Funding programmes factsheet

Training #1: Access to public fundings and grants – introduction to EU funding landscape (Module 2)

Published in February 2026

Disclaimer: The information provided in this glossary are the most up to date at the time of publication of Training #1. Please note that European Commission portals, programs, and guidance documents are subject to periodic updates and revisions. Users are strongly advised to always verify the latest information directly on the official websites of the European Commission and other relevant funding bodies before preparing or submitting any proposal.

Co-funded by the European Union

Co-funded by the European Union (Grant n°.101113011) Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or REA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

	Horizon Europe	CBE-JU	LIFE
Brief description	EU's key funding programme, covering different areas of research and innovation. Cluster 6 on Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment is the most relevant area of the programme for biowaste-to-soil improvers value chain[1].	Public-private partnership between the European Union and the Bio-based Industries Consortium, aiming to support the development of a competitive and sustainable bio-based economy in Europe	EU's funding instrument dedicated to environment, climate action, and nature conservation
Funding available for 2021-2027	€95 billion (of which €8.95 billion for cluster 6)	€ 2 billion	€5.4 billion
Funding rate	70%-100% (depending on the type of action)		~ 60%
Eligibility	Participation is open to any legal entity, regardless of where it is established unless specific restrictions are mentioned. Only legal entities established in EU Member States or in countries associated to Horizon Europe are eligible for funding.		EU funding is limited to legal entities established in EU Member States or in countries associated with the LIFE Programme.
Consortium	Usually at least three independent organisations, each based in a different EU Member State or Associated Country. At least one must come from a Member State.		Consortiums are not always mandatory and single beneficiary are allowed in many calls (check carefully calls requirements).
Market orientation	Medium	High (flagship projects are also possible)	Medium
Best fit for:	Innovation-driven biowaste-to-soil solutions, including process optimisation, development of new conversion technologies, soil health assessment.	Integrated bio-based value chains transforming biowaste into market-oriented soil improvers, with a focus on industrial scale-up, strong business cases and market-orientation.	Technically mature biowaste-to-soil solutions ready for field demonstration, deployment and replication, with clear environmental benefits related to soil protection, circular economy and sustainable land use, often involving local or regional actors.

[1] Since Horizon Europe is a very wide programme, the information reported in this factsheet is mainly referred to cluster 6. Funding rates, eligibility conditions and technical content may change in different areas of the programme.

Practical tips and suggestions	Besides CL6, a unique feature of Horizon Europe is the concept of Missions, which group calls that tackles major societal challenges aiming at specific, measurable targets for 2030. In particular, the Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe" aims to establish at least 100 living labs and lighthouses to improve soil health by 2030.	Collaboration between academic and industrial partners is strongly encouraged. For higher-TRL projects (IA and flagship), you'll need to present a credible business model and scale-up strategy.	Engaging local stakeholders and end users from the proposal stage, while highlighting replicability and transferability of the proposed innovations to other regions is a key feature in LIFE projects.