



GREEN ERA-HUB

on Agri-Food and Biotechnology

Green ERA-Hub

Preserving the achievements of the ERA-Nets and
preparing for the future

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12 December 2022 Funders' Kick off



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101056828





Factsheet & Rationale

Factsheet

- **CSA** funded under the call:
HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ERA-01-09: Support for policy makers –
Programme level collaboration
- **01 Sep 2022 until 31 Aug 2026** (4 years)
- **12 partners representing a Network of ERA-Nets (Cofunds) and other initiatives** in the Agri-Food and Biotechnology Sector

Rationale – Learn from the past and prepare for the future

- The ERA-Net instrument will not be continued in Horizon Europe, thus the ERA-Nets cannot go on in the well- proven format
- Relevant partnerships start in 2024 with not yet clear content

Aims and Ambitions

- To keep the **momentum gained** in the ERA-Nets over the last 17 years
- **Continue to build on previous achievements and further enhance cross-sector collaborations between Agri-food and biotechnology ERA-Nets**, through joint transnational funding of collaborative research projects
- **Identify common research and innovation priorities**
- **To preserve best practice and managerial competences**
- **Valorise and implement joint activities**
- **Broaden the actions and impact of initiatives**
- **Prepare the transition of the ERA-Net into the partnerships.**
- **Contribute to achieve the strategic goals of the SDGs**, in particular zero hunger, industry innovation and infrastructure, responsible consumption and production, life on land, partnership for the goals, the farm2fork strategy and EU's Green Deal.

Who is the GEH?

15 initiatives represented by **12 partners** in the Green ERA Hub



The partners are responsible for the implementation AND do also represent the entire consortium of their representative initiative!

What have the initiatives achieved?

- 29 co-ordination actions
- Strategic research and innovation agendas
- 89 transnational calls
- **1,100 Mio Euro funding**
- Video contests
- Summerschools on scientific topics
- Webinars e.g. IP management, business plan, etc.
- Support in Data Management, Communication, RRI etc.
- RRI Frameworks
-

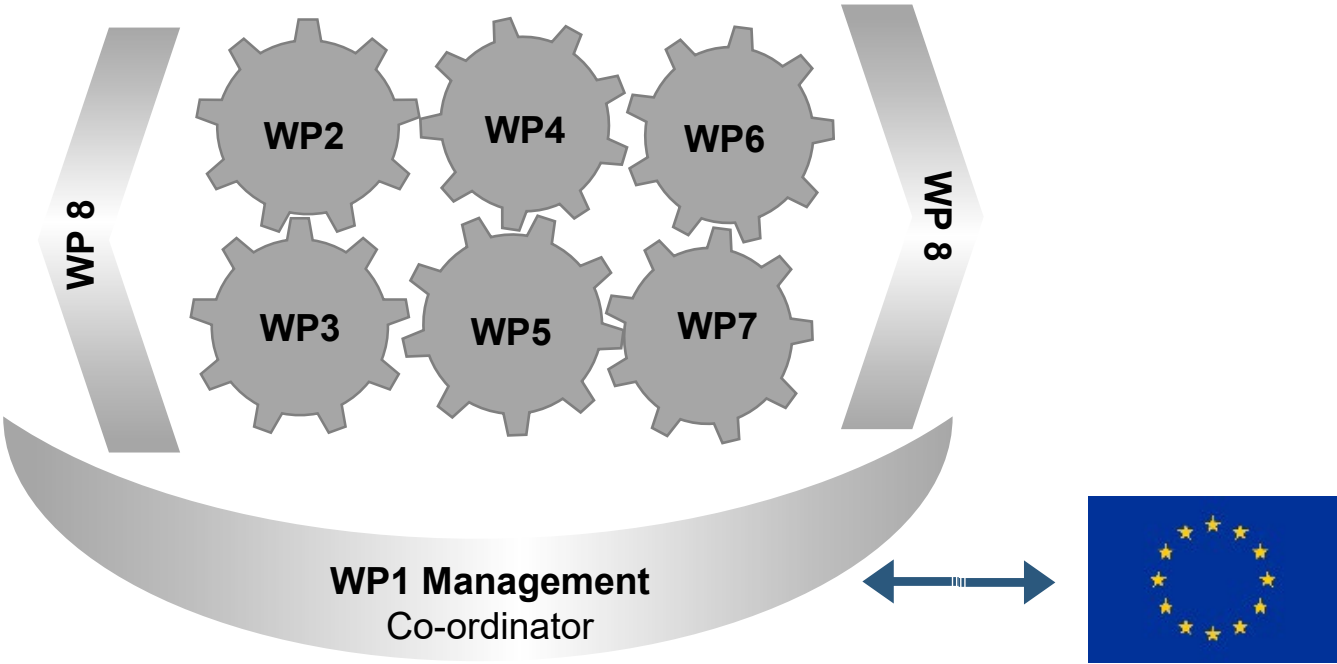
Implementation

- **WP1:** Coordination and Management – Juelich (DE)
- **WP2:** Strategic Roadmapping – Wageningen (NL)
- **WP3:** Future funding – definition and implementation of transnational calls for research proposals – MASAF (IT)
- **WP 4:** Monitoring, evaluation & impact assessment (MEIA) – Juelich (DE)
- **WP 5:** Knowledge and Exchange of best practices from transnational co-operation – AU (DK)
- **WP 6:** Widening and outreach – ANR (FR)
- **WP 7:** Joint Activities – capacity building – BLE (DE)
- **WP 8:** Communication, dissemination and exploitation – EV ILVO (BE)



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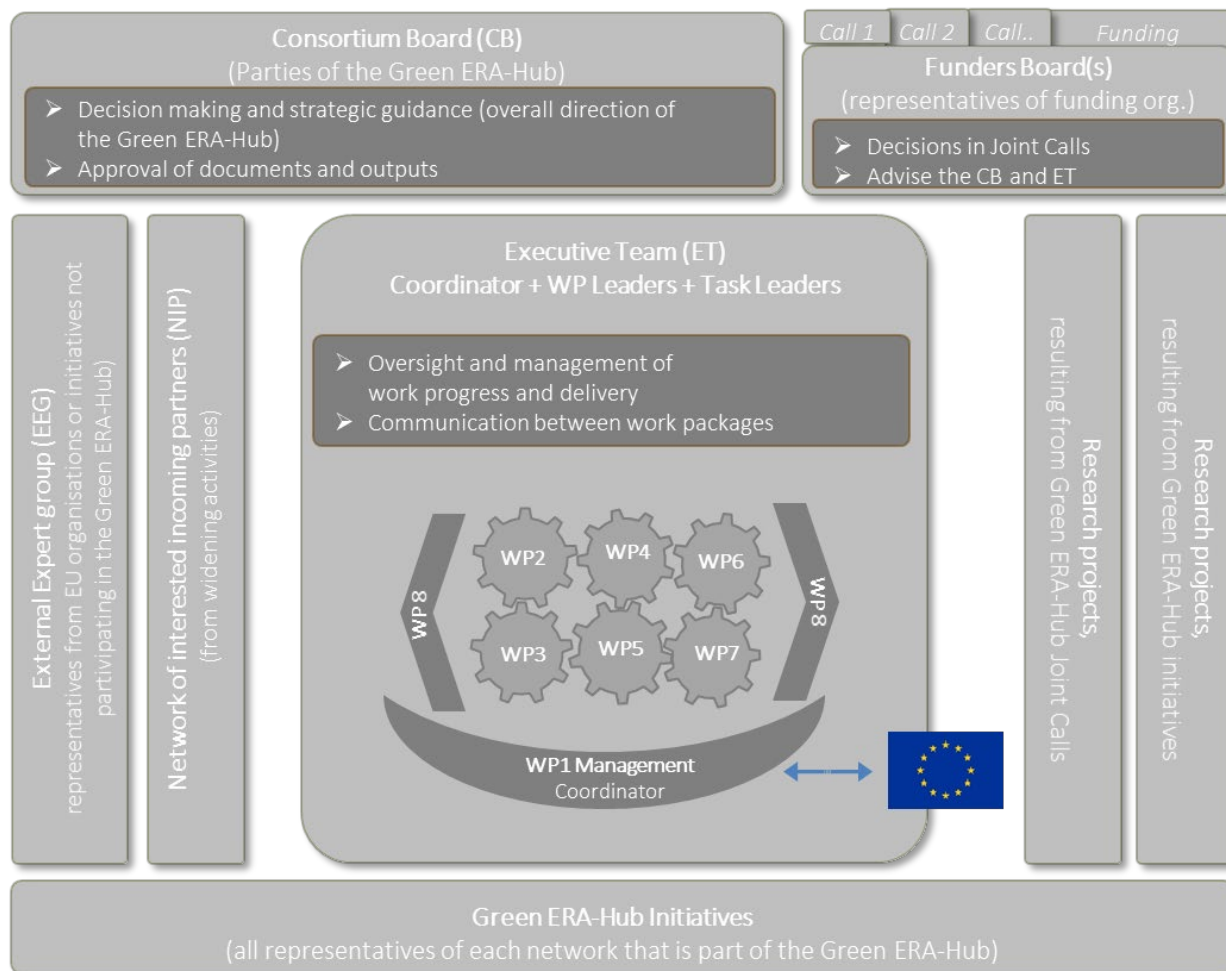
Implementation





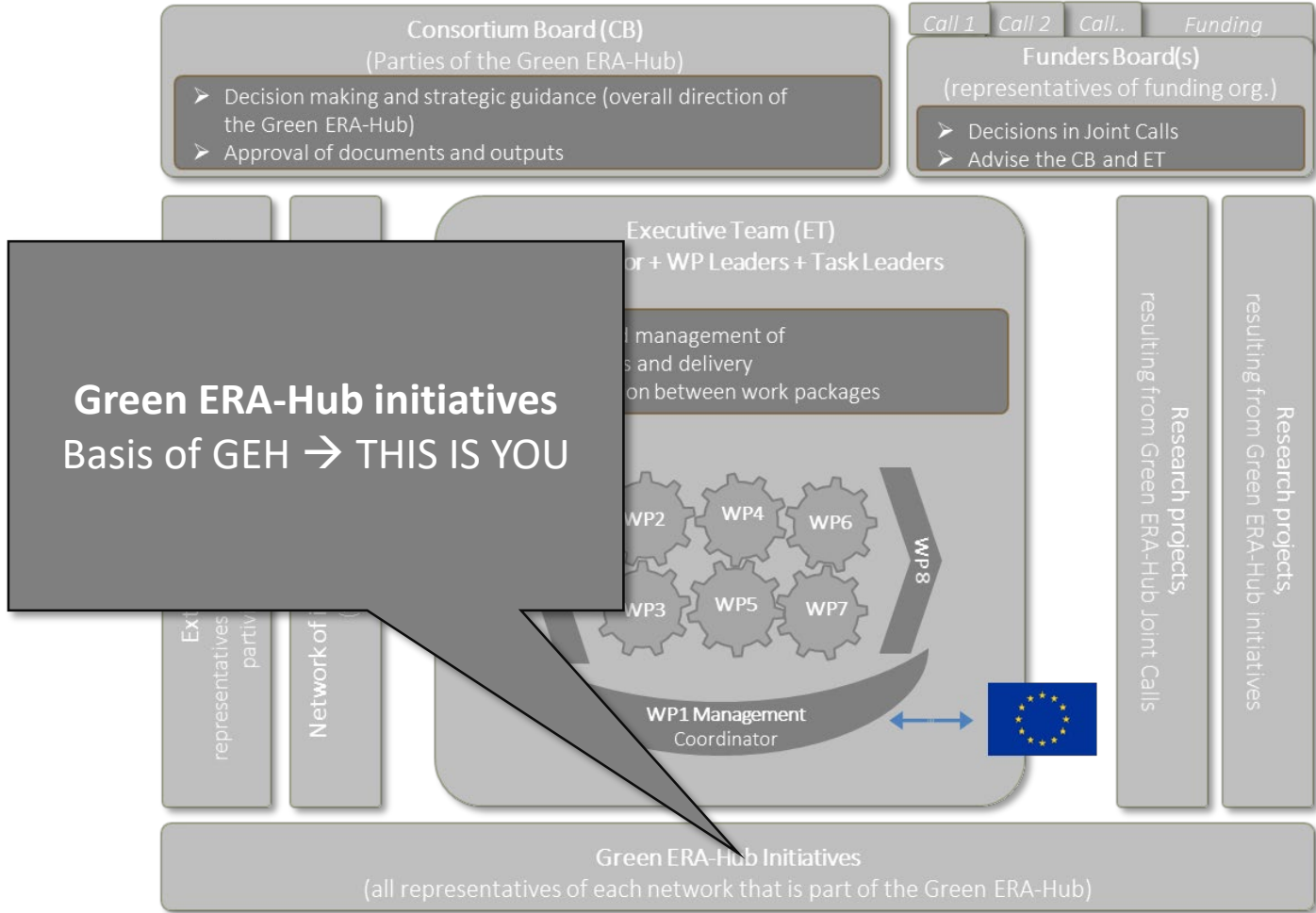
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GEH - Governance



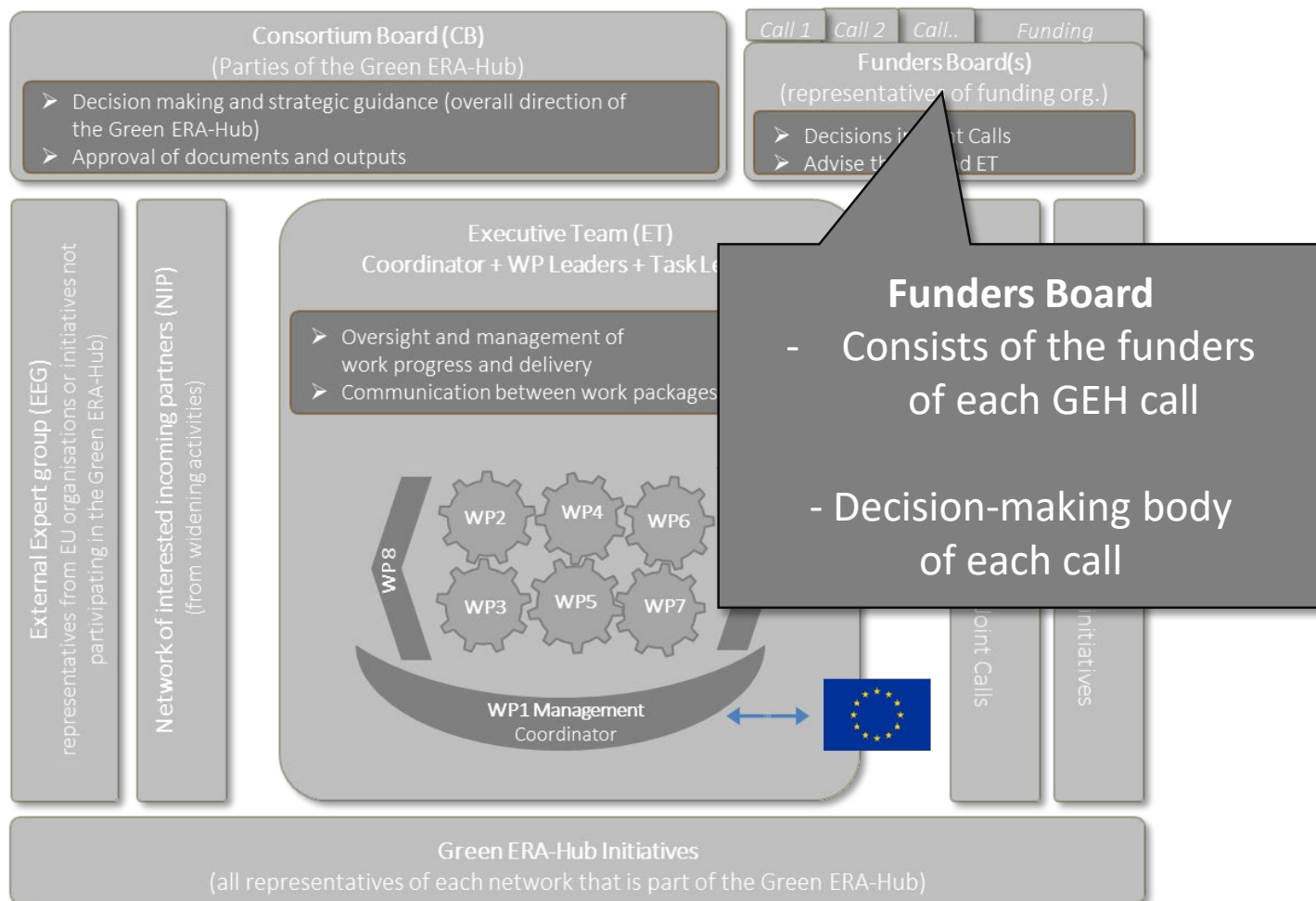


GEH - Governance



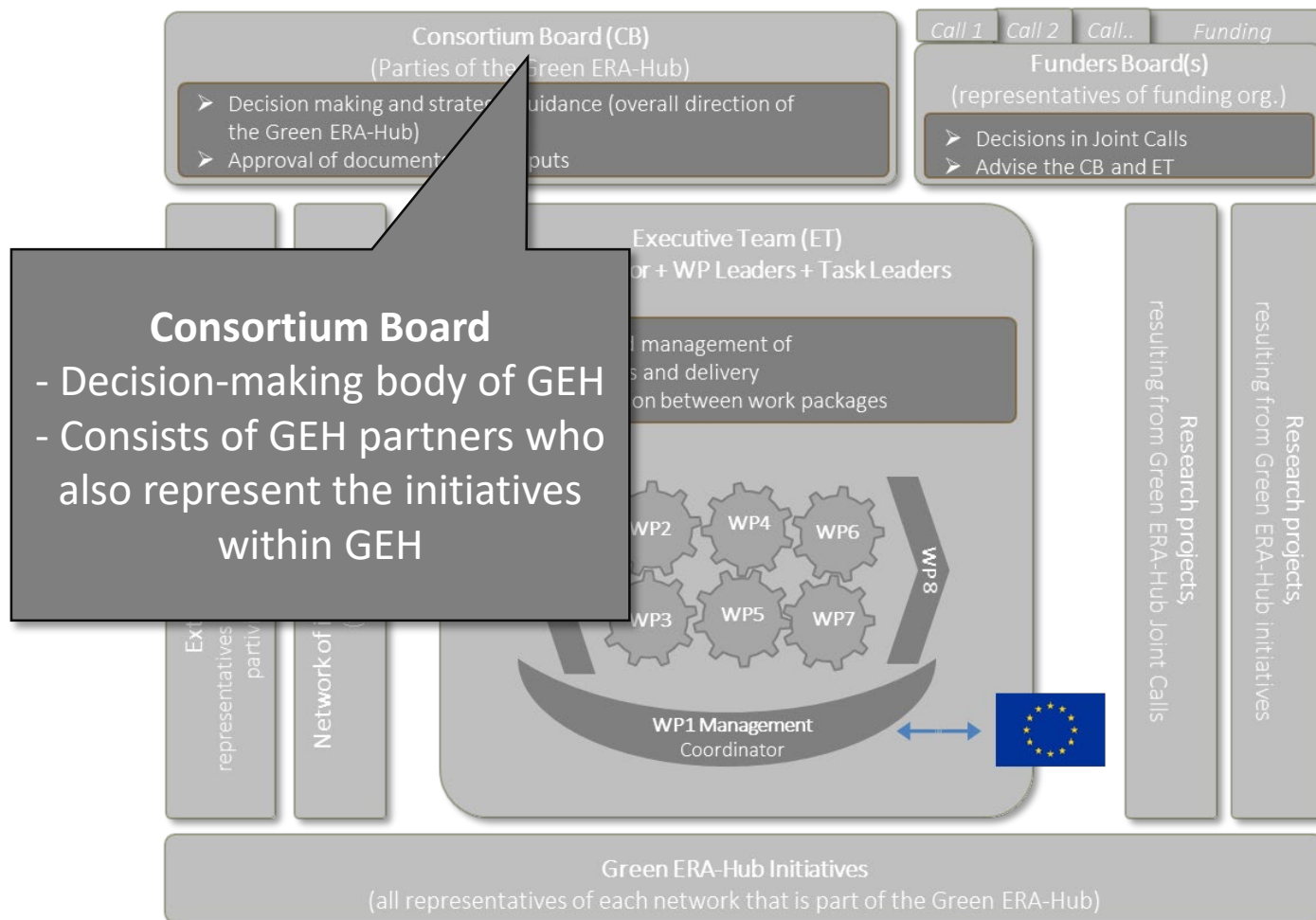


GEH - Governance



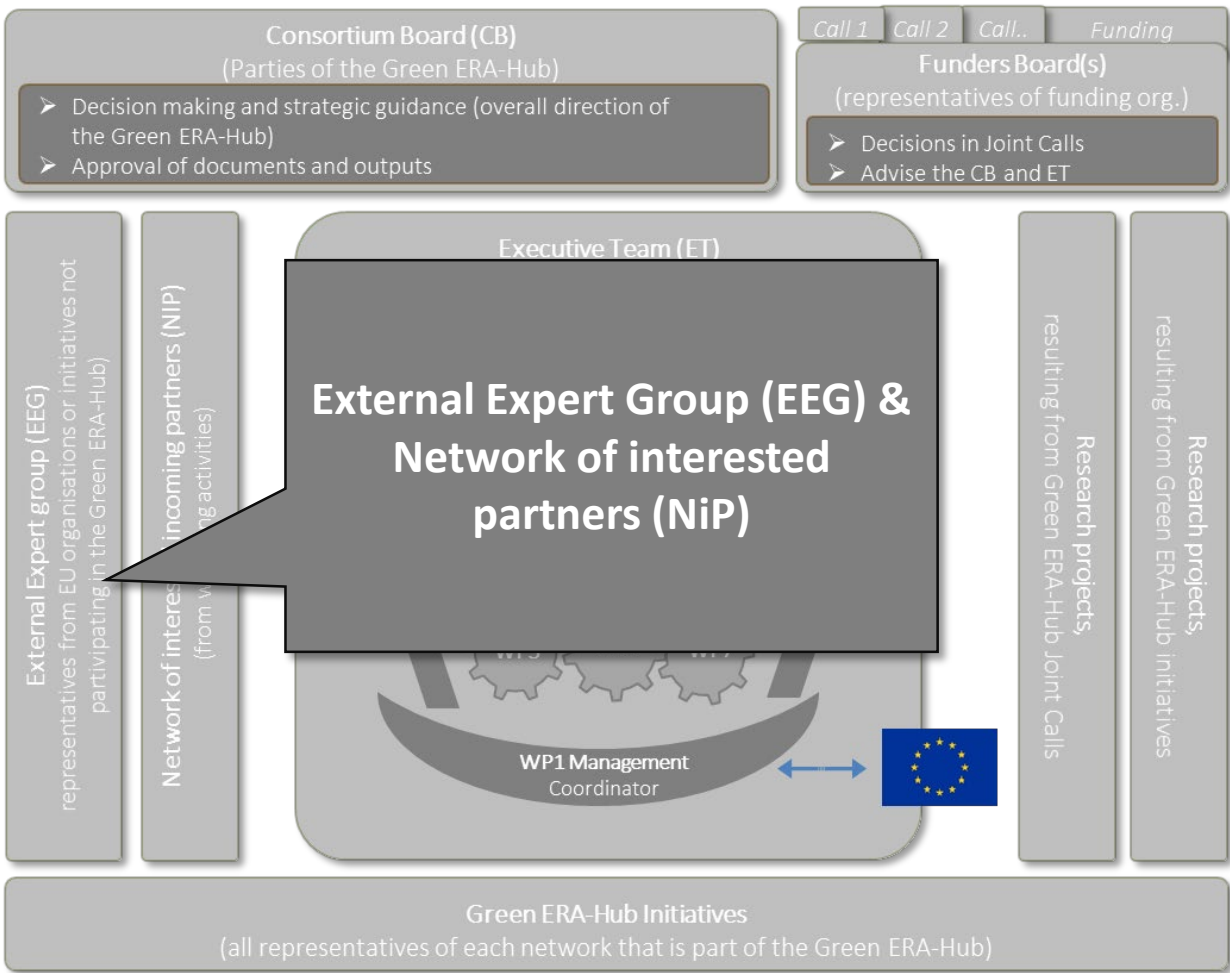


GEH - Governance





GEH - Governance





GEH - Governance

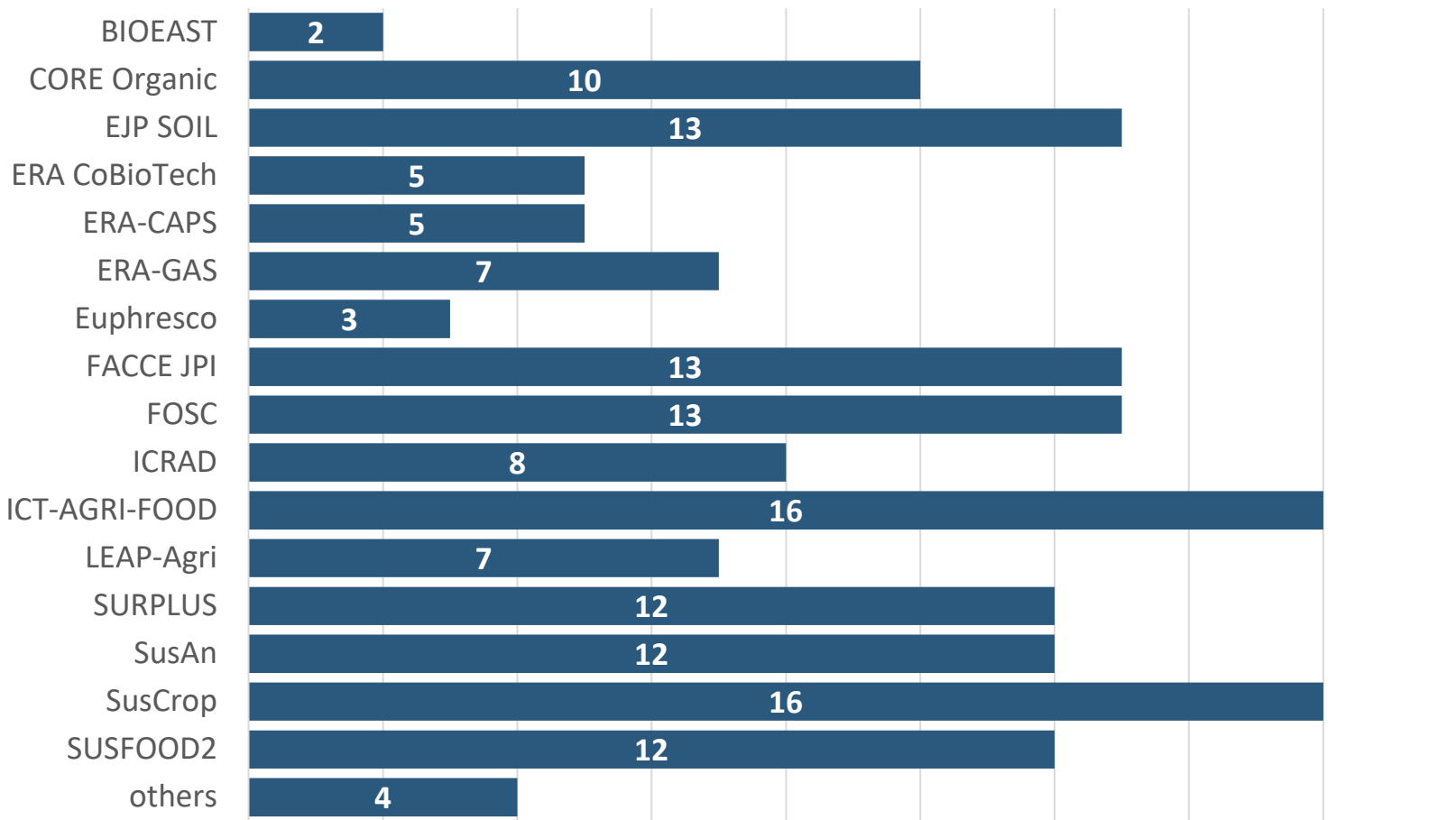


Results on the questionnaire

- Questionnaire to get an impression of research needs and interest in our planned calls
- 43 people filled in the survey on research priorities
- 34 people filled in the survey on call interest
- Contributors from all 15 initiatives and within the GEH and 2 other initiatives gave feedback
- **Funders from 26 countries and 30 different funding agencies**

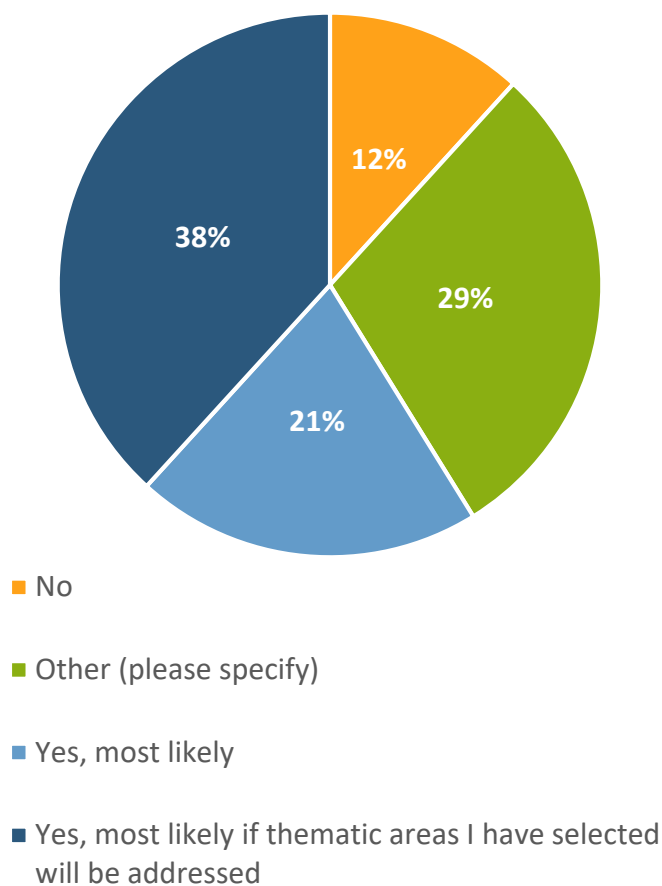


Results on questionnaire | Initiatives





Interest in 1st call



- 34 answers
 - 59 % (20) indicated an interest
 - 12 % (4) have not interest at all
- 29 % Others:
 - 1: timeline too tight
 - 9: not yet decided

Timeline 1st call

If interested in the 1st GEH call, please indicate the latest date for selection

Time	Amount
Sep-Oct 2023	14 % (4)
Oct-Nov 2023	17 % (5)
Dec 2023	14 % (4)
Jan-Mar 2024	7 % (2)
No preferences	48 % (14)
Total	29

If interested in the 1st GEH call, please indicate the latest start of selected projects

Time	Amount
End of 2023	10 % (3)
2024	41 % (12)
No preferences	48 % (14)
Total	29

Interest in future calls and comments

- 34 answers
- YES: 82 % (28)
- No: 18 % (6)
 - 3 – Still unknown/not decided
 - 1 – GEH for other purposes
 - 1 – pending on start of partnerships

Comments

- Our main priority is to take part of the HE partnerships.
- Participation is depending on funding budgets
- Try to balance a representative participant in the WP activities
- I hope that industry will have a significant role in the calls in the Green Era Hub.

GEH and upcoming partnerships

- GEH will complement to the partnerships:
 - Addressing e.g. research gaps not covered within partnerships
 - Bridging funding gap from the end of the ERA-Nets to the start of the partnerships by providing 3 transnational calls
- Widening recommendations for future EU partnerships:
 - EU 11
 - Western Balkan
 - Mediterranean region and African countries
 - Global approach through collaboration with Belmont Forum and Global Research Alliance on Agriculture (GRA)



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Thank you for your attention!

Contacts:

Project coordination: Research Centre Juelich (FZJ), Germany

Call office: Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry and Tourism Policies (MIPAAF),
Italy

Communication: Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Research (EV ILVO), Belgium,
email_communication@email.com

Stay informed:

Website: will be launched soon



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/green-era-hub/>



get in contact with the coordination:

u.ziegler@fz-juelich.de & petra.schulte@fz-juelich.de



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Strategic Roadmapping

Wageningen Research

Martine Vernooij

GEH, Funders Kick-off

12 December 2022



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Strategic Roadmapping

15 networks, 15 scopes, 3 GEH calls, 1 strategic roadmap

The diversity of research areas covered by the GEH is a major asset of the project. This Work Package aims to work out the research ambitions of the GEH into a strategic plan, based on both the EU Green Deal strategic goals and the experience from the GEH partner networks.

The work will feed into the scoping process of WP3 (*calls*),
Provide input for WP7 (*capacity building*),
Provides a look forward on future research needs.



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Strategic Roadmapping

The work package exists out of a series of activities (task 2.1 – task 2.4) to collect input for the roadmap.

And activities (task 2.5 and task 2.6) to synthesize the information and make the roadmap.

Tasks for the first 9 months

- T2.1 Broad outline of strategic ambitions [M1-M9] + input for WP3 (*calls*)
 - Informal inquiry with network coordinators about general interest of funders for calls and topics ->
 - **Scoping workshop** SUSFOOD2, CORE Organic and FOSC (17 November Brussels)
 - **Roadmapping workshop GEH**, (16 September, Ghent)
 - Consultation with national program owners to identify funding priorities in research themes - **survey**
 - Collect relevant SRAs, Roadmaps, known research gaps and other strategic documents from each networkCollaboration with WP3 (*calls*)



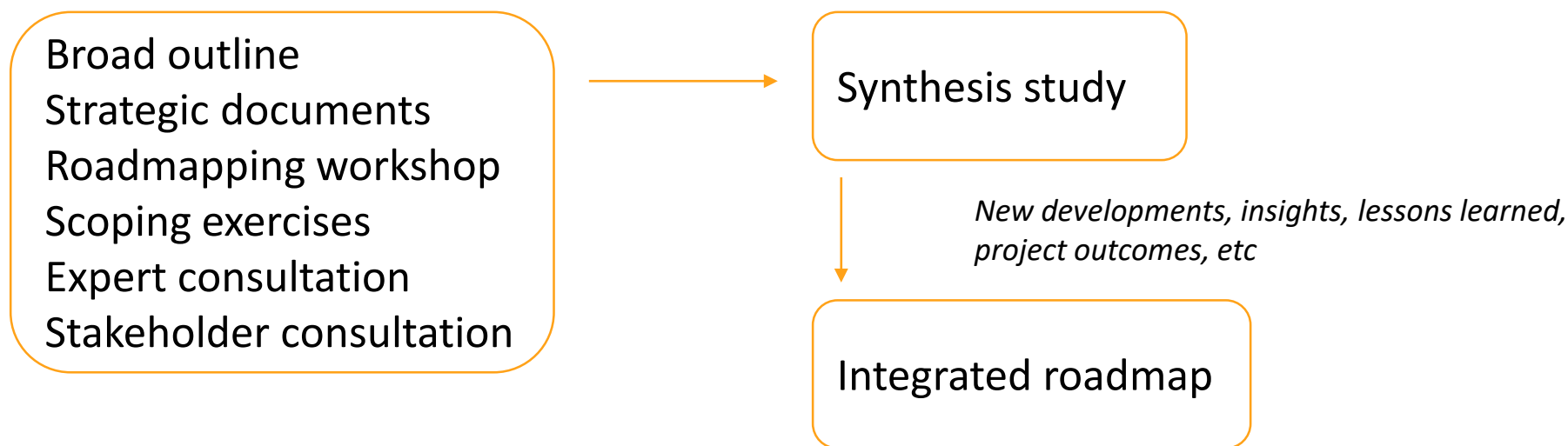
Planned tasks upcoming 24 months

- T2.1 Broad outline of strategic ambitions [M1-M9] + preliminary report for WP3 (*calls*) [M5]
- T2.2 Roadmapping workshop and consultation [M7-M15]
- T2.3 Roadmapping consultation of experts [M1-M40]
 - 16-17 November, project researchers SF2, CO, FOSC
 - 1st of December, project researchers FOSC
- T2.4 Stakeholder consultation [M15-M22]
- T2.5 Synthesis study [M9-M25] intermediate outcomes to WP3 (*calls*)
 - Collect updates from the networks on relevant SRAs, Roadmaps, known research gaps and other strategic documents



Overview tasks entire CSA lifetime

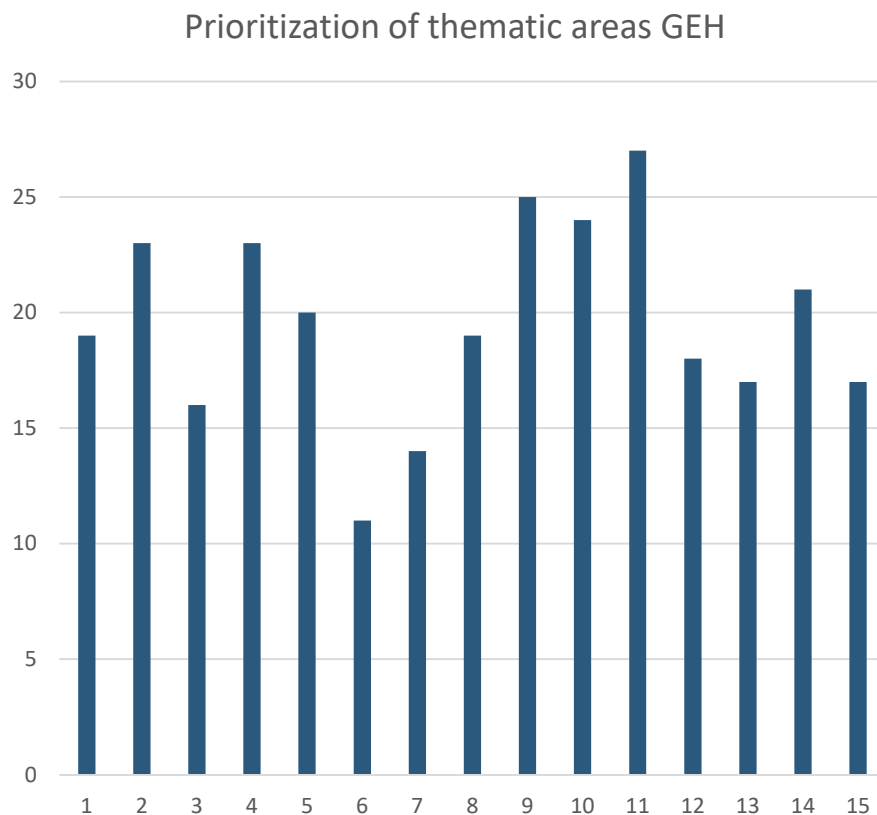
- T2.5 Synthesis study [M9-M25], intermediate outcomes to WP3 (*calls*)
- T2.6 Integrated roadmap [M25-M46]





Survey results

Thematic areas of all 15 GEH networks



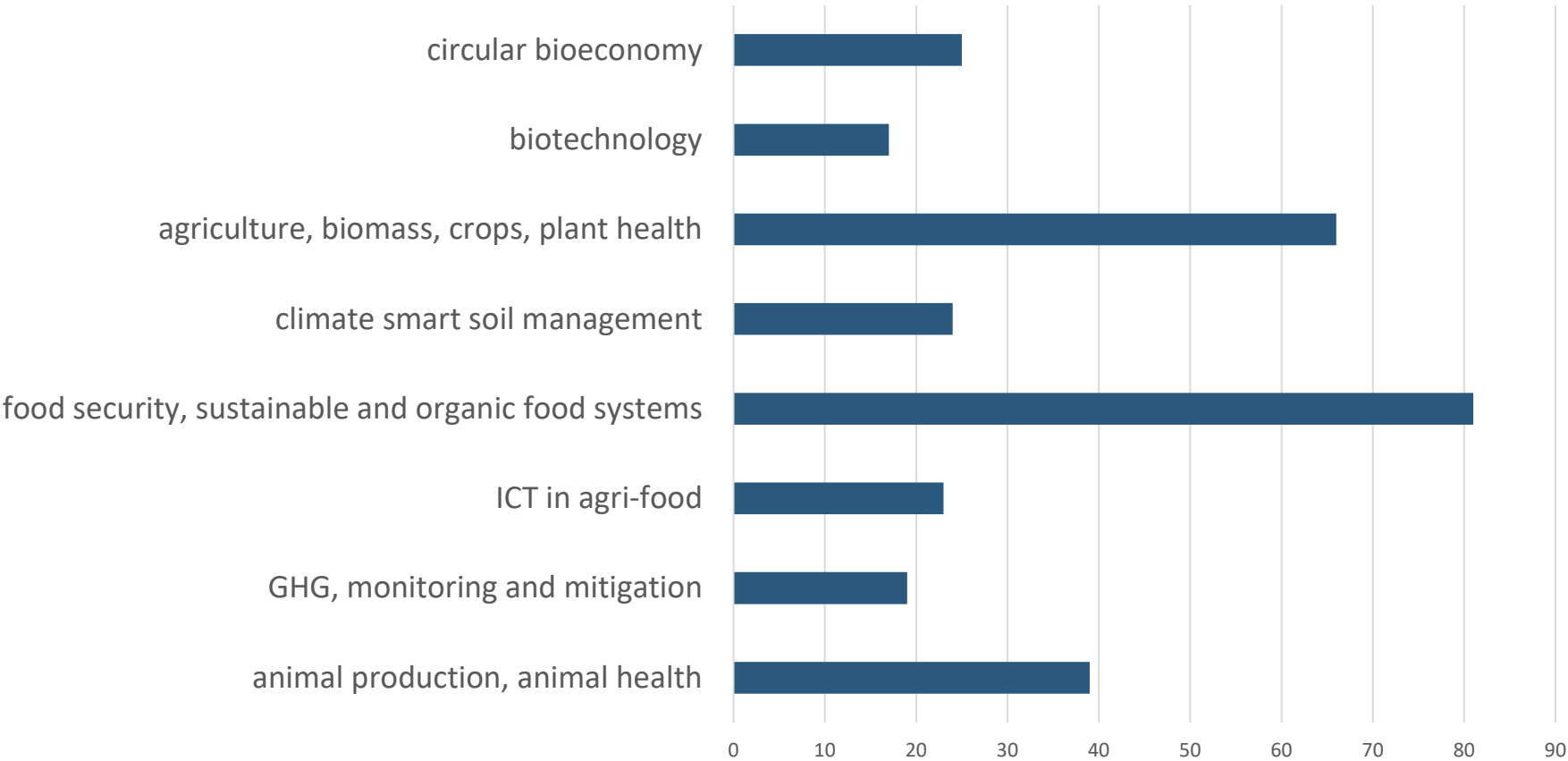
TOP 3:

- Sustainable food systems adaptation and resilience to climate change
- Sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry in a circular bioeconomy
- Climate smart and sustainable soil management



Survey results

Prioritization of grouped research themes





Survey results

Combining thematic areas within a potential call:

- Very diverse answers
- Combine all food topics in 1 sustainable food systems call
- Match ICT with different thematic areas
- Include social and socio-economic sciences and stakeholders
- Sustainable crops, molecular plant sciences, pests and diseases
- Agriculture, climate and diseases
- GHG & food systems
- GHG & agriculture
- Match biotechnology with different thematic areas



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Thank you for your attention

Contacts

WP lead: Martine Vernooij, Dorri te Boekhorst, WR

Task leads: Anja Berndt, Nikki Mackie, UKRI

Additional contributors: all partners and GEH networks



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Transnational Calls for research proposals in the Green ERA Hub.

Towards the first Joint Call.

Stefano Grando – WP lead (MASAF, Italy)

WP3 - Future funding – definition and implementation of transnational calls for research proposals

12 Dec 2022



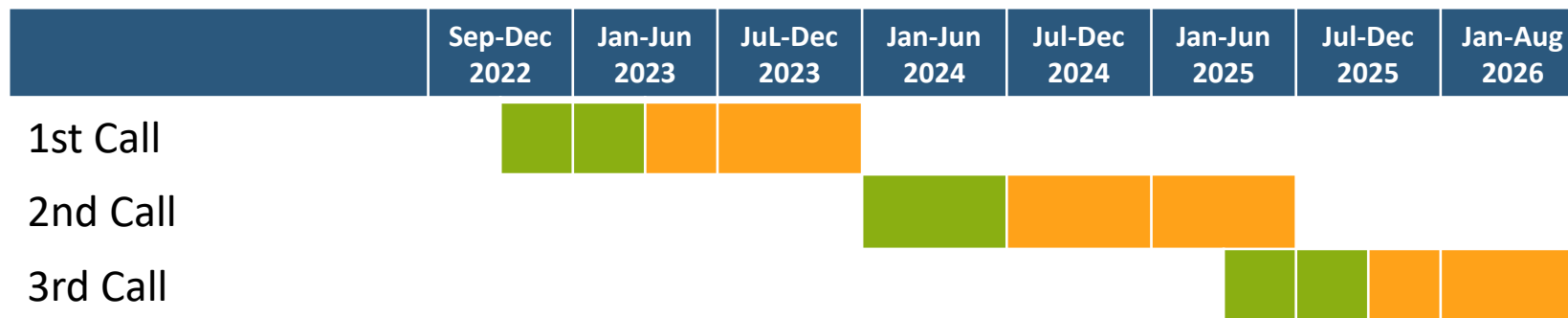
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WP 3 – Future Funding

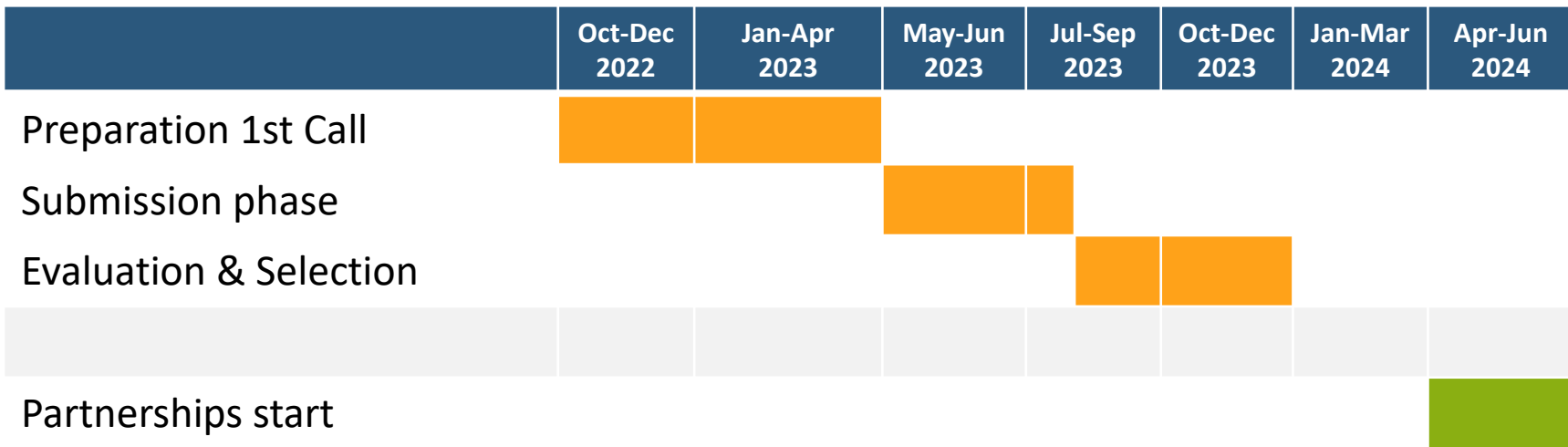
Implementation of 3 transnational calls for proposals during the lifetime of the CSA.

Each call will provide direct funding for R&I projects/networks addressing crosscutting issues & multidisciplinary focus areas of research at the thematic interface of two or more of the previous ERA-Nets.

“WP3 team”: BLE, MASAF, JUELICH, TEAGASC



Towards the 1st call



1st Call bridging a funding gap between ending of ERA-NETs and start of the partnerships

ERA-NETs and JPIs partners in GEH

Initiative	Topic	Representing partner in GEH
BIOEAST Initiative	Central and Eastern European Initiative for Knowledge based Agriculture, Forestry and Aquaculture in the Bioeconomy	AM (HU)
CORE Organic	ERA-Net Cofund on organic food and farming	AU (DK)
EJP Soil	European Joint Programme on soil	INRAE (FR); WR (NL)
ERA-CAPS	Self-sustained (former ERA-Net on plant research)	UKRI (UK)
ERA CoBioTech	ERA-Net Cofund on platform technologies in biotechnology	FZJ (DE)
ERA-GAS	ERA-Net Cofund on greenhouse gas emission	TEAGASC (IE)
Euphresco	Self-sustained (former ERA-Net on statutory plant health (regulated and emerging plant pests))	EPPO (FR)
FOSC	ERA-Net Cofund on food systems and climate	ANR (FR)
ICRAD	ERA-Net Cofund on infectious animal diseases	UKRI (UK)
ICT-AgriFood	ERA-Net Cofund on ICT and high-tech in agriculture	BLE (DE)
SusAn	ERA-Net Cofund on sustainable animal production	BLE (DE)
LEAP-Agri	Self-sustained EU-African partnership on nutrition & food security	ANR (FR)
SusCrop	ERA-Net Cofund on sustainable plant production	FZJ (DE)
SUSFOOD2	ERA-Net Cofund on sustainable food production and consumption	FZJ (DE)
SURPLUS	Self-sustained (former ERA-Net Cofund on sustainable agriculture)	FZJ (DE)



The scoping process for the 1st call

- GEH WP2, in coordination with WP3, performs various activities for the scoping process: a desk analysis on a range of sources (SRIAs, Foresights, etc.), a workshop at the GEH kick-off meeting in Ghent; a survey for funders; a GEH Funders' kick-off meeting on 12 Dec 2022.
- In parallel, individual networks, and/or by group of networks, can develop scoping processes aimed at providing ideas for the GEH Calls.
- Although formally not held under GEH umbrella, they provide key input for the definition of topics and themes for the first GEH call (and also for the subsequent calls).

These results could converge into the topic of the call, or into one of the topics, in case there will be more than one.

- In January the call process under WP3 of GEH will start with a dedicated scoping workshop and the other related activities.



Preliminary outcomes

Prioritisation from in-presence and online sessions

Highest priority:

- Climate positive farming and food (GEH)
Greenhouse gas emission mitigation
- Circular food systems (GEH)
Circular bio-economy, recycling and sustainable use of resources for organic food and farming
Circular urban resources management

High priority:

- Changing the mindset of consumers and producers (GEH)
- Organic production systems for plants, livestock and aquaculture (resilient)
- Energy consumption in primary production and food systems
- Resource-efficient agricultural production systems
- Robustness, resilience, adaptive capacity, including food systems diversity and interconnections



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Joint Scoping Workshop 17th Nov



Preliminary outcomes

Suggested title:

'Sustainability and Transformation of the Food System'

Potential call topics

- Energy use in food and feed production systems
- Resilient and climate friendly sustainable and organic food and farming
- Side-stream waste management
- Alternative protein sources



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Joint Scoping Workshop 17th Nov



Preliminary outcomes

Cross-cutting issues

- Projects include a valorisation plan in their proposal and reserve budget for it
- Projects use the system approach, are multi-disciplinary and multi-actor
- Different scales addressed by the projects.
 - i) Spatial scales (local vs regional, comparing regions, global assessment)
 - ii) Temporal scales, considering climate trends, variability and risks
- Attention to consumption side, whenever relevant

Today's' expected outcomes

- ✓ Funders' interest on the first call
- ✓ Under which preferred and/or required conditions: topics, timeline, procedures (one-step...), administrative conditions
- ✓ Suggestions for topics of interest (in prep of the GEH scoping workshop in January 2023)
- ✓ Discussion on outcomes of scoping workshop of CO-SF2-FOSC (held on 17/11/2022)
- ✓ News (ongoing pertinent initiatives, areas of interest, topics...) from other networks



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Thank you for your attention!

Contacts

Ministero dell'agricoltura, della sovranità alimentare e delle foreste - Ministry of agriculture, food sovereignty and forestry (MASAF), Italy

E-Mail: s.grando@politicheagricole.it



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WP3 – call office

Technical modalities of the call procedure

Christian Breuer for the 1st call (Juelich)

c.breuer@fz-juelich.de

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Involved Bodies

Call office

- Operated by projectmanagement Juelich, MASAF, BLE depending on call
- Manages the entire call from launch, evaluation, selection to monitoring
- Contact point for all requests regarding this call

Funders' Board

- Consists of funding bodies of each call
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed by Funders and GEH to establish and underpin call procedure
- Decision making body:
 - selects proposals to be funded based on ranking list and availability of funds
 - Agrees on call procedure and timeline

Documents needed

Document	Description
Financial commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Funder submits a financial commitment to the call office The Funder declares within this commitment that funds of XXX € will be available for the support of its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list
MoU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish procedure underpinning the call incl. Application, evaluation and funding procedures Needs to be signed by each Funder and GEH (not legally binding)
Funders Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Funder defines its own regulations to this call for its applicants All proposals submitted to the call must fulfil the general criteria and the applicable Funders' eligibility criteria. If the Funder specific criteria differ from the general eligibility criteria, the Funder specific criteria has to be respected.
Call Announcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes all procedures and modalities of the call Written by call office, approved by Funders Provided to Funders, applicants and evaluators of the proposals

General modalities

Budget

- “Virtual common pot” scheme of financing (i.e. each Funder will fund only the activities of their respective eligible beneficiaries).
- Initial budget of each Funder will be published within the call documents
- Specific Funder regulation of each Funder defines funding restrictions (e.g. maximum funding per project, exceptions for funding, ...)

Contract between Funders and their beneficiaries of projects selected for funding

- Each Funder will enter into the contracting process with their beneficiaries of successful proposals eligible to receive their funds.
- Beneficiaries will have to comply with the respective Funder’s regulation
- All contracts and funding procedures remain the full responsibility of each individual Funder.

Possible call procedures

Type	Description	Pro/Cons
1-step procedure	Applicants submit full proposal only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Short timeline - Risk of oversubscription of single Funders - Total number of proposal is unknown until final submission
1-step procedure with pre-registration	Applicants register their proposal first and following this the full proposal will be submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Short timeline - Risk (but well known in advance) of oversubscription of single Funders + Due to pre-registration number of full proposals can be estimated
2-step procedure	Applicants submit a preproposal and full proposals, both evaluated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Longer timeline + low oversubscription due to preselection in preproposal step + Due to preproposal step number of full proposals can be estimated



Submission

Submission

- Via well established Juelich submission tool
- Call office as technical helpdesk and general inquiries to call
- Funders Contact Point (FCP) for Funders specific inquiries
- Webinar for applicants

Proposal content (with reference to HEU)

- Key data and Summary (Title, acronym, duration, topic addressed, ...)
- Working Description
- Ethical Compliance
- Data management plan (DMP) and Communication and dissemination plan
- Partner description (incl. CV)
- Letter of commitment(s), if appropriate

Evaluation

International Evaluation Committee (IEC)

- International experts in the field of proposed topics of the call
- 3 experts/proposal
- IEC meeting to discuss individual scores and agree on consensus scores and build up ranking list of proposals

Criteria for evaluation

- Scientific excellence
- Relevance and Impact
- Implementation
- Each criterion will be scored and gets also written feedback

Scoring

- Scoring from 0 to 5 (only full scores)
- Thresholds applied for each criterion 3/5 and total score 10/15



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Selection

Funders' Board

- Selects project based on ranking list and availability of funds
- Further aspects on funding options defined in MoU
- Opportunity to increase budget at any stage of selection process
- Meeting will be face-to-face or online
- Selection procedure not bound to HEU criteria (similar to additional calls in ERA Net Cofunds)



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Thank you for your attention!

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Stay informed:

Website: will be launched soon



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Questions and Answers



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GEH and partnerships – 1st call

- **Q: More or less the proposed topic for call 1 covered by partnerships agroecology and food systems, why invest in GEH?**
- **A1:** To our present knowledge there is a **limited possibility to fund call topics accross Partnerships**. In ther GEH we can fund topics across networks/ scopes and this could be real added value. Maybe also to institutionalise over the time.
- **A2: The 1st GEH call is closing a funding gap** which will be there if most of the ERA-Nets will end next year and the partnerships have not started by then: Submission deadline for partnerhsip propoals agroecology and foodsystems will be April 2023. Thus calls within those partnerships are not expected until end of 2024.

GEH and partnerships

- **Comment: Why participating on GEH calls when the partnerships have started?**
- **A1: The advantage of the GEH calls is also that we are not bound by the remit of the partnerships** and can, if we have scoped properly, address the gaps not covered by the partnerships and act by bringing partners together that usually wouldn't come together
- A2: International funders will only be allowed in the partnerships in "exceptional cases" according to a statement made by the Commission at the last Food Systems partnership event. **Within the GEH we have a dedicated WP for widening and anticipate to widen our calls to an International level**
- A3: As already indicated within the presentation: For the 1st call we are working as bridging tool to close the funding gap between ERA-Nets ending and the start of the partnerships. **For future planned calls we anticipate to be complement to partnerships**, e.g. by offering international calls, topics and scopes not covered in partnerships or with cross cutting aspects.

Call modalities

- **Q: Will there be a specific TRL level in each call?**
- A: This will be decided by the funders of each call, if a TRL level will be included in either the call document as general eligibility criteria or either included in the funder's specific regulations: TRL level might differ between each funder and for some funders this is not relevant

- **Q: Minimum number of funders for a call?**
- A: Hard to say, the critical mass depends not only on available funding and on involved funders, b

- **Q: Maximum number of funders for a call?**
- A: No

- **Q: Is the board of funders different for each call?**
- A: Yes, funders can differ and each call. New funders can join each call.

Call modalities

- **Q: The call will be not cofunded, correct?**
- **A1: This is correct**, there will be no cofund for the call because we are a CSA. However due to this fact, **we are independent from the EC rules**, when we select proposals: e.g. skipping of proposals in a ranking list is possible if single funders run out of funding
- **A2:** Bear in mind that while the partnerships are cofunded, that is an overall rate for all activities in the partnership. **So some administrative activities will be funded at 100%, and other activities (including the calls) will likely be cofunded at a level much lower than 30%/50%.**