

Horizon Europe

Cluster 6 and its partnerships

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Today's Main Questions

1. What will Horizon Europe look like, specifically regarding research on organic farming?
2. What partnerships will there be in Horizon Europe?
3. What options will existing partnerships have to continue?

„Disclaimer“

- Most information to date has to be considered to be preliminary
- Subject to approval by new Commission
- However, hard-won compromises unlikely to be questioned again
- Some elements, like missions and partnerships, are already in work

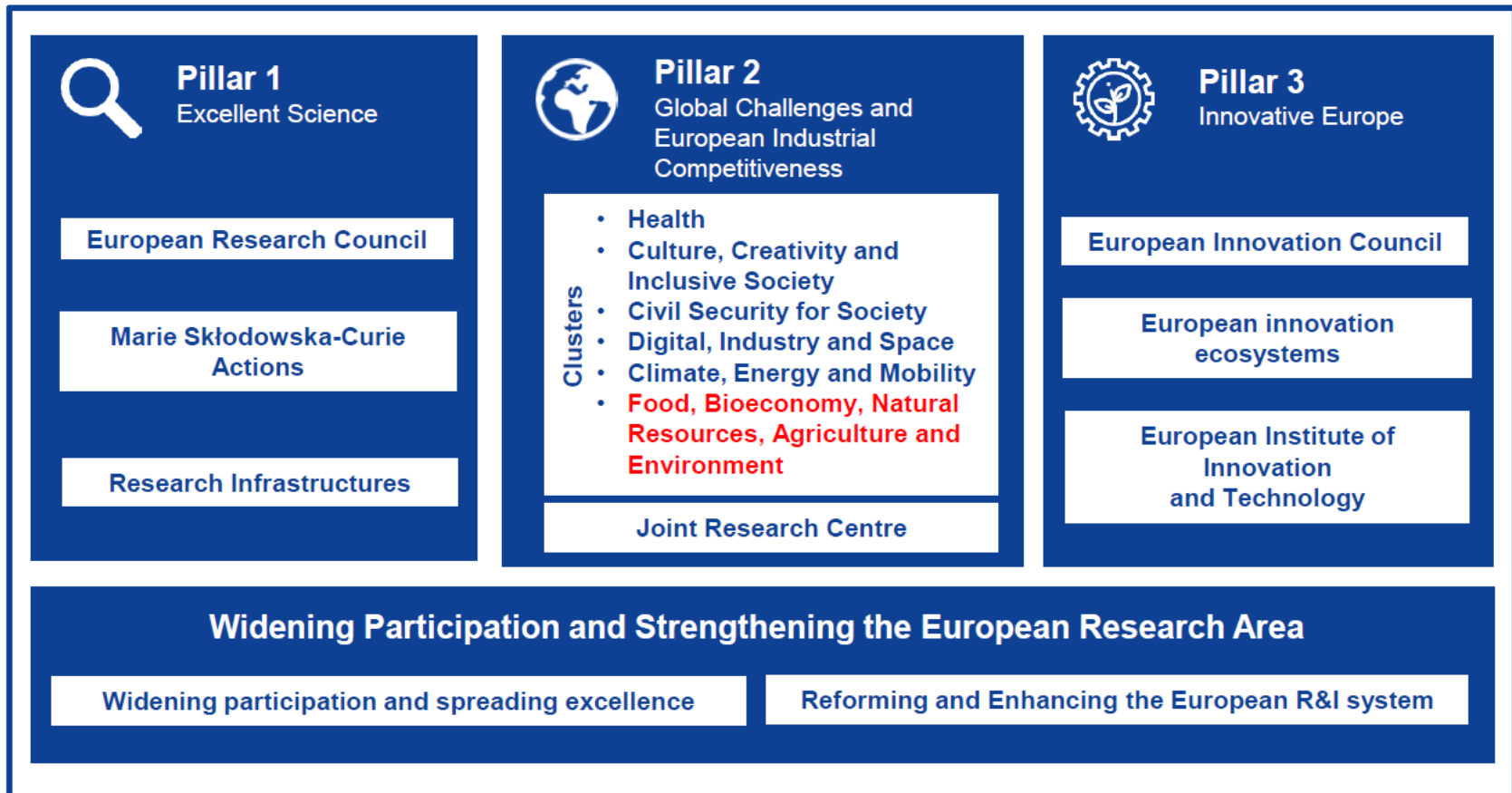
Question 1

- What will Horizon Europe look like, specifically regarding research on organic farming?

Some facts and general principles of Horizon Europe

- Framework Programme for 2021 to 2027
- Proposed budget: 100 billion
- Stronger focus on sustainability (social, environmental, economic)
- Impact becomes even more important
- Co-creation is a guiding principle
- More integrative at all levels (disciplines, stakeholders etc.)

Horizon Europe: Proposed Structure



Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Key Research and Innovation Orientations

1. Environmental Observation
2. Biodiversity and Natural Capital
3. Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Areas
4. Seas, Oceans and Inland Waters
5. Food Systems
6. Bio-based Innovation Systems
7. Circular Systems

* Orientation paper towards the strategic plan (31.10.2019)

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Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Areas: Organic Farming

- The planned partnership “Accelerating farming systems transition: agro-ecology living labs and research infrastructures” will support implementation and upscaling of agro-ecological approaches in primary production, including organic and mixed farming or agroforestry.
- Particular attention will be given to fruits and vegetables, EU-grown plant proteins and the organic sector.

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Food Systems

- No explicit mention of organic farming
- Food system transformation which shifts towards more sustainable, healthy diets and aims to ensure food and nutrition security for all
- Better understanding of interactions between different components of food systems for a sustainable, climate-neutral, resource-efficient, trusted and inclusive global food system from land and sea that respects planetary boundaries and delivers safe, healthy and affordable food for all

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Timeline Horizon Europe

Autumn 2019

- First meetings of five mission boards, online consultation, public consultation on planned institutionalised partnerships, R&I Days

Winter/Spring 2020

- Adoption of MFF, Adoption of European legislative package, Adoption of Strategic Plan (2021-2024) by new Commission

2020

- Drafting of first Horizon Europe Work Programme (2021-2022) on the basis of Strategic Plan

2021

- Start of Horizon Europe

Question 2

- What partnerships will there be in Horizon Europe, in particular regarding organic farming?

New Partnership Philosophy

- Simpler: Structures are to be unified with three types: co-programmed, co-funded or institutionalized
- Fewer: About half the number of those under Horizon2020
- Open: Attractive to more types of partners (e.g. end user organisations, NGOs or Foundations)
- Needs-tested: A partnership should only be considered if the issue cannot be tackled better by other measures, such as topics in work programmes
- Lifetime limited: An „Exit-Strategy“ to phase a partnership out should be planned at the very inception of that partnership

Consequences

- Horizon 2020 had approximately 28 partnerships relevant to the bioeconomy
- Eight partnerships are proposed for Cluster 6 (of 48 partnerships total) in Horizon Europe
- Several more partnerships had been proposed, but were not selected
- The commission is currently conducting an ‚ex-ante evaluation‘ of all proposed partnerships
- ERA-Nets are not part of the new partnerships and are to be abolished bit by bit (but DG Agri started three new ones in 2019)

The implementation modes

- **Institutionalised:** in accordance with Art. 185 or 187
- **Co-programmed:** based on memoranda of understanding between COM and private or public partners; complementary R+I activities implemented separately by COM and partners
- **Co-funded:** based on grant agreement between COM and consortium of partners; call for proposals for co-fund actions in work programmes of Horizon Europe

List of Partnerships in Cluster 6

- Accelerating farming systems transition: agro-ecology living labs and research infrastructures
- Animal Health: Fighting infectious diseases
- Environmental Observation for a sustainable EU agriculture
- Rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth
- A climate neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Bioeconomy
- Safe and Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Climate
- Circular bio-based Europe: Sustainable, inclusive and circular bio-based solutions
- Water4All: Water security for the planet

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Accelerating farming systems transition: agro-ecology living labs and research infrastructures

- Description: Grasping short to long-term agroecological processes at landscape level, accelerating the transition towards sustainable climate and environment-friendly farming practices by boosting place-based innovations in a co-creative environment, fostering adoption of innovations by farmers and other actors
- Implementation mode: Co-funded
- Predecessors: n.a.
- Partners: MS/AC (RFOs, regional authorities)

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Safe and Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Climate

- Description: Fixing our food system is central to transition to a Sustainable Europe by 2030 and key to meeting the IPCC climate targets and operating within key planetary boundaries. Deploy FOOD 2030 and deliver Food Safety System of the future, ensuring consumer trust, safety, quality and traceability
- Implementation mode: Co-programmed or Co-funded
- Predecessors: FACCE Surplus, ICT Agri2, Core-Organic, ERA-GAS, SUSAN, ERA-HDL, SusFood2
- Partners: MS/AC (research funders, national/regional authorities) EU agencies

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Conclusion

- 48 partnerships in total
- 8 in Cluster 6
- 2 potentially of interest:
 - Agroecology
 - Food Systems

Question 3

- What options will existing partnerships have to continue?

How long can existing partnerships continue?

- no automatic stop when Horizon2020 stops, but gradual transition
- running ERA-Nets can continue for their full term
- renewals are unlikely (but three new ERA-nets started 2019!)

Options

1. Phase out
2. Get involved in a new partnership
3. Lobby for a future partnership
4. Continue self-sustained
5. Continue self-sustained with CSA

Option: Phase out

- The fall-back of no other option found or realised

Option: Get involved in a new partnership

- Become part of new partnership
- Means a different form of phasing out while becoming part of a larger whole
- Partnerships are taking shape now – so if this is preferred option, watch that process closely and get involved where possible!

Option: Lobby for future partnership

- The 48 are final for now
- In 4 years, with next strategic plan, some more might be started
- Number of new ones then likely to be limited, unless philosophy changes
- Likely to be highly competitive

Option: Continue self-sustained

- If the partner nations commit, the partnership can continue apart from the Commission
- It will not be an official EU-Partnership under Horizon Europe but a multinational cooperation

Option: Continue self-sustained with CSA

- Commission has suggested possibility of getting CSAs for former ERA-Nets through work programmes
- Little information on how many, when, or how they will be chosen (probably “competitive, bottom-up”)

Conclusion

1. Phase out – **the unattractive fall-back option**
2. Get involved in the new partnerships – **get involved now!**
3. Lobby for future partnership – **a very uncertain option**
4. Continue self-sustained – **independent, requires commitment**
5. Continue self-sustained with CSA – **don't bank on it, but consider it an optional plus**

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