Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

A competitive bioeconomy for a sustainable future

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05/05/2025

Bio-based Industries Consortium

Co-funded by the European Union

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The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking

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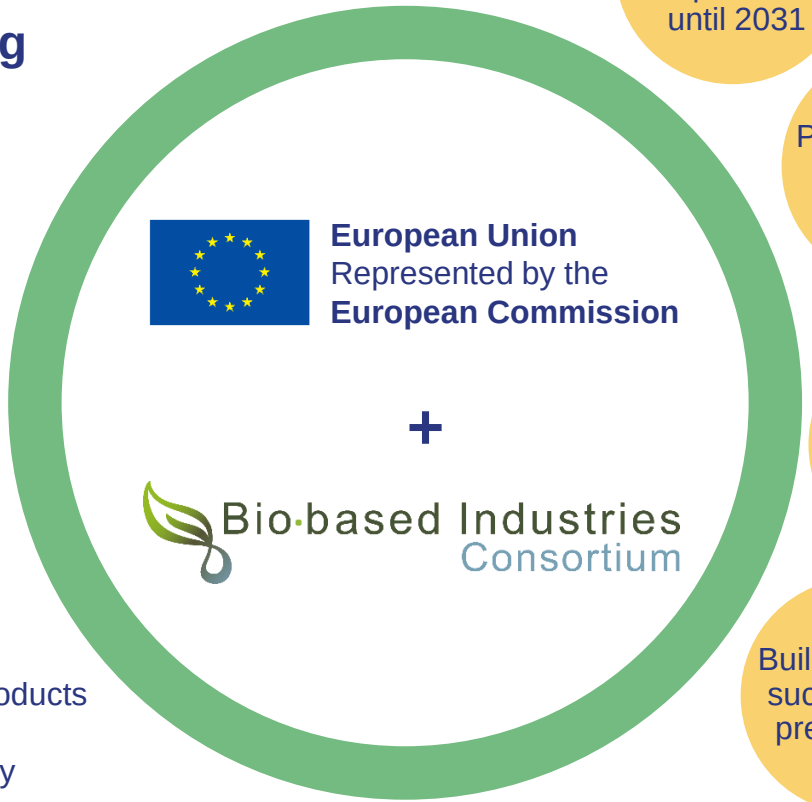
Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

€2 billion public-private initiative



Launched in 2021, operates until 2031

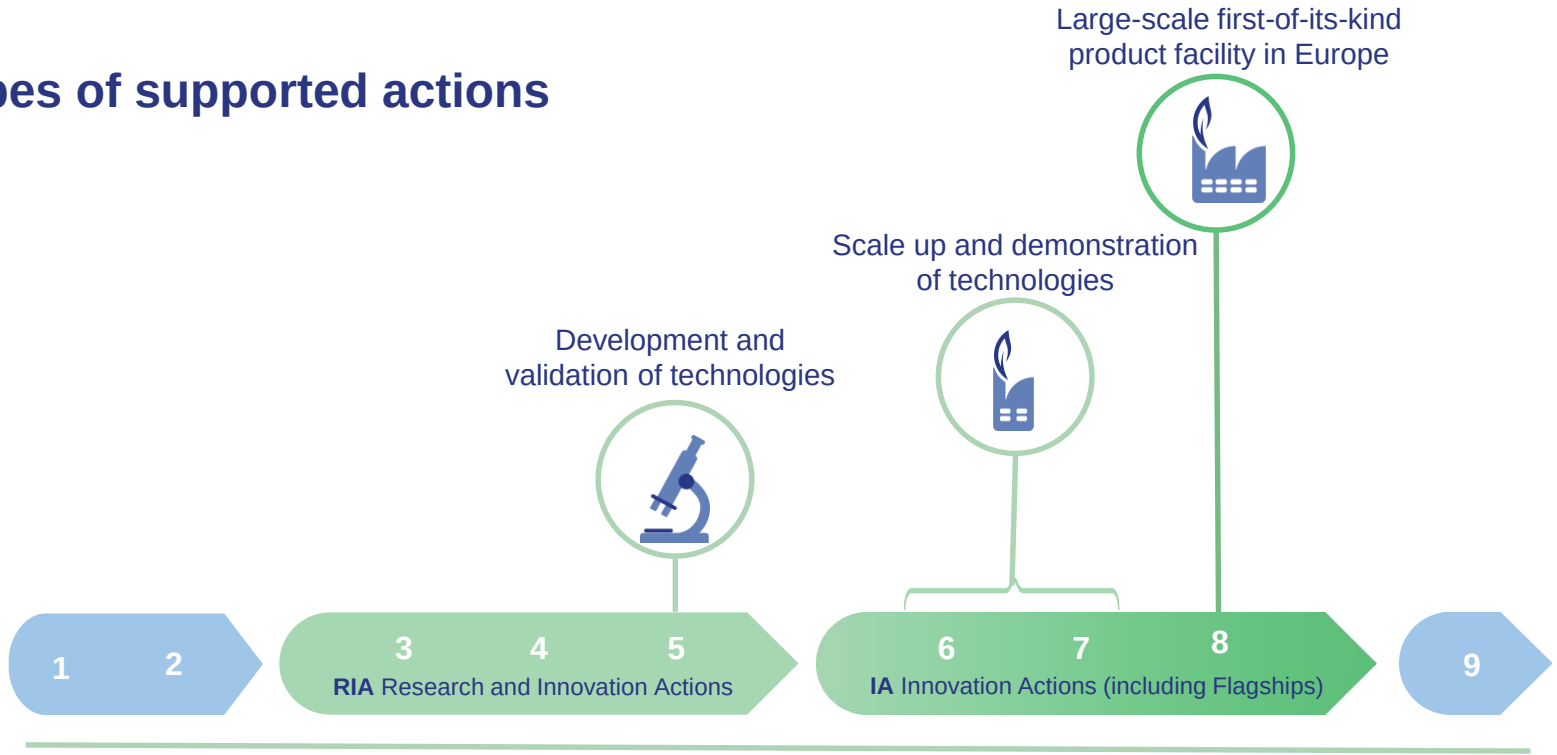
Part of Horizon Europe programme

Contributing to the European Green Deal

Building on the success of its predecessor BBI JU

CBE JU is funding projects that deliver bio-based solutions – materials and products made from waste and biomass – in an innovative, sustainable and circular way

Types of supported actions



CSA: Coordination and Support Actions (no link with TRLs)

CBE JU portfolio:

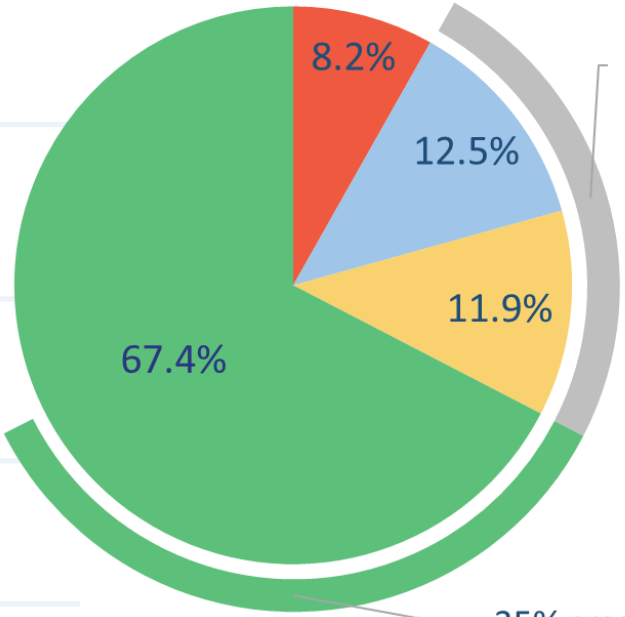
2014-2023

192 projects

1,552 beneficiaries

€1,117 million CBE JU funding

43 countries



24% universities & research centres

35% small and medium-sized enterprises

CBE JU funding per type of beneficiary (unique)

- Other
- Research Organisations
- Higher Education Establishments
- Private Companies

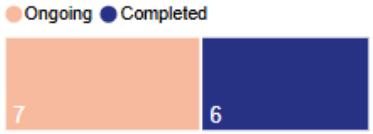
Data: CORDA, May 2024

Türkiye

Number of projects

13

0 coordinated projects



Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Only private companies

CBE JU funding to SMEs

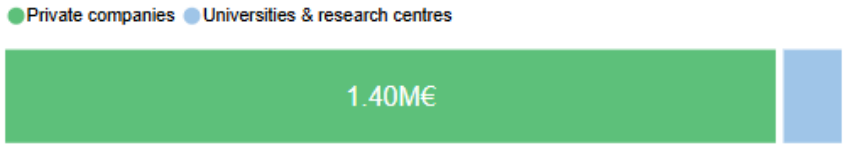
0.42M€

Number of SMEs

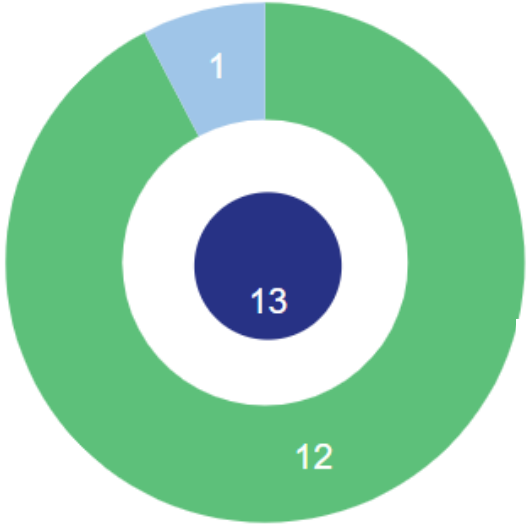
2

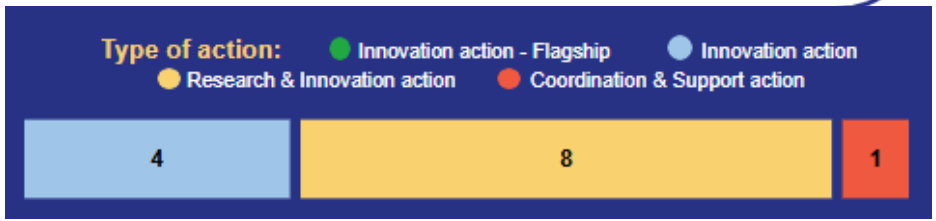
CBE JU funding

1.51M€

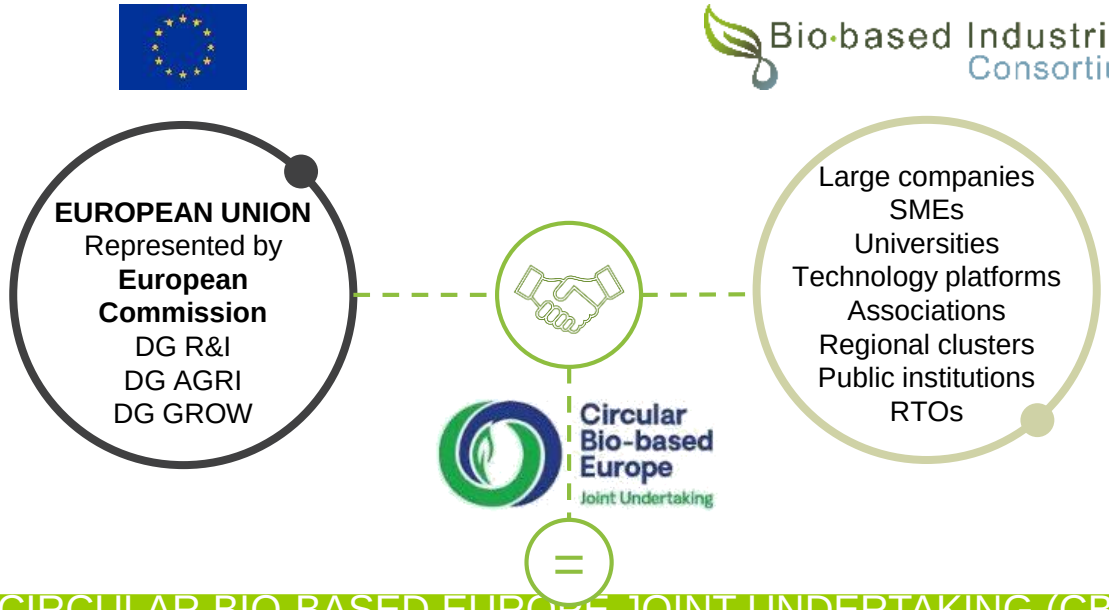


Beneficiaries





CBE JU



What is CBE?

- Institutionalised Partnership under Horizon Europe
- Funding Research and Innovation projects up to TRL 8 (*unicum!*)
- 6 annual calls for proposals, from 2022 to 2027
- Budget: € **1 billion of public funding** + € 1 billion industry investment

Bio-based Industries Consortium

biconsortium.eu

The Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC) is a non-profit organisation connecting industry, academia, regions and citizens to transform bio-based feedstocks into novel sustainable products and applications, and create circular bioeconomy ecosystems through investments, innovation and know-how.

320+

industry (full) members

large companies and SMEs

280+

associate members

research organisations, academia and trade associations

1 CBE JU

BIC represents the private sector in a public-private partnership with the European Commission called the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

2 Business

Facilitating connections and providing market intelligence through activities including networking events and commissioned reports/studies

3 Finance

Mobilising public and private finance and investors through services such as a regional funding platform and a pitching event

4 Society

Increasing awareness, knowledge, acceptance and education through activities such as a student competition (BISC-E) and positive impact stories on the BIC Investment Portal

BIC also carries out specific activities to achieve a favourable policy, regulatory and financing framework for the bio-based industries, such as representing our members interest vis-à-vis the EU Institutions.

CBE JU – BIC's role

Advancing competitive, sustainable circular bio-based industries in Europe

Public-private partnership

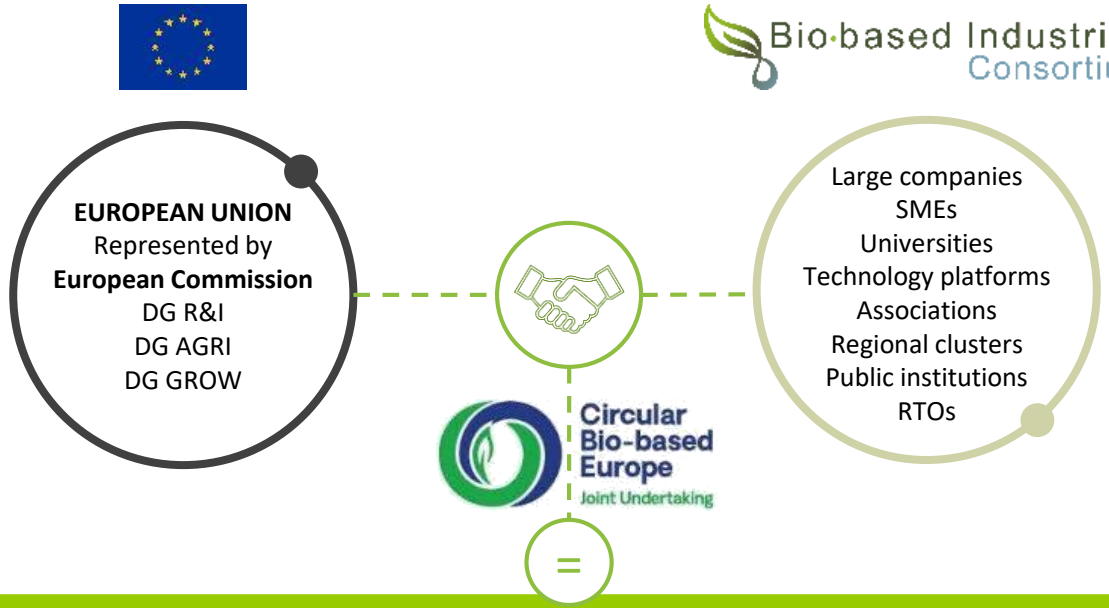
Formulate the Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda (SRIA) with the EC

Develop with EC the Annual Work Programmes

Play an active role in CBE governance

Cooperate with CBE JU advisory bodies and Programme Office

CBE JU



What is CBE?

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- Budget: € **1 billion of public funding** + € 1 billion industry investment

Source: CBE JU

CBE JU

From BBI JU (2014-2020)…

142 projects

€ 1 billion public funding +
€ 2.7 billion investments from industry

1055 beneficiaries

39 countries

… to CBE JU (2021-2027)*

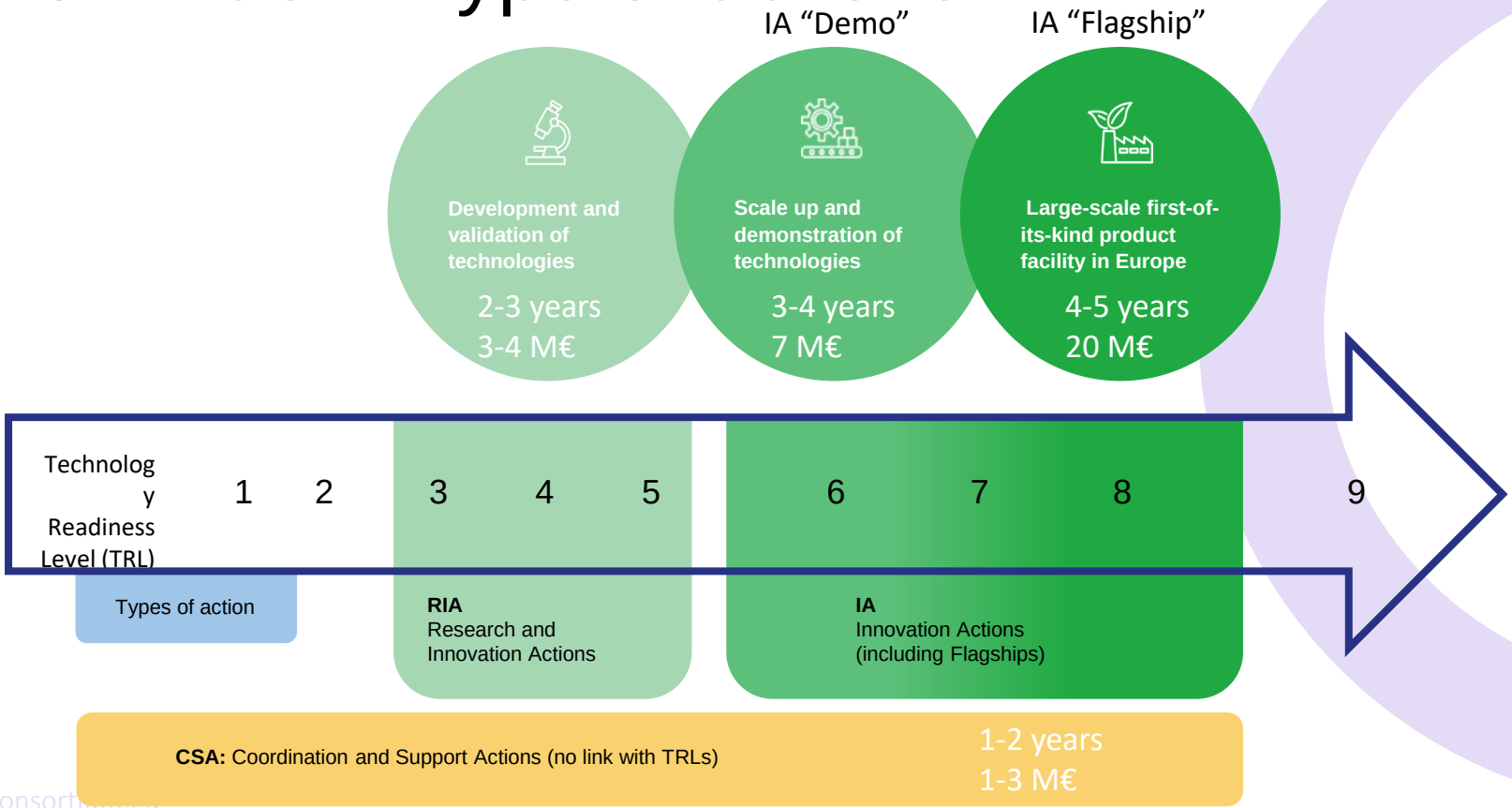
Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

6 annual calls for proposals, from 2022 to 2027
€ 1 billion of public funding + at least € 1 billion from industry
~150 projects expected

*the last call for proposals is in 2027. Projects are expected to run until 2031-32

Data: CORDA, June 2021

CBE JU – Type of actions



BBI+CBE JU Flagship and Demo plants

On the map

CBE JU is funding first-of-their-kind biorefineries and demonstration plants to help expand the European circular bio-based economy.

Select what you want to see:

Demonstration plant

Flagship biorefinery

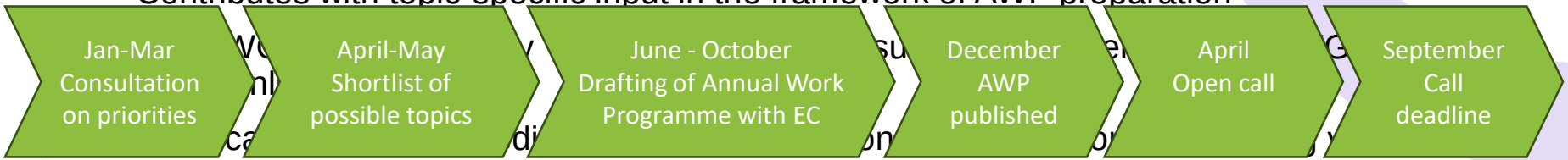
CBE JU – the role of BIC members

Each Industry Member has a seat in the **Programming Working Group**. The PWG:

- Provides initial input about priorities for the CBE AWPs (short term and medium-long term)
- Gives mandate to BIC staff to discuss the AWP with the EC
- Contributes with topic-specific input in the framework of AWP preparation

Each Associate Member has a seat in the **Associate Members Working Group**. The AMWG:

- Provides initial input about priorities for the CBE AWPs (short term and medium-long term)
- Contributes with topic-specific input in the framework of AWP preparation



CBE 2025 topics
DEADLINE 18 SEPTEMBER 172 M € total public funding

Topic	N	TotalM€
FLAG-01 Urban-industrial symbiosis for **biowaste** valorisation	1	20
FLAG-02 Bio-based **drop-ins/smart drop-in platform chemicals**, via cost-effective, sustainable and resource-efficient conversion of biomass	1	20
FLAG-03 Circular-by-design **fibre-based packaging** with improved properties	1	20
FLAG-04 **Retrofitting of industrial plants** towards higher-value bio-based products	1	20
IA-01 Sustainable **macroalgae** systems for innovative, added-value applications: cultivation and optimised production systems	2	14
IA-02 SSbD bio-based solutions to replace hazardous conventional chemicals for **textiles production**	2	14
IA-03 Scaling-up nutritional **proteins** from alternative sources	2	14
IA-04 Cost-effective and robust **continuous biotech** bio-based processes	2	14
IA-05 SSbD bio-based **polymers/(co)polymers** unlocking new market applications	2	14
RIA-01 **Valorisation of untapped forest biomass**	2	7
RIA-02 Bio-based and biodegradable **delivery systems** for fertilising products to reduce microplastics pollution & promote soil health	2	7
RIA-03 Alternative biomanufacturing routes for **natural and synthetic rubber**	2	7
CSA-01 **Develop and deploy new curricula** and knowledge exchange practices relevant to bio-based systems	1	1

Networking and matchmaking events

BIC Annual matchmaking event

12 February 2025

Expected 300+ participants from industry and university/research

Keynote speeches

Thematic **workshops** on topics

Pitches of proposal concepts

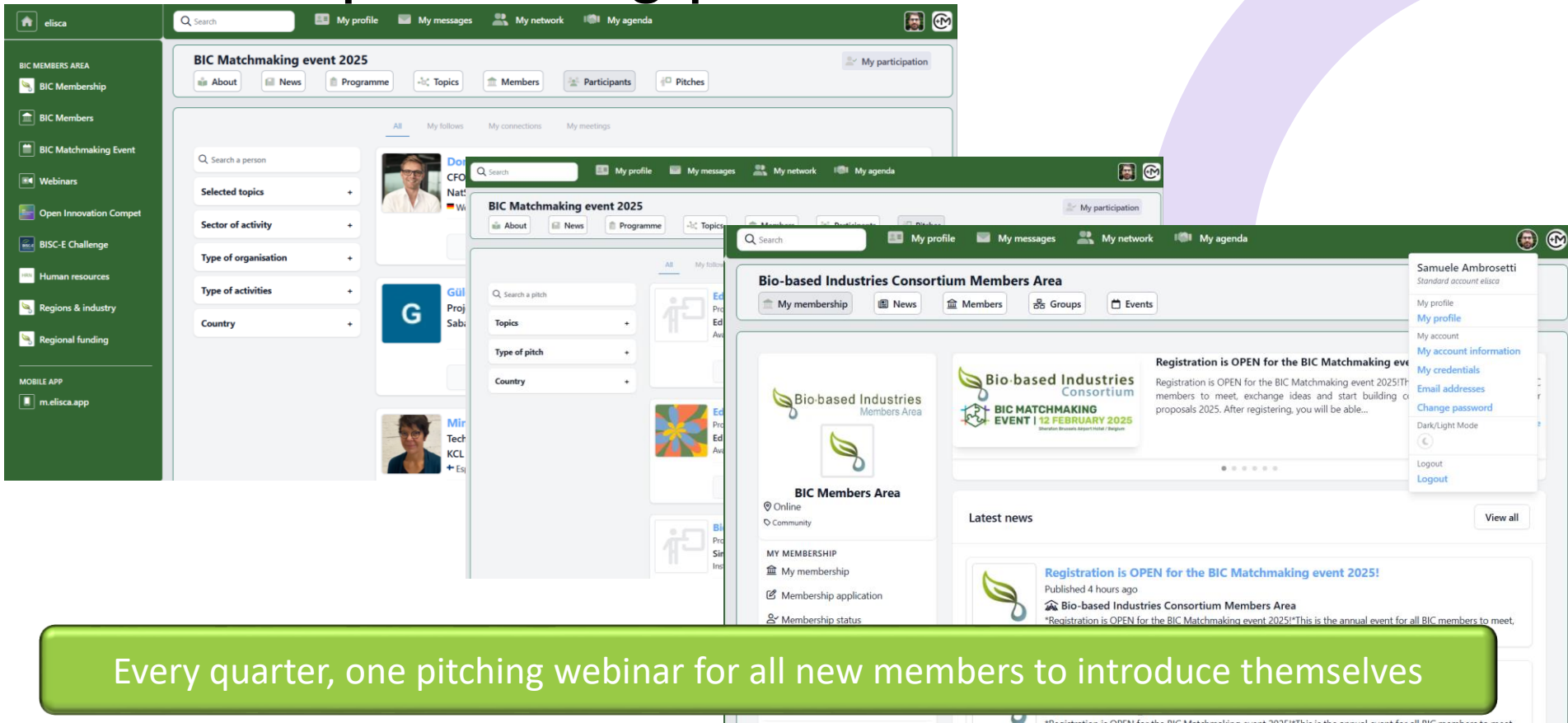
Over 800 **one-to-one meetings**

Matchmaking starts and continues on the online platform!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6XX6RXo8xI

1 CBE JU
2 Business

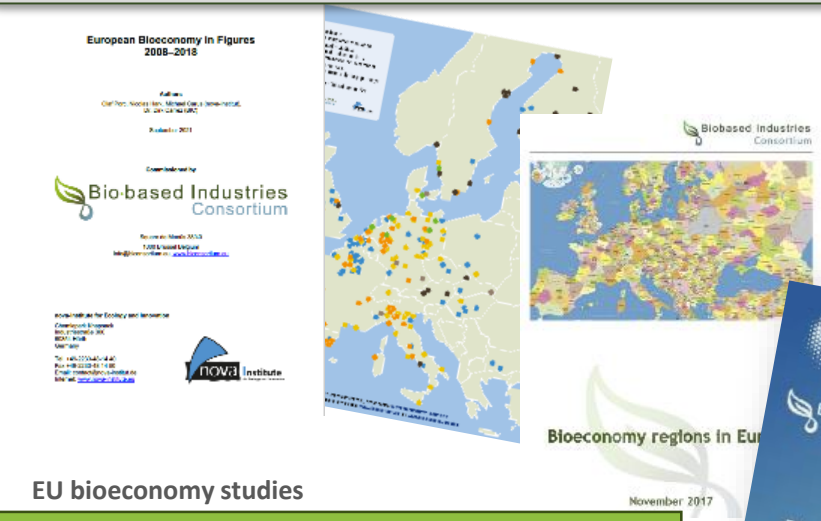
Online partnering platform



Every quarter, one pitching webinar for all new members to introduce themselves

Digital library and studies

https://biconsortium.eu/knowledge-hub



EU bioeconomy studies

BIC country reports

Biowaste and biomass availability studies

Last publications:
Biowaste generation and management in the EU
Bioeconomy in Hungary: state of play and potential
Coming soon:
Biomass availability and utilization in the EU

Open Innovation Competition

Large company	Challenge	
SMEs	Solution	Pitch
Startups	Solution	Pitch
Research centres	Solution	Pitch
Universities	Solution	Pitch

5 k€ 5 k€

Bio-based Industries Consortium

R&I project

Business opportunity

OIC online portal

Webinars

Identifying new bio-based opportunities

↗ With the idea of introducing BIC members to lesser-known sustainable feedstock and resources, BIC organised a three-part webinar focusing on marine and aquatic biomass (M&A). We explained what M&A biomass is and how it can be part of the solutions to major challenges. The webinars demonstrated current and emerging uses of M&A-based products in different high-value applications ranging from food and feed to bioplastics, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics.

WATCH THE COVERAGE OF BIC'S MARINE & AQUATIC WEBINAR →

MPowerBIO

↗ Helping members to access finance is a top priority for BIC. This need is paramount, with funding gaps often appearing in projects scaling up from pilot to demonstration plants, and moving from demonstration to flagship/first-of-a-kind (FOAK) and industrial-scale projects.

We organised a webinar which included a presentation on the opportunities of the European Circular Bioeconomy Fund (ECBF), a dedicated fund investing in growth-stage companies in the European bioeconomy. MPowerBio were there to talk about bringing SMEs across the financial valley of death.

WATCH THE WEBINAR →

Connection with investors (**open to all**)

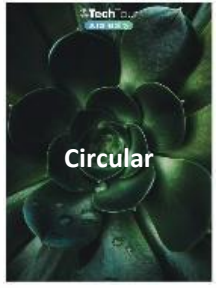
SMEs and startups seeking strategic funding and partnerships for the growth and deployment of their technologies and production processes in circular and bio-based economy
Register for the next event here: https://techtour.com/sectors

MEET INNOVATION IN BIO-BASED INDUSTRIES SECTOR

2025 Events: **24 April Ghent, Belgium**
November, Wuppertal, Germany

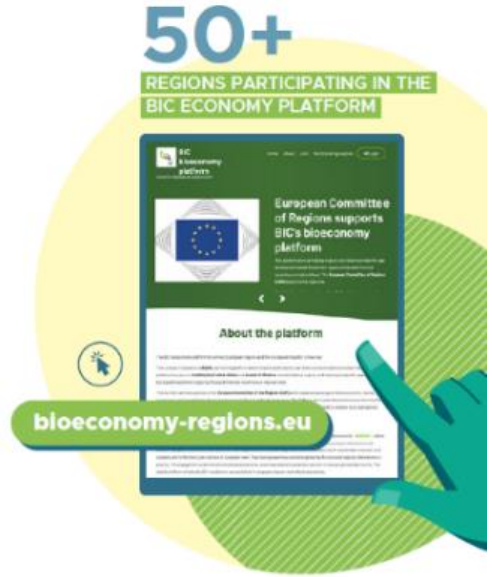
2024 Investment Event Programmes - 2025

Each Event:
40+ pitching companies
80+ investors & corporate partners
Pitching + Meetings



BIC bioeconomy regions platform

Digital partnering platform



based on profiles

Bioeconomy strategy

Currently, the region is implementing the RIS3 strategy. Accessing the following link http://www.admnordest.ro/index.php?page=RIS3-Nord-Est-2014-2020&language=1 you can find more information about RIS3 strategy

Financial incentives available for bio-based investment

R&D 0% income tax for employees 0% income tax for R&D companies for the next 10 years Deduction of R&D eligible expenses • Depreciation of R&D equipment, salaries for R&D personnel; • 50% of these expenses can be deducted from the taxable income IT&C 0% income tax for employees Eligibility criteria: • Bachelor's degree in one of the 14 technical specializations available; • The employee is hired on a software engineer/programmer/software analyst position; • Annual revenue per exempted employee must be over USD 10 000. OTHER 0% profit tax for the reinvested profit in new technological equipment used for business purposes • If a company benefits from an exemption on the income tax for reinvestment it will not benefit from accelerated depreciation. STATE AID - GD 807/ 2014 The State Aid Scheme 807/2014 has a budget of EUR m 800 foreseen for the 2014-2020 period. It aims at supporting major CAPEX investment. ELIGIBLE COSTS • Construction of new buildings • Renting costs for existing buildings • CAPEX aimed at technical installations and tools • Acquisition of intellectual property ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INVESTMENTS • Minimum value: EUR 1 million investment • To be viable and determine the operational efficiency of the company • To prove the stimulating effect of the state aid • To generate contributions to regional development • To facilitate extra investments in the region ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR COMPANIES • Net profitability for existing companies > 0% • Equity for new companies≥ RON 100.000

Types of industry sectors interested in attracting investment from

AF Agriculture & agri-food · BE Bioenergy · CH Chemicals & materials · FP Forestry and pulp & paper · TP Technology providers · WMT Waste management & treatment

Market sectors interested in

Automotive; Agri-food; IT&C; Tourism; Manufacture; Wood processing (furniture, timber);

Feedstock 1

Hardwood

Tonnes produced per year

626,000

Feedstock 2

Softwood

Tonnes produced per year

3,544,000

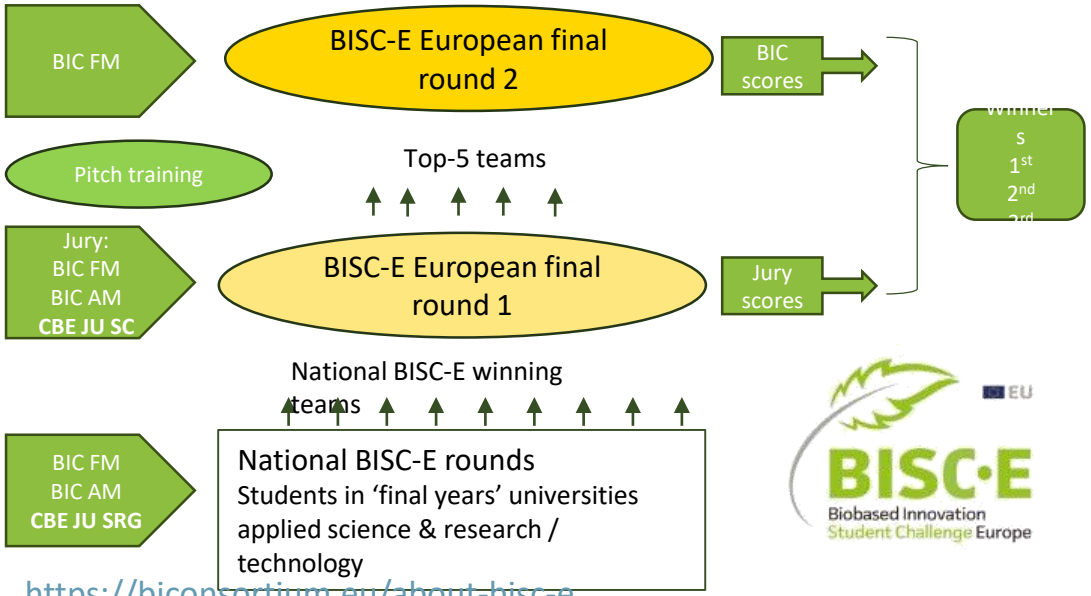
Feedstock 3

Sawdust

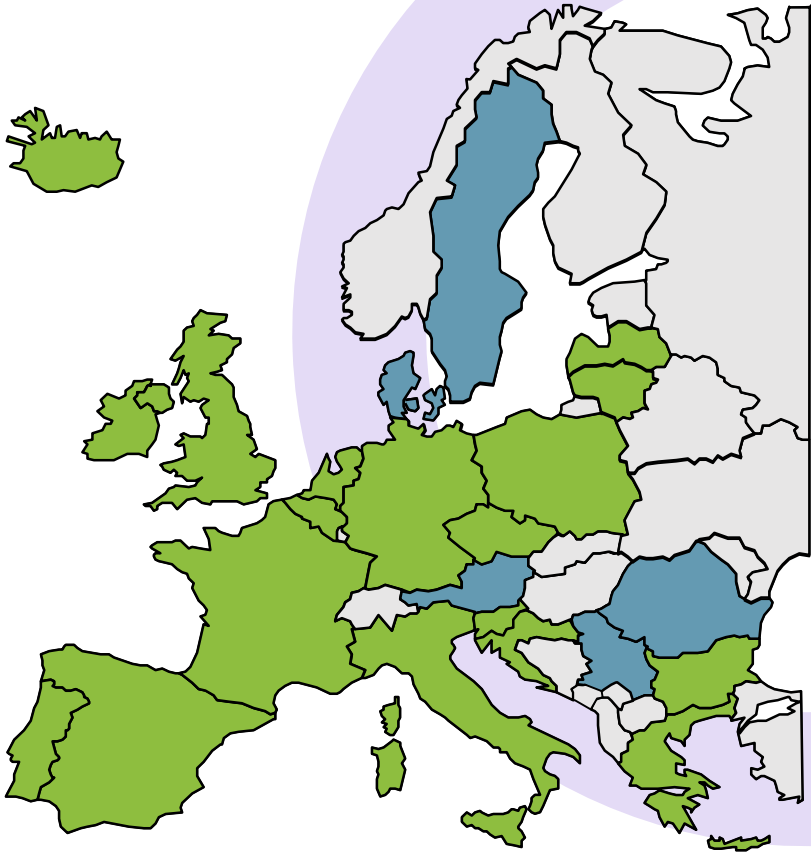
Tonnes produced per year

247,604

BISC-E student competition



BISC·E
Biobased Innovation Student Challenge Europe

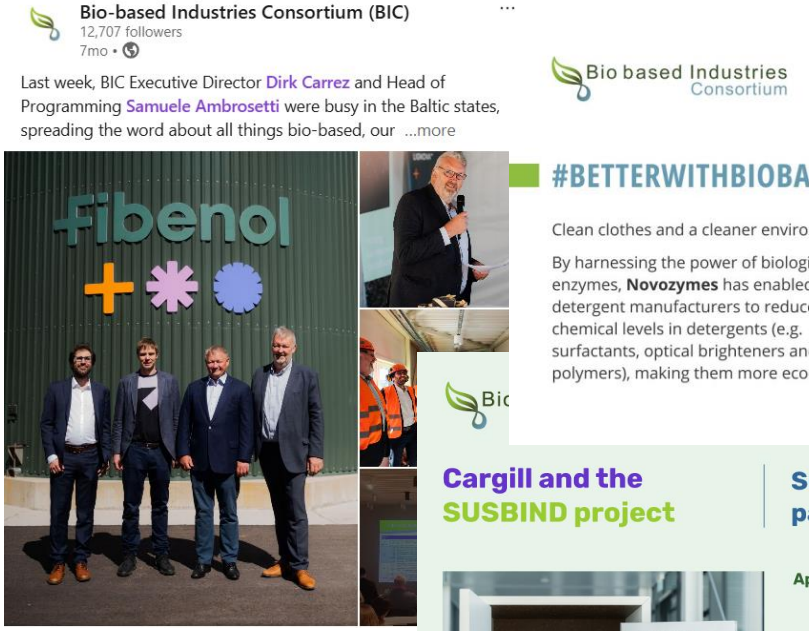


https://biconsortium.eu/about-bisc-e

17 + 5 (new) countries involved in 2025

The winning student team gets 5000 € and one year of complimentary BIC membership as an industry member

Communication campaigns



Trend report 2025

https://biconsortium.eu/publication/bic-trend-report-2024-2025

Bio-based Industries Consortium

BIC 2024 - 2025 Trend Report

BIC 2024-2025 Trend Report

Biomanufacturing in Europe: what regulation will it take?

Insights from BIC workshops series

The Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC) hosted in October 2024 a workshop to explore how to turn political commitments on biomanufacturing into better regulation that enhances competitiveness, supports the green transition and promotes strategic autonomy in Europe.

Take aways

The workshop highlighted the innovative power in biomanufacturing across industrial sectors to help the planet move away from fossil resources for the benefit of greater sustainability.

Yet, participants recognised that the current EU's regulatory framework is still tilted towards fossil incumbents and requires urgent and thorough rectification, also in light of the global competition in the technology and manufacturing sectors.

The European Commission sent a strong signal with the

For the EU to become a hub for bioeconomy innovation, it is essential to create a preferred playing field for these bio-based alternatives.

The next years will thus be crucial for the EU to set in place the right framework with a coherent set of regulations and funding to enable the bioeconomy to meet its full potential.

Such actions are essential for the EU to remain competitive and prosperous, and also contribute to solutions that curb global emissions and reduce environmental pollution.

BIC 2024 - 2025 Trend Report

Boosting Europe's future: the case for more biomanufacturing

The EU Competitiveness Compass identifies the bioeconomy as a growth engine to invest in. In addition, the bioeconomy can increase the EU's strategic autonomy and security, for example, by providing raw materials security and via setting-up more EU-centric supply chains, taking a circular economy approach by sourcing, processing, manufacturing and re-using renewable feedstock.

One key element, and as outlined in the Draghi report, is to **put research and innovation at the centre of the EU's strategic priorities**, including a strategy to establish competitive research and innovation systems. Bio-based solutions are at different levels with regard to their maturity and go-to-market ability.

It is vital to allow those products to enter the market. This should include dialogue between industry, policymakers and other stakeholders to develop a transition path for our sector to better contribute to the EUs long-term competitiveness.

EU 2025 Policy Recommendations

From 2025 onwards, the EU should consider the following points for making policy choices:

1 Let's agree on a kind of defossilisation accelerator

→ Going from lab to fab to market typically has four crucial elements: you need the permit, the financing, people with the right skills and a market (demand).

A "defossilisation" accelerator" should address those four elements and help to create lead markets to make Europe more independent of fossil raw materials. The accelerator should include a package of measures to support biomanufacturing "made in Europe".

2 Let's strategically use renewable feedstock

→ If the ambition is to accelerate defossilisation, this cannot be done in a cost-competitive way with residues and waste only. The bio-based industry needs to know how much renewable feedstock can be sustainably sourced.

This is underlined by the Letta Report, which says that "the strategic use of biomass for high-value applications, such as materials and chemicals that can substitute for fossil-based or critical raw materials, is another crucial element."

3 Let's create a regulatory framework for the business case of today and tomorrow

→ A more innovation-prone EU policy framework will increase the attractiveness of investments in Europe. Bio-based industries, including the many start-ups, should benefit more strongly from the EU Single Market through simplification and coordination, to overcome fragmentation and to ensure coherence. To make it a business case for companies active in the bio-based sector, the regulatory framework should be fit for purpose.

That includes addressing regulatory bottlenecks, using regulatory opportunities and ensuring regulatory foresight e.g. via regulatory sandboxes and an interdisciplinary policy design before EU regulation is drawn up.

DOWNLOAD

Advocacy and PA

Helping policymakers advance the bio-based industries

2024 was a busy year for BIC's public affairs work – particularly with regard to EU biotechnology and biomanufacturing. We recognise the mutual importance of biomanufacturing for Europe and for the bio-based industries, and wanted to focus on actions that drove this message home.

Following the European Commission releasing its **"Communication on biotechnology and biomanufacturing"**, we organised a workshop to explore what regulation it will take in Europe for biomanufacturing with around 30 participants from EU Institutions, civil society and industry.

BIC also joined 17 other bioeconomy-focused organisations to sign a joint statement outlining core principles that we asked the Commission to embed into their consideration.

BIC was consulted by the EU Commission on the so-called Draghi Report on **"The future of EU competitiveness: a competitive strategy for Europe"**.

Through our contribution, we outlined the importance of the bio-based industries for a truly competitive Europe.

Making the bio-based industries concrete for policymakers is a crucial part of our work. We organised in June a visit to **CBE JU project sites and facilities owned by BIC members**.

The group of 30 included representatives from the European Commission's DG GROW and the Director General, Kerstin Jorna. They were taken to the PLENITUDE/Cargill site in Sas van Gent, the Netherlands and the Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant in Ghent.

We need to make business easier and faster in Europe. I will make speed, coherence and simplification key political priorities in everything.

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

An exciting period ahead of us…

- Biotech and Biomanufacturing Initiative implementation
- Revision of the Bioeconomy Strategy
- Life Sciences Act, Clean Industry Act, Circular Economy Act…
- Definition of FP10 including new partnerships

… do you want to be part of it?

JOIN US!

Biconsortium.eu/membership

JOIN US

The bioeconomy is part of the solution to master the green transition

The bioeconomy has a much greater economic potential than the current share of the EU economy. New materials and products with unique properties can create new markets and growth opportunities. The bioeconomy can also contribute to other societal objectives, in particular to climate and environmental objectives by 2050. The circular bioeconomy is part of the solution, it can power a climate-neutral, sustainable, resilient and competitive Europe.

But this cannot happen by itself.

EU policymakers must take action to realise the full potential of the circular bioeconomy to reach the EU's environmental, economic and social goals.

Europe must build on the strength of its bioeconomy. With a turnover EUR 2.5 billion (of which ca. 30% is in the bio-based industries), the sector provides employment to nearly 18 million people. The bioeconomy, with biorefineries at its core, supplies bio-based products which are largely sourced, manufactured, used and recycled in Europe. The science is excellent across academia and universities. Thousands of European companies are active and at the forefront of bio-based innovation.

Call 2025

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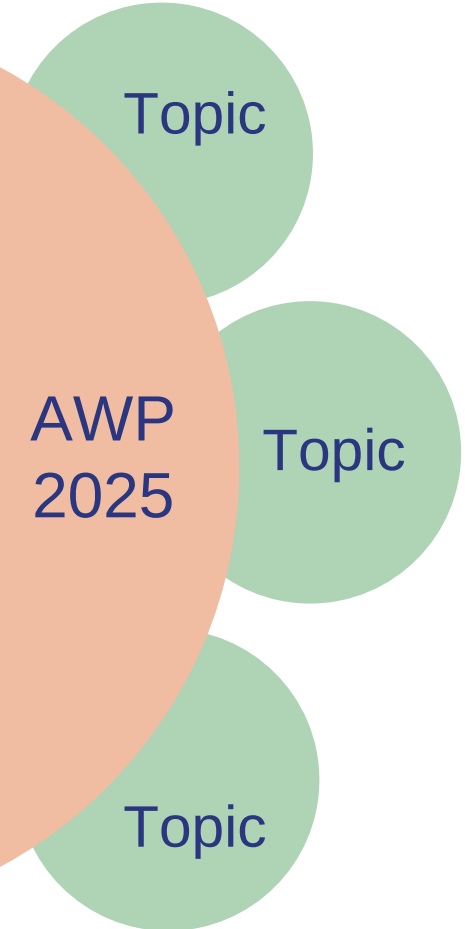
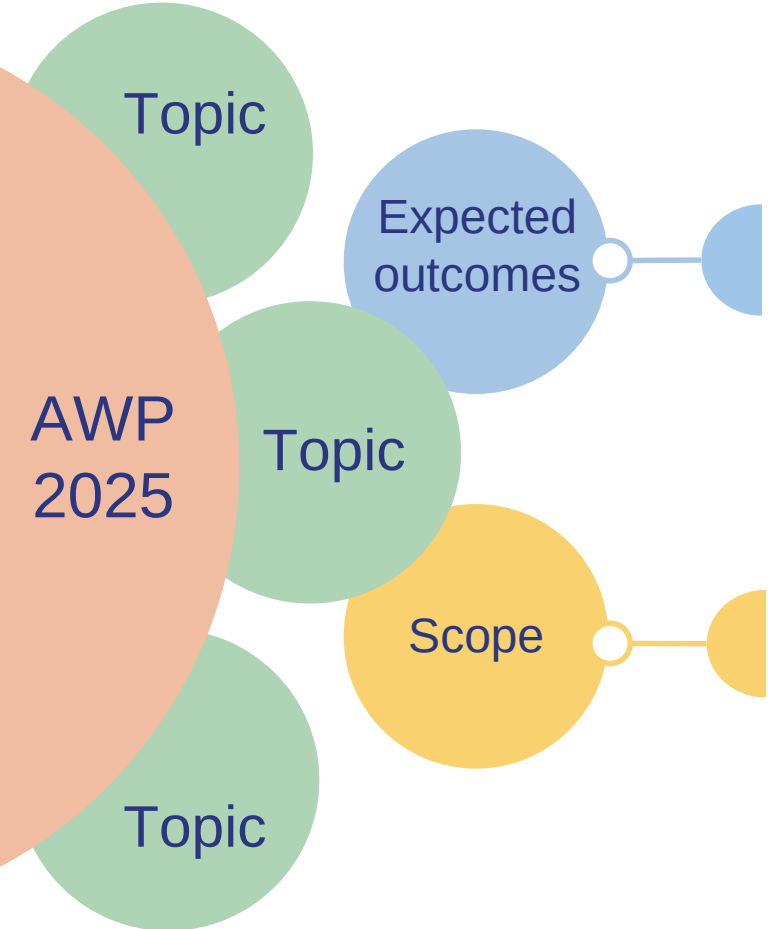
Call topic structure



HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-XX-NN **Topic title**

Type of action	Research and Innovation Action
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR **14** million
Expected EU contribution per project	It is estimated that a contribution of EUR **7** million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts
TRL	TRL **6-7** at the end of the project
Link to CBE JU Specific Objectives	1.1: Increase the intensity of cross-disciplinary research and innovation activities
Link to CBE JU SRIA Strategic Priorities	1.1.2: Develop innovative production systems in the bio-based industry 1.1.3: Develop innovative bio-based products
CBE JU KPIs	4.5 Number of products with improved life cycle environmental performance 5.1 Number of innovative products that are biodegradable, compostable, recyclable, reused or upcycled (circular-by-design) 5.2 Number of projects developing circular production practices (incl. industrial & industrial urban symbiosis) 6 Increase innovative bio-based outputs and products

Call topic structure



The 'change' to be achieved

- Provides a broad description of what is the **impact** to be achieved by the project
- The **dissemination and exploitation** of future research results are vital for the impact`

The 'problem'

- Identifies the aspects of the **challenge** that needs to be tackled
- Specifies a **perimeter** to the problem described
- Does not specify the expected solutions to the problem, nor the approach to be taken

13 topics and their budget

Feedstock oriented projects
Market oriented projects (new materials/products & applications)
Re-industrialisation & technologies

Type of action	Topics HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025		Million EUR
IA– Flagship	IAFlag-01	Urban-industrial symbiosis for **bio-waste** valorisation	20
	IAFlag-02	Bio-based **drop-ins/smart drop-in platform chemicals**, via cost-effective, sustainable and resource-efficient conversion of biomass	20
	IAFlag-03	Circular-by-design **fibre-based packaging** with improved properties	20
	IAFlag-04	**Retrofitting of (bio)refineries** industrial plants towards higher-value bio-based products	20
IA	IA-01	Sustainable **macroalgae** systems for innovative, added-value applications: cultivation and optimised production systems	14
	IA-02	Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD) bio-based solutions to replace hazardous conventional chemicals for **textiles production**	14
	IA-03	Scaling-up **nutritional proteins** from alternative sources	14
	IA-04	Cost-effective and robust **continuous biotech** bio-based processes	14
	IA-05	SSbD bio-based **polymers/copolymers** unlocking new market applications	14
RIA	R-01	Valorisation of **untapped forest biomass**	7
	R-02	Bio-based and biodegradable **delivery systems for fertilising products** to reduce microplastics pollution & promote soil health	7
	R-03	Alternative biomanufacturing routes for **natural and synthetic rubber**	7
CSA	S-01	Develop and deploy new curricula and knowledge exchange practices relevant to bio-based systems	1
		Total	172

CBE 2025 topics - FLAGSHIP

Topic	N	Total M€
IAFLAG-01 Urban-industrial symbiosis for **biowaste** valorisation	1	20
IAFLAG-02 Bio-based **drop-ins/smart drop-in platform chemicals**, via cost-effective, sustainable and resource-efficient conversion of biomass	1	20
IAFLAG-03 Circular-by-design **fibre-based packaging** with improved properties	1	20
IAFLAG-04 **Retrofitting of industrial plants** towards higher-value bio-based products	1	20

- Funding: **20 M€ for 1 project selected**. Funding rate: **60%** for companies, **100%** for non-profit entities
- IKOP threshold: at least **20% of eligible costs** of the project as a whole
- End **TRL 8** for the main stream of activities
  - Parallel activities at lower TRL are allowed to e.g. pave the way to next gen
- **Multi-actor approach**: see topic for specific actors to be involved
- **Links and complementarities** to previous / ongoing projects: see topic for specific projects
- **Contribution to CBE specific requirements**: see topic for specific details
- **Business plan: executive summary** (proposal Part B) **AND full business plan** (Annex to proposal)
  - Hearing to clarify business plan assumptions – no new information, just clarification
- **Environmental impact and SSbD assessment** required

CBE 2025 topics - FLAGSHIP

FLAG-01 Urban-industrial symbiosis for biowaste valorisation	
TRL	8
Scope (overview)	• Demonstrate **feasibility and viability of a full-scale biorefinery model converting bio-waste into added value products**. Synergies with existing waste management infrastructures and urban-industrial symbiosis approaches (up and/or downstream) are in scope. • Demonstrate production of **SSbD, added-value bio-based products**, minimising waste generation. • Address **logistics** influencing economic viability and social acceptance. In addition to CBE specific requirements: • Address **regulatory framework aspects** related to the use of bio-waste streams and their conversion to end products, with particular reference to the end of waste criteria. • Perform an assessment of **social involvement and benefits**. • **Identify regions/areas** in EU/EEA/EFTA countries and ACs **with high potential** for such the biorefinery model and include a task to replicate/adapt the concept in selected regions/areas NB: The main feedstock in scope for this topic is **separately collected urban bio-waste**, as defined under the Waste Framework Directive. According to the specific targeted conversion routes, **bio-based residues and waste from other sources can be used as supplementary feedstock**

CBE 2025 topics - FLAGSHIP

FLAG-02 Bio-based drop-ins/smart drop-in platform chemicals, via cost-effective, sustainable and resource-efficient conversion of biomass	
TRL	8
Scope (overview)	• Demonstrate cost-effective, robust, sustainable, large-scale production processes for obtaining **bio-based drop-in (including smart drop-in) platform chemicals** at **end TRL: 8**. Exclude substances of very high concern (SVHCs). • Target resource efficiency, minimisation of process waste and process safety aspects. Cascading valorisation of secondary biomass and residual streams is also in scope. • **Demonstrate the further conversion and integration of produced chemicals into market relevant products (reaching an end TRL 6 or higher).** In addition to CBE specific requirements: • Address **compliance with regulatory frameworks**, considering the targeted platform chemical(s) and related impurities type and concentration

CBE 2025 topics - FLAGSHIP

FLAG-03 Circular-by-design fibre-based packaging with improved properties	
TRL	8
Scope (overview)	• Scale-up (TRL 8) production technologies and deploy the complete value chain to **fibre-based packaging materials with improved or novel properties** (over specified bio-based and/or non-bio-based benchmark) addressing relevant market applications. Consumer / industrial **primary, secondary and/or tertiary packaging** products are in scope. Fibre-derived packaging is also in scope . • Demonstrate (at end TRL: 8) the application of targeted fibre-based materials into **end packaging products, proving to meet market requirements**. The use of bio-based add-ons (e.g., additives, coatings, adhesives, etc…) is also in scope - proven that they are not hindering targeted EoL and that fibre-based materials is the main component of the packaging; • **Design the packaging products for circularity** and validate their sustainable **end-of-life at relevant scale** (TRL 6 and above). Recycling, reuse and/or remanufacturing are all in scope. In addition to CBE specific requirements: • Consider **end-users/consumers** perception, behaviour and preferences across the different steps of products' lifecycle: product design, use and end-of-life • Include a task to address the **regulatory status** of the demonstrated packaging product(s) and their safety for the intended use

CBE 2025 topics - FLAGSHIP

FLAG-04 Retrofitting of industrial plants towards higher-value bio-based products	
TRL	8
Scope (overview)	• **Retrofit an existing industrial facility** with innovative and sustainable biomass conversion process(es) yielding more valuable product(s) than the one(s) produced with the old process(es). • Demonstrate the production of **bio-based chemicals and materials** (reaching end TRL 8) and their further **conversion into end products** (end TRL 6 or higher) to be validated in market-relevant application(s). Moreover, proposals should also address cascading valorisation of residual streams across the value chain. **Food/feed ingredients are not in scope.** In addition to CBE specific requirements: • Establish the **full value chain** including biomass supply and logistics, with the appropriate involvement of biomass providers, fostering the creation or enhancement of a local/regional ecosystem centred around the biorefinery. • Design and test a **training programme(s) for upskilling/reskilling** the (bio)refinery and related ecosystem workforce. NB: Existing **biorefineries** and **fossil-based industrial plants** on brownfield are in scope of this topic as a target of the retrofitting action. Greenfield implementation is out of scope

CBE 2025 topics – Innovation Actions

Topic	N	Total M€
IA-01 Sustainable **macroalgae** systems for innovative, added-value applications: cultivation and optimised production systems	2	14
IA-02 SSbD bio-based solutions to replace hazardous conventional chemicals for **textiles production**	2	14
IA-03 Scaling-up nutritional **proteins** from alternative sources	2	14
IA-04 Cost-effective and robust **continuous biotech** bio-based processes	2	14
IA-05 SSbD bio-based **polymers/(co)polymers** unlocking new market applications	2	14

- Funding: **14 M€ for 2 projects selected**. Funding rate: **60%** for companies, **100%** for non-profit entities
- IKOP threshold: **at least 15% of eligible costs** of the project as a whole
- End **TRL 6-7** for the main stream of activities
  - Parallel activities at lower TRL are allowed to e.g. pave the way to next gen
- **Multi-actor approach**: see topic for specific actors to be involves
- **Links and complementarities** to previous / ongoing projects: see topic for specific projects
- **Contribution to CBE specific requirements**: see topic for specific details
- **Quantified business case** and **proposed business model** including potential for upscaling (Part B)
- **Environmental impact and SSbD assessment**

CBE 2025 topics – Innovation Actions

IA-01 Sustainable macroalgae systems for innovative, added-value applications: cultivation and optimised production systems	
TRL	6-7
Scope (overview)	• **Select and optimise macroalgal feedstock focusing on applications with high market potential**. In line with the EU Algae Initiative, **harvesting macroalgae from the wild is excluded, as the topic focuses on cultivation**. • Demonstrate **cultivation in suitable and scalable sustainable systems**, aiming at high biomass yield, optimised production parameters. **Cultivation in open environment and in closed systems** are both in scope. **Multitrophic and mixed cultivation approaches** (e.g. multiple algae species, algae and fish/shellfish farming etc) are also in scope, as well as algae-mediated remediation and the use of nature-based solutions • Demonstrate **further biomass processing and conversion steps** into bio-based products. In addition to CBE specific requirements: • Ensure **environmental safety** and **avoidance of environmental risks, incl. monitoring and mitigation measures**. *Environmental assessment must include: biodiversity protection/and possible enhancement, avoidance of invasiveness, zero toxicity, carbon sequestration and carbon mass balances. Any risks to ecosystems should be assessed and avoided.* NB: for the sake of this topic, **marine plants such as seagrass are also considered in scope**

CBE 2025 topics – Innovation Actions

IA-02 SSbD bio-based solutions to replace hazardous conventional chemicals for textiles production	
TRL	6-7
Scope (overview)	• Demonstrate SSbD **bio-based alternatives to hazardous conventional chemicals used in the production of textiles**. Bio-based solutions applicable to bio-based and/or fossil-based textiles production are both in scope. Chemicals in scope for replacement include both those that are currently only used in production processes and also those that are included in the end-product(s). SSbD bio-based solutions in scope are: ○ **chemicals (organic and/or inorganic compounds)** AND/OR ○ **processing routes, removing the need for chemical-to-chemical substitution .** • Ensure **compatibility** of the innovative chemicals and/or processes with textile manufacturing equipment and practices • Test the **impact of the alternative bio-based chemical(s) and/or process on the end-product(s),** based on available standards.

CBE 2025 topics – Innovation Actions

IA-03 Scaling-up nutritional proteins from alternative sources	
TRL	7
Scope (overview)	• Demonstrate innovative processes for the **extraction/production of proteins for application as nutritional food** starting from alternative sources. The scope covers proteins from **plants, invertebrates, microorganisms, fungi, aquatic biomass, fermentation of bio-based feedstock (including biogenic gaseous carbon).** • Proposals should **target nutritional proteins for food**; the co-production of nutritional proteins for feed is also in scope by adopting cascading approach, to ensure full valorisation of residual biomass. **Pure proteins, protein-rich mixtures and protein-enriched ingredients** are in scope • Address efficient and cost-effective **downstream separation and purification** processes (when applicable), to meet the targeted quality and stability for final applications. • Demonstrate **nutritional adequacy** of the proteins and their effect on food formulations. Additional properties are also in scope depending on the application In addition to CBE specific requirements: • Test the safety of developed proteins and formulations in line with EU regulatory requirements and EFSA guidelines. Identify potential regulatory gaps and provide recommendations to overcome potential bottlenecks.

CBE 2025 topics – Innovation Actions

IA-04 Cost-effective and robust continuous biotech bio-based processes	
TRL	6-7
Scope (overview)	• Identify the **existing bottlenecks in the switch to continuous process(es)**, how the proposed innovative approach can overcome challenges of targeted processes, which are currently only operating in batch or fed-batch mode, and specify the advantages of switching to continuous. • Demonstrate **continuous biotech processes** (microbial, cell factories and/or enzymatic) for the sustainable production of bio-based chemicals/products addressing identified bottlenecks. • Together with addressing **continuous upstream** processing (encompassing biocatalysis optimisation), **demonstrate integration of efficient DSP** systems to achieve high purity, in compliance with final applications requirements, while also facilitating/not hindering the continuous upstream operation. Focus on one or more bio-based chemicals/products with high market potential. • Address resource efficiency and circularity by applying process intensification and by valorising upstream and downstream side-streams (e.g., water, fermentation media, exhausted cells, etc…)

CBE 2025 topics – Innovation Actions

IA-05 SSbD bio-based polymers/(co)polymers unlocking new market applications	
TRL	6-7
Scope (overview)	• Demonstrate the production of **bio-based (co-)polymeric structure(s)** with functional properties at least on par with fossil-based counterparts (if any) and/or higher than bio-based benchmarks (if any). Adding new functionalities compared to benchmarks is also in scope. • Address resource efficiency measures to achieve costs reduction and higher sustainability, as for example reduction of primary energy consumption, water recycling, (bio)-catalyst recycling, side-streams/by-products valorisation, etc. • Include a task to **validate (at minimum at end TRL 5) the targeted (co-)polymeric structure(s) into end products** proving to meet market requirements. Ensure (co)polymer(s) processability and compatibility with downstream conversion route(s) into end products. The development of bio-based composites is not in scope. Proposals should target **at least two application sectors**. • **Eco-design** the bio-based (co)polymeric structure and related end products to address sustainable EoL. Validate the selected EoL option(s) of the (co)-polymeric structure at minimum at TRL 5. Landfilling/incineration are not in scope as EoL options.

CBE 2025 topics - RIA

Topic	N	Total M€
RIA-01 **Valorisation of untapped forest biomass**	2	7
RIA-02 Bio-based and biodegradable **delivery systems** for fertilising products to reduce microplastics pollution & promote soil health	2	7
RIA-03 Alternative biomanufacturing routes for **natural and synthetic rubber**	2	7

- Funding: **7 M€ for 2 projects selected**. Funding rate: **100%** for companies, **100%** for non-profit entities
- IKOP threshold: **at least 5% of eligible costs** of the project as a whole **(NEW FOR 2025)**
  - Since the maximum funding rate is 100% for all, IKOP is obtained by voluntary reduction of the funding rate of (a subset of) BIC members in the proposal.
- End **TRL 4-5**
- **Multi-actor approach**: not mandatory unless specified in the topic
- **Links and complementarities** to previous / ongoing projects: see topic for specific projects
- **Contribution to CBE specific requirements**: see topic for specific details
- **Qualitative business case for investment** showing promise when upscaled
- **Environmental impact assessment** (based on preliminary data)
- **SSbD assessment** only when specified

CBE 2025 topics - RIA

RIA-01 Valorisation of untapped forest biomass	
TRL	5
Scope (overview)	• Develop **innovative planning tools and technologies for harvesting, storage, pre-treatment** of residual and/or low value, unused or underutilized forest biomass or lower volume or/and less homogeneous biomass. Adopt **decentralised approaches**, including small-scale, mobile, containerised units, that consider the unique challenges across different European regions and among large, medium-sized, and small companies. • Develop and test **the feasibility of conversion routes** to bio-based chemicals and compounds, materials, products, assessing the viability of new business models around these concepts. • Test the **local value chain** by optimising logistics, improving cost efficiency, and collaborating with central hubs for further processing and refining. Actively involve local forest owners, managers, and other primary sector operators (e.g., farmers, horticulturists) to develop and test novel value chains in pilot areas. • Address the feasibility for different ownership types and cooperative structures to ensure alignment with value-chain cooperation. In addition to CBE specific requirements: • Provide recommendations for the development of EU carbon farming certification methodologies for the unused and underutilised forest biomass in long-lasting products • Go beyond the specific feedstock environmental sustainability requirements by actively preventing soil degradation and biodiversity and carbon loss

CBE 2025 topics - RIA

RIA-02 Bio-based and biodegradable delivery systems for fertilising products to reduce microplastics pollution & promote soil health	
TRL	5
Scope (overview)	• Develop circular and sustainable production processes for novel bio-based and biodegradable **delivery system(s) for fertilising products**. In addition, assess the applicability/adaptability of the delivery system(s) to **additional possible agricultural inputs** such as pesticides and seeds. • Validate the delivery system(s) for fertilising products (**lab-scale and/or small-scale field trials**), ensuring agronomic efficiency, safety, scalability and sustainability with similar or improved properties compared to conventional systems. • Assess the **long-term effect and biodegradability** of delivery system(s) when applied in natural soil conditions, applying standard tests, methods and protocols. Biodegradability-related aspects should also be monitored and assessed in fresh, estuarine or marine water (considering the risk of dispersion in water) In addition to specific CBE requirements: • In applying the **SSbD framework** consider the **delivery systems and their decomposition products** (**including microplastics**) and take into account **different farming systems** (incl. organic agriculture). • As part of MAA, **engage with farmers** to develop and test the newly established delivery systems **on demo/pilot farms,** and analyse the effects on plant development, soil health and water.

CBE 2025 topics - RIA

RIA-03 Alternative biomanufacturing routes for natural and synthetic rubber	
TRL	4-5
Scope (overview)	• Identify and characterise the suitable sources of rubber-bearing genetic backgrounds (e.g., plants, yeast, microbial hosts, etc…) which are suitable for optimisation for **natural and/or synthetic rubber biomanufacturing**. When targeting plant-based sources, proposals should focus on implementing low-ILUC solutions. • **Develop bio-based solutions** aiming at high yield of isoprenoid and/or other elastomers, e.g. by deploying the modern tools of biotechnology or other biomanufacturing approaches. • Advance EU/AC-based **production, extraction and/or processing methods**, to enable high productivity and quality of high molecular weight natural rubber and/or other bio-based elastomers. Test the suitability of the developed biomanufactured alternatives into end-products.

CBE 2025 topics - CSA

Topic	N	Total M€
CSA-01 **Develop and deploy new curricula** and knowledge exchange practices relevant to bio-based systems	1	1

- Funding: **1 M€ for 1 project selected**. Funding rate: **100%** for all participants
- Not related to TRL
- **Multi-actor approach**: not mandatory unless specified in the topic
- **Links and complementarities** to previous / ongoing projects: see topic for specific projects
- **Contribution to CBE specific requirements**: see topic for specific details

CBE 2025 topics - CSA

CSA-01 Develop and deploy new curricula and knowledge exchange practices relevant to bio-based systems	
TRL	N/A
Scope (overview)	• Establish a **network of industry and universities/RTOs**. Ensure engagement of stakeholders from the '**Widening' countries** and make sure that their specificities and needs are incorporated in the development and testing of the curricula. Mutual learning from/to rural and coastal/blue bioeconomy, including primary producers, should also be considered. • **Mobilise the network to co-create a set of curricula** for education, training and retraining/reskilling/upskilling of students and professionals in the field of circular bio-based systems. Curricula should include **both STEM and SSH disciplines**. Capitalise on any best practices and success stories, available also at international level. • **Test the implementation of the developed curricula with pilot groups of students and professionals.** Some of the training methodologies that may be considered are laboratory practices, field work, internships, simulation, case studies, problem-based learning, supervised projects, vocational training, online classes/webinars etc

Horizon Europe + CBE requirements

Horizon Europe (HE) rules

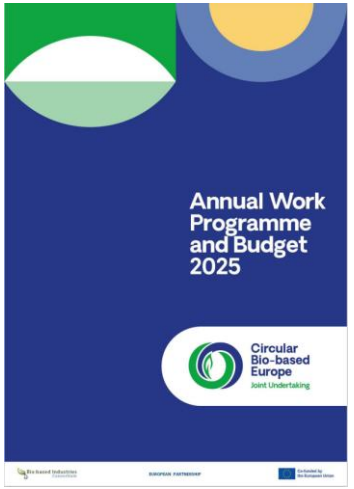
- Eligibility
- Admissibility
- General annexes

HE evaluation criteria

- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation

CBE Annual Work Programme 2025

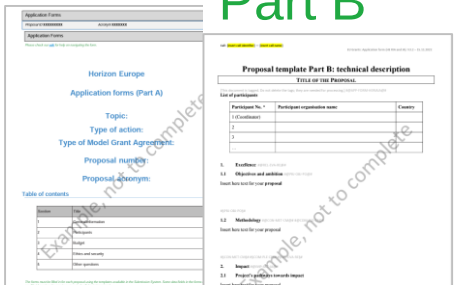
- Topics
- Specific requirements
- Budget



Proposal structure

Part A

Part B



CBE JU Call 2025 specific requirements (1/2)

Specific CBE JU requirement	Type of action	Where to include it in Part B
Feedstock sourcing (eligibility condition)	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – (Y/N) question
Feedstock sustainability requirements	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – (Y/N) question
Description of feedstock	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – 1.2 Methodology
Environmental performance		
a) Ex-ante assessment • Identification of environmental issues • Estimation of environmental sustainability performance • Estimation of carbon removal potential	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – 1.2 Methodology
b) Ex-post assessment • Dedicated task for RIA • Dedicated task or WP (LCSA) for IA non-FLAG	RIA IA, incl. FLAG	Part B - 3.1 Workplan and resources

CBE JU Call 2025 specific requirements (2/2)

Specific CBE JU requirement	Type of action	Where to include it in Part B
Multi-actor approach (MAA)	IA, incl. FLAG RIA and CSA, when specified	Part B – 1.2 Methodology
Economic aspects: NEW • *Qualitative* business case • *Quantified* business case and business model • Executive summary of the business plan, including the underlying business case and business model • Business plan	RIA IA non-FLAG FLAG FLAG	Part B – 2.2 Measures to maximise impact – D&E&C FLAG: Annex (Business plan)
Digital technologies	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – 1.2 Methodology
Cross-disciplinary aspects and Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)	All types of actions	Part B – 1.2 Methodology

Similarities and differences with Horizon Europe

Funding rate

- RIA: 100%
- IA: 60% (100% non-profit)
- CSA: 100%

Award criteria

- RIA, IA & CSA: Excellence, Impact, Implementation
- \+ Impact:
  Ability to ensure 5% (RIA), 15% (IA) or 20% (IAFlag) of in-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP)
  = minimum IKOP percentage

NEW

Page limit

- RIA: 50 p.
- IA: 70 p.
- CSA: 30 p.

Scoring thresholds

- Excellence: 3/5
- Impact: 4/5
- Implementation: 3/5
- Total: 11/15

In-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP)

IKOP = Total eligible costs – Requested EU contribution (of **private members**)

In CBE JU, the only **private member** is the **Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)**.

→ **Minimum percentage of IKOP** (5% for RIAs, 15% for IAs, 20% for Flagships) must be reflected in the budget of partners that are BIC members.

Example: RIAs Criterion: ≥ 5% IKOP	BIC member	Industry / Academia	Total eligible costs	Funding rate	Requested EU contribution	IKOP (only for BIC members)
Beneficiary 1 - Coordinator	Y	industry	€ 2,000,000	100%	€ 2,000,000	
Beneficiary 2	N	academia	€ 590,000	100%	€ 590,000	
Beneficiary 3 (**BIC member**)	Y	industry	€ 700,000	100%	**€ 500,000**	€ 200,000
Beneficiary 4	N	industry	€ 300,000	100%	€ 300,000	
Beneficiary 5	N	academia	€ 800,000	100%	**€ 600,000**	
TOTAL			**€ 4,390,000**		€ 3,990,000	**€ 200,000**

Percentage IKOP = $\frac{\text{€ 200,000}}{\text{€ 4,390,000}}$ = 4,5% < 5%

(Examples of IA and Flagship budget tables will be included in the FAQ for applicants)

In-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP)

IKOP = Total eligible costs – Requested EU contribution (of **private members**)

In CBE JU, the only **private member** is the **Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)**.

→ **Minimum percentage of IKOP** (5% for RIAs, 15% for IAs, 20% for Flagships) must be reflected in the budget of partners that are BIC members.

Example: RIAs Criterion: ≥ 5% IKOP	BIC member	Industry / Academia	Total eligible costs	Funding rate	Requested EU contribution	IKOP (only for BIC members)
Beneficiary 1 - Coordinator	Y	industry	€ 2,000,000	100%	€ 2,000,000	
Beneficiary 2	N	academia	€ 590,000	100%	€ 590,000	
Beneficiary 3 (**BIC member**)	Y	industry	€ 700,000	100%	**€ 500,000**	€ 200,000
Beneficiary 4	N	industry	€ 300,000	100%	€ 300,000	
Beneficiary 5 (**BIC member**)	N	academia	€ 800,000	100%	**€ 600,000**	€ 200,000
TOTAL			**€ 4,390,000**		€ 3,990,000	**€ 400,000**

Percentage IKOP = $\frac{\text{€ 400,000}}{\text{€ 4,390,000}}$ = **9.1% < 5%**

(Examples of IA and Flagship budget tables will be included in the FAQ for applicants)

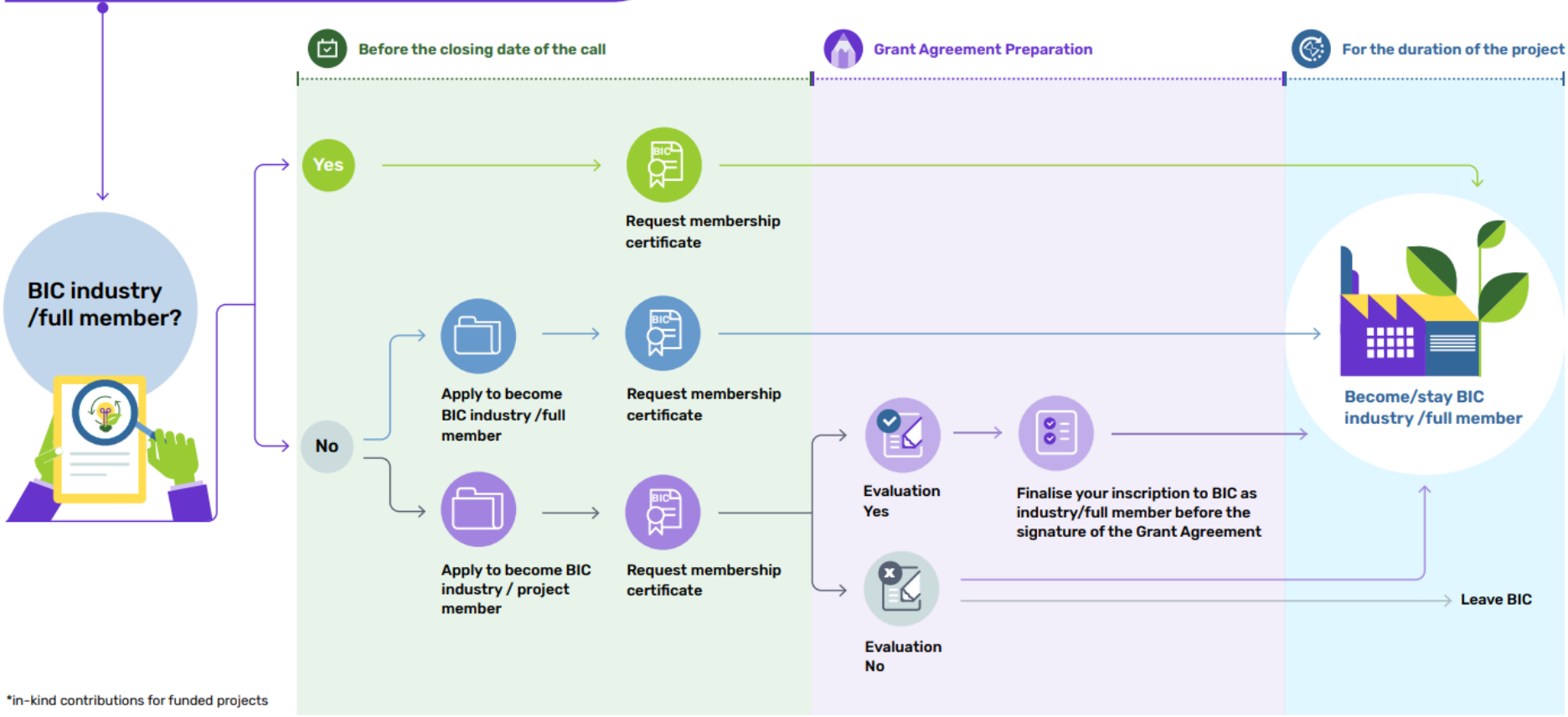
IKOP vs BIC membership

- **IKOP?**
  - Total eligible costs minus total requested funding (of BIC members)
  - Only applicable to RIA and IA incl. Flagships
  - CBE JU evaluation subcriterion (5%, 15% or 20% threshold, depending on type of action)
- **BIC membership**
  - CBE JU will check BIC membership during evaluation…
  - …via an Annex to the proposal: 1 pdf file with all 'BIC membership certificates' or BIC members involved in the consortium
  - BIC membership certificates to be requested to BIC via https://bic.elisca.app/membership/certificate/registration
  - When building your consortium, you might encounter organisations interested in becoming a BIC member (and who could 'boost' your IKOP)
  - 'Project membership': temporary membership option, (only') relevant for CBE JU Calls: the organisation will become a BIC member if their proposal is successful

Company contributing IKOP* in a project consortium

What are your options?

Bio-based Industries Consortium



*in-kind contributions for funded projects

Table of contents

Proposal preparation: Lessons learnt from past calls

3

Call 2024 results analysis

Call 2024:

- **559** proposals *created* in the F&T Portal
  - 125 remained in draft ('test' proposals...or missed submission deadline?)
  - 136 deleted by project coordinators
  - **298** proposals submitted
    - **30** proposals were invited for Grant Agreement Preparation ('main list')
    - 35 proposals were placed on the 'reserve list'
    - 119 proposals were above thresholds, but did not make the 'main' or 'reserve' lists
    - 105 proposals were below threshold(s) (did not pass one or more of the evaluation threshold(s))
    - 9 proposals did not meet the Horizon eligibility and admissibility criteria

Call 2024 submission analysis

Would there be correlation (or even causation) between the creation time of a proposal and its success rate?

	Created between…	Median creation date	Created in September
30 x Main list	24/04 - 03/09	18/06/2024	1 (3%)
35 x Reserve list	24/04 - 29/08	08/07/2024	0 (0%)
74 x above threshold(s), non-reserve	24/04 - 18/09	16/07/2024	17 (14,3%)
105 x below threshold(s)	25/04 - 18/09	07/08/2024	22 (20,1%)
9 x ineligible/withdrawn	22/05 - 15/09	26/08/2024	4 (44,4%)

=> starting to work in the Portal asap adds value!

Call 2024 evaluation analysis

- ***Impact*** criterion '**Expected outcomes in the topic text**' source of the most common issues
- ***Excellence*** criteria '**Methodology**', '**Ambition**', '**In scope**' in top 5 issues
- ***Implementation*** criterion '**Risk & mitigation measures**' in top 5 issues
- ***Impact*** criterion '**Economic aspects**' (IA/IA-Flagships business case / business model, or RIA economic viability):
  - in top 5 of issues for IA/IA-Flagships
  - the most common issue in all proposals scoring between 13.5-14.5

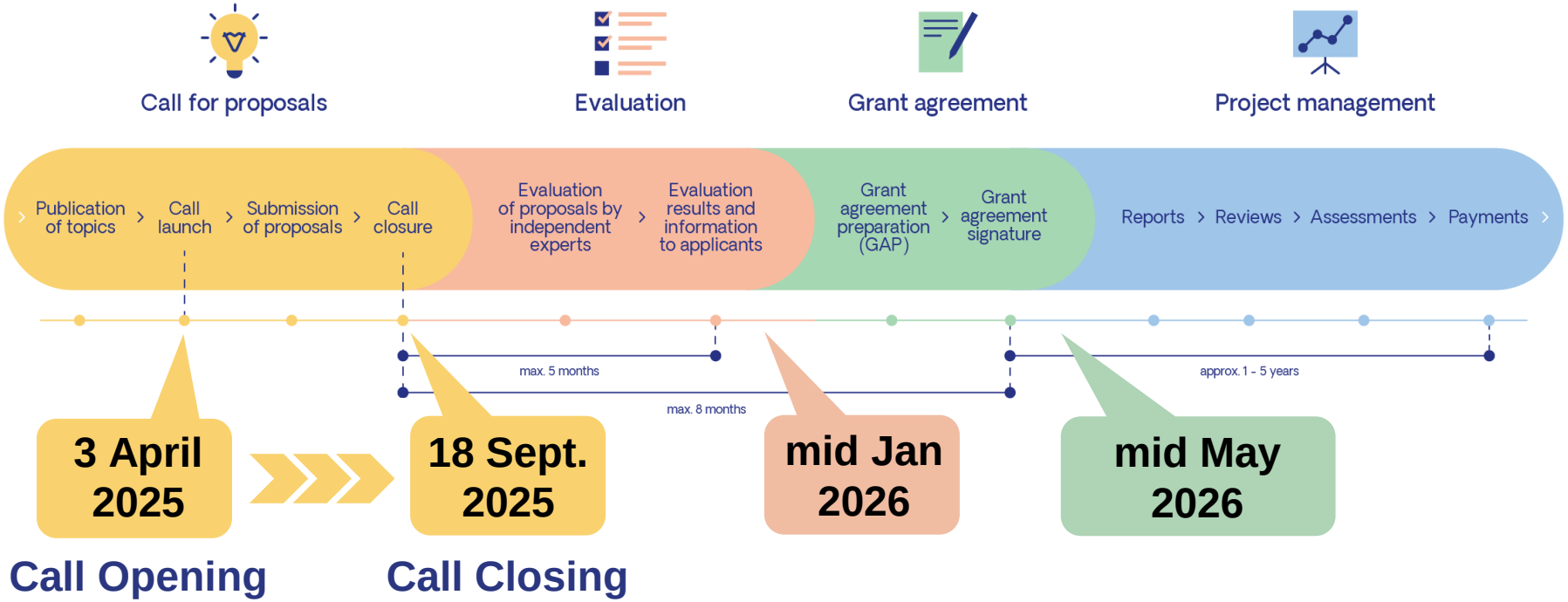
CBE JU Call 2025:

Timing, tips & tricks and networking opportunities

4

Estimated project start = May-June 2026

Proposal preparation



Get prepared …

Study the **call documentation**

Select your **partners**

Plan your project and draft the **Technical Description** (Template Part B)

Horizon Europe + CBE requirements

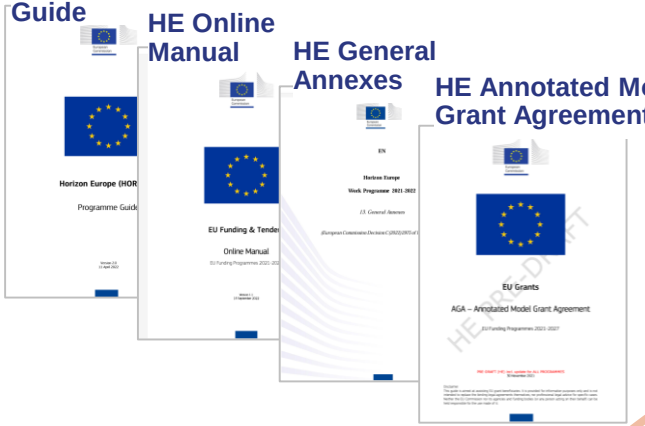
Horizon Europe (HE) conditions

HE Programme Guide

HE Online Manual

HE General Annexes

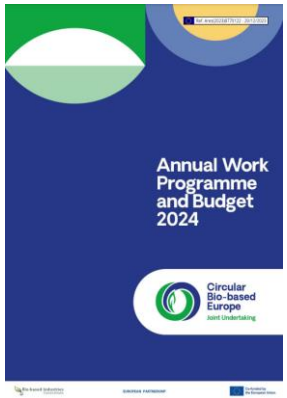
HE Annotated Model Grant Agreement



Evaluation criteria

Annual Work Programme 2025

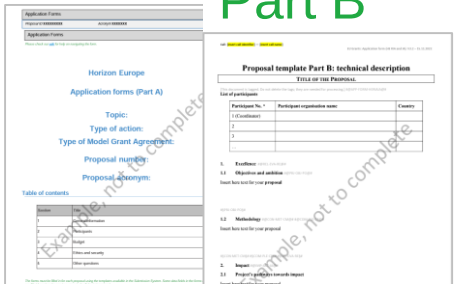
- Topics
- Specific requirements
- Budget



Proposal structure

Part A

Part B



European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Proposal (Part B)

Topic

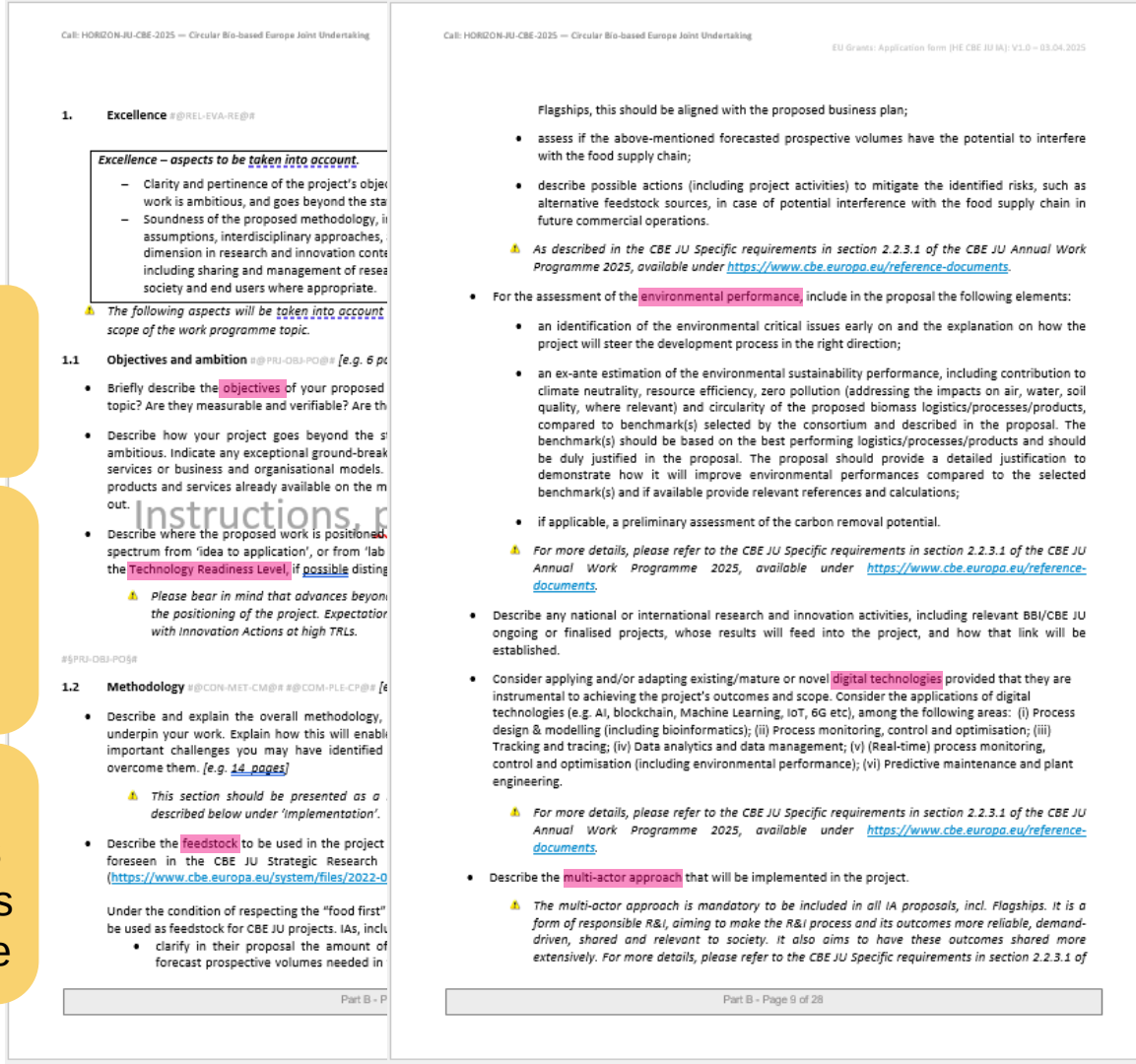
Scope

1. Excellence
1.1 Objectives & ambition
1.2 Methodology

Expected outcomes

2. Impact
2.1 Pathways to impact
2.2 Measures to maximise impact

3. Implementation
3.1 Work plan & resources
3.2 Capacity of participants & consortium as a whole



1. **Excellence** #@REL-EVA-RE@#

Excellence – aspects to be taken into account.

- Clarity and pertinence of the project's objec work is ambitious, and goes beyond the sta
- Soundness of the proposed methodology, i assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, dimension in research and innovation conte including sharing and management of resea society and end users where appropriate.

The following aspects will be taken into account scope of the work programme topic.

1.1 **Objectives and ambition** #@PRJ-OBJ-PO@# *[e.g. 6 pa*

- Briefly describe the objectives of your proposed topic? Are they measurable and verifiable? Are th
- Describe how your project goes beyond the s ambitious. Indicate any exceptional ground-break services or business and organisational models. products and services already available on the m out.
- Describe where the proposed work is positioned spectrum from 'idea to application', or from 'lab the Technology Readiness Level, if possible disting

Please bear in mind that advances beyon the positioning of the project. Expectatior with Innovation Actions at high TRLs.

#§PRJ-OBJ-PO§#

1.2 **Methodology** #@CON-MET-CM@# #@COM-PLE-CP@# *[e*

- Describe and explain the overall methodology, underpin your work. Explain how this will enabl important challenges you may have identified overcome them. *[e.g. 14 pages]*

This section should be presented as a described below under 'implementation'.

- Describe the feedstock to be used in the project foreseen in the CBE JU Strategic Research (https://www.cbe.europa.eu/system/files/2022-0

Under the condition of respecting the "food first" be used as feedstock for CBE JU projects. IAs, incl

- clarify in their proposal the amount of forecast prospective volumes needed in

Flagships, this should be aligned with the proposed business plan;

- assess if the above-mentioned forecasted prospective volumes have the potential to interfere with the food supply chain;
- describe possible actions (including project activities) to mitigate the identified risks, such as alternative feedstock sources, in case of potential interference with the food supply chain in future commercial operations.

As described in the CBE JU Specific requirements in section 2.2.3.1 of the CBE JU Annual Work Programme 2025, available under https://www.cbe.europa.eu/reference-documents.

- For the assessment of the environmental performance, include in the proposal the following elements:
  - an identification of the environmental critical issues early on and the explanation on how the project will steer the development process in the right direction;
  - an ex-ante estimation of the environmental sustainability performance, including contribution to climate neutrality, resource efficiency, zero pollution (addressing the impacts on air, water, soil quality, where relevant) and circularity of the proposed biomass logistics/processes/products, compared to benchmark(s) selected by the consortium and described in the proposal. The benchmark(s) should be based on the best performing logistics/processes/products and should be duly justified in the proposal. The proposal should provide a detailed justification to demonstrate how it will improve environmental performances compared to the selected benchmark(s) and if available provide relevant references and calculations;
  - if applicable, a preliminary assessment of the carbon removal potential.

  For more details, please refer to the CBE JU Specific requirements in section 2.2.3.1 of the CBE JU Annual Work Programme 2025, available under https://www.cbe.europa.eu/reference-documents.

- Describe any national or international research and innovation activities, including relevant BBI/CBE JU ongoing or finalised projects, whose results will feed into the project, and how that link will be established.
- Consider applying and/or adapting existing/mature or novel digital technologies provided that they are instrumental to achieving the project's outcomes and scope. Consider the applications of digital technologies (e.g. AI, blockchain, Machine Learning, IoT, 6G etc), among the following areas: (i) Process design & modelling (including bioinformatics); (ii) Process monitoring, control and optimisation; (iii) Tracking and tracing; (iv) Data analytics and data management; (v) (Real-time) process monitoring, control and optimisation (including environmental performance); (vi) Predictive maintenance and plant engineering.

  For more details, please refer to the CBE JU Specific requirements in section 2.2.3.1 of the CBE JU Annual Work Programme 2025, available under https://www.cbe.europa.eu/reference-documents.

- Describe the multi-actor approach that will be implemented in the project.

  The multi-actor approach is mandatory to be included in all IA proposals, incl. Flagships. It is a form of responsible R&I, aiming to make the R&I process and its outcomes more reliable, demand-driven, shared and relevant to society. It also aims to have these outcomes shared more extensively. For more details, please refer to the CBE JU Specific requirements in section 2.2.3.1 of

A good proposal is

A good proposal is compelling

Present a compelling narrative of your methodology

What methods will be used.

How this will deliver your project's objectives.

Which challenges exist and how you will overcome them.

A good proposal is

contextualised

Link your project to its context

"No project is an island."

What are relevant other projects ?
(EU, national, regional, local)

How will you build on them or interact with them?

What is relevant existing IP ?
(inside and outside the consortium)

How will you deal with it?

A good proposal is

captivating

Present a captivating scenario to impact

Describe the project's pathway to impact :

1. Describe specific contributions to topic outcomes & wider impact (longer term)
2. Estimate their scale and significance
3. Assess relevant barriers, requirements, risks

A good proposal is

credible

Numbers add trust !

Present a credible scenario to impact

Describe the project's pathway to impact :

1. Describe specific contributions to topic outcomes & wider impact (longer term)
2. Estimate their scale and significance
3. Assess relevant barriers, requirements, risks

A good proposal is

candid

Be candid about risks

Risks of pathways to impact:

External factors influencing outcome & impact + mitigation measures to address them

Risks of project implementation:

Internal factors influencing project results + mitigation measures to address them

Dedicated table in the template

A good proposal is

coherent

Ensure coherence

in other words: Avoid ambiguity

All parts of the proposal should be consistent.

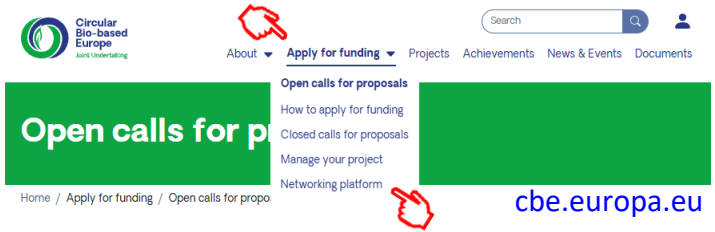
“There are no details.”

A good proposal is

collaborative

Build a strong consortium

CBE networking platform remains open:



Map topic elements and requirements to individual partners - identify gaps

High level of confidence btw partners is key.

Clarify ownership of results (IP) early.

A good proposal is

Be clear

up to 70 pages x 8 proposals (*per evaluator*)

Make it easy to grasp.

“stand out with clarity”

clear

A good proposal is

complete

Aim for complete “topic eclipse”

topic text
+ Horizon Europe requirements
+ CBE requirements

every single word in topic text counts !

every single requirement counts !

A good proposal is

compelling
contextualised
captivating
credible
candid
coherent
collaborative
clear
complete

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compelling
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complete

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