

BEANS Meta Network (Boosting Euro-Mediterranean Agri-food through Networked Systems)

Funding & Financing Opportunities 2027

Connecting Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa, and the Balkans for a resilient agri-food future.

Meeting 25 February 2026





Horizon Europe Cluster 6: Core Opportunities 2027

- ✓ Deep dive on the best-fit EU funding opportunities for the BEANS network on protein crops / legumes (2027)
 - ✓ Highlight pros/cons (in terms of scope/conditions/effort) of BEANS (partner) engagement
 - ✓ Practical recommendations for mobilising a consortium across North & South Mediterranean
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WHY BEANS MATTERS

BEANS Network span

- ❑ Multi-institutional: research, advisory, value chain actors
- ❑ Geographic reach: Europe, Mediterranean, Africa, Asia, Balkans
- ❑ Expertise: genetics & breeding; agronomy & soil health; processing, quality & nutrition; markets, value chains & scaling

BEANS covers the full legumes value chain from genetics and breeding,

through agroecological production and soil health, to processing, nutrition and markets,

enabled by AKIS, pilots and scaling mechanisms,

with strong complementarities between breeding, sustainability, food systems and market uptake.

BEANS Unique Value to Horizon Europe



System Solution

Legumes as lever for farm resilience, input reduction, value chain development and diet shift



North-South Bridge

Unique ability to work across both Mediterranean shores + connect dryland expertise



Multi-Actor Ready

Partners cover research, advisory (AKIS), SMEs, processing and policy dimensions



Knowledge-to-Practice

Advisors, farmer-friendly tools, demos

HORIZON EUROPE 2027- BEANS OPPORTUNITY MAP

HORIZON EUROPE 2027 Priority Targets

- **HORIZON-CL6-2027-03-GOVERNANCE-05:** Increasing knowledge flows to practice within AKIS via EU thematic knowledge hubs
7 M (3.5 M x 2 proposals)
Opening: 04 Feb 2027/ Deadline(s): 11 May 2027
- competitiveness, sustainability (where relevant including biodiversity restoration), and resilience of agriculture, forestry and rural areas is fostered, by providing impartial and tailored knowledge to advisors and end-users
- advisors are better integrated into the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) with up-to-date, practice-oriented knowledge that enables them to provide farmers with high quality and impartial advice;
- research findings, innovative solutions, practical knowledge and best practices, are well known, widely shared and used in practice by end-users

HORIZON EUROPE 2027

Priority Targets

□ **HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-05:** Enhancing farmer's profitability and resilience through innovations for diversified crops and value chains (IA)

12 M (6M x 2 proposals)

Opening: 20 Apr 2027/Deadline(s): 23 Sep 2027

- Farmers are able to transition to diversified, resilient and innovative cropping systems, increasing their sustainability, competitiveness and promoting biodiversity conservation as well as climate adaptation and mitigation
- Profitability of farming is boosted through the adoption of diversified cropping systems, development of local value chains, as well as the valorisation of crops by-products
- Awareness and knowledge/data exchange among actors on the benefits of diversified cropping systems for farmers and downstream value chains across Europe is increased

HORIZON EUROPE 2027

Priority Targets

- **HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-09:** Enhancing the competitiveness of organic crop breeding: focus on intercropping adapted varieties (RIA)

12 M (6 M x 2 proposals)

Opening: 20 Apr 2027/Deadline(s): 23 Sep 2027

(Organic/intercropping/low-input breeding is a natural home for legumes, especially in Mediterranean systems)

- Efficiency and competitiveness of the organic crop breeding sector are boosted by providing organic breeders with a comprehensive toolbox to develop varieties specifically adapted to intercropping and suitable for organic production
- Improved understanding of key target traits for developing varieties adapted to intercropping farming systems is available to researchers and breeders, benefiting all agricultural systems
- Foundation for the development of future crop varieties that enhance benefits derived by intercropping, such as improved pest/weed management, increased nutrient and water use efficiency, improved pollination, improved soil fertility, reduced soil erosion and nutrient leaching, and enhanced productivity, is established

HORIZON EUROPE 2027

Priority Targets

HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-02-two-stage: Optimising the water-nutrient- energy nexus for sustainable and climate smart agriculture in Africa (FNSSA) (RIA)

12 M (6 M x 2 proposals)

Opening: 04 Feb 2027/ Deadline(s): 08 Apr 2027 (1st Stage), 14 Sep 2027 (2nd Stage)

- Agricultural actors implement sustainable practices for resource-efficient and climate - smart and biodiversity-friendly farming in diverse African agro-ecosystems
- Integrated water, nutrient and energy management systems are available to smallholder farms in Africa

BEANS as a platform for legume-enabled climate-smart practices within the nexus approach

2027 Mission Soil options

HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-SOIL-02-two-stage: Living Labs for co-creating solutions to reduce eutrophication from agriculture. Type: RIA (two-stage) | EU contrib.: EUR 12m | (2 projects) Opening: 04 Feb 2027/ Deadline(s): 08 Apr 2027 (1st Stage), 14 Sep 2027 (2nd Stage)

- Enhanced capacities for participatory, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary R&I to co-create, and co-implement economically viable soil health solutions to reduce eutrophication from agriculture and improve water quality
- Improved soil health monitoring and increased availability of high quality, standardised 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
- Increased awareness of soil and eutrophication risks enables policymakers to implement impactful, economically viable solutions tailored to local requirements.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-02-WIDENING-01: Twinning” (CSA, lump sum), 0.8–1.5 M (148 projects funded), 9 April 2026 deadline

Funds address networking and capacity-building between a Widening-country institution (as coordinator) and leading counterparts in other EU/Associated countries.

Typical activities:

- Structured capacity building (skills, methods, infrastructures access, management of excellence)
- Staff exchanges / secondments, joint trainings, mentorship, joint summer schools/workshops
- Joint roadmaps, common research agenda building, stronger access to EU networks and pipelines

A Twinning can create a strong “Mediterranean Widening node” for legumes/protein crops becoming the anchor partner for future Cluster 6 RIAs/IAs & for knowledge hub proposals.

- Efficient way to strengthen capacities and linkages in countries that often struggle to coordinate large EU projects but still aligned with BEANS’ North/South Mediterranean cooperation logic.
- Not a “big science/big pilot” action: it’s mainly networking/capacity.

Use Twinning as a preparatory engine feeding the 2027 RIA pipeline

2027 HORIZON CALLS — BEANS TARGETS

GOVERNANCE-05

★★★ Perfect fit

AKIS Thematic Knowledge Hub

[CSA | 2027]

Continuation of GOVERNANCE-09. Knowledge flows to practice. EU-wide protein crop knowledge infrastructure.

HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-02-WIDENING-01

★★★ Strong fit

Twinning

[CSA | 2026]

Bottom up, capacity building

BIODIV-09

★★ Good fit

Organic Crop Breeding – Intercropping

[RIA | 2027]

Organic/low-input breeding + intercropping adapted varieties. Legumes are centrepiece of intercropping. Mediterranean varieties + low-input systems = key contribution.

FARM2FORK-05

★★★ Perfect fit

Diversified Crops & Value Chains

[RIA | 2027]

Crop diversification, farmer profitability, local value chains, by-product valorisation. Aligns with EU ambition to increase plant protein production.

MISS-2027-05-SOIL-02

★★ Good fit

Living Labs for co-creating solutions to reduce eutrophication from agriculture

[RIA | 2027]

Living labs to reduce eutrophication from agriculture. Legumes = natural N-management tools reducing mineral fertiliser dependency and downstream N losses. BEANS' multi-country demos across Mediterranean farming systems provide ideal living lab infrastructure.

FARM2FORK-02 (two-stage)

★★ Good fit

Water-Nutrient-Energy Nexus Africa

[RIA | 2027 two-stage]

Smallholder farms in Africa: climate-smart, biodiversity-friendly practices. Legumes as core circular agriculture tool. BEANS as platform for legume-enabled climate-smart practices.

BEANS STRATEGIC ROADMAP



1. Position as knowledge hub

Target GOVERNANCE-05 as coordinator. Build EU-wide protein crop knowledge infrastructure. Develop advisor-facing toolkits, practice abstracts, multilingual content covering ≥ 14 MS

Lead or co-lead a CSA proposal



2. Build the pipeline

Use WIDERA Twinning to strengthen Southern Med partners. Map partner expertise vs. every 2027 RIA topic. Build formal North–South Mediterranean R&I partnerships

Submit Twinning; map all 2027 consortia



3. Target 2027 RIA/IA projects

FARM2FORK-05 (diversified crops) - MISS-SOIL 02 (/eutrophication) / demo sites. Biodiv 09 - intercropping - Farm2Fork - 02 2 stage Africa Water - Nutrient - Energy Nexus

Form consortia; define BEANS WP roles



4. Smart combination

Run multiple complementary instruments in parallel. CSA knowledge hub + Twinning + RIA = 3-layer network strategy. FNSSA/BIODIV-09 for Africa and organic diversity angle

Portfolio approach — never single-bet



Thank you!

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