Innovative circular solutions for end-of-life footwear through collection, sorting and recycling

Horizon Europe

PENDING

Code HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-CIRCBIO-05	**Scope** International
Location Europe	**Curator** Marlene Faria

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Support type Non-Refundable	**Maximum Funding Rate** 100%
Budget 9M€	**Eligible Project Value** Up to 5M€

DATES & DEADLINES

Publication Date December 12, 2025	**Opening Date** April 20, 2027
Deadline September 22, 2027 at 05:00 PM GMT+2	

DESCRIPTION

Objectives

This call aims to support the transition to a circular economy in the footwear sector by developing innovative solutions for the collection, sorting, and recycling of end-of-life footwear. The objective is to reduce the environmental and climate impact of footwear waste, promote circularity, and foster a regenerative approach throughout the value chain. The call targets a broad range of stakeholders, including industry representatives, SMEs, brand owners, producers, retailers, local authorities, waste managers, economic operators, consumer organisations, researchers, and NGOs. Proposals must involve all relevant actors in the footwear value chain and integrate social sciences and humanities (SSH) expertise to enhance societal impact. Legal entities established in EU Member States or Associated Countries are eligible, except for those established in China, which are excluded from participation in this destination.

Funding

The support is provided as a non-refundable grant in the form of a lump sum. The funding rate is up to 100% of eligible costs for Research and Innovation Actions (RIA). The EU contribution per project is expected to be between €4 and €5 million, with a total topic budget of €9 million and an expected number of two grants awarded.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Personnel Costs
- Travel costs
- Equipment costs
- Other goods, works and services costs
- Subcontracting
- Indirect Costs

BONUSES & MAJORATIONS

- Effective involvement of social sciences and humanities (SSH) disciplines and experts
- Collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in the footwear value chain
- Alignment with EU Green Deal, Ecodesign Regulation, and Circular Economy Act
- Contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Promotion of sustainable consumption patterns

ELIGIBILITY

Application Mode
Consortium / Copromotion

Eligible Sectors

- Industry
- Energy & Environment
- Other

Company Typologies

- Micro
- SME
- Small Mid-Cap
- Mid-Cap
- Large
- Private non-profit entities
- Public entities

Action Types

- Assessment of technical, environmental, economic and social challenges in footwear circularity
- Development and testing of new collection, sorting, and recycling technologies for footwear
- Integration of digital tools and Digital Product Passport for reuse and recycling
- Development of innovative business models for circular footwear value chains
- Promotion of design for reuse and recycling in footwear
- Development of take-back solutions and consumer engagement strategies
- Collaboration facilitation among manufacturers, retailers, consumers, and waste managers
- Strategies for managing hazardous chemicals and microplastics in footwear waste
- Involvement of social sciences and humanities expertise
- Research and Innovation Action

EU PROGRAMME DETAILS

Call ID
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-CIRCBIO-05

Cluster
Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Destination
D3. Circular economy and biobased sectors

Submission Mode
single-stage

EU Contribution
€4,000,000.00 to €5,000,000.00 per project

Expected Projects
2

Funding Rate Rule
Up to 100% of eligible costs for Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)

OFFICIAL LINKS

Official Regulation
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-CIRCBIO-05

Grantavia page
https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/innovative-circular-solutions-for-end-of-life-footwear-through-collection-sorting-and-recycling

Schedule a meeting
https://calendly.com/filipa-silva-epsa/reuniao