Information session 3

Environment, Food, Natural Resources and Agriculture

Catherine Holt and Helen Sweeney
National Contact Points for Cluster 6
1 Introductions

2 What is Horizon Europe

3 Opportunities in Cluster 6

4 Case Study: Evi Arachoviti from Innovation for Agriculture

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Horizon Europe National Contact Points (NCPs)

Team of country based, sector specific, advisors to support everyone to successfully participate in EU Framework Programmes

• Raising Awareness of the programme
• Helping you find the right Topic
• Identifying the best ways to find partners
• Navigating the EU Funding & Tenders portal
• Developing the proposal
• Answering any other Horizon Europe related questions
UK National Contact Points

Pillar 2
GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

1. Health
2. Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
3. Civil Security for Society
4. Digital, Industry and Space
5. Climate, Energy and Mobility
6. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Innovate UK
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology
What about you?

How would you best describe your interest?

- New to Horizon Europe
- Know a little about Horizon Europe, but have not applied for a grant
- Experienced and have for applied to Horizon Europe (or the predecessor programmes such as Horizon 2020 or FP7) or have taken part in project
What is Horizon Europe?

- Horizon Europe
- Association
- Participation to date
- What it means for the UK
Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

The content of the Cluster covers all three pillars of **sustainable development** - economic, environmental and social elements, and addresses many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

It includes actions across seven themes that will provide funding opportunities to put human activities on track towards sustainability.
Cluster 6: Destinations

- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- Fair food systems healthy and environmentally friendly from primary production to consumption (Farm to Fork)
- Circular Economy
- Clean Environment and Zero Pollution
- Land, Oceans and Water for Climate Action
- Resilient, Inclusive, Healthy and Green Rural, Coastal and Urban Communities
- Innovative Governance, Environmental Observations and Digital Solutions in Support of The Green Deal
Biodiversity and ecosystem services

Get biodiversity back on a path to recovery, and ecosystems and their services are preserved and sustainably restored on land, inland water and at sea through improved knowledge and innovation.
Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption

Support food production all the way through the supply chain to consumption. This considers health impacts from diets and the social considerations around consumer behaviour and how that can be used to promote healthy choices.
Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Sectors

The need to maximise the reach of the bioeconomy sectors and the circular economy is essential. This will help us to reduce our environmental impact and improve our resource use and efficiency. This is a fundamental part of the EU Green Deal approach to sustainable economic growth.
Clean environment and zero pollution

Advance the knowledge of pollution sources and pathways to enable preventive measures, improve monitoring and control, apply planetary boundaries in practice and introduce effective remediation methods
Land, oceans and water for climate action

Address the climate change challenges that affect us all. It will promote behaviour change and management practices to assist in the transition to a low carbon economy.
Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities

Our communities; urban, rural or coastal are key to the adoption and effectiveness of any intervention. Engagement and real collaborative working are essential to create more resilient communities to react to the challenges and transitions ahead.
Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal

Supports robust evidence using environmental observations and digital technologies, information gathering and networking and knowledge transfer. Evidence-based decision making, through to policy and governance is necessary to embed the R&I into actions to bring about transformative action across all sectors.
Current and Future Opportunities

- The Cluster 6 2024 Calls for proposals closed at the end of February. 1269 proposals submitted, competing for €890m funding. Results due in June.

- The next Work Programme 2025 will not be published until Q1/Q2 2025 so there is time to prepare

- Time to build relationships and make connections ahead of the new calls

- Ready now? There are the Missions and Partnerships in Cluster 6 and the EIC.
The Missions are more than a traditional research and innovation programme. They are an ambitious commitment for transformation, engaging citizens, the public and private sector with their focus on people. The Missions have €5 billion (€1 billion for each mission) to fund these large ambitions from the Horizon budget.
The EU’s ocean, seas and waters are being degraded as a result of human activities.

Progress in reaching good environmental status in EU marine waters has been slow.

Their health is linked to the health of Europe’s rivers and waters that flow into or are connected to the sea.

The EU can only fulfil its European Green Deal objectives by restoring the good health of the hydrosphere.

The European Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030:

- Restore the health of our oceans and waters by 2030
- Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity
- Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters
- Make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular
A Soil Deal for Europe – Goal: 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030

1. Reduce desertification
2. Conserve soil organic carbon stocks
3. Stop soil sealing and increase re-use of urban soils
4. Reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration
5. Prevent erosion
6. Improve soil structure to enhance soil biodiversity
7. Reduce the EU global footprint on soils
8. Improve soil literacy in society

Each specific objective is backed by one or more quantified targets and measurable indicators. Objectives apply to all types of land use.
Cluster 6: Partnerships

Destination 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystem services
  - Biodiversa+
    - Agroecology
      - Animal Health and Welfare
      - Sustainable Food Systems

Destination 2 - Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption
  - Circular Bio-based Europe

Destination 3 - Circular Economy and the bioeconomy
  - Water4All

Destination 5 - Land, ocean and water for climate action
  - Agriculture of Data
    - Sustainable Blue Economy

Destination 7 - Innovative governance environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal
Horizon Europe: European Innovation Council

**EIC Pathfinder:** for advanced research on breakthrough or game-changing technologies

- **Pathfinder Challenge:** Nature inspired alternatives for food packaging and films for agriculture

  Closing date: 16th October 2024

**EIC Accelerator:** for individual companies to develop and scale up breakthrough innovations with high risk and high impact

- **Accelerator Challenge:** Food from precision fermentation and algae

  Rolling 2 stage process: Closing date if successful in first stage 3rd October 2024
Case Study

Evi Arachoviti

Head of Policy & Social Innovation for Agriculture
Horizon Europe: IfA case study

Evi Arachoviti, Head of Policy IfA

Horizon Europe Insight Day: Information, Networking and Collaboration for Success

University of Birmingham, Wednesday 13 March 2024
We support farmers to put innovation into practice. Working with leading agricultural researchers, businesses, landowners, and farmers to develop the knowledge and technologies that will make modern farming more sustainable, resilient, and productive.

Focus areas
Our key focus areas are Climate Smart Farming, livestock and soil & water.

Projects
We deliver projects to connect farmers with research and facilitate peer to peer learning. These include the formation of communities of practice and farmer action groups.

Events
We organise events for farmers to exchange knowledge and ideas. These include farm walks, study tours, on farm demonstrations and virtual events.

Creation of resources
We create resources for farmers to use while planning next steps towards farm adaptation to climate change and improve farm business resilience and profitability.
Our sister organisation, the Royal Agricultural Society of England is dedicated to supporting the progression of knowledge and innovation within the agricultural community.

Farm of the Future
A campaign to showcase the pathway to net zero farming and profitable farm businesses.

Reports
We bring together experts from across the industry to report on how the agricultural industry can respond to the challenges it faces.

Events
Our flagship event, the British Pig & Poultry Fair, will take place at the NEC on the 15th-16th May 2024.

Awards
Our awards recognise excellence in science and technology, the environment and land and business management (Annual RASE awards day).
Our Track Record

**DISARM**: Disseminating Innovative Solutions for Antibiotic Resistance Management

**NEFERTITI**: Networking European Farms to Enhance Cross Fertilisation and Innovation Uptake Through demonstration

**FAIRSHARE**: Digital Tools for Farm Advisors

**SmartAgriHubs**: Unleashing the innovation potential for the digital transformation of the European Agri-food Sector.

**Euraknos**: Thematic Network strengthening EU agricultural knowledge base by collecting existing knowledge and best practices from current Thematic Networks.

**DECIDE**: Data-driven control and prioritisation of contagious animal diseases

**Climate Farm Demo & Climate Smart Advisors**: Establish and facilitate a network of demonstration farms and climate smart advisors across Europe, who are working towards decarbonisation and achieving NetZero.
What do EU projects bring to IfA

01 Income
02 Network
03 New Knowledge
04 Exploitation of Results
05 Opportunities for Pollination
06 Strong Track Record
Common challenges in getting involved

Partners’ search
Identify the need (expertise, country, ...), use communication materials (project sheet), reach own network, participate to NCPs brokerage events, exploit pollination opportunities, register on the Portal.

Meeting deadlines
Ensure availability and resources with partners, meet strict deadlines for contributions, send kind reminders, use follow-up tables and spreadsheets.

Drafting the budget
Budget discussions are time consuming. Start early
Proposes a coherent budget according to involvement effort and actions (request assistance from finance team)

Writing
Gather from the start all “internal” documents that you can use in the application
Use resources to find quantitative data (for KPIs!)
Plan for help (communication, support for proofreading, partners for dedicated sections)

Start well before the deadline
Climate Farm Demo Horizon Europe Project

A EUROPEAN-WIDE NETWORK OF FARMERS

IMPLEMENTING AND
DEMONSTRATING CLIMATE-SMART SOLUTIONS
FOR A CARBON-NEUTRAL EUROPE
WHAT DOES CFD AIM TO ACHIEVE UNTIL 2030?

IMPLEMENT, DEMONSTRATE AND UPTAKE Climate Smart Farming (CSF) PRACTICES ACROSS EU

REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS significantly

ACHIEVE THE EU CLIMATE TARGET PLAN
1,500 pilot farms
27 countries
20% organic - 80% conventional
60% livestock - 25% crops - 15% horticulture
Project Structure
IfA as National Coordinator (NC)

- Develop, implement and monitor/evaluate national network plans and KE
- Support and follow up on CFAs in their tasks and report on the platform
- Organise annual meetings and trainings for CFAs and PDFs
- Link to national and regional policy makers and contribute to the strategic plan for PIPs
- Participate in training

NMB

- Participate in 3 monthly meetings with the NMB
Why farmers join our network

Receive free long-term climate mitigation and adaption support from a dedicated advisor

Improve farm efficiency to increase farm business profitability and prepare for the future

Share results and become a climate leading farm

Host demonstration events for the wider farming community
THANK YOU

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THANK YOU

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You can register to get occasional updates on Horizon Europe here: https://eufunding.ukri.org/subscribe
Questions?
Thank you