards and interoperability.

The goal of this CSA is to facilitate structured cooperation and exchanges between EU and Indian stakeholders in the field of advanced connectivity research.

3) HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-B-01: Collection, Generation and Validation of Datasets suitable for training AI Models for 6G Networks and for AIaaS
The development of AI models for 6G networks requires access to high-quality, representative datasets that capture the complexity and diversity of next-generation communication environments. Such datasets are essential not only for enabling intelligent network automation, optimisation, and resilience, but also for empowering networks to provide AI-as-a-Service (AIaaS) to vertical industries and applications.

The target outcomes include:
▪ Acurated collection of high-quality real-world datasets, capturing realistic deployment scenarios.
▪ An open-source simulator to create synthetic data sets of high quality capturing realistic deployment scenarios.
▪ A modular framework and related methodology for generating and processing high quality realistic synthetic datasets to train AI models usable by 6G systems.
▪ A data space of appropriate scale to manage the datasets foreseen, covering the full data lifecycle.

The produced datasets are targeted to be used by the SNS community to train AI models that will improve the performance of 6G networks or serve to develop AI solutions for 6G services and applications (AIaaS) for SNS JU verticals.

4) HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-C-01: SNS experimental infrastructure
The main outcome will be the availability of an evolvable experimental infrastructure representative of a 6G system for the Phase 3 of the SNS JU Programme with the ability to engage the 6G community to run experimentations and the validation of key 6G technologies with demonstrated performance characteristics through experiments carried out using the experimental infrastructure.

The project will leverage existing SNS JU Stream C and D project results, as well as results from European National Initiatives, aggregating testbed sites that can offer combined capabilities across Europe. The project should focus on integration, evaluation and validation beyond PoC of Stream B type of technologies for 6G KPIs and KVIs in a system context. The core of the activities is to run experiments, with some activities to maintain and expand the tool offered to the community.

Submission of Proposals Deadline: 29.04.2026 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

Further information:
https://smart-networks.europa.eu/sns-ju-ri-work-programme-2026-released/

Digital Cybersecure tools, technologies and services relying on AI; Deadline Proposal: 31.03.2026

This topic addresses AI-based technologies (including GenAI) for national authorities and competent authorities, including National and Cross-Border Cyber Hubs, CSIRTs, public bodies and private entities from the NIS 2 directive, NCCs, etc. They play a key role in providing central operational capacity to European cybersecurity ecosystems. They may also provide primary input data for AI/ML-based cybersecurity tools and solutions, which can strengthen such authorities' capacity to analyse, detect and prevent cyber threats and incidents, and to support the production of high-quality intelligence on cyber threats. In particular, the adoption of generative AI could be a challenge and an opportunity for cybersecurity processes and applications.

These enabling technologies should allow for more effective creation and analysis of Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI), automation of large-scale processes, as well as faster and scalable processing of CTI and identification of patterns that allow for rapid detection and decision making.

The security of AI itself, especially for the systems in the learning phase, also needs to be addressed, including the misuse of AI by malicious actors. This includes carrying out risk assessments and mitigation of cybersecurity risks inherent to AI technologies, implementing supply chain security, etc., and complying with the AI Act, intellectual property legislation and the GDPR.

In addition to being secure, the AI technologies being developed should perform well, and be robust and trustworthy. In particular, having trustworthy AI solutions will help in the deployment phase, where social acceptance is essential.

Actions in this topic should develop and deploy systems and tools for cybersecurity, based on AI technologies, addressing aspects such as threat detection, vulnerability detection, threat mitigation, incident recovery through self-healing, data analysis and data sharing. These activities must also comply with intellectual property rights (IPR) and the GDPR, depending on the type of information handled. The AI solutions proposed should also be cybersecure.

Expected Outcomes:
▪ Deployment of Artificial Intelligence and various AI-powered technologies as enablers for Cyber Hubs, CSIRTs, NCSCs, NIS SPOCs and others.
▪ Novel cybersecurity tools based on AI that have been developed, tested and validated in relevant conditions and made available to Cyber Hubs, CSIRTs, NCSCs, NIS SPOCs and others.
▪ Enhanced information sharing and collaboration amongst National and Cross-Border Cyber Hubs, CSIRTs, NCSCs, NIS SPOCs and others relevant stakeholders, supported by CTI produced by AI-powered tools.
▪ Tools for automation of cybersecurity processes such as the creation, analysis and processing of CTI, to enhance operations of the Cyber Hubs.
▪ Original European CTI feeds or services.
▪ Ensure that the most advanced and innovative secure AI solutions are developed and implemented for NIS sectors.
▪ Secure AI solutions and tools, complying with EU legislation. Promote the mitigation of risks associated with the misuse of AI by malicious actors, with a focus on AI ethics and secure deployment.
▪ Contribution to the standardisation and certification of cybersecure, trustworthy AI technologies.

Type of action and funding rate: Simple Grants — 50% funding rate

Submission of Proposals Deadline: 31 March 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

Further information:
https://www.nkcs.bund.de/de/foerderprogramme/digital-eccc-2025-deploy-cyber-09-cyberai

Other EU Academic Network of Saxony-Anhalt (nEUtzwerk)

The universities in the state of Saxony-Anhalt founded the "EU Academic Network of Saxony-Anhalt" at the beginning of 2011 in order to support researchers at all universities in the acquisition and use of EU funding for research and innovation by providing information, application advice and project management. By strengthening and networking the administrative and advisory skills of the universities, the aim is to increase the acquisition of EU funding for research and innovation and technology transfer.

You may contact the EU Academic Network of Saxony-Anhalt via the information provided online:
https://www.euhochschulnetz-sachsen-anhalt.de/eu_hsnetz/en/

Other Contact Research Funding Advisory Service at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

If you have any questions about funding opportunities, specific calls for proposals, help with submitting applications and project support, please contact the Research Funding Advisory Service/EU University Network at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg.

Information about current event, funding structures and contact details online at:
https://www.ovgu.de/en/ContactResearchFundingAdvice.html
https://www.euhochschulnetz-sachsen-anhalt.de/en/