 ****

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Deadline | **20 September 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time** |
| Call name | **Demonstration of climate mitigation and resilience solutions in support of the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change, Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 and A Soil Deal for Europe Missions (HORIZON-MISS-2023-CLIMA-OCEAN-SOIL-01)** |
| www | [Funding & tenders (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-miss-2023-clima-ocean-soil-01-01;callCode=HORIZON-MISS-2023-CLIMA-OCEAN-SOIL-01;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=43108390;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=callTopicSearchTableState)https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-miss-2023-clima-ocean-soil-01-01;callCode=HORIZON-MISS-2023-CLIMA-OCEAN-SOIL-01;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=43108390;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=callTopicSearchTableState |
| Topic | Mission Climate adaptation, Mission Ocean & waters and Mission Soil Deal for Europe – Joint demonstration of an integrated approach to increasing landscape water retention capacity at regional scale |
| Applicant | The consortium must carry out demonstration **activities in 3 different Member States or Associated Countries,** involving and including in the consortium partners from these respective countries. Proposals under this topic should comprise full-scale demonstration of innovative solutions in real conditions of landscapes in the countries selected for demonstration activities[[2]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#fn2), with specific impacts leading to a measurable increase of the resilience and adaptation capacity of the areas involved, whilst contributing to climate change mitigation, surface and ground water quality, soil health improvement and biodiversity protection and conservation. Applying a multi-actor approach, demonstrations should be carried out at the level of socio-ecological territorial units that are large enough to allow covering the different living and non-living systems (soil, water, vegetation and other biota, human communities, etc.) in a landscape and the complex web of relations among them (e.g. a region or a sea/river basin).. |
| Team | Multi-institutional consortium |
| Eligible organisation | The consortium partners from at least three countries, where the project activities will be carried on. |
| Provider | European Commision **HORIZON-IA HORIZON Innovation Actions** |
| Call identifier | **TOPIC ID: HORIZON-MISS-2023-CLIMA-OCEAN-SOIL-01-01** |
| Call info | Landscape water retention capacity is understood as the ability of water bodies, soils and other ecosystems to retain water after it has fallen as precipitation; it is fundamental for the protection of biological diversity as life depends on water. High landscape water retention capacity prevents accelerated surface run-off, increases water content in soils and surface and ground water availability for vegetation, improves the quantity and quality of groundwater and aquifer recharge, reduces soil erosion and nutrient run off into surface water bodies, and improves local micro-climate by reducing local air and biomass temperature. As such, it has the potential to prevent and mitigate impacts of extreme hydrological events such as floods and to act as a buffer against heat extremes. Permanent vegetation in a landscape, such as forest areas, wetlands and permanent grasslands, significantly improves water retention capacity.Projects should demonstrate socio-ecological approaches and nature-based solutions to increase landscape and soil water retention capacity, leading to improvement of quality and quantity of ground and surface waters in the area where they are deployed, and boosting resilience to climate change impacts. A combination of nature-based measures with hybrid solutions and relevant Blue-Green engineering may be considered, provided these combined solutions are sustainable and provide adequate social and environmental safeguards.The consortium must carry out demonstration activities in 3 different Member States or Associated Countries, involving and including in the consortium partners from these respective countries. Proposals under this topic should comprise full-scale demonstration of innovative solutions in real conditions of landscapes in the countries selected for demonstration activities[[2]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#fn2), with specific impacts leading to a measurable increase of the resilience and adaptation capacity of the areas involved, whilst contributing to climate change mitigation, surface and ground water quality, soil health improvement and biodiversity protection and conservation. Applying a multi-actor approach, demonstrations should be carried out at the level of socio-ecological territorial units that are large enough to allow covering the different living and non-living systems (soil, water, vegetation and other biota, human communities, etc.) in a landscape and the complex web of relations among them (e.g. a region or a sea/river basin).Planning, implementation and management of effective measures to increase landscape water retention capacity requires involvement of various stakeholders and their expertise, such as land, owners, spatial planning and other local and regional authorities, soil protection and management experts, water management and planning bodies, landscape planning experts, farmers and forest managers. Local authorities and local communities should be involved in the design and implementation of the solutions, to ensure that these are well suited for local needs and conditions and are “owned” by the local communities. Activities should, therefore, promote the involvement of local communities as well as the relevant authorities, to consider with them the impact of intended actions, and to co-create measures while taking local communities’ needs and values on board. The proposals should involve citizens, including where appropriate European Solidarity Corps, and relevant citizen science activities.The project(s) should also identify, create and disseminate best-practice examples for end-users (e.g. farmers and other land managers, decision-makers, water management authorities, landscape planners) to ensure landscape water retention capacity in the long term, including soil water retention capacity, with a view to boosting resilience to climate change, preventing biodiversity loss and promoting at the same time socio-economic transition processes in an ecosystem-based and circular economy perspective, and promote those best practices among the end users.The demonstration sites established within the project(s) funded under this topic could qualify as “lighthouses”[[3]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#fn3) in the sense of the Mission A Soil Deal for Europe if and when they comply with the criteria laid down in the Implementation Plan of that Mission.Proposals should both:* Involve at least five 'associated regions'[[4]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#fn4) as third parties, to showcase the feasibility, replicability and possibility to scale up the solutions developed. The consortium will proactively reach out to these associated regions to enable them to follow closely the project and its demonstration activities, transferring knowledge to them and technical assistance to build capacity and to implement integrated approaches for landscape, water and soil management to increase landscape water retention capacity in their territories; and
* Draw up an action plan and roadmap to replicate and scale up the solutions within the ‘associated regions’ and beyond them, to increase landscape water retention capacity, including soil water retention capacity.

As a mechanism to provide knowledge transfer and technical assistance to the associated regions, the selected project should provide support to third parties in the form of grants. The maximum amount of the envisaged Financial Support to Third Parties is EUR 100 000 per third party for the entire duration of the action. Proposals should outline the process for selection of the third parties to which financial support would be granted, based on the principles of transparency, objectivity and fairness.The project(s) funded under this topic should address all the below points:* Contribute to the networking and coordination activities and joint activities of the three Missions, including by establishing links with projects funded under Horizon 2020[[5]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#fn5), including the European Green Deal call, and under Horizon Europe, where they are relevant for climate adaptation and soil health knowledge and solutions;
* Include a mechanism and resources to establish links with the Implementation Support Platform of the Mission Ocean and Waters and build links with other activities of this Mission to maximize synergies;
* Include a mechanism and the resources to establish operational links with the Climate-ADAPT platform (run by the European Environment Agency (EEA) together with DG CLIMA) that will act as a central element for the monitoring, support and visualisation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission progress in European Regions. To this purpose, projects will feed their results to the Climate-ADAPT and EEA assessments and should include a mechanism to establish links with the Mission Adaptation to Climate Change Implementation Platform;
* Include a mechanism and resources to establish links with the Implementation Platform being established for the Mission A Soil Deal for Europe; and
* Support the Ocean and Water Knowledge System[[6]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#fn6) and the EU Soil Observatory[[7]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#fn7), in particular by contributing to knowledge creation and data collection.

Specific Topic Conditions:Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-7 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.[[1]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#r1)https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index\_en.html[[2]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#r2)These could build on solutions studied e.g. under topic HORIZON-MISS-2022-CLIMA-01-05 “Boost the sponge function of landscape as a way to improve climate-resilience to water management challenges”, among others.[[3]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#r3)“Lighthouses” are defined in the Implementation Plan of the Mission ‘Soil Deal for Europe’ as “places for demonstration of solutions, training and communication that are exemplary in their performance in terms of soil health improvement”. They are local sites (one farm, one forest exploitation, one industrial site, one urban city green area, etc.) that can be included in a living lab area or be situated outside a living lab area.[[4]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#r4)‘Associated regions’ are understood as areas with similar ecosystems that can benefit from the demonstration activities (neighbouring regions and/or regions in a different river basin, including less-developed regions), which are selected with a view to building capacity to implement innovative solutions to manage landscape, water and soil in an integrated approach to restore ecosystems. Proposals should ensure that the associated regions are located in Member States/Associated Countries other than those that are part of the project consortium.[[5]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#r5)See Cordis results packs LC-CLA-13-2020, at https://cordis.europa.eu/programme/id/H2020\_LC-CLA-13-2020, and LC-CLA-2020 12a Advancing climate services | Programme | H2020 | CORDIS | European Commission (europa.eu)[[6]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#r6)See the Implementation Plan of Mission Ocean & Waters, [Final outline implementation plans (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research_and_innovation/funding/documents/ocean_and_waters_implementation_plan_for_publication.pdf)[[7]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#r7)<https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/eu-soil-observatory-euso_en> |
| Research areas |  |
| Scope | This joint topic relates to the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission’s third objective, aiming to support at least 75 full-scale deep demonstrations of climate resilience, to the Mission Ocean & Waters’ objective 1, protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, and objective 2, prevent and eliminate pollution of marine and freshwaters. The topic also relates to several specific objectives of the Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe", including to the objectives to reduce soil degradation and soil sealing and to prevent erosion. It also contributes to the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)[[1]](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/#fn1), including achieving Good Ecological and Chemical Status and restoration of aquatic ecosystems, to the objectives of the Groundwater Directive as regards improvement of chemical status of ground waters, as well as to the freshwater objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 on the re-naturalisation of rivers and the restoration of floodplains.**Joint Call between Mission Restore our Ocean and Seas by 2030 and Mission A Soil Deal for Europe**This call is implemented jointly by Mission ‘Adaptation to Climate Change’, Mission ‘Soil Deal for Europe’ and Mission ‘Restore our ocean and waters by 2030’ to ensure integrated approaches and explore synergies between these Missions. As such, the activities under this joint call will address the objectives and impacts of these three Missions, as stated in their respective introductory statements. |
| Expected outcome | Project resuls are expected to contribute to all of the following outputs:* Demonstrated effective and inclusive integrated approaches to the management of landscape, soil, water and vegetation at a regional level, to increase the resilience to climate change impacts on soils, waters, habitats and biodiversity;
* Demonstrated effective nature-based solutions and ecological approaches to increase landscape water retention capacity, including soil water retention capacity;
* Demonstrated economic feasibility of these solutions, ensuring their long term sustainability;
* Enhanced implementation of the European Green Deal, the EU Adaptation Strategy, the EU Biodiversity Strategy, EU legislation for the protection of freshwaters (such as the EU Water Framework Directive and EU Groundwater Directive) and the EU Soil Strategy for 2030;
* Better information and greater mobilisation of all relevant actors, including citizens, local and regional authorities and planning bodies, farmers, foresters, land owners, business owners and economic operators, soil protection and management organisations, water management and planning bodies, for an effective and sustainable governance of soil, water and all other landscape components to achieve climate change resilience and increase water retention in the landscape.
 |
| Call opens | **17 January 2023** |
| SCI deadline | 6 September 2023, 12:00 |
| Final deadline | **20 September 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time** |
| Evaluation results |  |
| Agreement |  |
| Earliest date of implementation |  |
| Latest date of implementation |  |
| Sustainability |  |
| Project duration (min-max) |  |
| Call allocation  | around 15 000 0001 joint grant is planned to be supported |
| Project budget (min-max) |  |
| Success rate |  |
| Eligible costs | Budget categories: – actual costs (i.e. costs which are real and not estimated or budgeted) for: – personnel costs (unless declared as a unit cost; see below); – subcontracting costs; – purchase costs (unless declared as a unit cost; see below); and – costs of providing financial support to third parties (if provided for in the specific call conditions); – units (i.e. an amount per unit) for: – personnel costs of SME owners/natural persons not receiving a salary; – personnel costs calculated by the beneficiaries according to their usual cost accounting practices (average personnel costs); – costs of internally invoiced goods and services calculated by the beneficiaries according to their usual cost accounting practices; and Horizon Europe - Work programme 2023-2024 General Annexes Part 13 - Page 31 of 43 – specific unit costs (if provided for in the specific call conditions; see also Annex 2a of the grant agreement); – flat-rate (i.e. costs calculated by applying a percentage fixed in advance to other types of eligible costs) for: – indirect costs (25% flat-rate of the total eligible direct costs, excluding eligible direct costs for subcontracting, financial support to third parties and any unit costs or lump sums which include indirect costs); – lump sum (i.e. a global amount deemed to cover all costs of the action or a specific category of costs, if provided for in the specific call conditions). |
| Reimbursement |  |
| Mode of funding | Ex-ante (advanced payment & interim payments) & ex-post payments |
| Language of application | English |
| Reporting | The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the grant agreement |
| Proposal consists of | All proposals must be submitted electronically via the Funders & Tenders Portal electronic submission system (accessible via the topic page in the Search Funding & Tenders section). Proposals must be complete and contain all parts and mandatory annexes and supporting documents, e.g. plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results including communication activities, etc. The application form will have two parts:* Part A (to be filled in directly online) contains administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator and beneficiaries and affiliated entities), the summarised budget for the proposal and call-specific questions;
* – Part B (to be downloaded from the Portal submission system, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as a PDF in the system) contains the technical description of the project.

Annexes and supporting documents will be directly available in the submission system and must be uploaded as PDF files (or other formats allowed by the system). Proposals should be designed to stay as close as possible to the award criteria (see Annex D above). The application form will help to achieve this. When submitting the proposal, the coordinator will have to confirm that they have the mandate to act for all applicants. Moreover, they will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc.). Before signing the grant, each participant will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour. Proposals not complying with these requirements will be rejected. For lump sum grants proposals, the estimated budget must be described in a detailed budget table. This will be used as a basis for justifying and/or fixing the lump sum amount. As the lump sum must be an approximation of the costs actually incurred, the costs included in this detailed budget table must comply with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants (see AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, Article 6). This is particularly important for purchases and subcontracting, which must ensure best value for money (or, if appropriate, the lowest price) and be free from any conflicts of interest. If the budget table contains ineligible costs, the grants may be reduced (even later on during implementation of the project or after they end). Exceptionally, the Decision authorising the use of lump sum funding for a specific action might specify that a detailed budget table is not required. Applicants may be asked at a later stage for further documents (for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc.) |
| Evaluation criteria | Award criteria: [wp-13-general-annexes\_horizon-2023-2024\_en.pdf (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf) |
| Conditions & restrictions |  |
| Call workshop |  |
| SCI contact | Please inform the Project Support about your intention to apply. Do not hesitate anytime to contact us for consulting, discussion or help.+420 38 777 5562, projects@prf.jcu.cz  |
| Download documents | [wp-13-general-annexes\_horizon-2023-2024\_en.pdf (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf) |
|  |  |