

## **Expression of interest to join a Consortium on HORIZON EUROPE 2023-2024 calls – Cluster 6**

Topics of interest:

[HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-01](#)

(2) – [New healthy and sustainable food products and processes](#) (RIA)

(5) – [Creating smart and attractive tools to enhance healthy and sustainable food provision, eating and treating of food at home](#) (IA)

(6) – [Citizens' science as an opportunity to foster the transition to sustainable food systems](#) (RIA)

(8) – [Preventing and reducing food waste to reduce environmental impacts and to help reach 2030 climate targets](#) (RIA)

[HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-02](#)

(2-two-stage) – [Sustainable organic food innovation labs: reinforcing the entire value chain](#) (IA)

### **Organization details**

**Country:** Romania

**Name of the organization:** Civitas Foundation for Civil Society Cluj

**Type of of the organization:** National NGO

**Contact person:** Mariann Kinga Árkosi, Project Manager, [arkosi.mariann@civitas.ro](mailto:arkosi.mariann@civitas.ro)

### **Short description**

For over 30 years, we run programs and projects in the field of **local and regional development**. We build innovative, sustainable and impactful **models of intervention in society**. We are one of the leaders in the NGO sphere in Romania, a leader small enough to be accepted locally and large enough to play the role of a strategic partner for large funders.

**Mission:** To increase the capacity of communities to develop by generating successful models that bring wealth.

**Vision:** We strongly believe that people in local communities can make a difference to their everyday lives when they engage in innovative, sustainable and impactful Programs in society. We believe in the power of community, civic engagement and that citizens and authorities must be brought together to turn initiatives into projects, plans into reality and development opportunities into prosperity.

### **Areas of work:**

- **Rural economic development** – We make the members of rural communities aware of their resources and able to use them responsibly in local initiatives.
- **Entrepreneurship and social economy** – We create sustainable initiatives, able to face the challenges of the open market.
- **Community development and good governance** – We bring citizens and local administration together, in order to build and apply initiatives that generate prosperity.
- **Strengthening civil society** – We support the transfer of good practices and enforce active citizenship and youth involvement in the community.

Number of successfully implemented projects since 1992: over 200.

**Type of partners:** non-profit organizations, public institutions, secondary and higher education organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises, start-ups and entrepreneurs.

Number of full-time employees: 18.  
Financial turnover in 2022: 1,383,707 EUR  
2021 annual report [link](#)

### **Example of businesses/initiatives that belong to us:**

- [Civitas Consulting](#) (EU-funded project writing, since 2008)
- [Nod Verde](#) (food hub & ecommerce of local products, since 2017)
- [Ruralnet](#) (network of organizations active in rural community development, since 2002)
- [Coopnet](#) (network of agricultural cooperatives, since 2016)
- [Crestemidei](#) (crowdfunding platform, since 2022)

### **Specific expertise relevant to the call topics**

- Coordinated a 5-members consortium of NGOs from Romania for the development and implementation of **regionally viable food hub models** (both online platforms and an urban shops) that give access to healthy, affordable and low environmental impact food and food products of local farmers;
- Established and runs a [food hub in Cluj County](#), providing an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable **food distribution and retail solution using short supply chains**;
- Has a network and experience in working with various actors in the public and private sectors, as well as civil society;
- Carries out a range of **activities at grassroot level** with and for citizens, farmers, agricultural cooperatives, agribusiness, agricultural high schools and universities, fostering social innovation and citizen engagement;
- Constantly interacts and has access to a large **database of eco-conscious consumers and local farmers/producers** (500+ at national level) that can be involved in generating data-driven solutions in food systems and the entire value chain, from production to consumption;
- Prepares and assists (future/wannabe) entrepreneurs to plan, establish and run own businesses in various industries, including food start-ups;
- **Lobbying and advocacy for rural development**, e.g. measures on farmers' association, social and environmental impact procurements for more sustainable agri-food value chains, reduction of food waste, and agricultural consultancy services (incl. the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems) etc.;
- Involved in research, e.g. Social and environment impact procurements ([public policy report](#), [policy brief](#), [legislative guide](#), and [guide for the business sector](#)); Marketing plan and feasibility studies for newly established agricultural cooperatives; Community intervention [model](#) for the development of associative structures in agriculture; [Study](#) on agricultural advisory systems in Romania and [abroad](#); Social business incubation in Romania ([policy brief](#)) etc.;
- Education and training, event organization, community facilitation.

**Role offered:** consortium partner. We are looking for Partners/a Consortium which are willing to lead the call and where we could participate as partners or work package leaders.

Date: 16/06/2023