Agri-food partnerships within the context of the Green Deal and F2F

Alexia ROUBY

European Commission

Agriculture and rural development

Research and innovation

S3 Thematic platforms joint event

18 December 2020

The European green deal

Establish sustainable food systems that:

… have neutral or positive environmental impact of food production:
- preserving and restoring the land and sea-based resources
- mitigating climate change and adapting to its impact
- protecting land, soil, water, air, plant and animal health
- reversing the loss of biodiversity

… ensure food security and public health:
- ensuring access for everyone to sufficient, nutritious, sustainable food
- ensuring high standards of safety and quality, plant health, animal health and welfare

… preserve the affordability of food, while (a.o.):
- generating fairer economic returns and promoting fair trade
- fostering the competitiveness sector and leading the global transition towards competitive sustainability from farm to fork
- safeguarding occupational health and safety
- creating new business opportunities
- ensuring integrity of the single market
- so ultimately the most sustainable food becomes the most affordable
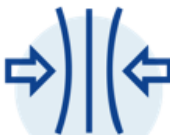
… are robust and resilient

European Commission

Key targets & objectives to be achieved by 2030

-50% chemical pesticides

-20% chemical fertilizers
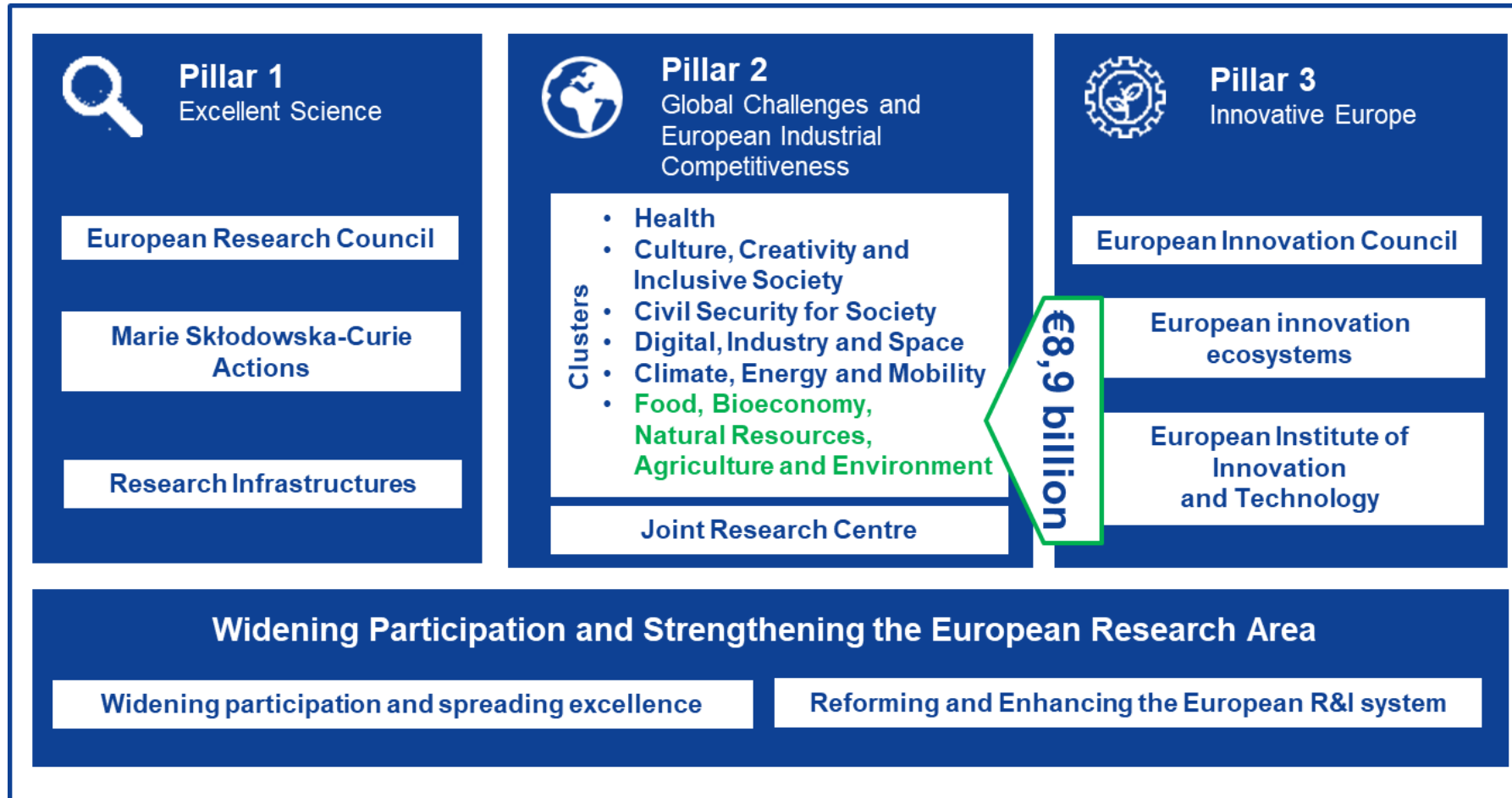
10% agricultural land under high-diversity landscape

-50% antimicrobials for livestock

25% share of organic production

protect **soil fertility, reduce soil erosion** and **increase soil organic matter**

Horizon Europe - structure

Cluster 6 cross-cutting expected impacts

Intervention Areas

- Environmental Observation
- Biodiversity and Natural Resources
- Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Areas
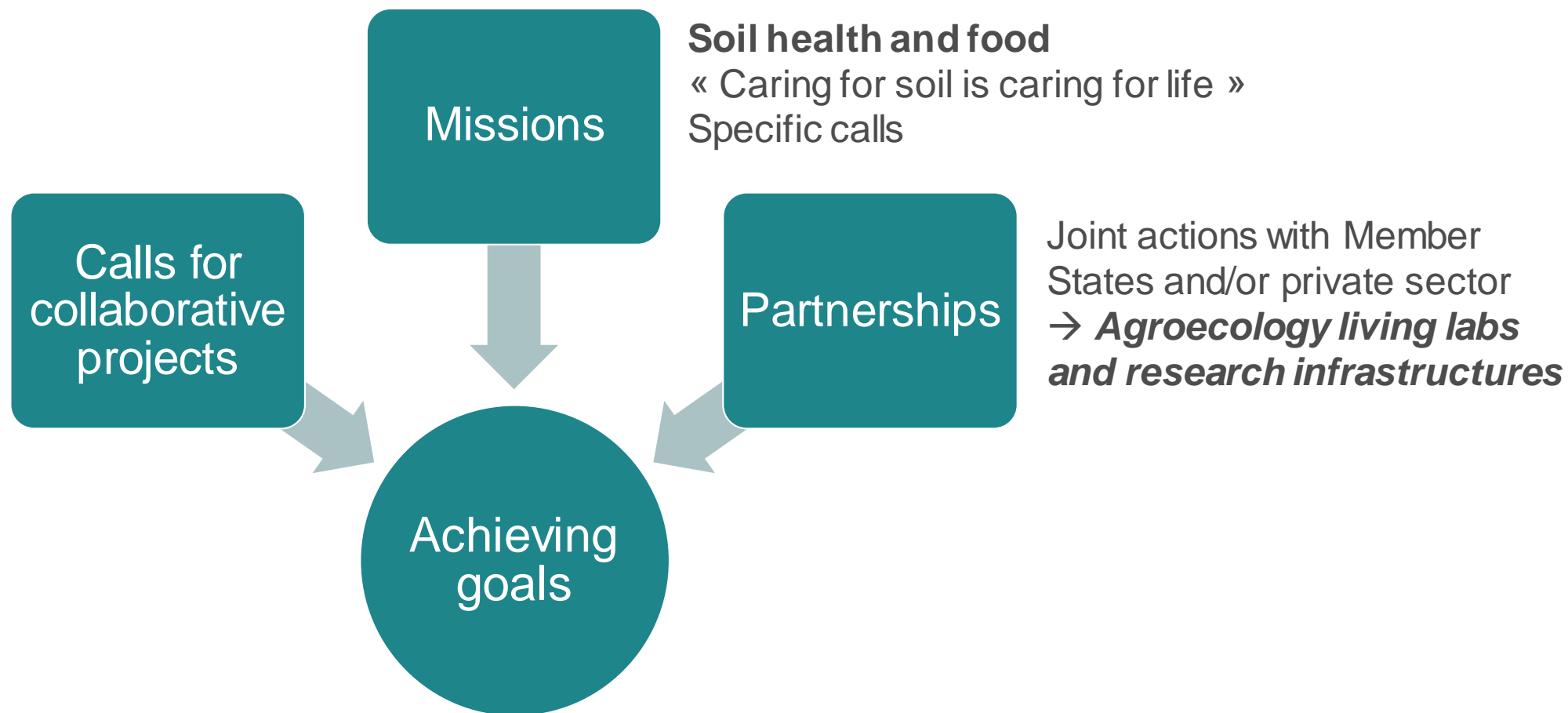- Seas, Oceans and Inland Waters
- Food Systems
- Bio-based innovation systems in the EU Bioeconomy
- Circular Systems

Horizon Europe: our main instruments

Work programme
for 2021-2022
coming in April
2021 (tentative)

Calls for collaborative projects

Missions

Soil health and food
« Caring for soil is caring for life »
Specific calls

Partnerships

Joint actions with Member
States and/or private sector
→ *Agroecology living labs and research infrastructures*

Achieving goals

European Commission

Encouraging synergies through partnerships

Accelerating farming systems transitions: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures

Safe and sustainable food systems for people, planet and climate

Agriculture of data

Animals and health

European Commission

Agroecology living labs & research infrastructures
Objectives and activities

- **Goal:** **accelerate the transition** towards sustainable, climate and ecosystem-friendly farming practices by enabling to better grasp short to long-term agroecological processes from farm to landscape levels

- **Objectives**:

  - Strengthen the **agroecology research and innovation ecosystem**

  - Improve farmers' knowledge on implementation of agroecology and its benefits

  - Improving the **sharing of knowledge and experience across regions and countries**

- **Activities**:

  - Set-up a common framework for methods, protocols, data management etc.

  - Create spaces for **long-term, site-specific and real-life experimentation and innovation** (living labs or alike)

  - Create a **network of these spaces and knowledge-sharing mechanisms**

Agroecology living labs & research infrastructures
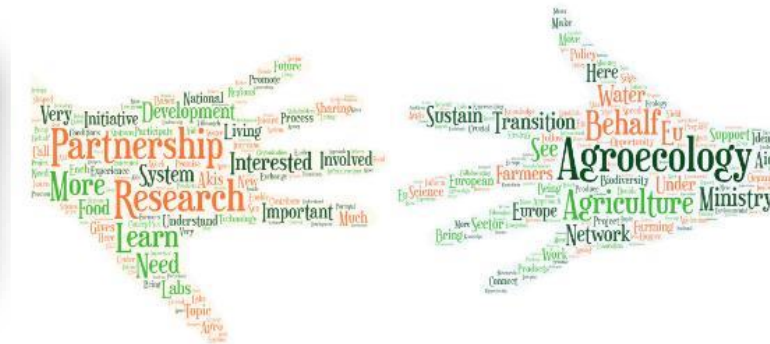## *Co-creation process*

| Webinars (May-June 2020) | Partnership co-creation (2020-2022) SCAR-AE, EC, CSAs, Stakeholders | Call in Horizon EU WP 2023 | Start of the partnership (2024 →) |

ALL-READY & AE4EU: contribute, pilot, build capacities etc.

- Member States (SCAR, Partnership contact points) & national research funders (inc. FACCE)

- **Regional authorities**

- Academia & science community

- Stakeholders organisations (sector, environment) – various levels

- 270+ people involved in webinars

- Follow the process here

18th EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES
05>09 OCTOBER 2020   12>16 OCTOBER 2020   19>22 OCTOBER 2020

Agriculture of data
Context

- Need of more information for supporting agricultural sustainability and competitiveness

- Need for **more data as basis for policy monitoring and evaluation**

  - Key data sets are managed by **public authorities**

  - Member states are responsible for monitoring & evaluation

- Better harvest the potential of **environmental and Earth observation**

- More **sharing and integration of data and data collection** and sharing approaches

- **Big data technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI)** can add to providing solutions.

- Important to achieve a **maximum outreach** (farmers, organisations, businesses)

Agriculture of data
Objectives

- **Principal objectives**
  - Using the possibilities offered by data technologies in the field of environmental observation to:
    - provide support to improve the **sustainability performance of agricultural production**;
    - Improve the **capacities for policy monitoring and evaluation**.

- **Expected impacts**
  - **Develop digital solutions improving efficiency, environmental friendliness and profitable food production, including a basis to climate adaptation**.
  - Improvement of **forecasting/modelling capabilities** for governmental decision making.
  - **Supportive role in the delivery of the CAP** and environmental policy objectives and to policy monitoring and evaluation in general.
  - **Defragmenting** the current environmental observation landscape.
  - Deepen understanding of necessary needs of future datasets

European Commission

Animals & Health
Context

- **Animal diseases**:
  - threaten animal lives and welfare, engender losses, endanger ecosystems
  - jeopardise farmers' livelihood and the socio-economy of regions and nations
  - cost billions of Euros in for control and mitigation and place human lives at risk (zoonotic transmission, food security)
- Need to **improve animal production conditions** and welfare: ethics & health
- **Transboundary character** of infectious diseases and emerging threats.
- **AMR** as serious challenge to be addressed. Practices that are rejected or systems decried for producing animals of very low economic value.
- **Declining public research budgets vs increasing challenges**
- New opportunities offered by **recent technologies** (e.g. for genomics, microbiome)

Animals & Health
Main features being discussed

- **Scope:** mainly animal health (infectious diseases), both terrestrial and aquatic animals, including impact on public health; as well as animal welfare

- **Involvement of industry:** exploratory discussions on-going; international participation: to be discussed

- **Expected outputs/impacts:** strengthening ERA and leveraging resources in animal health and welfare research through an **integrated network of reference institutes**, involving other research organisations and in coordination with the private sector, to reduce duplication, reinforce synergies, build capacities, shorten innovation pipeline so as to:
  - Ensure **quality and timeliness of response to emerging issues** (preparedness)
  - **Reduce animal disease** burden: development of preventative and therapeutic tools and approaches to fight priority infectious diseases and AMR (reduce, replace, rethink anti-microbial usage)
  - Strengthen the **One Health approach** and contribute to **reduce public health impact** (zoonoses)
  - Improve the **sustainability of livestock production** by improving animal welfare and health

European Commission

Thank you

- **More information:**
    - [Candidates for European Partnerships in food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment](#)
    - [European R&I partnership on agroecology living labs and research infrastructures](#)
    - [Webinars on building the European partnership on agroecology living labs](#)
    - [#EURegionsWeek Workshop "Regional living labs for agroecology"](#)