

CLUSTER 6 INFO DAY IN ROMANIA

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NCP Cluster 6, National Delegate SRG CBE JU, CARE4BIO team*

Tuesday, 17 June 2025



About NCP@UEFISCDI

Department established in October 2021 within UEFISCDI for 7 National Contact Points (NCP) full time



Who we are

Seven full-time NCPs for 9 programmes in the EU framework program for research & innovation, Horizon Europe (2021-2027).

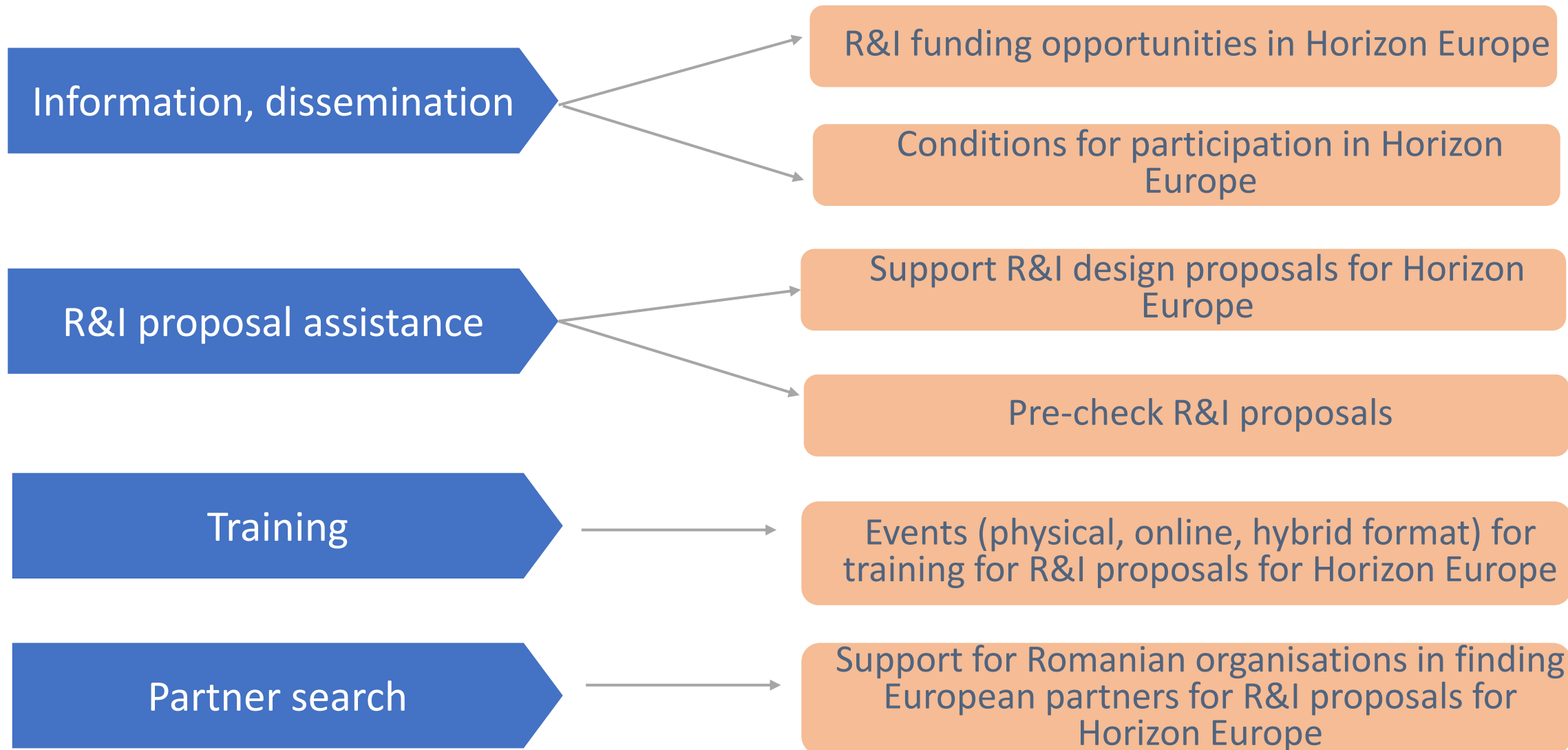
Why is it important

NCP experts and professionals who contribute to increasing the participation and success of Romanian applicants in the EU program Horizon Europe.

What we do

The National Contact Points (NCPs) provide guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon Europe.

NCP@UEFISCDI Activities



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News

NCP@UEFISCDI

Information and brokerage events organized by the EC

12 June 2025 - MSCA Feedback to policy event - MSCA contribution to bridging research & innovation and standardisation for EU competitiveness

19 Jun 2025 - How to become an expert for

News

ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027

The second European Research Area (ERA) Policy Agenda for 2025–2027, outlines 11 structural policies focused on long-term reforms - such as open science, research careers, and infrastructures and 8 targeted

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***Programmes covered by
the NCP@UEFISCDI unit.**

Information on Horizon proposals

Horizon calls

- [ERC](#)
- [MSCA](#)
- [CL2](#)
- [CL6](#)
- [EIC](#)
- [EIE](#)
- [EIT](#)
- [Widening & ERA](#)



Home Information

Support & Resources

Proposal assistance

Travel Grants-Brokeraj

Partner Search

Resources

Support and Resources

for Horizon Europe R&I proposals

NCP@UEFISCDI provides the following support for Romanian applicants, for their proposal preparation for Horizon Europe

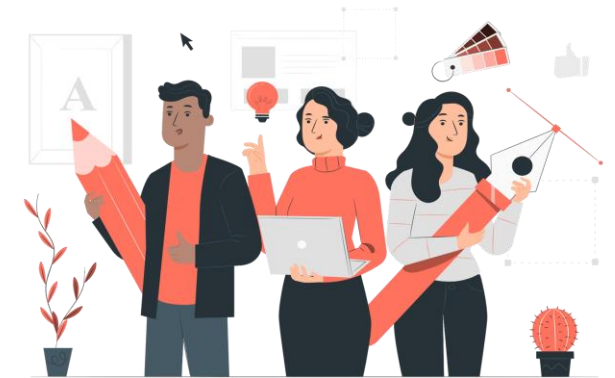
Proposal

Partner Search

Resources

Building a strong and competitive consortium

1. Start with the essentials:
 - Minimum 3 legal entities from 3 different EU or Associated Countries
 - Clear roles: coordinator, work package leaders, partners with specific expertise
2. Diversity matters:
 - Mix research organizations, universities, SMEs, industry, NGOs, public authorities
 - Ensure geographical balance
3. Quality over quantity:
 - Choose partners based on expertise, not numbers
4. Build on trust and previous collaboration:
 - Use past EU project experience
5. Use available **tools** for partner search



Tools

Info days

- Event-specific guidance and clarifications

Networking events/platforms; brokerage events

- Ideal for finding partners and building consortia

Funding& Tenders Portal

- Official source for all open and upcoming calls

CORDIS

- EU-funded project results and previous beneficiaries

Local NCPs

- Personalised support and national context

NCP networks

- Share experience, best practices and partner links



Horizon Europe Brokerage Event for Cluster 6 - Calls 2025

27 May 2025 | Warsaw, Poland

[Home](#)[Participants](#)[Marketplace](#)[Agenda](#)[Log in](#)[Register](#)[INFO](#)[HOW IT WORKS](#)[WEBINAR HOW TO PREPARE](#)[FAQ](#)[FLASH PRESENTATIONS](#)[TRAVEL GRANTS](#)[CONTACT](#)

CLUSTER 6

BROKERAGE

27 May 2025

27 May 2025

00-322 Warsaw, Poland

66 Krakowskie Przedmieście Street
National Institute for Culture and Rural
Heritage

Horizon Europe Brokerage Event for Cluster 6 - Calls 2025

[Register now](#)**REGISTRATION HAS RE-OPENED.**<https://www.b2match.com/e/care4bio-2025>

Online vs. on-site brokerage event

Advantages

Online



- ✓ Shorter preparation time
- ✓ Lower costs
- ✓ No travel

Disadvantages

- ✓ Less personal interaction

On-site



- ✓ More personal contact
- ✓ Better networking atmosphere
- ✓ Chance meetings, informal talks
- ✓ Higher cost and logistics effort

Tip:

Choose based on your needs. **For early contacts, online works well.** For **building trust and detailed project planning**, on-site is usually better.

Why participate?

- ✓ Find partners for **Cluster 6 calls**.
- ✓ Promote **your expertise**.
- ✓ **Join or build consortia** for specific **Work Programme topics**.
- ✓ **Connect with key actors across all Cluster 6 areas**, including food systems, agriculture, environment, biodiversity, natural resources, and the bioeconomy.



Who can join a Brokerage Event?

- ✓ Universities;
- ✓ Research Institutes (including Technology centers and R&D units);
- ✓ Companies / SMEs;
- ✓ Public authorities and Policy makers;
- ✓ NGOs and Civil society organizations;
- ✓ Others (e.g., clusters, platforms).

How to prepare for a Cluster 6 Brokerage Event

ONLINE

Phase 1: Before registration

- Review the **Cluster 6 Work Programme / Strategic Plan**
- Clarify your **participation goals**:
 - *Are you looking for partners?*
 - *Do you want to join or lead a consortium?*
 - *Do you want to pitch a specific idea?*
- Check the **deadline and participation requirements**.
- Prepare a **short description of your organisation and expertise**.



<https://www.b2match.com/e/care4bio-2025>

How to prepare for a Cluster 6 Brokerage Event

ONLINE

Phase 2: After registration

- Go to the event page: [CARE4BIO 2025 Brokerage Event](#) (link below)
- Create your account.
- Complete your **participant profile**.
- Create **a high-quality cooperation opportunity** (describe what you offer or look for, role in a consortium, types of partners you are seeking, cooperation type, etc).
- **Await confirmation** from CARE4BIO organisers.

<https://www.b2match.com/e/care4bio-2025>

How to prepare for a Cluster 6 Brokerage Event

ONLINE

Phase 3: After confirmation

- Review and refine your **participant profile**.
- Optimise your profile for visibility and matchmaking (by refining your Marketplace entry, updating your **keywords – interests / skills**, and reviewing your **contact information or description section**).
- Highlight your **scientific expertise** in relation with Cluster 6 topics, your **main activity and years of experience**.
- Mention your **experience in EU-funded projects** (H2020, Horizon Europe).
- Be specific about **thematic areas** (soil health, biodiversity, etc).
- Add the **logo, institution website and your picture**.
- Align your **profile with your participation goals**.
- Use a simple **language**.
- Browse participants and book 1:1 meetings.

<https://www.b2match.com/e/care4bio-2025>

How to prepare your pitch presentation



- Start by exploring the **key principles of Horizon Europe**.
 - Think about what **specific expertise** you can offer as a potential partner.
 - **Use the pitch template published on the event page (link below).**
 - Do not overload your slides.
 - Slides should be in English.
 - Do not include confidential information.
 - Provide weblinks to additional material (if needed).
-
- Make a list of things you want to say.
 - Practice your presentation as much as possible **to fit the timing**.
 - Make sure your message is clear and consistent.
 - Test your presentation with **external audiences and gather their feedback** to improve clarity.

From topic to proposal: Strategic framing



- Choose **a topic that fits your core expertise**, not just budget or theme
- Analyse the **TRL, expected outcomes, and target stakeholders**
- Define **your role** early: coordinator, WP leader, technical expert, etc.
- Build your consortium based on **complementarity of skills and roles**.
- Even as a partner, define how your expertise complements the consortium.
- Check if your institution brings **added value beyond research** (policy, outreach, implementation)
- Consider balance: geographical areas, gender, experience levels

How to Read a Topic Correctly



EN

Horizon Europe

Work Programme 2025

9. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

(European Commission Decision C(2025) 2779 of 14 May 2025)

Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2025
Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

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Read the call text from the official Work Programme:

- ✓ Check cluster, destination, and policy context.



- ✓ Identify the full topic title and topic ID

How to Read a Topic Correctly

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-04: Large-scale in situ biodiversity observations for better understanding of biodiversity state, drivers of its decline and impacts of policies

Call: Cluster 6 Call 01 - single stage	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 11.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 22.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 60 000.

- Identify the **Type of Action**. This influences the level of innovation expected, budget, TRL, etc.
- Use the **indicative EU contribution** to estimate how big your project team should be.
- How many projects might be funded under this topic?
- Review **Legal and Financial Notes**

How to Read a Topic Correctly

- Analyse the topic in 3 parts:
 - **Expected Outcomes** – what must be achieved
 - **Scope** – what must be covered (methods, target groups, limitations)
 - **Type of Action** – RIA / IA / CSA (for structure, TRL, impact, etc)
- Check additional info below the topic: TRL, budget per project, eligibility, synergies, gender, SSH, etc.
- Evaluate how well your team fits the objectives and scope
- Use keywords from the topic in your proposal

**TARGETED
RECOMMENDATIONS**


INT.
COOP.

SSH

AI

COLLAB.
SINERG

Common mistakes when choosing and reading a topic

- Selecting a topic just because it's open or has high funding
 - Ignoring the **“Expected Outcomes”** section
 - Mismatch between **proposal content and action type**
 - Not checking budget per project and **building too small / too large consortia**
 - Lack of clarity regarding objectives
 - Not complying with TRL or eligibility conditions specified in the topic
 - Failing to integrate **Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)**. Some topics require meaningful SSH input.
 - Ignoring the **Gender Dimension**. If required by the topic, gender must be addressed both in research content and team composition.
- 

!!! Forgetting to justify policy relevance or links to EU missions.



Especially in Cluster 6, evaluators expect clear alignment with policy objectives (e.g. EU Green Deal, Soil Mission, Farm2Fork).

Common mistakes when choosing and reading a topic

Multi-Actor Approach mentioned, but not integrated.

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, co-creation 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 knowledge through existing digital tools or platforms.

Describe *how and when stakeholders and end-users* will be actively involved.

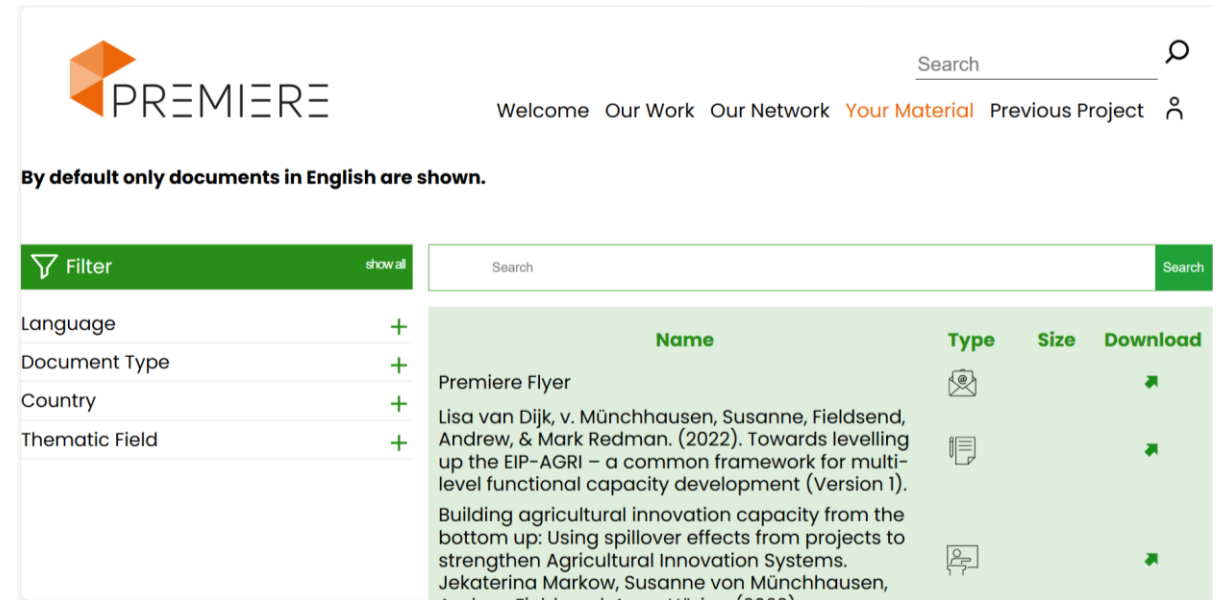


The Multi-Actor Approach should be fully integrated throughout the proposal, with concrete roles, contributions, and engagement clearly described in the work plan.

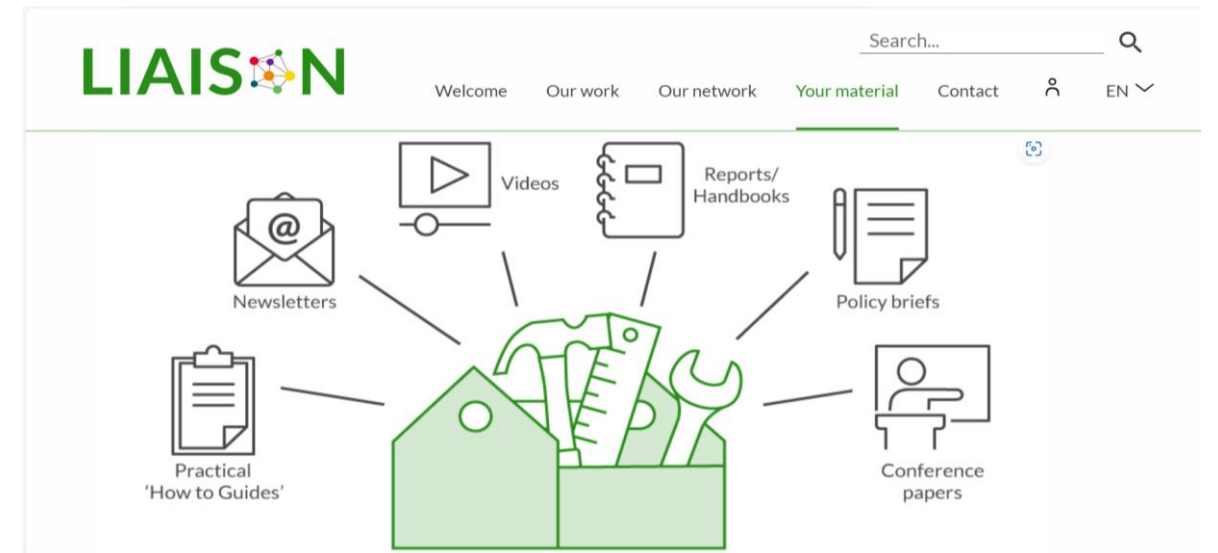
Multi-Actor Approach



PREMIERE project in Romania:
Highclere Consulting
office@highclere-consulting.com



LIAISON project in Romania:
Highclere Consulting
office@highclere-consulting.com



<https://premiere-multiactor.eu/>

<https://liaison2020.eu/>

Useful tools: Proposal strategy canvas

Proposal Strategy Canvas – Horizon Europe Cluster 6 2025			
Use this canvas to quickly frame your proposal based on the Horizon Europe call topic. Fill this out in your group and prepare to pitch your concept briefly.			
Proposal Strategy Canvas- – Horizon Europe Cluster 6			
Call Identifier and Destination:			
Title of the Project (Working Title):			
Expected Outcomes (From Call): - - -		Problem Addressed / Relevance to EU Priorities (Briefly state how your project addresses the need to improve) - - -	
Keywords (From Topic): - - -		Core Innovation or Concept Idea (What is your innovative approach? TRL if applicable) - - -	
Expected Impacts: - - -		Type of Action (RIA, IA, CSA) - - -	
Key Challenges or Risks Identified: - - -		Questions for Further Development: - - -	
Key Partners & Roles			
Partner type	Country/Geographic	Role/Expertise	Expected outcomes (from the topic)

<https://horizoneuropencportal.eu/repository/6fdedfbc-7557-40fb-8f06-eae68b8bc2d3>

Writing each section: Excellence, Impact, Implementation

For first-time applicants

- ✓ Follow the structure strictly (Section 1–2–3)
- ✓ Clearly define **your objectives**
- ✓ Align your proposal with the **Expected Outcomes** of the topic
- ✓ Define your unique contribution
- ✓ Read the topic carefully

For experienced applicants

- ✓ Show **links to EU missions, policies, and Green Deal priorities**
- ✓ Integrate **cross-cutting elements** (SSH, gender, multi-actor)
- ✓ Ensure **logical consistency** between Sections 1 (Excellence), 2 (Impact), and 3 (Implementation).
- ✓ Make it reviewer-friendly (use headings, visuals, concise paragraphs).
- ✓ Deliver inputs on time, formatted, and in line with coordinator expectations.

**Ask your National Contact Point (NCP) for feedback early.
Avoid last-minute submission.**



- Use precise, **operational objectives**.
- Justify your **methodology** with references.
- Explain how innovation addresses concrete gaps in the **state-of-the-art**.
- Make **interdisciplinarity and SSH integration** visible from the start.
- Build credible **Impact Pathways** (short-, medium-, long-term).
- Quantify where possible (KPIs).
- Address barriers to impact and propose mitigation measures
- Justify the structure of **work packages** (explain the logic behind your WP)
- Show internal logic: timelines, dependencies, milestones
- Demonstrate risk awareness with realistic mitigation strategies

How can you create synergy with EU Missions

- Direct links to three EU Missions



Soil Deal for Europe



Adaptation to Climate Change



Restore our Ocean and Waters

- Reference specific Mission goals or targets
- Engage stakeholders aligned with the Mission
- Design outputs that are useful for wider EU implementation (tools, data, pilots)

European Partnerships

Types of partnership

- **Co-Programmed** European Partnerships
- **Co-funded** European Partnerships
- **Institutionalised** European Partnerships

All partnerships need to have a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

Co-funded European Partnerships = partnerships that involve EU countries, with **research funders and other public authorities** at the core of the consortium.

Institutionalised European Partnerships = partnerships in the field of research and innovation between the **Union, EU member states and/or industry**.

! Cluster 6  7 co-funded partnerships and 1 institutionalised partnership

Good practices and tips

- ✓ Understand **research priorities** in partnership areas;
- ✓ Connect with existing **networks or Living Labs**
(by attending Info Days, webinars, brokerage events, workshops, conferences, forums, etc);
- ✓ Identify **research needs, challenges and collaborative opportunities**;
- ✓ Share **knowledge and insights**
(disseminate research findings and successful case studies / best practices to a broader audience through publications, presentations, social media or other relevant channels);
- ✓ Propose **collaborations with local farmers, industry, NGOs**;
- ✓ Engage in **policy development**
(participate in discussions or initiatives that promote sustainable food systems, animal welfare standards, circular economy, etc).

THANK YOU!

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