

CBE JU call 2026: National Info Day

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12/01/2026, Paris – France



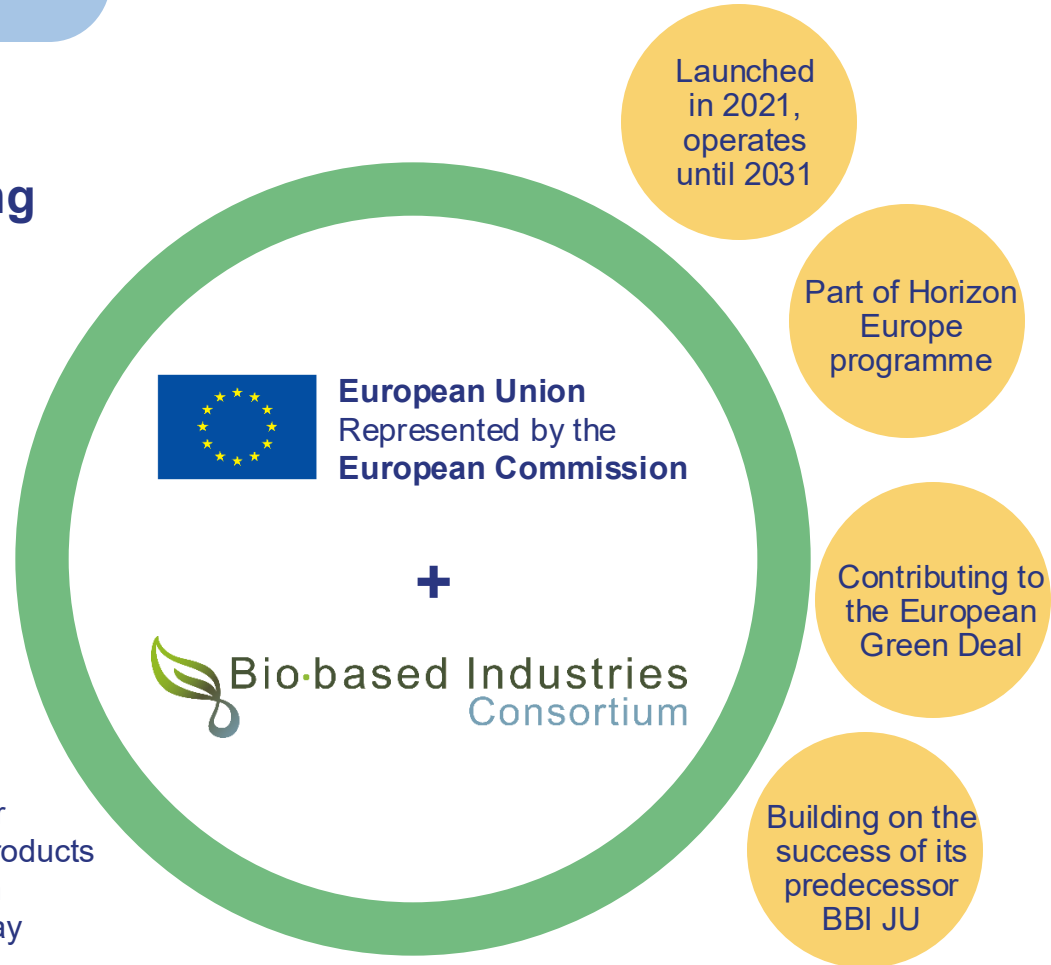
The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

1

Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

€2 billion public-private initiative

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



CBE JU general objectives



Accelerate the **innovation** process and development of bio-based innovative solutions

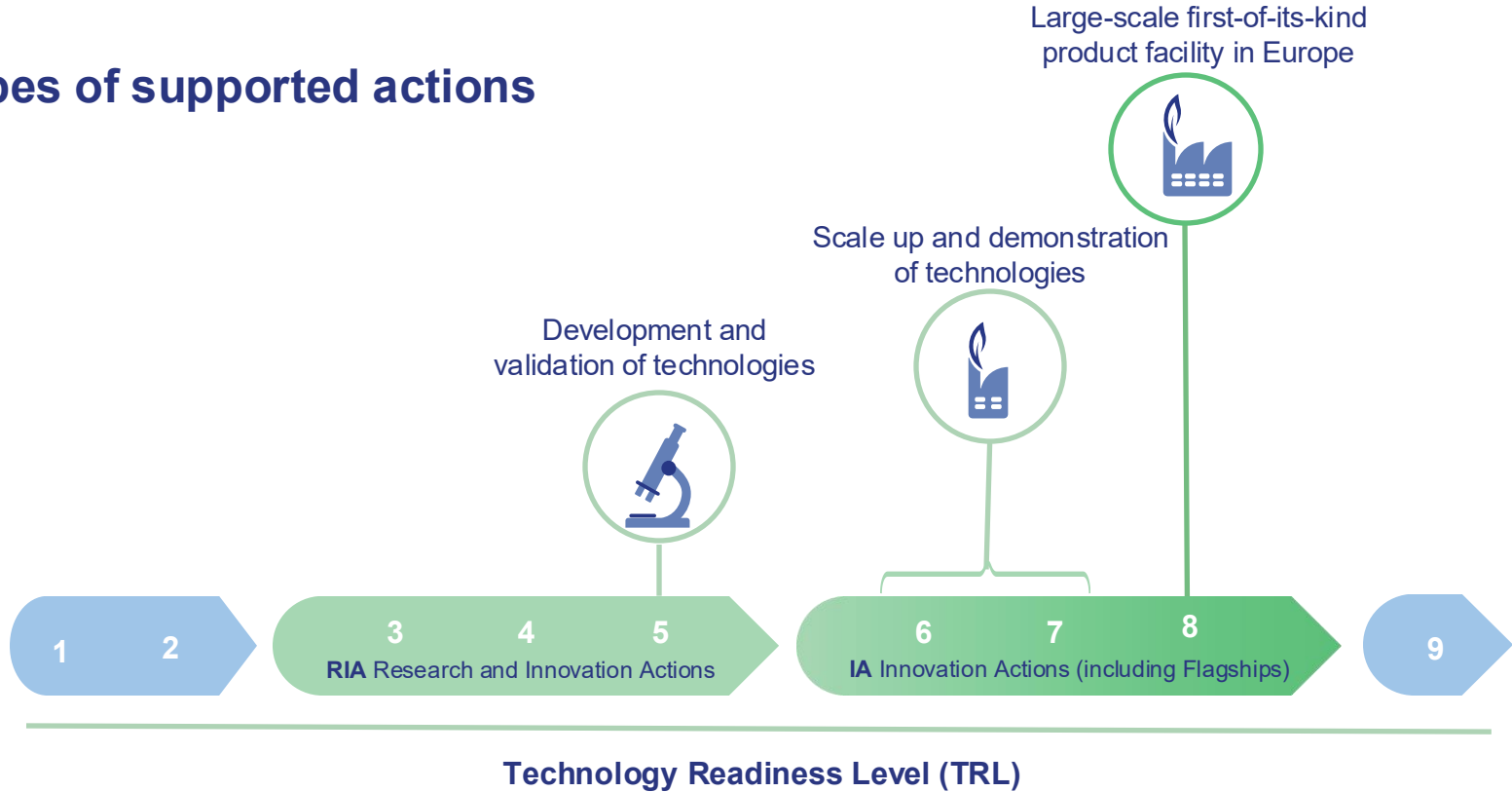


Accelerate **market deployment** of the existing mature bio-based innovative solutions



Ensure a high level of **environmental performance** of bio-based industrial systems

Types of supported actions



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

CBE JU-funded projects in numbers

2014-2024



220
projects



1,700
participants

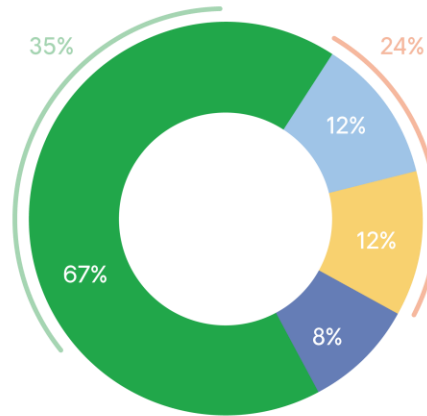


€1.3 billion
invested in projects



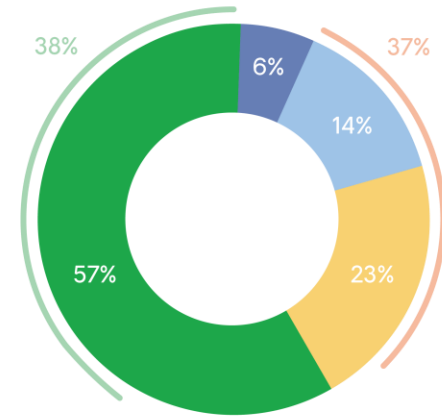
45
countries

Participants



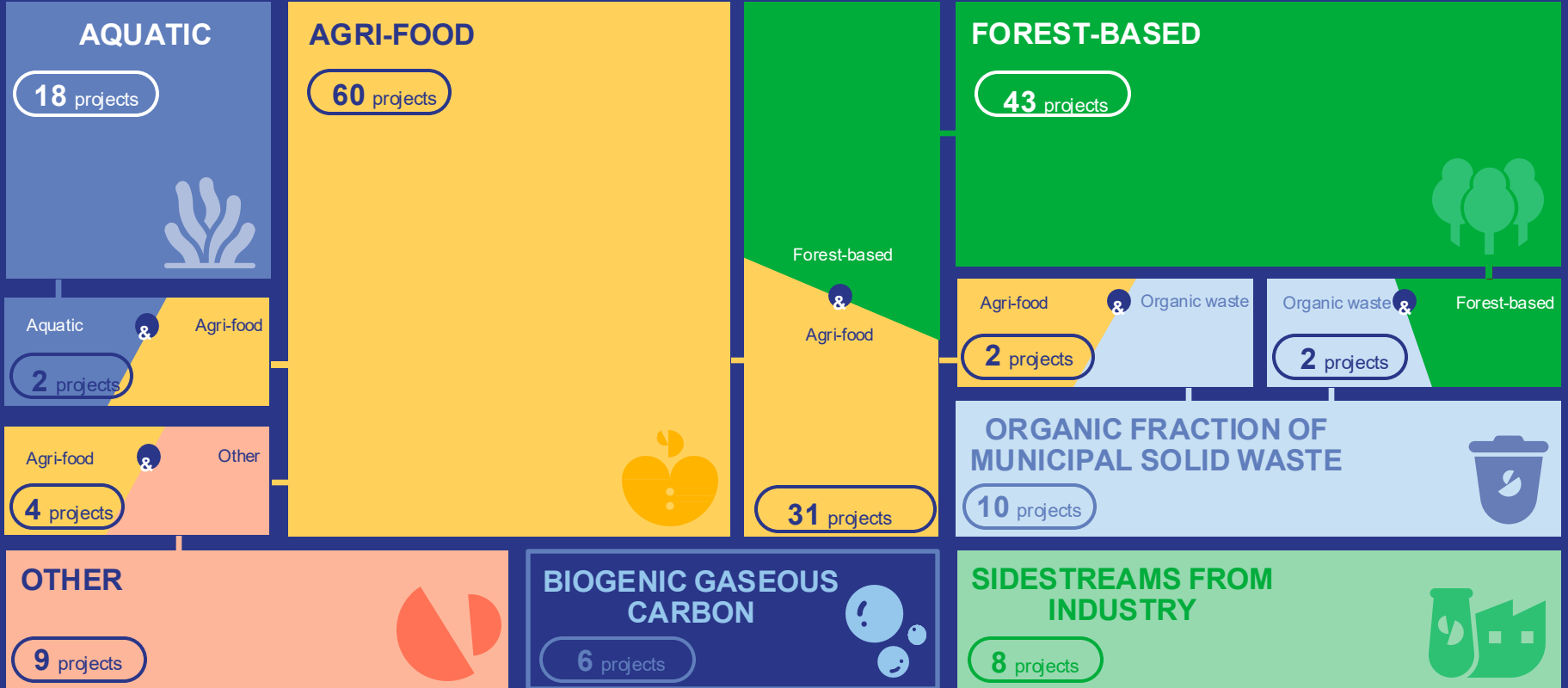
- Private companies
- Higher education establishments
- Small and medium-sized enterprises
- Universities & research centres

Funding

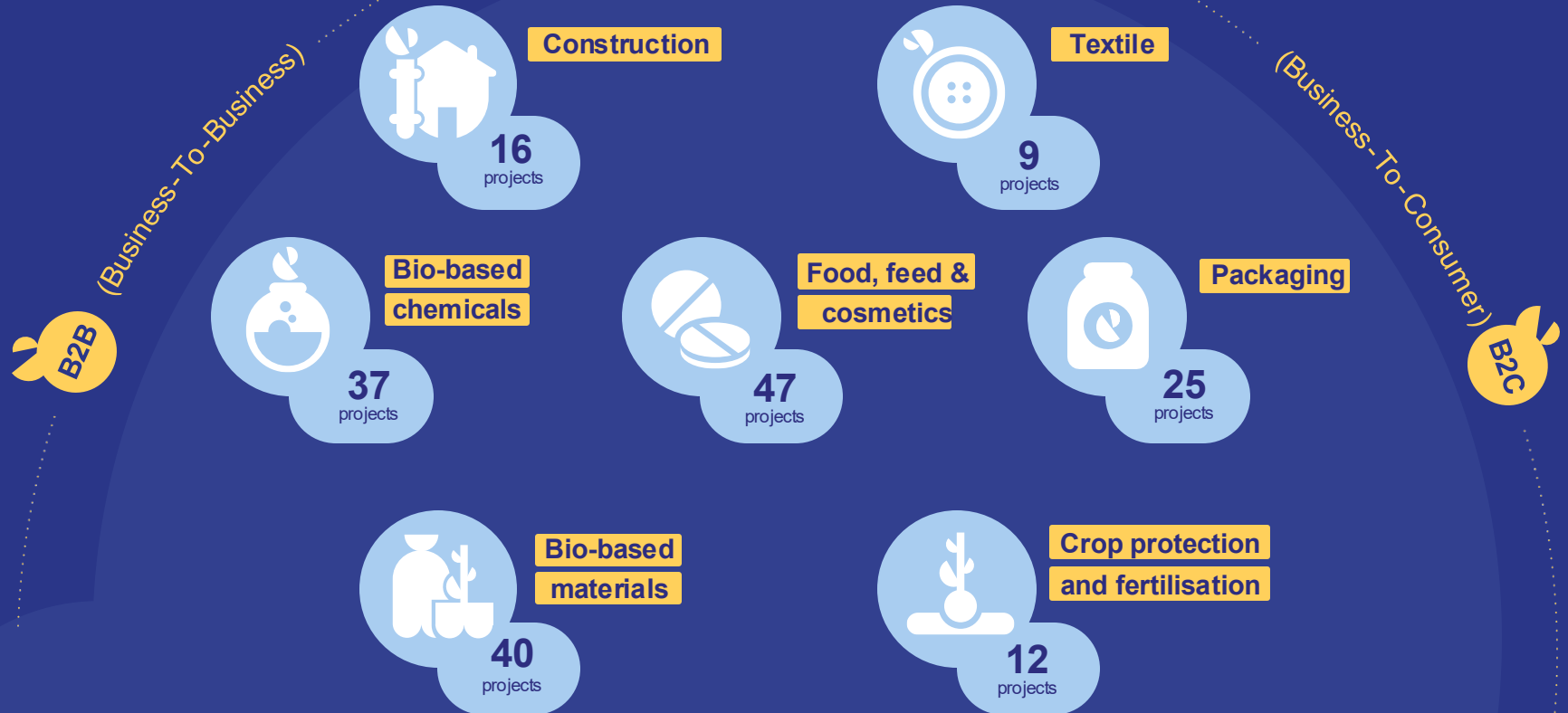


- Research centres
- Other

Main feedstock types



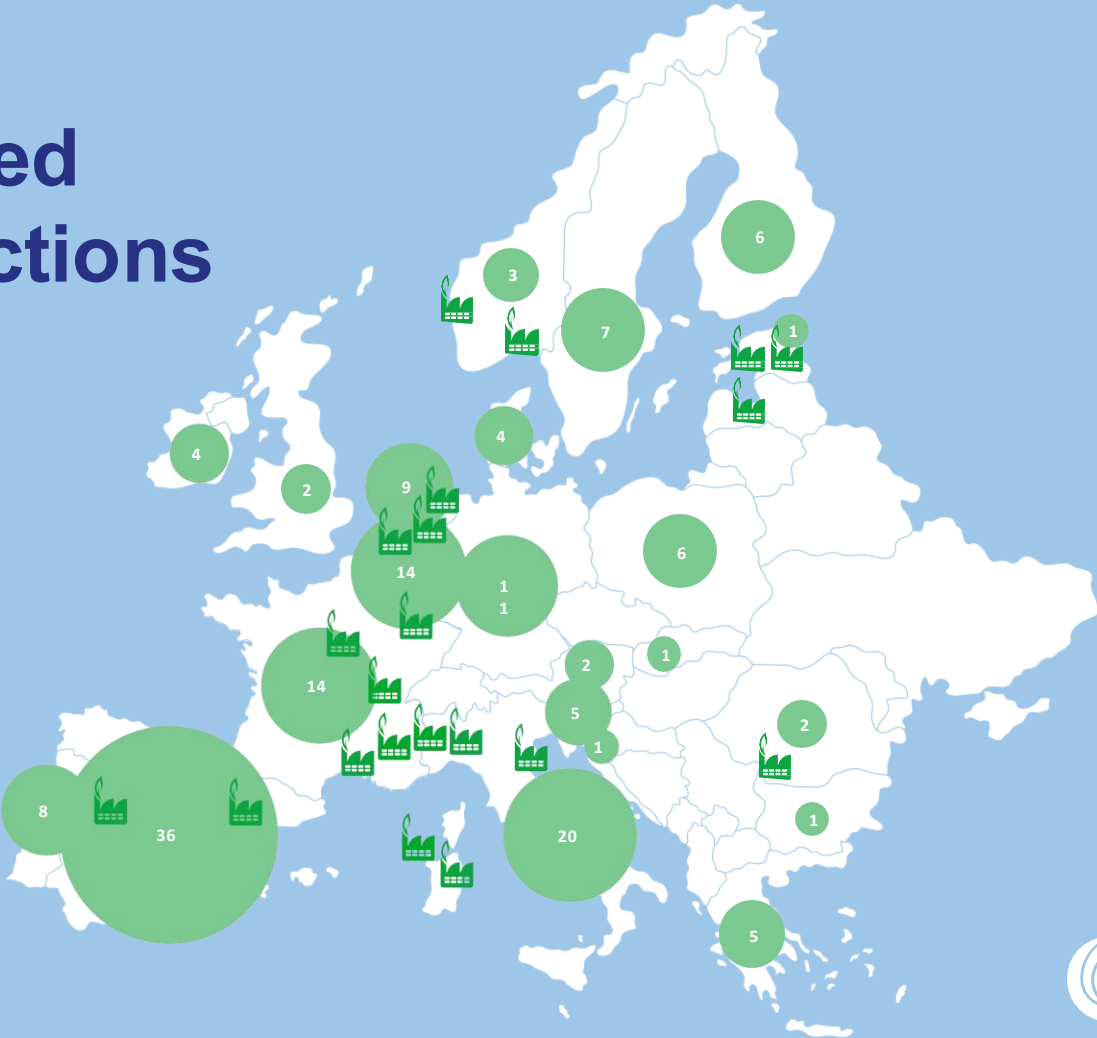
Areas of applications



CBE JU-funded Innovation Actions

 Flagship biorefinery

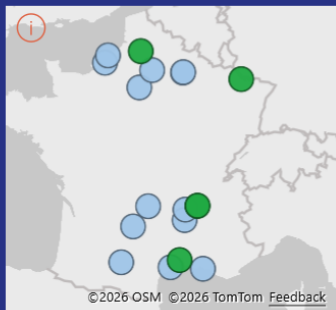
 Demonstration plant



France

5 First-of-their-kind industrial biorefineries

13 Demonstration plants



#	Locality	Type
1	Baillargues	Industrial biorefinery
1	Le Péage-de-Roussillon	Industrial biorefinery
1	Poulainville	Industrial biorefinery
1	Roussillon	Industrial biorefinery
1	Saint-Avold	Industrial biorefinery
1	Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	Demonstration plant
1	Bazancourt	Demonstration plant
1	Colombes	Demonstration plant

Type of action: ● Innovation action - Flagship ● Innovation action ● Research & Innovation action ● Coordination & Support action



Feedstock used:

* by selected biorefineries

Agri-food	9
Organic waste	4
Aquatic	1
Forest-based	1
Other	1

Project applications:

* of selected biorefineries

Agri/ Food/Feed	28
Chemicals/ Cosmetics	14
Other	8
Construction	7
Energy	3
Textile	3
Automotive	2
Packaging	2

Number of projects

101

16 coordinated projects

● Completed ● Ongoing



Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Only private companies

CBE JU funding to SMEs

80.83M€

Number of SMEs

52

Members of the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)

35

Participating projects	link
ABACUS	link
AFTERBIOCHEM	link
ALLIANCE	link
AQUABIOPROFIT	link
BIObec	link
BIOBESTicide	link
BIOCOMEM	link

CBE JU funding



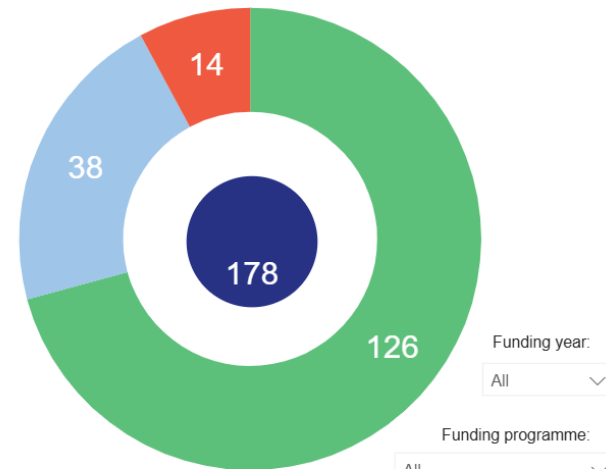
Click on a graph to filter the displayed information. Double-click on the same graph to reset the view.

144.71M€

● Private companies ● Universities & research centres ● other



Beneficiaries



Only beneficiaries from the selected country are displayed.

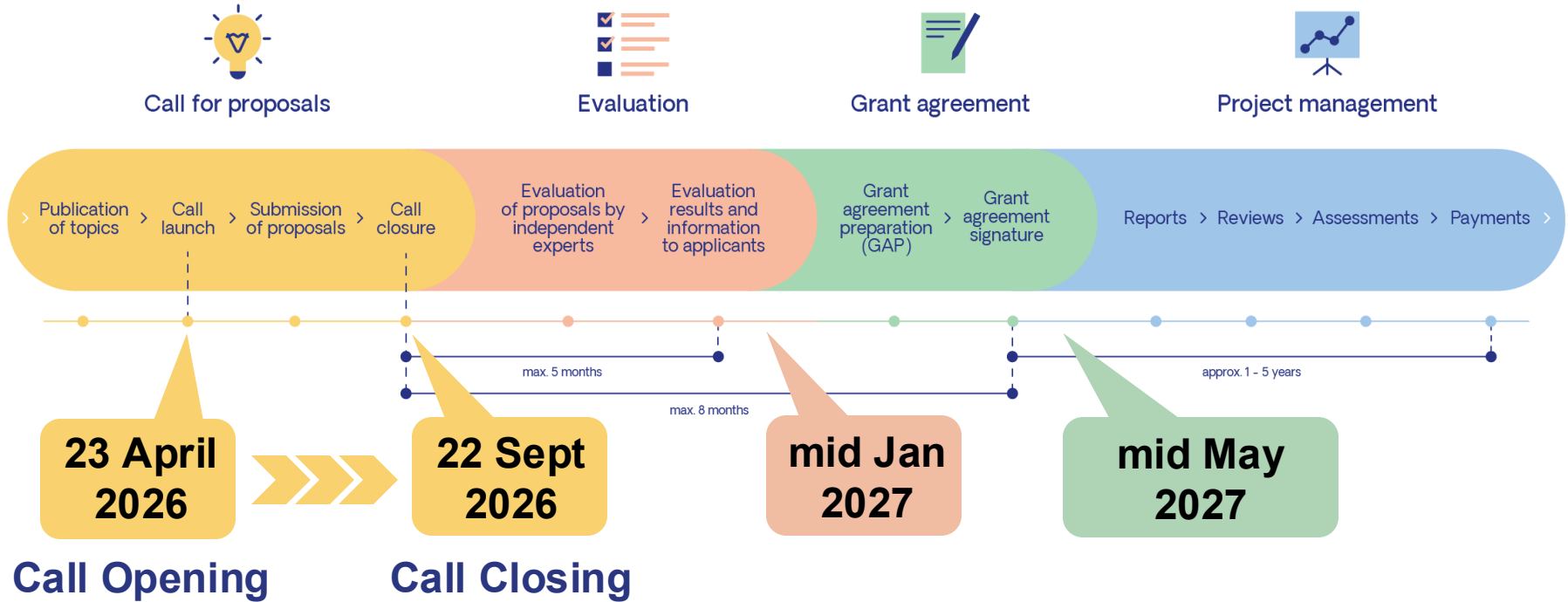
Participants	Role	City
ADDIPLAST SAS	partner	Saint Pal De Mons
ADM BAZANCOURT	partner	Bazancourt
AFYREN NEOXY	coordinator	Saint Beauzire
AGRI SUD OUEST INNOVATION	partner	Ramonville-Saint-Agne
AGRO INNOVATION INTERNATIONAL	partner	Saint-Malo
AGROM SERVICES	partner	Vitre
AGROMOUSQUETAIRES	partner	Paris
AHLSTROM-MUNKSJÖ SPECIALTIES	partner	Bousbecque
ALGALIA	partner	Lezignan

CBE JU Call 2026:
timeline & topics

2

Estimated project start = May-June 2027

Proposal preparation



CBE JU call 2026: 13 topics and their budget

Type of action	Topics HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026		Million EUR
IA- Flagship	IAFlag-01	Boosting biorefinery competitiveness through biotech	20
	IAFlag-02	SSbD bio-based alternatives for fertilising and/or crop protection products	20
	IAFlag-03	SSbD bio-based solutions for home and/or personal care	20
	IAFlag-04	Diversification of nutritional food ingredient sources for increased EU resilience and strategic autonomy	20
IA	IA-01	Biotech routes for valorisation of residual biomass	14
	IA-02	Bio-based additives as alternatives to unlock and increase recyclability and/or biodegradability	14
	IA-03	Bio-based chemicals and/or materials from woody residues	14
	IA-04	High-performance, circular-by-design, bio-based thermosets	14
	IA-05	Films and coatings for circular packaging	14
RIA	R-01	Addressing separation and purification challenges in biorefineries	6.5
	R-02	SSbD bio-based polymers from alternative sources	6.5
	R-03	Develop breakthrough and sustainable bio-based (man-made and/or modified natural) textile fibres	6.5
CSA	S-01	Supporting industry in the switch to sustainable and circular bio-based products and processes	1.2

Total 170.7

Two main sources of information

The screenshot shows the 'F&T Portal Online Manual' website. On the left is a navigation menu with categories like 'Participant Register', 'Grants', 'Procurement', 'Prizes', 'Financial instruments', 'Working as an expert', and 'Help'. The main content area is titled 'Grants' and features a 'My Area — User account and roles' button. Below this, there are two main sections: 'Applying for funding' and 'Evaluation & Grant signature'. Each section contains a series of chevron-shaped buttons representing steps in the process. For 'Applying for funding', the steps are 'Find a call', 'Find partners', 'Register an organisation', and 'Submit a proposal'. For 'Evaluation & Grant signature', the steps are 'Admissibility and eligibility check', 'Evaluation of proposals', 'Grant preparation', and 'Grant signature'.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/display/OM/Online+Manual>

The screenshot shows the 'Circular Bio-based Europe' website. The top navigation bar includes 'About', 'EU policy impact', 'Apply for funding', 'Projects & participation', 'Achievements', 'News & events', and 'Documents'. A search bar and a user profile icon are on the right. The main content area is a green banner with the text 'Open calls for proposals'. A dropdown menu is open over the 'Apply for funding' link, showing options: 'Open calls for proposals', 'How to apply for funding', 'Closed calls for proposals', 'Manage your project', and 'Networking platform'. Below the banner, there is a 'Page contents' section with links to '2026 call for project proposals', 'Call topics', 'Types of action funded by CBE JU', and 'More resources'. The main heading is '2026 call for project proposals', followed by a list of key dates and details: 'Call identifier: HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026', 'Call launch: 23 April 2026', 'Call deadline: 22 September 2026 at 17:00 CET', and 'Call budget: €170.7 million'. A final paragraph states: 'CBE JU calls follow the rules and procedures of Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation programme. Find more information about Horizon Europe's funding opportunities.'

<https://www.cbe.europa.eu/open-calls-proposals>
(Incl. FAQ for applicants, link to networking platform,...)

CBE JU vs. Horizon Europe: similarities & differences

3

Horizon Europe + CBE requirements

Horizon Europe (HE) rules

- Eligibility
- Admissibility
- General annexes

HE evaluation criteria

- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation

CBE Annual Work Programme 2026

- Topics
- **Specific requirements**
- Budget

HE Programme Guide

HE Online Manual

HE General Annexes

HE Annotated Model Grant Agreement



EU Grants
AGA – Annotated Model Grant Agreement
© Funding Programme 2023-2027



Part A

Part B

Proposal structure

Example not to complete

Application Form	Access status
Application number	
Application name	

Horizon Europe
Application forms (Part A)

Topic:
Type of action:
Type of Model Grant Agreement:
Proposal number:
Proposal acronym:

Table of contents

Section	Page
1. Executive summary	1
2. Objectives and address	2
3. Methodology	3
4. Impact	4
5. Budget	5
6. Project partners and consortium	6

Proposal template Part B: technical description
Title or title Permit(s)

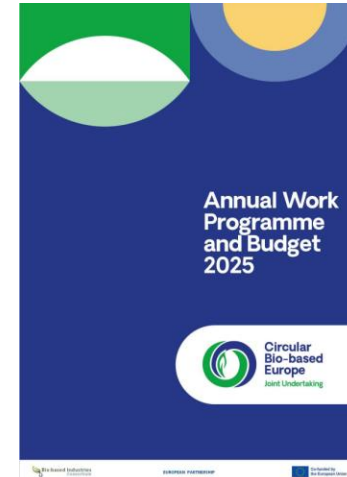
Participant No. 1	Participant organisation name	Country
1		
2		
3		

1. Executive summary
1.1 Objectives and address
1.2 Objectives and address
1.3 Objectives and address
1.4 Objectives and address
1.5 Objectives and address

2. Methodology
2.1 Methodology
2.2 Methodology
2.3 Methodology
2.4 Methodology
2.5 Methodology

3. Impact
3.1 Impact
3.2 Impact
3.3 Impact
3.4 Impact
3.5 Impact

4. Project partners and consortium
4.1 Project partners and consortium
4.2 Project partners and consortium
4.3 Project partners and consortium
4.4 Project partners and consortium
4.5 Project partners and consortium



Similarities and **differences** with Horizon Europe



Funding rate

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



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



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

CBE JU vs. HE ‘general annexes’

- **Eligibility & admissibility criteria**

- Same as Horizon Europe - General Annexes WP 2026-2027 (*no derogation*)
- Most common issue in previous calls (although still rare overall): **consortium composition** (for RIAs and IAs incl. flagships: min. 3 independent legal entities, with at least 1 from a Member State (MS), and 2 others from different MS and/or Associated Countries)

- **Priority order in case of equal scores?** Same rules as mentioned in the Horizon Europe General Annexes (*no derogation*)

- 1) ~~Proposals that address aspects of the call that have not otherwise been covered by more highly ranked proposals will be considered to have the highest priority.~~
- 2) The proposals identified under 1), if any, will themselves be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for ‘Excellence’. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for ‘Impact’. In the case of ‘Innovation actions’, priority will be given to the score for ‘Impact’, followed by that for ‘Excellence’.
- 3) If necessary, the gender balance among the researchers with a leading role named in the researchers table in the proposal, will be used as a factor for prioritisation.
- 4) If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on geographical diversity, defined as the number of Member States or Associated Countries represented in the proposal, not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and if equal in number, then by budget).

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

In-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP) (1/3)

FLAGSHIPS

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** must be reflected in the budget of partners that are BIC members.

Example 1: IA Flagship Criterion: $\geq 20\%$ IKOP	BIC member	Industry / Academia	Total eligible costs	Funding rate	Requested EU contribution	IKOP
Beneficiary 1 - Coordinator (BIC member)	Y	industry	€ 7,000,000	60%	€ 4,200,000	€ 2,800,000
Beneficiary 2	N	academia	€ 590,000	100%	€ 590,000	
Beneficiary 3 (BIC member)	Y	industry	€ 5,000,000	60%	€ 3,000,000	€ 2,000,000
Beneficiary 4	N	industry	€ 3,000,000	60%	€ 1,800,000	
Beneficiary 5	N	academia	€ 800,000	100%	€ 800,000	
TOTAL			€ 16,390,000		€ 10,390,000	€ 4,800,000

$$\text{Percentage IKOP} = \frac{\text{€ 4,800,000}}{\text{€ 16,390,000}} = 29,3\% > 20\% \quad \text{👍}$$

In-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP) (2/3)

Innovation Actions

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** must be reflected in the budget of partners that are BIC members.

Example 2: IA Criterion: $\geq 15\%$ IKOP	BIC member	Industry / Academia	Total eligible costs	Funding rate	Requested EU contribution	IKOP
Beneficiary 1 - Coordinator (BIC member)	Y	industry	€ 3,200,000	60%	€ 1,920,000	€ 1,280,000
Beneficiary 2	N	academia	€ 590,000	100%	€ 590,000	
Beneficiary 3	N	industry	€ 1,500,000	60%	€ 900,000	
Beneficiary 4	N	industry	€ 3,000,000	60%	€ 1,800,000	
Beneficiary 5	N	academia	€ 800,000	100%	€ 800,000	
TOTAL			€ 9,090,000		€ 6,010,000	€ 1,280,000

$$\text{Percentage IKOP} = \frac{\text{€ 1,280,000}}{\text{€ 9,090,000}} = 14,1\% < 15\% \text{ } \downarrow$$

In-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP) (3/3)

Research and Innovation Actions

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** must be reflected in the budget of partners that are BIC members.

Example 3: RIAs Criterion: $\geq 5\%$ 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

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

Horizon Europe + CBE requirements

Horizon Europe (HE) rules

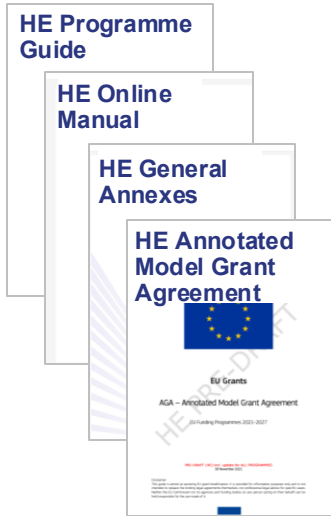
- Eligibility
- Admissibility
- General annexes

HE evaluation criteria

- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation

CBE Annual Work Programme 2026

- **Topics**
- **Specific requirements**
- **Budget**



Part A Part B

Proposal structure

Horizon Europe
Application forms (Part A)

Topic:
Type of action:
Type of Model Grant Agreement:
Proposal number:
Proposal acronym:

Table of contents

Part B: technical description
Title or title Permit:

Participant No. 1	Participant organisation name	Country
1		
2		
3		

1. Executive summary

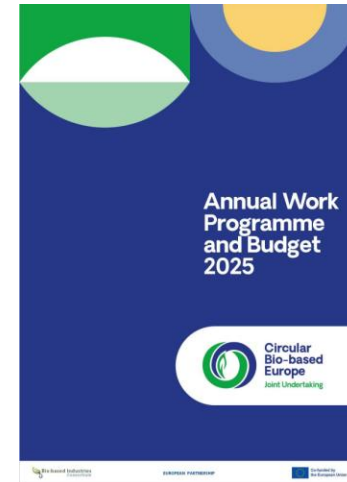
1.1 Objective and address – how the project has been or will be completed

1.2 Methodology

1.3 Impact and address – how the project has been or will be completed

2. Research objectives

2.1 Project goals and milestones



Call topic structure

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-XX-NN Topic title

Type of action	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

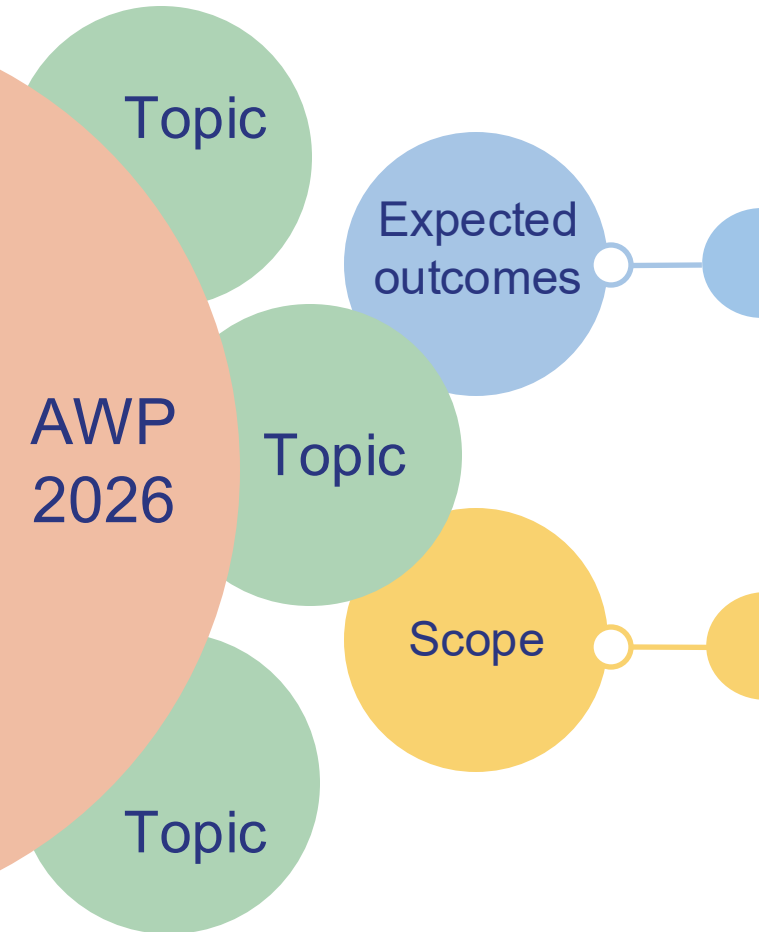
Topic

Topic

Topic

AWP
2026

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

Horizon Europe + CBE requirements

Horizon Europe (HE) rules

- Eligibility
- Admissibility
- General annexes

HE evaluation criteria

- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation

CBE Annual Work Programme 2026

- Topics
- **Specific requirements**
- Budget

HE Programme Guide

HE Online Manual

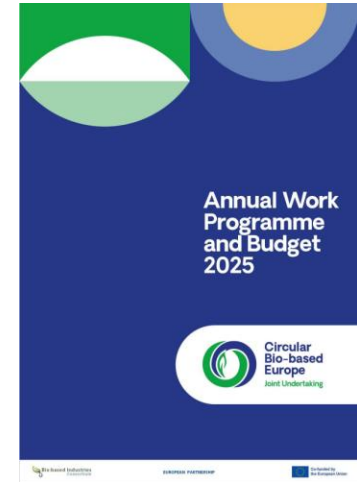
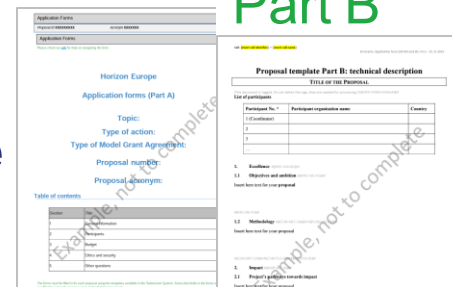
HE General Annexes

HE Annotated Model Grant Agreement



Part A Part B

Proposal structure



Part B – Methodology

Specific CBE JU requirement	Type of action	Section in Part B
<p>Bio-based feedstock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of the feedstock, incl. geographical origin and how it is produced or generated, respecting ecological limits • If agricultural biomass is used, clarify the amounts needed and assess any potential interference with food supply chain 	<p>RIA & IA, incl. FLAG</p> <p>IA, incl. FLAG</p>	<p>1.2 Methodology</p>



The description of the feedstock includes now the description of the geographical origin (former eligibility criterion) and the sustainability aspects (previously included as Y/N questions).

Part B – Methodology

Specific CBE JU requirement	Type of action	Section in Part B
Environmental performance		
a) Ex-ante assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of environmental issues • Estimation of environmental sustainability performance • preliminary assessment of the carbon capture, use and/or storage potential 	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	1.2 Methodology
b) Ex-post assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated task for RIA • Dedicated task or WP (LCSA) 	RIA IA, incl. FLAG	3.1 Workplan and resources

Part B – Methodology

Specific CBE JU requirement	Type of action	Section in Part B
Multi-actor approach (MAA)	All types of actions	1.2 Methodology
Digital technologies	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	1.2 Methodology
Cross-disciplinary aspects and Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)	All types of actions	1.2 Methodology

Part B – Impact

Specific CBE JU requirement	Type of action	Section in Part B
New! Socio-economic impacts , regarding the creation and/or distributing of socio-economic value along the whole value chain	All IAs, incl., FLAG	2.1 Project's pathways towards impact
Business aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	2.2 Measures to maximise impact – D&E&C FLAG: Annex

CBE JU 2026 call:
Lessons learnt and Tips &
tricks to prepare a good
proposal

4

A good and convincing CBE JU proposal

Excellence



- Ensure that the proposed work is within the **scope of the topic**
- Demonstrate that your idea is **ambitious** and goes beyond the **state of the art**
- Ensure that the proposed **methodology** is sound

High impact



- Show clearly how your work could contribute to the **outcomes and impacts** defined in the topic
- Describe the planned measures to **maximise the impact** of the project ('plan for dissemination & exploitation including communication activities')
- Present a convincing **business** prospect (for FLAG business plan !)

Solid implementation



- Demonstrate the quality of the **implementation**, including work plan, resources and participants
- Be realistic and include an accurate **risk** assessment with appropriate mitigation measures

Lessons learnt from past calls



Start early! We see a correlation between earlier proposal creation date (in the Funding & Tenders Portal) and higher evaluation result



Don't lose “easy” points (“low hanging fruits”):

- Make sure not to forget any requested **specific requirement** from CBE JU or the topic test (e.g. dedicated tasks in the Work Plan)
- Double check **IKOP** calculation in the proposal budget table and ensure consistency with the annexed BIC annexes



Avoid frequent issues:

- Unconvincing **business part** (business case, model or plan)
- Unsound **risk management** and **work plan**
- Mismatch between topic **Scope and Expected outcomes**

Aim for total “Topic eclipse”



Topic⁺ = Topic text + HE requirements + CBE specific requirements



Read carefully the **AWP2026** and the **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**, for a good understanding of the context and long-term objectives of CBE JU !!!

Build a strong consortium

Are there any **competence** gaps in the consortium?

- Match elements of Topic (and Proposal) to individual partners in the consortium.

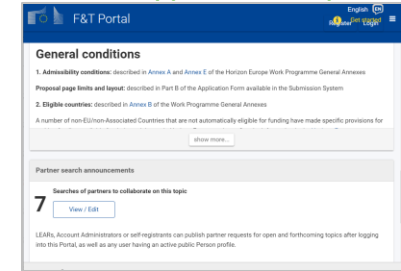


Use the **networking opportunities** offered by i) the **Funding & Tenders Portal**, ii) **CBE networking platform** and iii) **BIC member networking events**

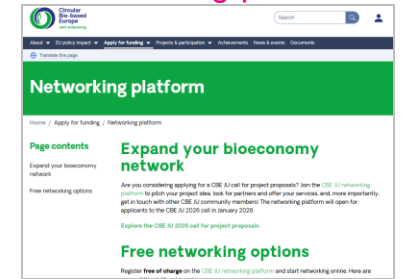
During proposal writing:

- Significant level of upfront **commitment** from all partners is crucial, as costs are not eligible before project start.
- High level of **confidence** between partners is key.
- Talk early about handling of **IPR** – these will need to be confirmed formally in the Consortium Agreement before signature of the Grant Agreement.

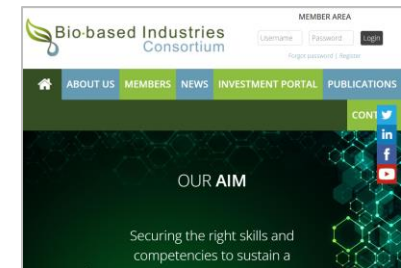
ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal



cbe.europa.eu/networking-platform

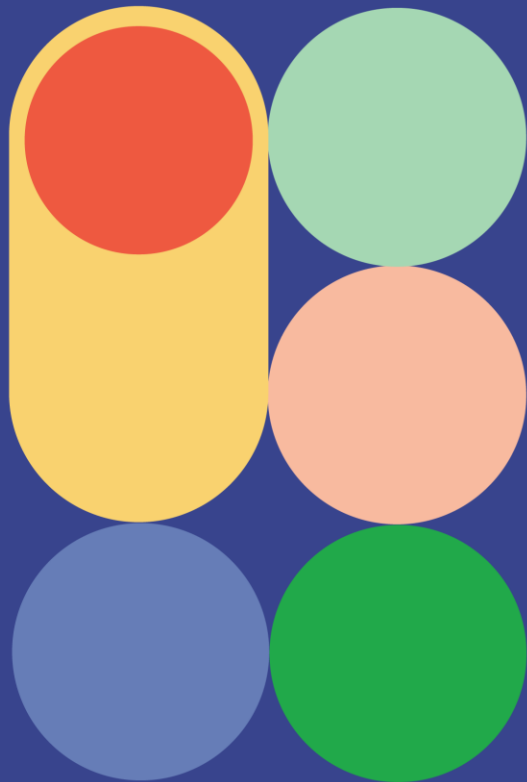


biconsortium.eu



Networking opportunities

- Funding & tender Opportunities Portal (partner search announcements)
- BIC networking (<https://biconsortium.eu/membership>)
- CBE JU networking platform (<https://www.cbe.europa.eu/networking-platform>)
 - Open as of 13 January 2026, and will remain open until (at least) call closure on 22 Sep 2026
 - Different services: 'Find & be found'
 - Partner search & expressing interest in on or more topics;
 - Presentation of project ideas
 - Showcasing / offering your expertise
 - Direct messaging & scheduling B2B meetings
 - Registration for the CBE JU info days



CBE JU

Networking platform 2026

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