

**#EU  
GREEN  
WEEK**

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Partner Event

# Funding schemes for circular economy initiatives

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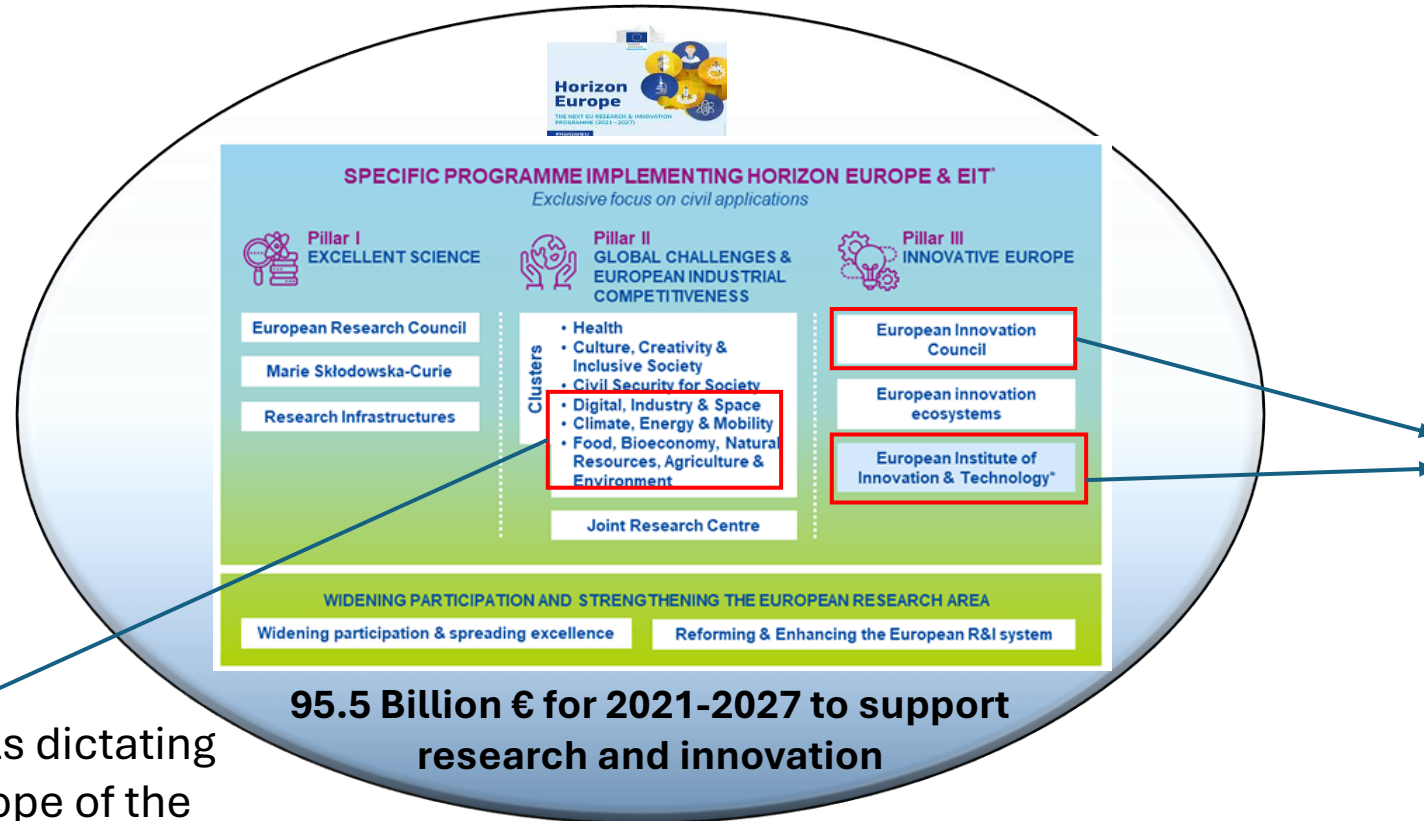
**Circular economy innovations:  
From waste to valuable materials with EU R&I**



# Outline

- ✓ The EU has put in place a comprehensive policy mix to support the green transition.
  - ✓ Today we will learn about the essentials about those policy initiatives and the supporting/funding mechanisms for innovative circular economy projects
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- Horizon Europe
  - Life
  - Critical Raw Materials Act-Strategic projects
  - Competitive Compass- Competitiveness fund

# Funding schemes under Horizon Europe



Mostly top-down calls dictating the call topic and scope of the project

Mostly bottom up calls open for any innovative ideas and concepts

# Examples of relevant Funding schemes under Horizon Europe for circular economy (metals)- Cluster 4

## **HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-MATERIALS-61: Technologies for critical raw materials and strategic raw materials from end-of-life products**

Type: Innovation Action (IA)

Budget: 8M€ per project, €24 M available, Deadline: 23/09/2025

Focus: Reuse and Recycling critical raw materials from end-of-life products such as WEEE, waste batteries, end-of-life vehicles, waste wind turbines, waste solar photovoltaics, waste heat pumps, waste electrolyzers and machine tools made from high-performance alloys.

## **HORIZON-CL4-2025-05-TWIN-TRANSITION-35-two-stage: Developing and embedding upcycling technologies into viable business**

Type: Innovation Action (IA)

Budget: 8-12M€ per project, €48 M available, Deadlines: 23/09/2025 and 14 April 2026

Focus: Upcycling of end-of-life materials for providing new business opportunities and revenue flows for recycling companies

# Examples of relevant Funding schemes under Horizon Europe for circular economy (metals)- Cluster 4

## **HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-MATERIALS-63: Innovative solutions for the sustainable production for Semiconductor raw materials**

Type: Innovation Action (IA)

Budget: 8 M€ per project, €24 M available, Deadline: 23/09/2025

Focus: Increase recovery rates of particularly raw materials from low grade or complex ores and/or from residues and/or by-products and/or extractive waste and/or manufacturing waste

## **HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-TWIN-TRANSITION-01 Integrated approaches for remanufacturing**

Type: Innovation Action (IA)

Budget: 5-7M€ per project, €35 M available, Deadline: 23/09/2025

Focus: Developing integrated solutions for remanufacturing to enhance circularity

## **HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-TWIN-TRANSITION-05: Advanced manufacturing technologies for leadership of EU manufacturers in products for the net-zero industry**

Type: Innovation Action (IA)

Budget: 5-7M€ per project, €42 M available, Deadline: 23/09/2025

Focus: Circular manufacturing approaches and reduced reliance on Critical Raw Materials, in view of increasing the options for re-manufacturing, disassembly, recycling, etc

# Examples of relevant Funding schemes under Horizon Europe for circular economy (metals)- Cluster 5

## **HORIZON-CL5-2025-02-D2-03: Sustainable processing and refining of raw materials to produce battery grade Li-ion battery materials**

Type: Innovation Action (IA)

Budget: 10 M€ per project, €20 M available, Deadline: 23/09/2025

Focus: Advanced technologies for the processing of primary and secondary raw materials into high-quality battery metals or active materials

## **HORIZON-CL5-2025-01-Two-Stage-D3-23: Critical elements for energy security of grid and storage technologies**

Type: Research and Innovation Action (RIA)

Budget: 3M€ per project, €9 M available, Deadline: 2/09/2025 and 31/03/2026

Focus: Increasing circular economy processes, recycling, re-use or substitution of sustainably supplied critical materials and electronics for energy network and storage technologies;

# Examples of relevant Funding schemes under Horizon Europe for circular economy - Cluster 6

## **HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-01: Novel circular business models to enable the just transition to a sustainable and circular economy**

Type: Innovation Action (IA)

Budget: 5 M€ per project, €10 M available, Deadline: 17/09/2025

Focus: Development of innovative business models, to enable the transition towards a circular and sustainable ecosystem

## **HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-01-two-stage: Open Topic: Innovative solutions for the sustainable and circular transformation of SMEs**

Type: Innovation Action (IA)

Budget: 5M€ per project, €10 M available, Deadline: 4/09/2025 and 18/02/2026

Focus: Address common but also new, upcoming, or unforeseen challenges to the green transition of SMEs through innovative, disruptive and sustainable solutions.

# Funding schemes under the LIFE Programme

EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action.

## Key objectives:

- Promote innovative techniques and approaches for environmental policy.
- Support large-scale deployment of successful solutions.
- Contribute to EU Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan.

## Circular economy topics covered:

- Recovery of Resources from Waste, Innovative recycling and recovery technologies: (WEEE, Batteries, EoL Vehicles, C&D, plastics, textiles, composite, recovery and/or reuse of CRM from waste, packaging etc.)

Available budget for Circular economy and Quality of life in 2025: 77 M€ (30 projects to be funded)

Project type: Standard Action Projects (SAPs).

- Funding rate: Up to 60% of eligible costs.
- Typical budget: €2M – €10M per project.
- Eligible costs: Personnel, equipment, subcontracting, overheads (7%).
- Deadline 23 September 2025





# The Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)

It was proposed by the EC in March 2023 and entered into forces about a year ago (23 May 2024).

## Aim:

- Strengthen EU's critical raw materials capacities along all stages of the value chain.
- Ensure a diverse, secure, and sustainable supply of critical raw materials for the EU's industry.

## How? Actions under the CRMA:

- 1- **Setting priorities** e.g. List of 34 CRM including 17 as Strategic Materials
- 2- **Setting benchmarks by 2030 for domestic capacities** (at least 25% of the EU's annual consumption from recycling)
- 3- **Creating secure and resilient supply chains** e.g. reduce admin burden, streamlining permitting procedures for CRM projects, select **Strategic Projects** benefiting from support for access to finance and shorter permitting (27 for extraction and 15 Month for processing/recycling).
- 4- **Supply risk preparedness and mitigation** e.g. Supply chain monitoring, stress test, coordinates strategic stocks
- 5- **Improving sustainability and circularity of CRM** e.g. improve collection and ensure recycling of CRM rich waste
- 6- **Diversifying the EU imports of raw materials**



# The Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)-Strategic projects

- 47 strategic projects selected as Strategic Projects (25 March 2025) located in 13 EU member states
- 25 projects comprising extraction activities, 24 processing, 10 recycling and 2 substitution of raw materials.
- Those 47 Projects have an expected overall capital investment of €22.5 billion. These projects will be able to benefit from coordinated support by the EC, Member States and financial institutions to become operational.

## Strategic Projects for the EU

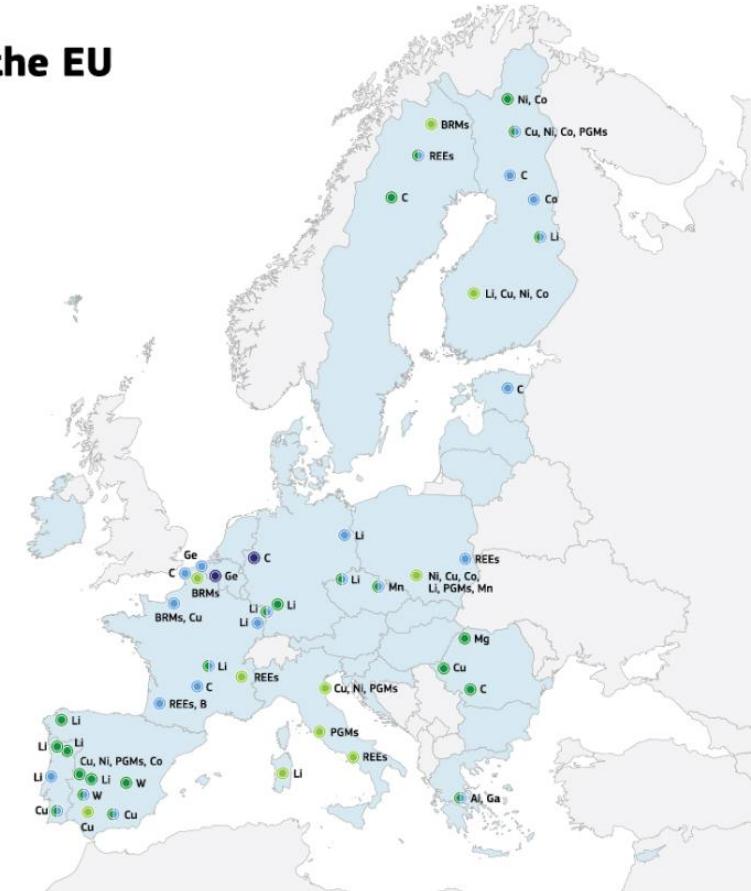
### MAP LEGEND



Al	Aluminium
B	Boron
BRMs	Battery Raw Materials <sup>1</sup>
Co	Cobalt
Cu	Copper
Ga	Gallium
Ge	Germanium
C	Graphite
Li	Lithium
Mg	Magnesium
Mn	Manganese
Ni	Nickel
PGMs	Platinum Group Metals
REEs	Rare Earth Elements
W	Tungsten

<sup>1</sup> Battery Raw Materials refer to lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese and graphite

Disclaimer: The location of projects is based on a regional scale and doesn't reflect their exact geographical locations



# The Competitiveness Compass- Why and aim?



- Europe lags in productivity growth compared to major economies
- The Competitive Compass: A strategic Roadmap to Regain Competitiveness and Secure Sustainable Prosperity
- Launched: 29 January 2025 by the European Commission
- Aims to steer Europe toward innovation, sustainability, and resilience
- Guides the Commission's work for the 2024-2029 period

# The Competitiveness Compass- Core areas of Actions

## 1. Closing the Innovation Gap

1. ***A dedicated EU Start-up and Scale-up Strategy*** will address the obstacles that are preventing new companies from emerging and scaling up
2. ***Develop AI Gigafactories & Apply AI initiatives*** to drive development and industrial adoption of AI in key sectors
3. ***Action plan to support deep tech***: advanced materials, quantum, biotech, robotics and space technologies
4. ***Proposal for a 28th legal regime to simplify applicable rules***, to make it possible for innovative companies to benefit from one single set of rules (corporate law, labour and tax law, insolvency) wherever they invest and operate in the Single Market.

## 2. Decarbonisation & Competitiveness

1. ***An Affordable Energy Action Plan*** will help bring down energy prices and costs,
2. ***An Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act*** will extend accelerated permitting to sectors in transition
3. ***Tailor-made action plans for energy intensive sectors***, such as steel, metals, and chemicals (the most vulnerable in this phase of the transition).

## 3. Reducing Dependencies & Increasing Security

1. ***New range of Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships*** to help secure supply of raw materials, clean energy, sustainable transport fuels, and clean tech from across the world
2. ***Review Public Procurement rules***

# The Competitiveness Compass- 5 Horizontal enabler for competitiveness

- 1. Simplification:** Reduce regulatory and admin burden. Accessing EU funds and EU admin decision simpler and faster.
- 2. Lowering barriers to the Single Market:** Modernise the governance framework, removing intra EU-barriers, faster process in particular for SMEs and start-ups.
- 3. Financing competitiveness :** present a European Savings and Investments Union to create new savings and investment products. A refocused EU budget will streamline access to EU funds in line with EU priorities.
- 4. Promoting skills and quality jobs :** present an initiative to build a Union of Skills, adult and lifelong learning, future-proof skills creation, skill retention, fair mobility, attracting and integrating qualified talent from abroad
- 5. Better policy coordination at EU and national level:** Introduce the Competitiveness Coordination Tool. In the next Multiannual Financial Framework, a Competitiveness Fund will replace multiple existing EU financial instruments with similar objectives, providing financial support to the implementation of actions under the Competitiveness Coordination Tool.

# Conclusions

- **Currently Several open funding calls under HORIZON EUROPE and LIFE for circular economy proposals with deadlines mostly in September 2025**
- **The CRMA is a running initiative and provide opportunities including financial opportunities for organisations who are/will be developing recycling projects.**
- **The Competitive Compass will develop a new roadmap in the coming 4 years including new financial instruments and opportunities for organisations who are working to develop clean and decarbonised industry.**

# Thank you for your Attention!

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