

A wide-angle photograph of a modern university building with large glass windows and a blue facade. The building has the text 'DESIGN FOR OUR future' on its glass. In the foreground, a paved courtyard with a small green lawn is filled with students sitting on the ground. A tall black signpost with 'TU Delft' and 'Building 32' is visible. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Korea - EU collaboration in Horizon Europe Funding

Jeroen van der Aa
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Delft Design
Innovation & Impact

Profile Jeroen van der Aa



EU Research Funding advisor and project manager
TU Delft Faculty of Industrial Design Engineering
Delft Design Innovation & Impact Team

Trained in Innovation Management and Design for Sustainability, TU Delft
Graduation project future sustainable and safe heavy line truck at DAF Trucks Business Development Department, Eindhoven
Innovation Consultant at Bax Innovation, The Hague / Barcelona
Innovation Consultant at Dutch Chamber of Commerce on Innovation in Built Environment
Developed and managed EU projects since 2001: FP5 and FP6 programmes in ICT, sustainability and mobility



Pillar 2 basics

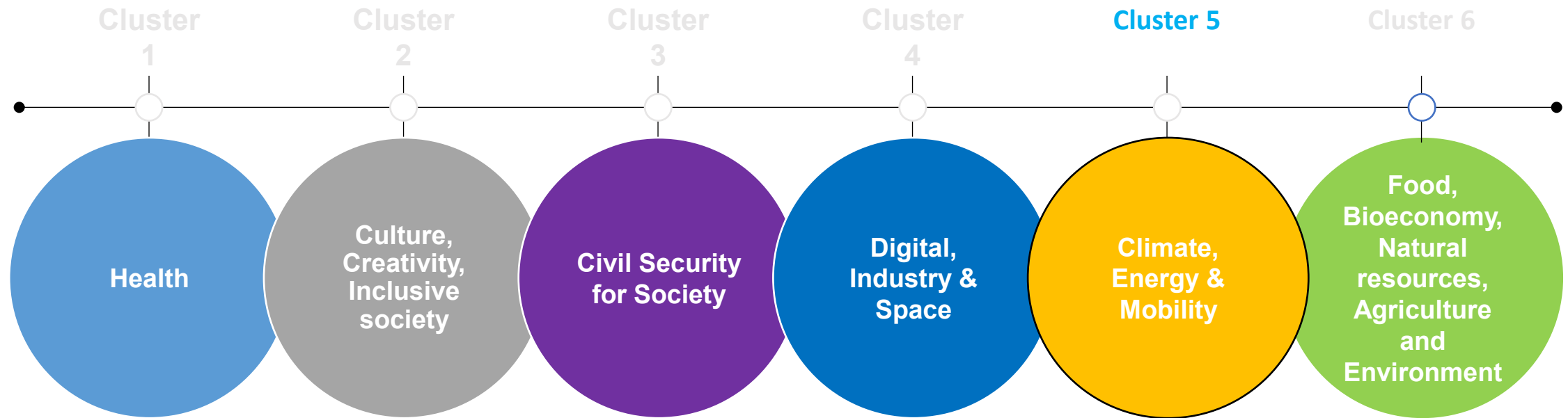
- Objective is to realize **EU policy goals**: Long-term impacts for all
- **Top-down**: solution for a described problem
- Predefined research goals and impacts described in **call text**
- Ambitious proposals: substantial **progress** compared to state of the art, related to **actual needs** from industry and society with substantial **impact** potential for commercial exploitation of the results
- Partners from EU Member States + Associated Countries (inc. UK, New Zealand, Canada, [South Korea](#))
- Minimum 3 organisations from 3 different countries
- Typically: consortia larger / more diversified, **6-20 partners** (complementary: academic, industry, gov, ngo)
- Single stage or 2-stage submissions
- Typically budgets: 2–5 M EUR, up to 25 M EUR
- Project duration 3-4 years
- TRL 3-5, 4-6, 5-7
- Project types:
 - Research Innovation Actions
 - Innovation Action
 - Coordination and Support Actions

Research and Innovation Action	Innovation Action
New knowledge + explore feasibility up to lab-scale prototype or simulated environment	Plans for new/improved products/ processes/ services incl. large-scale validation & market replication
TRL up to ± 5	TRL ± 6 to 8
€ Univ 100% / IND 100% + 25% overhead	€ Univ 100% / IND 70% + 25% overhead

Horizon Europe clusters

GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS:

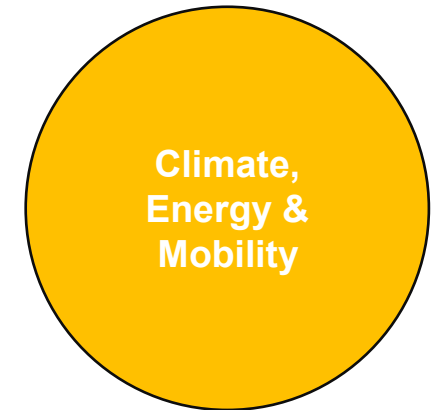
Boosting **key technologies** and solutions underpinning **EU Policies & Sustainable Development Goals**.



CLUSTER 5 – Policy and Strategy

Aim: **Climate Neutral by 2050**

- **Energy and Mobility sectors** more competitive, resilient and useful for citizens and society



Cluster 5 Destinations

D5: Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes

- Zero-emission road transport
- Aviation
- Waterborne transport
- Transport-related health and environment
- Cross-cutting

D6: Safe, Resilient Transport and Smart Mobility services for passengers and goods

- Connected, Cooperative and Automated Mobility (CCAM)
- Multimodal transport, infrastructure and logistics
- Safety and resilience

Cluster 5 Advanced Mobily topics 2026-2027

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP DRIVING URBAN TRANSITIONS DUT Call 2026

HORIZON-CL5-2026-06-Two-Stage-D5-20: Non-exhaust emissions in road and railway transport

HORIZON-CL5-2026-10-D6-01: Flagship-pilot: large-scale demonstrations of CCAM

HORIZON-CL5-2026-10-D6-03: Generative AI for smarter CCAM: enhancing perception, decision-making, and validation

HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-04: Integration of human driving behaviour in the validation of CCAM systems (CCAM Partnership)

HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-05: Approaches, verification and training for Edge-AI building blocks for CCAM Systems (CCAM Partnership).

HORIZON-CL5-2026-05-D6-07: Supporting sustainable and smart urban mobility in Europe (CIVITAS)

HORIZON-CL5-2026-05-D6-10: Enhanced resilience in multimodal passenger transport through digital technologies and generative and discriminative AI

HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-13: Safety of Cyclists, Pedestrians and Users of Micromobility Devices

HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-14: Predicting and avoiding road crashes based on AI and big data.

HORIZON-CL5-2027-05-D6-04: Holistic solutions for CCAM integration in critical scenarios

HORIZON-CL5-2027-05-D6-08: Enhancing Mobility for All: affordable, reliable, and accessible multimodal transport for inclusive rural and urban connectivity – Societal Readiness pilot

How to start

- The destination is clear. The proposals is about what is the best way to get there!
- Doing the research that you were already planning to do
- Building international collaborations and partnerships with both academic, industry and societal partners
- Teaming up to bring your project idea to a higher TRL
- Create a convincing shared vision
- Achieving long lasting impact outside of the scientific field (e.g. societal, economic, environmental, etc.)
- Start on time! At least 6 months before deadline

Joint steps towards successful EU projects

1. Select call topic based on joint interest but complementary expertise
2. Know the state of the art and key players / stakeholders / end-users
3. Make sure to have a direct path to impact with realistic and verifiable objectives
4. Build the strongest possible consortium
5. Follow a well-structured process for collaborative proposal writing with critical reviews => if required with dedicated consultancy support

Get involved:

- Become an [EU evaluator expert](#) to learn the process from other side of table
- Attend EU Info days and matchmaking events: <https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/home>

LESSONS LEARNT: Consortium building & concept

DO'S

- Have **all the expertise required** in the consortium.
- Consortium is **multi-disciplinary, cross sectoral, diverse** and has required **complementary** expertise and experience. No unnecessary overlap.
- **Industrial partners** involved can support exploitation.
- Involve innovative **SMEs**.
- Make sure to have a direct path to impact, by including **all stakeholders from the value chain** (including end-users / citizens) in the project
- The proposal goes well beyond the **state-of-the-art**.
- The proposal objectives are **specific** and clearly formulated, and **realistically achievable** within the proposed timeframe.
- **Scale and significance** of expected outputs/outcomes is suitable and convincing, quantified with baselines.

DON'TS

- Have a very small number of partners with a lot of budget and several partners with very small budgets
- Spend a lot of budget on partners from 1 member state (formal rule <40%)
- Lack critical expertise
- Limited advance beyond state of the art.
- Unclear how objectives are verified.
- Not all expected impacts from the call are adequately addressed.
- Benefits for target groups is not clear.
- The users and customer needs are insufficiently explained.

Read the call text well!

- And keep checking the proposal with the call text, and again

Example: Cluster 6 – D1 – Ideal call topic

HORIZON-CL6-2024-BIODIV-02-1-two-stage: Demonstrating Nature-based Solutions for the sustainable management of water resources in a changing climate, with special attention to reducing the impacts of extreme droughts

Expected Outcome: In line with the European Green Deal priorities, notably the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, as well as the EU climate adaptation strategy and the EU's climate mitigation ambition for 2030 and 2050, the successful proposals will support the development of Nature-based Solutions (NBS) contributing to the sustainable management of water resources in a changing climate, with a special attention to reducing the impacts of extreme droughts.

Project results are expected to contribute to all of following expected outcomes:

- Cost-effective ways of implementing NBS at large scale for integrated water management are ready to use for relevant stakeholders and widely replicated;
- Consolidated evidence of the contribution of NBS to sustainable water management and of NBS' cost and resource efficiency, notably concerning the reduction of impacts of droughts;
- Enhanced implementation of EU policies, notably for water management (Water Framework Directive, as well as the Floods Directive, when relevant), climate adaptation (Article 5 of the European Climate Law, EU strategy for climate change adaptation), the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 and the EU soil strategy for 2030.



Make sure your project “ticks all the boxes”

Example: Cluster 6 – D1 – Ideal call topic

HORIZON-CL6-2024-BIODIV-02-1-two-stage: Demonstrating Nature-based Solutions for the sustainable management of water resources in a changing climate, with special attention to reducing the impacts of extreme droughts

Scope: Due to the changing climate, many European regions are already facing more frequent, severe, and longer lasting droughts. Extreme droughts can have cascading effects; e.g., they reduce water levels in rivers and ground water, stunt tree and crop growth, increase pest attacks, favour the occurrence of sand drifts and storms and fuel wildfires. Moreover, impacts of extreme droughts accumulate over time across large areas, and the effect can linger for years. In areas with an intense demand for water supply, the impacts of droughts add up to the stress imposed to water systems by human activities.

In Europe, most of the losses caused by extreme drought (~EUR 9 billion/year) affect agriculture, forestry the energy sector and the public water supply. Extreme droughts in western and central Europe in 2018, 2019 and 2020 caused considerable damage. With global climate change deepening, the impacts will be even more severe in the future, including decreasing quality, occurrence and availability of standing and running water.

By deploying systemic thinking NBS utilise an understanding of the structure and functioning of local ecosystems over time to address a broad range of societal challenges, including having enough water of good quality, both in surface waters and in ground water. They also contribute to restoration of biodiversity and help carbon sequestration in the soil. As such,



Make sure your project tackles the problem(s) in the Scope

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The successful proposals should:

- Plan, co-design and co-deploy solutions in a transdisciplinary multi-stakeholder and participatory context with due consideration and integration of social and cultural aspects and climate change effects.
- Building on the work of Horizon 2020 projects and their taskforces, develop an advanced monitoring programme for the demonstrated solutions and test and further develop as needed the EU Impact Evaluation Framework for NBS to assess the economic, social and ecological benefits of NBS and provide quantitative evidence, including positive and negative synergies, and analysis of trade-offs, for higher performance.



Make sure your project is aligned with the call text

Because of the substantial investments that might be necessary for implementing the NBS, additional or follow-up funding (private or public) should be sought, considering the EU taxonomy, including from relevant regional/national schemes under the Recovery and Resilience Fund, the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), or other relevant funds. Please note, however, that reference to such additional or follow-up funding will not lead automatically to a higher score in the evaluation of the proposal.

Research collaboration round table

- On what problem / challenge / opportunity would you like to collaborate
- Choose relevant call topic
- What are the main points from scope and outcomes
- Define Objectives of proposal
- What are possible solutions: we want to..
- Core competences around the table
- What other competences and partners do we need?

Plenary feedback 5 min

1. Selected Challenge
2. Funding call
3. Potential project idea
4. Champions + people involved
5. Review and comments
6. Next steps

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| Delft Design
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