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Annex XII

Horizon Europe

Work Programme 2026-2027

12. Missions

DISCLAIMER

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Introduction

The mission-driven approach is a new trend in R&I policy making and was one of the key novelties brought by Horizon Europe Regulation¹ to address global challenges facing our society.

Horizon Europe identified five Mission Areas where challenges could be effectively addressed in a mission-based approach. The following five EU Missions were formally launched through a Commission Communication in September 2021², based on reports from dedicated Mission Boards that assessed the maturity of technological and social innovation in these areas:

- Adaptation to Climate Change: support at least 150 European regions, local authorities and communities to become climate resilient by 2030;
- Cancer: improving the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030 through prevention, cure and for those affected by cancer including their families, to live longer and better;
- 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart cities by 2030;
- Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030;
- A Soil Deal for Europe: 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030.

For each EU Mission, detailed Mission Implementation Plans were drafted, using the Mission criteria of the Horizon Europe legal base as starting point.

The five EU Missions focus on systemic societal transformation, requiring inclusivity, co-design, scaling up, deployment and societal involvement in generating solutions for major societal challenges driven by EU policy considerations. The five EU Missions work by setting clear, measurable, and time-bound targets, thus focusing and integrating actions towards common goals. These actions are clearly presented in the HE Work Programmes 2021-2022, 2023-2024 and 2025.

Building on the previous HE Work Programmes, the EU Missions continue to help deliver key EU policy priorities such as the European Clean Industrial Deal, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, NextGenerationEU, the EU Industrial Strategy and A Europe fit for the Digital Age, amongst others.

The Missions Work Programme 2026-2027 part contains actions for all the five EU Missions as well as further actions to support the full implementation of EU Missions according to their implementation plans, including synergistic actions between the Missions and other Horizon

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/695

² COM(2021) 609 final

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Europe instruments. Furthermore, the EU Missions Work Programme 2026-2027 is also focusing on the challenges highlighted in the 2023 Commission Communication³.

Additionally, the five EU Missions will need to be implemented in close synergy with funding, programmes and strategies both at Member State / Associated Country and regional level, as well as with civil society and the private sector.

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³ COM(2023) 457 final

Calls for proposals

Call - Supporting the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2026-1

Overview of this call⁴

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ⁵	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2026		
Opening: 04 Feb 2026 Deadline(s): 23 Sep 2026				
Adaptation to Climate Change: Supporting the implementation of the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change				
HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-01: National Adaptation Hubs - Bringing together the national level with the engaged regional and local levels (multi-level governance)	CSA	10.00 ⁶	Around 10.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-02: Actionable solutions for climate adaptation to the knowledge of the regions and local authorities	CSA	5.00 ⁷	Around 5.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-03: Standardising and supporting climate services to serve climate adaptation	RIA	10.00 ⁸	Around 10.00	1

⁴ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

⁵ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

⁶ Of which EUR 10.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

⁷ Of which EUR 5.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

⁸ Of which EUR 10.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

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HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-04: Bridging the gap between disaster risk management and climate adaptation	CSA	4.00 ⁹	Around 4.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-05: Demonstrating solutions to protect and preserve cultural heritage from the impacts of climate change	IA	20.74 ¹⁰	6.00 to 7.50	3
HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-06: Improving climate resilience of inland waterways, their surroundings and related water infrastructures	RIA	15.00 ¹¹	Around 7.50	2
Overall indicative budget		64.74		

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2026-02

⁹ Of which EUR 4.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

¹⁰ Of which EUR 20.74 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

¹¹ Of which EUR 15.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

Overview of this call¹²

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ¹³	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2026		
Opening: 10 Dec 2025 Deadline(s): 16 Apr 2025				
Cancer: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission				
HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-01: Virtual Human Twin (VHT) Models for Cancer Research	RIA	35.00 ¹⁴	8.00 to 9.00	4
HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-02: Microbiome for early cancer prediction before onset of disease	RIA	15.00 ¹⁵	Around 15.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-03: Addressing the socio-economic burden of cancer through health-economics, health systems and outcomes research	RIA	15.00 ¹⁶	4.00 to 6.00	3
HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-04: Pragmatic clinical trials to optimise immunotherapeutic interventions for cancer patients with refractory cancer	RIA	21.00 ¹⁷	6.00 to 9.00	4
HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-05: Earlier and more precise palliative care	RIA	15.00 ¹⁸	Around 5.00	3

¹² The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

¹³ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

¹⁴ Of which EUR 35.00 million from the 'Health' budget.

¹⁵ Of which EUR 15.00 million from the 'Health' budget.

¹⁶ Of which EUR 15.00 million from the 'Health' budget.

¹⁷ Of which EUR 21.00 million from the 'Health' budget.

¹⁸ Of which EUR 15.00 million from the 'Health' budget.

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HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-06: Support a Young Cancer Survivor Quality of Life (QoL) research programme by cancer charities and funding agencies	CSA	3.00 ¹⁹	Around 3.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-07: Boosting mental health of young cancer survivors through the ECPDC	IA	7.00 ²⁰	Around 7.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-08: Development of a capacity building programme on cancer research with and for Ukraine	CSA	5.00 ²¹	Around 5.00	1
Overall indicative budget		116.00		

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2026-03

¹⁹ Of which EUR 2.15 million from the 'Health' budget and EUR 0.85 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

²⁰ Of which EUR 7.00 million from the 'Health' budget.

²¹ Of which EUR 5.00 million from the 'Health' budget.

Overview of this call²²

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ²³	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2026		
Opening: 04 Feb 2026 Deadline(s): 23 Sep 2026				
Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission				
HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-01: Large-scale demonstration for mapping the distribution and condition of marine habitats to implement the Nature Restoration Regulation	IA	32.00 ²⁴	N/A	Not relevant
HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-02: Addressing aquatic pollution and biodiversity loss through nature positive solutions in the land-sea connection	IA	32.00 ²⁵	N/A	Not relevant
HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-03: By fishers, for fishers: co-management of marine and freshwaters ecosystems and resources	IA	32.00 ²⁶	7.00 to 8.00	4
HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-04: Towards a European network of ocean technology testing sites	CSA	3.00 ²⁷	2.50 to 3.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-05:	IA	20.00 ²⁸	N/A	Not

²² The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

²³ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

²⁴ Of which EUR 32.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

²⁵ Of which EUR 32.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

²⁶ Of which EUR 32.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

²⁷ Of which EUR 3.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

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Missions**

Regional (sea-basins) components of the EU Digital Twin Ocean				relevant
Overall indicative budget		119.00		

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2026-04

Overview of this call²⁹

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project	Indicative number of projects
		2026		

²⁸ Of which EUR 20.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

²⁹ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

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Missions**

			(EUR million) ³⁰	expected to be funded
Opening: 04 Feb 2026 Deadline(s): 17 Sep 2026				
100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030				
HORIZON-MISS-2026-04-CIT-01: Energy efficient urban and sub-urban public transport, complemented by shared mobility	IA	20.00 ³¹	Around 10.00	2
HORIZON-MISS-2026-04-CIT-02: Transition to low-temperature heating solutions in multi-apartment buildings	IA	18.00 ³²	Around 6.00	3
Overall indicative budget		38.00		

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2026-05

³⁰ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

³¹ Of which EUR 20.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

³² Of which EUR 18.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

Overview of this call³³

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ³⁴	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2026		
Opening: 04 Feb 2026 Deadline(s): 23 Sep 2026				
Initial draft version				
HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-01: Living labs to enhance soil health in managed forests and in natural/semi-natural lands	RIA	24.00 ³⁵	Around 12.00	2
HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-02: Enabling user-centred and open innovation initiatives to enhance soil health in Ukraine	CSA	3.00 ³⁶	Around 3.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-03: Monitoring soil health in practice: equipping stakeholders to sample, analyse, and interpret soil health indicators	CSA	5.00 ³⁷	Around 5.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-04: Boosting EU competitiveness: advancing food system transformation through innovative soil health solutions	IA	14.00 ³⁸	Around 7.00	2

³³ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

³⁴ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

³⁵ Of which EUR 24.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

³⁶ Of which EUR 3.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

³⁷ Of which EUR 5.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

³⁸ Of which EUR 14.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

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HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-05: Antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic biosynthesis in soils – a One-Health perspective	RIA	14.00 ³⁹	Around 7.00	2
HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-06: Long-term drivers and consequences of soil degradation: the past as key to the future	RIA	7.00 ⁴⁰	Around 7.00	1
Overall indicative budget		67.00		

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-two-stage

³⁹ Of which EUR 14.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

⁴⁰ Of which EUR 7.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

Overview of this call⁴¹

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ⁴²	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2026		
Opening: 09 Dec 2025 Deadline(s): 12 Mar 2026 (First Stage), 15 Sep 2026 (Second Stage)				
Initial draft version				
HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-two-stage: Living labs to enhance soil health in Alpine and Atlantic biogeographical regions	RIA	24.00 ⁴³	Around 12.00	2
Overall indicative budget		24.00		

General conditions relating to this call

<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.

⁴¹ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

⁴² Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

⁴³ Of which EUR 24.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

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<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Joint Call between the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, the New European Bauhaus and the Build4People Partnership

HORIZON-MISS-2026-06

Overview of this call⁴⁴

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ⁴⁵	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2026		
Opening: 04 Feb 2026 Deadline(s): 17 Sep 2026				
EU Missions' Joint Calls				
HORIZON-MISS-2026-06-01-CIT-NEB-B4P: Introducing circular economy models in the construction sector, from buildings to city scale	IA	38.00 ⁴⁶	Around 9.50	4
Overall indicative budget		38.00		

General conditions relating to this call

<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
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⁴⁴ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

⁴⁵ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

⁴⁶ Of which EUR 38.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

**Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2026-2027
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<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Joint Call between the Soil Deal for Europe Mission and the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2026-07

Overview of this call⁴⁷

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ⁴⁸	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 04 Feb 2026 Deadline(s): 23 Sep 2026				
EU Missions' Joint Calls				

⁴⁷ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

⁴⁸ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

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HORIZON-MISS-2026-08-CLIMA-SOIL: Joint demonstration of solutions to build soil resilience to extreme weather events and support food security	IA	20.00 ⁴⁹	Around 10.00	2
Overall indicative budget		20.00		

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Cross-cutting Activities

HORIZON-MISS-2026-08

Overview of this call⁵⁰

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative number of

⁴⁹ Of which EUR 10.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget and EUR 10.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

⁵⁰ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

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Missions**

		2026		projects expected to be funded
Opening: 04 Feb 2026 Deadline(s): 23 Sep 2026				
Overall indicative budget		6.00		

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Supporting the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2027-01

Overview of this call⁵¹

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type	Budgets	Expected	Indicative
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⁵¹ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

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	of Action	(EUR million)	EU contribution per project (EUR million) ⁵²	number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 09 Feb 2027 Deadline(s): 21 Sep 2027				
Adaptation to Climate Change: Supporting the implementation of the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change				
HORIZON-MISS-2027-01-CLIMA-01: Demonstrating transformative solutions to increase transborder climate resilience	IA	73.38 ⁵³	10.00 to 15.00	5
HORIZON-MISS-2027-01-CLIMA-02: Researching and applying the potential of Artificial Intelligence to foster climate resilience at the regional and local levels	RIA	12.00 ⁵⁴	Around 3.00	4
Overall indicative budget		85.38		

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.

⁵² Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

⁵³ Of which EUR 73.38 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

⁵⁴ Of which EUR 12.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.
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Call - Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2027-02

Overview of this call⁵⁵

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ⁵⁶	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: na Deadline(s): 21 Sep 2027				
Cancer: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission				
HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-01: Leveraging functional genomics to reveal novel targets for cancer treatment	RIA	40.00 ⁵⁷	7.00 to 8.00	5
HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-02: Clinical research by Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures for the benefit of patients with common cancers across Europe	IA	20.00 ⁵⁸	10.00 to 12.00	2
HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-03: First-in-human clinical trials to test biomarker-guided medicines for patients with rare cancers or rare cancer subtypes	RIA	20.00 ⁵⁹	4.00 to 8.00	6

⁵⁵ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

⁵⁶ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

⁵⁷ Of which EUR 40.00 million from the 'Health' budget.

⁵⁸ Of which EUR 20.00 million from the 'Health' budget.

⁵⁹ Of which EUR 20.00 million from the 'Health' budget.

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HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-04: Improve the Quality of Life of elderly cancer patients	RIA	27.50 ⁶⁰	5.00 to 6.00	5
HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-05: Pre-commercial procurement of affordable solutions for healthcare systems in the areas of cancer technologies, cancer medical devices, or cancer medicines	RIA	25.50 ⁶¹	Around 8.00	6
Overall indicative budget		133.00		

General conditions relating to this call

<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2027-03

⁶⁰ Of which EUR 27.50 million from the 'Health' budget.

⁶¹ Of which EUR 25.50 million from the 'Health' budget.

Overview of this call⁶²

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ⁶³	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 09 Feb 2027 Deadline(s): 21 Sep 2027				
Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission				
HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-01: Increasing riparian and coastal areas resilience to climate change, including in waterfront cities and islands.	IA	36.00 ⁶⁴	8.00 to 9.00	4
HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-02: Circularity of seafood supply chain	IA	32.00 ⁶⁵	7.50 to 8.00	4
HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-03: Green, circular and resilient harbours	IA	12.00 ⁶⁶	N/A	Not relevant
HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-04: EU Public Infrastructure for the European Digital Twin Ocean, phase 3	IA	20.00 ⁶⁷	N/A	Not relevant
HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-05: Towards community-driven business models: coastal and freshwaters sustainable tourism	IA	6.00 ⁶⁸	1.50 to 2.00	3

⁶² The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

⁶³ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

⁶⁴ Of which EUR 36.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

⁶⁵ Of which EUR 32.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

⁶⁶ Of which EUR 12.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

⁶⁷ Of which EUR 20.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

⁶⁸ Of which EUR 6.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

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HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-06: Large-scale demonstration for blue reforestation of EU sea basins	IA	16.00 ⁶⁹	N/A	4
Overall indicative budget		122.00		

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2027-04

Overview of this call⁷⁰

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution	Indicative number of

⁶⁹ Of which EUR 16.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

⁷⁰ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

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		2027	per project (EUR million) ⁷¹	projects expected to be funded
Opening: 09 Feb 2027 Deadline(s): 23 Sep 2027				
100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030				
HORIZON-MISS-2027-04-CIT-01: Innovative microgrids for improved energy system integration and efficiency in urban contexts	IA	20.00 ⁷²	Around 7.00	3
HORIZON-MISS-2027-04-CIT-02: Hydrogen cities	CSA	5.00 ⁷³	Around 5.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2027-04-CIT-03: Inclusive and climate resilient multimodal passenger hubs enhancing modal shift towards sustainable transport and shared mobility	IA	18.00 ⁷⁴	Around 9.00	2
HORIZON-MISS-2027-04-CIT-04: Circular economy in the city: Reducing waste from e-commerce and urban logistics	RIA	15.00 ⁷⁵	Around 7.50	2
HORIZON-MISS-2027-04-CIT-05: Boosting the transformation towards climate-neutral cities, the net-zero economy and open strategic autonomy through Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)	PCP	26.87 ⁷⁶	7.00 to 12.00	3
Overall indicative budget		84.87		

General conditions relating to this call

<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.

⁷¹ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

⁷² Of which EUR 20.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

⁷³ Of which EUR 5.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

⁷⁴ Of which EUR 18.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

⁷⁵ Of which EUR 15.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

⁷⁶ Of which EUR 26.87 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

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<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2027-05

Overview of this call⁷⁷

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ⁷⁸	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 09 Feb 2027 Deadline(s): 16 Sep 2027				
Initial draft version				
HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-SOIL-01.: Co-creating solutions to reduce eutrophication in Living Labs	RIA	24.00 ⁷⁹	Around 12.00	2

⁷⁷ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

⁷⁸ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

⁷⁹ Of which EUR 24.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

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HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-SOIL-02: Participatory research on the health of communities in contact with polluted soils	RIA	12.00 ⁸⁰	Around 6.00	2
HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-SOIL-03: Innovative microbial and biofertilizers products t to improve soil health, crop productivity and decontaminate polluted soils	IA	12.00 ⁸¹	Around 6.00	2
Overall indicative budget		48.00		

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-two-stage

⁸⁰ Of which EUR 12.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

⁸¹ Of which EUR 12.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

Overview of this call⁸²

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ⁸³	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 10 Nov 2026 Deadline(s): 16 Feb 2027 (First Stage), 14 Sep 2027 (Second Stage)				
Initial draft version				
HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-SOIL-01-two-stage: Living labs to enhance soil health in Continental, Black Sea, Pannonian and Steppic biogeographical regions	RIA	24.00 ⁸⁴	Around 12.00	2
Overall indicative budget		24.00		

General conditions relating to this call

<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.

⁸² The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

⁸³ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

⁸⁴ Of which EUR 24.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

**Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2026-2027
Missions**

<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Joint Call between the Soil Deal for Europe Mission and the Cancer Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2027-06

Overview of this call⁸⁵

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ⁸⁶	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 09 Dec 2025 Deadline(s): 21 Sep 2027				
HORIZON-MISS-2027-06-SOIL-CANCER: Living labs to monitor and mitigate carcinogenic substances in and originating from soils: Evaluating their effects on human cancer risks	RIA	24.00 ⁸⁷	Around 12.00	2
Overall indicative budget		24.00		

General conditions relating to this call

<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
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⁸⁵ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

⁸⁶ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

⁸⁷ Of which EUR 12.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget and EUR 12.00 million from the 'Health' budget.

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<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Joint Call between the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission and the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission

HORIZON-MISS-2027-07

Overview of this call⁸⁸

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ⁸⁹	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 09 Feb 2027 Deadline(s): 23 Sep 2027				
EU Missions' Joint Calls				

⁸⁸ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening. The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months. All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time. The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

⁸⁹ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

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HORIZON-MISS-2027-06-01-CLIMA-CIT-NEB: Urban nature: supporting restoration of urban ecosystems, along urban transport networks and in the built environment	IA	40.00 ⁹⁰	Around 10.00	4
HORIZON-MISS-2027-06-02-CLIMA-CIT-CCRI: Deploying innovative wastewater management, treatment and valorisation solutions in European cities and regions in the context of climate change	IA	27.50 ⁹¹	Around 9.00	3
Overall indicative budget		67.50		

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Call - Cross-cutting Actions

HORIZON-MISS-2027-08

⁹⁰ Of which EUR 40.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

⁹¹ Of which EUR 7.50 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget and EUR 20.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

Overview of this call⁹²

Proposals are invited against the following Destinations and topic(s):

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 09 Feb 2027 Deadline(s): 23 Sep 2027				
Overall indicative budget		4.00		

General conditions relating to this call

<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

⁹² The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027

EU Missions

Adaptation to Climate Change: Supporting the implementation of the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change

Political context

In February 2021, the European Commission adopted an [EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change](#) that sets out how the EU can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050. Pushing further on the belief that we must adjust now to tomorrow's climate, the EU has launched, in the same year, the [EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change](#) to support at least 150 regions and local authorities to become climate-resilient by 2030.

Since the start of the Mission, the European Commission confirmed its strategic importance and the strength of its approach to accelerate the transformation to a climate-resilient Europe⁹³. It also acknowledged that the Mission can serve as a best practice for all interested parties, and that it will be further leveraged⁹⁴.

In March 2024, the [European Climate Risk Assessment \(EUCRA\)](#), published by the European Environment Agency, has further stressed the need to ramp up adaptation efforts in Europe. The importance of stepping up preparedness and adaptation is also well reflected in the Political Guidelines for the European Commission 2024-2029⁹⁵ which call the European Commission to develop a European Climate Adaptation Plan (ECAP), scheduled for 2026.

In this context, the Mission appears to be the perfect vehicle to support climate adaptation at the regional and local levels and to develop and facilitate the take-up of ready-to-use knowledge and tools for climate action.

A regional approach

Regional and local authorities are the end-users of the Mission. By signing the Mission Charter, more than [325 regional and local authorities](#) have committed to working together to transition faster to a climate resilient Europe.

Some regional and local authorities in Europe are well prepared to climate change, others are striving for solutions to address their climate risks. The Mission aims to support as a priority less developed regional and local authorities that are more vulnerable to climate impacts and have low adaptive capacity. The Mission fosters, by the mean of the [Mission Implementation Platform](#) and its [Community of Practice](#), the sharing of experiences and lessons learnt from others, accompanying regions and local authorities in finding and possibly reapplying solutions adapted to their climatic situation and socio-economic context.

⁹³ see Commission [Communication on the EU Missions](#), adopted in July 2023

⁹⁴ see [Commission Communication on Managing Climate Risks – protecting people and prosperity, adopted in March 2024](#))

⁹⁵ See [POLITICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE NEXT EUROPEAN COMMISSION](#) 2024-2029

In line with Horizon Europe, all the actions supported by this call are open to actors from EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries. However, regional and local authorities already engaged in the Mission activities (e.g. Charter Signatories, Community of Practice) have already proven their commitment and motivation to work towards the objectives of the mission and, as such, they provide ideal sites where the testing and demonstration of innovative approaches could take place.

Research and innovation

Rooted in research and innovation, the Mission aims to align towards its concrete objectives all relevant actors and stakeholders to deliver tangible solutions and concrete impacts by 2030.

The R&I support is provided in different ways:

1. Further support European regional and local authorities to better understand, prepare for and manage climate risks and opportunities, especially in view the large need demonstrated in the early phase of the Mission;
2. Step up support towards at least 150 regional and local authorities to accelerate their transformation to a climate resilient future, supporting them in the co-creation of innovation pathways and the testing of solutions;
3. Demonstrate systemic transformations to climate resilience contributing to deliver at least 75 large-scale demonstrations of systemic transformations to climate resilience across European regional and local authorities.

To be successful, the Mission needs to mobilise all relevant actors -- research institutes, industry, investors, civil society and citizens -- to create real and lasting impact and to accelerate their transformation to become climate resilient. In the spirit of the Mission, all proposals should also adopt a participatory approach that fully considers the local dimension of climate change and entails collaboration and engagement with the local communities that are affected by climate impacts. Therefore, engagement of citizens should be embedded in the design and/or implementation of the Mission's solutions.

It should be noted that Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) disciplines are at the heart of the Mission and therefore, even though it is not explicitly mentioned, many of the Mission topics require the effective contribution and inclusion of SSH experts.

Strategic direction for 2026-2027

As laid out in its implementation plan, the Mission has moved from its initial build-up phase, where it put in motion all its different streams of actions and is now in full deployment.

With its calls for 2026 & 2027, the Adaptation Mission will (i) provide continuity by maintaining the support structure already in place, (ii) focus on synergies with other initiatives and other parts of Horizon Europe and (iv) lay the ground to scale up R&I results.

Finally, in line with the focus on synergies, there are a series of actions that do not appear in this part of the work programme. Those are:

- **Joint accelerator challenge in 2026: Deep tech 4 Climate Adaptation** (co-financed with the European Innovation Council, with a Mission contribution of EUR 25 million)
- **HORIZON-MISS-2026-08-CLIMA-SOIL ‘Joint demonstration of solutions to build soil resilience to extreme weather events and support food security’** (co-financed with the Soil Mission, with a Mission Contribution of EUR 10 million);
- **HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-ENVHLTH-MISSCLIMA-03: Tools and technologies to support health adaptation to climate change** (co-financed with Cluster 1, with a Mission contribution of EUR 10 million);
- **HORIZON-MISS-2027-06-01-CLIMA-CIT-NEB ‘Urban nature: supporting restoration of urban ecosystems, including along urban transport networks and in the built environment’** (co-financed with the Cities Mission and the New European Bauhaus, with a Mission contribution of EUR 10 million);
- **HORIZON-MISS-2027-06-02-CLIMA-CIT-CCRI ‘Deploying innovative wastewater management, treatment and valorisation solutions in European cities and regions in the context of climate change’** (co-financed with the cities Mission and the Circular cities and region initiatives from Cluster 6, with Mission contribution of EUR 10 million);
- Financial contribution to the [Climate City Capital Hub](#), listed under “Specific Grant Agreement to the FPA to reinforce the operations of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform in the Work Programme Part of the Cities Mission (Mission Contribution of EUR 10 million)

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-01: National Adaptation Hubs - Bringing together the national level with the engaged regional and local levels (multi-level governance)

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 10.00 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 10.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Coordination and Support Actions
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s):

<i>Agreements</i>	<p>Call for tenders CINEA/2025/xxxx.[TO BE UPDATED]</p> <p>Collaboration with MIP4Adapt - the Mission Implementation Platform - and with the project stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-02 is essential. Proposals must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the projects' starting date.</p> <p>Beneficiaries <u>may</u> provide financial support to third parties to allow for the establishment of National Adaptation Hubs. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants, with a maximum of one grant per EU Member State or Associated Country. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 200,000⁹⁶.</p>
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Expected Outcome: In support of the implementation of the Mission on Adaptation to climate change and contributing to the multi-level governance for climate adaptation, and as follow-up to European Commission's [Communication on the EU Missions](#), the successful project is expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes:

- The relevant national governance for innovation and climate adaptation is further engaged and mobilised to contribute to the objectives of the Adaptation Mission, and benefit from it. In turn, the Mission fosters multi-level governance, supporting Member States, regions and local authorities in their efforts to implement the European Climate Law's requirements on climate adaptation, and to further develop and update their adaptation plans.
- Mission solutions are disseminated beyond the regions and local authorities actively involved in the Mission and peer learning opportunities (within and outside) the Mission are strengthened, to bridge the gap between the EU and local levels.

Scope: Regional and local authorities are the target group of the proposed activities and as such they are not expected to participate directly in the consortium, but they should receive services from the project funded by this action.

The project is expected to last until the end of the Mission, i.e. end of 2030.

The project will be a follow-up to the project stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2024-CLIMA-01-02, and hence it should collaborate with such existing project (called [AdaptationHubs](#)) to ensure a smooth transition from one project's implementation to the other, maintaining the continuity of Mission Adaptation's support for the national hubs. Moreover, the project should ensure lessons learnt from the project [AdaptationHubs](#) are duly taken into account, including during the grant agreement preparation.

⁹⁶ It is estimated that EUR 60,000 - the usual amount maximum amount that can be paid to a third party - is an insufficient amount to establish a National Adaptation Hub. Experience with [AdaptationHubs](#) indicates that a maximum of EUR 200,000 is more appropriate to cover various costs required by the national hubs.

Proposals should address two axes of action for which all the following aspects should be addressed:

1. National adaptation hubs

“National adaptation hubs” established by the EU Mission should be continued and extended.

National adaptation hubs (one per EU country + at least a single horizontal facility for Associated Countries) are meant to be light, agile, and flexible, to be tailored to the national context. They consist in a sort of task force or working group composed of the relevant contact points from each level of governance relevant in the individual countries.

The hubs should:

- Build on the key community systems and enabling conditions identified in the [Mission Implementation Plan](#) to identify the priority areas of work of the “National adaptation hubs”. These priority areas should reflect what is included in the National Strategies and/or Plans on Adaptation to Climate Change, while maintaining enough thematic flexibility overtime to be able to integrate the priority themes addressed by the future European Climate Adaptation Plan.
- Feed relevant knowledge and contribute to countries and regional and local authorities’ efforts related to the adaptation objectives in the Climate Law – with particular reference to the adoption and implementation of national adaptation strategies and plans.

Proposals could provide direct financial support in the form of grants to maximum one entity in each of the EU Member State in facilitating the creation and animation of the “National Adaptation Hub”. To implement the support to third parties, the consortium should include partners with relevant operational and financial experience and viability.

2. Grouping scheme

A structural grouping scheme should be put in place to bring together regions and local actors facing similar challenges, to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge within and beyond the regions and local authorities involved in the EU Mission. To that end, the scheme should:

- Include groups or pairs from the same EU Member State (within each “national adaptation hub”) as well as between different countries, helping consolidate the multi-level governance.
- Identify the right grouping and pairing participants from Mission-funded and Mission-related activities to other regions in the EU, with particular attention to vulnerable regions.
- When relevant, group or pair less advanced regions with front-runners to feed the National level in view of policy innovation (see point on Climate Law requirements).
- Ensure close connections with the Mission's Community of Practice.

Links to the Mission and to other projects and initiatives

As a coordination and support action, collaboration with the Mission and other initiatives will be key to ensure the success of this action. In particular, close collaboration should be sought with all the following actors:

1. **Mission secretariat** – to ensure the relevance of the activities within the Mission
2. The **Mission Implementation platform**– the project funded under this topic should closely cooperate with the Mission Implementation Platform and ensure synergies – where relevant- with the exchanges taking place within the EU Mission’s Community of Practice.
3. The **project stemming from HORIZON- MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-02**– to ensure synergies and coordinate the respective activities

The project is also expected to have regular exchanges of best practices with the other EU Missions⁹⁷, e.g. in the area of stakeholder and citizen engagement, long-term sustainability of Mission hubs, and building of synergies. Moreover, it will work closely with Horizon Europe National Contact Points⁹⁸ to enhance their activities, such as raising awareness about Mission Adaptation funding activities through information events and communication tools.

The project funded under this topic is expected to closely cooperate with the different projects funded by the Adaptation Mission, in particular with the project stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-04.

Moreover, the project should also ensure that National adaptation hubs connect with the EU Mission Board, to fully exploit further synergies with its members.

Collaboration with other relevant existing platforms and initiatives is also encouraged.

Applicants should acknowledge these requests and already account for them in their proposal, making adequate provisions in terms of resources and budget to engage and collaborate with the Mission.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-02: Actionable solutions for climate adaptation to the knowledge of the regions and local authorities

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 5.00 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 5.00 million.

⁹⁷ Including by contributing to relevant OECD initiatives aiming at strengthening evidence-informed policy-making for mission-oriented innovation.

⁹⁸ Including by cooperating with the [NCP4Missions](#) project

<i>Type of Action</i>	Coordination and Support Actions
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s): Call for tenders CINEA/2025/xxxx.[TO BE UPDATED]</p> <p>Collaboration with MIP4Adapt - the Mission Implementation Platform - and with the project stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-01 is essential. Proposals must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the projects' starting date.</p> <p>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) ⁹⁹.</p>

Expected Outcome: Proposals are expected to contribute to **all of** the following expected outcomes:

- The wide range of solutions tested and deployed in the context of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change and the good practices emerged in its Community of Practice are harvested, analysed, structured and systematised to support the implementation of the Mission.
- Regional and local authorities receive the latest and most actionable solutions for climate adaptation relevant to their conditions.
- Adaptation solutions stemming from research and Innovation are ready for replication and scale-up, contributing to the delivery of the Adaptation Mission and acceleration of adaptation efforts across Europe. Legacy of the knowledge created by the Mission is also ensured.
- Knowledge and understanding of the policy implications of adaptation solutions is increasingly utilised in the policy cycles at EU, national, and regional and local levels.

Scope:

Rationale

⁹⁹ This [decision](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under ‘Simplified costs decisions’ or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

Grounded in research and Innovation, EU Missions aim to mobilise R&I actors to help tackle some of the most pressing societal issues. In this spirit, the Adaptation Mission has funded over 50 projects to test and develop climate resilience solutions that help regions adapting to climate change. However, creating knowledge is not enough, to trigger change at the pace required, and it should be ensured that the relevant knowledge reaches the relevant decision-makers. Acting as a follow-up to REGILIENCE+, this topic aims to ensure that the actionable solutions developed in the context of the Mission (and beyond) are actively brought to the knowledge and made available to the regions and local authorities in Europe.

Target audience

Regional, local authorities, in particular the ones already involved in the Mission¹⁰⁰, are the target group of the proposed activities and the customers of the in-depth knowledge provision of solutions. While they are not expected to participate in the consortium, they should receive tailor-made services from the project funded by this action, which should primarily use the Mission Implementation Platform's channels to feed them with new information products, also based on the needs expressed by them (e.g. see [Analysis of information provided by the signatories of the charter of the Mission Adaptation to Climate Change](#) when adhering to the Charter).

Activities of the project

The proposals should address **all of** the following aspects:

- **Systematically identify and harvest knowledge and solutions from relevant projects.** While the priority should be given to solutions from projects funded by the Adaptation Mission, other relevant projects from Horizon Europe and other EU and national funding programmes should be considered.
- **Produce a detailed inventory of adaptation solutions**, in coordination with the Mission Implementation Platform, in which each solution is presented to enable regions and local authorities to easily implement/replicate them. The inventory should:
 1. Be structured in line with the [Mission Implementation Plan's](#) “key community systems and enabling conditions”, in view of ensuring maximum coherence within the Mission.
 2. Build on previous analyses or information already harvested by projects such as Regilience+, NetworkNature+ and other relevant projects/initiatives
 3. Include key information to allow for replication (including but not limited to cost effectiveness, financing and necessary conditions).
- These solutions should be **proactively promoted with the regions and local authorities** participating in the Adaptation Mission **to support replication and uptake of those solutions**. This should be done, amongst other things through **multilingual**

¹⁰⁰ For instance through the Mission Charter or in the Mission Projects

approach. The proposals could also support the authorities in the development and implementation of such solutions in their regional and local contexts (i.e., know-how).

- The proposal should also feed the EU policy cycle **by identifying good practices that merit particular attention by EU policymakers** in view of strengthening policy innovation in coming cycles (feedback to policy task).
- The project is expected to last until the end of the Mission, i.e. end of 2030.

Links to the Mission and other projects and initiatives

As a coordination and support action, collaboration with the Mission and other initiatives will be key to ensure the success of this action. In particular, close collaboration should be sought with all the following actors:

- **Mission secretariat** – to ensure the relevance of the activities within the Mission
- The **Mission Implementation platform**– the project funded under this topic should support and closely cooperate with the Mission Implementation Platform, to avoid duplication and streamline the communication to regions and local authorities.
- The **National Hubs**¹⁰¹– to enhance the dissemination of information and make sure that this dissemination is tailored to the national context.

Collaboration with other relevant existing platforms, projects and initiatives is also encouraged.

Applicants should acknowledge these requests and already account for them in their proposal, making adequate provisions in terms of resources and budget to engage and collaborate with the Mission.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-03: Standardising and supporting climate services to serve climate adaptation

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 10.00 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 10.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following

¹⁰¹ Set up by the projects stemming from HORIZON-2024-MISS-01-02 and extended by the topic HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-01

<i>conditions</i>	exceptions apply: If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: 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) ¹⁰² .

Expected Outcome: Projects are expected to contribute to **all** of the following expected outcomes:

- The methodology for identifying, selecting and consolidating global and regional reference climate data sets and scenarios is advanced and their consistent use across the EU in relation to climate adaptation is supported
- Standardisation and quality of EU climate services are improved and their uptake is enhanced
- Climate services and best practices are used effectively to inform climate adaptation policy making and adaptation decisions

Scope:

Rationale

Tailored and effective climate services are increasingly needed in a world of intensifying climate risks. Although the uptake of climate services is expanding significantly, their insufficient regulation can lead to lack of quality assurance and consistency, poor decision making, low policy uptake and market development, and, ultimately, maladaptation.

In its [Communication on Managing climate risk](#), the European Commission announced its intention to ask [European Standardisation Organisations](#) to develop new standards on climate services and to consider climate adaptation into European standards for the design of infrastructure with a life-cycle of more than 30 years.

In support of the Commission Communication, the goal of this topic is to enhance the uptake of trustworthy, user-relevant and usable climate services by 1) consolidating and promoting

¹⁰² This [decision](#) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under ‘Simplified costs decisions’ or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

the consistent use of quality-assured reference global and regional climate data sets and scenarios, and 2) streamlining climate service practices as well as promoting standardization across climate adaptation decision making and policies with due account for regional or local circumstances and capacity building needs.

In the context of this topic, standardization encompasses technical, procedural and performance standards¹⁰³.

1st objective : reference climate data sets and scenarios for standardised climate services

Proposals should contribute to processes standardising climate services through reference climate data sets and scenarios to be used in all EU member states and at various scales (continental, national, regional). Particular attention should be paid to the consistency and harmony of continent-wide solutions with developments at country level where appropriate.

The work should address **all of** the following aspects:

- Advance innovative and robust methodologies to identify, select, distill and consolidate consistent global and regional reference climate data sets and scenarios with their associated uncertainties to be clearly communicated. This should be done in close collaboration with end-users, to ensure their operational relevance and usability in adaptation decision-making across the EU. These references should be based on appropriate available observations, (re)-analyses and simulations from the main EU and/or international initiatives (e.g. CMIP, CORDEX, DestinE) using quantifiable and traceable approaches;
- The proposed solution should incorporate a mechanism for regular updates to the underlying climate scenarios. to ensure that selected climate projections remain aligned with the latest updates on emission scenarios and available scientific information;
- Incorporate the above methodologies and mechanisms into the standardization of climate services.

2nd objective : streamlining standardized climate services for decision and policy making in adaptation

Working closely with European Standard Organisations (such as CEN-CENELEC and others), finance institutions (such as EIB) and other relevant entities as appropriate, actions should address all of the following aspects:

- Improve the standardization of climate services, with special consideration for compound and other complex climate risks across temporal (multi-year to multidecadal) and spatial scales (local to regional);
- Promote and demonstrate the use of the pilot standardized climate services in key adaptation-related areas, to assess and integrate quality-assured climate information into

¹⁰³ See for instance [the key messages on standardization by Climateurope2](#)

decision-making, in line with the adaptation objectives of the Paris Agreement. These could include:

- o Climate finance proofing processes and tools to support for example regulated institutions to adhere to the EU Taxonomy Regulation adaptation objectives;
- o Climate resilience of (public and private) investments in built environment and critical infrastructure from design to delivery and exploitation;
- o Additionally, other sectors (e.g. health, agriculture, energy, water management, insurance) could be addressed if properly justified.

Links to the Mission and to other projects and initiatives

Actions should build on knowledge from existing climate service research projects and explore synergies with ongoing initiatives funded by EU and national programmes (in particular Copernicus and Destination Earth).

Actions should include a mechanism and the resources to establish operational links and collaboration with the Mission Implementation Platform, and other relevant programmes. Projects funded under this topic will be expected to participate in the Mission Community of Practice and to share relevant knowledge to feed the work of the project stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-02.

Applicants should acknowledge these requests and already account for them in their proposal, making adequate provisions in terms of resources and budget to engage and collaborate with the Mission.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-04: Bridging the gap between disaster risk management and climate adaptation

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	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.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 4.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Coordination and Support Actions
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: 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) ¹⁰⁴ .
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Expected Outcome: The successful proposal will contribute to the implementation of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, the Preparedness Union Strategy and the upcoming European Climate Adaptation Plan, by facilitating the interaction between the actors of the Climate Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management on a European, national and regional scale.

Proposals are expected to contribute to **all of** the following expected outcomes:

- The Climate Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management communities at European level are brought together to develop inter and transdisciplinary methodological approaches, constructing and disseminating joint knowledge
- The knowledge and understanding of the common aspects for Disaster Risk Management preparedness and climate change adaptation are enhanced, including the question of responsibility and accountability.
- The terminology and understanding of the risks and the possible solutions are aligned for Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation and hence local resilience to climate change is improved.

Scope:

Rationale

The goal of this action is to strengthen collaboration between the Climate Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management communities. This will enable the Mission and the Disaster Risk Management community to disseminate its innovative solutions in , support of the the implementation of the Preparedness Union Strategy and the EU Climate Adaptation Plan.

This action is fully in line with the recommendation from the [Niinistö report](#) for “creating stronger structural links to bridge the gap between research, innovation and deployment”.

Activities of the project

Project should address **all of** the following areas:

- **Produce guidelines and recommendations** to define and implement integrated risks management policies that fully account for climate adaptation.
- **Develop a glossary** to facilitate a common understanding of the risks and possible solutions, this to improve the exchange of knowledge and cooperation.

¹⁰⁴ This [decision](#) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under ‘Simplified costs decisions’ or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

- The proposals should **identify and harvest knowledge and solutions** relevant for both communities, from related Horizon Europe projects, with particular attention to projects funded by the Adaptation Mission and CL3-DRR calls and other EU funding program (e.g., Interreg, LIFE, UCPM calls for proposals such as Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness) or legacy projects from Horizon2020.
- **Implement a multi-governance approach** that will also help disseminate existing knowledge beyond the regions directly served by the Mission, via the National Adaptation Hubs¹⁰⁵. In this context, the proposal should map relevant stakeholders and identify the right grouping and pairing of participants to bring the knowledge they acquired by participating in an EU funded projects to other regions in the EU, with particular attention to the inclusion and needs of vulnerable regions.
- **Support and closely cooperate** with the ongoing Mission Implementation Platform, in close contact with the Mission’s Secretariat, and the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (and its Secretariat) to avoid duplications of activities. This includes relying on existing activities of the Commission’s Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre, of MIP4Adapt and the project funded under HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-01 with a view to strengthen cooperation.
- **Organize European Climate Change Adaptation Conferences (ECCA)** in 2028 and 2030, in consultation with the European Commission.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-05: Demonstrating solutions to protect and preserve cultural heritage from the impacts of climate change

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 6.00 and 7.50 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 20.74 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply: Demonstration activities must take place in the territory of at least 3 different regional or local authorities, each established in a different Member States or Associated Country.

¹⁰⁵ Established by the project [AdaptationHubs](#) and extended by HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-01

Expected Outcome: In line with the EU Adaptation Strategy and the objectives of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, successful proposals will support the preservation of cultural heritage under a changing climate. Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- **Innovative solutions** for protecting and preserving cultural heritage from the impacts of climate change **have been demonstrated** and are made largely available for upscaling and deployment across the European Union and beyond.
- **Regional and local authorities** hosting the cultural heritage sites are better prepared to preserve their cultural heritage, under a changing climate.
- **Relevant stakeholders** - heritage experts and managers, climate scientists, regional and local policymakers, civil society and representatives from the tourism industry - have been **brought together** to discuss and put in place climate-resilient solutions. Citizens and local communities have also been engaged in the process.

Scope:

Rationale

As the impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent, economic losses associated with it are also increasing. However, not all impacts can be quantified economically. This is the case of cultural heritage, which is particularly threatened by climate change but requires dedicated solutions due to its own specificities. Cultural heritage is a key priority for adaptation in the COP28 [UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience](#) but has not been addressed by the Mission so far. This is why this action focuses specifically on identifying and demonstrating solutions to protect cultural heritage from climate impacts. In the context of the topic, cultural heritage includes tangible (movable and immovable) heritage, and natural heritage. Innovative and effective solutions are needed to help heritage site managers and local communities to prepare the cultural heritage sites, structures and artefacts against the climate impacts, in a way that safeguards their cultural and historical integrity and acknowledges the importance they hold for present and future generations.

Solutions sought

Proposals should identify, test and demonstrate innovative solutions to protect and preserve cultural heritage from the impact of climate change climate-proof cultural heritage.

The solutions may address different aspects of heritage preservation including innovative environmental assessment methodologies, integrated monitoring technologies and systems, improved non-invasive and non-destructive methods of surveying and diagnosis including wide area surveillance, cost-effective and environmentally respectful (green) conservation and

restoration techniques¹⁰⁶, risk management, disaster prevention and quick damage assessment when catastrophes occur.

All of the following aspects should be considered:

- The solutions are expected to be co-designed by all the relevant stakeholders, including heritage managers, regions and local authorities hosting the heritage sites, and to engage citizens.
- Special emphasis should be placed on identifying and promoting nature-based solutions as preferred approaches where relevant.
- These solutions should consider the potential interactions and compound effects of different hazards.
- Careful consideration is necessary to avoid maladaptation.

The solutions are expected to be co-designed by all the relevant stakeholders, including heritage managers, regions and local authorities hosting the heritage sites, and to engage citizens.

To ensure the effective implementation and scalability of solutions, projects should have a sufficient duration to demonstrate and evaluate their feasibility and impact and allow replicating authorities to prepare a robust theoretical framework.

Demonstration sites and related activities

The Mission encourages collaborations between regional and local authorities facing similar challenges and considers this to be a very efficient approach to secure a large impact. Therefore, the demonstration activities of the proposals:

- Must take place in the territory of **at least 3 different regional or local authorities that host heritage sites**, each established in a different Member States or Associated Country, with the involvement of these regional or local authorities and of relevant heritage managers (preferably participating in the consortium as a beneficiary or associated partner).
- Should already identify at least **3 “replicating” regional or local authorities from 3 different Member States or Associated Countries**, interested in reapplying the lessons learnt (totally, partially or with the required adjustments) in their territories. For the replication, the consortium could include one or more partners that would provide support for the technical exchanges and the knowledge uptake in the “replicating” regions or local authorities. Replicating regions are not expected to conduct a complete demonstration or carry out on the ground activities already in the course of the project. However, replicating regions should at least prepare the theoretical framework for

¹⁰⁶ a green conservation approach is minimally harmful to the environment and humans. Aligning with the circular economy, green conservation is decarbonizing, zero-waste, accessible, and available. ([GoGreen](#))

replicating the successful solutions (through exchanges with the demonstration regions), and explore means to fund the implementation of those solutions.

To ensure the effective implementation and scalability of solutions, projects should have a sufficient duration to demonstrate and evaluate their feasibility and impact and allow replicating authorities to prepare a robust theoretical framework.

Links to the Mission and to other projects and initiatives

Proposals should build (when relevant) on existing knowledge and adaptation solutions developed by previous projects¹⁰⁷ and explore synergies with ongoing projects¹⁰⁸ from EU and national programmes, like the European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage and the [Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change](#).

Synergies with other funding sources (EU and national) are encouraged to identify opportunities to scale up the solutions demonstrated and to foster their broad deployment across Europe through other programmes.

Proposals should include a mechanism and the resources to establish operational links and collaboration with the Mission Implementation Platform (including on monitoring). Projects funded under this topic will be expected to participate in the Mission Community of Practice and to share relevant knowledge to feed the work of the project stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-02. Proposals are encouraged to (dedicate resources to) link their monitoring to the framework developed by the project stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2024-CLIMA-01-03.

Applicants should acknowledge these requests and already account for them in their proposal, making adequate provisions in terms of resources and budget to engage and collaborate with the Mission.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-06: Improving climate resilience of inland waterways, their surroundings and related water infrastructures

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 7.50 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 15.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions

¹⁰⁷ Topics from Horizon Europe’s cluster 2 that are particularly relevant include : [HORIZON-CL2-2021-HERITAGE-01-01](#); [HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-08](#); [HORIZON-CL2-2023-HERITAGE-01-01](#), as well as [European Heritage Hub](#)

¹⁰⁸ See for example, [EU’s disaster risk management-related](#) capacity building projects

Expected Outcome: Successful proposals will support the implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy, the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, the water resilience Strategy, the EU Preparedness Strategy and the upcoming European Climate Adaptation Plan. Proposals are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Inland waterways and their surroundings and related infrastructure are managed in a more integrated manner across Europe and become more climate-resilient
- Climate and environmental risks to water infrastructure (e.g. droughts, flooding, slow onset events, ecological degradation) are more effectively addressed in a systemic way and safe, efficient and reliable navigability conditions are improved
- Cost-efficient and environmentally-friendly measures are identified and they improve climate resilience of inland waterways while supporting integrated co-benefit and avoiding competing water uses.

Scope:

Rationale

There are about 42,000 kilometers of inland waterways in the EU, with a network spanning 25 Member States. In 2022, 122.1 billion tonne-kilometres (tkm) were transported through inland waters, making up 5,1% of the total land freight transport volumes within the EU. They are one of the most one of the most carbon efficient mode of transportation for freight and their role should be boosted, as highlighted in the [2021 Commission Communication](#) (NAIADES III).

While inland waterways, their surroundings and related infrastructure are being at the heart of the green transition, they are also threatened by climate change and ecological degradation. Adverse effects of climate change include slow-onset and seasonal changes in water availability and quality, increased flooding and prolonged periods of water scarcity and drought. **The goal of this topic is to improve the climate resilience of inland waterways and related interdependent systems.**

Activities of the projects

Together with the other proposals selected under this topic, projects are expected to address all of the following aspects:

- **conduct a comprehensive climate risk assessment of the EU's navigable waterway network.** This assessment should cover mobility, supply chain security, critical infrastructure, geographical and economic interdependencies and multifunctional water resilience.
- **Address the lack of a common climate modelling framework for EU waterways: and improve predictions and projections** to optimise waterway management in the short to long term.

- **Calculate the investments that are required** to implement climate proofing, as well as an proper understanding and estimation of the costs of inaction
- **Provide actionable information to guide effective climate adaptation solutions**, that maximise co-benefits and ensure integrated management of inland waterways. Nature-based solutions should be explored as a priority, in line with the Mission Implementation Plan.
- **Test adaptation solutions** on various river basins

Links to the Mission and to other projects and initiatives

Proposals should build (when relevant) on existing knowledge and adaptation solutions developed by previous projects¹⁰⁹ and explore synergies with ongoing projects from EU and national programmes as well as the international River commissions

Proposals should include a mechanism and the resources to establish operational links and collaboration with the Mission Implementation Platform (including on monitoring), and other relevant knowledge platforms such as [PLATINA4Action](#). Projects funded under this topic will be expected to participate in the Mission Community of Practice and to share relevant knowledge to feed the work of the project stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-02.

Applicants should acknowledge these requests and already account for them in their proposal, making adequate provisions in terms of resources and budget to engage and collaborate with the Mission.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-01-CLIMA-01: Demonstrating transformative solutions to increase transborder climate resilience

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 10.00 and 15.00 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 73.38 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply:

¹⁰⁹ Projects that are particularly relevant include those funded under [HORIZON-CL5-2021-D6-01-09](#) or Transport Inland Waterway Portfolio of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

	Demonstration activities must take place in at least 2 transborder sites established in a different Member States or Associated Country.
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Expected Outcome: In support to the implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy, the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change and the European Preparedness Union Strategy and contributing to the upcoming European Climate Action Plan, project results are expected to improve adaptative capacities of European internal border regional and local authorities, allowing them to jointly address with their neighbours the pressing climate risks.

Projects results should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Climate resilience solutions for transborder risks have been developed and tested
- Regional and local authorities from neighbouring countries are better prepared to withstand jointly the impacts of climate change, including systemic risks and cascading effects.

National, regional and local authorities are taking on shared responsibilities and are actively involved in the development and testing of innovative solutions to deal with transborder climate risks.

Scope:

Rationale

Transborder risks¹¹⁰ and cooperation are crucial in the European Union, where 37.5% of the EU population lives in border areas, spanning 38 intra-EU borders that often involve both administrative and linguistic divides¹¹¹. While adaptation plans are usually prepared within a single territory (e.g. at national, regional or local scales), climate risks do not stop at the border. For instance, around 70% of Europe's freshwater bodies are part of international river basins, making flooding and droughts typical transborder risks. Similarly, wildfires pose a significant transborder threat, as they can spread rapidly across national borders, affecting multiple countries simultaneously.

To be truly resilient, European regional and local authorities therefore need to integrate their action with their neighbours and take serious consideration of the transborder dimension of climate risks.

Solutions sought

Proposals should **develop, test and demonstrate approaches and innovative solutions relevant for transborder risks, leading to an increase of climate resilience in transborder regions.**

¹¹⁰ In this context, transborder risk is understood as risk spanning the border between two or more countries and affecting both or all areas.

¹¹¹ JRC 2024 [Cross-border and emerging risks in Europe](#)

Moreover, particular attention should be given to coordination between the national and regional governance aspects of the bordering regions. Services to better predict, monitor and report on transborder climate events should be explored as a first step.

Projects will be required to address all of the following:

- Address **at least one relevant transborder climate risk** (e.g. water scarcity, flooding, storms, wildfires, sea level rise) but are strongly encouraged to address risks systemically and to cover cascading and compound risks;
- Develop, and demonstrate a **common classification** of the climate risks and define what level of risks are acceptable across the national border.
- Develop and demonstrate **innovative integrated solutions** to make both sides of the border climate resilient. Those solutions should cover transborder **governance and/or socio-economic** aspects (but are not limited to that).
- For the successful implementation of the solutions and to ensure their sustainability beyond the duration of the project, the development and testing of the proposed solutions should be **embedded**, as much as possible in the adaptation planning of the regional or local authority participating in the project and/or in national plans.

Note that this topic requires the effective contribution of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) disciplines.

Demonstration sites and related activities

The Mission encourages collaborations between regional and local authorities facing similar challenges and considers this to be a very efficient approach to secure a large impact. Therefore, the demonstration activities of the proposals should:

- Take place in **at least 2 different transborder demonstration sites** established in Member States or Associated Country, with the involvement of the regional or local authorities (preferably participating in the consortium as a beneficiary or associated partner).
- Should include **at least 2 “replicating” sites in Member States or Associated Countries**, interested in reapplying the lessons learnt (totally, partially or with the required adjustments) in their territories. For the replication, the consortium could include one or more partners that would provide support for the technical exchanges and the knowledge uptake in the “replicating” regions or local authorities. Replicating regions are not expected to conduct complete a demonstration or carry out on the ground activities already in the course of the project. However, replicating regions should at least prepare the theoretical framework for replicating (through exchanges with the demonstration regions) and explore means to fund the implementation of those solutions.

Links to the Mission and to other projects and initiatives

Proposals should build (when relevant) on existing knowledge and adaptation solutions developed by previous projects and explore synergies with ongoing projects from EU and national programmes¹¹².

Synergies with other funding sources (EU and national) are encouraged to identify opportunities to scale up the solutions demonstrated and to foster their broad deployment across Europe through other programmes.

Proposals should include a mechanism and the resources to establish operational links and collaboration with the Mission Implementation Platform (including on monitoring). Projects funded under this topic will be expected to participate in the Mission Community of Practice and to share relevant knowledge to feed the work of the project stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-02.

All projects funded under this topic should work together as a cluster (under the umbrella of the Mission) and coordinate their activities and align their outputs as much as possible to maximise their impact.

Proposals are encouraged to (dedicate resources to) 1) link their monitoring to the framework developed by the project stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2024-CLIMA-01-03; 2) to rely on the (updated) [CLIMAAX framework](#) for their climate risk assessments.

Applicants should acknowledge these requests and already account for them in their proposal, making adequate provisions in terms of resources and budget to engage and collaborate with the Mission.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-01-CLIMA-02: Researching and applying the potential of Artificial Intelligence to foster climate resilience at the regional and local levels

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 3.00 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 12.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: To ensure a balanced portfolio covering both objectives, grants will be awarded to proposals not only in order of ranking but at least also to one proposal that is the highest ranked within each objective, provided

¹¹² Interreg is particularly relevant for this topic

	<p>that the applications attain all thresholds.</p> <p>To this purpose, the objective addressed by the proposal should also be specified in the free keywords section of the proposal.</p>
<p><i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i></p>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>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) ¹¹³.</p>

Expected Outcome: AI has the potential to support or facilitate virtually every aspect of regions’ climate adaptation efforts. From risk assessment to climate forecasting, from infrastructure planning to resource management, and more. Contributing to the objectives of the AI Continent Action Plan¹¹⁴ and the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, projects are expected to contribute to at least one of the following:

- AI is used to improve actionable climate adaptation knowledge for European regions and local authorities by integrating climate data into decision-making processes.
- Specific sectors in the selected regions become more resilient to climate change thanks to the use of AI to improve their processes or technologies.

Scope:

Rationale

Over the past few years, a rapid and disruptive acceleration of progress in Artificial Intelligence has occurred, driven by significant advances in widespread data availability, computing power and machine learning¹¹⁵. While the potential of Artificial Intelligence is being uncovered each day and its possibilities are expanding exponentially, such technological revolution can significantly accelerate Europe’s efforts towards climate resilience and contribute to the objectives of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change.

Considering the ever-changing nature of AI growth, proposals should demonstrate that they go beyond state of the art, they should identify a specific gap that can be addressed by an AI-powered tool, and explain why it would improve existing models, tools or applications or, alternatively, justify the need to develop entirely new solutions.

¹¹³ This [decision](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under ‘Simplified costs decisions’ or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

¹¹⁴ COM(2025) 165 final

¹¹⁵ COM(2024) 28 final

In particular, the proposal should address one of the following two objectives:

Objective 1: “AI for more accessible data”

AI can quickly process and identify patterns from big datasets that would otherwise be too complex. Proposals should explore how AI can be further integrated, including via AI techniques such as deep learning, to make data more accessible and understandable, supporting decision-making and contributing to the objective of the Adaptation Mission. The goal is to facilitate informed regions and local authorities’ decision-making. Improvements should be tested with **at least 3 regions and local authorities** to ensure that they provide a concrete added value to end-users (i.e. decision-makers). Moreover, proposals are expected to apply such analysis to concretely improve data integrity and accessibility¹¹⁶.

Objective 2: “AI for sectoral adaptation”

Use and application of machine learning and AI tools to help regions and local authorities optimize their management of resources and improve adaptation technologies in key sector(s). Proposals should develop and test the tools in **at least 5 regions or local authorities**. The work should engage private sector actors with relevant expertise in the sector chosen (e.g. smart agriculture, construction and buildings sector, water management, waste management, transports, resilience of energy systems, etc.), to ensure that such AI-powered tools are designed for scalability and uptake.

All proposals should provide training and dissemination material for different target groups, including regions and local authorities, on how to best take advantage of the AI-powered improvements.

To ensure a balanced portfolio covering both objectives, grants will be awarded to proposals not only in order of ranking but at least also to one proposal that is the highest ranked within each objective, provided that the applications attain all thresholds. To this purpose, the objective addressed by each proposal should also be specified in the free keywords section of the proposal.

Links to the Mission and to other projects and initiatives

Proposals should include a mechanism and the resources to establish operational links and collaboration with the Mission Implementation Platform (including on monitoring), and other relevant knowledge platforms. Projects funded under this topic will be expected to participate in the Mission Community of Practice and to share relevant knowledge to feed the work of the project stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-02.

Proposals are encouraged to (dedicate resources to) 1) link their monitoring to the framework developed by the project stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2024-CLIMA-01-03; 2) to rely on the (updated) [CLIMAAX framework](#) for their climate risk assessments, where relevant.

¹¹⁶ This could include, where relevant, the use or enhancement of Destination Earth (DestinE) data, tools and/or services, to be identified in the proposal.

Applicants should acknowledge these requests and already account for them in their proposal, making adequate provisions in terms of resources and budget to engage and collaborate with the Mission.

DRAFT

Adaptation to Climate Change: Other Actions

1. Access to financial advisory services and financing for adaptation projects from regional and local authorities through the European Investment Bank and intermediaries

With this action, regional and local authorities will gain access to advisory services and financing for their adaptation projects, through the European Investment Bank (EIB) and intermediaries, which will be tested with Adaptation Mission participants.

The EIB has unique knowledge and experience in advisory, project preparation and financing for adaptation in the EU. The EIB also has on-lending relations with National Promotional Banks and other banks. Adaptation projects of regional and local authorities are often relatively small in size and would benefit from local knowledge, and therefore adaptation financing and advisory by local banks and intermediated lending for adaptation should be boosted.

The EIB shall, with a number of intermediaries, set up pilots for tailored adaptation advisory and financing for adaptation projects of regional and local authorities for financing with the budget used as grant part in combination with other funding available to the regional and local authorities, such as national or cohesion funding and private financing, and shall test this with regional and local authorities participating in the Mission (i.e. Mission Charter Signatories & regions and local authorities having been granted third parties support under the P2R project). This may also include the testing of the EIB financial climate risk tool based on Copernicus data for the adaptation projects of these Mission participants.

For this, the EIB shall also work together with the Mission Implementation Platform and the Horizon Europe projects on financing funded under the Mission work programme, and with the relevant Commission DGs. The EIB shall take into account lessons learnt from the Natural Capital Financing Facility and ELENA.

This action supports the follow-up to the [July 2023 Communication on EU Missions assessment](#).

Legal entities:

European Investment Bank, 98-100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer L-2950 Luxembourg

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative timetable: Q1 of 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 20.00 million from the 2026 budget¹¹⁷

¹¹⁷ Of which EUR 20.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

2. Sustaining the efforts of the Mission Implementation Platform for the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission as service provider to contribute to the Mission goals by 2030

Under this public procurement, the following services are expected to be provided:

- Well-coordinated support to the daily operation and different activities of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission, providing a quality service to the European Commission in the broad range of activities involved with the implementation of the Mission. This support could also be called upon, whenever relevant, to facilitate interactions with the Mission Board and the National Adaptation Hubs.
- Coordination, facilitation, proactive steering of the Mission Community of Practice, in all its articulations (such as virtual and physical events, thematic working groups etc.), proving engaging involvement and opportunities for exchanges for all climate resilience involved actors, in relation to the actions they are undertaking in the field of climate resilience building. Specific attention should be given to the two categories of: regional and local actors on one side and active participants in the Mission project portfolio on the other.
- Overall communication on the Mission (including under the steer of the European Commission), its results and main achievements on the ground, through the different relevant channels, including the Mission Portal, towards citizens broadly and towards specific target audiences, helping to identify and create synergies and add value to communication, dissemination and exploitation activities of individual projects of the Mission's portfolio, boosting their scientific, societal and economic impacts. Particular attention should be given to communication of all information (e.g. newsletter etc) in national languages as the language barrier remains an important barrier for regional and local stakeholders and citizens.
- Organisation of the annual Mission forum and eventual smaller regional events as the key get together moments for all the Mission stakeholders, catering for all related logistics and communication. In view of the growing portfolio of Mission Projects, attention should be given to creating synergies at events whenever possible, for examples by means of co-organisation or co-hosting.
- On the ground support to regions and local authorities participating in the Mission for the organisation of events in their territories involving citizens and stakeholders with the purpose to raise awareness to climate preparedness.
- Continuous and ad hoc monitoring of the Mission performance and delivery and assistance to the European Commission in relation to any Mission evaluation, by maintaining and improving the current monitoring framework, further refining monitoring tools and KPI for the Mission, producing timely reporting on progress.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Q2 of 2027

Indicative budget: EUR 10.00 million from the 2027 budget¹¹⁸

DRAFT

¹¹⁸ Of which EUR 10.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

Cancer: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission

The goal of the Cancer Mission¹¹⁹ is: ‘to improve the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030, through prevention, cure and for those affected by cancer including their families, to live longer and better’. The four Cancer Mission objectives are: Understand; Prevent what is preventable; Optimise diagnosis and treatment; Support quality of life. Its five transversal priorities are: ensure equitable access in all aforementioned areas, innovation, childhood cancer, personalised medicine and citizen engagement. The Cancer Mission will address all cancers including poorly-understood cancers¹²⁰ in men and women, cancers in children, adolescents and young adults (CAYA) as well as in the elderly, cancers in socio-economically vulnerable populations, living in either cities, rural or remote areas, across all Member States and Associated countries.

The implementation plan specifies the goal and four main objectives as well as implementation details of the Cancer Mission¹²¹.

The Cancer Mission is implemented using a health-in-all policies approach;¹²² through infrastructure support; regional, social and citizen community development; through investments; support and commitments from public and private sources, including from Member States, Associated countries and industry; through cooperation with third countries; and through synergies with other EU programmes including EU4HEALTH, EURATOM, Digital Europe (for example the Genomics Data Infrastructure¹²³ and the Cancer Image Europe initiative¹²⁴, Erasmus+, the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027, and other initiatives related to health and cancer.

The EU Cancer Mission is closely aligned with the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan, contributing directly to its implementation such as several of its flagship actions.

The EU Cancer Mission will directly contribute to the EC priorities outlined in the political guidelines for 2024-2029, of supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model by improving the lives of people at risk of cancer and the quality of life of cancer patients, for example through citizen engagement and empowerment, earlier and more precise therapies, and improvement of palliative care.

¹¹⁹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/eu-mission-cancer_en

¹²⁰ Includes refractory cancers or cancer subtypes, at any stage of the disease, in any age group and part of society with a 5-year overall survival that is less than 50% from time of diagnosis

¹²¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research_and_innovation/funding/documents/cancer_implementation_plan_for_publication_final_v2.pdf

¹²² Health-in-All Policies is an approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions, seeks synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts in order to improve population health and health equity. https://www.who.int/social_determinants/publications/health-policies-manual/key-messages-en.pdf

¹²³ <https://gdi.onemilliongenomes.eu/>

¹²⁴ <https://cancerimage.eu/>

It will also contribute to initiatives outlined in the Mission letter of Commissioner Zaharieva¹²⁵, such as the Strategy for European Life Sciences and boosting European Research Infrastructure.

It also relates to the European Green Deal, including the Zero Pollution Action Plan¹²⁶ and the Farm to Fork strategy¹²⁷. The mission proposes research, innovation and policy directions and objectives to identify effective strategies for the development and implementation of cancer prevention, including on environmental factors (e.g. exposure to carcinogens, air pollution, unhealthy diet, nutrition, and low physical activity).

Furthermore, it is in line with the industrial¹²⁸ and digitalisation strategy¹²⁹. The Mission proposes a further upscaling and digitalisation of services, innovation in diagnostics and interventions, and establishing living labs, contributing to the positive impact of efforts by industry and SMEs on the health of citizens. Envisaged opportunities are in the fields of cancer biomarkers, cloud computing and digital applications, and smart apps/sensors. The Mission also supports the integration of AI, machine learning and deep learning approaches to facilitate a better understanding of cancer, to improve prevention, screening and early detection, diagnosis and treatment, clinical decision-making, administration of combinational therapies, and clinical management of patients living with and after cancer.

In line with the EU Missions' Action Plan, the Work Programme will also seek to strengthen synergies with other initiatives within Horizon Europe – in particular, several partnerships, the European Innovation Council and EIT Health – as well as with other public and private third-party funding and investments including national cancer funders and charities.

Calls for proposals under this Mission should contribute to setting out a credible pathway for implementing the EU Cancer Mission, thereby contributing to mission objectives.

Successful proposals under this Mission should set out a credible pathway to contribute to improving cancer control, and more specifically to all of the following impacts:

- Improve understanding of cancer in the context of the environment, work, and lifestyle in the broadest possible sense;
- Enhance cross-policy cancer prevention, screening and early detection strategies;
- Optimise the diagnosis and treatment of cancer based on the principle of equitable access;
- Improve the quality of life of cancer patients, survivors and their families through widely analysing all key factors and needs that are related to the quality of life;
- Accelerate the digital transformation of research, innovation and health systems.

¹²⁵ [130e9159-8616-4c29-9f61-04592557cf4c_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/european-industrial-strategy_en)

¹²⁶ Particularly the Flagship 1 of the Zero Pollution Action Plan: “Reducing health inequalities through zero pollution”

¹²⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork_en

¹²⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/european-industrial-strategy_en

¹²⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age_en

In the call for proposals described below, the Commission envisages several actions¹³⁰:

WP2026-2027

For 2026 and 2027, on the Cancer Mission objective *Understanding*, the Commission envisages to support actions on virtual human twin models (VHTs) for advancing the knowledge and understanding of cancer onset and progression, as well as actions on functional genomics in cancer research to increase the understanding of the initiation and evolution of the disease.

On the Cancer Mission objective *Prevention and early detection*, the Commission envisages actions to support development of microbiome tools for cancer prevention and will support an action on commercial determinants of health.

On the Cancer Mission objective *Diagnosis and treatment*, the Commission will support clinical trials for rare cancers, actions targeting the socio-economic impacts of cancer and actions to support cheaper medicines.

On the Cancer Mission objective *Quality of life*, the Commission envisages to support the quality of life of the elderly with cancer and to support actions for earlier and more precise palliative care for cancer patients. Furthermore, an action to support young cancer survivors through fostering collaboration of national and regional funders and philanthropies is envisaged. Also, an innovation action to further develop the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre to include a specific module to boost mental health of young cancer patients and survivors, in line with the ambitions of the EU Comprehensive Approach to mental health.

Lastly, the Commission will support Ukraine’s cancer research infrastructure through mutual learning initiatives.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-01: Virtual Human Twin (VHT) Models for Cancer Research

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 8.00 and 9.00 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 35.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D. The following exceptions

¹³⁰ The listed areas for potential actions are tentative and non-binding

	<p>apply:</p> <p>The following additions to the general award criteria apply: The thresholds for each criterion will be 4 (Excellence), 4 (Impact) and 4 (Implementation). The cumulative threshold will be 12.</p>
<i>Evaluation Procedure</i>	<p>The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: to ensure a balanced portfolio covering children and adolescents, grants will be awarded not only in order of ranking but also to at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one highest ranked application that targets one or more cancer types with low 5-y survival; • one highest ranked application that targets children (age group 0-14 at first diagnosis) and/or adolescents (age group 15-19 at first diagnosis); <p>provided that these applications attain all thresholds.</p>

Expected Outcome: Proposals under this topic should aim at delivering results that are directed towards and contributing to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Researchers of different disciplines use advanced multiscale Virtual Human Twins (VHTs) to expand the knowledge and understanding of cancer onset and progression
- Healthcare professionals and researchers have access to advanced VHT-based solutions that model cancer onset and progression over time contributing to improve personalised treatments
- Researchers, healthcare professionals, innovators and citizens have access to cancer VHTs through the EU UNCAN.eu and the advanced Virtual Human Twin platforms

Scope: Virtual human twins (VHTs) are digital representations and in-silico models of an individual's health and disease at different levels of human anatomy (e.g. cells, tissues, organs or organ systems) for the prevention, prediction, screening, diagnosis and treatment of a disease, as well as the selection and personalisation of intervention options¹³¹.

The proposed topic will contribute to the Cancer Mission objectives by improving the accuracy of dynamic and multiscale VHTs to predict cancer onset and progression through time and by increasing their use and efficacy for developing better personalised oncology treatments. Of particular interest are cancer types with low 5-y survival rate and paediatric and adolescent cancers¹³².

Applicants should take advantage of technological advances in (generative) AI tools which open new opportunities to collect, combine and analyse large datasets of diverse types, including multi-omics patient data, tumour molecular profiles, medical images and real word

¹³¹ See the 'European Virtual Human Twin' Coordination and Support Action, EDITH, funded under the DIGITAL programme <https://www.edith-csa.eu/>

¹³² Age at first diagnosis 0-19 years

data. Ethnicity, age sex and gender differences should be duly considered. Proposals should build on current approaches, standards, data repositories and use modelling assets including but not limited to those provided by the future Advanced VHT Platform¹³³ and supporting projects under Horizon Europe¹³⁴ when relevant.

The applicants should address all of the following activities:

- To develop innovative, dynamic multiscale VHTs for advancing the knowledge and understanding of cancer onset and progression and develop or improve innovative personalised treatments. VHTs should integrate (generative) AI tools for the analysis of large volumes of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) multimodal data, increasing their predictive capability and, when appropriate, utilise IT solutions for model visualisation via Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality.
- To update and validate VHTs with longitudinal FAIR patient data and generate evidence that VHT models can deliver clinically meaningful observations to improve treatment of the studied cancer type, demonstrating VHT accessibility and usability for clinical uptake. The use of data and services provided by EU research infrastructures in the life science domain¹³⁵ should be considered when appropriate.
- To enrich the UNCAN.eu research platform and the Advanced VHT Platform with data and model assets following the principles of open science. Newly collected patient datasets must be described with metadata records in the EU dataset catalogue of the European Health Data Space.
- Collaboration among different scientific disciplines, including healthcare professionals throughout all stages of VHTs development is envisaged¹³⁶.

Advantage should be taken to the extent possible of data and experience gained under current EU large-scale initiatives and implementing projects such as the European Cancer Imaging Initiative¹³⁷ and the Genomic Data Infrastructure¹³⁸ and others as appropriate. The Commission will facilitate coordination with other EU initiatives. Therefore, successful proposals will be asked to join the 'Understanding' project cluster of the Cancer Mission¹³⁹ and should include a budget for networking, attendance at meetings and joint activities¹⁴⁰.

¹³³ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/platform-advanced-virtual-human-twin-vht-models>

¹³⁴ Including the projects funded under call HORIZON-HLTH-2023-TOOL-05-03, https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/horizon-europe-health-calls-2023-destination-5-unlocking-full-potential-new-tools-technologies-and_en

¹³⁵ <https://lifescience-ri.eu/home.html>

¹³⁶ Proposals should include an appropriate mix of stakeholders from various disciplines and sectors, including but not limited to medical doctors, health-IT experts, researchers, AI-experts, solution providers, academia and research institutes, EU research infrastructures, and SMEs

¹³⁷ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/cancer-imaging>

¹³⁸ <https://gdi.onemilliongenomes.eu/>

¹³⁹ In order to address the objectives of the Cancer Mission, participants will collaborate in project clusters to leverage EU-funding, increase networking across sectors and disciplines, and establish a portfolio of Cancer Mission R&I and policy actions

¹⁴⁰ Examples of those activities are organising joint workshops, establishing best practices, joint communication or citizen engagement activities with projects funded under other clusters and pillars of Horizon Europe, or other EU programmes, as appropriate. Proposals are not required to include details

Applicants envisaging to include clinical studies should provide details in the dedicated annex using the template provided in the submission system.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-02: Microbiome for early cancer prediction before onset of disease

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 15.00 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 15.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D. The following exceptions apply: The following additions to the general award criteria apply: The thresholds for each criterion will be 4 (Excellence), 4 (Impact) and 4 (Implementation). The cumulative threshold will be 12.

Expected Outcome: Proposals under this topic should aim to deliver results that are directed, tailored towards and contributing to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Healthy people and in particular people at risk will benefit from microbiome tests and programmes that can early discover and predict their transition to cancer **before** the onset of the disease.
- People will better understand risks and will be enabled to address risks early by following treatments or adapting lifestyle, including nutrition and other interventions.
- Physicians will be able to start cancer treatments earlier with a higher success rate.
- Policy makers and authorities will be enabled to develop and implement advanced and strategic programmes addressing cancer prevention.

Scope: This topic will contribute to the achievement of the Mission’s objective to provide better prevention of cancer. The focus is on the development of validated microbiome tools, an assessment of predispositions, the comparison with other diagnostic tools and risk modelling approaches.

Cancer often develops over several years and progresses silently before symptoms appear. Some cancers are diagnosed at a very late stage, when the disease is nearly incurable. Early

of these activities, as they will be defined during the grant agreement preparation and during the life of the project

and sensitive biomarkers are beneficial for preventive strategies and the survival of patients especially when tests are mini-invasive and simple to perform. The human microbiome is correlated with this process of oncogenesis and tumour progression. The deterioration of the human microbiome towards dysbiosis should be monitored and used as an early predictive biomarker. Especially for high-risk patients the potential of the microbiome should be exploited to deliver important contributions to cancer prevention and early detection strategies.

Prevention of cancer through early detection is most efficient to fight cancer and to save lives. Large microbiome biobanks and registries exist at national and international levels to collect and store microbial samples with the intention to analyse and share microbiome data for research and healthcare. The One Million Microbiomes from Human Project has been launched by several countries to build the largest human microbiome high quality database and to provide advanced life science tools for future healthcare.

The intention is to accelerate the translation of microbiome knowledge to predict and prevent cancer earlier before the onset of the disease through the development of personalised approaches and tools. The promise of these tools is evident because people could anticipate cancer while they would still have time to act before the onset of the disease. In case of certain types of cancer, earlier chemotherapy, surgery or transplantations could save lives or even cure patients in line with the goal of the Cancer Mission.

The tools should be based on the collection of a high number of samples over several years, they should be validated and their prediction power compared with other mini-invasive liquid biopsy tests. To use the resources most efficiently, the tools should be supported by risk modelling approaches and AI technologies.

Proposals should address all of the following:

- Development of microbiome diagnostics for earlier, better and personalised prediction and prevention of cancer before the onset of the disease if possible 2 years before the onset of the disease. Proposals should deal with several types of cancer if possible.
- Assessments of predispositions, AI risk modelling approaches and organ/body simulations.
- Collaboration with large cohorts/registries from different communities, usage of existing clinical data and generation of new data. These data could include other predictive signs such as sensations of fatigue, unusual pain, weight loss or other body changes.
- Citizen engagement could be included with data and sample collections as well as educational programmes.
- Comparison with other mini-invasive liquid biopsy tests concerning their prediction power, simplicity, cost-benefits and potential for commercialisation.
- Validation of the tests in an independent cohort and development of guidelines that help to manage risk factors such as lifestyle or diet.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-03: Addressing the socio-economic burden of cancer through health-economics, health systems and outcomes research

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 4.00 and 6.00 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 15.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D. The following exceptions apply: The following additions to the general award criteria apply: The thresholds for each criterion will be 4 (Excellence), 4 (Impact) and 4 (Implementation). The cumulative threshold will be 12.

Expected Outcome: Proposals under this topic should aim to deliver results that are directed and tailored towards, and to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- People at risk of cancer and cancer patients benefit from access to more effective, national or regional, cancer control programmes across Europe.
- Researchers, physicians, innovators¹⁴¹, SMEs and other professionals from different disciplines and sectors have access to national or regional data on healthcare spending (such as expenditures, resources, medical prescriptions and drug sales, health insurers) for research and commercial purposes.
- National healthcare systems, providers, policymakers and authorities in European regions, Member States and Associated Countries have the evidence to address increasing costs, value-based cancer care and organisational challenges of a dynamic cancer control¹⁴² landscape.

Scope: Proposals should address all of the following:

- Establish, validate or further refine novel health economics, health systems or outcomes research methods, models, or modelling to perform (comparative) cost-effectiveness analyses while taking into account socio-demographic, economic, or cultural trends, or

¹⁴¹ Innovators turn research results into new and better services and products, to remain competitive in a global marketplace and to improve the quality of life of Europe's citizens

¹⁴² cancer control aims to reduce the incidence, morbidity and mortality of cancer and to improve the quality of life of cancer patients in a defined population, through the systematic implementation of evidence-based interventions for prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and palliative care

socio-cultural and behavioural change (for example in the case of primary prevention or precision medicine).

- Calculate cancer-control related healthcare expenditures¹⁴³ and its relation to value-based healthcare benefitting health outcomes of people at risk of cancer as well as cancer patients living with and beyond their disease, taking into account the needs of the target population and the specificities of healthcare provision at local, regional, or national level, duly reflecting the (cultural) diversity and available resources across Member States and Associated Countries.
- Demonstrate how to best organise state-of-the-art, evidence-based, cost-effective cancer control programmes in dedicated cancer or medical centres, hospitals, at home or in community settings, taking into account socio-cultural context, harms and benefits, overall survival or quality of life parameters.
- Health-economic, health systems and health outcomes data should be disaggregated by sex, gender, age and other relevant variables, such as by measures of socio-economic status or ethnicity.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-04: Pragmatic clinical trials to optimise immunotherapeutic interventions for cancer patients with refractory cancer

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 6.00 and 9.00 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 21.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D. The following exceptions apply: The following additions to the general award criteria apply: The thresholds for each criterion will be 4 (Excellence), 4 (Impact) and 4 (Implementation). The cumulative threshold will be 12.

Expected Outcome: Proposals under this topic should aim for delivering results that direct, tailor towards and contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Patients with refractory cancers and their caregivers will have access to optimised and affordable immunotherapeutic interventions that increase their quality of life, across EU regions, Member States and Associated Countries;

¹⁴³ [Healthcare expenditure statistics - overview - Statistics Explained - Eurostat](#)

- Healthcare professionals and academia will generate clinical evidence, by evaluating effectiveness of immunotherapeutic interventions in randomised or cluster-randomised academic investigator-initiated pragmatic clinical trials, how to best perform and deploy evidence-based treatment interventions that improve outcomes in real life for routine healthcare, including quality of life, for patients with refractory cancer who often present with co-morbidities;
- National healthcare providers, policymakers and authorities in European regions, Member States and Associated Countries will have the evidence to implement optimised and affordable immunotherapeutic interventions in their healthcare systems, including in everyday medical practice.

Scope: While cancer research and innovation have generated novel treatment options, patients with refractory cancers across Europe need access to more effective and patient-centred cancer immunotherapeutic interventions which keep up with increasing demands in a complex and fragmented oncology healthcare landscape with spiralling healthcare costs.

Pragmatic clinical trials focus on choosing between care options. Pragmatic trials evaluate effectiveness, the effect of treatment in routine (real-world) clinical practice. Some examples include treatment versus active surveillance in patient management, combination of treatment interventions, determination of optimal dose and dose schedule, de-escalation of treatment intervention, comparative effectiveness of different treatment interventions.

Proposals should address all the following:

- Design and conduct randomised or cluster-randomised academic investigator-initiated pragmatic clinical trials that benefit patients with refractory cancers at any stage of the disease, for any cancer subtype, in any age group or part of society, to deliver effective and evidence-based immunotherapeutic interventions for implementation by healthcare systems at the level of local communities, EU regions, Member States and Associated Countries.
- All data should be disaggregated by sex, gender, age and other relevant variables, such as by measures of socio-economic status or ethnicity. Translational research is limited to supporting the conduct and analyses of the proposed clinical trial(s).
- The primary and secondary endpoints of the pragmatic clinical trial should target overall survival, patient-reported outcomes and quality of life issues considered important by and for cancer patients and their caregivers. Such endpoints should be defined together with patients and their caregivers through research that stimulates social innovation and supports end-user engagement using participative research models.
- The chosen treatment intervention(s) should be adapted to the particular needs of the target population and to the specificities of the provision of care at local, regional, or national level, duly reflecting the diversity across Member States and Associated Countries. Furthermore, affordability and accessibility should be taken into account.

- Applicants should include an appropriate mix of stakeholders from various disciplines, and regional as well as national health authorities, and provide details of the clinical study(ies) in the dedicated annex using the template provided in the submission system.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-05: Earlier and more precise palliative care

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 5.00 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 15.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D. The following exceptions apply: The following additions to the general award criteria apply: The thresholds for each criterion will be 4 (Excellence), 4 (Impact) and 4 (Implementation). The cumulative threshold will be 12.

Expected Outcome: Proposals under this topic should aim to deliver results that are directed, tailored towards and contributing to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Patients will benefit from better access to earlier, more person-centred palliative care models including digital remote tools and options for home-based care.
- Carers will benefit from real-time information tools and better communication.
- Clinicians will benefit from guidelines on optimal patient referral and care predictions.

Scope: This topic will contribute to the achievement of the Mission’s objective to provide better quality of life for cancer patients, their families and carers. The focus is on the development of innovative models for earlier, more precise and better integrated palliative care.

According to an EU conference on innovative palliative care for people with cancer on 8 October 2024, palliative care has big potential but such interventions come much too late and are often imprecise. Palliative care is needed very early after cancer diagnosis with the best possible information on patient wishes and effective communication between all involved carers. Barriers include also the insufficient workforce allocation, insufficient retention and resilience of staff, incorrect transfers between care facilities and higher needs for home-based care. In order to improve the access to palliative care, innovative models for earlier, more precise and more patient-centred care should be developed. These models should be built on patients’ needs and the consideration of all possible care options. They should use AI

and digital remote tools to empower clinicians, and to deliver well-integrated care with optimal care predictions.

Proposals should address all of the following:

- Develop innovative models for earlier, more precise/personalised and integrated palliative care, including digital remote tools, to predict patients’ care preferences, to assign clear roles of carers and to avoid obstacles or insufficient access.
- Testing and validation of these models in real-world settings through implementation research and clinical trials.
- Attention should be given to address staff training, roles and adherence of conditions.
- Usage of AI and digital remote tools (such as explanatory videos, messaging, etc.) to allow real-time communication and to predict care needs and resources.
- Adoption of guidelines for optimal referrals, efficient and sustainable workforce allocation and retention (access to & dissemination of the guidelines should be provided through the ECPDC).

HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-06: Support a Young Cancer Survivor Quality of Life (QoL) research programme by cancer charities and funding agencies

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 3.00 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 3.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Coordination and Support Actions
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D. The following exceptions apply: The following additions to the general award criteria apply: The thresholds for each criterion will be 4 (Excellence), 4 (Impact) and 4 (Implementation). The cumulative threshold will be 12.

Expected Outcome: The successful proposal under this topic should aim to deliver results that are directed and tailored towards and contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Together, a network of registered cancer charities and funding agencies support transnational research and innovation projects on quality of life of young cancer patients

and survivors (age range 0-39, age at the time of first diagnosis), using their own financial resources.

- Projects supported by the network of charities and funding agencies will boost quality of life and long-term outcomes for young cancer patients and survivors, including improved physical, emotional, and social well-being.
- Researchers, innovators, and professionals from different disciplines and sectors ensure accessibility and re-usability of relevant digital data, to support the future UNCAN.eu research data platform, which is currently in preparation.

Scope: Due to significant investments in research and innovation, cancer survival rates in Europe have soared, with more than 12 million survivors, including 500,000 childhood cancer survivors. However, survivors, their families, and caregivers continue to face numerous challenges. Young cancer survivors, in particular, frequently suffer from long-term effects of treatment, including mental health issues like depression and anxiety, chronic pain, fatigue, cardiovascular complications, organ and skin changes, and infertility, all of which severely impact their quality of life.

Proposals should address all of the following:

- Together, registered cancer charities and founding agencies across Europe, organise, fund and implement at least two transnational calls for proposals, resulting in grants to third parties to conduct research and innovation projects targeting quality of life of young cancer patients and survivors (age 0-39).
- Organise regular networking activities between partners, as well as with representatives of successful projects, patients and patient organisations, citizens and stakeholders across Member States and Associated Countries to support the implementation of the action;
- Organise outreach campaigns at local, regional and national levels to raise awareness among different groups (citizens, patients and survivors, research communities, local, regional and national authorities etc) about research and innovation projects funded through the transnational calls, including disseminating and exploiting research results. Where relevant, liaising with the National Cancer Mission Hubs which are in development through the ECHoS¹⁴⁴ project should be considered.

Projects to be financed by charities through transnational calls for proposals are expected to:

- Develop, test and scale up in real-life settings innovative, holistic approaches and tools (including digital tools), optimising cancer treatment and follow-up regimens to improve quality of life of young cancer patients and survivors.
- The chosen intervention(s) should be adapted to the specificities of the provision of care at local, regional, or national level, duly reflecting the diversity across Member States and Associated Countries.

¹⁴⁴ <https://cancermissionhubs.eu/>

- Projects should clearly benefit local communities of patients and survivors.

Under this topic, the EU contribution will therefore aim to facilitate the coordination and networking between charities and foundations themselves as well as with relevant stakeholders across Member States and Associated Countries. The EU contribution will not co-fund projects.

This topic requires direct involvement of cancer patients and survivors, survivor representative organisations, caregivers, and the effective contribution of SSH disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant results, enhancing the impact of the related research activities.

The use of participative research models, such as oncology-centred living labs or other approaches to deliver (social) innovation should be considered, prioritising involvement of local communities.

Due consideration should be given to EU-funded initiatives such as: EU-CAYAS-NET¹⁴⁵; OACCUs¹⁴⁶; EUonQoL¹⁴⁷; e-QuoL¹⁴⁸ as well as projects funded under the Cancer Mission call HORIZON-MISS-2024-CANCER-01-05: Improving the understanding and management of late-effects in adolescents and young adults (AYA) with cancer.

The Commission will facilitate coordination. Therefore, successful proposals will be asked to join the 'Quality of Life' cluster for the Cancer Mission¹⁴⁹ and should include a budget for networking, attendance at meetings, and potential joint activities. Examples of these activities are research or research capacity, organising joint workshops, establishing best practices, joint communication or citizen engagement activities with projects funded under other clusters and pillars of Horizon Europe, or other EU programmes, as appropriate. Proposals are not required to include details of these activities, as they will be defined during the grant agreement preparation phase and during the life of the project.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-07: Boosting mental health of young cancer survivors through the ECPDC

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 7.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a

¹⁴⁵ <https://siope.eu/news/news-from-eu-cayas-net-Oct22/>

¹⁴⁶ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/cancer/europes-beating-cancer-plan-eu4health-financed-projects/projects/oaccus_en

¹⁴⁷ [Quality of Life in Oncology \(euonqol.eu\)](https://euonqol.eu)

¹⁴⁸ <https://equolproject.eu/>.

¹⁴⁹ In order to address the objectives of the Cancer Mission, participants will collaborate in project clusters to leverage EU-funding, increase networking across sectors and disciplines, and establish a portfolio of Cancer Mission R&I and policy actions.

	proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 7.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D. The following exceptions apply: The following additions to the general award criteria apply: The thresholds for each criterion will be 4 (Excellence), 4 (Impact) and 4 (Implementation). The cumulative threshold will be 12.

Expected Outcome: Proposals under this topic should aim to deliver results that are directed and tailored towards and contribute to the following expected outcomes:

- Through the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre (ECPDC), children, adolescent and young cancer patients and survivors as well as their caregivers have access to innovative tools and approaches to strengthen their mental health;
- Healthcare professionals have access to innovative tools to monitor the mental health of cancer patients and survivors
- Researchers and healthcare professionals have access and use reliable patient reported data to better understand mental health needs of cancer patients and survivors and provide effective care.

Scope: The number of cancer survivors in Europe is estimated at over 12 million, a figure that includes over 500,000 childhood cancer survivors. Yet, survivors, their families and carers often experience significant challenges during and after treatment.

As part of its citizens engagement activities, the Cancer Mission has launched a dialogue with young cancer survivors, to better understand the specific needs and challenges faced during and after treatment.

Mental health has been systematically highlighted as a major concern, stressing the importance of access to quality psychosocial support along the different stages of the patient's journey, at diagnosis, during and after treatment.

The communication on a Comprehensive approach to mental health adopted by the European Commission on 7 June 2023¹⁵⁰ calls for the establishment of a platform to boost mental health of young cancer survivors.

In line with this ambition, the overall goal of this topic is to develop an online platform targeting children, adolescents, and young adult (CAYA) cancer patients and survivors (age 0-39, age of first diagnosis) to address specifically their mental health needs. In particular:

¹⁵⁰ [cef45b6d-a871-44d5-9d62-3cecc47eda89_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/communication_en)

- The digital platform should be developed as a module to be fully integrated within the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre currently under development (Ref. XXXX) and with which clear links should be established and maintained throughout implementation.
- The platform should include a mix of personalized, evidence-based, and interactive features building on state of the art research to address the needs of CAYA patients and survivors¹⁵¹.
- The innovative nature of proposed solutions should be clearly demonstrated.
- Multi-device compatibility (mobile, tablet, web) and multilingual support to reach diverse populations should be included.
- Specific needs and potential solutions should be discussed and developed in close cooperation with end-users.
- Similarly, the efficacy of the proposed features to support and boost mental health of young cancer patients, survivors and their caregivers should be demonstrated by testing and validating them by an appropriate number of end users, with different cancer types and belonging to the targeted age group.
- Solutions to identified challenges should be provided and implemented.
- Develop, test and integrate in the platform innovative tools for collection and analysis of mental health relevant Patient Reported Outcomes Measures (PROMs) and Patient Reported Experiences Measures (PREMs) Tools should be developed and validated in close cooperation with end-users including patients, survivors, healthcare professionals and researchers.
- Develop European Health Data Space (EHDS) compliant guidelines to report, deposit and share relevant patient reported data collected with the above tools.
- Projects should include an appropriate mix of stakeholders from various disciplines and sectors, including but not limited to physicians, psychologists, nurses, academia, patients and their caregivers, patient representatives, behavioural scientists, cancer survivorship scientists, AI-experts and solutions providers, SMEs, charities and foundations, research organisations.
- Direct involvement of cancer patients and survivors, survivor representative organisations, caregivers is required, along with effective contribution of SSH disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of

¹⁵¹ Examples of services include (non-exhaustive list): Human-centric AI-powered chatbots for providing relevant information for Cancer Survivors, e.g. on coping with psychosocial issues. Mood and symptoms tracking with AI insights to detect patterns and suggest interventions. Interactive AI-powered self-help tools, such as mindfulness and relaxation exercises (guided meditation, breathing techniques) or goal setting and journaling tools for self-reflection and progress tracking. Peer-to-peer support groups with moderated forums or live chatrooms (community forum). Gamified challenges (e.g. wellness challenges, gratitude exercises) to encourage engagement. Safe social networking with privacy controls for survivors to connect. etc.

relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant results, enhancing the impact of the proposed activities.

- Due consideration should be given to initiatives such as: EU-CAYAS-NET¹⁵²; ERN PaedCan¹⁵³, Pancare¹⁵⁴ EUonQoL¹⁵⁵, e-Quol¹⁵⁶ and other relevant EU initiatives, including projects funded under the Cancer Mission topic HORIZON-MISS-2024-CANCER-01-05: Improving the understanding and management of late-effects in adolescents and young adults (AYA) with cancer¹⁵⁷.

The Commission will facilitate coordination. Therefore, successful proposals will be asked to join the 'Quality of life' cluster for the Cancer Mission¹⁵⁸ and should include a budget for networking, attendance at meetings, and joint activities¹⁵⁹.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-08: Development of a capacity building programme on cancer research with and for Ukraine

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 5.00 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 5.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Coordination and Support Actions

Expected Outcome: This topic aims to develop a wide capacity building programme between EU Member States/Associated Countries and Ukrainian cancer centres, to support improvement or development of research & innovation-related capacities and integration with cancer care.

To this end, proposals should aim at delivering results that are directed at and contributing to all of the following expected outcomes:

¹⁵² <https://siope.eu/news/news-from-eu-cayas-net-Oct22/>

¹⁵³ <https://paedcan.ern-net.eu/>

¹⁵⁴ [anCare – Pan-European Network for Care of Survivors after Childhood and Adolescent Cancer](#)

¹⁵⁵ [Quality of Life in Oncology \(euonqol.eu\)](#)

¹⁵⁶ <https://equolproject.eu/>

¹⁵⁷ [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

¹⁵⁸ In order to address the objectives of the Cancer Mission, participants will collaborate in project clusters to leverage EU-funding, increase networking across sectors and disciplines, and establish a portfolio of Cancer Mission R&I and policy actions.

¹⁵⁹ Examples of these activities are research or research capacity, organising joint workshops, establishing best practices, joint communication or citizen engagement activities with projects funded under other clusters and pillars of Horizon Europe, or other EU programmes, as appropriate. Proposals are not required to include details of these activities, as they will be defined during the grant agreement preparation phase and during the life of the project

- Researchers, clinicians and health care professionals will have access to improved research capacities, supporting better integration with care.
- Patients and citizens will have access to improved screening, diagnostics and treatments, while increasing their participation in clinical trials.

Scope: Ukraine has a very high cancer burden with more than 155 000 new diagnoses every year¹⁶⁰. The country has also one of the highest childhood cancer mortality rates globally¹⁶¹. Disparities in access and quality of cancer care in Ukraine were high before Russia's unprovoked aggression and worsened because of the conflict, which has also led to increased cancer mortality and morbidity, due to discontinuation of treatments and shortage of medical supplies.

Proposals should address all of the following:

A capacity-building programme should be set up between EU Member States/Associated Countries and Ukraine, in order to support Ukraine to develop or to further improve research & innovation-related capacities of future or existing Cancer Infrastructures.

The capacity building programme should include the following components:

- Development of a joint-training programme, including distance-learning modules
- Twinning activities, including staff-exchange for the implementation of targeted research projects and access to cutting-edge services

The capacity building programme should cover at least the following areas;

- Enhanced involvement in quality scientific research, including development and implementation of clinical trials and other epidemiological studies and related training¹⁶²;
- Better integration of research and care to improve patient outcomes. Particular emphasis should be given to cancer in children, adolescent and young adults;
- Improvement of digital capacity to support primary and secondary use of patient data, including through improvement of data exchange capacities¹⁶³ and cancer registries.

Gender-related aspects, with respect to representation in research and career pathways and any other relevant aspects, should be duly taken into account.

The capacity-building programme should include training sessions tailored to the needs of the participating entities. This concerns in particular the required participants / stakeholder

¹⁶⁰ [04-ukraine-fact-sheet.pdf](#)

¹⁶¹ [9789289057615-eng.pdf](#)

¹⁶² Topics to be covered include but are not limited to study design, process of trial approval, ethical aspects, recruitment, staffing and training requirements including digital skills, data management and data analysis, organisational aspects, regulatory requirements, clinical core facilities, patient participation and empowerment

¹⁶³ e.g. interoperability of standards, data protection related aspects and others as appropriate

groups, duly reflecting health and research system specificities. The training sessions shall consist of balanced theoretical and practical parts, including simulations, case studies, group exercises, mutual learning exercises and on-the-spot visits (when possible) to gather practical experience. Distance learning modules should be made available through XXXX.

Advantage should be taken to the extent possible of experience gained under current and previous initiatives such as CCI4EU, Jane, Crane, CanSERV and others. The relevant EU research infrastructures in the life science domain¹⁶⁴ and other EU initiatives should be exploited for available research services, as appropriate.

The Commission will facilitate coordination with other EU initiatives. Proposals should include a budget for networking, attendance at meetings and joint activities¹⁶⁵ of the 'Understanding' project cluster of the Cancer Mission¹⁶⁶.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-01: Leveraging functional genomics to reveal novel targets for cancer treatment

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 7.00 and 8.00 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 40.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Researchers and health professionals have an increased understanding on the functional effects of tumour heterogeneity during the initiation and evolution of the disease.
- Researchers, health professionals and innovators have access to improved knowledge and tools for the discovery and development of the next generation of genomically informed cancer treatments.

¹⁶⁴ Add weblink

¹⁶⁵ examples of these activities are research or research capacity, organising joint workshops, establishing best practices, joint communication or citizen engagement activities with projects funded under other clusters and pillars of Horizon Europe, or other EU programmes, as appropriate. Proposals are not required to include details of these activities, as they will be defined during the grant agreement preparation and during the life of the project

¹⁶⁶ In order to address the objectives of the Cancer Mission, participants will collaborate in project clusters to leverage EU-funding, increase networking across sectors and disciplines, and establish a portfolio of Cancer Mission R&I and policy actions

- Researchers, innovators, and professionals from different disciplines and sectors support and contribute to the UNCAN.eu research data platform by ensuring interoperability of data, access to new digital tools and models.

Scope: Applicants should address all of the following activities:

- To identify and validate new targets for innovative therapeutic approaches, proposals by developing experimental models¹⁶⁷ and technologies for assessing the functional effects of tumour heterogeneity over time on disease pathways.
- To document mechanisms of the interaction between the multi-omics characteristics of the tumour, its microenvironment and the patient during the initiation and progression of disease using clinical data, as appropriate¹⁶⁸. Sex and gender differences should be taken into account.
- To include state of the art approaches to combine and analyse FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) multimodal longitudinal patient data, making them available through the future UNCAN.eu research platform. The involvement of current EU research infrastructures offering life science resources¹⁶⁹ should be duly considered in the proposal workplan.

Applicants should take advantage of technological advances in functional genomics and structural biology approaches including but not limited to rapid gene sequencing, single-cell studies, spatial gene mapping, epigenetic analysis, liquid biopsies and functional precision oncology pipelines. The use of causal inference, computational modelling and/or artificial intelligence tools are encouraged for the collection, visualisation, analysis and management of big, complex, and heterogeneous data sets. When appropriate, all datasets produced should be described with metadata records in the EU dataset catalogue of the European Health Data Space while all tools and models must follow the principles of open science and made available through the future UNCAN.eu platform.

Collaboration among different scientific disciplines, including healthcare professionals is envisaged¹⁷⁰.

Advantage should be taken to the extent possible of data and experience gained under current large-scale initiatives such as: European Cancer Imaging Initiative and the Genomic Data Infrastructure and others as appropriate. Successful proposals are expected to establish appropriate collaborations with the project implementing the UNCAN.eu research platform¹⁷¹.

¹⁶⁷ Any relevant preclinical or clinical model including but not limited to in silico, in vitro, in vivo or ex vivo models

¹⁶⁸ Applicants may build over existing clinically annotated patient cohorts and exploit current EU biobanks for sample access

¹⁶⁹ <https://lifescience-ri.eu/home.html>

¹⁷⁰ Proposals should include an appropriate mix of stakeholders from various disciplines and sectors, including but not limited to medical doctors, health-IT experts, researchers, AI-experts, solution providers, academia and research institutes, EU research infrastructures and SMEs

¹⁷¹ link to UNCAN-CONNECT to be inserted at later stage

The Commission will facilitate coordination with other EU initiatives. Therefore, successful proposals will be asked to join the 'Understanding' project cluster of the Cancer Mission¹⁷² and should include a budget for networking, attendance at meetings, and joint activities¹⁷³.

Applicants envisaging to include clinical studies should provide details in the dedicated annex using the template provided in the submission system.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-02: Clinical research by Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures for the benefit of patients with common cancers across Europe

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 10.00 and 12.00 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 20.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Proposals under this topic should aim to deliver results that are directed and tailored towards, and contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Citizens afflicted by lung, bowel, breast or prostate cancer, will benefit from the outcomes of evidence-based, tailored, affordable and accessible clinical research programmes by comprehensive cancer infrastructures.
- Researchers, physicians, civil society, foundations, insurance companies, and innovators¹⁷⁴ will seize opportunities to respectively co-create, support or commercialise outcomes of evidence-based, tailored, affordable and accessible clinical research outcomes for the treatment or care of patients afflicted by lung, bowel, breast or prostate cancer.
- National and regional healthcare providers, healthcare payers, policymakers and authorities in European regions, Member States and Associated Countries have the evidence to engage in piloting, scaling up or implementing suitable cancer control interventions for people at risk of or afflicted by lung, bowel, breast or prostate cancer.

¹⁷² In order to address the objectives of the Cancer Mission, participants will collaborate in project clusters to leverage EU-funding, increase networking across sectors and disciplines, and establish a portfolio of Cancer Mission R&I and policy actions

¹⁷³ Examples of those activities are organising joint workshops, establishing best practices, joint communication or citizen engagement activities with projects funded under other clusters and pillars of Horizon Europe, or other EU programmes, as appropriate. Proposals are not required to include details of these activities, as they will be defined during the grant agreement preparation and during the life of the project

¹⁷⁴ Innovators turn research results into new and better services and products, to remain competitive in a global marketplace and to improve the quality of life of Europe's citizens.

Scope:

- Comprehensive cancer infrastructures across the Member States and Associated Countries should come together to design and conduct clinical research on lung, bowel, breast or prostate cancer focusing on one of the following areas:
 - o Radiotherapy, surgery, chemotherapy;
 - o Therapeutic cancer vaccines for the treatment of cancer patients with early-stage disease or minimal residual disease (e.g. after debulking by surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or immunotherapy);
 - o Adaptation and implementation of clinical practice guidelines for diagnosis and treatment to routine clinical practice in Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia or Slovenia;
- Comprehensive cancer infrastructures should extensively pilot and upscale treatment or care programmes in at least four different Member States or Associated Countries. Two of the four targeted Member States should be: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia or Slovenia;
- Comprehensive cancer infrastructures should address - and whenever feasible - overcome limitations because of the national context (e.g. small Member State, large rural population, cancer burden, socio-economic situation, limited clinical research capacity¹⁷⁵) when designing and conducting clinical research programmes on lung, bowel, breast or prostate cancer;
- Comprehensive cancer infrastructures should identify additional resources through the European Research Development Fund (ERDF), the Technical Support Instrument¹⁷⁶, the Resilience and Recovery Facility (RRF), philanthropy, or the European Investment Bank Group (EIB¹⁷⁷, EIF¹⁷⁸).
- Clinical research programmes should be adapted to the needs of the target population and the specificities of healthcare provision at local, regional, or national level, duly reflecting the (cultural) diversity and available resources across Member States and Associated Countries.
- Data should be disaggregated by sex, gender, age and other relevant variables, such as by measures of socio-economic status or ethnicity;
- All datasets produced should be described with metadata records in the EU dataset catalogue of the European Health Data Space, while all tools and models should take

¹⁷⁵ research laboratories, diagnostics and clinical trial infrastructures

¹⁷⁶ [Technical Support Instrument \(TSI\)](#), DG REFORM

¹⁷⁷ [Homepage | European Investment Bank](#)

¹⁷⁸ eif.org/index.htm

advantage of current European research infrastructures, should follow the principles of open science and made available through the future UNCAN.eu platform.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-03: First-in-human clinical trials to test biomarker-guided medicines for patients with rare cancers or rare cancer subtypes

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 4.00 and 8.00 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 20.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Proposals under this topic should aim to deliver results that are directed and tailored towards, and contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Patients with rare or ultra-rare cancers have access to tailored, promising medicines via participation in clinical trials or compassionate use programs;
- Researchers, physicians, innovators¹⁷⁹, startup, spin-off and spin-out companies, SMEs and other professionals from different disciplines and sectors have access to promising biomarker-guided medicines for further validation or commercialisation;
- National healthcare providers, policymakers and authorities in European regions, Member States and Associated Countries have early safety and efficacy evidence to support further testing of affordable biomarker-guided medicines that benefit patients with rare or ultra-rare cancers in their healthcare systems;

Scope: Patients with rare and ultra-rare¹⁸⁰ cancers across Europe often present with advanced disease due to late diagnosis and have access to few treatment options. Hence, these patients typically have a lower 5-year overall survival than those with more common cancers and face challenges with timely access to a small number of appropriate phase 1 clinical trials despite good disease control rates¹⁸¹ to validate treatment interventions targeting their disease and adapted to an increasingly precision oncology healthcare landscape.

Proposals should address all the following:

- Perform biomarker-guided drug discovery using any relevant molecular target, biomarker, therapeutic strategy or technology. Drug repurposing should be considered.

¹⁷⁹ Innovators turn research results into new and better services and products, to remain competitive in a global marketplace and to improve the quality of life of Europe’s citizens.

¹⁸⁰ ~24% of all cancers are rare. For definition and incidence of rare cancers see [ESMO](#) and [RARECARE](#)

¹⁸¹ [Profile and outcome of cancer patients enrolled in contemporary phase I trials - ScienceDirect](#)

Data should be disaggregated by tumour biology, sex, gender, age and other relevant variables, such as by measures of socio-economic status or ethnicity;

- Validate early safety and efficacy of innovative medicines in first-in-human, multi-centre clinical trials, considering new trial designs¹⁸², for and with patients with rare or ultra-rare cancers;
- The primary and secondary endpoints of the clinical trial(s) should support safety, efficacy and patient-reported outcomes. Such endpoints should be defined together with patients and their caregivers through research that stimulates social innovation and supports end-user engagement using participative research models.
- All datasets produced should be described with metadata records in the EU dataset catalogue of the European Health Data Space, while all tools and models should take advantage of current European research infrastructures, should follow the principles of open science and made available through the future UNCAN.eu platform;.
- Applicants should include proof of advice from regulators, include an appropriate mix of stakeholders from various disciplines, and regional as well as national health authorities, and provide details of the clinical study(ies) in the dedicated annex using the template provided in the submission system;

The Commission will facilitate coordination. Therefore, successful proposals will be asked to join the 'Diagnosis and treatment' cluster for the Cancer Mission ref and should include a budget for networking, attendance at meetings, and joint activities ref. The successful proposals are expected to build on resources made available by the Knowledge Centre on Cancer (KCC)²⁵ to foster EU alignment and coordination.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-04: Improve the Quality of Life of elderly cancer patients

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 5.00 and 6.00 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 27.50 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Proposals under this topic should aim to deliver results that are directed and tailored towards and contribute to the following expected outcomes:

¹⁸² decentralised clinical trials, basket trials, umbrella trials, roll-over/extension trials, adaptive trials

- Improved understanding of elderly care needs of patients with cancer and approaches to address them;
- Elderly cancer patients gain access to innovative age-specific approaches and tools better tailored to their care needs;
- National healthcare providers, policymakers and authorities in European regions, Member States and Associated Countries have the evidence to implement tailored care for elderly cancer patients that have the potential to be implemented in routine treatment and follow-up care in their healthcare systems;
- Researchers, innovators, and professionals from different disciplines and sectors ensure accessibility and re-usability of relevant data, to support the future UNCAN.eu research data platform¹⁶, which is currently in preparation.

Scope: This topic contributes to the Mission's objective to improve quality of life of cancer patients. The focus is on cancer patients aged 65 years and above (i.e. age at first diagnosis).

Currently, elderly cancer patients represent the largest proportion of cancer patients especially in Europe, with more than two thirds of new cancer cases being diagnosed in patients above the age of 65. Yet, there is still relatively little knowledge about their functional health and care needs during and after treatment.

Managing cancer in elderly patients is complex, due to the high heterogeneity in terms of their intrinsic health capacities, including mental health and cognitive capacities, comorbidities, frailty etc. as well as with regard to their performance activities including social interactions, work, mobility etc. Consequently, overall health care needs of elderly with cancer vary significantly.

Elderly cancer patients are consistently underrepresented in clinical research, with representation declining progressively with increasing age. This leads to a lack of knowledge regarding treatments, specific needs, and clinical endpoints. Older patients are also particularly vulnerable to treatment toxicities and may experience a large variety of confounding comorbidities and symptoms, which strongly impact their quality of life during and after treatment.

As such, quality of life expectations should be systematically factored in the decision process to define the optimal approach to cancer management.

The overall goal of this topic is to advance the understanding of elderly cancer patients' care needs, and develop innovative, age-sensitive care approaches and tools to boost overall quality of life. In particular:

- Building on data from existing or newly established cohorts provide a thorough assessment of QoL needs and relevant dimensions in elderly patients, taking into account aspects such as social and health determinants, including sex, gender, age, comorbidities, intrinsic and functional health status, socio-economic status, living in rural or remote

areas, education, access/reachability to disease management programs (due to travel distances and abilities) etc.

- Develop, test, implement and scale up innovative, holistic approaches and tools in real-life settings (e.g. through the implementation of pragmatic clinical trials or effectiveness-implementation hybrid designs) to optimize treatment and/or follow-up regimens for elderly patients, aiming to reduce comorbidities, impairments and frailty, while improving overall quality of life.
- Primary and secondary endpoints of the pragmatic clinical trial(s) should support patient-reported outcomes and quality of life. Such endpoints should be defined together with patients and their caregivers through research that stimulates social innovation and supports end-user engagement using participative research models.
- Particular attention should be given to aspects such as pain management, cognitive and social support, mental health services etc. Additionally, rehabilitation tackling common concerns such as reduced mobility, osteoporosis, cardiovascular health, neurocognitive changes sleep disturbance etc, essential for maintaining good quality of life, should also be addressed. Health literacy including digital literacy could also be considered. The specific needs of families and care givers managing elderly cancer patients should also be considered.
- Ultimately, provide scientific evidence to deliver affordable and accessible treatment and follow-up care adapted to the needs of elderly cancer patients and to the specificities of the provision of care at local, regional, or national level, duly reflecting the (cultural) diversity across Member States and Associated Countries.
- All datasets produced should be described with metadata records in the EU dataset catalogue of the European Health Data Space, while all tools and models should take advantage of current European research infrastructures, should follow the principles of open science and made available through the future UNCAN.eu platform.

The topic is designed to fill a gap in terms of evidence, knowledge, expertise, tools, data and resources in the management of elderly cancer patients. This should be achieved through multinational, cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary cooperation.

For that purpose, projects should include an appropriate mix of stakeholders from various disciplines and sectors, including but not limited to physicians, psychologists, nurses, academia, patients and their caregivers, patient representatives, behavioural scientists, SMEs, insurance companies, charities and foundations, research organisations, civil society, regional and national health authorities

In particular, direct involvement of cancer patients and survivors, survivor representative organisations, and caregivers is required, along with effective contribution of SSH disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant results, enhancing the impact of the related research activities.

Applicants should provide details of the clinical studies in the dedicated annex using the template provided in the submission system.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-05: Pre-commercial procurement of affordable solutions for healthcare systems in the areas of cancer technologies, cancer medical devices, or cancer medicines

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 8.00 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 25.50 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome:

- Public procurers, possibly in cooperation with private ones, in the area of cancer-centred healthcare stimulate the competitive development of market-ready, affordable, innovative solutions. These solutions take into consideration the needs of cancer patients living with and beyond cancer.
- Procurers create opportunities for the European health and technology industry actors (including start-ups, spin-offs, spin-outs, scale-ups, SMEs) to bring to the market affordable innovations that are cost-efficient, safe and have demonstrated to improve health outcomes for cancer patients living with and beyond cancer.
- Procurers facilitate the commercialisation of innovative solutions for and with cancer patients by their successful suppliers through providing them with first customer references for the validation and first pilot deployment.
- Policymakers, healthcare providers and professionals, cancer patients and their carers – each in their respective areas – exchange and adopt good practices and the best treatment and technology solutions that the market can deliver through participative research.

Scope: Pre-commercial procurement (PCP) actions target consortia of procurers with similar needs that want to procure together the development of affordable, innovative solutions for healthcare systems in the areas of cancer technologies, cancer medical devices, or cancer medicines. This topic does not provide direct funding to developers, industry or research

organisations to perform R&D. They will be able to respond to the call for tenders launched by consortia of procurers funded under this call¹⁸³.

- The focus should be on affordable solutions for healthcare systems in the areas of cancer technologies, cancer medical devices, or cancer medicines that benefit cancer patients. Within this topic, it is possible to foresee the transfer and adaptation of solutions and/or interventions from other sectors to healthcare systems. It is open both to proposals requiring improvements based on one specific solution or technology, as well as to proposals requiring end-to-end solutions that need combinations of different types of innovation.
- The requested innovative solutions for healthcare systems in the areas of affordable cancer technologies, cancer medical devices, or cancer medicines should be clinically validated, piloted or upscaled by the participating procurers in at least five different countries across Europe.
- Continuous dialogue between the demand and supply side is required for the success of pre-commercial procurement, therefore the effective involvement of end-users (e.g. academia, clinical teams, patients, local or regional medical services, hospitals, production facilities) must be considered in the proposal. To stimulate dialogue with the supply side, procurers are required to organise an open-market consultation before launching the procurement and to promote the call for tenders widely across Europe to potentially interested suppliers.
- Procurers should declare in the proposal their interest to purchase at least one solution resulting from the PCP in case the PCP delivers successful solutions and indicate whether they will (1) procure the solution(s) as part of the PCP or (2) in a separate follow-up procurement after the PCP. In the first case, procurers can implement the project as a fast-track PCP (see general annex H) and foresee the budget to purchase at least one solution during the PCP. In the second case, the procurers must include in the proposal a deliverable that prepares the follow-up procurement to purchase successful solution(s) after the PCP.
- Activities covered should support national healthcare systems and mobilise technical assistance and/or capacity building to other procurers beyond the project to mainstream PCP implementation and to remove obstacles for introducing the innovative solutions for the benefit of cancer patients to be procured into the market.

Cancer: Other Actions

¹⁸³ Pre-commercial procurement (PCP) actions target consortia of procurers with similar needs that want to procure together the development of affordable, innovative solutions for healthcare systems in the areas of cancer technologies, cancer medical devices, or cancer medicines. This topic does not provide direct funding to developers, industry or research organisations to perform R&D. They will be able to respond to the call for tenders launched by consortia of procurers funded under this call

Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-01: Large-scale demonstration for mapping the distribution and condition of marine habitats to implement the Nature Restoration Regulation

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR N/A 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 32.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all the following outcomes:

- Member States have the capacity to complete the necessary mapping of the distribution and of the condition of coastal and marine habitats listed in Annex I and II of the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) in the waters under their jurisdiction, necessary to fulfil the obligations under Article s 4 and 5 of the NRR within the deadlines, and obligations under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Birds and Habitats Directive (BHD).
- Substantial areas of habitats are mapped and their condition assessed. Priority should be given to Groups 1-6 of Annex II, followed by Group 7, in line with applicable deadlines.
- Member States have the capacity to determine priority areas for the restoration of marine habitats, and to implement their national restoration plans under the NRR, contributing to the implementation of marine strategies under the MSFD and obligations under BHD

Scope: In line with the objectives and targets of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, the Nature Restoration Regulation targets for 2030, the Birds and Habitats Directives, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), proposals should:

- Leverage and integrate the best available operational knowledge and tools, including those delivered by projects from Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe to meet the EU

Biodiversity strategy goals and targets to address the gaps in monitoring and mapping capabilities for marine habitats in the 22 coastal Member States

- Test and demonstrate the best methods and tools for scalable and comprehensive mapping and monitoring of EUNIS marine habitats covered by the NRR, giving priority to Groups 1-6 in Annex II of the NRR, followed by Group 7 of Annex II and coastal habitats in Annex I. The project should consider regional specificities and build on the methods developed under the MSFD and BHD, relevant Commission’s guidance documents and the work ongoing under the LIFE MAPPER project.
- Select large demonstration areas in each regional sea (Baltic, Atlantic and the Mediterranean/Black Sea) of one Mission lighthouse that prove the scalability while filling gaps in the geographical coverage of marine habitats mapping, and the assessment of their condition, taking into consideration the need to address regional specificities.
- Develop with relevant national authorities and organisations responsible for marine environmental protection in the EU marine regions the blueprint for the further upscaling and deployment of demonstrated approaches to enhance the capacity of Member States to complete the mapping of marine habitats and support the implementation of their national restoration plans under the Nature Restoration Regulation and the marine strategies under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, as well as obligations under the Birds and Habitats Directives.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-02: Addressing aquatic pollution and biodiversity loss through nature positive solutions in the land-sea connection

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR N/A 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 32.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: This topic aims at directly engaging and supporting public authorities and other relevant stakeholders in demonstrating and accelerating the transitions needed for achieving one or several objectives of the Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters”.

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- Member states are provided with cost-effective solutions to reach the targets of the Water Framework and the Marine Strategy Framework directives, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, and the EU Strategy for Sustainable Chemicals.
- Provide national, regional and local authorities and other relevant stakeholders (e.g.: socio-economic actors impacted or benefiting from measures (such as farmers, landowners, aquaculture producers, tourist operators, fishers, industries, water management...)) with a framework of cost effective adaptive measures centred on nature positive solutions to implement the targets of the EU biodiversity and climate adaptation strategies for 2030 and the Zero Pollution Action Plan to be implemented in the land-sea continuum to remediate and reduce pollution from nutrients, chemicals and other pervasive pollutants while protecting and restoring the capacity of ecosystems to provide services and adapt to climate change impacts.
- Contribute to one or several interlinked objectives and targets of the Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”, as set out in the Mission Implementation Plan [\[1\]](#) through implementation of effective and well-managed locally based and people-centred actions.

[\[1\]](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/ocean_and_waters_implementation_plan_for_publication.pdf) See section 1.2. of the Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Plan: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/ocean_and_waters_implementation_plan_for_publication.pdf

Scope: Pollution of freshwater and marine environments from nutrients, chemicals and plastics poses proven risks to human and environmental health. As latest assessments of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Water Framework Directive have shown, large parts of Europe’s groundwater bodies, rivers, lakes, coastal, transitional and marine waters have not reached good ecological or good environmental status and often exceed regulatory threshold levels set to avoid potential risk to human health and the environment. In addition, land and sea uses changes as well as increasing climate change impacts are cumulative drivers of biodiversity erosion and of ecosystems services in the continuum from watershed to coastal and marine ecosystems.

Proposals should:

- Test and upscale systemic and innovative combinations of nature positive approaches and new technologies considering together functionally connected freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems at scale to reduce nutrient, chemical and plastic pollution, including from emerging pollutants¹⁸⁴, to levels compatible with regulatory requirements and to contribute to the objectives of the Nature Restoration Regulation.
- Demonstrate ad hoc combinations of approaches along the river to sea continuum so as to contribute as well to the restoration of freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems functioning as well as their resilience to climate change, ensuring ecosystems to provide

¹⁸⁴ h as pharmaceutical and biocides residues, endocrine disruptors, PFAS, microplastics, and nanomaterials.

their services and multiple benefits (e.g. fisheries resources, protection from extreme weather events, endangered species...).

- Identify and assess Nature positive approaches to be combined to adapt to different regional specificities such as Nature based solutions (NbS), including protection and restoration measures, hybrid NbS, bioremediation (with plants, bivalve or other organisms), regenerative practices and methods (e.g.: via shellfish and seaweed farming), agro ecological measures, management measures across biomes including for mobile and migratory species, technologies or other relevant innovation. Combination of approaches should consider adaptability to future scenarios of climate, biodiversity and functional connectivity issues.).
- Provide an improved understanding of the functional ecology and connectivity between watershed, coastal and marine ecosystems, their species assemblages' and communities, their connectivity through life cycle stages and food webs structures and complexity in the healthy functioning and co-evolutionary processes of these ecosystems and in the biogeochemistry of sediments and their impact on climate change mitigation and adaptation, in order to design and inform effective combination of nature positive approaches.
- Develop, adapt or exploit relevant remote sensing and modelling tools, EU digital infrastructures, such as the EU Digital Twin Ocean, Copernicus and EMODnet, Establish the monitoring to follow the impact of measures on pollutants and nutrients level. Quantify nutrient removal rates, retention capacities, nutrient balances, use of tracers and modelling techniques, to ensure monitoring of the activities and inform adaptative management..
- Quantify the ecosystem services, the resulting societal goods and benefits and economic durability and the development of new business models associated with such integrated approach for the management of land-sea connected ecosystems and forecasting their modifications under different climatic futures
- Conduct demonstration activities in at least [3] sites (watershed to sea) with contrasted social-ecological systems in one of the Mission lighthouses, aiming at a lasting engagement and involvement of public bodies and other relevant socio-economic stakeholders for implementing, maintaining and finance Nature positive solutions in their territories. The scale and range of the site(s) for demonstration activities has to be ecologically relevant and impactful.
- Contribute to data collection and data sharing through the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) and to support the Digital Twin Ocean.
- Continuous monitoring and assessment of the activities implemented by the projects should be ensured to measure ecological and socio-economic impacts and the contribution of the activities to achieve the Mission objectives and targets.

- Build on the best available actionable knowledge, methods and innovations notably from the results of previous national and EU projects.
- Governance issues should be addressed in order to ensure effective implementation of the activities and foster multi-level governance across national, regional and local level and to facilitate exchanges and replication between different actors.
- Improve the understanding the drivers of acceptance of these systemic approaches of Nature positive solutions along the land to sea connection and newly valuated services (pollution reduction, ecosystems services restored), costs and benefits by Society in a globally changing environment;
- Projects are expected to show a significant replication potential by identifying a range of relevant stakeholders that could replicate the proposed solutions and approaches. Actions plans and roadmaps needed for the replication and up-scale of the solutions should be drawn up by the end of the projects.
- Provide an improved understanding of how pollutants are transported from source to the sea, how they are accumulated in sediments and in the biota in multiple trophic levels along the way, and their impacts,
- Based on best available technologies, to develop reliable and validated sensors to measure nutrients in water to calculate nutrient recycling by seaweed and shellfish (low-trophic aquaculture) species.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-03: By fishers, for fishers: co-management of marine and freshwaters ecosystems and resources

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 7.00 and 8.00 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 32.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).

<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: To ensure a balanced portfolio covering [describe issue/sector/geographical areas], grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but at least also to [those/one application/proposal] that [are/is] the highest ranked [within... / “other condition to be fulfilled”], provided that the applications attain all thresholds.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Beneficiaries will be subject to the following additional obligations regarding open science practices: if projects collect in-situ data and marine observation, beneficiaries must make them openly available through the European Marine Observation and Data network (EMODnet), based on the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles.

Expected Outcome:

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes:

- Measurable improvements in the status of critical marine and/or freshwaters habitats and species through active and passive conservation and restoration measures;
- Increased sustainability of fishing practices and tools;
- Measurable socio-economic benefits for local communities, skill development and job creation;
- Enhanced governance in the co-management of ecosystems and resources at local and basin level and overall strengthened Mission governance framework.

Scope: The Communication of the Commission on “A vision for agriculture and food sectors - Shaping together an attractive EU farming and food sector for future generations”¹⁸⁵ highlights the strategic importance of fisheries for the Union and the role fishers play, *as custodians of nature*, for the protection and resilience of our ocean, waters, and biodiversity.

Proposals under this topic are expected to show how activities and results will contribute to achieve both Mission objective 1 – Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, and Mission objective 3 – Sustainable, carbon-neutral and circular blue economy.

¹⁸⁵ COM(2025) 75 final

The goal is to further develop adaptive co-management approaches to reconcile fisheries with the environment sustainability, ensuring the long-term viability of both marine and/or freshwater ecosystems and local livelihoods. This approach promotes a harmonious relationship between fishers and coastal communities, fostering a more sustainable and inclusive management of marine resources.

Proposals should focus on empowering small-scale fishers, including recreational fishers, towards a transition to sustainable fisheries by engaging and involving them in co-management of the marine and freshwaters ecosystems and resources, in particular in protected areas and reserves. Proposals are expected to show active involvement of fishers since the start of the project.

Projects are expected to test and demonstrate on the ground sustainable and inclusive science-based approaches and solutions for the co-management of marine and freshwaters resources.

Active engagement of fishers in habitat protection and restoration could include e.g.: regenerative practices; ecosystem management approaches; measures for prevention and control of invasive species; fish stock recovery plans; sustainable low-impact fishing operations and tools; multipurpose use of marine space as well as citizen science actions to raise fishers' awareness and involve them in all steps from data collection to their assessment and use.

Each proposal should identify explicitly the basin being addressed, i.e.: 1. Atlantic and Arctic sea basin or 2. Mediterranean Sea basin or 3. Baltic and North Sea basin or 4. Danube River basin, including Black Sea. Only one basin per proposal should be addressed. The effectiveness and efficiency of the measures proposed should be demonstrated in at least 5 sites in three different Member States or Associated Countries per basin.

The active involvement of fishers in the demonstration activities is crucial to tailor the solutions to specific conditions and to ensure that their knowledge, needs and expectations are taken in due account.

Training and communication activities addressing fishers and relevant stakeholders, including local/regional authorities, should be also included to build capacity and promote sustainable developments and business opportunities at local level, including in relation to impact of climate change on resource availability.

In addition, projects should ensure that fishers adopt ethical and sustainable practices and methods that prioritise animal welfare and prevent unnecessary harm to marine and freshwater species.

Activities are expected to contribute to data collection and data sharing through the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) and to support the Digital Twin Ocean.

Continuous monitoring and assessment of the activities implemented by the projects should be ensured to measure ecological and socio-economic impacts and the contribution of the activities to achieve the Mission objectives and targets.

Projects are expected to show a significant replication potential by identifying a range of relevant stakeholders that could replicate the proposed solutions and approaches. Actions plans and roadmaps needed for the replication and up-scale of the solutions should be drawn up by the end of the projects.

Governance issues should be addressed in order to ensure effective implementation of the activities and foster multi-level governance across national, regional and local level and to facilitate exchanges and replication between different actors.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-04: Towards a European network of ocean technology testing sites

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.50 and 3.00 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 3.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Coordination and Support Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).

Expected Outcome:

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes:

- Harmonized approaches and processes across sites to ensure consistent and simplified access;
- Accelerated innovation cycles for ocean technologies, shortened time-to-market and reduced costs and risks associated with offshore trials;
- Availability of cost-efficient testing sites and expertise reducing the need for specialised in-house equipment and competencies;
- Enhanced ocean technologies ecosystem in support of European leadership in the global market;

- Provision of cost-efficient access to testing sites and expertise, reducing the need for specialised in-house equipment. and competencies.

Scope: The development and deployment of innovative ocean technologies for a wide range of applications are paving the way for more sustainable use of marine resources, for effective ocean monitoring and observation, for enhancing security and safety of offshore operations and infrastructures, for advancing offshore industries.

Access to dedicated offshore sites for testing and validating these technologies in real-world marine environments can be cumbersome. There is a need to accelerate the innovation cycles of these technologies and support companies in the transition from laboratory to market-ready solutions. This topic is closely linked with the Technology Infrastructure initiatives under Horizon Europe Cluster 4 – Digital, Industry and Space¹⁸⁶ and contributes to its overall objective of allowing companies to derisk their R&D&I investments before market introduction and to have ideas and concepts tested and validated in real conditions for faster uptake at commercial scale, while enhancing knowledge and skills.

Proposals should aim to establish a well-connected network of physical sites centred in various geographical locations, complemented by digital twin -based sites, offering diverse marine environmental conditions across Europe for testing ocean technology prototypes and demonstrators, and supporting the testing process with unique competences and know-how.

The physical testing sites can be complemented by digital twin representations making use of the EU digital twin of the ocean (DTO) public infrastructure. This digital twin-based testing sites are highly effective for testing and validating ocean technologies as they provide a virtual replica of real-world marine environments and then enable accurate simulations and assessments of how technologies will perform in actual conditions, providing a controlled, risk-free environment for testing and validation.

Projects are expected to improve the integration and structure of the European landscape of ocean testing sites, including digital twin-based sites, by involving relevant actors to cover a broad range of sites for various ocean technologies and application areas, including ocean observation and monitoring.

All following issues should be addressed:

- Identification and mapping of testing sites, involvement of relevant actors and related services, including digital twin-based testing sites if relevant;
- Analysis of user needs and identification of existing gaps in ocean testing sites (physical and digital) and in the provision of services, including certification services, simulation, prototyping support, environmental monitoring and environmental impact assessment related services, as well as obstacles hampering access and use by the industry;

¹⁸⁶ Technology Infrastructures are described in European Commission Staff Working Document (SWD 2019/158) as 'facilities, equipment, capabilities and support services required to develop, test and upscale technology to advance from validation in a laboratory up to higher Technology Readiness Levels prior to competitive market entry. They can have public, semi-public or private status

- Set up of an integrated and coordinated European network of testing sites, addressing, in an harmonised and simplified way, issues such as: alignment of access policy and conditions, regulatory framework and governance models, service delivery models, data security issues; outreach measures towards new users, SMEs and start-ups in particular; support to training and skills development;
- Measures to support collaboration between academic and research institutions, including European Research Infrastructure¹⁸⁷, industry players, regulators and investors to accelerate the innovation cycles of marine technologies as well as coordination between geographically dispersed sites;
- Identification of joint investment opportunities to enhance the capacity and the portfolio of services of testing sites (e.g.: potential technological upgrades; access to new sites; provision of new services; etc.) and ensure long-term sustainability.

Proposals are encouraged to link to and build on existing or emerging testing sites in the fields of ocean technologies as well as to relevant European Research Infrastructures.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-05: Regional (sea-basins) components of the EU Digital Twin Ocean

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR N/A 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 20.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome:

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Additional regional and local assets (data, models, digital twins) are made available on the DTO core infrastructure, EDITO;
- New digital twin applications, emphasising on regional and local conditions and addressing regional considerations, including stakeholders needs, availability of data, etc.;

¹⁸⁷ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/research-infrastructures_en

- Enhanced digital twin regional capabilities, creating in the EU DTO core infrastructure, EDITO, the conditions to directly support policy implementation and Blue Economy applications which build on the regional characteristics of the sea-basin;
- Development of regional what-if-scenarios library, including confidence thresholds and related analysis, quantifying the necessary conditions to increase confidence levels, etc.

Scope:

Proposals should establish regional components within the EDITO core infrastructure of the EU Digital Twin of the Ocean (EU DTO). These regional components should foster the development of local digital twins' applications: customized digital tools designed to address the unique priorities of specific local stakeholder communities.

For each sea-basin (one project per lighthouse), the objective is to

- identify, aggregate and integrate existing regional data (through the EMODnet ingestion service), tools, modelling and local digital twin assets that are not yet widely public and take the necessary action to make them available through EDITO, following all necessary interoperability and standardisation protocols;
- Develop regional digital twin services (tailored applications and services that address region-specific challenges, including for instance small islands challenges, coastal resilience, biodiversity conservation, pollution, and climate adaptation, fisheries and aquaculture and other sectors of the blue economy). These services should target both policy relevant questions and questions related to the development of a regional sustainable and competitive Blue Economy;
- Foster regional stakeholder engagement (regional authorities, regional sea conventions, industry partners, and local communities) to bring in existing assets (databases, local or regional models) co-design and validate digital twin applications for effective policy-making and operational decision support;
- Improve intensive adoption of innovative algorithms of Artificial Intelligence and big data management;
- Through the aforementioned engagement, and via co-creation processes, develop a range of what-if-scenarios, assess their confidence levels and identify actions towards the improvement of said confidence.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-01: Increasing riparian and coastal areas resilience to climate change, including in waterfront cities and islands.

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 8.00 and 9.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed

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<i>project</i>	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 36.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).
<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: To ensure a balanced portfolio covering [describe issue/sector/geographical areas], grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but at least also to [those/one application/proposal] that [are/is] the highest ranked [within... / “other condition to be fulfilled”], provided that the applications attain all thresholds.
<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][prizes].The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR [60 000][... (if higher than EUR 60 000, insert also justification)]. TO BE COMPLETED Beneficiaries will be subject to the following additional obligations regarding open science practices: Beneficiaries will be subject to the following additional obligations regarding open science practices: if projects collect in-situ data and marine observations, beneficiaries must make them openly available through the European Marine Observation and Data network (EMODnet), based on the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles.

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all the following outcomes:

- Enhanced ecological functions of riparian and coastal areas including in waterfront cities and islands (e.g.: water quality improvement, pollution remediation, erosion control, morpho-dynamics and sediment transport, biodiversity conservation);

- Reduced vulnerability to climate change related risks (e.g.: lowering flood risks by increasing their natural buffer capacity; adapting to sea level rises and extreme events, and enhancing drought resilience by increasing groundwater recharge functions, carbon sequestration, etc.);
- Socio-economic benefits deriving from the protection and restoration of riparian and coastal areas as well as opportunities for remediating pollution, and for recreational and touristic activities;
- Engagement of stakeholders and local competent authorities managing riparian and coastal areas (including in waterfront cities and islands) in implementing and upscaling innovative solutions that contribute to increasing resilience to climate change and water-related risks, including by strengthening synergies with their own programmes and resources and encouraging public and private investment.

Scope: Riparian and coastal areas¹⁸⁸ play a critical role in local climate regulation and serve as the buffer regions between land and waterways, providing a wide array of important ecosystem services such as acting as natural barriers against storm surges, flooding, and erosion, filtering pollutants from the water, regulating floods, and increasing soil health. sequestering carbon.

The proposal should build (when relevant) on previously developed or existing solutions by other projects, funded by EU and national programmes, in particular the European Union Framework programmes for Research and Innovation¹⁸⁹, as well as ERDF, INTERREG and LIFE programmes. Proposals are also encouraged to consider -- where relevant -- the services offered by European research infrastructures¹⁹⁰.

Each proposal should address only one basin / Mission “lighthouse”, which should be explicitly stated in the proposal, i.e.: 1. Atlantic and Arctic sea basin or 2. Mediterranean Sea basin or 3. Baltic and North Sea basin or 4. Danube River basin (including its delta and the Black Sea). Activities should be tailored to address regional/sea basin specificities.

Proposals should:

- Test and demonstrate effective solutions in riparian and coastal areas including in waterfront cities and islands to achieve the Mission’s objectives and targets and to address resilience of communities living in those areas to climate-related extreme events and sea-level rise. Proposals are encouraged to have an emphasis on nature-based solutions, land-sea interactions, transboundary actions and the regeneration of the blue economy;
- Show a significant replication potential by identifying areas and locations where the proposed solutions could be replicable. An action plan and roadmap needed for the

¹⁸⁸ NOTE: Include a definition of areas covered, including links to Copernicus Land Service layers. Specify it includes also transitional waters.

¹⁸⁹ e.g. FP7 REFRESH

¹⁹⁰ The catalogue of European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) research infrastructures portfolio can be browsed from ESFRI website <https://ri-portfolio.esfri.eu/>

replication and scale up of the solutions for improving resilience to climate change of riparian areas are expected to be drawn up by the end of the project;

- Monitor the impacts and effectiveness of demonstration activities at a local scale. The project should link with the activities carried out under the Digital Twin Ocean, in particular those addressing freshwaters, and support data and knowledge sharing through the Ocean and Water Knowledge System, as well as benefiting from it to foster cross-region, pan-European approaches. Monitoring should cover the societal acceptance of the proposed measures;
- Work closely with and empower public authorities to accelerate the implementation of innovative solutions and encourage the active participation of citizen (e.g. through living labs);
- Provide recommendations and guidance to align the improvement of resilience to climate change of riparian and coastal areas including in waterfront cities and islands regarding new policy measures and green infrastructure projects and to strengthen cooperation across relevant sectors (water, navigation, fisheries, hydropower and energy, etc.);
- Facilitate synergies¹⁹¹ with other R&I-relevant EU, national or regional programmes, and facilitate the leveraging of funding (e.g. structural or cohesion funds such as ERDF, or LIFE) through meaningful engagement with regional/local/city authorities, and the private sector where relevant;
- Projects should carry out at least 10 demonstration activities in different types of riparian and coastal areas, including waterfront cities and islands, to prove in real conditions the operational feasibility and economic viability of innovative solutions to enhance resilience of riparian areas to climate change. The consortium must carry out demonstration activities in at least 3 different countries of the basin addressed by the proposal¹⁹².

Regional and Local authorities, as well as inland water management bodies, are encouraged to be partners in the consortium to ensure that effective solutions are tailored to the context of each riparian area.

Projects are expected to work with and engage at least 5 ‘associated regions’ (represented by local/regional authorities/public bodies) to showcase the effectiveness of the toolbox, develop a replication plan for its uptake in the associated regions and build capacity at local level. Beneficiaries may therefore provide Financial Support to Third Parties (see the Specific Conditions table for this topic). Projects should (i) ensure that the ‘associated regions’ are not already involved in project’s use cases, (2) proactively reach out to the ‘associated regions’ to enable them to follow closely the project’s activities, (3) continuously share their outcomes

¹⁹¹ See Commission Notice on synergies between Horizon Europe and ERDF programmes C(2022) 4747 final

¹⁹²

and knowledge with those ‘associated regions’ and (4) provide them with technical assistance to build capacity and to implement in their territory the approach they developed.

Proposals should collaborate with Lighthouse CSAs and the Mission Implementation Platform, including to track progress toward Mission objectives.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-02: Circularity of seafood supply chain

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 7.50 and 8.00 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 32.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: To ensure a balanced portfolio covering [describe issue/sector/geographical areas], grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but at least also to [those/one application/proposal] that [are/is] the highest ranked [within... / “other condition to be fulfilled”], provided that the applications attain all thresholds.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Beneficiaries will be subject to the following additional obligations regarding open science practices: Beneficiaries will be subject to the following additional obligations regarding open science practices: if projects collect in-situ data and marine observations, beneficiaries must make them openly available through the European Marine Observation and Data network (EMODnet), based on the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles.

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Measurable improvements in the competitiveness and increased environmental sustainability of the EU's fisheries and aquaculture sectors by integrating circular economy principles;
- Minimized and better managed waste products derived from fisheries and aquaculture sectors as well as improved reutilization and reduction of by-products;
- Reduced existing barriers preventing the development of circular principles in seafood chains, such as the cost of advanced processing technologies, lack of collaboration across the different seafood supply chain actors or limited market demand and acceptance;
- Measurable socio-economic benefits for local stakeholders and communities involved in the seafood processing chain.

Scope: Proposals under this topic are expected to show how activities and results will contribute to achieve both Mission objective 1 – Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, and Mission objective 3 – Sustainable, carbon-neutral and circular blue economy.

The goal is to improve the competitiveness of the European seafood industry along the value chain while ensuring optimal resource use and minimising environmental impacts by applying circular economy principles to the aquaculture and fisheries sectors.

In this topic, seafood covers marine or freshwater edible organisms, including seaweeds and algae.

Projects under this topic are relevant to the Circular Economy Action Plan, EU Action Plan Towards Zero Pollution, the European Ocean Pact and the Mission objective of making the blue economy sustainable.

The circular approach in seafood supply chain can be applied to the reduction and better management of waste products and/or to improve the valorisation of fisheries and aquaculture by-products which can be used as input for other industries. The aquaculture sector can also explore more circular practices, e.g. the use of innovative organic feed from fisheries bycatch, agriculture products or low-trophic species, as alternatives to traditional fish meal and fish oil, which will reduce dependency on wild fish stocks.

Proposals under this topic should test and demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility and the effectiveness of innovative solutions that improve the circularity and sustainability seafood chain of aquaculture and/or fisheries sectors. These circular solutions should also provide socio-economic benefits to the local communities and stakeholders across the seafood value chain by creating jobs and business opportunities, and enhance skills at local level.

Proposals should address at least one of following issues:

- Innovative and efficient methods and techniques for extracting and valorising seafood by-products from discards of unavoidable unwanted catches or waste products (e.g.: fish sludge, fish manure, shells, etc.). These high-value compounds can be used for different

applications, such as animal feed, or as inputs for other industries like, for instance, fertilisers, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals or cosmetics;

- Innovative organic feed ingredients, as alternatives to fish meal and fish oil, with the potential to support good growth and Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) taking into account single species nutritional needs, enabling sustainable future organic aquaculture development in the EU.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed solutions should be demonstrated in real conditions through, at least, three use cases per project.

The monitoring and quantifying of waste products from aquaculture and fisheries are also relevant to improve the circularity of those sectors. Therefore, projects under this topic should also implement digital tools and predictive models able to monitor pollution from aquaculture and fisheries activities that can measure the effectiveness of the implemented circular solutions.

Each proposal should identify explicitly the basin being addressed, i.e.: 1. Atlantic and Arctic Sea basin or 2. Mediterranean Sea basin or 3. Baltic and North Sea basin or 4. Danube River basin, including Black Sea. Only one basin per proposal should be addressed.

Proposals should foster cross-sectoral cooperation by involving all relevant stakeholders across the seafood supply chain including producers, processing industry and researchers in the co-creation of innovative solutions to increase the competitiveness and sustainability of the seafood industry and generate socio-economic benefits at local level. The proposed solutions should also show the potential for further upscaling and replication and take measures for an early involvement of relevant stakeholders in the project.

In addition, activities and proposed solutions should be implemented in a way that respect ecosystems and biodiversity and that ensure and prioritize the health and welfare of animals. The innovative solutions should respect principles and objectives of the Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 EU organic aquaculture regulation¹⁹³.

Projects should consider the results of relevant projects implemented under EMFAF, Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe and cooperate and exchange as appropriate with them.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-03: Green, circular and resilient harbours

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR N/A million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a

¹⁹³ [Regulation - 2018/848 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

	proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 12.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: This topic aims at directly engaging and supporting harbour/ports and their communities in demonstrating and accelerating the transitions needed for achieving one or several objectives of the Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters”. The participation of relevant public bodies managing port authorities and their communities as partners of the consortium is strongly encouraged.

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Measurable, quantifiable, verifiable and ambitious progress towards reaching one or several interlinked objectives and targets of the Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”, as set out in the Mission Implementation Plan^[1] through implementation of effective and well-managed place-based and people-centred actions.
- Involvement and increased readiness port cities and authorities for testing, deploying and upscaling systemic innovative solutions for restoring ecosystems and preventing their degradation, incl. by monitoring invasive species brought through maritime transport .
- Increased number of port cities and authorities taking concrete measures to protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters, and make the blue economy carbon-neutral and circular.
- Increased resilience of port/cities/authorities and their related communities to extreme climate events; sea-level rise and other environmental challenges (floods, droughts, sea-level rise, etc.) through in particular the reduction of pollution and improved environmental management in harbour areas.
- Enhanced knowledge sharing across and within ports and their related communities, facilitating scalable and sustainable practices

Scope: The goal of this topic is to accelerate the implementation of innovative solutions to achieve Mission objectives and targets in ports in line with existing legislation like the Industrial Emissions Directive, the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Waste Framework Directive, the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive and the upcoming EU Port Strategy, Industrial Maritime Strategy and EU Oceans Pact.

Proposals under this topic should test, deploy, and upscale systemic innovative solutions to improve sustainability and resilience in ports to reduce pollution and environmental degradation, reverse biodiversity loss, and improve natural resource management in port areas. This covers both coastal and inland cities and areas with a port regardless of their activities (e.g. fishing, commercial, marinas). The proposals should encourage cooperation

within and between ports across Europe using existing activities in some ports as pilots/leaders and engaging other ports in a development and learning process (e.g. using formats like summer schools and twinning, living labs concept).

Demonstration activities are expected to take place in at least 4 ports, 1 in each of the four sea and river basins: 1. Atlantic and Arctic Sea basin, 2. Mediterranean Sea basin, 3. Baltic and North Sea basin, 4. Danube River basin, including Black Sea, with strong and meaningful involvement of public administrations and port managing authorities.

The project should:

- Support the testing, deployment, and upscaling of innovative solutions to restore harbour/ports ecosystems, mitigate pollution by addressing one or several of the specific Mission objectives and targets and monitor the effectiveness of the proposed solutions;
- Bring together harbours, local stakeholders, relevant authorities, scientific and industry partners to drive collaborative action towards the development of specific local Implementation Strategies such as transitioning to renewable energy, alternative fuels or circular economy initiatives, biodiversity restoration and nature based solutions, or adaptation measures to address sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and other climate-related risks;
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing initiatives and partnerships within and between ports to leverage best practices and lessons learned by demonstrating their transferability and scalability potential;
- Provide targeted assistance and capacity-building programmes to help smaller size ports to overcome barriers and adopt sustainable practices; This could include for example developing comprehensive waste management systems to recycle and reduce port-generated waste and involving local communities in sustainability initiatives or the deployment of nature-based solutions such as vegetated buffers to protect port infrastructure from coastal risks and enhance biodiversity.
- Facilitate synergies with other R&I-relevant EU, national or regional programmes and leverage of funds through interactions with regional/local authorities and where relevant with the private sector and investors to accelerate the innovation cycles of marine technologies.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-04: EU Public Infrastructure for the European Digital Twin Ocean, phase 3

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR N/A 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 20.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome:

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- An EU DTO core infrastructure in fully operational state, including a library of numerous verified (quality labelled) tools and applications, several interfaces to support users with different level of technical capacity, customer service to support development needs, restricted access space for proprietary developments, methodological frameworks to facilitate interoperability of applications, analytical tutorial and guideline documents, resources and space for users, cloud computing and HPC computing services and more;
- A thriving community continuously contributing to the co-development and co-design of the EU DTO.

Scope: The operational EU DTO is a deliverable of the Ocean Pact, under the framework of the consolidated Marine Knowledge agenda. The third phase of development of the EU DTO should further expand the work undertaken in phase 2: innovate, scale-up and consolidate the infrastructure and services to be provided by EDITO (the public core infrastructure of the EU DTO), which should become operational from 2030. In particular, the 3rd phase should:

1. develop tailored services for users, including applications allowing quick replicability of applications in other geographical areas and/or applications;
2. develop its inland waters component, starting with the land-sea interaction needs (in particular relying on the outcomes of the IDEATION and AQUAINFRA projects);
3. support and/or co-develop sector specific digital twin applications;
4. scale-up cloud and HPC services to support more users with more complex tasks;
5. Improve intensive adoption of innovative algorithms of Artificial Intelligence and big data management;
6. tackle cybersecurity, and develop container security for sensitive data and applications;
7. operationalize services in development (establish, consolidate and validate automated operational pipelines);
8. develop and operationalise quality evaluation processes for applications and tools and provide a variety of quality labelled applications, covering essential considerations related to marine management, including climate change, pollution, fisheries management, Marine Spatial planning, biodiversity management and more;

9. develop EDITO as the marine node of the European Open Science Cloud, integrating the cloud infrastructure and methodological developments developed through the work already developed by actors in the field;
10. pursue interoperability, complementarity and interfaces with other Digital Twin Initiatives, in particular with Destination Earth;
11. continue contributing (and leading) global interoperability efforts;
12. ensure strong stakeholders' engagement (eg through Digital Ocean Forum) and continued co-creation and codesign through established processes;
13. deliver a business model for the operational phase of the EU DTO, quantifying and justifying resources for the public component of the service, developing an attractive business proposal for the private development plans.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-05: Towards community-driven business models: coastal and freshwaters sustainable tourism

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 1.50 and 2.00 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 6.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Beneficiaries will be subject to the following additional obligations regarding open science practices: Beneficiaries will be subject to the following additional obligations regarding open science practices: if projects collect in-situ data and marine observations, beneficiaries must make them openly available through the European Marine Observation and Data network (EMODnet), based on the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles.

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Innovative business models for the development of entrepreneurship and successful local community-driven marine, coastal and freshwater sustainable tourism initiatives;
- Scalable and economically viable initiatives with the potential to be replicated across multiple sea basins;
- Enhanced capacity-building and increased engagement of the coastal/river/lake communities and the private sector;
- Job creation and skills development;
- Improved marine, coastal and freshwater habitats, biodiversity and enhanced conservation capacity;
- Increased awareness and behavioural change of tourists and coastal communities towards the conservation of marine and freshwater ecosystems.

Scope: The community-driven approach under this topic puts strong emphasis on engaging coastal, riparian and/or lakeside communities as well as relevant actors to build, in a sustainable way, local businesses that will support livelihood opportunities and stimulate investments, and will contribute to preserve and protect marine, coastal and freshwater habitats.

Activities under this topic will contribute to the achievement of the Mission “Public mobilisation and engagement” actions by fostering community involvement, awareness and citizen participation to amplify impact, accelerating the uptake of community-led initiatives, anticipating and planning future investments for sustainable tourism.

Focus of the activities will be on testing on the ground the feasibility and socio-economic viability of site-specific initiatives providing opportunities to couple business-based activities with the protection and restoration of marine and freshwaters ecosystems, in ways that produce benefits for both the environment and local communities.

All following aspects should be addressed:

- Demonstration of community-driven tourism business models in at least 3 European coastal and freshwater areas in different Member States/Associated Countries, implementing diverse initiatives to engage and involve tourists_and/or users of the sea (e.g.: citizen science initiatives; clean up initiatives; regenerative practices, co-management of protected areas, etc.);
- Promotion of sustainable practices to minimise negative pressures of tourism on marine and freshwater environments (e.g.: pollution, eco-friendly products, waste reduction) and to protect habitats and biodiversity;

- Capacity building, training and skill development actions addressing both local communities to enhance their entrepreneurship, and tourists, to promote behavioural changes;
- Governance structure to ensure the effective involvement of all relevant stakeholders and the long-term financial sustainability of the initiatives;
- Exploration of possible financial instruments for the upscale of the initiatives, including reinvestments of profits, crowdfunding, philanthropic sources.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-06: Large-scale demonstration for blue reforestation of EU sea basins

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR N/A 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 16.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to:

- Increased area and improved condition of marine vegetated habitats within EU waters through effective on-site restoration activities to help deliver the objectives under the Nature Restoration Regulation.
- Enhanced capacity of blue carbon ecosystems for carbon sequestration, supporting EU climate mitigation goals.
- Established financing and incentive mechanisms that support sustainable blue forestation projects.
- Raised public awareness and improved community participation in blue forestation activities, ensuring long-term involvement.

This call aligns with key EU policies and initiatives, including:

- European Green Deal: Focuses on making the EU's economy sustainable through initiatives directed at marine ecosystem protection.
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Aims to restore marine and coastal habitats, acknowledging their role in carbon capture.

- EU Nature Restoration Regulation: Aims to restore EU ecosystems, including marine ecosystems, furthering blue carbon strategies.
- EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change: Emphasises natural carbon sinks' protection, including coastal ecosystems.
- Common fisheries policy (CFP): Supports sustainable fisheries management, benefitting marine biodiversity and blue carbon habitats.
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive: Seeks Good Environmental Status of marine waters, indirectly supporting blue forestation.
- Birds and Habitats Directives: Aim to achieve favourable conservation status of habitat types and species, including through effective management of the Natura 2000 network of protected areas.

The call also resonates with global frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity KMGBF, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 14, focusing on ocean conservation.

Scope: This topic seeks innovative multidisciplinary projects that will advance large-scale demonstration for blue forestation efforts, by focusing on the assessment of ecological interactions, ecosystem restoration, conservation, and sustainable management within the EU sea basins. Contractors will be required to develop collaborations with EU Member States national and regional agencies and policy makers, engaging local communities, researchers and NGOs. Proposals should target the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies that integrate blue carbon ecosystems into broader climate action and marine biodiversity frameworks, in particular in the implementation of the national restoration plans under the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR). Proposals are expected to show how their activities and results will achieve the Mission's objectives, in line with the timeframe of the Mission phases, i.e.: by 2025 for the 'development and piloting' phase and 2030 for the 'deployment and upscaling phase'.

Specific areas of interest include:

Restoration activities: Initiatives aiming to restore ecological relevant size degraded marine and coastal ecosystems, through improving the condition of vegetated habitats and their re-establishment, in accordance with the requirements of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation. Projects should rely on active (e.g. replanting, re-establishment of habitats) or passive restoration (e.g. removal of environmental pressures), as necessary and specified in the national restoration plans to achieve the relevant targets of the NRR. **Conservation Efforts:** Enhancing the protection of blue carbon habitats by supporting authorities to establish and effectively manage marine protected areas (MPAs)/ EU Blue Parks, implementing the necessary regulatory measures to prevent their degradation and enable their effective restoration.

Innovative Financing Mechanisms: Exploring public-private partnerships and development of carbon and nature credit systems to fund blue forestation measures.

Research and Monitoring: Assess the cumulative impact of stressors (including Invasive Alien Species) on the condition and to inform the design of restoration measures and necessary protection to foresee. Implement monitoring effect while understanding the carbon sequestration potential of blue forests and developing technologies and multi-sensor platforms for the habitat condition and ecosystem health monitoring.

Community Engagement and Education: Initiatives and actions that promote local community involvement and awareness through educational programs and stakeholders' engagement to ensure upscaling and replication.

Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030: Other Actions

1. Mission Implementation Support Platform - 2nd phase

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative budget: EUR 4.00 million from the 2026 budget¹⁹⁴

2. Communication and events

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2026 budget¹⁹⁵

3. EIB - Second round of Blue Champions

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative budget: EUR 6.00 million from the 2026 budget¹⁹⁶

4. Technical Assistance

¹⁹⁴ Of which EUR 4.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

¹⁹⁵ Of which EUR 1.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

¹⁹⁶ Of which EUR 4.30 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget, EUR 1.70 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

5. Communication and events

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

DRAFT

100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030

The Work Programme 2026-27 of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, in line with the [Implementation Plan of the Cities Mission](#), supports the implementation of the Mission by providing strong and direct support to cities committed to climate-neutrality, enabling them to implement their climate action plans and achieve climate-neutrality by 2030. The cities benefitting from these actions will act as experimentation and innovation hubs for other European cities aiming to become climate-neutral by 2050.

Cities' green and digital transformation with the aim of climate-neutrality is associated with important co-benefits and urban qualities such as reduced air and noise pollution, more sustainable mobility, improved health and well-being, reduced urban environmental footprints, enhanced urban greening, more efficient use of energy and infrastructures, as well as improved waste and water management. It also improves policy coherence across sectors and stimulates participatory and inclusive decision-making.

The Cities Mission specifically addresses the following main European Commission policy priorities:

(1) A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness; (2) Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model; (3) Sustaining our quality of life - Food security, water and nature. In addition to a significant contribution to the objective of the [European Green Deal](#) to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050, the supported actions through the Cities Mission Work Programme will also complement initiatives such as the [EU Digital Strategy](#), [Green Deal Industrial Plan](#), [Net-Zero Industry Act](#), [Clean Industrial Deal](#), [Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy](#), [New EU Urban Mobility Framework](#), [European Declaration on Cycling](#), [Decarbonise Corporate Fleets Communication](#), [Energy Efficiency Directive](#), [renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy](#), [Renovation Wave](#), [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#), [Circular Economy Action Plan](#), European Affordable Housing Plan, [Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#), [Nature Restoration Law](#), and [European Water Resilience Strategy](#). Further political priorities and synergies addressed by the Cities Mission include the [UN Agenda 2030](#), [New Leipzig Charter](#), and the [Urban Agenda for the EU](#).

The topics of the Work Programme 2026-27 reflect the cross-cutting nature of the Cities Mission. Several topics have been designed as joint activities with other parts of the Horizon Europe programme, including partnerships, other Missions and the New European Bauhaus Facility. The envisaged actions will aim at:

- Introducing circular economy models in the construction sector from buildings to city scale: **Joint action with the Built4People (B4P) Partnership and the New European Bauhaus Facility;**
- Transition to low-temperature heating, in individual and district heating systems;
- Innovative low-voltage direct current microgrids in multi-apartment buildings;
- Hydrogen Cities: **Consecutive call with the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking;**

- Urban nature: supporting nature restoration, including through greening of urban transport and the built environment: **Joint action with the Mission on Climate Adaptation and the New European Bauhaus Facility**;
- Urban wastewater: Energy neutrality, energy efficiency, green-blue infrastructure in the context of climate resilience – including for storm water management: **Joint action with the Mission on Climate Adaptation and the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative**;
- Developing inclusive and climate resilient multimodal passenger hubs enhancing modal shift towards sustainable transport and shared mobility;
- Energy efficient urban and sub-urban public transport, complemented by shared mobility;
- Circular economy in the city: reducing waste from e-commerce and urban logistics;
- Innovative procurement for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Under Other Actions, this Work Programme addresses:

- Strengthening of the operational capacity of the Mission Platform established through a Framework Partnership Agreement (HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03);
- Support for financial advisory services to be provided to help cities implement their investment strategy for becoming climate-neutral;
- Support to the Urban Transitions Mission of Mission Innovation.

These actions were informed by the [Youth Dialogue](#) with Commissioner Zaharieva on ‘[the future of our cities](#)’, a feedback opportunity involving city representatives and other co-design activities.

Proposals should demonstrate, as appropriate to their scope and size, how they internalise the principles of the Cities Mission, notably: (1) the contribution of the action to an overarching strategy aiming at climate-neutrality for cities, (2) the place of the action within a holistic and cross-sectoral approach to climate neutrality, and (3) diversity in terms of geographical location and size of cities.

Applicants are encouraged to show how their proposals take into account and build upon existing programmes and/or the results of previous R&I projects. Where applicable, they should consider the services offered by the EU-funded European Research Infrastructures¹; these services range from data sets in human behaviour to modelling or experimental techniques.

Strong synergies contributing to the implementation of the objectives of the Cities Mission is expected also from other relevant Horizon Europe partnerships such as the Driving Urban Transitions to a Sustainable Future (DUT). Topics under the Cities Mission Work Programme are also relevant for the Cancer Mission, in particular when addressing co-benefits generated by achieving climate-neutrality such as reduced pollution, improved health and wellbeing,

increased active mobility contributing then to cancer prevention. Similarly, actions funded under the Cancer Mission focusing on behavioural change can contribute to the objectives of the Cities Mission especially when targeting actions at urban level. In addition, synergies are expected with the [Regional Innovation Valleys](#), which, in line with the [New European Innovation Agenda](#), bring together less and more innovative regions with a view to addressing the most burning challenges facing the EU, namely reducing the reliance on fossil fuels, increasing global food security, mastering the digital transformation (including cybersecurity), improving healthcare and achieving circularity. Moreover, strong synergies exist with the [LIFE Programme](#), a main EU funding instrument for environmental and climate action plans, particularly through its Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation sub-programme, which aligns closely with the Cities Mission's objectives by supporting innovative efforts to reduce GHG emissions, enhance urban resilience, and promote climate change awareness.

Proposals should set out a credible pathway to contributing to the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, and more specifically to one or several of the following impacts:

- Increased capacity among European cities, with particular attention to those selected under the Cities Mission, to implement their Climate City Contracts (CCCs) and to achieve climate-neutrality.
- Cities are taking action to increase energy and resource efficiency, promote circular economy, encourage urban regeneration and resilience, and they accelerate the uptake of innovative systemic solutions and clean tech in key areas (e.g., energy, mobility, construction, industry, spatial planning, environment, digitisation, and data handling).
- Cities are engaging and involving their citizens in the solutions, technologies developed, and actions taken to become climate neutral, in order to guarantee acceptance, adherence and adoption, as well as give particular attention to vulnerable groups.
- Cities are increasingly using data and digital technologies (such as data platforms, IoT, AI and local digital twins for predictive scenarios) for better decision-making and to drive efficiencies in delivering services and reducing emissions through open standards and shared technical specifications.
- Cities embrace innovative and inclusive cross-sectorial collaborative governance models, facilitating multi-level and multi-stakeholder engagement in decision-making and joint planning, as well as the CCC implementation in collaboration with citizens and local stakeholders.
- The CCCs identify and pool the demands of the cities in the Cities Mission across sectors, providing scalability and predictability for industry and investors, thus strengthening the competitiveness of European industry and SMEs.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MISS-2026-04-CIT-01: Energy efficient urban and sub-urban public transport, complemented by shared mobility

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 10.00 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 20.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	<p>The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>The following additional eligibility criteria apply:</p> <p>At least three lead cities from different Member States or Associated Countries along with at least three follower cities, must participate ensuring a good geographical balance. Follower cities can be from the same Member State or Associated Country as the lead cities. At least one of the three lead cities must be one of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities¹⁹⁷.</p>
<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s):</p> <p>HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03</p> <p>Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform¹⁹⁸ is essential and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be</p>

¹⁹⁷ The EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities aims to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. On 28 April 2022, the Commission announced the 100 EU cities that will participate in the Mission. In addition, 12 cities have been selected from countries associated or expected to be associated the Horizon Europe programme.

¹⁹⁸ Set up by Horizon 2020 project NetZeroCities - Accelerating cities' transition to net zero emissions by 2030, Grant Agreement n. 101036519, and scaled up through topic *HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03: Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform*.

	<p>concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date.</p> <p>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) ¹⁹⁹.</p>
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Expected Outcome: This topic aims at supporting activities that are enabling or contributing to the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission by accelerating the transition towards climate neutrality in cities. To this end, project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Cities involved in this action advance in achieving their climate neutrality targets and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by **improving energy efficiency in urban and sub-urban public transport systems**, complemented by **urban mobility service car fleets – taxis, ride-hailing, car sharing** and other **active and shared mobility services**.
- Comprehensive **inventory and assessment** of existing instruments and measures to foster **electrification** and attractiveness of **urban and sub-urban public transport systems, urban mobility service car fleets and shared mobility**, accompanied by targeted **guidance** for responsible authorities, operators and providers through integration of measures to improve energy efficiency in public transport and new shared mobility services.
- **Upscaling of innovative and sustainable integrated mobility solutions**, identifying gaps and shortcomings in existing systems and exchanging of best practices in the pilot sites involved in the action leading to a state-of-the-art of electrification and attractiveness of urban and suburban public transport with complementary **urban mobility service car fleets** and other **active and shared mobility solutions**.
- Enhanced **assessment tools** to quantify the direct benefits and associated co-benefits of decarbonised urban mobility service car fleets and of new shared mobility solutions complementary to public transport (including evaluation of impacts on modal shift and increased intermodal mobility), the trade-off analysis between different solution and the recommendation of the most suitable implementation strategies, thereby helping to attract public investments.

Further **progress towards achieving the targets set by relevant EU strategies and policies** such as the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#)²⁰⁰, the [Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy](#)²⁰¹, the

¹⁹⁹ This [decision](#) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under ‘Simplified costs decisions’ or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

²⁰⁰ COM(2021) 400 final

²⁰¹ COM(2020) 789 final

[new EU Urban Mobility Framework](#)²⁰², the [Decarbonise Corporate Fleets Communication](#)²⁰³ and the [Energy Efficiency Directive](#)²⁰⁴.

Scope: Public transport is firmly at the centre of sustainable urban mobility policies at EU level and across Member States, in complementarity with active mobility and shared mobility services. However more needs to be done to make sure that **urban and suburban public passenger transport**, including **coaches**, and **urban mobility service car fleets** are **energy efficient** and **attractive**.

In addition, an optimal integration of public transport with other/new shared mobility services can increase its uptake by offering services that are complementary, offering coherent solutions allowing interconnection between mass transit and “last-mile” solutions. **Designing urban and sub-urban systems** that are **energy-efficient and attractive and are tailored** for complementary mobility options requires different thinking: e.g. new approaches to integrated urban planning; changes to or upgrades of infrastructure and redistribution of public space; better use of technology solutions to enable effective multimodality, including leveraging AI solutions; targeted local policies to promote and integrate different mobility options, to increase connectivity especially in peri-urban, rural, and underserved areas throughout the city, extending beyond the city centre.

The objective of this topic is to explore and test solutions to **increase energy-efficiency and attractiveness of urban and sub-urban public transport, urban mobility service car fleets**, and **other active and shared mobility solutions**, in the pilot sites involved in the proposals, including by facilitating **exchange of experiences and good practices and fostering learning at European level**. The work should lead to an updated and comprehensive overview of the **state of the art of the electrification of urban and sub-urban public transport systems**, and **urban mobility service car fleets and shared mobility solutions**, including an assessment of gaps and shortcomings in existing systems.

The topic invites proposals from consortia including at least three cities from different Member States or Associated Countries along with at least three follower cities, ensuring a good geographical balance. Follower cities can be from the same Member State or Associated Country as the lead cities. At least one of the three lead cities must be one of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities. The consortium should bring together academia, responsible local authorities, public transport operators, urban mobility service car fleet providers, shared mobility service providers, and other relevant stakeholders. The goal is to collaboratively test and **implement a mix** of technological and non-technological innovations, along with policy-based measures, to **enhance the energy efficiency and appeal** of urban and suburban public transport in complementarity with urban mobility service car fleets and shared mobility solutions. An assessment of the overall ecological footprint of the tested solutions should also be carried out, taking into account the whole value chain and possible rebound effects.

²⁰² COM(2021)811

²⁰³ COM(2025) 96 final

²⁰⁴ DIRECTIVE (EU) 2023/1791 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 13 September 2023 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955

From the lessons learnt through the testing of solutions, **recommendations and guidance on optimal integration of energy efficient urban and suburban public transport with urban mobility service car fleets**, active and shared mobility solutions should be **provided for local authorities and public transport operators**. Recommendations and measures could cover e.g. newly-emerging technologies and soft measures such as marketing, real time information and awareness raising campaigns and co-creation of user-oriented solutions– with particular regard to the specific needs of diverse user groups. Proposals could test the establishment of new operating and business models. Proposals may include demonstrations, preparatory, take-up and replication actions, research activities, as well as tools to support local planning and policy making. To facilitate replication, upscaling and up-taking of the generated outcomes and to foster capacity building/upskilling of public authorities, local actors and communities, actions should engage in outreach, communication, dissemination and training activities.

This topic requires the effective contribution of SSH disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related research activities.

Proposals must plan for an active collaboration amongst the projects selected under this topic - for dissemination, evaluation and coordination - facilitated by and within the CIVITAS initiative through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding. Proposals should ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work-plan. Detailed description of the specific activities and common actions that will be undertaken is not required at proposal stage and can be further defined during the grant agreement phase. Collaboration with the Mission Platform is essential and should take place through the CIVITAS initiative. The latter should establish, through a collaboration agreement, clear links with the Mission portfolio for synergies and complementarities.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-04-CIT-02: Transition to low-temperature heating solutions in multi-apartment buildings

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 6.00 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 18.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply:

	<p>The following additional eligibility criteria apply:</p> <p>At least two cities, each from a different Member State or Associated Country, must participate as beneficiaries. At least one of the three cities must be one of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities²⁰⁵.</p>
<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	<p>Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.</p>
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s):</p> <p>HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03</p> <p>Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform²⁰⁶ is essential and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date.</p> <p>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)²⁰⁷.</p>

Expected Outcome: The projects are expected to deliver on one of or combination of the following topic outcomes:

- Faster transition of district heating systems towards low-temperature operations
- Faster transition of building heating systems towards low-temperature operations and
- Increased use of renewable energy and/or waste heat.

²⁰⁵ The EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities aims to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. On 28 April 2022, the Commission announced the 100 EU cities that will participate in the Mission. In addition, 12 cities have been selected from countries associated or expected to be associated the Horizon Europe programme.

²⁰⁶ Set up by Horizon 2020 project NetZeroCities - Accelerating cities' transition to net zero emissions by 2030, Grant Agreement n. 101036519, and scaled up through topic *HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03: Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform*.

²⁰⁷ This [decision](#) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

Scope: Low-temperature district heating systems in urban areas offer higher potential for integration of renewable energy sources and waste heat, but their deployment is slowed down because the existing stock of inefficient buildings has been designed for high-temperature heat delivery systems. The topic supports the creation of the conditions necessary for the conversion of existing supply solutions – district heating, as well as individual heating ones – into low-temperature alternatives, along with reducing and optimising the heat load of buildings.

Efficient district heating systems are expected to meet increasingly stringent criteria in terms of the use of renewable energy, waste heat and/or co-generation in line with Article 26(1) of the Directive (EU) 2023/1791. To help district heating operators meet those criteria, there is a need to demonstrate solutions that support the **transition to low-temperature district heating systems** operating at supply temperatures at below 70°C.

There is currently a limited choice of established non-fossil fuel heating and hot water systems to replace fossil-fuel based heating systems in multi-apartment buildings. There is a need to demonstrate systems based on **heat pumps solutions** to replace both central and individual fossil fuel boilers in existing residential multi-apartment buildings.

Proposals are expected to address at least **two** of the following:

- Demonstrate system design and technical solutions at district and building level, to enable the integration of various heat supply sources (particularly renewable energy sources and waste heat), and to facilitate the transition to low-temperature district heating systems. Furthermore, refine digital tools for the control and monitoring of district heating systems as well as digital tools to support decision-making both at the initial planning stages and for the standardized replication of solutions.
- Demonstrate building-level heating solutions for hot water and low-temperature heating with maximum heating supply temperatures up to 50°C in at least four residential multi-apartment buildings of at least 1000 m² each. The solutions should be transferrable and standardised.
- Demonstrate building-level heating solutions for hot water and heating needs in at least four residential multi-apartment buildings of at least 1000 m² each that use either on-site renewable energy sources or an ambient or geothermal loop shared with other buildings / facilities, or a connection to district heating systems for the heat supply.
- At a building, district or city level, demonstrate approaches for connecting buildings via district heating networks and ambient or geothermal loops to reduce the overall energy demand to facilitate the deployment of low-temperature district heating systems and to improve heating systems' flexibility via the integration of heat storage, including in heat networks, by or with the inclusion of energy communities.
- Ensure the participation of local energy communities to assess their socio-economic benefits for the local community and heating system operators.

Projects are expected to demonstrate the proposed solutions in two different climate zones, at building, district and/or city level, and to assess the environmental, social and economic benefits of the proposed solutions for the local community and heating system operators while accounting for the regional economic and regulatory aspects. The system design must include advanced controls to allow exploiting the energy flexibility of individual heating systems in a collective way. Projects must present a concise state-of-the-art of existing relevant solutions, knowledge and tools from EU funded projects.

To ensure a balanced portfolio covering low-temperature heating solutions, grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but at least also to one application each that is the highest ranked covering district heating solutions and building-level heating solutions, provided that the applications attain all thresholds.

Projects are expected to contribute to the implementation of Climate City Contracts and/or Sustainable Energy Action Plans, Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans. Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform is essential and proposals must make appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-04-CIT-01: Innovative microgrids for improved energy system integration and efficiency in urban contexts

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 7.00 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 20.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply: At least three cities, each from a different Member State or Associated Country, must participate as beneficiaries. At least one of the three cities must be one of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities ²⁰⁸ .

²⁰⁸ The EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities aims to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. On 28 April 2022, the Commission announced the 100 EU cities

<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 7-8 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s):</p> <p>HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03</p> <p>Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform²⁰⁹ is essential and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date.</p> <p>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)²¹⁰.</p>

Expected Outcome: Projects are expected to contribute to all the following outcomes:

- Improved awareness of the potential of Low Voltage Direct Current (LVDC) microgrids to support the goals of the European Green Deal and the Clean Industrial Deal, including as defined under the SET Plan²¹¹ and the Solar Strategy²¹².
- Increased acceptance of LVDC microgrids in Europe, with significant and measurable contributions to human and building safety (notably with respect to DC faults), energy and resource efficiency, integration of renewables & storage and demand response, peak power shaving, resilience, and (where applicable) established proof of concept on how

that will participate in the Mission. In addition, 12 cities have been selected from countries associated or expected to be associated the Horizon Europe programme.

²⁰⁹ Set up by Horizon 2020 project NetZeroCities - Accelerating cities' transition to net zero emissions by 2030, Grant Agreement n. 101036519, and scaled up through topic *HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03: Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform*.

²¹⁰ This [decision](#) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under ‘Simplified costs decisions’ or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

²¹¹ [SET Plan LVDC Implementation Plan \(europa.eu\)](#)

²¹² COM(2022) 221 final, p14, The European Commission communication on the EU Solar Energy Strategy recognises that increasing the use of DC technologies could be beneficial to the electricity system: as renewable power from solar is produced in Direct Current (DC), conversion to Alternating Current (AC) to feed into the grid and then converting back to DC, e.g. to store energy, leads to energy losses; such conversion losses are currently growing because more devices and system, such as batteries, heat-pumps, data centres, electric vehicles or appliances, operate in DC.

LVDC microgrids can enable energy communities²¹³ to share energy assets and increase self-consumption of local renewables sources.

- Increased uptake in European cities, facilitated by technical guidelines for installation of LVDC microgrids and recommendations on regulatory alignment to European, national, regional and local authorities, as well as power distribution operators.
- Increased number of regulatory options and standards supporting EU industry leadership in the supply of LVDC solutions, in line with the Competitiveness Compass guidelines for fostering innovation and growth.

Scope: Most electric appliances in buildings are based on Direct Current (DC): PV panels, stationary and e-vehicle batteries, LED lighting, IT equipment, heat pumps and other appliances. Their connection to a LVDC microgrid inside the building would significantly improve energy and materials efficiency (replacing AC/DC converters by simpler DC/DC converters) and optimise local electrical and/or thermal energy storage and self-consumption of local renewables, contribute to (AC) grids stability through demand response and ancillary services (incl. reactive power support), and increase resilience by enabling islanded operation. The required power capacity of the connection of the LVDC microgrid to the AC (Alternating Current) distribution grid via a central AC/DC converter would be significantly lower than a traditional AC installation, thereby reducing pressure on city grid.

The LVDC microgrid could also be implemented at small neighbourhood level (e.g. a street), possibly in parallel to an existing AC grid, enabling more efficient and easier sharing of common energy assets and self-consumption in an energy community.

In order to reach this goal, proposals are expected to address all of the following aspects:

- Develop innovative, safe and sustainable LVDC microgrids design methods and tools, ensuring notably grid monitoring, control and safe handling of DC faults at affordable cost; develop methodologies and assess the life-cycle costs/benefits of LVDC microgrids (compared to traditional AC installations), for the application itself and the overall energy system (including the impacts on the AC distribution grid, for example, due to the injection of harmonics, or contribution to grid stability through ancillary services and demand response over the current and next day), from technical, environmental, economic and social aspects (notably on vulnerable consumers energy bill).
- Demonstrate in real life an LVDC microgrid, connecting all electrical applications in at least one residential, office or commercial building, or in one neighbourhood. The proposal must already include a review of the local regulatory framework(s) and grid codes and a demonstration that the real-life implementation(s) of the LVDC microgrid will be possible in the local context(s) (possibly through pre-agreed regulatory relaxation or ‘innovation sandbox’).

²¹³ Energy communities – defined under the Renewable Energy Directive and the Electricity Market Directive, and further supported by the upcoming Citizens Energy Package are identified as a vehicle to empower citizens, small businesses and local authorities to produce, manage and consumer their own energy.

- Beyond the real demonstration(s), the installation of LVDC microgrid must be demonstrated virtually in other types of buildings, including at least one building under renovation, in the environment of different cities and countries, including at least one vulnerable urban area if possible, by numerical simulation using digital twins²¹⁴, with the objective of assessing the regulatory feasibility and life-cycle costs/benefits (detailed in the first bullet) in these different environments. The total number of real and virtual demonstrations must be at least 3.
- Identify regulatory barriers at European, national and distribution system operator levels, and make suggestions to resolve them.
- Contribute to standardization (CEN-CENELEC, IEC), notably contributing use cases.
- Develop LVDC solutions awareness, education and training materials (respectively for public authorities and general public, for students, for urban planners, project developers and installers), in collaboration with local academia and research partners.
- Disseminate project results, engage all relevant stakeholders along the value chain, including residents, users, industry, and researchers, from the planning phase; organise at least one open workshop coupled with site visits.

This topic requires the effective contribution of social sciences and humanities (SSH) disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related research activities, especially related to the last two bullets.

The projects under this topic shall be open to cooperate with each other on relevant tasks such as joint workshops and dissemination events and joint policy briefs and contribution to standardisation process, to maximise the collective impact.

Proposals should build on previous projects, notably Horizon Europe project [Shift2DC](#), as well as [HYPERRIDE](#), [TYGON](#), [HYNET](#) and [THEUS](#). Under the guidance of the relevant Executive Agency and with input of the European Commission, the selected projects will engage in clustering activities with other relevant projects supported under the Cities Mission, such as the ones on PED digital twins, to promote synergies and complementarities.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-04-CIT-02: Hydrogen cities

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 5.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a

²¹⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-miss-2023-cit-01-02>

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	proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 5.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Coordination and Support Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	<p>The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>The following additional eligibility criteria apply:</p> <p>At least one of the cities selected for twinning must be part of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities²¹⁵.</p>
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s):</p> <p>HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03</p> <p>Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform²¹⁶ is essential and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date.</p> <p>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)²¹⁷.</p>

Expected Outcome: A growing number of cities across Europe is developing hydrogen strategies, either for mobility applications or for decarbonising their local and peri-urban industries and hard-to-abate sectors. By acting as experimentation and innovation hubs, these

²¹⁵ The EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities aims to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. On 28 April 2022, the Commission announced the 100 EU cities that will participate in the Mission. In addition, 12 cities have been selected from countries associated or expected to be associated the Horizon Europe programme.

²¹⁶ Set up by Horizon 2020 project NetZeroCities - Accelerating cities' transition to net zero emissions by 2030, Grant Agreement n. 101036519, and scaled up through topic *HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03: Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform*.

²¹⁷ This [decision](#) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

cities can be testbeds for the energy transition, balancing decarbonisation with competitiveness and social cohesion.

Project results are expected to contribute to the following expected outcomes:

- Investments in - and deployment of - hydrogen applications and infrastructure for hard-to-abate sectors in and around cities to mitigate local air pollution and lead to economic growth and jobs, bringing urban environments at the forefront of sustainability and innovation.
- Communities of practice to foster the interaction between stakeholders from cities, ports, industry, local and regional government, as well as researchers and citizens.
- Enhanced synergies between the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission and the Horizon Europe Clean Hydrogen Partnership.

Scope:

The selected project is expected to establish ‘twinning’ of Hydrogen Valleys (in particular those that have elements relevant for cities or ports) with cities that are interested to decarbonise their local and peri-urban hard-to-abate sectors using hydrogen. Focus should be on hard-to-abate and/or hard-to-electrify sectors, such as industrial uses, heavy-duty and long-distance transport, aviation, maritime uses, or any combination thereof. The use of hydrogen for heating purposes is out of scope.

Twinning will help cities to access the best available expertise and tools that can enable them to identify and implement decarbonisation strategies based on renewable hydrogen. To foster cooperation between cities and Member States, it is encouraged that there is a geographical balance between the participating authorities to foster learning from different projects and approaches.

This twinning should be based on mentor-mentee pairings; these could also target enlargement countries, such as the Western Balkans, Ukraine, and Moldova.

The project is expected to:

- Organise a selection procedure (for example in the form of public calls for expression of interest) to identify the most promising twinning pairs that will be selected to develop collaborative activities;
- Develop and implement for each twinning pair a tailor-made set of collaborative activities;
- Deliver for each twinned city a detailed roadmap outlining the future steps to integrate renewable hydrogen in their industrial decarbonisation;
- Facilitate the interaction between participating cities to address shared challenges and solutions;

Collaborative activities can address for example:

- Feasibility assessments (including technology choices, sources of renewable hydrogen, business cases, regulatory issues and stakeholder engagement);
- Designing a detailed implementation plan (including funding strategy, permitting, infrastructure requirements, supply chain integration);
- Environmental and socio-economic impact assessment;
- Sharing best practices and lessons learned;
- Education and training.

The project is expected to enhance the synergies between the Horizon Europe Clean Hydrogen Partnership and the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by making optimal use of the information available through the Hydrogen Valley Platform²¹⁸ and the Cities Mission Platform²¹⁹. At least one of the cities selected for twinning must be part of the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities. The project must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this synergy are included in the work plan of the proposal. Under the guidance of the relevant Executive Agency and with input of the European Commission, the selected project will engage in clustering activities with other relevant projects supported under the Cities Mission to promote synergies and complementarities.

This action supports the follow-up to the July 2023 Communication on EU Missions assessment²²⁰.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-04-CIT-03: Inclusive and climate resilient multimodal passenger hubs enhancing modal shift towards sustainable transport and shared mobility

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 9.00 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 18.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply:

²¹⁸ [H2Valleys | Mission Innovation Hydrogen Valley Platform](#)

²¹⁹ [Home - NetZeroCities](#)

²²⁰ COM(2023) 457 final and SWD(2023) 260 final

	At least three cities, each from a different Member State or Associated Country, must participate as beneficiaries. At least one of the three cities must be one of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities ²²¹ and one of them as urban node on the TEN-T network ²²² .
<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities and pilot demonstrations of technological nature of the proposed solutions in operational environment are expected to be at minimum TRL 7 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s):</p> <p>HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03</p> <p>Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform²²³ is essential and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date.</p> <p>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)²²⁴.</p>

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all the following outcomes:

- Contribute to the objectives of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission by accelerating the transition towards climate neutrality targets in cities and **reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport** due to the improved operation of the multimodal hubs.

²²¹ The EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities aims to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. On 28 April 2022, the Commission announced the 100 EU cities that will participate in the Mission. In addition, 12 cities have been selected from countries associated or expected to be associated the Horizon Europe programme.

²²² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1679>

²²³ Set up by Horizon 2020 project NetZeroCities - Accelerating cities' transition to net zero emissions by 2030, Grant Agreement n. 101036519, and scaled up through topic *HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03: Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform*.

²²⁴ This [decision](#) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

- **Reducing road congestion and improved air quality**, by increasing **shift towards sustainable and active modes of transport** for city and intercity trips.
- Contribute to the objectives of the TEN-T Regulation by increasing the **climate resilience of multimodal passenger hub infrastructures and services** to both long term impacts of climate change and sudden extreme events attributable to climate change.
- Increased **inclusivity, accessibility and improved experience** for all passengers at multimodal hubs, by proposing mobility solutions that respond to the needs of transports users, irrespective of their age, gender, economic or social status, including equal access for reduced mobility.
- **Provide guidance and best practices** for national/regional/local authorities and urban transport authorities to improve the integration of walking, cycling, shared mobility and micro-mobility at and around in multimodal-hubs, and for identifying and deploying relevant monitoring and security measures related to climate impact on operations.

Scope: This topic focuses on the climate resilience of major multimodal passenger hubs' infrastructures and services connecting cities as well as peri-urban and rural areas. At least three demonstrators per project are required. As defined in the revised TEN-T regulation²²⁵, 'multimodal passenger hub' means a connection point between at least two transport modes for passengers, where travel information, access to public transport and transfers between modes are ensured, such as park-and-ride stations, and which acts as an interface within and between urban nodes and between urban nodes and longer-distance transport networks.

Projects will complement the implementation of the above requirement for TEN-T urban nodes by demonstrating concrete solutions for improving the climate resilience of multimodal passenger hubs.

Transport is responsible of a significant share of pollution and greenhouse gas emission in cities. In addition, transport infrastructures and their operation can be subject to perturbation and deterioration due to climate change extreme events (storms, heavy rains, floodings, heat waves, etc.) or longer-term climate stresses (water scarcity, changing groundwater levels, drought, extreme temperatures, sea level rise and accelerated coastal erosion in coastal cities, etc.). Preparing passenger transport systems resilience and the adaptation capacity is crucial to ensure continuity of the transport service and safety of passengers. The recently published "Support study on the climate adaptation and cross-border investment needs to realise the TEN-T network" should be considered²²⁶.

Proposals should:

- Develop and test innovative solutions that increase the number of within-hub flows and access/egress trips by public transport, active, shared and micromobility modes to/from

²²⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1679>

²²⁶ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/26731a63-b904-11ef-91ed-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

the selected major multi-modal hubs considering improved connectivity, fleet rebalancing operations, etc.;

- Identify current and future local climate-related vulnerabilities of the selected multimodal passenger transport infrastructures and services, and determine the potential safety issues and economic and social losses caused by climate change extreme events or longer-term climate stresses that may lead to interrupted or low-quality service;
- Develop and test innovative solutions for climate-resilient multimodal passenger hubs and related transport services for protecting existing infrastructures and/or for building/managing new critical infrastructure capable of mitigating the potential climate change risks, as well as for maintaining services continuity and efficiency of operations. In this context:
 - Develop nature-based solutions for increasing multimodal passenger hub's infrastructures resilience demonstrating the respective environmental, social, and economic benefits.
 - Integrate digital monitoring and advanced yet practical digital and/or AI-based methods for assessing, preventing and managing adverse climate impacts that may affect the multimodal hub operation.
- Develop and test solutions to ensure or improve the inclusivity and accessibility of multimodal passenger hubs, accounting for both within-hub flows and access/egress trips, considering that climate change may particularly affect most vulnerable and marginalised populations²²⁷;
- Establish co-designing process and engaging with the relevant stakeholders to ensure the successful uptake of the proposed and tested solutions, incl. and economic model, contributing to climate neutrality, climate adaptation and enhanced governance of the multi-modal passenger hubs.

Proposals should include activities promoting **the New European Bauhaus principles** (sustainability, aesthetics, and inclusion) among national, regional, and local authorities, citizens, and stakeholders through dedicated local initiatives (e.g. events, contests, citizens' dialogues, living labs).

Proposals should be implemented within the framework of a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) or equivalent plan of the participating cities.

Under the guidance of the relevant Executive Agency and with input of the European Commission, the selected projects will engage in clustering activities with other relevant projects supported under the Cities Mission to promote synergies and complementarities. Synergies with CIVITAS community should be established, especially for disseminating the project results.

²²⁷ (IPCC 2023)

This topic requires the effective contribution of social sciences and humanities (SSH) disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related research activities.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-04-CIT-04: Circular economy in the city: Reducing waste from e-commerce and urban logistics

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 7.50 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 15.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply: At least three cities, each from a different Member State or Associated Country, must participate as beneficiaries. At least one of the three cities must be one of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities ²²⁸ .
<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 5-7 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s): HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03 Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform ²²⁹ is essential and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and

²²⁸ The EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities aims to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. On 28 April 2022, the Commission announced the 100 EU cities that will participate in the Mission. In addition, 12 cities have been selected from countries associated or expected to be associated the Horizon Europe programme.

²²⁹ Set up by Horizon 2020 project NetZeroCities - Accelerating cities' transition to net zero emissions by 2030, Grant Agreement n. 101036519, and scaled up through topic *HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03: Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform*.

	<p>resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date.</p> <p>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) ²³⁰.</p>
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Expected Outcome: Projects are expected to contribute to all the following outcomes:

- Accelerated transition towards circular economy in the freight transport sector contributing to the objectives of the Climate-neutral and Smart Cities Mission;
- Increased adoption of new circular logistics solutions, including modular loading units and reusable transport packaging systems tailored for urban delivery settings;
- Improved integration of reverse logistics into urban logistics models to enable higher reuse and recycling rates;
- Optimised resource utilisation in urban logistics through innovative circular economy approaches, leading to significant reductions in material consumption and carbon footprint;
- Enhanced cooperation among urban stakeholders, including local authorities, logistics providers, retailers, and consumers, fostering circular business models;
- Policy recommendations and guidelines to support cities in integrating circular economy principles into urban logistics related regulations (e.g. within the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans²³¹).

Scope: The rapid growth of e-commerce and urban logistics has led to an increase in packaging waste, inefficiencies in freight transport, and rising environmental impacts. Current urban logistics systems often rely on disposable packaging and fragmented transport operations, resulting in significant material waste and carbon emissions. Addressing these challenges requires innovative circular economy approaches, promoting innovative, circular and scalable solutions for reducing waste generation, in line with the revised EU Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), and improving resource efficiency in business-to-business and business-to-consumer logistics.

²³⁰ This [decision](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under ‘Simplified costs decisions’ or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

²³¹ [Sustainable urban mobility planning and monitoring - European Commission](#)

Building on previously funded projects' outcomes and leveraging potential complementarities with existing regional circularity hubs and other initiatives (e.g. the European Commission's Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI)²³² and the Driving Urban Transition Partnership (DUT²³³), proposals should address all the following actions:

- Design and develop solutions for innovative, modular, reusable, and recyclable packaging and loading units. The proposed solutions should reduce single-use packaging in urban freight transport and demonstrate the benefits of their use in urban logistics processes, while considering the impact of packaging waste regulations on logistics and delivery models in urban areas.
- Develop and test digital tools and systems for tracking and optimising the use of the loading units, integrating technologies such as IoT and AI, as well as for secure stowage, transport, and handling.
- Engage urban stakeholders, including local authorities, logistics operators, retailers and citizens, in co-designing innovative solutions to implement reusable and recyclable packaging and use parcel lockers and micro-hubs (pick-up points) for returns (new items) and recycling (used items), thus promoting the transition to circular urban logistics.
- Demonstrate the proposed solutions in real-world pilots in a minimum of two diverse urban environments covering a diverse type of goods (e.g. fashion items, electric goods), in cooperation with logistics service providers, cities, and e-commerce actors. Pilots should also consider reverse logistics systems, and innovative return and reuse schemes.
- Explore and evaluate environmental, social, and economic (e.g. need for new business models and incentive schemes) impacts of circular economy approaches and specifically the potential of reverse logistics systems to enable circular flows of materials, reduce emissions, and support reuse schemes.
- Involve local authorities in a co-creation process to design enabling regulatory frameworks and market incentives aligned with local circular economy goals.
- Provide policy recommendations to facilitate the adoption of modular loading units and the integration of sustainable logistics measures into broader urban circular economy strategies across European cities.

Under the guidance of the relevant Executive Agency and with input of the European Commission, the selected projects will engage in clustering activities with other relevant projects supported under the Cities Mission to promote synergies and complementarities. Synergies with the CIVITAS urban logistics community should also be considered, especially for disseminating the project results.

²³² [Circular Cities and Regions Initiative | Circular Cities and Regions Initiative](#)
²³³ [The DUT Partnership - DUT Partnership](#)

HORIZON-MISS-2027-04-CIT-05: Boosting the transformation towards climate-neutral cities, the net-zero economy and open strategic autonomy through Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 7.00 and 12.00 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 26.87 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Pre-commercial Procurement
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The specific conditions for actions with PCP/PPI procurements in section H of the General Annexes apply to grants funded under this topic.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s): HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03 Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform ²³⁴ is essential and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date. The Cities Mission Platform should in particular support cities with the preparatory work for the PCP and facilitate the upscaling as well as the replicability of the solutions that will be developed through the PCP ²³⁵ . The beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties to provide financial incentives to final end-users to adopt the solutions.

²³⁴ Conceived through the Horizon 2020 project NetZeroCities - Accelerating cities' transition to net zero emissions by 2030, Grant Agreement n. 101036519, and scaled up through the topic *HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03: Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform*.

²³⁵ Resources for this are foreseen under the *Specific Grant Agreements to the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform*.

	<p>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 200 000 to ensure the deployment and impact of the project outcomes.</p> <p>PCP/PPI procurement costs are eligible.</p>
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Expected Outcome: Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Public procurers stimulate from demand side the competitive development of market ready innovative solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that can contribute to the transition of local communities towards climate neutrality, whilst strengthening EU open strategic autonomy;
- Public procurers leverage PCP to bring to the market innovative solutions in sectors relevant for climate change mitigation (such as energy efficiency in buildings, production and use of renewable energy, sustainable and smart mobility, digitalisation etc.) and implement those innovative solutions in the participant cities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Public procurers drive innovation and increase resilience in the supply chain by opening up opportunities for innovative companies established in the European Union's Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries, in particular SMEs and Startups, to access the public procurement market and scale up their business;
- Increased opportunities for wide market uptake and economies of scale for the supply side through increased demand for innovative solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the local level, wide publication of results and where relevant contribution to standardisation, regulation or certification;
- Present the expected greenhouse gas emission reduction in the participating cities by 2030 and 2050, in comparison to a baseline established at the beginning of the project.

Scope: By closing the gap between supply and demand in a way that reinforces EU open strategic autonomy, PCPs can make a key contribution to enhancing the European Union's economy and competitiveness²³⁶. In order to master the green and digital transition and make our cities climate-neutral and liveable places, European public procurers need to lead by example by procuring more solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This topic therefore focuses on forward looking procurement of R&D to bring to the market new solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that can increase Europe's resilience and preparedness to tackle the climate challenge.

²³⁶ General Annex H to the work programme provides for specific conditions for PCP such as place of performance and commercialisation conditions that can require the majority of the procured R&D activities and later commercialisation/production of developed solutions to take place in the European Union's Member States and Associated Countries, as well as the possibility to limit the participation to the PCP procurement to economic operators that are established in the European Union's Member States and Associated Countries if there are sufficient economic operators in these territories that can develop the requested solutions. These conditions apply to this topic.

Although a PCP action was already included under the Work Programme 2025 (HORIZON-MISS-2026-04-CIT-PCP-01), there is still a need for demand-driven innovation in this area. This topic supports public procurers, specifically local authorities, to collectively implement PCPs to drive innovation from the demand side and open up wider commercialisation opportunities for companies in Europe to take or maintain international leadership in new markets for net-zero technologies that can deliver solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The aim is to leverage PCP to encourage the development and to provide a first customer reference for the piloting, installation and validation of breakthrough innovations. Actions shall be implemented in compliance with the objectives and the sustainable and resilience public procurement obligations under the Net Zero Industry Act²³⁷.

PCP actions target consortia of procurers with similar needs that want to procure together. This topic does not provide direct funding to developers, industry or research organisations to perform R&D. They will be able to respond to the call for tenders launched by consortia of procurers funded under this call. Specific guidance on PCP actions and minimum eligibility requirements can be found in General Annexes H of the Horizon Europe work programme.

Continuous dialogue between demand and supply side is required for the success of PCPs, therefore the effective involvement of end users (e.g. cities teams that would need to adopt climate mitigation solutions, regional structures cooperating with cities on climate mitigation, citizens etc.) needs to be considered in the proposal. Furthermore, to stimulate dialogue with the supply side, public procurers are required to organise an open market consultation before launching the procurement and to promote the call for tenders widely across Europe to potentially interested suppliers.

Proposals should demonstrate sustainability of the action beyond the life of the project. They should demonstrate how the project is anchored in a clear strategy to provide climate-neutral cities and enhance the economy in a sustainable way through stronger early adoption of innovative solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Activities covered should include cooperation with policy makers to reinforce the national policy frameworks and mobilise substantial additional national budgets for PCP and innovation procurement in general beyond the scope of the project.

Involvement of procurement decision makers is needed to ensure that end solution(s) are adopted by local public buyers, increasing the societal impact of the related research activities. Therefore, procurers should declare in the proposal their interest to pursue deployment of solutions resulting from the PCP in case the PCP delivers successful solutions and indicate whether they will (1) procure successful solution(s) as part of the PCP, (2) launch a separate follow-up procurement after the PCP to buy such type of solutions, (3) adopt successful solutions without the need to procure them (e.g. in case of open source solutions), (4) foresee financial or regulatory incentives for others to adopt successful solutions (e.g. in case the final end-users of the solutions are not the procurers but for example citizens). In these four cases, the procurers can implement the project as a fast-track PCP (see general annex H). In the first case, the procurers must foresee the budget in the proposal to purchase

²³⁷ [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1735 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's net-zero technology manufacturing ecosystem and amending Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1724 Text with EEA relevance.](#)

at least one solution during the PCP. In the second case, the procurers should include in the proposal a deliverable that prepares the follow-up procurement to purchase such type of solution(s) after the PCP. In the first and third case, the procurers must foresee sufficient time during the project to deploy and validate that the solutions function well after installation. In the fourth case, the procurers can use financial support to third parties to provide financial incentives to final end-users to adopt the solutions, with a maximum budget of EUR 200 000. Projects funded under this topic, which target the higher end of the budget range, should demonstrate a greater degree of ambition in terms of innovation level and/or deployment scope. The selection of the third parties to be supported under the grant will be based on an external review by independent experts of the proposed work.

Projects funded under this topic should include at least three cities of the 112 selected ones for the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities²³⁸, and the lead procurer from the buyers group should be one of these 112 cities. In addition to the buyers' group that will implement the PCP, projects are encouraged to actively cooperate with an additional group of follower cities in the preparation and follow up of the procurement, including possibly also in the testing of solutions, to smoothen faster uptake of solutions to the wider followers group. Collaboration amongst the projects financed under this topic and with the 'Climate-Neutral Smart cities' Mission Platform is essential to the increase impact and coherence of the action. Appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration should be included in the work plan of the proposal. The Mission Platform will support cities with the preparatory work for the PCP. The Mission Platform will also support the upscaling and replicability of the developed solutions, and the monitoring of the impact of the projects using a common methodology and clearly established indicators. The collaboration with the Mission Platform must be formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date. To ensure that the new solutions are appropriately identified, the projects should plan for liaising with the different other Horizon funded projects, partnerships and initiatives that promote innovation in the different domains (such as CCAM Partnership, 2ZERO Partnership, and Built4People Partnership, Circular Cities and Regions, and CIVITAS) to avoid overlaps or contradictory conclusions.

This action supports the follow-up to the July 2023 Communication on EU Missions assessment²³⁹.

²³⁸ The EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities aims to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. On 28 April 2022, the Commission announced the 100 EU cities that will participate in the Mission. In addition, 12 cities have been selected from countries associated or expected to be associated the Horizon Europe programme.

²³⁹ COM(2023) 457 final and SWD(2023) 260 final

100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030: Other Actions

1. Specific Grant Agreement to the FPA to reinforce the operations of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform

Within the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) awarded under topic HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03: FPA for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform, the selected consortia will be invited to submit a proposal for a Research and Innovation Action that will contribute to the implementation of the last three years of the action plan defined in the above FPA.

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- Reinforce services aimed at supporting the implementation and iteration of the Climate City Contracts (CCCs) of the cities selected to participate in the Mission through the Call for Expression of Interest;
- Provide basic services targeted at cities falling under the second objective of the Mission as well as cities that applied to the Call for Expression of Interest, committed to the climate-neutrality target by 2030 but were not eventually selected in the final list;
- Support cities in the implementation of their investment plans through tailored advice and assistance offered by the **Climate City Capital Hub** and the **City Finance Specialists**. This activity builds on synergies between the Adaptation and Cities Missions, supporting cities in finding financing solutions for both mitigation as well as adaptation projects²⁴⁰;
- Assist cities with **innovative and strategic procurement**, including joint procurement with other cities, bridging with EU mechanisms and collaborating with national platforms on procurement, for example through regulatory sandboxes;
- Provide **monitoring and reporting** on the implementation of the CCCs;
- Expand and regularly update the **open-source services of the online platform**, accessible to all cities;
- Carry out **mutual learning programmes** that support cities' move towards climate neutrality, building on the seasonal schools and on the EU Skills Academies under the Union of Skills, adopting a needs-based approach, responding to city requests;
- Foster **mutual learning and exchange of good practice** through for instance mentoring and twinning actions including both cities selected to participate in the Mission and mission-minded cities, in particular cities that are part of national Cities Mission networks;
- Provide **analyses and briefs** to the European Commission, including ad hoc requests;

²⁴⁰ For this purpose, the Adaptation Mission is financially contributing to the *Climate City Capital Hub*.

- Establish **cooperation and regular exchange with the R&I projects** that are and will be funded under the Climate-neutral and Smart Cities Mission Work Programme in order to identify complementarities, avoid potential overlaps and ensure synergies where relevant, to the benefit of the participating cities. This collaboration should be formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding with the relevant projects and initiatives;
- Maintain the structures for the **completeness check of potential CCC** submissions by mission-minded cities;
- Carry out **reviews of CCC iterations** submitted by Mission cities and report findings and recommendations to the Commission;
- Ensure delivery of the 2030 objectives and provide for longer term **sustainability of the tools and the portal** developed beyond the grant, and help ensuring the path towards climate-neutrality by 2050 for Mission-minded cities;
- Foster **collaboration between cities and (local) industry** to engage relevant actors in climate-neutrality efforts, building on the work of the Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC), notably on Local Green Deals and capacity building tools, such as a [Blueprint on Local Green Deals](#); the [EU Academy on Local Green Deals](#); the Cities Guide on reskilling of local workforce; the Renovation wave in practice; and the [Tech4Good marketplace](#) with over 180 labelled digital and clean tech solutions deployed in cities.
- Expand **synergies with other initiatives** such as the **Covenant of Mayors** and the **Green City Accord**;
- Ensure appropriate continuation and reinforcement – in a Cities Mission context – of the services and support offered by the **Smart Cities Marketplace**, especially catering for small and mid-sized cities as well as Mission-minded cities:
 - **Reinforcing the interaction with energy policy**, incl. the upcoming Citizens Energy Package and local heating and cooling plans;
 - Complementing the activities of the Climate City Capital Hub, in particular by developing a **long-term relationship with a group of selected small and mid-sized (Mission-minded) cities** and guiding them through the process from development of a bankable project to closing the financing deal;
 - Reinforcing project development by supporting the transition **from the pre-financing to the financing stage**;
 - Identifying possibilities of **scaling-up** of solutions and investments;
 - Ensuring a **seamless integration with other services provided by the Mission Platform at front side**, whilst addressing different target groups with **tailored approaches at the backend**;

- o **Expanding the pool of engaged investors and the recently established pool of solution providers;**
- o Developing non-city developers' role, e.g. **local solution providers as project leads** or facilitators;
- o Position the Smart Cities Marketplace as part of the **Knowledge Repository of the Mission Platform portal**, promoting it as a repository of good practices.

Expected Impact: Proposals should set out a credible pathway to contributing to:

- Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission.
- Accelerating the transition of cities towards climate-neutrality, including small and mid-sized ones under the Cities Mission's second objective.

Scope: This action aims at ensuring the Mission Platform's continued full operational capacity addressing and developing the actions needed to implement the relevant building blocks of the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform while considering the lessons learned and the new priorities that emerged from the past years of its implementation.

The Mission Platform will assist the cities that were selected²⁴¹ as a result of the open Call for Expression of Interest which was launched in November 2021 and resulted in 377 expressions of interest from cities in all 27 EU Member States and from 9 associated countries. These cities respond to the first objective of the Mission to deliver at least 100 climate-neutral and smart European cities by 2030.

Cities that are not yet able to commit to the Mission's timeline but are willing to commit to accelerate their transition towards climate neutrality within a longer timeframe following the Cities Mission basic principles, will also receive basic support from the Mission Platform, including services offered by the Smart Cities Marketplace and under specific consideration of the signatories of the Covenant of Mayors. These cities respond to the second objective of the Mission to ensure that the cities responding to the first objective act as experimentation and innovation hubs to put all European cities in a position to become climate-neutral by 2050.

The Mission Platform should build on existing actions, including relevant ones developed through Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects. It should collaborate closely with ongoing initiatives that have developed knowledge and expertise, in particular with the Covenant of Mayors and their methodologies and processes co-developed with the JRC, and the Covenant Community Group of City Practitioners.

The Mission Platform should also make appropriate arrangements, either among partners or via sub-contracting, to assure continuity of the services and support provided by the Smart Cities Marketplace, producing synergies in particular with the activities of the Climate City Capital Hub and the City Finance Specialists.

²⁴¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_2591

Other assets of the Smart Cities and Communities context, including Energy Communities and Living-in.eu, the data space for smart communities, and the Common Services Platform, should be factored in. This should be done with regard to engaging public, private, and civil society stakeholders in supporting project financing and implementation, as well as promoting shared standards and technical specifications to facilitate data exchange and ensure interoperability of solutions. Synergies should be ensured with the European Urban Initiative of the Cohesion Policy, the Urban Agenda for the EU, and actions funded under the DIGITAL European Programme.

The Mission Platform will coordinate with the European Commission to ensure that advice and support provided to cities remains aligned to the latest policies and initiatives and makes full use of available tools and services provided or supported by the Commission.

In addition, it will draw in national-level support and expertise through close cooperation with the Cities Mission's national networks, established under the calls HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-01-01 and HORIZON-MISS-2024-CIT-02-01.

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion, and procedure are provided in parts A to G of the General Annexes.

This action supports the follow-up to the July 2023 Communication on EU Missions assessment²⁴².

Specific conditions:

The evaluation committee will be partially composed by representatives of EU institutions.

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Specific grant agreement awarded without call for proposals in relation to a Framework Partnership Agreement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 50.00 million from the 2026 budget²⁴³

2. Financial advisory services and technical assistance to Mission cities

This action aims at supporting the provision of financial advisory services and technical assistance to the 112 cities selected as part of the Climate-neutral and smart cities Mission through its Call for Expression of Interest with the objective to develop and subsequently implement their investment strategy for becoming climate-neutral. Through a top-up of existing activities and advisory structures such as the European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA), Mission cities will receive targeted support including e.g. technical studies, energy

²⁴² COM(2023) 457 final and SWD(2023) 260 final

²⁴³ Of which EUR 50.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

audits, business plans and financial advisory, legal advice, tendering procedure preparation, project bundling, project management.

The action will be implemented through the existing advisory agreement with the EIB Group for the implementation of the InvestEU Advisory Hub.

This action supports the follow-up to the July 2023 Communication on EU Missions assessment²⁴⁴.

Legal entities:

EIB, 98-100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer L-2950 Luxembourg

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 20.00 million from the 2026 budget²⁴⁵

3. Dissemination and information activities

Communication activities such as meetings, conferences, out-reach communication events/papers/materials and publications should support dissemination of knowledge and information to relevant stakeholders.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.05 million from the 2026 budget²⁴⁶

4. Support to the implementation of the Urban Transitions Mission of Mission Innovation

The Urban Transitions Mission²⁴⁷ is an initiative co-led by the Commission, as member of Mission Innovation on behalf of the European Union, the Global Covenant of Mayors and the Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe (the transnational R&I funding network behind the co-funded Horizon Europe Partnership DUT). It aims at working with a cohort of up to 300 cities worldwide to demonstrate by 2030 integrated pathways towards holistic, people-centred urban transitions built around clean energy and innovative net-zero carbon solutions. Activities will include the promotion of capacity building, deep demonstrators and enhanced R&D investment that take into account different forms of innovation and challenge-based typologies of different urban environments.

²⁴⁴ COM(2023) 457 final and SWD(2023) 260 final

²⁴⁵ Of which EUR 20.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

²⁴⁶ Of which EUR 0.05 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

²⁴⁷ <https://urbantransitionsmision.org/>

This grant will be awarded without a call for proposals to the legal entity identified below as the Global Covenant of Mayors. On account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation and for its role as co-lead of the Urban Transitions Mission, the Global Covenant of Mayors will continue to provide the services of the Mission Director²⁴⁸, responsible for the coordination of mission activities, the involvement of Mission Innovation members and partners including through facilitating communication activities, meetings and exchange of experience, the organisation of the annual innovation summit and the engagement of stakeholders towards the successful implementation of the mission statement.

Specific conditions

Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements: The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:

- 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)²⁴⁹.

Legal entities:

Global Covenant of Mayors as part of the Foreningen C40 Cities Climate Leadership Denmark, Rådhusstræde 6, 2., 1466 København K, Denmark

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant awarded without call for proposals according to Financial Regulation Article 195 (f)

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion, and procedure are provided in parts A to G of the General Annexes

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 1.00 million from the 2026 budget²⁵⁰

5. Financial advisory services and technical assistance to Mission cities

This action aims at supporting the provision of financial advisory services and technical assistance to the 112 cities selected as part of the Climate-neutral and smart cities Mission

²⁴⁸ Currently supported through Grant Agreement n. 101102296 MI UTM - A grant to support the Mission Director and the Annual Innovation Summit of the Urban Transitions Mission under Mission Innovation.

²⁴⁹ This [decision](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

²⁵⁰ Of which EUR 1.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

through its Call for Expression of Interest with the objective to develop and subsequently implement their investment strategy for becoming climate-neutral. Through a top-up of existing activities and advisory structures such as the European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA), Mission cities will receive targeted support including e.g. technical studies, energy audits, business plans and financial advisory, legal advice, tendering procedure preparation, project bundling, project management.

The action will be implemented through the existing advisory agreement with the EIB Group for the implementation of the InvestEU Advisory Hub.

This action supports the follow-up to the July 2023 Communication on EU Missions assessment²⁵¹.

Legal entities:

EIB, 98-100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer L-2950 Luxembourg

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2027

Indicative budget: EUR 20.00 million from the 2027 budget²⁵²

6. Scientific and technical services to the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) has provided scientific and technical support to the preparatory and early implementation phases of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, hereafter referred to as the Cities Mission. The purpose of this action is to maintain continued scientific and technical support throughout the implementation phase of the Mission aiming at achieving climate-neutrality in the cities participating in the Cities Mission by 2030 and in all other EU cities by 2050, in line with the European Green Deal objectives. The activities will provide extended data, methodologies and analysis for accelerating the transition towards climate-neutrality throughout European cities while also assessing the progress and overall impact of the Cities Mission. This activity will be implemented in close coordination with the Commission's Mission Team and the Mission Owners' Group as well as in collaboration, where relevant, with the Mission Platform.

Type of Action: Provision of technical/scientific services by the Joint Research Centre

Indicative timetable: First quarter 2027

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2027 budget²⁵³

²⁵¹ COM(2023) 457 final and SWD(2023) 260 final

²⁵² Of which EUR 20.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

²⁵³ Of which EUR 0.50 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

A Soil Deal for Europe: Research and Innovation and other actions to support the implementation of Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe'

Initial draft version

Initial draft of the Mission Soil Work Programme for 2026-2027

The text, call conditions, and budget is subject to change, based on different feedback received until the Interservice consultation scheduled for end of June 2025.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-01: Living labs to enhance soil health in managed forests and in natural/semi-natural lands

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 12.00 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 24.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Procedure</i>	<p>The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Proposals must focus on one of the two designated land uses: forests (managed forests) or natural/semi-natural, i.e., <u>all</u> living labs of each proposal must be located in one of these two land uses. Proposals must clearly indicate which land use they focus on. To ensure that both managed forests and natural/semi-natural land uses are covered, grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but also to at least one project focusing on each of the mentioned land uses, provided that proposals attain all thresholds.</p> <p>* land uses according to the CORINE land cover classification (CLC) at Home :: Corine Land Cover classes</p>
<i>Eligibility and admissibility conditions</i>	Proposals must apply the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in the introduction to this work programme part.

Expected Outcome: Activities under this topic respond directly to the goal of the Mission '[A Soil Deal for Europe](#)' (Mission Soil) to set up 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the

transition to healthy soils by 2030. They support the specific objectives of the Mission Soil (see the [Mission implementation plan](#)).

Activities should also contribute to the Common Agricultural Policy, the EU's Soil Monitoring Law, the EU Forest Strategy, and the EU's biodiversity and climate policies.

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- increased capacities for participatory, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary R&I to co-create, and co-implement economically viable soil health solutions tailored to managed forests or natural/semi-natural lands, including improved monitoring and standardized soil data at local and regional levels;
- increased availability of practice-oriented knowledge and tools for land managers and land users, such as foresters, leading to better adoption of effective soil health solutions across diverse managed forest or natural/semi-natural land contexts;
- better understanding of processes driving soil health in managed forests or natural/semi-natural lands, where the living labs are implemented, including climate mitigation through carbon removals and continuing supplying materials and services for the development of a sustainable forest bioeconomy;
- policy makers are more aware of local needs regarding soil health including the economic sustainability of solutions, and use this knowledge to design and implement more effective policies to enhance soil health.

Scope: The Mission Soil proposes the deployment of living labs as a novel approach to research and innovation in soil health²⁵⁴. Living labs have the potential to facilitate a green transition by involving multiple actors in real-life sites within a local/regional setting to co-create soil health solutions and achieve large-scale impacts on soil health and soil governance. Projects funded under this topic should deploy a number of living labs to expand and complement the network of soil health living labs initiated in previous Mission Soil topics to gradually establish 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030²⁵⁵.

Soil health living labs are long-term collaborations between multiple actors to address common soil health challenges in real-life sites at local or regional level²⁵⁶ (10 to 20 sites in each living lab). Depending on the level at which each living lab operates and the specific context (e.g. land use covered, or soil health challenge addressed), applicants can exceptionally propose living labs with fewer sites. Living labs under this topic can address soil health challenges in or across two land uses: managed forest or natural/semi-natural lands). Individual sites can be farms, forest holdings, park plots, natural/semi-natural lots, etc., where work is carried-out and monitored under real-life conditions. Sites that are exemplary in their performance in terms of soil health improvement and serve as places for

²⁵⁴ [Implementation Plans for the EU Missions - European Commission](#)

²⁵⁵ [Catalogue 2024 - Mission Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses](#) | [Mission Soil Platform](#)

²⁵⁶ In this topic, it is recommended to define the living labs location using the NUTS2 division ([Eurostat Statistical Atlas](#)).

demonstration of solutions, training and communication are lighthouses. Lighthouse sites can be part of a living lab or be situated outside a living lab. Projects funded under this topic are expected to kick-start participatory process or build on existing ones. While normally projects run for four years, the duration of the projects should accommodate longer timescales required to establish participatory processes and/or for soils processes to take place.

Actors working on common soil health challenge(s) of the selected land use within and across the living labs of the same project, will be able to compare results, exchange good practices, validate methodologies, replicate actions and solutions and benefit from cross-fertilisation, thereby accelerating the transition towards the shared objective of improving soil health.

Proposals should:

- support the establishment of four to five living labs to work together on shared soil health challenge(s) affecting either managed forests or natural/semi-natural lands²⁵⁷. Proposals should clearly indicate which of one of these two land uses they focus on. Living labs under each proposal should work on common soil health challenge(s) relevant to the selected land use. The living labs should be located in at least three different Member States and/or Associated Countries. Proposals should explain the rationale and mechanism for cooperation within and across the living labs and how the work undertaken will contribute to one or more of the Mission's specific objectives¹⁵;
- establish an interdisciplinary, participatory and multi-actor approach in the living labs to co-design, co-develop, and co-implement locally adapted solutions (practices, tools, strategies, etc.) for the common soil health challenge(s) on managed forests or natural/semi-natural soils, taking into account relevant soil health drivers and pressures²⁵⁸. Proposed solutions should be adapted to the different environmental, socio-economic and cultural contexts in which the living labs are operating;
- establish for each living lab a baseline of the soil conditions to allow for an accurate monitoring over time of soil health improvements as well as the effects of the proposed solutions on soil health and associated ecosystem services in the different sites of the living labs. The set of soil health indicators/descriptors presented in the proposal for a [Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience](#) should be used as a basis. Proposals may complement with additional indicators tailored to the addressed soil health challenge(s), pedoclimatic conditions, and other local/regional factors within the chosen land use;
- demonstrate their technical, social, economic, cultural and environmental viability of the proposed solutions, as well as their potential scalability and transferability to diverse contexts;
- identify high performing sites that may be converted into lighthouses, either at proposal stage or later, during the project implementation. Engage with SOILL²⁵⁹ project to assess

²⁵⁷ An ecosystem with most of its processes and biodiversity intact, though altered by human activity in strength or abundance relative to the natural state (IPBES)

²⁵⁸ See [Soil Needs and Drivers of Change Across Europe and Land Use Types - Booklet](#) from PREPSOIL project

²⁵⁹ www.soill2030.eu/about-us

the growth and development of these lighthouses and to support the establishment of a labelling process that could formally recognize these exemplary sites as lighthouses;

- propose strategies (e.g., financial, organisational) to ensure the long-term sustainability of the established living labs beyond the Horizon Europe funding. Strategies should include the identification of possible business models and actions involving a mix of public or private funding schemes, financial instruments, cooperation with local authorities, engagement of social economy entities, social enterprises, business communities, SMEs, as well as attracting investors and entrepreneurs.

In line with the nature of living labs, projects must adopt the multi-actor approach. The actors involved in each living lab may vary, based on its unique characteristics and may include, among others, researchers, landowners or land managers, foresters, industry representatives (e.g., SMEs), public administrators and civil society representatives (e.g., consumers, residents, environmental NGOs, youth or other community organisations). Care should be taken to describe the capabilities, roles and resources of the different actors involved in the living labs. An effective contribution of social sciences and humanities and the arts (SSHA) is expected to foster social innovation, knowledge transfer and socio-cultural and behavioural change.

To encourage and facilitate the involvement of different types of actors in the living labs, applicants are reminded of the different types of participation possible under Horizon Europe. This includes not only beneficiaries (or their affiliated entities) but also associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors, and recipients of financial support to third parties. Financial support to third parties (FSTP) to facilitate active involvement of small actors (e.g. land managers and landowners such as farmers, foresters, SMEs or civil society) in one or more of the living labs of a project, can be provided through calls for proposals. Applicants are advised to consult the standard conditions set out in Annex B of the General Annexes including those that apply to FSTP.

Dedicated tasks and appropriate resources should be envisaged to collaborate with [SOILL](#), the structure created to support soil health living labs and lighthouses with a wide range of actions that include dedicated capacity building, knowledge exchange, promotion, dissemination, networking opportunities, regular monitoring activities on living labs performance and lighthouses growth assessment. The details of the collaboration will be further defined during the grant agreement preparation phase.

Proposals are expected to build on existing knowledge (e.g. data from national soil health monitoring, LUCAS) and solutions developed and tested at national scale or in the frame of other Horizon projects including those funded under the Mission ‘A Soil Deal for Europe’. Proposals should therefore include dedicated tasks, appropriate resources and a plan on how they will collaborate with relevant projects and initiatives carrying out relevant activities under other initiatives in Horizon Europe, including those funded under the topic HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-06: Improving grassland management in European livestock farming systems and topic HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-01-two-stage: Living labs co-creating innovative solutions for forests and freshwater ecosystems restoration. Proposals are also encouraged to engage in relevant Mission Soil clustering activities and to cooperate with

the Horizon Europe Partnerships on [Agroecology](#) and on Forests and/or relevant networks active at local level, such as the EIP-AGRI operational groups to promote the involvement of key local stakeholders. Lastly, proposals should consider, where relevant, the data, expertise and services offered by European research infrastructures ([ESFRI](#)).

Proposals should demonstrate a route towards open access, longevity, sustainability and interoperability of knowledge and outputs through close collaboration with the European Union Soil Observatory (EUSO) and the project [SoilWise](#). In particular, proposals should ensure that relevant data, maps and information can potentially be available publicly through the EUSO. Concrete efforts should be made to ensure that the data produced in the context of the funded project is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable).

HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-02: Enabling user-centred and open innovation initiatives to enhance soil health in Ukraine

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 3.00 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 3.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Coordination and Support Actions

Expected Outcome: Activities should contribute to meeting the international dimension of the European Green Deal ambitions and targets and more specifically those of the [EU soil strategy for 2030](#) and the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#), the [Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe](#), [the proposal for a Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive](#), the [Communication on Boosting Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing in the EU](#), to the EU international commitments ([Global Approach to Research and Innovation](#)), as well as to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular in the areas of sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security, biodiversity, and climate.

Moreover, the activities will contribute to the [EU efforts to address Ukraine's longer-term reconstruction](#) and will support the implementation of the [Ukraine Plan](#) in particular related to reducing Ukraine's soil pollution and to supporting its restoration. The activities should also support Ukraine's alignment with the EU acquis.

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- increased capacities for participatory, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary R&I approaches, allowing for effective cooperation between research, practice and policy to

tackle soil health challenges in Ukraine arising from military actions and other indirect pressures;

- state of the art on soil-related practice oriented knowledge and tools are available to relevant stakeholders and contribute to an enhanced uptake of solutions for soil health and related ecosystem services;
- policy makers are more aware of local needs with regard to soil health including those arising from the impact of military actions and can use this knowledge to design more effective policies.

Scope: During military activities, soil is one of the most heavily affected components of the environment, undergoing mechanical, chemical, and physical degradation²⁶⁰. In Ukraine, soils are exposed to degradation due to nutrient mismanagement, acidification, erosion, compaction, salinisation, and contamination, while the war contributed to devastation by releasing toxic elements, causing long-term damage to both ecosystems and human health²⁶¹.

Before the war, the innovation landscape in Ukraine was already in decline, due to weak institutional support, relative absence of supportive political, regulatory and legislative frameworks and an undeveloped, underfunded innovation infrastructure²⁶². The war has further worsened Ukrainian long-standing underinvestment in research and innovation and accelerated the loss of skilled professionals. For the future reconstruction, stronger innovation ecosystem could play a crucial role in Ukraine's green transition²⁶³.

Proposals should:

- provide capacity-building aimed at enhancing the ability of stakeholders to engage in and contribute to user-centred, place-based transdisciplinary research and innovation ecosystems, dealing with soil degradation, including soil health issues arising from the impact of military actions²⁶⁴;
- collaborate with relevant Horizon Europe projects including those funded under the Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe', in particular with the Mission Soil Living Labs. Additionally, projects should consider cooperation with the Living Lab Support Structure SOILL;
- support relevant actors with soil-related knowledge transfer, including soil health monitoring, and exchange of best practices through e.g. twinning, trainings, workshops, networking activities, conferences, field trips, events. These activities should take place in areas with no ongoing and active military actions to ensure the safety of all participants;

²⁶⁰ See <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/13/10/1614>

²⁶¹ See <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC141480>

²⁶² See <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2cf0bd05-fbe1-11eb-b520-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

²⁶³ See https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/building-back-a-better-innovation-ecosystem-in-ukraine_85a624f6-en.html

²⁶⁴ See <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/13/10/1614>

- create regional knowledge hubs to enable rapid peer-to-peer learning and to provide a platform for networking and further exchange of knowledge and practices beyond the project, ensuring synergies and making effective use of other existing similar initiatives in Ukraine.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-03: Monitoring soil health in practice: equipping stakeholders to sample, analyse, and interpret soil health indicators

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 5.00 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 5.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Coordination and Support Actions

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- **enhanced reliability and accessibility of soil health data** by/for laboratories, land managers, advisors and policymakers;
- **improved understanding by practitioners** of the conditions, limitations and uncertainties of soil data and **use of Mission Soil** (among others) **outputs and tools** (datasets, indicators, methodologies, pedo-transfer functions...);
- increased **collaboration and interaction** among stakeholders around soil health data issues;
- support to the development of standards and norms as well as national and international guidelines of soil sampling and monitoring to ensure compliance and promote best practices.

Scope: Proposals should:

- organise networking and capacity-building activities to equip stakeholders with practical tools and skills to improve soil data quality;
- develop and promote (standardized) methods and protocols for soil sampling (timing, depth, tools, representativity, uncertainties).and analysis (equipment, calibrations, inter-comparisons, uncertainties);

- facilitate and promote the integration of soil data, datasets and databases from different sources and methods allowing for the combination of results from direct sampling, proximal and remote sensing and other state-of-the-art methodologies;
- promote or develop practical tools (such as guides, apps) on soil analysis and monitoring: indicators, sampling and analysis methods, data management and analysis, interpretation of results... with emphasis on new methods and technologies;
- conduct activities, such as case studies or piloting collaborative platforms to explore opportunities and limitations of soil data sharing (privacy, fragmentation, lack of standardization, restricted access policies);
- engage with relevant standardisation bodies to ensure that standards meet the needs of stakeholders and align with existing regulations and standards.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-04: Boosting EU competitiveness: advancing food system transformation through innovative soil health solutions

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 7.00 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 14.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome:

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- greater awareness and engagement around **innovative solutions and business models** for soil health among stakeholders all throughout the **food value chain** (particularly farmers, industry leaders and consumers);
- greater awareness of the role of healthy soils in circular/bioeconomy;
- **increased investments** from the public and private sectors driven by practical evidence of how **healthy soils** contribute to a **more competitive EU**.

Scope: Proposals should:

- connecting R&I agendas - leveraging AI, machine learning, and advancements in biotechnology to improve and monitor soil health;

- test farms and living labs in terms of improved agricultural productivity, reduced environmental impact, and better food security while building resilience against climate change and resource scarcity, ensuring long-term viability of food systems;
- education and capacity building;
- encourage entrepreneurship while supporting startups;
- landscape transformation (more soil friendly farming practices).

HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-05: Antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic biosynthesis in soils – a One-Health perspective

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 7.00 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 14.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Activities under this topic will help progress towards the objectives and targets of the Mission ‘A Soil Deal for Europe’. Activities should also contribute to meeting the ambitions and targets of the EU soil strategy for 2030, the zero pollution action plan, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals 15 on life on land and 3 on good health and well-being.

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- enhanced understanding of antimicrobial resistance development in soils, the contribution of soil to the exposure of humans and animals to antimicrobial resistant genes and organisms, and to antibiotic biosynthesis in soils;
- policy makers and land managers have increased access to evidence-based strategies to lower the risk of antimicrobial resistance development in soils and the exposure of humans and animals to antimicrobial resistant genes;
- improved access to enriched databases of antibiotics-related genes;
- increased societal awareness of the importance of soil and soil biodiversity for human and environmental health issues and as a source of molecules of interest for pharmaceutical purposes.

Scope: Soil biodiversity plays a major role in human, animal and ecosystem health. Soil microorganisms (bacteria and fungi) have been crucial in the discovery of antibiotics used in

human and veterinary medicine. However, soils can also be a hotspot for antimicrobial resistance development and can play a key role in the transfer of antimicrobial resistance genes between organisms and environmental compartments. Antibiotic use is expected to increase globally due to an increase in demand for food-producing animals, which can in turn further increase antimicrobial resistance development in soils. The driving forces for antimicrobial resistance development in soils are however understudied, as well as the role of soils in the exposure of humans and animals to antimicrobial resistance determinants. Moreover, our knowledge of antibiotics-related genes is currently limited, making it challenging to identify new compounds of interest. To better understand and combat antimicrobial resistance development in soils, a One Health perspective is needed, integrating human health, animal health and environment health. As such, an interdisciplinary approach is required, bringing together life sciences, environmental sciences, health sciences and veterinary sciences.

Proposals should:

- study the source and dynamics of antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic biosynthesis in soils across all relevant land use types, and identify the role of land use, land management practices and other environmental and anthropogenic driving factors;
- study the role of soils in the transfer of antimicrobial resistance genes among organisms and environmental compartments and in the exposure of humans and animals to antimicrobial resistance genes;
- expand databases of antibiotics-related genes;
- develop concrete guidelines to policy makers and land managers to better address the exposure of humans and animals to antimicrobial resistant genes and to facilitate the discovery of new molecules of pharmaceutical interest;
- carry out activities for communication and awareness raising on the importance of soil and soil biodiversity for human, animal and environmental health and as a source of molecules of interest for pharmaceutical purposes.

In carrying out the activities, consortia should work in an interdisciplinary way bringing together life sciences, environmental sciences, health sciences and veterinary sciences.

Projects should also demonstrate a route towards open access, longevity, sustainability and interoperability of knowledge and outputs through close collaboration with the EU Soil Observatory and the SoilWise project.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-06: Long-term drivers and consequences of soil degradation: the past as key to the future

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission
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Specific conditions

<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 7.00 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 7.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Activities under this topic will help progress towards the objectives and targets of the EU soil strategy for 2030 as data and insights in the long-term drivers of soil degradation will help to better protect soils and to achieve healthy soils by 2050. Moreover, the results of this topic will contribute to progress the Mission ‘A Soil Deal for Europe’ objectives, by leading to an increased uptake of knowledge on soil health and an increased valorisation of soil health by society.

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- improved access to knowledge and quantitative data on changes in soil degradation over the past centuries to millennia across different pedo-climatic regions in the EU and Associated Countries, and to projections for future trends of soil health under various scenarios;
- enhanced understanding of the long-term drivers (and the equalities and differences with short-term drivers) and long-term consequences of soil degradation including on the role of soil degradation in the climate and biodiversity systems and in the water and nutrient cycles, both in the past and in the future;
- enhanced understanding of the social and cultural factors driving historical soil degradation and of the perception of soil degradation and soil health by past societies, and in turn an enhanced understanding of how human behaviour can change to adopt measures to increase soil health;
- increased citizen awareness on the impact of soil degradation on societies and on the long timescale of soil recovery processes, as well as an accelerated societal acceptance of sustainable soil management practices.

Scope: Since the beginning of agriculture, human activities have contributed to soil degradation. This caused problems to farmers and landowners, as well as to society in general. However, our knowledge of changes in soil health over the past centuries to millennia in the EU and Associated Countries is limited, and available datasets spans only the past two or three decades. This hinders a throughout understanding of the long-term drivers and consequences of soil degradation, as well as creating projections for future trends under various scenarios. An improved understanding of the long-term changes and driving forces of soil degradation should lead to a better understanding of past and improved projections for future trends of soil health under various scenarios, an enhanced understanding of the long-term effects of soil management practices, as well as an accelerated societal acceptance of sustainable soil management practices.

Proposals should:

- study past soil degradation processes and its (socio-economic, cultural and natural) drivers and consequences based on, for instance, historical documents, historical records, archaeological data, sediment archives, buried fossil soils and archived soil and plant samples;
- apply and advance the development of technologies to study past soil health, such as ancient eDNA analysis, pollen, spores, environmental radionuclides and other proxies;
- make use of numerical models and digital tools to make reconstructions of past and predictions for future trends in soil degradation and to make trajectories for sustainable soil management;
- carry out activities for communication and awareness raising on the long-term changes of soil health and on the impact of soil degradation on societies. Encourage citizens to take part of the data collection.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-two-stage: Living labs to enhance soil health in Alpine and Atlantic biogeographical regions

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 12.00 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 24.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Procedure</i>	<p>The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Proposals must focus on one of the two designated biogeographical regions: Alpine or Atlantic, i.e., the majority of the living labs of each proposal must be located in one of these two biogeographical regions. Proposals must clearly indicate which biogeographical region they focus on. To ensure that both biogeographical regions are covered, grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but also to at least one project focusing on each of the mentioned biogeographical regions, provided that proposals attain all thresholds.</p> <p>* Biogeographical regions in Europe according to the European Environmental Agency.</p>
<i>Legal and financial</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions

<i>set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>apply:</p> <p>Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties to facilitate active involvement of smaller actors (e.g. land managers and owners such as farmers, SMEs or civil society) in one or more of the living labs of the project. 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</p>
<i>Eligibility and admissibility conditions</i>	<p>Proposals must apply the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in the introduction to this work programme part.</p>

Expected Outcome: Activities under this topic respond directly to the goal of the Mission ‘[A Soil Deal for Europe](#)’ (Mission Soil) to set up 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition to healthy soils by 2030. They support the specific objectives of the Mission Soil (see the [Mission implementation plan](#)).

Activities should also contribute to meeting the European Green Deal ambitions and targets and more specifically those of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), the [EU soil strategy for 2030](#) and the [proposal for a Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive](#), the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#), the [Communication on Boosting Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing in the EU](#), as well as to Sustainable Development Goals 15 on Life on land and 3 on Good health and well-being.

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- increased capacities for participatory, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary R&I to co-create, and co-implement economically viable soil health solutions, including improved monitoring and standardized soil data at local and regional levels;
- increased availability of practice-oriented knowledge and tools for land managers and land users, leading to better adoption of effective soil health solutions in diverse contexts;
- better understanding of processes driving soil health in the biogeographical regions where the living labs are implemented;
- policy makers are more aware of local needs regarding soil health including the economic sustainability of solutions and use this knowledge to design and implement more effective policies to enhance soil health.

Scope: The Mission Soil proposes the deployment of living labs as a novel approach to research and innovation in soil health²⁶⁵. Living labs have the potential to facilitate a green transition by involving multiple actors in real-life sites within a local/regional setting to co-create soil health solutions and achieve large-scale impacts on soil health and soil governance. Projects funded under this topic should deploy a number of living labs to expand and

²⁶⁵ [Implementation Plans for the EU Missions - European Commission](#)

complement the network of soil health living labs initiated in previous Mission Soil topics to gradually establish 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030²⁶⁶.

Soil health living labs are long-term collaborations between multiple actors to address common soil health challenges in real-life sites at local or regional level²⁶⁷ (10 to 20 sites in each living lab). Depending on the level at which each living lab operates and the specific context (e.g. land use covered, or soil health challenge addressed), applicants can exceptionally propose living labs with fewer sites. Living labs can address soil health challenges in or across different land uses (agricultural, (peri-)urban, (post)-industrial, forest and (semi-)natural). Individual sites can be farms, forest holdings, urban green²⁶⁸ areas, industrial areas, etc., where work is carried-out and monitored under real-life conditions. Sites that are exemplary in their performance in terms of soil health improvement and serve as places for demonstration of solutions, training and communication are lighthouses. Lighthouse sites can be part of a living lab or be situated outside a living lab. Projects funded under this topic are expected to kick-start participatory process or build on existing ones. While normally projects run for four years, the duration of the projects under this topic should accommodate longer timescales required to establish participatory processes and/or for soils processes to take place.

Actors working on common shared soil health challenge(s) within and across the living labs of the same project, will be able to compare results, exchange good practices, validate methodologies, replicate actions and solutions and benefit from cross-fertilisation, thereby accelerating the transition towards the shared objective of improving soil health.

Proposals should:

- support the establishment of four to five living labs either in the Alpine or in the Atlantic biogeographical region²⁶⁹. Proposals should clearly indicate which of these two biogeographical regions they focus on and should establish the majority of the living labs within the chosen biogeographical region. Living labs under each proposal should work together on common soil health challenge(s) relevant to the selected biogeographical region. The living labs should be located in at least three different Member States and/or Associated Countries. Proposals should explain the rationale and mechanism for cooperation within and across the living labs and how the work undertaken will contribute to one or more of the Mission's specific objectives²⁷⁰. Proposals with all living labs covering forests or natural/semi-natural land areas are excluded from this topic as a dedicated topic is opened in this work programme (HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-02: Living labs to enhance soil health on forests and

²⁶⁶ [Catalogue 2024 - Mission Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses](#) | [Mission Soil Platform](#)

²⁶⁷ In this topic, it is recommended to define the living labs location using the NUTS2 division ([Eurostat Statistical Atlas](#)).

²⁶⁸ By urban green areas, we refer to green spaces in cities such as parks, gardens, green roofs or walls, green corridors, squares, recreational areas, etc.

²⁶⁹ [Biogeographical regions in Europe](#) according to the European Environmental Agency.

²⁷⁰ Mission Soil specific objectives: reduce land degradation relating to desertification; conserve and increase soil organic carbon stocks, no net soil sealing and increase the reuse of urban soils; reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration; prevent erosion; improve soil structure to enhance habitat quality for soil biota and crops; reduce the EU global footprint on soils; increase soil literacy in society.

natural/semi-natural lands);

- establish an interdisciplinary, participatory and multi-actor approach in the living labs to co-design, co-develop, and co-implement locally adapted solutions (practices, tools, strategies, etc.) for the common soil health challenge(s) taking into account relevant soil health drivers and pressures²⁷¹. Proposed solutions should be adapted to the different environmental, socio-economic and cultural contexts in which the living labs are operating;
- establish for each living lab a baseline of the soil conditions to allow for an accurate monitoring over time of soil health improvements as well as the effects of the proposed solutions on soil health and associated ecosystem services in the different sites of the living labs. The set of soil health indicators/descriptors presented in the proposal for a [Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience](#) should be used as a basis; proposals may complement with additional indicators tailored to the addressed soil health challenge(s), pedoclimatic conditions, land use, and other local/regional factors;
- demonstrate the technical, social, economic, cultural and environmental viability of the proposed solutions, as well as their potential scalability and transferability to diverse contexts;
- identify high performing sites that may be converted into lighthouses, either at proposal stage or later, during project implementation. Engage with SOILL²⁷² project to assess the growth and development of these lighthouses and to support the establishment of a labelling process that could formally recognize these exemplary sites as lighthouses;
- propose strategies (e.g., financial, organisational) to ensure the long-term sustainability of the established living labs beyond the Horizon Europe funding. Strategies should include the identification of possible business models and actions involving a mix of public or private funding schemes, financial instruments, cooperation with local authorities, engagement of social economy entities, social enterprises, business communities, SMEs, as well as attracting investors and entrepreneurs.

In line with the nature of living labs, projects must adopt the multi-actor approach. The actors involved in each living lab may vary, based on its unique characteristics and may include, among others, researchers, landowners or land managers, industry representatives (e.g., SMEs), public administrators and civil society representatives (e.g., consumers, local residents, environmental NGOs, youth organisations). Care should be taken to describe the capabilities, roles and resources of the different actors involved in the living labs. An effective contribution of social sciences and humanities and the arts (SSHA) is expected to foster social innovation, knowledge transfer and socio-cultural and behavioural change.

²⁷¹ See [Soil Needs and Drivers of Change Across Europe and Land Use Types - Booklet](#) from PREPSOIL project

²⁷² www.soill2030.eu/about-us

To encourage and facilitate the involvement of different types of actors in the living labs, applicants are reminded of the different types of participation possible under Horizon Europe. This includes not only beneficiaries (or their affiliated entities) but also associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors, and recipients of financial support to third parties. Financial support to third parties (FSTP) to facilitate active involvement of small actors (e.g. land managers and landowners such as farmers, SMEs or civil society) in one or more of the living labs of a project, can be provided through calls for proposals. Applicants are advised to consult the standard conditions set out in Annex B of the General Annexes including those that apply to FSTP.

Dedicated tasks and appropriate resources should be envisaged to collaborate with [SOILL](#), the structure created to support soil health living labs and lighthouses with a wide range of actions that include dedicated capacity building, knowledge exchange, promotion, dissemination, networking opportunities and regular monitoring activities on living labs performance. The details of the collaboration will be further defined during the grant agreement preparation phase.

Proposals are expected to build on existing knowledge (e.g. data from national soil health monitoring, LUCAS) and solutions developed and tested at national scale or in the frame of other Horizon projects including those funded under the Mission ‘A Soil Deal for Europe’. Proposals should therefore include dedicated tasks and appropriate resources for collaboration with relevant projects and initiatives and engage in relevant Mission Soil clustering activities. Proposals are also encouraged to consider, where relevant, the data, expertise and services offered by European research infrastructures ([ESFRI](#)) and to cooperate with the Horizon Europe Partnerships on [Agroecology](#) and on [Sustainable Food Systems](#) and/or relevant networks active at local level, such as the EIP-AGRI operational groups to promote the involvement of key local stakeholders.

Proposals should demonstrate a route towards open access, longevity, sustainability and interoperability of knowledge and outputs through close collaboration with the European Union Soil Observatory (EUSO) and the project [SoilWise](#). In particular, proposals should ensure that relevant data, maps and information can potentially be available publicly through the EUSO. Concrete efforts should be made to ensure that the data produced in the context of the funded project is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable).

HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-SOIL-01.: Co-creating solutions to reduce eutrophication in Living Labs

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 12.00 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 24.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Activities under this topic respond directly to the goal of the Mission ‘[A Soil Deal for Europe](#)’ (Mission Soil) to set up 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition to healthy soils by 2030. They support the specific objectives of the Mission Soil (see the [Mission implementation plan](#)).

Activities should also contribute to meeting the European Green Deal ambitions and targets and more specifically those of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), the [EU soil strategy for 2030](#) and the [proposal for a Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive](#), as well as the [EU Water Framework Directive](#), the [Nitrates Directive](#), the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#), the [Communication on Boosting Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing in the EU](#), as well as to Sustainable Development Goals 15 on Life on land and 3 on Good health and well-being.

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- increased capacities for participatory, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary R&I to co-create, and co-implement economically viable soil health solutions to reduce eutrophication, including improved monitoring and standardized soil data at local and regional levels;
- increased availability of practice-oriented knowledge and tools for land managers and land users, leading to better adoption of effective soil health solutions to reduce eutrophication in diverse contexts;
- better understanding of soil processes and functions contributing to eutrophication in regions where the living labs are implemented;
- policy makers are more aware of risks associated with eutrophication and local needs regarding soil health including the economic sustainability of solutions and use this knowledge to design and implement more effective policies to reduce eutrophication while enhancing soil health.

Scope: Eutrophication is a critical environmental issue that primarily affects water bodies but is largely driven by nutrient dynamics in soils. Eutrophication leads to algal blooms, hypoxia, and biodiversity loss, which in turn disrupts the entire food chains threatening both food availability and safety. While its visible impacts are aquatic, the root causes often stem from terrestrial management practices, particularly in agricultural soils. The excessive accumulation of nutrients in soils, predominantly nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) and their runoff or leaching into water bodies degrades water quality and linked ecosystem services. While soils are only one of multiple nutrient sources that affect freshwater and marine ecosystems, managing soils represents an important strategy for the mitigation of eutrophication²⁷³. Degraded soils with low water retention and limited nutrient cycling

²⁷³ [A Global Perspective on Integrated Strategies to Manage Soil Phosphorus Status for Eutrophication Control without Limiting Land Productivity - Withers - 2019 - Journal of Environmental Quality - Wiley Online Library](#)

capacity, exacerbates this situation. Therefore, the restoration of soil health offers a critical opportunity for nutrient interception and reduction of downstream aquatic impacts.

The Mission Soil proposes the deployment of living labs as a novel approach to research and innovation in soil health²⁷⁴. Living labs have the potential to facilitate a green transition by involving multiple actors in real-life sites within a local/regional setting to co-create soil health solutions and achieve large-scale impacts on soil health and soil governance. Projects funded under this topic should deploy a number of living labs to expand and complement the network of soil health living labs initiated in previous Mission Soil topics to gradually establish 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030²⁷⁵.

Soil health living labs are long-term collaborations between multiple actors to address common soil health challenges in real-life sites at local or regional level²⁷⁶ (10 to 20 sites in each living lab). Depending on the level at which each living lab operates and the specific context (e.g. land use covered, or soil health challenge addressed), applicants can exceptionally propose living labs with fewer sites. Living labs can address soil health challenges in or across different land uses (agricultural, (peri-)urban, (post)-industrial, forest and (semi-)natural). Individual sites can be farms, forest holdings, urban green²⁷⁷ areas, industrial areas, etc., where work is carried-out and monitored under real-life conditions. Sites that are exemplary in their performance in terms of soil health improvement and serve as places for demonstration of solutions, training and communication are lighthouses. Lighthouse sites can be part of a living lab or be situated outside a living lab. Projects funded under this topic are expected to kick-start participatory process or build on existing ones. While normally projects run for four years, the duration of the projects under this topic should accommodate longer timescales required to establish participatory processes and/or for soils processes to take place.

Actors working on common shared soil health challenge(s) within and across the living labs of the same project, will be able to compare results, exchange good practices, validate methodologies, replicate actions and solutions and benefit from cross-fertilisation, thereby accelerating the transition towards the shared objective of improving soil health.

Proposals should:

- support the establishment of four to five living labs to work together on soil health aspects that could affect eutrophication in nearby water bodies. The living labs should be located in at least three different Member States and/or Associated Countries. Proposals should explain the rationale and mechanism for cooperation within and across the living

²⁷⁴ [Implementation Plans for the EU Missions - European Commission](#)

²⁷⁵ [Catalogue 2024 - Mission Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses| Mission Soil Platform](#)

²⁷⁶ In this topic, it is recommended to define the living labs location using the NUTS2 division ([Eurostat Statistical Atlas](#)).

²⁷⁷ By urban green areas, we refer to green spaces in cities such as parks, gardens, green roofs or walls, green corridors, squares, recreational areas, etc.

labs while explaining how the work undertaken will contribute to one or more of the Mission's specific objectives²⁷⁸;

-
- establish an interdisciplinary, participatory and multi-actor approach in the living labs to co-design, co-develop, and co-implement locally adapted solutions (practices, tools, strategies or management practices such as buffer strips or soil amendments) to reduce eutrophication. Proposed solutions should be adapted to the different environmental, socio-economic and cultural contexts in which the living labs are operating;
- establish for each living lab a baseline of the soil and nearby water body conditions to allow for an accurate monitoring over time of improvements in soil health and reductions in eutrophication level, based on the proposed solutions in the different sites of the living labs. The set of soil health indicators/descriptors presented in the proposal for a [Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience](#) should be used as a basis; proposals may complement with additional indicators tailored to eutrophication as well as to the specific pedoclimatic conditions, land use, and other local/regional factors;
- demonstrate their technical, social, economic, cultural and environmental viability of the proposed solutions, as well as their potential scalability and transferability to diverse contexts;
- identify high-performing sites that may be converted into lighthouses, either at proposal stage or later during project implementation. Engage with the SOILL²⁷⁹ project to assess the growth and development of these lighthouses and to support the establishment of a labelling process that could formally recognize these exemplary sites as lighthouses;
- propose strategies (e.g., financial, organisational) to ensure the long-term sustainability of the established living labs beyond Horizon Europe funding. Strategies should include the identification of possible business models and actions involving a mix of public or private funding schemes, financial instruments, cooperation with local authorities, engagement of social economy entities, social enterprises, business communities, SMEs, as well as attracting investors and entrepreneurs.

In line with the nature of living labs, projects must adopt the multi-actor approach. The actors involved in each living lab may vary, based on its unique characteristics and may include, among others, researchers, landowners or land managers, industry representatives (e.g., SMEs), public administrators and civil society representatives (e.g., consumers, local residents, environmental NGOs, youth organisations). Care should be taken to describe the capabilities, roles and resources of the different actors involved in the living labs. An effective contribution of social sciences and humanities and the arts (SSHA) is expected to foster social innovation, knowledge transfer and socio-cultural and behavioural change.

²⁷⁸ Mission Soil specific objectives: reduce land degradation relating to desertification; conserve and increase soil organic carbon stocks, no net soil sealing and increase the reuse of urban soils; reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration; prevent erosion; improve soil structure to enhance habitat quality for soil biota and crops; reduce the EU global footprint on soils; increase soil literacy in society.

²⁷⁹ See www.soill2030.eu/about-us

To encourage and facilitate the involvement of different types of actors in the living labs, applicants are reminded of the different types of participation possible under Horizon Europe. This includes not only beneficiaries (or their affiliated entities) but also associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors, and recipients of financial support to third parties. Financial support to third parties (FSTP) to facilitate active involvement of small actors (e.g. land managers and landowners such as farmers, SMEs or civil society) in one or more of the living labs of a project, can be provided through calls for proposals. Applicants are advised to consult the standard conditions set out in Annex B of the General Annexes including those that apply to FSTP.

Dedicated tasks and appropriate resources should be envisaged to collaborate with [SOILL](#), the structure created to support soil health living labs and lighthouses with a wide range of actions that include dedicated capacity building, knowledge exchange, promotion, dissemination, networking opportunities and regular monitoring activities on living labs performance. The details of the collaboration will be further defined during the grant agreement preparation phase.

Proposals are expected to build on existing knowledge (e.g. data from national soil health monitoring, LUCAS) and solutions developed and tested at national scale or in the frame of other Horizon projects including those funded under the Mission ‘A Soil Deal for Europe’. Proposals should therefore include dedicated tasks and appropriate resources for collaboration with relevant projects and initiatives and engage in relevant Mission Soil clustering activities. Proposals are also encouraged to consider, where relevant, the data, expertise and services offered by European research infrastructures ([ESFRI](#)) and to cooperate with the Horizon Europe Partnerships on [Agroecology](#) and on [Sustainable Food Systems](#) and/or relevant networks active at local level, such as the EIP-AGRI operational groups to promote the involvement of key local stakeholders.

Proposals should demonstrate a route towards open access, longevity, sustainability and interoperability of knowledge and outputs through close collaboration with the European Union Soil Observatory (EUSO) and the project [SoilWise](#). In particular, proposals should ensure that relevant data, maps and information can potentially be available publicly through the EUSO. Concrete efforts should be made to ensure that the data produced in the context of the funded project is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable).

HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-SOIL-02: Participatory research on the health of communities in contact with polluted soils

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 6.00 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 12.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome:

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- improved citizen awareness on the connection between soil pollution and human health and how to manage, adapt to, and mitigate risks;
- increased public access to FAIR²⁸⁰ data and knowledge on soil pollution and the emergence of human diseases and other health outcomes;
- policymakers enforce the implementation of long-term, sustainable solutions that enhance soil health, restore the environment, and protect public health.

Scope: Across the European Union, an estimated 2.8 million land sites are potentially contaminated. Exposure to soil pollution poses serious health risks and is estimated to contribute to around 500,000 premature deaths worldwide each year²⁸¹. People can be exposed directly, through skin contact or inhalation of dust from polluted soils, or indirectly, by consuming contaminated food or drinking water.

Despite numerous studies clearly demonstrating the harmful effects of soil pollution on human health²⁸², public awareness of the risks associated with contaminated sites remains limited.

Community-based participatory research²⁸³, which directly involves populations living and/or working in polluted or potentially²⁸⁴ polluted sites, will help, to identify and map human diseases and health outcomes driven by soil pollution, and increase public awareness of the environmental and health the risks related to soil pollution.

Proposals should:

- implement community-based participatory research activities to engage with populations living or working in close contact with polluted (or potentially polluted²⁸⁵) sites to

²⁸⁰ Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable.

²⁸¹ [Landrigan et al. \(2018\)](#). The *Lancet* Commission on pollution and health, [The Lancet Volume 391, Issue 10119](#), 3–9 February 2018, Pages 462-512.

²⁸² <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/zero-pollution/health/soil-pollution>.

²⁸³ This excludes the sampling of polluted soil by non-experts. The population involved in the research activities should never be exposed to additional risks caused by soil pollution. The participation of the population already exposed to soil pollution is meant through interviews/questionnaires/focus groups or other social science methodologies.

²⁸⁴ Potentially polluted sites refer to areas of land where there is a high probability or it is strongly believed that the soil is contaminated with harmful substances, but it has not yet been fully confirmed or assessed.

²⁸⁵ If a proposal decides to work on potentially polluted sites, or sites at risk of pollution or sites which communities suspect to be polluted, appropriate tests that demonstrate that sites are polluted should be done by experts in soil contamination.

identify and map human diseases and other health outcomes and their incidence in these areas;

- consider and explore direct (e.g., skin contact with soils) and indirect (e.g., consumption of contaminated food) soil-related drivers of human disease and ill-health as relevant;
- engage private entities with industrial operations in polluted sites and which work with potential pollutants, involving them as stakeholders in the research to jointly devise mitigation and remediation strategies and demonstrate corporate responsibility;
- propose locally relevant interventions that foster community resilience against soil pollution and deliver recommendations to policymakers at relevant level of governance to regulate decontamination, promote reuse of land when possible, and protect public health.

Proposals should prioritise the conditions with significant unmet medical need and the populations most vulnerable to the detrimental effects of soil pollution. Proposed approaches should incorporate both qualitative and quantitative research and leverage lived experiences data where possible.

This topic requires an interdisciplinary approach involving experts on land and soil contamination, epidemiology and in social-science and humanities (SSH) disciplines in particular sociology and anthropology.

Proposals are expected to build on existing results and relevant projects.

Proposals should include dedicated tasks and appropriate resources for coordination measures and joint activities with other relevant Horizon Europe projects and initiatives funded under the Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”, including engagement with the relevant cluster activities.

Proposals should demonstrate a route towards open access, longevity, sustainability and interoperability of knowledge and outputs through close collaboration with the European Union Soil Observatory (EUSO) and SoilWise.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-SOIL-03: Innovative microbial and biofertilizers products to improve soil health, crop productivity and decontaminate polluted soils

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 6.00 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 12.00 million.

<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities are expected to achieve TRL [5-6] by the end of the project – see General Annex B.

Expected Outcome: Activities under this topic will help progress towards the objectives and targets of the Mission ‘A Soil Deal for Europe’ and should also contribute to meeting the targets of the EU Soil Strategy for 2030 and the Life Science Strategy. Activities should thereby contribute to meeting the objectives on improving soil management and environmental performance of the Vision for Agriculture and Food

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- increased soil health and crop productivity through effective locally adapted microbiome-driven soil improvers;
- increased deployment of innovative microbial and biotechnology solutions and in situ applications - that improve soil health, crop productivity and decontaminate soils of heavy metals and toxic compounds (i.e.: microplastics, pesticide residuals);
- improved microbial (including fungi) soil-plant networks that improve soil resistance to soil biotic and abiotic stressors while also improving crop productivity.

Scope: Europe faces increasing challenges due to soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and the expanding impacts of climate change. Addressing these issues is essential for ensuring food security and sustainable land use. The integration of biotechnology can play a transformative role in this regard. Evaluating and implementing biotechnology solutions to improve soil health can significantly enhance crop productivity by restoring essential nutrients and microbial balance in the soil. Moreover, biotechnology offers promising techniques to decontaminate and rehabilitate degraded lands, thus boosting the ecological and economic value of underutilized areas. By establishing that these solutions are scalable and cost-effective, we ensure they are adaptable to the varied environmental conditions and land-use types found across Europe. Collaboration in developing and piloting innovative applications of microorganisms and biofertilizers will drive improvements in soil fertility, thereby supporting a more resilient agricultural system. Additionally, the development of novel biofertilizers, biostimulants, and microbial inoculants, founded on existing knowledge of nutrient cycles and mycorrhizal networks, promises to revolutionize sustainable farming practices.

Proposals should:

- evaluate the use of biotechnology solutions to improve soil health for a better crop productivity – and the use of biotechnology solutions that decontaminate soils and restore lands;
- ensure that these biotechnology solutions are scalable, cost-effective, and applicable across diverse environmental conditions and land-use types;

- develop and pilot innovative sustainable solutions of microorganisms’ and biofertilizers applications that improve soil fertility, and crop productivity;
- develop innovative biofertilizers and microbial inoculants production leveraging on the existing knowledge about nutrient cycles and mycorrhizal networks in soils.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-SOIL-01-two-stage: Living labs to enhance soil health in Continental, Black Sea, Pannonian and Steppic biogeographical regions

Call: Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 12.00 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 24.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Procedure</i>	<p>The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Proposals must focus either on the Continental biogeographical region or on one or more of the following three smaller biogeographical regions: Black Sea, Pannonian and Steppic. This means that the majority of the living labs of each proposal must be located either within the Continental biogeographical region or within one or more of the three smaller biogeographical regions (Black Sea, Pannonian and Steppic). Proposals must clearly indicate their focus (either on the Continental biogeographical region or on one or more of the three smaller biogeographical regions above mentioned). Grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but also to at least one project focusing on the Continental biogeographical region and to one project focusing on one or more of the three smaller biogeographical regions (Black Sea, Pannonian and Steppic), provided that proposals attain all thresholds.</p> <p>* Biogeographical regions in Europe according to the European Environmental Agency.</p>
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties to facilitate active involvement of smaller actors (e.g. land managers and owners such as farmers, SMEs or civil society) in one or more of the living labs of the project. The support to third parties can only be provided in the</p>

	form of grants. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 60 000.
<i>Eligibility and admissibility conditions</i>	Proposals must apply the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in the introduction to this work programme part.

Expected Outcome: Activities under this topic respond directly to the goal of the Mission ‘[A Soil Deal for Europe](#)’ (Mission Soil) to set up 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition to healthy soils by 2030. They support the specific objectives of the Mission Soil (see the [Mission implementation plan](#)).

Activities should also contribute to meeting the European Green Deal ambitions and targets and more specifically those of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), the [EU soil strategy for 2030](#) and the [proposal for a Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive](#), the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#), the [Communication on Boosting Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing in the EU](#), as well as to Sustainable Development Goals 15 on Life on land and 3 on Good health and well-being.

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- increased capacities for participatory, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary R&I to co-create, and co-implement economically viable soil health solutions, including improved monitoring and standardized soil data at local and regional levels;
- increased availability of practice-oriented knowledge and tools for land managers and land users, leading to better adoption of effective soil health solutions in diverse contexts;
- better understanding of processes driving soil health in the biogeographical regions where the living labs are implemented;
- policy makers are more aware of local needs regarding soil health including the economic sustainability of solutions and use this knowledge to design and implement more effective policies to enhance soil health.

Scope: The Mission Soil proposes the deployment of living labs as a novel approach to research and innovation in soil health²⁸⁶. Living labs have the potential to facilitate a green transition by involving multiple actors in real-life sites within a local/regional setting to co-create soil health solutions and achieve large-scale impacts on soil health and soil governance. Projects funded under this topic should deploy a number of living labs to expand and complement the network of soil health living labs initiated in previous Mission Soil topics to gradually establish 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030²⁸⁷.

²⁸⁶ See [Implementation Plans for the EU Missions - European Commission](#)

²⁸⁷ See [Catalogue 2024 - Mission Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses](#) | [Mission Soil Platform](#)

Soil health living labs are long-term collaborations between multiple actors to address common soil health challenges in real-life sites at local or regional level²⁸⁸ (10 to 20 sites in each living lab). Depending on the level at which each living lab operates and the specific context (e.g. land use covered, or soil health challenge addressed), applicants can exceptionally propose living labs with fewer sites. Living labs can address soil health challenges in or across different land uses (agricultural, (peri-)urban, (post)-industrial, forest and (semi-)natural). Individual sites can be farms, forest holdings, urban green²⁸⁹ areas, industrial areas, etc., where work is carried-out and monitored under real-life conditions. Sites that are exemplary in their performance in terms of soil health improvement and serve as places for demonstration of solutions, training and communication are lighthouses. Lighthouse sites can be part of a living lab or be situated outside a living lab. Projects funded under this topic are expected to kick-start participatory process or build on existing ones. While normally projects run for four years, the duration of the projects under this topic should accommodate longer timescales required to establish participatory processes and/or for soils processes to take place.

Actors working on common shared soil health challenge(s) within and across the living labs of the same project, will be able to compare results, exchange good practices, validate methodologies, replicate actions and solutions and benefit from cross-fertilisation, thereby accelerating the transition towards the shared objective of improving soil health.

Proposals should:

- support the establishment of four to five living labs either in the Continental biogeographical region or in one or more of the following three smaller biogeographical regions: Black Sea, Pannonian and Steppic²⁹⁰. Proposals must clearly indicate their focus (either on the Continental biogeographical region or on one or more of the three smaller biogeographical regions above mentioned) and should establish the majority of the living labs within the chosen focus biogeographical region(s). Living labs under each proposal should work together on common soil health challenge(s) relevant to the selected biogeographical region(s). The living labs should be located in at least three different Member States and/or Associated Countries. Proposals should explain the rationale and mechanism for cooperation within and across the living labs and how the work undertaken will contribute to one or more of the Mission's specific objectives²⁹¹. Proposals with all living labs working on solutions to tackle eutrophication, are excluded from this topic as a dedicated topic is opened in this work programme (HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-SOIL-06: Co-creating solutions to reduce eutrophication in Living Labs);

²⁸⁸ In this topic, it is recommended to define the living labs location using the NUTS2 division ([Eurostat Statistical Atlas](#)).

²⁸⁹ By urban green areas, we refer to green spaces in cities such as parks, gardens, green roofs or walls, green corridors, squares, recreational areas, etc.

²⁹⁰ [Biogeographical regions in Europe](#) according to the European Environmental Agency

²⁹¹ Mission Soil specific objectives: reduce land degradation relating to desertification; conserve and increase soil organic carbon stocks, no net soil sealing and increase the reuse of urban soils; reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration; prevent erosion; improve soil structure to enhance habitat quality for soil biota and crops; reduce the EU global footprint on soils; increase soil literacy in society.

- establish an interdisciplinary, participatory and multi-actor approach in the living labs to co-design, co-develop, and co-implement locally adapted solutions (practices, tools, strategies, etc.) for the common soil health challenge(s) taking into account relevant soil health drivers and pressures²⁹². Proposed solutions should be adapted to the different environmental, socio-economic and cultural contexts in which the living labs are operating;
- establish, for each living lab, a baseline of the soil conditions to allow for an accurate monitoring over time of soil health improvements as well as the effects of the proposed solutions on soil health and associated ecosystem services in the different sites of the living labs. The set of soil health indicators/descriptors presented in the proposal for a [Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience](#) should be used as a basis; proposals may complement with additional indicators tailored to the addressed soil health challenge(s), pedoclimatic conditions, land use, and other local/regional factors;
- demonstrate the technical, social, economic, cultural and environmental viability of the proposed solutions, as well as their potential scalability and transferability to diverse contexts;
- identify high performing sites that may be converted into lighthouses, either at proposal stage or later, during project implementation. Engage with SOILL²⁹³ project to assess the growth and development of these lighthouses and to support the establishment of a labelling process that could formally recognize these exemplary sites as lighthouses;
- propose strategies (e.g., financial, organisational) to ensure the long-term sustainability of the established living labs beyond the Horizon Europe funding. Strategies should include the identification of possible business models and actions involving a mix of public or private funding schemes, financial instruments, cooperation with local authorities, engagement of social economy entities, social enterprises, business communities, SMEs, as well as attracting investors and entrepreneurs.

A Soil Deal for Europe: Other Actions

1. Improving soil health and resilience in UNESCO designated sites

Expected impact: global soil health and resilience to climate change is improved.

Expected outcomes:

- soil health and soil resilience to climate change are improved in UNESCO designated sites through innovative and sustainable soil management practices;

²⁹² See [Soil Needs and Drivers of Change Across Europe and Land Use Types - Booklet](#) from PREPSOIL project

²⁹³ See www.soill2030.eu/about-us

- new knowledge and FAIR²⁹⁴ data on soil health are generated, shared and made available, in particular in and among UNESCO designated sites;
- national soil policies supporting sustainable land management practices are strengthened;
- general awareness on the importance of soil health and resilience, as well as soil literacy are increased.

Scope:

This indirectly managed action contributes to the implementation of the Mission Soil, by strengthening its international dimension, as well as to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 15 – life on land, SDG 2 – zero hunger, and SDG 13 – climate action.

Considering its unique and powerful role in promoting sustainable development through science, education, culture, and knowledge sharing across the world, and its initiatives under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme aimed at improving human livelihoods and safeguarding natural and managed ecosystems, which include soils, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the designated beneficiary of this indirectly managed action.

The aim of this indirectly managed action is to improve global soil health and resilience through research, monitoring and capacity building in UNESCO designated sites.

UNESCO should:

- pilot, monitor and evaluate innovative and sustainable land management initiatives aimed at improving soil health and resilience, while contributing to foster sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, and climate mitigation and adaptation;
- generate new knowledge and FAIR data on soils, soil health and soil biodiversity. Information should be shared among UNESCO networks and made accessible to the general public;
- create a multi-stakeholder expert group to engage the necessary expertise and mobilise relevant organisations to contribute to the achievement of the expected outcomes;
- engage with a representative number of UNESCO Member States (at least one for each global region) to strengthen national policies for the protection and restoration of soil health;
- provide policy advice, guidelines and capacity building activities to encourage policymakers to adopt policies aimed at supporting sustainable land management practices;

²⁹⁴ Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable.

- organise training, peer-to-peer learning and capacity building activities to share knowledge and sustainable land management practices among UNESCO site leaders and communities;
- develop awareness raising campaigns and educational materials on the importance of soil, and to encourage actions for the protection and restoration of soil health and resilience.

UNESCO should collaborate with the Mission Soil Secretariat. It should include dedicated tasks and appropriate resources for coordination measures and joint activities with other relevant Horizon Europe projects and initiatives funded under the Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”, including engagement with the relevant cluster activities.

UNESCO should demonstrate a route towards open access, longevity, sustainability and interoperability of knowledge and outputs through close collaboration with the European Union Soil Observatory (EUSO) and SoilWise.

Legal entities:

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 7 place Fontenoy 75007 Paris, France

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative budget: EUR 2.53 million from the 2026 budget²⁹⁵

2. Technical and scientific support for the development of an EU soil monitoring framework

Scientific and technical services by the Joint Research Centre

- **Technical and scientific support for the implementation of Mission Soil**

The JRC will:

- Support the Mission Soil Secretariat in co-ordinating and achieving the outputs and outcomes of the Mission Implementation Plan, in particular the building block “Monitoring and indicators”.
- Continuously update the EUSO Soil Degradation Dashboard, incorporating data coming from Mission Soil projects and other sources, and monitor, assess and report the evolution of soil health in the EU over time.
- Building on the EUSO Dashboard, develop a tool to assess progress against the Mission’s specific objectives.

²⁹⁵ Of which EUR 2.53 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

- Support the Mission Soil Secretariat in working with the Mission Soil Platform.
- Integrate Mission Soil project outputs (data, knowledge) in the EU Soil Observatory (EUSO) and in the Mission Soil Platform as relevant, and support feedback to policy.
- Provide technical expertise and operational capacity to support the Mission Secretariat's exchanges with Member States, Associated Countries, other policymakers, the scientific community and other stakeholders.
- Provide methodological support and technical guidance for the Living Labs' implementation, in particular for monitoring and reporting on soil health.

Type of Action: Provision of technical/scientific services by the Joint Research Centre

Indicative timetable: from 3rd quarter of 2026 to 2030 (four years)

Indicative budget: EUR 2.00 million from the 2026 budget²⁹⁶

3. Specific Grant Agreement for a Living Lab Support Structure

Within the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) awarded under topic HORIZON-MISS-2022-SOIL-01-08: Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for a living lab network support structure, the selected consortium is invited to submit a proposal for a Specific Grant Agreement (SGA). This SGA will cover the last three years of the FPA (2028-2030). One single proposal should be submitted. **The evaluation committee will be composed fully by representatives of EU institutions.**

The support structure under this SGA should continue to implement the action plan presented under the FPA while building on the needs and gaps identified by the first two SGAs (SOILL-Startup and SOILL-Stepup), and the European Commission.

Proposed activities should:

- Give continuity to the activities of the first two SGAs in terms of tailored support to Mission Soil funded living labs and lighthouses (LL & LH), in the form of advice in their day-to-day operations (including on technical, networking and communication aspects), capacity building, training, knowledge sharing and monitoring. The SGA should also provide selected services to other LL & LH working on soil health issues, created by other projects within or outside the Mission Soil or by other programmes. Finally, the SGA should expand its activities to support emerging soil health initiatives (including existing on the ground experiments), showing potential to develop in mature LL & LH.
- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, data, findings and experiences within and across LL & LH (with a focus on, but not limited to, those funded under the Mission Soil) and with key stakeholders and other projects, where co-design, testing and evaluation of

²⁹⁶ Of which EUR 2.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

innovative soil management practices and technologies, as well as capacity building, will take place. To this end, the SGA should continue identifying common areas of interest between funded LL & LH - particularly those operating in the same biogeographical regions-to engage them in concrete actions that create synergies and capitalise on the wealth of existing experiences and resources. Activities should result in the creation of working groups, in the production of learning material and tools addressing specific technical themes (e.g. particular soil challenges or land uses) as well as transversal aspects (e.g. data management, monitoring, use of digital tools, integration of social sciences and humanities (SSH) in research and innovation). The participation in or collaboration with other working groups or project clusters should be foreseen. In addition to enhancing operational capacities of living lab partners, the exchange of experiences should serve to promote a wider dialogue between the various living labs on their contribution to the Mission's objectives and to discuss possibilities for scaling up activities beyond the living lab areas.

- Support the Mission Soil LL & LH projects in establishing a route towards open access, longevity, sustainability and interoperability of knowledge and outputs through close collaboration with the European Union Soil Observatory (EUSO) and the project [SoilWise](#). The SGA should contribute to the continuous flow of high-quality information on local soil health conditions to support Member States in implementing the future Soil Monitoring Law. Likewise, the SGA will help identify and disseminate sustainable soil management practices and solutions created, tested and demonstrated in LL & LH, so that these are widely known and can be accessed by potential users beyond the living lab areas. The SGA should also flag opportunities for the living labs to make use of data and services available from European Research Infrastructures federated under the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) or from relevant Data Spaces, as indicated in the Soil Mission implementation plan.
- Promote the creation of new LL & LH by providing potential applicants with information, guidelines, recommendations and dedicated services (such as a helpdesk support, capacity building material, mentoring and matchmaking tools) on the Mission's living lab concept and its implementation as well as with ideas for collaboration. The SGA should reach a wide audience and engage new stakeholders, notably in biogeographical regions where living labs are still underrepresented, supporting the Mission Soil in ensuring a balanced coverage of the growing network of LL & LH.
- Help Mission Soil LL & LH in developing strategies to sustain their activities beyond the lifetime of each project. This will include assisting living lab partners in the development of financial plans and long-term management plans, as well as strengthening connections with local business communities, in particular SMEs, investors and other commercial stakeholders as well as social economy entities and social enterprises. To this end, the SGA should also assist applicants to Mission Soil LL topics to explore new public or private funding schemes and financial instruments, involving, where relevant, finance providers such as financial institutions and investors.

- Apply the harmonized LL monitoring & evaluation framework developed by SOILL-Startup for the monitoring of Mission Soil LL progress and for targeting capacity building needs depending on their level of development. Identify, using the monitoring & evaluation framework those European initiatives that are aligned to the Mission Soil objectives & criteria and that can be labelled as ‘European Soil LL’.
- Support Mission Soil LLs in the identification and/or the setting up of LHs as well as in the networking among them during and beyond Horizon Europe funding. Help LHs to enhance their ability to demonstrate and disseminate practice-oriented knowledge and tools, including on business models, harvested from the Mission Soil projects. Assist LHs in their transition assessing growth and development against a defined criteria and employ a labelling process to formally recognize these exemplary sites as lighthouses. Ensure a greater impact of LHs activities by outreaching to relevant stakeholders outside the LL or the Mission Soil projects by organizing trainings for farmers, foresters or policymakers, when justified. Engage with the network of operational groups (OGs) under the EU CAP network to maximize the synergy between them (e.g. encouraging OGs to leverage results showcased in lighthouses or encouraging lighthouses to involve OGs in their activities). Foster collaboration among LHs as well as with businesses, and public institutions for obtaining further funding opportunities and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the lighthouses beyond the Horizon Europe.
- Continue monitoring and assessing the performance of the LL & LH in a systematic way and report the main trends, achievements, experiences and challenges encountered when working within a living lab approach. The periodicity of the quantitative reporting should be agreed with the Mission Secretariat. A detailed qualitative evaluation of the progress of the funded living lab projects should be reported in a yearly basis. These reports should bring together and complement the information arising from monitoring activities performed by each of the funded living lab projects on their proposed solutions to identified soil health challenges. Close cooperation with the MSP regarding reporting and monitoring requirements of the Mission Soil is essential.
- Maintain and further develop the SOILL Hub initiated by SOILL-Startup and other tools and services for information, dissemination, exchange of experiences and outreach, integrating and further developing existing information and resources. Through the provision of a collaborative space for LL & LH partners, the web-portal should support the establishment of a dynamic and inclusive community of practice.
- Maintain and further develop an interactive map of Soil health LL & LH clearly distinguishing those LL & LH funded under dedicated topics of the Mission Soil (Mission Soil LL & LH); other soil health LL & LH created under other projects or other programmes that align to the Mission Soil criteria (European Soil LL & LH); and emerging and growing soil health initiatives (including existing on the ground experiments) showing potential to develop in mature LL & LH.
- Produce regular newsflashes and an electronic newsletter to support the evolving community of practice of LL. Communication and outreach should benefit LL & LH

operating as part of the Mission Soil or outside, as well as a wide range of stakeholders and the wider public.

- Offer training activities and capacity building for soil managers, landowners, advisors and relevant authorities on sustainable soil management practices, as well as activities to support soil education and citizen engagement, in line with and in support of the objectives of the future Soil Monitoring Law.

Specific Conditions:

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion, and procedure are provided in parts A to G of the [General Annexes](#).

This action will be implemented through a Coordination and Support Action (CSA). Legal entities established in non-associated third countries may exceptionally participate in this coordination and support action.

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Specific grant agreement awarded without call for proposals in relation to a Framework Partnership Agreement

Indicative budget: EUR 7.00 million from the 2027 budget²⁹⁷

Cross-cutting Actions

1. Mission Integration Award

Expected outcomes:

- Reward the coordination of actions at national and regional level to embed the EU Missions in local R&I plans and activities
- Reward the planification of co-funding actions at national and regional level to embed the EU Missions in local R&I plans and activities
- Bridge research and innovation actions with thematic policy activities in the areas addressed by the EU Missions

EU Missions aim to tackle complex societal challenges through coordinated action across EU, national, regional and local levels. Engagement at national and regional levels is therefore essential for the success of EU Missions, as it ensures alignment with local priorities and needs, mobilises key actors, and supports the deployment of solutions on the ground. Such strong multi-level cooperation enables the more effective implementation, greater impact, and lasting change that EU Missions call for.

²⁹⁷ Of which EUR 7.00 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget.

The Mission Integration Award calls on national and local authorities to devise and deploy new activities to implement EU Missions. The contestants are invited to submit their plans to support one or several of the following areas:

- Integrate further the EU Missions in programmes at national and local level.
- Bridging between research and innovation activities and other thematic policies, activities and frameworks beyond R&I
- Coordinate national or regional level activities supporting EU Missions
- Deploying solutions on the ground for the achievement of EU Missions' objectives
- Engage citizens on the thematics covered by EU Missions

The award is organised as an open contest for proposals, and MS/ACs and local authorities can propose plans that either address a single Missions, several Missions, or all five of them. This is to ensure that creative proposals can be submitted without prejudice to the specificities of each local context.

Due to the scale of the proposed plans, MS/ACs and regional authorities are encouraged to propose solutions to adequately finance their plans beyond the amount that would be awarded in the context of the prize. Securing additional funding beyond the award amount will be viewed as a strength in the evaluation process, reflecting the plan's ambition and implementation potential.

Four types of awards will be open to submission, based on the different sets of entities and priorities:

1. Ecosystems – for MS/ACs: authorities are invited to submit plans for activities aiming at fostering synergies between the R&I authorities and other ministries and agencies focused on the five topics addressed by the EU Missions.
2. Anchoring – for MS/ACs: authorities are invited to submit plans for activities to embed EU Missions in the context of other national initiatives.
3. Knowledge valorisation – for regions: authorities are invited to submit plans for activities to exploit and deploy innovative solutions in their local context.
4. Citizen engagement – for regions: authorities are invited to submit plans for activities engaging citizens in the context of EU Missions activities at local level.

Each prize will consist in a cash contribution to the winning MS/AC or regional authority to implement the proposed plan. The following amounts would be distributed:

1. Ecosystems – MS/ACs: three prizes of EUR 500 000
2. Anchoring – MS/ACs: three prizes of EUR 500 000
3. Knowledge valorisation – regions: three prizes of EUR 500 000

4. Citizen engagement – regions: three prizes of EUR 500 000

Essential Award Criteria:

Eligible applications will be evaluated by a Jury consisting of a group of independent experts. The prize will be awarded, after closure of the contest, to the contestants who, in the eyes of the jury, presented the plans that best tackle:

- **Novelty:** the plan proposes a set of actions that have not been performed yet in the context of the EU Missions and that represent a different direction from current national/regional activities
- **Impact:** the plan proposes a pathway to impact that clearly shows the expected importance of EU Missions in the national/regional context
- **Ambition and secured funding:** the plan benefits from additional funding to what the prize would allow for, both from the implementing authority's own budget and from external sources
- **Relevance for the category:** the plan answers to the issues highlighted in the category's conceptualisation

It is essential that plans submitted under the framework of this topic do not overlap with existing activities, programmes, and structures currently functioning at the EU, national, and regional level.

Eligibility criteria:

The contestants must be:

- national ministries or agencies based in a member state of the European Union, or a country associated to Horizon Europe for the “Ecosystems” and “Anchoring” categories
- regional authorities under the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) level 2 for the “Knowledge valorisation” and “Citizen engagement” categories.

To ensure fairness, broad recognition, and the equitable distribution of awards, the following limitations shall apply to the allocation of prizes within this competition:

- An individual or entity that has been selected as the recipient of a prize in one category shall be deemed ineligible to receive a prize in any other category within the same competition cycle. This restriction is intended to prevent the concentration of awards and to recognize the efforts of a diverse range of participants.
- More specifically, a participant whose plan has been rewarded in the scope of the Mission Integration Award — which is intended to stimulate innovation and encourage the development of novel approaches or solutions — shall not be eligible to receive a Mission Engagement Award for the same plan, as the prize is designed to honour outstanding achievement or excellence in implementation or impact prior to the establishment of the Mission Integration Award

This exclusion shall be applied strictly. In instances where a participant may be under consideration for multiple categories, the awarding body shall exercise discretion to determine the most appropriate category in which to confer the prize, taking into account the nature of the achievement, the merit of the submission, and the overall distribution of recognition among competitors.

This action supports the follow up to the July 2023 Communication* on EU Missions assessment.* Commission Communication: EU Missions two years on: assessment of progress and way forward COM(2023) 457 final (link <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023DC0457&qid=1693304388860>) and Commission Staff Working Document: COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT EU Missions two years on: An assessment of progress in shaping the future we want and reporting on the review of Mission Areas and areas for institutionalised partnerships based on Articles 185 and 187 TFEU SWD(2023) 260 final (link <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023SC0260>)

Form of Funding: Prizes

Type of Action: Inducement Prize

Indicative budget: EUR 6.00 million from the 2026 budget²⁹⁸

2. Mission Engagement Award

Expected outcomes:

- Reward engagement and innovative approaches towards and uptake of the EU Missions at the national and regional level
- Showcase best practices and inspire local authorities for the interaction between the EU Missions and the national and regional level

EU Missions aim to tackle complex societal challenges through coordinated action across EU, national, regional and local levels. Engagement at national and regional levels is therefore essential for the success of EU Missions, as it ensures alignment with local priorities and needs, mobilises key actors, and supports the deployment of solutions on the ground. Such strong multi-level cooperation enables the more effective implementation, greater impact, and lasting change that EU Missions call for.

The Mission Engagement Award wants to celebrate those national and local authorities that have gone to great efforts to support the goals of the EU Missions, translating them into actions at the national or regional level. The contestants are invited to submit past initiatives aimed at supporting one or several of the following areas:

- Integrate further the EU Missions in programmes at national and local level.

²⁹⁸ Of which EUR 6.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

- Bridging between research and innovation activities and other thematic policies, activities and frameworks beyond R&I
- Coordinate national or regional level activities supporting EU Missions
- Deploying solutions on the ground for the achievement of EU Missions' objectives
- Engage citizens on the thematics covered by EU Missions

The award is organised as an open contest for proposals, and MS/ACs and local authorities are encouraged to submit past/ongoing activities that either address a single Missions, several Missions, or all five of them. This is to ensure that all proposals can be submitted without prejudice to the specificities of each local context.

Four types of awards will be open to submission, based on the different sets of entities and priorities:

1. Ecosystems – for MS/ACs: authorities are invited to submit past/ongoing activities aiming at fostering synergies between the R&I authorities and other ministries and agencies focused on the five topics addressed by the EU Missions.
2. Anchoring – for MS/ACs: authorities are invited to submit past/ongoing activities to embed EU Missions in the context of other national initiatives.
3. Knowledge valorisation – for regions: authorities are invited to submit past/ongoing activities to exploit and deploy innovative solutions in their local context.
4. Citizen engagement – for regions: authorities are invited to submit past/ongoing activities engaging citizens in the context of EU Missions activities at local level.

Each prize will consist in a cash contribution to the winning MS/AC or regional authority to implement the proposed plan. The following amounts would be distributed:

1. Ecosystems – MS/ACs: two prizes of EUR 500 000
2. Anchoring – MS/ACs: two prizes of EUR 500 000
3. Knowledge valorisation – regions: two prizes of EUR 500 000
4. Citizen engagement – regions: two prizes of EUR 500 000

Essential Award Criteria:

Eligible applications will be evaluated by a Jury consisting of a group of independent experts. The prize will be awarded, after closure of the contest, to the contestants who, in the eyes of the jury, presented the activities that best tackled:

- Novelty: the activity implemented a set of actions that had not been performed yet in the context of other EU programmes and that represented a different direction from previous national/regional activities

- Impact: the activity implemented a pathway to impact that resulted in achievements otherwise not reachable without adopting specific actions
- Additionality: the activity implemented benefitted from additional funding from different sources than the implementing authority's own budget
- Next steps: the implementing authority has planned a continuation of the activity and has created mechanisms for its sustainability over time
- Relevance for the category: the activity implemented answers to the issues highlighted in the category's conceptualisation

Eligibility criteria:

The contestants must be:

- national ministries or agencies based in a member state of the European Union, or a country associated to Horizon Europe for the “Ecosystems” and “Anchoring” categories
- regional authorities under the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) level 2 for the “Knowledge valorisation” and “Citizen engagement” categories.

To ensure fairness, broad recognition, and the equitable distribution of awards, the following limitations shall apply to the allocation of prizes within this competition:

- An individual or entity that has been selected as the recipient of a prize in one category shall be deemed ineligible to receive a prize in any other category within the same competition cycle. This restriction is intended to prevent the concentration of awards and to recognize the efforts of a diverse range of participants.
- More specifically, a participant whose plan has been rewarded in the scope of the Mission Integration Award — which is intended to stimulate innovation and encourage the development of novel approaches or solutions — shall not be eligible to receive a Mission Engagement Award for the same plan, as the prize is designed to honour outstanding achievement or excellence in implementation or impact prior to the establishment of the Mission Integration Award

This exclusion shall be applied strictly. In instances where a participant may be under consideration for multiple categories, the awarding body shall exercise discretion to determine the most appropriate category in which to confer the prize, taking into account the nature of the achievement, the merit of the submission, and the overall distribution of recognition among competitors.

This action supports the follow up to the July 2023 Communication* on EU Missions assessment. * Commission Communication: EU Missions two years on: assessment of progress and way forward COM(2023) 457 final (link <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023DC0457&qid=1693304388860>) and Commission Staff Working Document: COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT EU Missions two years on: An assessment of progress in shaping the future we want and reporting on the

review of Mission Areas and areas for institutionalised partnerships based on Articles 185 and 187 TFEU SWD(2023) 260 final (link <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023SC0260>)

Form of Funding: Prizes

Type of Action: Recognition Prize

Indicative budget: EUR 4.00 million from the 2027 budget²⁹⁹

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²⁹⁹ Of which EUR 4.00 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget.

EU Missions' Joint Calls

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MISS-2026-06-01-CIT-NEB-B4P: Introducing circular economy models in the construction sector, from buildings to city scale

Call: Joint Call between the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, the New European Bauhaus and the Build4People Partnership	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 9.50 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 38.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply: At least three cities, each from a different Member State or Associated Country, must participate as beneficiaries. At least one of the three cities must be one of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities ³⁰⁰ .
<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s): HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03 Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform ³⁰¹ is essential and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and

³⁰⁰ The EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities aims to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. On 28 April 2022, the Commission announced the 100 EU cities that will participate in the Mission. In addition, 12 cities have been selected from countries associated or expected to be associated the Horizon Europe programme.

³⁰¹ Set up by Horizon 2020 project NetZeroCities - Accelerating cities' transition to net zero emissions by 2030, Grant Agreement n. 101036519, and scaled up through topic *HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-03: Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Platform*.

	<p>resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date.</p> <p>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) ³⁰².</p>
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Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Measurable reduction in the energy and other resources use and the whole life-cycle GHG emissions of buildings³⁰³ and building stock (residential and non-residential) by introducing circular economy activities at building, district and city level;
- Measurable reduction in the material footprint of buildings and building stock;
- New and replicable business models for increased application of circularity principles in buildings and construction products.

Scope: Applying circularity principles in the construction sector at building, district and city level can reduce the whole life-cycle GHG emissions and support more efficient resource use of the building stock, and help deliver climate-neutral and smart cities, and a more sustainable built environment. To achieve this, there is a need for tools, solutions and associated business models with market potential that facilitate the adoption of inclusive circular construction economy models, as well as a more efficient use of buildings, ultimately reducing the need to extract raw materials

Proposals are expected to address all of the following:

- Develop and demonstrate tools and solutions at district or city level to support the introduction of circularity principles in the construction sector, and quantify their impacts (for example: urban mining; reuse and recycling of construction products and materials and other resources, use of secondary biobased materials; building's innovative and adaptive design, renovation, and repurposing of buildings in line with waste prevention and circular economy principles).
- Develop and demonstrate solutions for the diagnosis and performance characterisation of already used construction products and demolition waste, in terms of their condition and

³⁰² This [decision](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

³⁰³ See Article 2(24) of Directive (EU) 2024/1275

potential reuse, and to create inventories of reclaimed products and materials, as well as appropriate business models including marketplace tools with components and material banks.

- Develop and demonstrate whole life-cycle GHG emissions inventories of buildings to support decision-making and public actions in line with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) recast.
- Contribute to reducing regulatory barriers and developing standards, where relevant.
- Ensure the integration of different value chains, active involvement of all relevant construction sector stakeholders, policy-makers and the people impacted by the solutions developed, including SMEs, building owners, local authorities and civil society.
- Demonstrate the proposed tools and solutions in at least three cities, each from a different Member State or Associated Country, including with a view to showcase potential for large scale cross-border re-use of construction materials and products. The cities must participate as beneficiaries. At least one of the three cities must be one of the 112 cities participating in the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities.

Under the guidance of the relevant Executive Agency and with input of the European Commission, the selected projects will engage in clustering activities with other relevant projects supported under the Cities Mission to promote synergies and complementarities.

This topic implements the co-programmed European Partnership on ‘People-centric sustainable built environment’ (Built4People). As such, projects resulting from this topic will be expected to contribute to the objectives of Built4People and its network of innovation clusters³⁰⁴ and report on results to Built4People in support of the monitoring of its KPIs.

This topic also implements the New European Bauhaus (NEB). As such, projects resulting from this topic will be expected to interact with the NEB hub for results and impact, the NEB Community, and other relevant actions of the NEB initiative through sharing information, best practice, and results.

This action supports the follow-up to the July 2023 Communication on EU Missions assessment³⁰⁵.

HORIZON-MISS-2026-08-CLIMA-SOIL: Joint demonstration of solutions to build soil resilience to extreme weather events and support food security

Call: Joint Call between the Soil Deal for Europe Mission and the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission

Specific conditions

<i>Expected EU</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR
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³⁰⁴ https://built4people.eu/b4pic_network
³⁰⁵ COM(2023) 457 final and SWD(2023) 260 final

<i>contribution per project</i>	10.00 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 20.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- regions and local authorities improve the monitoring and resilience of soils with regard to extreme weather events, in particular soils' capacity to withstand and recover from floods, droughts, heatwaves and broader temperature fluctuations;
- food security is strengthened by testing and demonstrating land use and soil management practices that are tailored to local pedoclimatic, agro-ecological and socio-economic contexts, improving soil health, promoting sustainable land management, and enhancing the overall resilience of agricultural systems to current and future climate extreme events.

Scope: Developing and scaling practical solutions to enhance soils' resilience to extreme weather events is crucial for climate change adaptation. As extreme weather events like droughts, heavy rainfall and flooding, heatwaves and other temperature anomalies (e.g. unseasonal frosts) become more frequent, widespread and severe, they pose significant threats to soil health, agricultural productivity, and food security at large (due to, *inter alia*, soil erosion, nutrient leaching, increased salinisation, reduction or loss of microbial activity, waterlogging and oxygen depletion, depending on the type of extreme weather event considered). Strengthening soils' resilience at farm, and landscape levels, considering also the preconditions, e.g., in terms of governance, is vital to cope with these challenges. Creating a framework that suits different pedoclimatic conditions and local/regional authorities should help ensure that the best approaches are put in place to maintain food security, promote sustainable farming practices, and that overall landscape resilience to these events is enhanced.

Successful proposals under this topic should support the EU Vision for Agriculture and Food, the EU Soil Strategy for 2030 (including implementation of the Soil Monitoring Law), and the future European Climate Adaptation Plan.

Proposals should:

- develop, test and demonstrate a range of solutions that improve the soils' resilience to extreme weather events, while applying a systems-thinking approach and addressing interactions across farm, landscape, and governance levels. The proposals should also describe how such solutions would support food security, for example by preserving soil productivity and reducing yield volatility caused by extreme weather events;

- develop a transdisciplinary framework to facilitate replication of solutions. This includes enhancing the involvement of relevant public authorities and stakeholders (including to integrate local knowledge) at different management levels, from farm to river basin, and exploring innovative and scalable business models that support food security also in the longer term;
- develop a replicable methodology to assess the impact of extreme weather conditions on soil ecosystem services, including water retention and quality, in the regions and local authorities involved, and on the different [river-basin] stakeholders and land managers using those services.

Demonstration sites and related activities

Under the Missions approach, collaborations to develop and test effective solutions between regions/local authorities facing similar challenges are highly encouraged and considered as a means to secure a larger impact. For this purpose, while the required demonstrations are expected to take place in at least three regions / local authorities, the proposals should already identify other regions and local authorities, where reapplication of the proposed solutions will be suitable as they share common challenges. Inclusion already in the proposal of at least three such “replicating” regions/local authorities, interested in reapplying the lessons learnt (totally, partially or with the required adjustments) in their territories, is required.

Links to the Missions and to other projects and initiatives

Proposals should build (when relevant) upon existing knowledge³⁰⁶ and solutions designed and developed from previous projects addressing the nexus between climate change adaptation, soil and food, funded by EU and national programmes, in particular the European Union Framework programmes for Research and Innovation (such as Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe³⁰⁷ under their different pillars and clusters), and the LIFE programme.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-06-01-CLIMA-CIT-NEB: Urban nature: supporting restoration of urban ecosystems, along urban transport networks and in the built environment

Call: Joint Call between the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission and the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 10.00 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 40.00 million.

³⁰⁶ Such as the future Recommendations of the guidelines for climate resilient landscapes

³⁰⁷ For Mission Adaptation, with particular reference to projects stemming from HORIZON-MISS-2023-CLIMA-01-01 (See: [Search | CORDIS ! European Commission](#))

<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	<p>The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>The following additional eligibility criteria apply:</p> <p>Entities from at least four cities, each from a different Member State or Associated Country, must participate as beneficiaries. At least one of the four cities must be one of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities³⁰⁸ and at least one must be a signatory to the Adaptation Mission Charter³⁰⁹.</p>
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>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)³¹⁰.</p> <p>Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s):</p> <p>Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform and the Mission Adaptation’s Platform is essential and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date.</p>

Expected Outcome: In support of the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation, the Adaptation and Cities Missions, and the New European Bauhaus, projects are expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes:

- Development of approaches, tools and methods, on how and where to restore, increase and maintain urban green space and tree canopy cover to achieve the greatest positive

³⁰⁸ The EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities aims to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. On 28 April 2022, the Commission announced the 100 EU cities that will participate in the Mission. In addition, 12 cities have been selected from countries associated or expected to be associated the Horizon Europe programme.

³⁰⁹ See the list of Charter Signatories <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/the-mission/regions-and-local-authorities>

³¹⁰ This [decision](#) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under ‘Simplified costs decisions’ or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

impacts - on climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, soil, air and water quality, quality of life, disaster resilience, and human health.

- Uptake and deployment of solutions to map, restore, increase and maintain urban green space and tree canopy cover, via pilot sites in lead cities, including along urban transport networks³¹¹.
- Monitoring, evaluation and assessment of the environmental, economic, social and health benefits of the solutions deployed in pilot sites.
- Dissemination of results to follower cities and relevant target groups in other countries and cities.

Scope: To address the expected outcomes, individual projects will be required to address all the following aspects, with at least three in each pilot site:

- Develop and test approaches, tools and methods to understand how different patterns of urban green space and tree canopy cover impact on local temperature regulation / heat island effect, biodiversity, water scarcity, stormwater and landslide management, local air quality; and how changing / increasing the distribution / quantity / connectivity of urban green space and tree canopy cover could help build more resilient and biodiverse urban ecosystems.
- Identify obstacles and barriers limiting the development of urban green spaces and tree planting / maintenance, including interface issues between green structures and underground infrastructure (underground pipes, etc.) and overall root growth and survival, water scarcity and the shortage of supplies of native tree seedlings. Develop innovative solutions that address such barriers and ensure the sustainability of urban green spaces and trees.
- Develop innovative measures and practices to increase urban green space and tree canopy cover, with consideration of what types of trees or other plants are best suited to enhancing biodiversity, supporting climate mitigation and adaptation, improving human health and quality of life while ensuring connectivity to avoid isolated or fragmented solutions.
- Explore multifunctional solutions, addressing infrastructure and urban planning that can bring co-benefits on aspects such as managing stormwater, enhancing biodiversity, providing recreational spaces, sheltering from extreme weather, reducing inequitable access to nature, noise reduction.

All projects are required to

- deploy innovative measures and practices to increase urban green spaces and/or tree canopy cover in at least two pilot sites in two *lead* cities, including at least one pilot site along an urban transport network or in the built environment.

³¹¹ Urban transport networks can include streets, roads, car parks, public transport systems, pavements, waterways and other non-motorized transport infrastructure.

- involve local communities, including disadvantaged groups, and local stakeholders, including public and private land and property owners, in the design and development of these measures and practices
- monitor, evaluate and assess the environmental, economic, social and health impacts of the measures taken in the pilot sites³¹².
- outline plans for ensuring the sustainability and legacy of the efforts beyond the project's duration.

Each project funded under this topic must involve entities³¹³ from at least four cities, each from a different Member State or Associated Country. At least one of the four cities must be one of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities³¹⁴ and at least one must be a signatory to the Adaptation Mission Charter³¹⁵. Pilot sites should be created in at least two *lead* cities, and structured engagement should take place with at least two *follower* cities to share best practices. Proposals should review, build on and connect to other relevant projects funded by Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020, to avoid overlaps or contradicting conclusions³¹⁶.

To increase impact and coherence, proposals should include a mechanism and the resources to establish operational links and collaboration/coordination with the 'Climate-Neutral Smart cities' Mission platform, the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change's Implementation Platform and the Coordination and Support Action 'New European Bauhaus hub for results and impact'. Collaboration with these Platforms is essential, and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal.

Under the guidance of the relevant Executive Agency and with input of the European Commission, the selected projects will engage in clustering activities with other relevant projects supported under the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and Climate Adaption Missions as well as the New European Bauhaus Facility to promote synergies and complementarities. Synergies should also be explored and, as appropriate, pursued with other relevant initiatives, such as the Green City Accord, European Green Capital / Leaf Awards, European Urban Initiative and the Covenant of Mayors.

³¹² Environmental impacts should include at least: air-water-soil quality, ambient temperature, biodiversity, noise. Economic impacts should include at least: energy costs, maintenance costs, impact on local businesses. Social impacts should include at least citizen perception, public health, personal safety.

³¹³ For example competent authorities for environment, transport, planning or housing.

³¹⁴ The EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities aims to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. On 28 April 2022, the Commission announced the 100 EU cities that will participate in the Mission. In addition, 12 cities have been selected from countries associated or expected to be associated the Horizon Europe programme.

³¹⁵ See the list of Charter Signatories <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/the-mission/regions-and-local-authorities>

³¹⁶ Including *inter alia* projects under the call HORIZON-MISS-2023-CLIMA-CITIES-01-01 [Urban greening and re-naturing for urban regeneration, resilience and climate neutrality](#).

This action supports the follow-up to the July 2023 Communication on EU Missions assessment³¹⁷.

HORIZON-MISS-2027-06-02-CLIMA-CIT-CCRI: Deploying innovative wastewater management, treatment and valorisation solutions in European cities and regions in the context of climate change

Call: Joint Call between the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission and the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	
Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 9.00 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 27.50 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply: Entities from at least four cities or regions, each from a different Member State or Associated Country, must participate as beneficiaries. At least one entity in each project must be from one of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities ³¹⁸ and at least one must be from a signatory to the Adaptation Mission Charter ³¹⁹ .
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: 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

³¹⁷ COM(2023) 457 final and SWD(2023) 260 final

³¹⁸ The EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities aims to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. On 28 April 2022, the Commission announced the 100 EU cities that will participate in the Mission. In addition, 12 cities have been selected from countries associated or expected to be associated the Horizon Europe programme.

³¹⁹ See the list of Charter Signatories <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/the-mission/regions-and-local-authoritie>

	<p>Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025) ³²⁰.</p> <p>Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s):</p> <p>Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform and the Mission Adaptation's Platform is essential and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date.</p>
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Expected Outcome: Projects are expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes:

- Development of innovative practices for urban wastewater management, adapted to climate change, taking into account: energy efficiency, energy and secondary raw material recovery and water reuse, including opportunities for renewable energy generation and secondary resource production, implemented at city and regional level.
- Deployment and upscaling of treatment infrastructures and management solutions for water, storm water and wastewater in cities and regions, with positive effects on climate adaptation, biodiversity, pollution reduction, resource valorisation and energy efficiency.
- Dissemination of knowledge about innovative practices, governance and business models for integrated (waste)water management, in the context of climate change - among relevant stakeholder groups to facilitate effective replication and upscaling.
- Development of actionable insights to support European cities and regions in addressing the main administrative, governance and financing barriers for rain- and waste-water management, recovery of resources (secondary raw materials, water and energy) and their (market) valorisation.

Scope: This topic supports the implementation of the [EU Mission Climate-Neutral Smart Cities](#), [EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change](#) as well as the EU [Circular Cities and Regions Initiative](#) (CCRI). It aims to support the water sector in European cities and regions in accelerating their climate neutral, climate resilient and circular transition.

The recast EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive³²¹ introduces new requirements on energy neutrality at national level for urban wastewater treatment plants treating population equivalents of over 10,000 (UWWTPs). It also requires management plans for stormwater

³²⁰ This [decision](#) is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

³²¹ [Directive \(EU\) 2024/3019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 concerning urban wastewater treatment \(recast\)](#)

overflows, and consideration of circular economy measures to stimulate the reuse of nitrogen, phosphorus and water.

Investment in wastewater infrastructure is very costly and often focuses on wastewater collection and treatment. To optimise this investment, it is important to explore holistic approaches taking into account extreme weather events and combining land use to better manage rain run-off, wastewater characteristics to optimise recovery of resources (secondary raw materials, water and energy), and knowledge of the sewer network to avoid pollution events linked to stormwater overflows and contamination of recovered products. Adding a regional dimension could also pool resources between smaller wastewater utilities.

To address these needs, proposals will be required to develop integrated approaches to address all of the following aspects:

- Deploy nature-based solutions e.g vegetated ditches, treatment wetlands and storage ponds designed to support biodiversity and favour infiltration and where possible to harvest rainwater for reuse at city and regional level, while addressing the effects of climate change.
- Implement sustainable urban drainage principles and green-blue storm water management solutions to avoid and reduce pollution from rain and storm water, including during extreme weather events.
- Implement energy efficiency and recovery technologies from sewers and/or one or multiple UWWTPs by pooling resources; this can include renewable energy from solar energy production, waste heat recovery or biogas production from sludge.
- Explore the pooling of resources at regional level to rationalise investment in resource recovery technologies and address the associated regulatory barriers through local end-of-waste criteria.
- Incorporate solutions to reuse (waste)water in the context of increased pressures on availability of water resources
- Conceptualise, implement and test possible combinations of urban wastewater treatment, valorisation and reuse processes in selected European cities and regions (the so-called “demonstrators”).
- Identify enabling conditions, e.g. legislative, regulatory, policy, governance, financing, to support the deployment of the tested solutions in other European cities and regions (the so-called “replicators”).
- Develop actionable insights that European cities/regions can use to address barriers related to wastewater reuse and valorisation, to allow further replication and upscaling.

Each project funded under this topic must involve entities from at least four cities or regions, each from a different Member State or Associated Country, with on-the-ground testing in at least two *demonstrator* cities/regions, and engagement with at least two *replicator* cities/regions to identify enabling conditions for wider deployment. In the participating cities

or regions the local water management organisation should be part of the consortium. At least one entity in each project must be from one of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities³²² and at least one must be from a signatory to the Adaptation Mission Charter³²³.

Under the guidance of the relevant Executive Agency and with input of the European Commission, the selected projects will engage in clustering activities with other relevant projects supported under the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and Climate Adaptation Missions to promote synergies and complementarities. Synergies should be explored and, as appropriate, pursued with other relevant initiatives, such as the Green City Accord, European Green Capital / Leaf, European Urban Initiative, the Covenant of Mayors Europe and the New European Bauhaus

Proposals should ensure due consideration of the requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, of work performed or underway in other relevant Horizon Europe funded projects including under the Water4All co-funded partnership, and of synergies with the Hubs4Circularity initiative.

This action supports the follow-up to the July 2023 Communication on EU Missions assessment³²⁴.

³²² The EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities aims to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. On 28 April 2022, the Commission announced the 100 EU cities that will participate in the Mission. In addition, 12 cities have been selected from countries associated or expected to be associated the Horizon Europe programme.

³²³ See the list of Charter Signatories <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/the-mission/regions-and-local-authorities>

³²⁴ COM(2023) 457 final and SWD(2023) 260 final

Other Actions³²⁵

Public Procurements

Indirectly Managed Actions

Other Budget Implementation Instruments

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³²⁵ The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for years 2026 and 2027.

**Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2026-2027
Missions**

Budget³²⁶

	Budget line(s)	2026 Budget (EUR million)	2027 Budget (EUR million)
Calls			
HORIZON-MISS-2026-1		64.74	
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020250</i>	64.74	
HORIZON-MISS-2026-02		116.00	
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020210</i>	115.15	
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020250</i>	0.85	
HORIZON-MISS-2026-03		119.00	
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020260</i>	119.00	
HORIZON-MISS-2026-04		38.00	
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020250</i>	38.00	
HORIZON-MISS-2026-05		67.00	
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020260</i>	67.00	
HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-two-stage		24.00	
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020260</i>	24.00	
HORIZON-MISS-2026-06		38.00	
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020250</i>	38.00	

³²⁶ The budget figures given in this table are rounded to two decimal places.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

**Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2026-2027
Missions**

HORIZON-MISS-2026-07			20.00
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020250</i>		<i>10.00</i>
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020260</i>		<i>10.00</i>
HORIZON-MISS-2026-08		6.00	
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020250</i>	<i>6.00</i>	
HORIZON-MISS-2027-01			85.38
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020250</i>		<i>85.38</i>
HORIZON-MISS-2027-02			133.00
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020210</i>		<i>133.00</i>
HORIZON-MISS-2027-03			122.00
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020260</i>		<i>122.00</i>
HORIZON-MISS-2027-04			84.87
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020250</i>		<i>84.87</i>
HORIZON-MISS-2027-05			48.00
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020260</i>		<i>48.00</i>
HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-two-stage			24.00
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020260</i>		<i>24.00</i>
HORIZON-MISS-2027-06			24.00
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020210</i>		<i>12.00</i>
	<i>from</i> <i>01.020260</i>		<i>12.00</i>
HORIZON-MISS-2027-07			67.50

**Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2026-2027
Missions**

	<i>from 01.020250</i>		60.00
	<i>from 01.020260</i>		7.50
HORIZON-MISS-2027-08			4.00
	<i>from 01.020250</i>		4.00
Other actions			
Indirectly managed action		48.53	20.00
	<i>from 01.020250</i>	41.70	20.00
	<i>from 01.020260</i>	6.83	
Public procurement		5.05	10.00
	<i>from 01.020250</i>	0.05	10.00
	<i>from 01.020260</i>	5.00	
Specific grant agreement		50.00	7.00
	<i>from 01.020250</i>	50.00	
	<i>from 01.020260</i>		7.00
Grant awarded without a call for proposals according to Financial Regulation Article 195		1.00	
	<i>from 01.020250</i>	1.00	
Provision of technical/scientific services by the Joint Research Centre		2.00	0.50
	<i>from 01.020250</i>		0.50
	<i>from 01.020260</i>	2.00	
Prize		6.00	4.00

*Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2026-2027
Missions*

	<i>from 01.020250</i>	<i>6.00</i>	<i>4.00</i>
Estimated total budget		585.32	654.25

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