EUROPEAN UNION

#HorizonEU



INFO DAY

Horizontal Activities

NATURE & BRIDGING

16 October 2026

BROKERAGE

19 October 2026



THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME **2021 – 2027**

© European Union, 2021

DIRECTOR OF COMMON POLICY CENTRE IN DG RTD

Welcome by Pauline Rouch



European Commission

Structure of the Info Day

09:30 Policy introduction

16 October 2026

09:30 - 09:45(GMT+02:00) LIVE CHANNEL

Show details

09:45 NATURE – Transformative change towards a nature-positive economy and society 1

16 October 2026

09:45 - 10:30(GMT+02:00) LIVE CHANNEL

Show details

10:45 NATURE – Transformative change towards a nature-positive economy and society 2

16 October 2026

10:45 - 11:30(GMT+02:00) LIVE CHANNEL

Show details

11:45 NATURE – Transformative change towards a nature-positive economy and society 3

16 October 2026

11:45 - 12:45(GMT+02:00) LIVE CHANNEL

13:00 Financial Support to Third Parties

16 October 2026

13:00 - 13:15(GMT+02:00) LIVE CHANNEL

Show details

13:30 BRIDGING – Bridging actions 1

16 October 2026

13:30 - 14:30(GMT+02:00) LIVE CHANNEL

Show details

14:45 BRIDGING – Bridging actions 2

16 October 2026

14:45 - 15:45(GMT+02:00) LIVE CHANNEL

Show details

16:00 BRIDGING – Bridging actions 3

16 October 2026

16:00 - 16:45(GMT+02:00) LIVE CHANNEL

Show details

16:45 Closing

16 October 2026

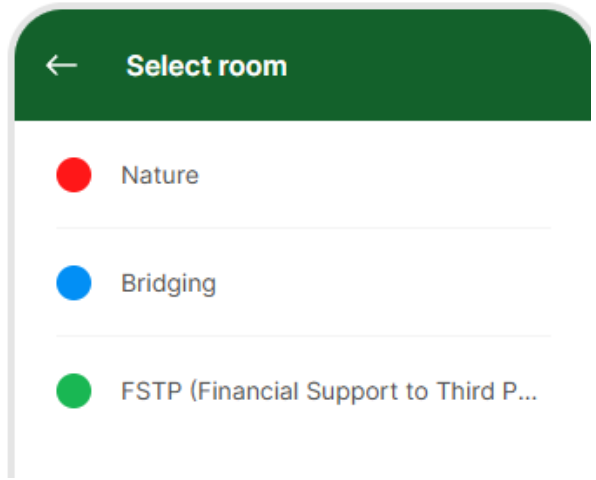
16:45 - 17:00(GMT+02:00) LIVE CHANNEL

European Commission

Any questions?

- Go to **www.sli.do** and enter event code **#HORIZONTAL** (or scan the QR Code)
- Select the ‘room’ of the session (check the agenda)
- Check submitted questions to avoid duplications
- Upvote questions of interest to you
- When drafting a question, indicate the **topic identifier** at the beginning of your question (check the Work Programme)

Example:
“***NATURE-01-01****: Could you clarify the scope of the topic?”*
BRIDGING-01-12
Miss-07



European Commission

#HorizonEU

INFO DAYS

Horizontal Activities

NATURE

BRIDGING

NATURE – TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE TOWARDS A NATURE-POSITIVE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY 1

16 October 2026



Raise your questions in sli.do

European Commission

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-01-01

Understanding the nature and the extent of the effects of PFAS on biodiversity and ecosystem services

CONTEXT

- Increasing concerns on PFAS pollution. Significant knowledge gaps on their effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services. EU policies such as the EU Water Resilience Strategy; the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030…

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Improved understanding of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) effects on biodiversity, on ecosystems and on ecosystem services;
- Research needs better identified;
- Policymakers' decisions based on updated knowledge.

PLEASE NOTE

- SSH disciplines
- FAIR data requirements
- International cooperation is encouraged

SCOPE

- field-based studies; nature and temporal/spatial scale of effects; comparable methods; prioritise and justify the considered PFAS substances or groups of substances; take into account bioaccumulation and biomagnification; focus on tissue-specific accumulation; consider organisms that have received less attention until now; estimate costs ; explore eco-surveillance approaches; identify remaining knowledge gaps; suggest ways for policy makers to integrate the new knowledge.

INSTRUMENT

- Research and Innovation Action
- 11,4 EUR Million (2 grants)
- Lump sum

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-01-02

Better understanding, anticipating and addressing the biodiversity benefits and impacts of the clean and digital industries

CONTEXT

- Enhance the biodiversity performance of the clean transition and digital transition compared to the status quo, increase public acceptance and deliver a wider range of benefits to society.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Anticipate and **address biodiversity impacts** of Europe's **reindustrialisation and decarbonisation** across the value chain.
- Understand the **benefits** and **impacts** on biodiversity of different societal, political, economic and technological choices.
- Provide **solutions for industries** to work towards a **nature-positive economy**.

SCOPE

- Develop **typologies** of biodiversity benefits, impacts and dependencies.
- **Holistically assess** impacts on natural resources.
- Provide **cost-benefit assessments** of biodiversity **mitigation measures**.
- Provide recommendations on biodiversity-sensitive trajectories.
- **Involve industrial partners**, local authorities and civil society organizations in **testing and operationalising** the recommendations.

PLEASE NOTE

- SSH involvement
- Piloting with industrial partners
- Cooperation with KCBD

INSTRUMENT

- RIA
- EUR 18 million (3 grants)
- Lump sum

European Commission

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-01-03

Systemic approaches to accelerate transformative change for biodiversity

CONTEXT

- Halting biodiversity loss requires transformative change across mindsets, practices and the rules of the system (IPBES).
- Systems thinking and behavioural science as essential bridges between ambition and impact.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Eased **integration of educational, cultural, societal and behavioural insights** in policy development by policy-makers
- Improved **awareness of institutional, business, financial and economic actors** of the systemic effects of their interactions and interdependencies on ecosystems
- **Cross-disciplines and cross-sector collaboration** to improve understanding on indirect drivers of biodiversity-harmful practices

SCOPE

- Identify and analyse **implementation gaps in transformative change** for biodiversity through a systems approach
- Analyse and map cross-actor and cross-sectoral relationships, worldviews, knowledge systems and power **dynamics driving or hindering transformative change**
- Anticipate **impacts of indirect drivers** of biodiversity loss on societal, cultural and economic values to identify leverage points and inform nature-positive strategies
- Design, pilot and evaluate **approaches for enabling transformative change,** supported by **guidance** and tools for scaling across sectors and regions
- Develop **case studies (solutions)** aligning stakeholder practices and business models with pathways to transformative change

PLEASE NOTE

- SSH disciplines
- MAA
- Cooperation with KCBD

INSTRUMENT

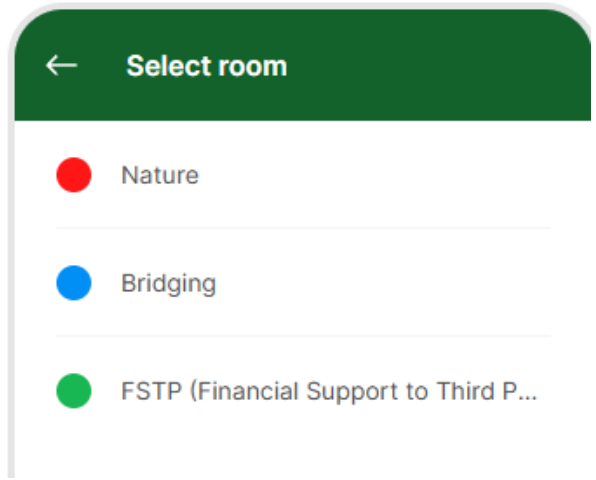
- RIA
- EUR 12 million (3 grants)
- FSTP (15%)
- Lump sum

European Commission

Any questions?

- Go to **www.sli.do** and enter event code **#HORIZONTAL** (or scan the QR Code)
- Select the ‘room’ of the session (check the agenda)
- Check submitted questions to avoid duplications
- Upvote questions of interest to you
- When drafting a question, indicate the **topic identifier** at the beginning of your question (check the Work Programme)

Example:
“***NATURE-01-01****: Could you clarify the scope of the topic?”*
BRIDGING-01-12



European Commission

HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES - INFO DAYS



Any questions after the Info Days?

- Check the **FAQ**
- Contact the **Research Enquiry Service (RES)**
- Contact the **National Contact Points (NCPs)**

European Commission

#HorizonEU

INFO DAYS

Horizontal Activities

NATURE

BRIDGING

NATURE – TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE TOWARDS A NATURE-POSITIVE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY 2

16 October 2026



The session will start soon

Raise your questions in sli.do

European Commission

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-01

Assessing direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity decline of invertebrates

CONTEXT

- Developing effective and coherent biodiversity protection and restoration strategies to implement the EU Nature Restoration Regulation while building a resilient competitive economy

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Improved understanding of how direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity decline work, considering scales, dynamics, and interactions.
- Prioritisation of actions and identification of systemic solutions to improve the implementation of EU biodiversity policies and legislation
- Increased opportunities and reduced risk exposure of business models relying on ecosystem services

SCOPE

- assess and rank drivers of biodiversity decline (invertebrates´ cases studies)
- better understand drivers of invertebrates decline, attribution of causality
- decision-support tools for effective protection and restoration strategies
- anticipatory and predictive dimension on relevant existing models
- feed primary producers' decision support tools to make informed choices that enhance resilience and competitiveness by restoring and protecting the ecosystems that provide the services they depend on

PLEASE NOTE

- Area **A** (insects) and Area **B** (molluscs and crustaceans) across representative European terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems
- FAIR data requirements
- European Open Science Cloud EOSC
- SSH disciplines
- KCBD SSBD cooperation

INSTRUMENT

- Research and Innovation Action
- EUR 15 Million (2 grants)
- Lump sum

European Commission

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-02

Living labs co-creating solutions for the restoration of ecosystems addressing implementation bottlenecks and improving resilience to risks

CONTEXT

- EU Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR), European Water Resilience Strategy; Communication on integrated wildfire risk management; Vision for Agriculture and Food ; Nature credits; EU Carbon Removal and Carbon Farming…

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Viable ecosystem restoration measures for stakeholders with solutions to address implementation bottlenecks and financing issues;
- Effective deployment frameworks for competent authorities in charge of implementing the NRR;
- Co-benefits, risks and trade-offs of nature restoration activities.

SCOPE

- Set-up new living labs used as real-life policy experimentation environments; anticipate restoration trajectories; identify pertinent bottlenecks such as financing; explore their causes and propose solutions; use KPI and MRV…
- **Area A: building risk-resilience with restoration**
- **Area B: developing effective and viable restoration practices in agriculture and forestry**

PLEASE NOTE

- Multi-Actor Approach
- SSH disciplines
- FAIR data
- Cooperation with HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-03
- Cooperation with KCBD

INSTRUMENT

- Research and Innovation Action
- 60 EUR Million (6 grants)
- Research fields A and B
- Lump sums
- Financial Support to Third Parties

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-03

Networking to scale up living labs for nature restoration solutions and to address bottlenecks to implementation

CONTEXT

- The implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) is facing bottlenecks including for the financing of restoration activities. There is a need for nature restoration LLs to be connected to deliver solutions.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Nature restoration living labs (LLs) are connected;
- Cooperation between research, practice and policy on nature restoration is increased;
- Deployment and governance frameworks that support the scale up of nature restoration; financing with carbon and nature credits is assessed

SCOPE

- Organise a European network of LLs and lighthouses dedicated to nature restoration;
- Inform LLs, including on financing opportunities;
- Consolidate scientific results from LLs and lighthouses;
- Advocate ecosystem restoration and promote knowledge sharing…
- Provide practical recommendations to new LLs dedicated to nature restoration…

PLEASE NOTE

- Multi-Actor Approach
- SSH disciplines
- Cooperation with HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-02 and with nature restoration LLs in general
- Cooperation with KCBD

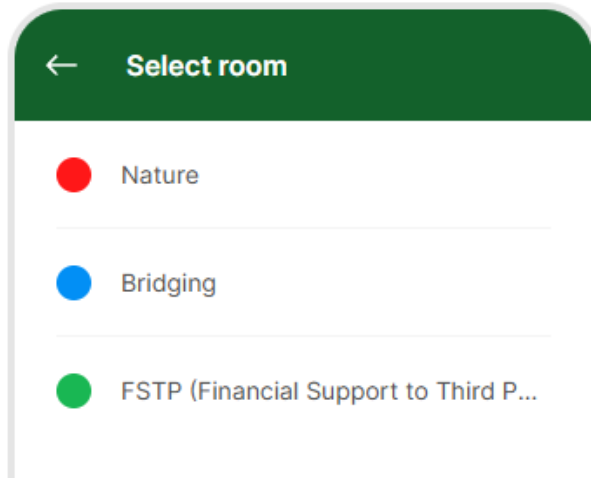
INSTRUMENT

- Coordination and Support Action
- 4 EUR Million (1 grant)
- Lump sum

Any questions?

- Go to **www.sli.do** and enter event code **#HORIZONTAL** (or scan the QR Code)
- Select the ‘room’ of the session (check the agenda)
- Check submitted questions to avoid duplications
- Upvote questions of interest to you
- When drafting a question, indicate the **topic identifier** at the beginning of your question (check the Work Programme)

Example:
“***NATURE-01-01****: Could you clarify the scope of the topic?”*
BRIDGING-01-12



European Commission

HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES - INFO DAYS



Any questions after the Info Days?

- Check the **FAQ**
- Contact the **Research Enquiry Service (RES)**
- Contact the **National Contact Points (NCPs)**

European Commission

#HorizonEU

INFO DAYS

Horizontal Activities

NATURE

BRIDGING

NATURE – TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE TOWARDS A NATURE-POSITIVE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY 3

16 October 2026



The session will start soon

Raise your questions in sli.do

European Commission

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-04

Innovative solutions to fight wildlife trafficking and to reduce invasion of invasive alien species

CONTEXT

The rate of introduction of invasive alien species (IAS) and wildlife trafficking are increasing. ***EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, EU IAS regulation, EU wildlife trade regulations, revised EU action plan against wildlife trafficking***…

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Competent authorities have **improved capacities** to detect **illegal wildlife trade** and **prevent IAS** introduction, reintroduction and spread.
- **Illegal wildlife trade is better detected**, for improved protection of endangered species, and **IAS spread through trade is prevented**, supporting the EU and global biodiversity objectives

SCOPE

- Develop **tools/prototypes for the detection of IAS in trade and illegal wildlife trade**, in-creation with end-users (deployability, cost-effectiveness);
- Ensure **interoperability** of solutions with **existing operational systems**;
- Ensure the **collection, preservation** and **admissibility** of **evidence**;
- **Demonstrate** the solutions in relevant environments;
- Ensure **scalability** and develop **long-term maintenance plans**;
- Develop **skills** and **competences**; and **awareness-raising** campaigns.

PLEASE NOTE

- TRL 6-7
- 3 competent authorities as beneficiaries
- Possibility of PCP sub-contracting
- SSH
- Possibility for JRC participation
- Copernicus, Galileo/EGNOS data
- Restriction to participation of China
- Security sensitive results

INSTRUMENT

- Innovation Action
- 13 EUR Million (1 grant)

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-05

Cost-effective biodiversity monitoring for EU policies

CONTEXT

- Implementation of the EU environmental legislation, in particular the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR), the Soil Monitoring Law (SML) and the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- More precise and more efficient biodiversity monitoring schemes are available;
- Simplification of policy implementation and better protection and restoration of ecosystems through the availability of more efficient and user-friendly tools to implement and evaluate EU environmental legislation

SCOPE

- develop scalable approaches for biodiversity monitoring integrating synergically different technologies and methods. Assess and compare them
- demonstration cases to test, operationalise and pilot different biodiversity monitoring approaches (NRR, SML, WFD). Automated and real-time monitoring frameworks supported by AI
- build and advance on already identified methods, tools and/or technologies
- advance the use of genomic techniques: abundance of species populations and complete or substantially advance DNA libraries for areas A, B or C.

PLEASE NOTE

- Areas **A** (NRR, namely the Pollinator Monitoring Scheme EUPoMS), **B** (SML) and **C** (WFD)
- Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS
- FAIR data requirements
- European Open Science Cloud EOSC
- European Research Infrastructures
- EBOCC cooperation
- KCBD SSBD cooperation

INSTRUMENT

- Research and Innovation Action
- EUR 16 Million (3 grants)
- Lump sum

European Commission

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-03-01

Advancing interdisciplinary, data-driven research at the biodiversity- health interface under a One Health approach

CONTEXT

- Inter- and transdisciplinary research supporting holistic approaches such as One Health and Planetary Health faces persistent barriers related to data quality, fragmentation, accessibility and interoperability.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Access to robust knowledge foundations and analytical frameworks that strengthen the operationalisation of holistic approaches;
- Access to FAIR data supported by enhanced digital infrastructures;
- Access to evidence-based and tested recommendations, tools and solutions to mainstream biodiversity in One Health and Planetary Health.

SCOPE

- **Advance knowledge on critical challenges for biodiversity-focused inter- and transdisciplinary research:** develop thematic use cases addressing the most significant drivers of biodiversity loss and their impacts on health;
- **Strengthen data quality and analytical frameworks:** enhance data sharing and interoperability of key datasets and develop and validate tools, ontologies and standards;
- **Develop a One Health proof of concept:** recommendations and guidelines to support integration and implementation of the One health approach.

PLEASE NOTE

- At least 7 legal entities independent from each other and each established in a different EU MS/AC
- Page limit of application – 70 pages
- Proposal selected for funding should form a cluster with projects from other calls

INSTRUMENT

- Research and Innovation Action
- EUR 20 million, 1 expected grant
- Single stage
- Actual costs grant

European Commission

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-04-01

A stronger Global Ocean Observing System to enhance Europe's strategic autonomy, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation

CONTEXT

- Benefit the global ocean observing system, by maintaining its full capabilities in the short-term
- OceanEye's International Alliance, Ocean Pact

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Strengthened** Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).
- **Advanced** ocean research and provide critical services through a global ocean observing system .
- **Increased EU leadership** and strategic autonomy in global OO capabilities.
- **Enhanced collaboration** between different communities (obs, IR, SME).

SCOPE

- **Support** global strategic observation equipment deployment and coordination led by GOOS.
- **Help** address current structural gaps at global scale.
- **System design** through OSE and OSSE, optimisation approaches.
- **Identify** critical technology needs and co-create a multiplatform technology roadmap sensors.

PLEASE NOTE

- International organisations
- FAIR data through EMODnet

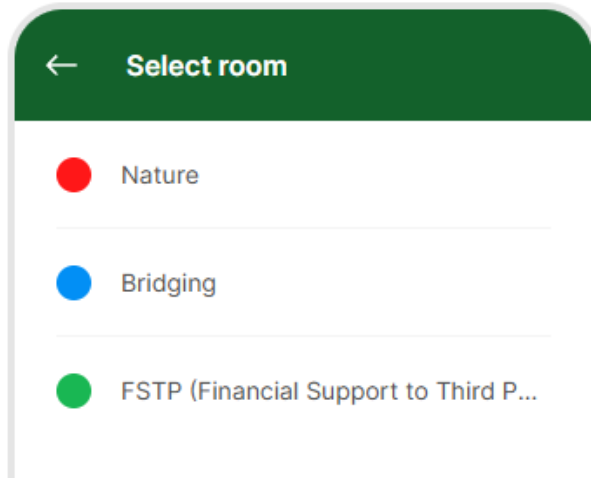
INSTRUMENT

- Innovation Action
- EUR 50 Million
- One single project
- Single stage

Any questions?

- Go to **www.sli.do** and enter event code **#HORIZONTAL** (or scan the QR Code)
- Select the ‘room’ of the session (check the agenda)
- Check submitted questions to avoid duplications
- Upvote questions of interest to you
- When drafting a question, indicate the **topic identifier** at the beginning of your question (check the Work Programme)

Example:
“***NATURE-01-01****: Could you clarify the scope of the topic?”*
BRIDGING-01-12



European Commission

HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES - INFO DAYS



Any questions after the Info Days?

- Check the **FAQ**
- Contact the **Research Enquiry Service (RES)**
- Contact the **National Contact Points (NCPs)**

European Commission



🤝 19 October 2026 | Brokerage Event, Nature call

💻 Online

👉 More information & Registration: https://bit.ly/4zERAT9

European Commission

Follow us and keep up to date!



rea.ec.europa.eu

Subscribe to REA's newsletters

European Research Executive Agency

European Health and Digital Executive Agency

CINEA - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

#HorizonEU

@EUgreenresearch
@REA_research
@HorizonEU
@HE_NCP_Portal
@EU_HaDEA
@CINEA_EU

@scienceinnovation.ec.europa.eu
@EU Research Executive Agency

European Commission

#HorizonEU

INFO DAYS

Horizontal Activities

NATURE

BRIDGING

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES

16 October 2026



The session will start soon

Raise your questions in sli.do

European Commission

Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)



European Commission

Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)

- FSTP is also called '**cascade funding**' (beneficiaries of the EU grant provide financial support to third parties, in response to a call organised by the consortium, in the form of grants or prizes).
- 3 topics of BRIDGING call and 2 of NATURE call [only in the form of **grants**]
- **Do not include FSTP in your proposal if not allowed by the topic.**



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

Call: Transformative change towards a nature-positive economy and society	
Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 4.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 12.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The proposals must apply the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in this work programme part.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	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. Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025) [167].

Annex with information on FSTP:

- Download it from the Submission System;
- Upload it as a separate annex to the proposal part B in the submission system.

European Commission

FSTP key elements in proposal

Applicants must clearly describe in their proposal the **objectives** and the **expected results**, including the following elements listed in the application template:

- the **maximum amount of FSTP for each third party**. Generally, up to 60k EUR, unless explicitly mentioned in the topic.
- the **criteria** for calculating the exact amount of the financial support
- a clear and exhaustive **list of the types of activities** that qualify for financial support for third parties. These activities should benefit, primarily, **the recipients** (**NOT the beneficiaries**).
- the **persons or categories of persons** that may receive financial support, and
- the **criteria** for giving financial support

Check in topic description if other conditions apply - if so, consider them.

See articles in the AGA (Articles 6.2.D.1 and 9.4) and in the HE General annexes

Where / how is FSTP evaluated?

Evaluation criteria (RIAs and IAs)

EXCELLENCE

- ✓ Clarity and pertinence of the **project's objectives**, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state-of-the-art.
- ✓ Soundness of the proposed **methodology**, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the **gender dimension** in research and innovation content, and the quality of **open science practices** including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.

IMPACT

- ✓ Credibility of the **pathways** to achieve the expected **outcomes and impacts** specified in the work programme
- ✓ Suitability and quality of the **measures to maximize expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ Quality and effectiveness of the **work plan**, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.

FSTP

- ✓ Capacity and role of each **participant**, and extent to which the **consortium** as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

- If information in FSTP annex is insufficient: this may contribute to down-scoring.
- Lump Sum: if applicants request FSTP but not allowed by topic: amount deducted from max EU grant amount

European Commission

Entities excluded from FSTP



- **In any action type**: Legal entities established in **Russia, Belarus**, or in **non-government controlled territories of Ukraine** are **not eligible** to participate in any capacity.

- In **IAs and selected RIAs**: legal entities established in **China** are **not eligible** to participate in any capacity (Art. 22.6).

- **In any action type**: **Hungarian** public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain.

Check HE Programme Guide and WP General Annexes for updated information

European Commission

FSTP implementation



The following conditions must be fulfilled:

- Projects must publish their **open calls widely** and adhere to EU standards of **transparency**, **equal treatment**, **conflict of interest** and **confidentiality**;
- Calls (…) must be **published on the F&T Portal** and **on the beneficiaries' websites**;
- Calls must remain **open for at least 2 months**;
- If a call deadline **changes**, beneficiaries must **immediately announce** it and inform registered applicants;
- Projects must **publish the outcome of the calls** without delay, including a description of third-party **projects**, the **date of the award**, the **duration**, and the **legal name of the third party** and **country** of establishment;
- Calls must have a clear **European dimension**.

FSTP recipients obligations

FSTP **recipients**:

- **do not sign the Grant Agreement**, they are not beneficiaries.
- **do not perform action tasks** – but the FSTP is part of an action task specified in the GA Annex 1.

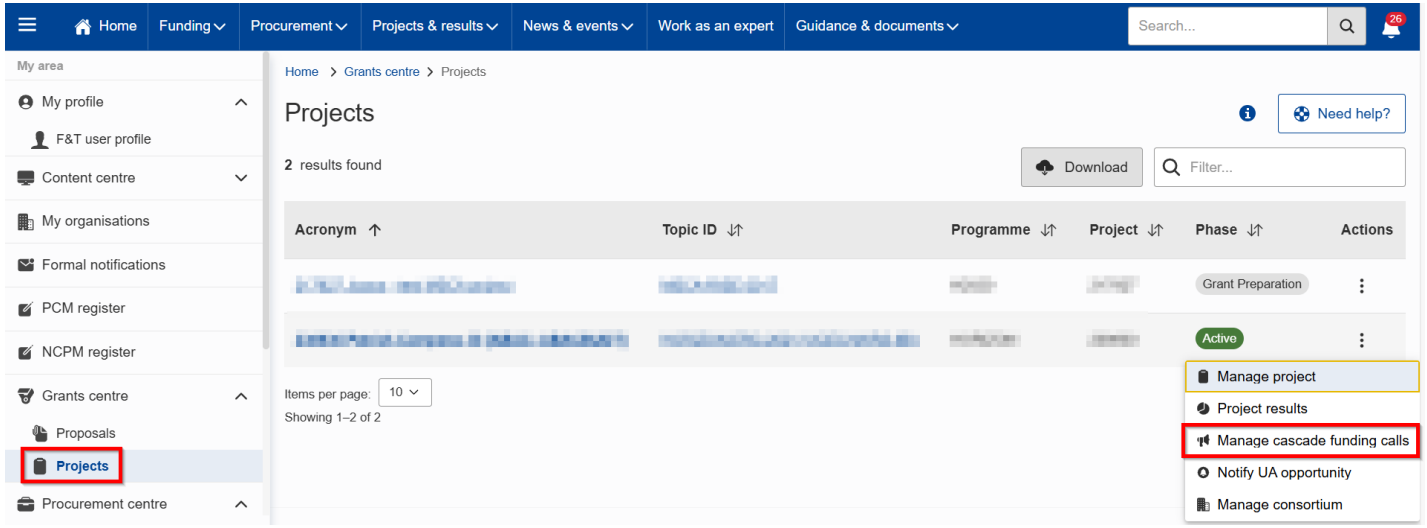
Beneficiaries remain responsible towards the granting authority for the proper use of the funding by the recipients, and must ensure that some obligations are extended to FSTP recipients:

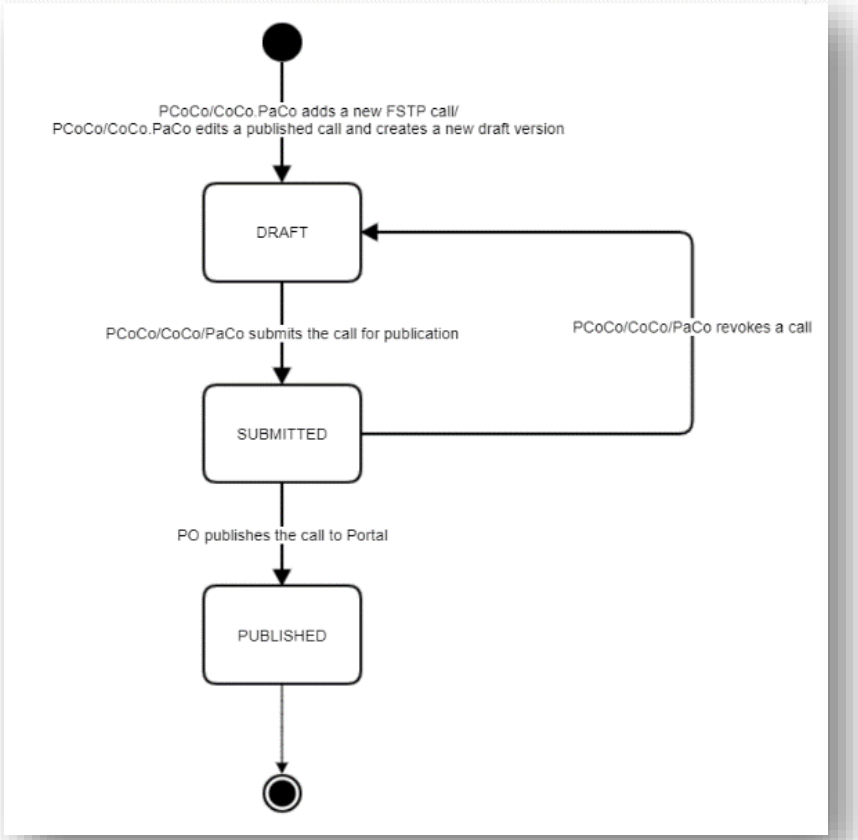
- Avoiding conflict of interest (see Article 12)
- Confidentiality and security obligations (see Article 13)
- Ethics (see Article 14)
- Give visibility to the EU funding, as appropriate (see Article 17.2)
- Respect specific rules for the action implementation (see Article 18)
- Information obligations (see Article 19)
- Record-keeping (see Article 20).

Beneficiaries must ensure that the Granting authority, the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) have the right to carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations on the recipients and in particular to audit the payments received. If access is denied by the recipient, the costs will be rejected.

FSTP call publication

Detailed guidance available on the Portal here.





- The consortium submits a draft call. The PO needs to approve it. Time needed.
- A published call can still be edited and re-published (e.g. mistake or deadline extension).

European Commission

Reporting

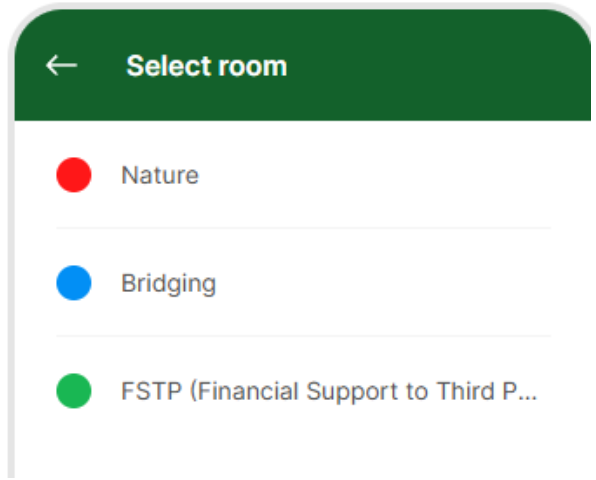
- The financial support scheme itself is **not an EU action**; the beneficiaries are providing the financial support in their own name and under their own responsibility. When promoting the EU action (see Article 17), **the financial support must therefore NOT be presented as directly provided by the EU.**
- Information about the FSTP recipients, amount awarded and amount paid must be reported in the **Continuous Reporting Module** of the EU action
- Unless otherwise provided for in the topic conditions, EU grant beneficiary need to give the FSTP **directly** to the recipients, without further intermediaries.
- The recipients are **NOT party to the Grant Agreement** and therefore do **NOT** need to be listed nor be registered in the Participant Register.

"Good practices for implementing financial support to third parties (FSTP) in EU grants" available in the F & T Portal

Any questions?

- Go to **www.sli.do** and enter event code **#HORIZONTAL** (or scan the QR Code)
- Select the ‘room’ of the session (**FSTP**)
- Check submitted questions to avoid duplications
- Upvote questions of interest to you
- When drafting a question, indicate the **topic identifier** at the beginning of your question (check the Work Programme)

Example:
“***NATURE-01-01****: Could you clarify the scope of the topic?”*
BRIDGING-01-12



European Commission

HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES - INFO DAYS



Any questions after the Info Days?

- Check the **FAQ**
- Contact the **Research Enquiry Service (RES)**
- Contact the **National Contact Points (NCPs)**

European Commission

#HorizonEU

INFO DAYS

Horizontal Activities

NATURE

BRIDGING

16 October 2026



BRIDGING – BRIDGING ACTIONS 1

The session will start soon

Raise your questions in sli.do

European Commission

HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-09

EU AI Media Platform – modular multilingual public-interest infrastructure for European news and audiovisual media (IA) – Apply AI

CONTEXT

- **Need:** reduce linguistic and cross-border barriers to trusted European news and media.
- **Apply AI media flagship:** pan-European multilingual AI platforms for real-time professional news.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Modular, trustworthy infrastructure** with validated service levels and interoperability.
- **Multilingual and multimodal access** including low-resource European languages.
- **Trust by design** through provenance, attribution, transparency and governance.
- **Operational scale-up** with real-world validation and a credible sustainability pathway.

SCOPE

- **Integrate and validate** mature reusable components and pilots.
- **Connect workflows** via common formats, rights-aware metadata, open APIs, SDKs and multiple front ends.
- **Drive media innovation** through immersive formats, social-media connectors, contextualisation and AI companion-style interactions.
- **Build the ecosystem** across media, AI/language technology, platforms, creators, integrity and rights actors

PLEASE NOTE

- **Build on prior EU work,** especially the PPPA Citizen Platform (starts Jan. 2027); reuse assets and lessons, avoid duplication.
- **Include content creators**.
- **Eligibility:** restriction applies for protection of European communication networks/services

INSTRUMENT

- **Innovation Action (IA)**
- **Indicative budget:** €10 million; 1 project expect.
- **Maturity:** TRL 6 → 8.
- **Procedure:** single-stage call.

European Commission

Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities–Apply AI (IA)

CONTEXT

- Large-scale deployment of autonomous mobility, for strengthened industrial competitiveness & viable business models
- Apply AI strategy – Automotive Flagship

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Bridge the gap between pilots & large-scale commercial deployment
- Strengthen EU industrial competitiveness across the value chain
- Demonstrate scalable, future-proof autonomous mobility in real traffic
- Enable access to and secure sharing of data, AI models and tools.
- Address regulatory, operational and governance barriers to deployment

SCOPE

- City–industry partnerships
- AI-enabled electric SAE Level 4 vehicles
- Pan-European added value
- Leverage existing investment
- Cross-border readiness
- Knowledge & best-practice sharing

PLEASE NOTE

- 5-7 cities, ≥5 countries
- 1 cross-border project
- Subject to Art.22.5
- Synergies with ECAVA, CCAM, Testbed initiative, other AD projects

INSTRUMENT

- **Innovation Action**
- **Indicative budget:** €15 M1 , project
- **Maturity:** TRL 7-8
- **Procedure:** single-stage call

European Commission

HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-12

Large-Scale piloting of next-generation AI-driven digital platforms for a more affordable, secure and sustainable European energy system (IA) - Apply AI

CONTEXT

- AI-orchestrate energy assets to optimize grid use, integrate renewables/EVs, and reduce costs and emissions
- This pilot is a core implementation layer of the AI-enabled digital backbone flagship identified in the Apply AI Strategy

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Market-ready, low-impact AI-driven IoT platforms for enhanced grid operations, renewables integration and energy assets orchestration.
- Secure, interoperable, cross-border data exchange/services reducing fragmentation.
- Scaling digital solutions using data spaces, AI factories, digital twins, and cloud-edge.
- Credible pathway from innovation to large-scale piloting, sustainability and scale up.
- Quantifiable improvements in GHG emissions, energy and cost savings, grid flexibility.

SCOPE

- Develop and pilot at scale **next-generation AI-driven digital platforms**
- **Multistakeholder cross-border pilots in at least 6** Member States or AC
- Build on **previous and ongoing related projects and initiatives** (HE, DEP, CEF)
- **Advanced AI** approaches and architectures, including **generative, agentic, and embedded, AI**
- Open APIs, open interoperability standards and open-source components

PLEASE NOTE

- Restricted under Article 22.5
- Succeeds CEF Digital project Begonia
- Links to HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-19 and HORIZON-CL5-2027-02-D3-24

INSTRUMENT

- **Innovation Action**
- **Indicative budget:** €15 M , 1 project
- **Maturity:** TRL 7-8.
- **Procedure:** single-stage call.

European Commission

HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-13

EU Frontier AI Initiative: Advanced Scaling Frameworks for High-Performance AI Models (RIA) - Apply AI

CONTEXT

- Frontier AI models have become strategic assets, fundament for EU's strategic autonomy
- This topic is part of the EU Frontier AI Initiative

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Establishment of robust scaling laws and predictive frameworks.
- Enhanced competitiveness of European advanced AI models.
- Optimised development for frontier AI models.

SCOPE

- **Automated Scaling Law Derivation**: Research into scaling laws to predict performance across diverse modalities
- **Exploratory Architecture Search**: Developing automated methods to discover and refine model architectures.
- **Dataset Mixture Optimisation**: Research into the systematic selection, weighting, and sequencing of datasets.
- **Advanced Hyperparameter Tuning and Stability**: Developing methodologies for stable training at large scales.

PLEASE NOTE

- Restricted under Article 22.5
- Synergies with topic HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-11

INSTRUMENT

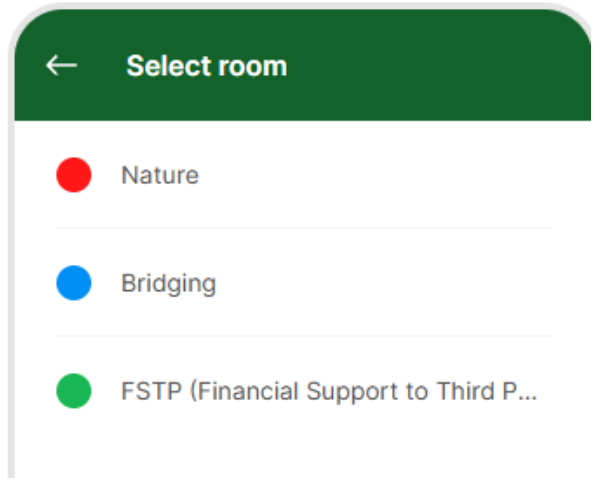
- **Research and Innovation Action**
- **Indicative budget:** €15 M , 1 project
- **Maturity:** TRL 4-5.
- **Procedure:** single-stage call.

European Commission

Any questions?

- Go to **www.sli.do** and enter event code **#HORIZONTAL** (or scan the QR Code)
- Select the ‘room’ of the session (check the agenda)
- Check submitted questions to avoid duplications
- Upvote questions of interest to you
- When drafting a question, indicate the **topic identifier** at the beginning of your question (check the Work Programme)

Example:
“***NATURE-01-01****: Could you clarify the scope of the topic?”*
BRIDGING-01-12
Miss-07



European Commission

HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES - INFO DAYS



Any questions after the Info Days?

- Check the **FAQ**
- Contact the **Research Enquiry Service (RES)**
- Contact the **National Contact Points (NCPs)**

European Commission

#HorizonEU

INFO DAYS

Horizontal Activities

NATURE

BRIDGING

16 October 2026



BRIDGING – BRIDGING ACTIONS 2

The session will start soon

Raise your questions in sli.do

European Commission

Bringing innovative climate preparedness and resilience solutions closer to the market

CONTEXT

- Addresses the lack of a coherent, EU-level pathway for scaling climate resilience solutions across economic sectors, which currently leads to **underexploited innovation potential**
- In direct support of the upcoming **EU Framework for Climate Resilience**

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Climate preparedness and resilience innovative solutions advance in their **investment journey** and get closer to the market
- Public authorities are mobilised to **stimulate demand** for climate adaptation solutions
- Structural and operational bottlenecks to the deployment of climate resilience solutions are identified, along with good practices, and **policy-relevant insights** are derived from lessons learned

SCOPE

- ***Services provided by the central consortium*** → Common framework of intervention + pool of demand side + identify bottlenecks/good practices and produce policy-relevant insights
- ***Direct support to businesses in the form of FSTP*** → Advisory services and direct support to businesses for climate adaptation solutions at TRL 7. Priority to the following areas: 1) water, 2) food & agriculture, 3) transport, 4) energy, 5) health, 6) civil security and 7) critical infrastructure, including buildings

PLEASE NOTE

- **Consortium expertise**: business innovation & market analysis and development, legal & regulatory affairs, operational and financial management applicable to climate resilience markets

INSTRUMENT

- Coordination and Support Action
- Indicative budget EUR 20.00 million, 1 project expected
- Beneficiaries must provide financial support to third parties (max 800,000 per third party). FSTP at least 80% of the total amount of the EU requested contribution.

HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-04-08

Sustainability and resilience of climate projections and related data records for European and global science and policy

CONTEXT

- Earth System Grid Federation (ESGF) is a global network of interoperable nodes hosting large archives of climate data
- High reliance on the uncertain US branch poses systemic risks, including for CMIP and IPCC

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **ESGF's resilience** is strengthened in Europe and globally
- European **climate data and infrastructure sovereignty** is secured
- Effective delivery of climate information for policy (IPCC, UNFCCC)

SCOPE

- Coordinate **Europe-wide solution** for access to key climate data records
- Explore and enact options for a **long-term, sustainable and more effective ESGF**
- Promote **global interoperability and trust**

PLEASE NOTE

- Relevant for IPCC, WCRP, CMIP, CORDEX
- Synergies: ESFRI, EOSC, EU AI-initiatives, EuroHPC JU…

INSTRUMENT

- Coordination and Support Action
- EUR 5M, 1 expected grant
- Procedure: single-stage call
- Lump sum funding

European Commission

HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-04-11

Detection, monitoring, modelling, and attribution capabilities for Solar Radiation Modification (SRM) activities and assessing their impacts on Earth's climate and ecosystems

CONTEXT

- Addresses enhancement of capabilities to detect, monitor and attribute SRM-related research, innovation or deployment activities
- Supports the EU, MS and Associated Countries' contributions to international review and assessment processes of SRM

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Scientific-technological knowledge foundation on detection, attribution and deterrence of SRM activities
- Aerosol and cloud modelling capabilities for global and regional models concerning on SRM
- Development of a global SRM governance framework
- Civil society, researchers, public authorities as well as policy and decision makers have access to a solid scientific-technological knowledge foundation concerning the detection, attribution and deterrence of SRM

SCOPE

- Activity aims at enhancing the capabilities to detect, monitor and attribute SRM-related research, innovation or deployment activities.
- Shall not advocate, promote, or support the development of SRM. Conduct of SRM field experiments as well as the conduct of technical and operational SRM research is out of scope.
- Shall be conducted in line with the precautionary approach
- The project address critical knowledge gaps identified by the IPCC, CBD and Group of Chief Scientific Advisors related to the absence of an evidence-supported governance framework on SRM.

PLEASE NOTE

- All deployment and field experiment-type activities are out of scope of this topic
- Project should commit to the FAIR-principles ("Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-useable")
- EU representatives will be participating in the evaluation committee

INSTRUMENT

- Research and Innovation Action
- The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.00 million.

European Commission

HORIZON-MISS-2026-07-CROSS-04

Demonstrating place-based experimentation and innovation spaces as enabling environments for scaling EU Missions

CONTEXT

This topic is a strategic instrument to support the transition to the second phase of the EU Missions' lifecycle (2026–2030), focused on scaling up and wider deployment of novel mission-relevant solutions

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- The **territorial anchoring** of the EU Mission(s) is strengthened through multi-layered governance
- **Enabling environments** for the scaling of novel solutions contributing to the EU Missions are created
- Analytical insights are turned into **territorial experimentation** for replication

SCOPE

- Rather than funding individual technologies, the topic should fund place-based models creating conditions for scaling these technologies
- Demonstration of concrete governance, finance, and policy models that foster scaling and deployment of EU Missions are encouraged
- The projects provide operational support by delivering replicable models for multi-level governance and place-based implementation

PLEASE NOTE

- Directed at local authorities in the EU and associated countries
- The JRC will provide support to the selected projects (see supporting action)

INSTRUMENT

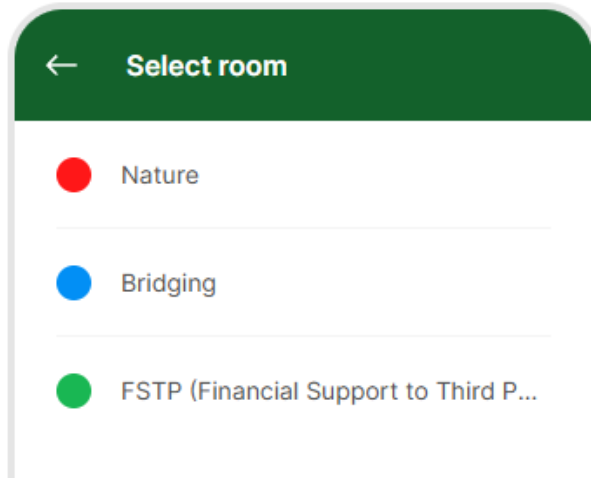
- Innovation Action
- EUR 3.62 M, 3 expected grants

European Commission

Any questions?

- Go to **www.sli.do** and enter event code **#HORIZONTAL** (or scan the QR Code)
- Select the ‘room’ of the session (check the agenda)
- Check submitted questions to avoid duplications
- Upvote questions of interest to you
- When drafting a question, indicate the **topic identifier** at the beginning of your question (check the Work Programme)

Example:
“***NATURE-01-01****: Could you clarify the scope of the topic?”*
BRIDGING-01-12
Miss-07



European Commission

HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES - INFO DAYS



Any questions after the Info Days?

- Check the **FAQ**
- Contact the **Research Enquiry Service (RES)**
- Contact the **National Contact Points (NCPs)**

European Commission

#HorizonEU

INFO DAYS

Horizontal Activities

NATURE

BRIDGING

16 October 2026



BRIDGING – BRIDGING ACTIONS 3

The session will start soon

Raise your questions in sli.do

European Commission

Advancing promising results from Pillar II collaborative research through the innovation journey

CONTEXT

- To increase the efficiency of the R&I investments from previous topics and foster more uptake of promising results into innovative deployable solutions

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- R&I solutions funded under Horizon Europe Pillar II advance along the innovation pathway towards uptake and deployment
- Demand-side needs are integrated helping to de-risk the innovation journey
- The EU and Associated Countries benefit from accelerated commercialisation, adoption and deployment of Horizon Europe results

SCOPE

- Activities start beyond the laboratory or research environment
- Focus on prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication **under real-world conditions**
- **End users** should be represented as a beneficiary within the consortium
- Include a **business plan/exploitation strategy** and identify the beneficiary(ies) responsible for scaling-up the solution.
- Clearly outline which **wider impact** can be expected if the project succeeds
- Max duration **3 years**

PLEASE NOTE

- Build on previous Cluster 1-6 PCP, RIA or IA project
- Ended before 28th of Jan 2027,
- GA = EC or EAs
- Must provide evidence of ownership or access to the knowledge assets

INSTRUMENT

- Innovation Action
- EUR 32.5 million, 13 expected grants
- Single-stage, FTRI, portfolio approach
- Lump-sum funding, STEP labelled

European Commission

Skills for Innovative SMEs

CONTEXT

Support innovative SMEs across Europe to access, develop and retain the advanced skills needed to adopt new technologies and scale up innovation, in line with the **Pact for Skills** and **'Choose Europe for Science' initiative**

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Set up an EU-wide, **transnational mobility support scheme** for SMEs who have experienced skill shortages on the national labour market
  - Reduced skills shortages in innovative SMEs
  - Stronger SME innovation capacity (incl. social innovations)
  - Improved researcher skills for the private sector

SCOPE

- Launch the FSTP call, incl. eligibility checks, evaluations, recruitment support
- Covers: competitive salary of the researcher / total employers' costs, incl. full social security for min 12 – max 24 months; relocation costs, incl. allowances (where applicable); travel allowances; access to research infrastructure
- Organise networking events and training on industrial innovation and business management

PLEASE NOTE

- Eligibility: Enterprise Europe Network beneficiaries
- Building on the H2020 SME innovation associate pilot
- Synergies with MSCA and European University Alliances

INSTRUMENT

- CSA
- EUR 30 Million (1 grant)
- Lump Sum Funding
- FSTP (min. 90% of the total budget)

European Commission

Valorising Horizon project results via innovation ecosystems

CONTEXT

- **Need:** Bridge the gap between Horizon results and existing structures and initiatives supporting innovation development
- **Goal:** Facilitate a continuous innovation journey through EU, national and regional innovation ecosystems

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Horizon projects better prepared to **valorise and commercialise results**
- **Stronger links** between research outcomes, Horizon Europe instruments and public/private knowledge intermediaries
- **Effective exploitation** of research, aligned with societal and industrial needs

PLEASE NOTE

- 5 thematic areas: (A)Agriculture and Food systems, (B)Clean Transition: energy and transport ; (C)Health; (D)Bioeconomy; (E)Raw and advanced materials

SCOPE

- Scout and map promising exploitable results (especially from Pillar II)
- Launch competitive calls to support validation and valorisation of results
- Provide mentorship and tailored support; facilitate access to validation sites and existing innovation, education and entrepreneurial initiatives
- Provide training on scalability and support for building entrepreneurial teams
- Facilitate access and navigation of follow-on EU funding instruments

INSTRUMENT

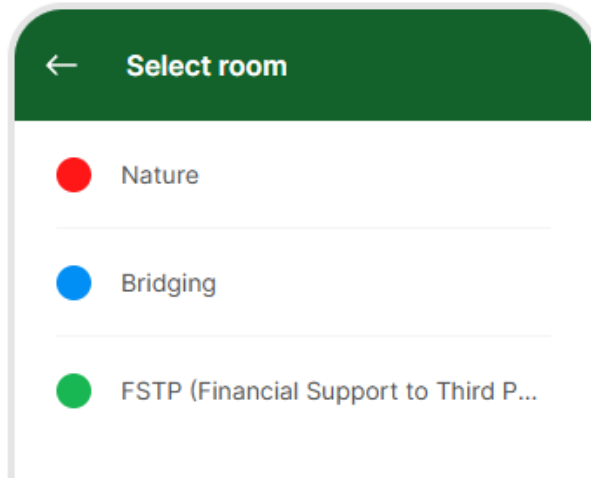
- RIA
- 20 MLN, 5 grants (one per area)
- Lump sum funding
- FSTP for validation/demonstration (max 150 000)

European Commission

Any questions?

- Go to **www.sli.do** and enter event code **#HORIZONTAL** (or scan the QR Code)
- Select the ‘room’ of the session (check the agenda)
- Check submitted questions to avoid duplications
- Upvote questions of interest to you
- When drafting a question, indicate the **topic identifier** at the beginning of your question (check the Work Programme)

Example:
“***NATURE-01-01****: Could you clarify the scope of the topic?”*
BRIDGING-01-12
Miss-07



European Commission



Thank you!

Any questions after the Info Days?

- **Check the FAQ**
- **Contact the Research Enquiry Service (RES)**
- **Contact the National Contact Points (NCPs)**

Follow us and keep up to date!



rea.ec.europa.eu

Subscribe to REA's newsletters

European Research Executive Agency

European Health and Digital Executive Agency

European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency

CINEA - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

#HorizonEU

@EUgreenresearch
@REA_research
@HorizonEU
@HE_NCP_Portal
@EU_HaDEA
@EU_EISMEA
@CINEA_EU

@scienceinnovation.ec.europa.eu

@EU Research Executive Agency

European Commission