Current and future funding for R&I on organic breeding

Session 4 Sustainable financing of organic plant breeding

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Unit F2 Research and Innovation

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European Commission

R&I on breeding for organics

30% of the budget for R&I on agriculture, forestry and rural areas for topics specific to or relevant for the organic sector

Horizon Europe

LiveSeeding

[CORDIS]

InnOBreed

[CORDIS]

Upcoming: [Enhancing the competitiveness of organic crop breeding: focus on intercropping adapted varieties]
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-09 |

NEW! Project: **COLIBRI**
"Collaborative Crop Breeding Research and Innovation for a Green Europe"
CORDIS

AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

The Agroecology Partnership started on 1 January 2024, and will continue until **31 December 2033**

300 M€
Overall budget

111
Partners

31
Countries

A Vision for Agriculture and Food

'…*the growing* ***organic sector and agroecological farming*** *practices which prove to be attractive options for younger farmers, combining economic possibilities with environmental results and social responsibility*' => importance of research and **innovation, skills, advice**

Enabling environment*: putting research, innovation, knowledge and skills at the heart of Europe's agri-food economy*

The **Vision for Agriculture and Food** is evolving as a framework designed to remain workable today, adaptable tomorrow, and viable towards 2040. See How the Vision is taking shape on the ground after one year of its adoption.

Horizon Europe

The next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034

With a proposed **€175 billion budget**, the new programme will be based on **four pillars**:

Pillar I

EXCELLENT SCIENCE

€44.079 BILLION

- EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL
- MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS
- SCIENCE FOR EU POLICIES

Pillar II

COMPETITIVENESS AND SOCIETY

€75.876 BILLION

COMPETITIVENESS[1] :

1. Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation
2. Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy
3. Digital leadership
4. Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space

SOCIETY:

1. Global societal challenges
2. EU Missions
3. New European Bauhaus Facility

Pillar III

INNOVATION

€38.785 BILLION

- EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL
- INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS AND THE KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE

Pillar IV

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

€16.262 BILLION

- ERA POLICIES
- RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURES
- WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE

[1] Consistent with activities under the European Competitiveness Fund

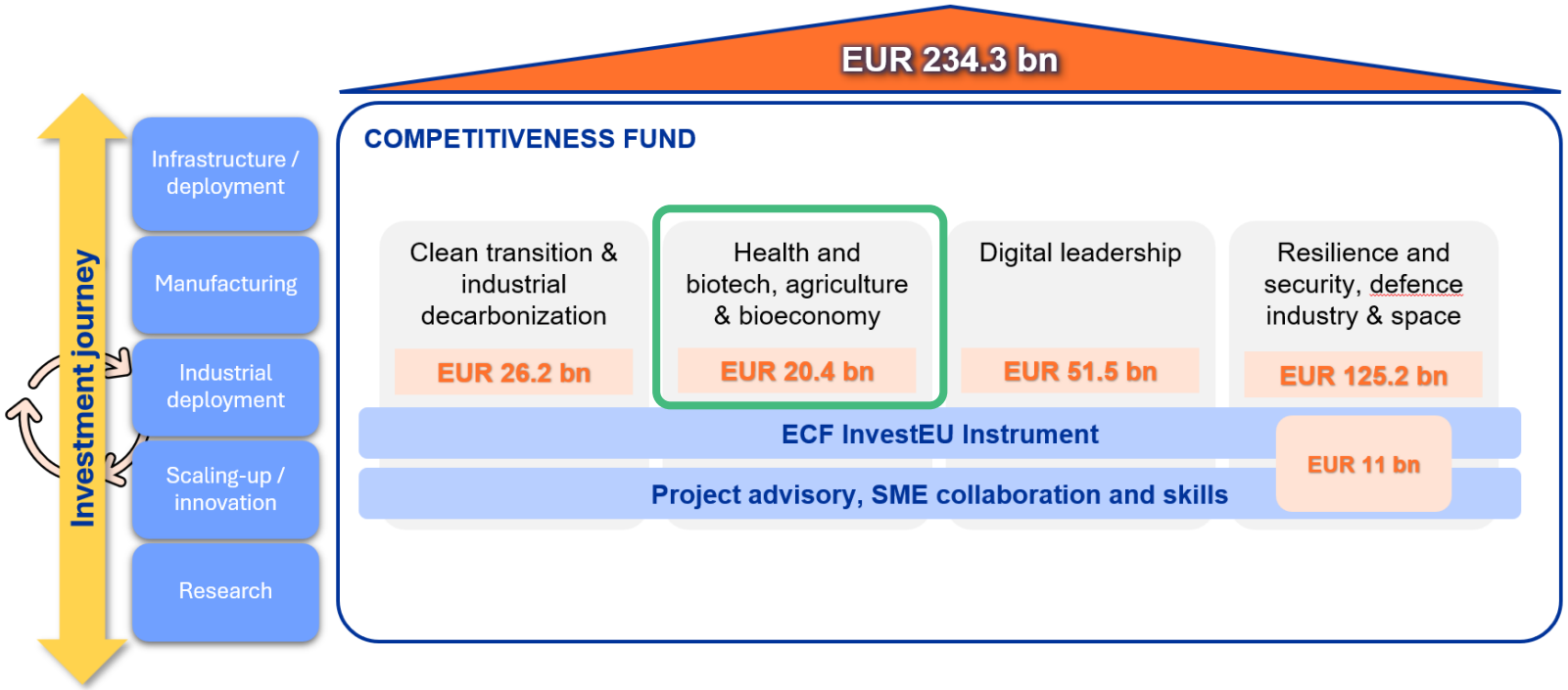
European Competitiveness Fund

The next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034

General objective of ECF: **Increase European competitiveness notably in strategic sectors and technologies along the investment journey.**

Specific objective for agriculture: Fostering the competitiveness, sustainability, resilience and fairness of the agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry sectors and the rural and coastal areas while contributing to the long-term food security in the Union.

ECF Architecture



Delivering innovation for EU agriculture and the agri-food sector focus on European Competitiveness Fund and Horizon Europe

European Commission

EUROPE'S BUDGET

Delivering innovation for EU agriculture and the agri-food sector
Focus on European Competitiveness Fund and Horizon Europe

DECEMBER 2025

The European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) and the next Horizon Europe (HE), the EU research and innovation framework programme, offer substantial funding for actions benefiting EU agriculture and the agri-food sector, as part of the proposed next long-term EU budget 2028-2034. Together with investment support, and with the innovation tools focused on the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) and the European innovation partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI) under the National and Regional Partnership, this funding will help achieve an EU agri-food system that is attractive, competitive, sustainable and fair.

The total budget proposed for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) amounts to EUR 2 trillion, of which **EUR 409 billion will be allocated to competitiveness**. This amount comprises **EUR 234.3 billion for the European Competitiveness Fund**, consolidating 14 different existing programmes, and **EUR 175 billion for the next Horizon Europe, a doubling compared to now.**

The European Competitiveness Fund and the next Horizon Europe will be tightly linked. The goal of this tight link is to make sure that Europe can take research results all the way to world scale production, without unnecessary gaps in between.

Together, both programmes will support a seamless investment journey from research to the manufacturing and deployment of strategic technologies, products and services in Europe. Both the European Competitiveness Fund and the 'competitiveness' component of Pillar II 'Competitiveness and Society' of the next Horizon Europe will be structured along four broadly defined strategic policy windows:

1. **Clean Transition** and **Industrial Decarbonisation**
2. **Health, Biotech, Agriculture** and **Bioeconomy**
3. **Digital Leadership**
4. **Resilience** and **Security, Defence Industry,** and **Space**

European Commission: Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, *Europe's budget – Delivering innovation for EU agriculture and the agri-food sector focus on European competitiveness fund and Horizon Europe*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2026, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2762/6035313

Future-proofing EU Agri-Food through R&I

The whole innovation journey

Deployment and uptake of R&I results

Synergies between the CAP/NRPF with Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund

Key R&I priorities in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

Impactful follow up actions

Open consultation

Over **700 contributions** were received from across all EU Member States.

The results show:

- Strong support for a **broader, more forward-looking agenda** (up to 94%)
- Strong backing for **better support to start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs** (up to 82%)
- Demand for **faster, practical uptake of innovation** by farmers on the ground (up to 88%)
- A clear call to **turn research results into market-ready innovations** since only 31% see current support as effective

Available on the website:
[Strategic approach - Agriculture and rural development]

Join the **EU Agri 2040 Conference** and

- **Co-create** with stakeholders the R&I priorities in agriculture, forestry and rural areas to deliver on the ambition of the *Vision for Agriculture and Food*
- **Contribute** to key EU policies, including the *Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)*

Don't miss this unique space for reflection, dialogue and co-creation.