



Research and innovation for urban agriculture

Edible Cities Network Conference

Advancing the edible city : ideas, practices and systems

15 – 17 March 2023

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European Commission

DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Unit F2 – Research and Innovation



**CLIMATE
PACT AND CLIMATE
LAW**

**PROMOTING
CLEAN
ENERGY**



**INVESTING IN
SMARTER, MORE
SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORT**



PROTECTING NATURE



**Cluster 6
&**

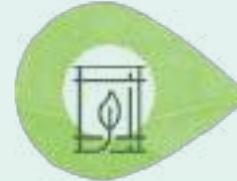
The European Green Deal



**STRIVING
FOR GREENER
INDUSTRY**



**FROM FARM
TO FORK**



**ELIMINATING
POLLUTION**



**LEADING THE
GREEN CHANGE
GLOBALLY**



**MAKING
HOMES ENERGY
EFFICIENT**



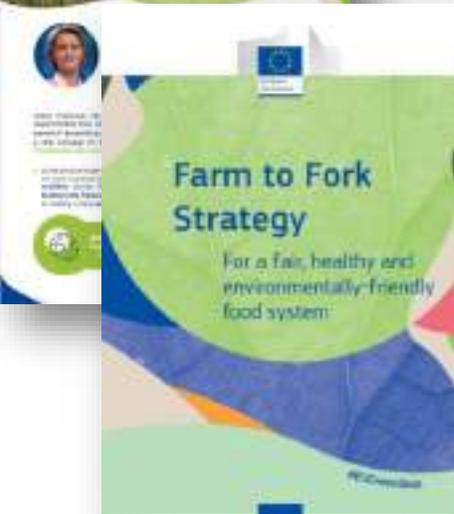
**FINANCING
GREEN
PROJECTS**



**ENSURING
A JUST TRANSITION
FOR ALL**



Policy Priorities for Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Areas



A long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

Communications on

- “Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems”
- “Ensuring availability and affordability of fertilisers”
- “Drivers of food security”



Strategic Plan 2021-2024

Horizon 2020

Projects on urban farming or of interest to urban farming



Urban agriculture Europe (COST)



- Mapped and brought the science community together
- Definitions/typologies: gardening/urban farming
- Calculated values (eco, social, environmental)
- Strong focus on social outcomes

Horizon 2020 – Urban & vertical farming

all bottom-up!

- [PROTEAN](#) - Prospective environmental assessment of urban agriculture emerging-systems (MSCA – Uni. Barcelona – 170K€)
- [INFARM](#) - *The vertical farming revolution, urban farming as a service* proposes an innovative solution for sustainable agriculture based on vertical farming (SME-Instrument – Infarm - Indoor urban farming GmbH - 2M€)
- [SiEUGreen](#) - *Sino-European innovative green and smart cities* (IA – Norges Univ.- 7M€)
- [EIT-FOOD – *PlantLab - Impact on sustainability, shelf life and nutritional value by vertically farmed leafy greens via a new local supply chain*](#)

Horizon 2020 – Value chains and urban food policies

- **Short value chains:**
 - [SMARTCHAIN](#)
 - [SKIN](#)
- **Small-scale processing**
 - [FOX](#)
 - [SHEALTHY](#)
- **Urban food policies, urban-rural:**
 - [ROBUST](#); [COASTAL](#)
 - [CITIES2030](#); [FOOD TRAILS](#)



The need for a comprehensive vision



Social aspects



Technological aspects



Food



Environment

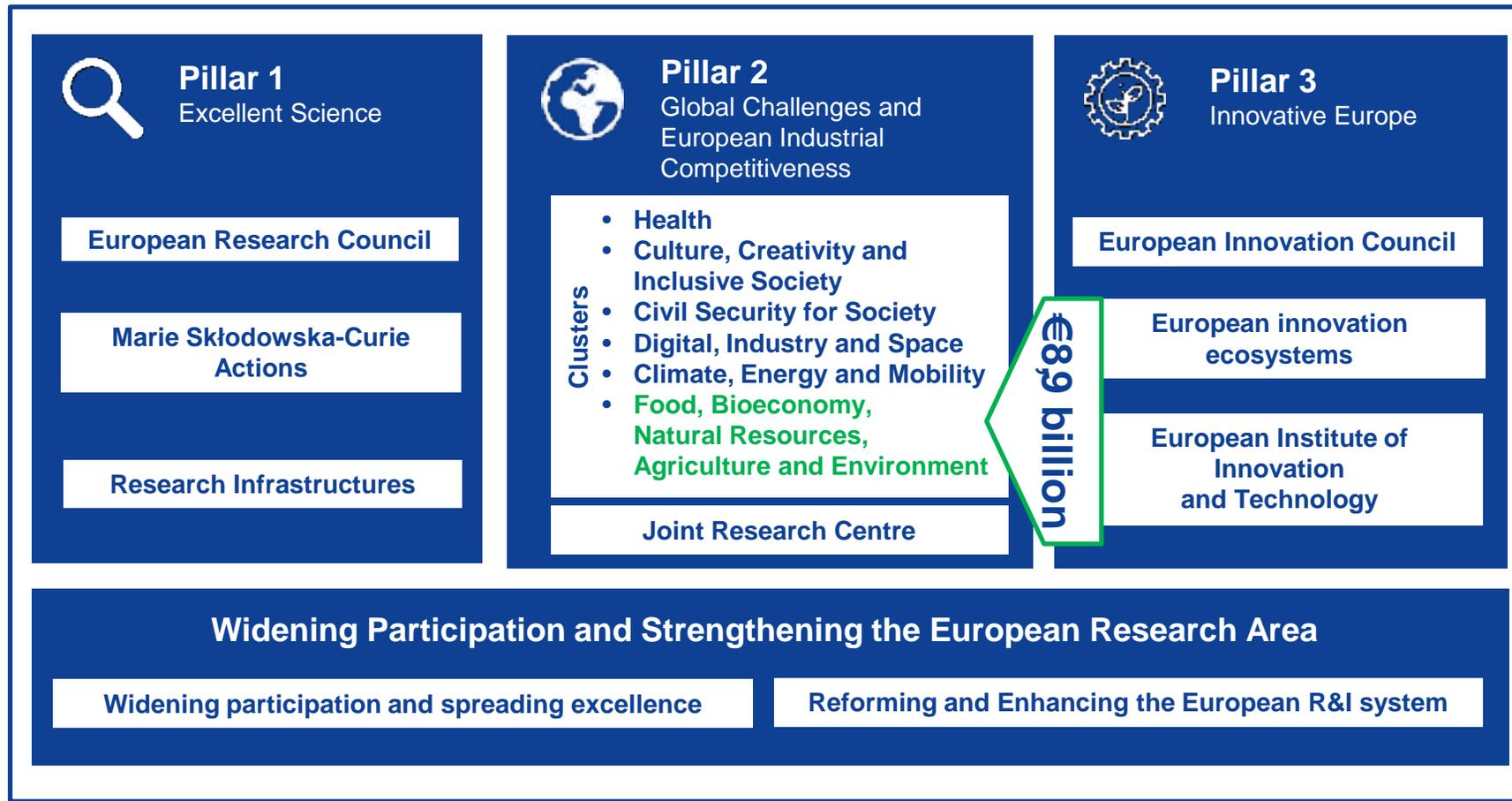
→ **EFUA - European forum for a comprehensive vision of urban agriculture**

Horizon Europe

Programme structure, strategic orientations and where urban farming could play a role



Horizon Europe - structure

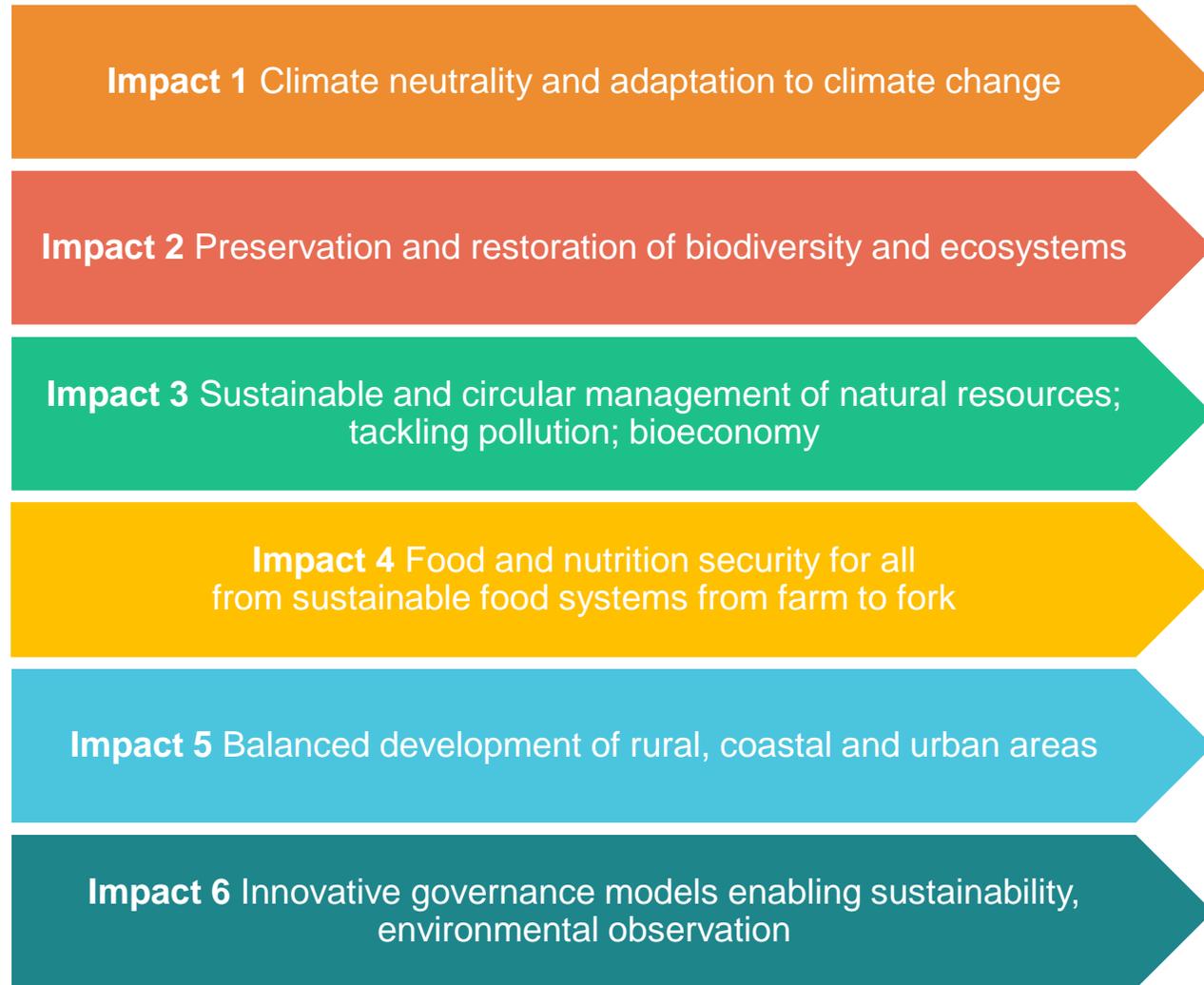


OVERALL PICTURE OF CLUSTER 6

Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment



Strategic Plan: Cluster 6 expected impacts



Intervention Areas

Environmental Observation

Biodiversity and Natural Resources

Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Areas

Seas, Oceans and Inland Waters

Food Systems

Bio-based Innovation Systems in the EU Bioeconomy

Circular Systems



R&I actions to reach the destinations



Urban farming can play a role in...

- **Legal basis** (specific programme)
 - Broad lines of interventions: « *Innovations in farming at the interfaces between agriculture, aquaculture and, forestry and in urban and peri-urban areas;*»
- **Strategic plan (2021-2024):**
 - IA3: « *Activities will support the uptake of urban farming to deliver food alongside social and environmental benefits (in cooperation with IA5).*»
 - Strategic plan – Higher granularity (no specific mentions):
 - Climate neutrality
 - Food security for all – « *urban food systems transformation*», “*technological solutions*”
 - Circular management of resources (technology progress there could be interesting)
 - Place and people-based approaches - nature-based solutions - Smart cities

EIP-AGRI, Partnerships & Missions

Other instruments
maximising the R&I impacts
of interest for urban farming

EU approach to agricultural R&I

EIP-AGRI

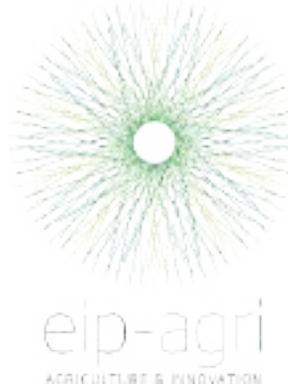
Interactive innovation (multi-actor approach)



2015 > 2016
Sustainability

+ *interactive innovation*

Farm policy
(CAP)



R&I
programme
(Horizon
2020)

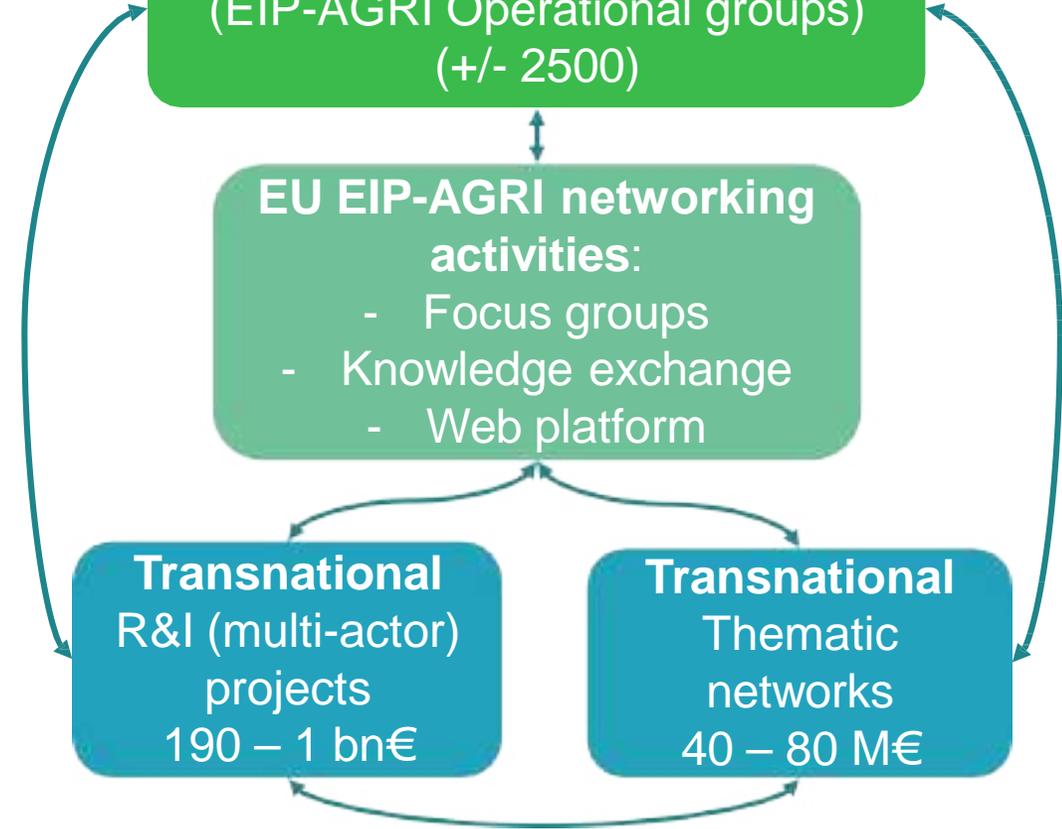


Local innovation projects
(EIP-AGRI Operational groups)
(+/- 2500)

EU EIP-AGRI networking
activities:
- Focus groups
- Knowledge exchange
- Web platform

Transnational
R&I (multi-actor)
projects
190 – 1 bn€

Transnational
Thematic
networks
40 – 80 M€



Encouraging synergies through partnerships – Work Programme 2021-2022



Rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth (2021)



*Outside the work programme
- institutionalised partnership Circular
Biobase Europe (CBE)*



Water4All (2021)



Climate neutral, sustainable
and productive blue economy (2022)

Towards Work Programme 2023-2024 and beyond Cluster 6...

Next Work Programme 2023-2024
– large-scale R&I partnerships:



Agroecology living labs
and research infrastructures



Animal health and welfare



Agriculture of data



Urban agriculture in missions and partnerships

- **Proposed missions**

- **Caring for Soil is Caring for Life**

- all soils including urban soils – importance of urban farming
 - Education, training, experiments, lighthouse and living labs

- **100 Climate-neutral Cities by 2030 – by and for the Citizens**

- **A Climate Resilient Europe - Prepare Europe for climate disruptions and accelerate the transformation to a climate resilient and just Europe by 2030**

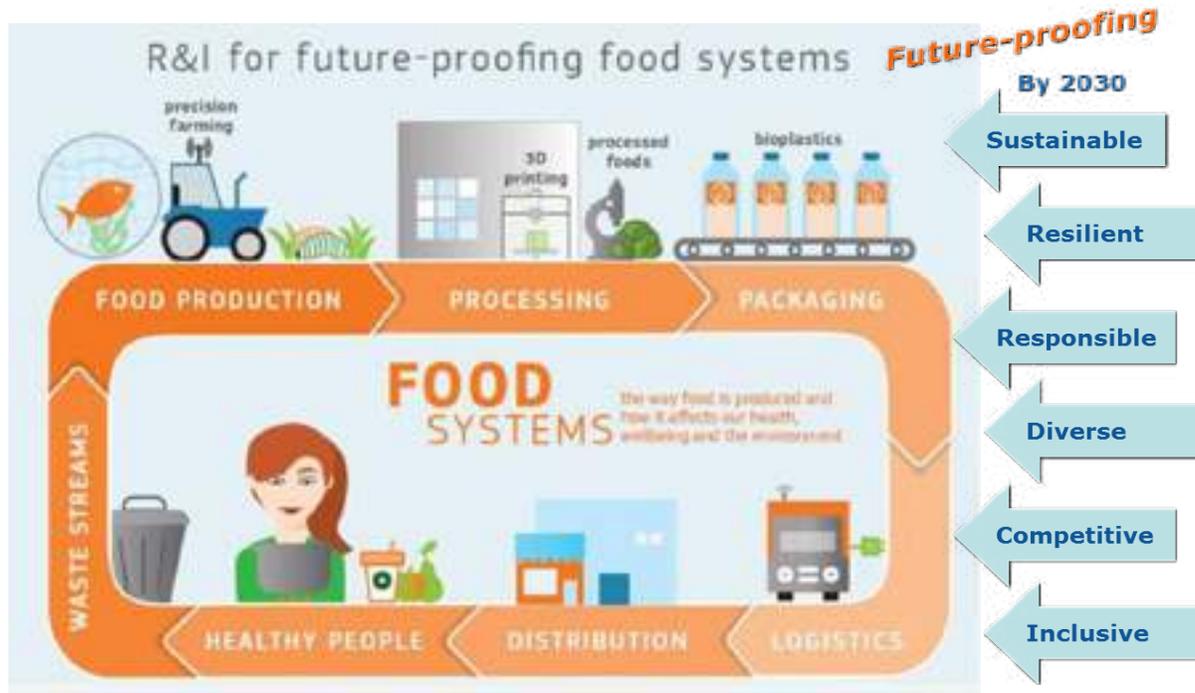
- Urban and rural landscapes to be managed for climate resilience

- **Candidate partnerships**

- **Agroecology living labs and research infrastructures** (Role of urban farming to be discussed)

Food 2030

EU R&I Policy Framework to future-proof our nutrition & food systems



- Need for a systemic approach to future-proofing food systems by structuring, connecting and scaling-up R&I
- To provide **evidence** for policies and **solutions** (knowledge, methods, technologies, services, business models, etc) addressing 4 priorities.





[The 2023 EU AgriResearch Conference \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

Thank you

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