



**Circular
Bio-based
Europe**

Joint Undertaking

CBE JU Call 2024 Portugal Info Day

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22 May 2024



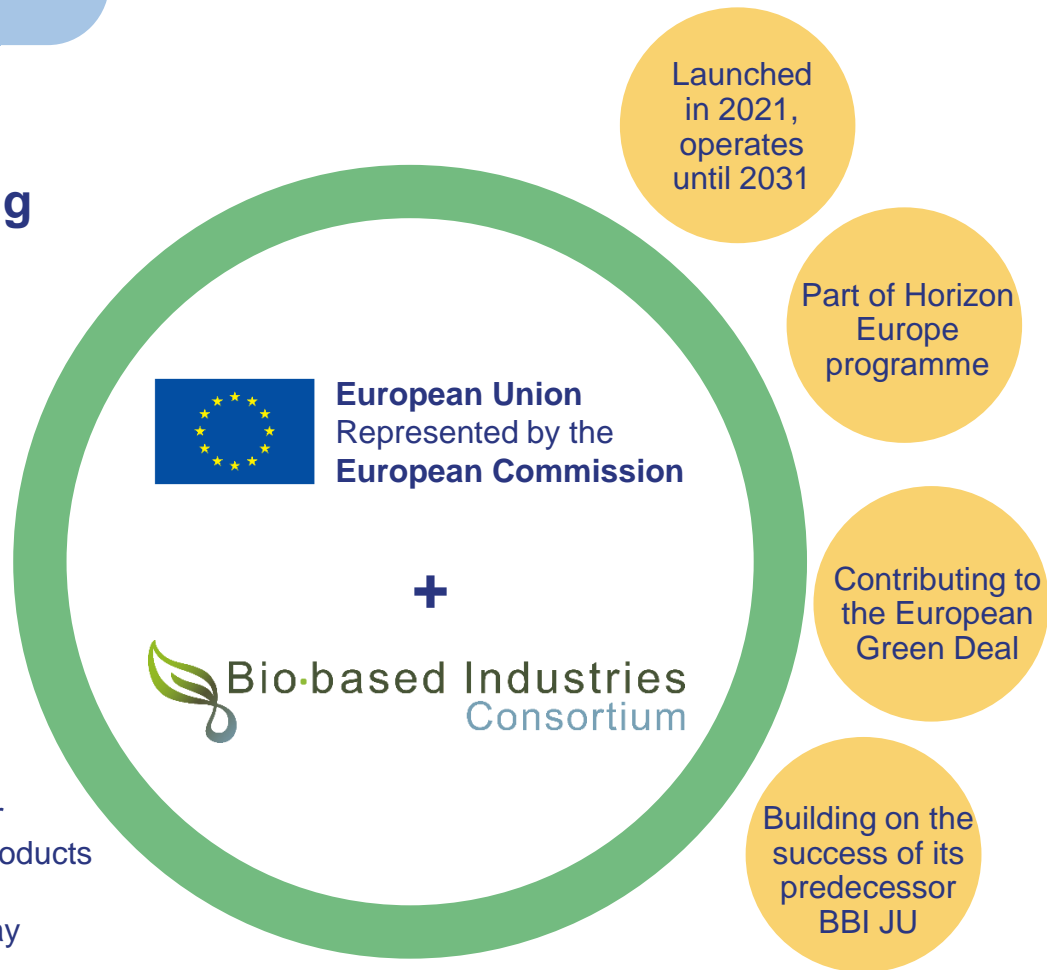
The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

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



Supporting the European Green Deal



Contributing significantly to the **2030 climate targets**, paving the way for climate neutrality by 2050



Increasing the **sustainability and circularity** of production and consumption systems



Developing and expanding the **sustainable sourcing and conversion of biomass** into bio-based products



...Supporting the **deployment** of bio-based innovation **regional level**, with a view to reviving rural and coastal regions

CBE JU general objectives



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

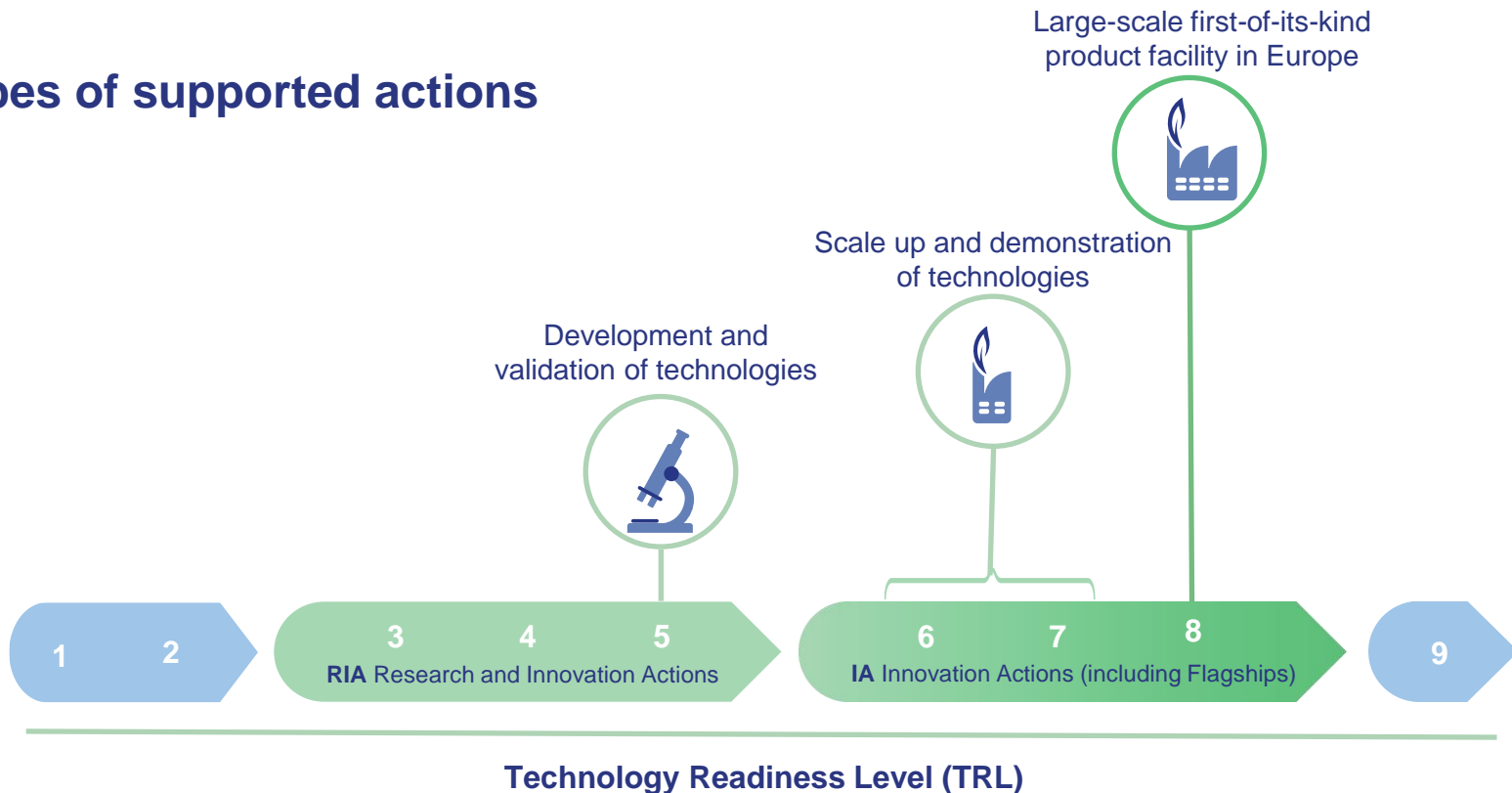


Accelerate **market deployment** of the existing mature bio-based innovative solutions



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 portfolio – building on BBI JU:

2014-2022



163
projects



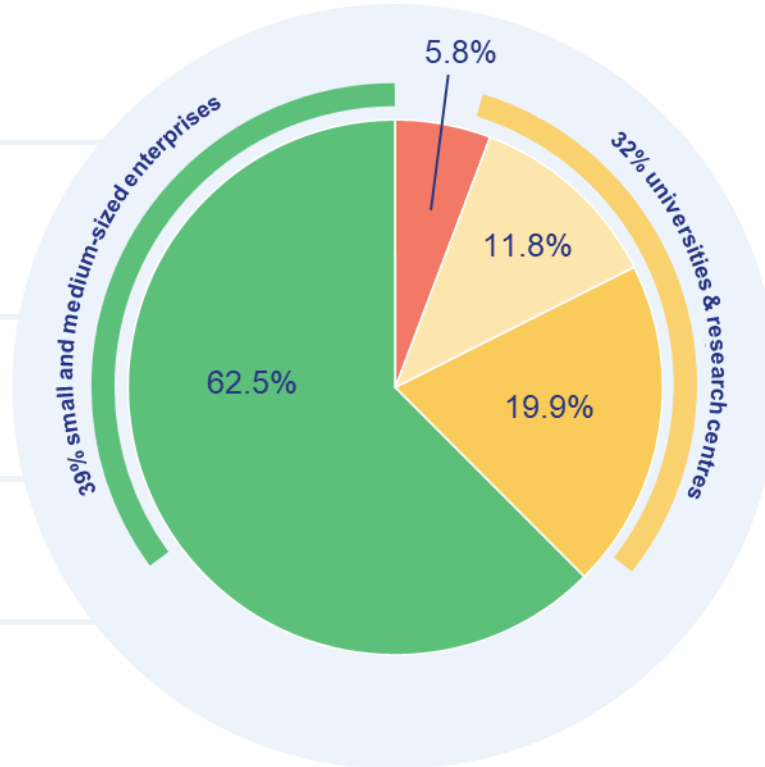
1,198
beneficiaries



€937 million
CBE JU
funding



39
countries



CBE JU funding per type of beneficiary (unique)

- Private companies
- Research organizations
- Higher education establishments
- Other

Data: CORDA, May 2023

CBE JU-funded:



Demonstration plant



Flagship biorefinery



Portugal



14 Demonstration plant

Opportunities for the bioeconomy

Socio-economic benefits

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

JOB CREATION

INNOVATION

Main resources in CBE JU projects



AGRO RESIDUES



FORESTRY RESIDUES



AQUATIC: ALGAE

Calls 2014-2022

31 projects

- 8 IA- DEMOs
- 20 RIAs
- 3 CSAs

+ Call 2023!

- 1 FLAG
- 2 IAs
- 3 RIAs
- 1 CSA



€9 million
SME funding



Check all the projects in the country

Calls 2014-2022

€16 million

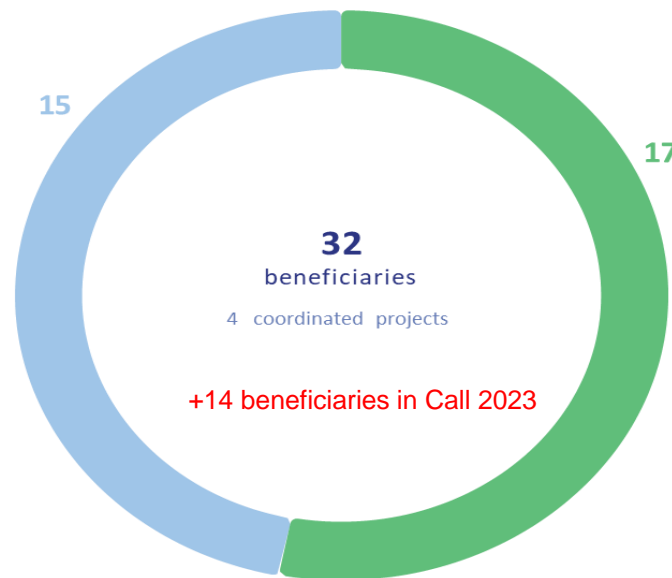
CBE JU funding in Portugal

Call 2023 data to be confirmed after GAP closure on 22/05



€9M

€7M



Private companies

Universities & research centres

CBE JU Annual Work Programme: Topics and Specific Requirements

2

Call 2024: 18 topics & budget

Type of action	Topics HORIZON-JU-CBE-2024		Million EUR
IA- Flagship	IAFlag-01	Bio-based value chains for valorisation of sustainable oil crops	20
	IAFlag-02	Bio-based dedicated platform chemicals via cost-effective, sustainable and resource-efficient conversion of biomass	20
	IAFlag-03	Bio-based value chains for valorisation of sustainable natural fibre feedstock	20
IA	IA-01	Bio-based materials and products for biodegradable in soil applications	15
	IA-02	Sustainable microalgae as feedstock for innovative, added-value applications	15
	IA-03	Enlarging the portfolio of commercially produced “Safe and Sustainable by design” (SSbD) solvents	15
	IA-04	Circular and SSbD bio-based construction & building materials with functional properties	15
	IA-05	Selective and sustainable (co)-production of lignin-derived aromatics	15
	IA-06	Innovative bio-based adhesives and binders for circular products meeting market requirements	15
	IA-07	Innovative conversion of biogenic gaseous carbon into bio-based chemicals, ingredients, materials	15
RIA	R-01	Valorisation of polluted/contaminated wood from industrial and post-consumer waste streams	7
	R-02	Biotech routes to obtain bio-based chemicals/materials replacing animal-derived ones	7
	R-03	Sustainable, bio-based alternatives for crop protection	10
	R-04	SSbD bio-based coating materials for applications under demanding and/or extreme conditions	7
	R-05	Innovative bio-based food/feed ingredients	7
CSA	S-01	New forms of cooperation in agriculture and the forest-based sector	4
	S-02	Mobilise inclusive participation in bio-based systems and supporting the CBE JU widening strategy and its action plan	3
	S-03	Supporting the CBE JU Deployment Group on Primary Producers	3

Call topic structure

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2024-XX-NN Topic title

Type of action	Research and Innovation Action
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10 million
Expected EU contribution per project	It is estimated that a contribution of EUR 5 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 4-5 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

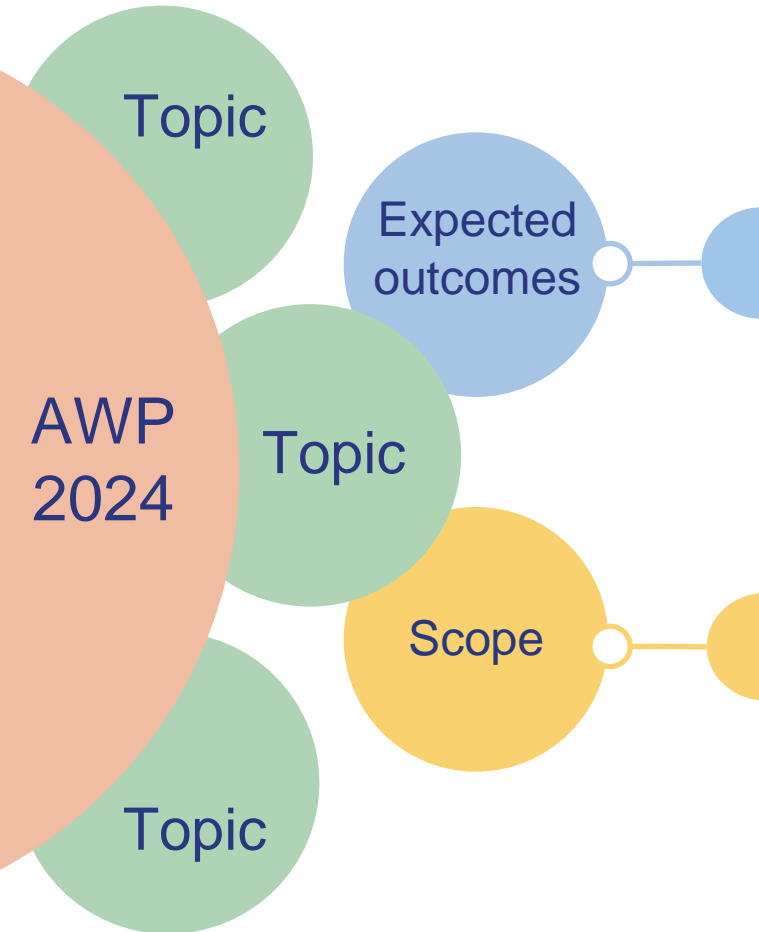
Topic

Topic

Topic

AWP
2024

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 2024

- 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
2021 Funding Programme 2021-2027

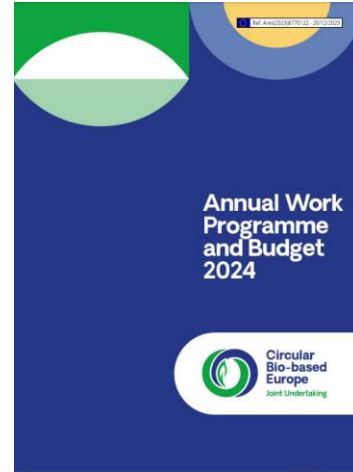


Part A

Part B

Proposal structure

The image shows a screenshot of a proposal form. The top section is labeled 'Part A' and contains fields for 'Application form', 'Topic', 'Type of action', 'Type of Model Grant Agreement', and 'Proposal acronym'. Below this is a 'Table of contents' section. The bottom section is labeled 'Part B' and is titled 'Proposal template Part B: technical description'. It includes a table for 'Use of participation' with columns for 'Participant registration name', 'Country', and 'Capacity'. Below the table are sections for '1. Excellence', '1.1 Operational and academic excellence', '1.2 Methodology', and '1.3 Impact'.



Annual Work Programme and Budget 2024



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 - Ex-ante assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of environmental issues • Estimation of environmental sustainability performance, • Estimation of carbon removal potential 	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – 1.2 Methodology
Environmental sustainability and circularity - Ex-post assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated task for RIA • Dedicated task or WP (LCA) for IA non-FLAG • Dedicated task or WP (LCSA) for FLAG 	RIA IA- non FLAG FLAG	Part B – 3.1 Workplan and resources

CBE JU Call 2024 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic viability Business case and business model Business plan 	RIA IA, incl. 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
Recommendations to stakeholders	IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – 3.1 Workplan and resources

Recommendations for your proposal

- **Follow the proposal template** to make sure all specific requirements are well included.
- **Read carefully the evaluation criteria and subcriteria** and make sure that expert evaluators will find all the information required to assess them.
- Choose **appropriate benchmarks** and show how for the products/processes you're developing improve the current environmental performance against the existing alternatives.
- **Provide evidence, references and/ or calculations** to support your claims.
- **Quantify** your objectives, performance improvement and expected outcomes.
- **Address all the elements** included in the definition of business case, business model, business plan and economic viability check.

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
- IA: + Impact **Ability to ensure 15% (IA) or 20% (IAFlag) of in-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP)**
= minimum IKOP percentage



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**



Score weighting factor

- IA: Impact x **1,5**

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)**.

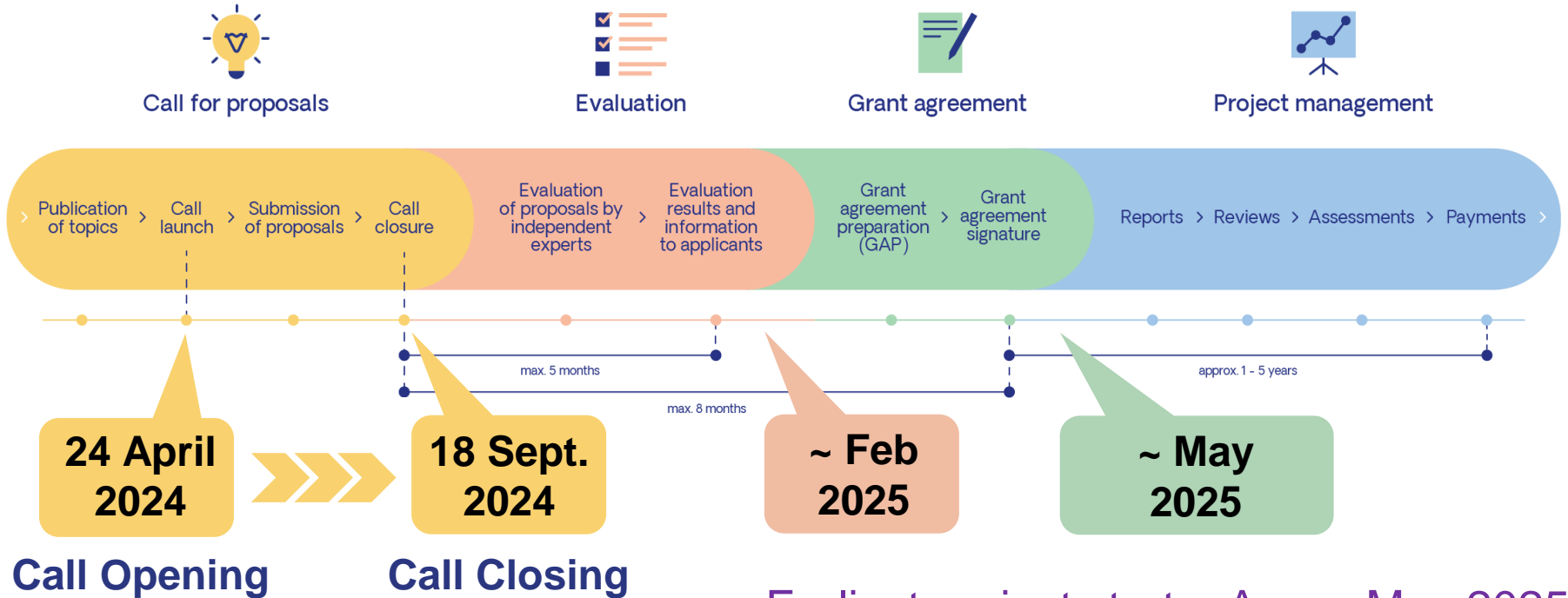
→ **Minimum percentage of IKOP** must be reflected in the budget of partners that are BIC members.

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

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

BIC has set up an open and fast procedure to become a BIC member: <https://biconsortium.eu/membership>

Proposal preparation



Earliest project start = Apr or May 2025

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 'My Area — User account and roles'. Under the 'Grants' section, there is a sub-section 'Applying for funding' with a flowchart: 'Find a call' → 'Find partners' → 'Register an organisation' → 'Submit a proposal'. Below that is 'Evaluation & Grant signature' with a flowchart: 'Admissibility and eligibility check' → 'Evaluation of proposals' → 'Grant preparation' → 'Grant signature'.

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

The screenshot shows the Circular Bio-based Europe website. The header includes the logo, navigation links (About, Apply for funding, Projects, Achievements, News & Events), a search bar, and a user profile icon. A large green banner announces the 'CBE JU photo competition 2024 for submission #CBEImpact'. A dropdown menu is open over the banner, listing: 'Open calls for proposals' (highlighted with a red box), 'How to apply for funding', 'Closed calls for proposals', 'Manage your project', and 'Networking platform'. The banner text states: 'All projects are invited to submit their photos and videos by 20 April. Discover rules & criteria'. A circular image of a camera is on the right side of the banner.

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

CBE JU networking platform

- Annually updated & free partner search facility offered by CBE JU, more tailored to CBE needs than the Portal's partner search facility
- Open since mid-February 2024, will remain open until (at least) call closure on 18 Sept 2024
- 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
- Accessible via <https://www.cbe.europa.eu/networking-platform>

Q&As

2

CBE JU Call 2024:

How to write a good
proposal

3

Get prepared to submit a proposal...

Study the
call documentation

Select your
partners

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

Topic

Scope

Expected
outcomes

Proposal – Part B

1. Excellence

- 1.1 Objectives and ambition
- 1.2 Methodology

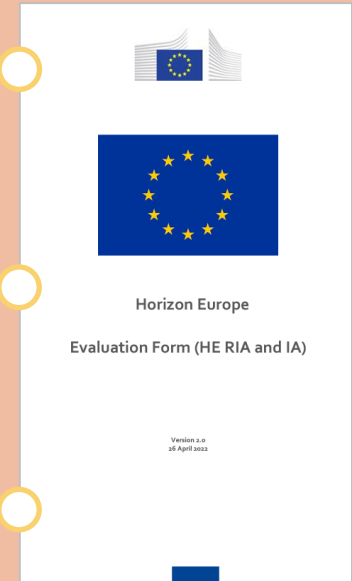
2. Impact

- 2.1 Project's pathways towards impact
- 2.2 Measures to maximise impact

3. Implementation

- 3.1 Work plan and resources
- 3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole

Evaluation



1. Excellence



Proposal – Part B

Excellence

1.1 Objectives and ambition

1.2 Methodology

Impact

2.1 Project's pathways towards impact

2.2 Measures to maximise impact

Implementation

3.1 Work plan and resources

3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole

Are the **objectives**

- *clear?*
- *pertinent to the topic?*
- *measurable and verifiable?*

Tip! Provide quantified targets whenever possible and meaningful.

Is the **state-of-the-art** well presented? Is it clear to what extent the proposal goes **beyond** the state-of-the-art?



Is the proposed work **ambitious** enough to be innovative, but not so ambitious that it is unrealistic?

Is the initial and targeted Technology Readiness Level (**TRL**) properly described and realistically achievable within the proposed project?

! The targeted TRL of a topic is required for at least the **core** technology, process or product developed.

1. Excellence



Proposal – Part B

- 1.1 Objectives and ambition
- 1.2 Methodology

- 2.1 Project's pathways towards impact
- 2.2 Measures to maximise impact

- 3.1 Work plan and resources
- 3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole

If **AI**-based systems/techniques are used, is their **robustness** demonstrated?



CBE specific requirements

- Feedstock 
- Ex-ante environmental performance assessment 

1. Excellence



Proposal – Part B

Excellence

- 1.1 Objectives and ambition
- 1.2 Methodology

Impact

- 2.1 Project's pathways towards impact
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Implementation

- 3.1 Work plan and resources
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CBE specific requirements

Are **relevant initiatives** identified (incl. BBI/CBE projects) and, when meaningful, appropriate interactions considered?

In case of R&I activities with a relevant **gender dimension**: Has it been considered in the proposal?



- Digital technologies 
- Cross-disciplinary aspects and Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)
- Multi-actor approach 
(IA incl. Flag, selected RIA and CSA)

1. Excellence



Proposal – Part B

Excellence

- 1.1 Objectives and ambition
- 1.2 Methodology

Impact

- 2.1 Project's pathways towards impact
- 2.2 Measures to maximise impact

Implementation

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Does the proposal demonstrate **open science** practices?

⚠ In HE, 'open science' is more than 'open access': It is an approach to science based on open, cooperative work and sharing of knowledge and tools as early and widely as possible.

CBE specific requirement

include publication of LC(S)A output
(IA incl. IA-Flagship topics)



Does the proposal provide details on **data management** in line with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable)?

⚠ In the grant, there will be mandatory deliverables "Data Management Plan".



2. Impact



Proposal – Part B

Excellence

- 1.1 Objectives and ambition
- 1.2 Methodology

Impact

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Is it clear which **unique contributions** would be made to:

- the **outcomes** specified in the topic text?
 - ✓ scientific
- the wider **impacts** beyond the immediate scope and duration of the project?
 - ✓ economic / technological
 - ✓ societal

Is it clear which **target groups** will benefit?

Have the **scale** and **significance** of the contribution been indicated?

Tip! Provide quantified estimates whenever possible and meaningful.

Have relevant **requirements** and potential **barriers** to outcome and impact been determined?

Have appropriate **mitigating measures**, within or beyond the project, been described?

⚠ *≠ management risks (3.1 Work plan and resources)*

2. Impact



Proposal – Part B

Excellence

- 1.1 Objectives and ambition
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⚠ First sketch of the Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication plan = **admissibility criterion**
(In the grant, there will be mandatory D&E&C deliverables.)



Is the plan to **disseminate** results to candidate user audiences appropriate?

Tip! Provide quantified targets.

Are actions included to **communicate** project activities and results to multiple audiences (beyond project's community)?

Is the strategy to **exploit** the project's results appropriate? (incl. management of IPR)

⚠ Include a preliminary overview of relevant IPR, both within and outside the consortium.

CBE specific requirements

- Economic viability check (*RIA*)
- Business Case + Model (*IA incl. IA-Flag*)
- Business Plan (*separate Annex; IA-Flag*)

3. Implementation



Proposal – Part B

Excellence

- 1.1 Objectives and ambition
- 1.2 Methodology

Impact

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Implementation

- 3.1 Work plan and resources
- 3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole

Does the **work plan** have a good and clear structure?



Have the different **work packages** (WP) been scheduled and linked appropriately?
Are their inter-dependencies clear?

Are **milestones** and **deliverables** well defined and appropriately timed?

Are the WPs and associated tasks **sufficiently described** to provide a good understanding of the work involved and justify the proposed resources to be allocated?

- Table 3.1a List of work packages
- Table 3.1b Work package descriptions
- Table 3.1c List of deliverables
- Table 3.1d List of milestones
- Table 3.1e Critical risks for implementation
- Table 3.1f-j Staff effort, Different costs, Contributions

3. Implementation



Proposal – Part B

Excellence

- 1.1 Objectives and ambition
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Implementation

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- 3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole

Are the described organisational **structure** and decision-making **mechanisms** appropriate to the scale and complexity of the project?



Are the **management procedures**, including quality management and conflict resolution, appropriate to the scale and complexity of the project?

Are critical **internal and external risks** related to project implementation described with appropriate mitigation measures and severity/probability estimates?



- Table 3.1a List of work packages
- Table 3.1b Work package descriptions
- Table 3.1c List of deliverables
- Table 3.1d List of milestones
- Table 3.1e Critical risks for implementation
- Table 3.1f-j Staff effort, Different costs, Contributions

3. Implementation



Proposal – Part B

Excellence

- 1.1 Objectives and ambition
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Implementation

- 3.1 Work plan and resources
- 3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole

CBE specific requirements

- Ex-post environmental performance assessment
(*RIA; IA: LCA; IA-Flag: LCSA*)
- Recommendations to stakeholders
(*IA incl. IA-Flag*)

3. Implementation



Proposal – Part B

Excellence

- 1.1 Objectives and ambition
- 1.2 Methodology

Impact

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- 2.2 Measures to maximise impact

Implementation

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Does the consortium bring together the necessary **expertise** for the project?

Has the **complementarity** of the participants been convincingly described?

Does **each partner** have a valid role and adequate resources (both effort and budget) to fulfil that role?

⚠ If a participant requesting funding is based in a **third country** not eligible for funding: Is clearly explained why participation by this entity is essential to carry out the project?

Build a strong consortium

Match elements of Topic (Scope) and Part B (Excellence) to individual partners in the consortium.

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



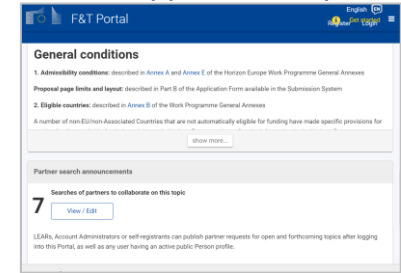
Use the **networking opportunities** offered by the Funding & Tenders Portal, CBE and BIC



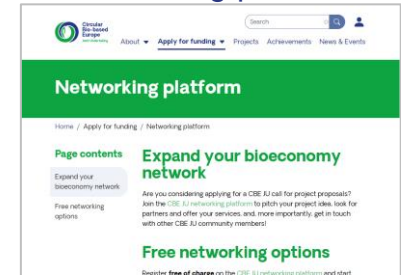
During proposal writing:

- 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.

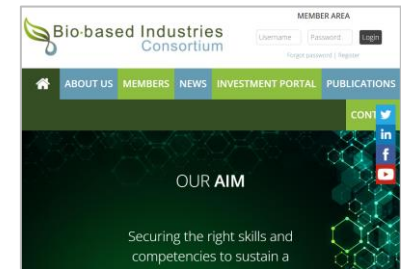
ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal



cbe.europa.eu/
networking-platform



biconsortium.eu



Aim for total “Topic eclipse”



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

! every single word in
• topic text counts

! every single
• requirement counts

Lessons learnt from Calls 2022 & 2023



Call 2023 submission statistics (2/3)



Top 5+1 most common shortcomings ordered by frequency

1. **Impact** – expected outcomes (= bullet points in topic text)
 2. **Implementation** – work plan (incl. Tasks, deliverables,...)
 3. **Excellence** – ambition level, (going beyond) SOTA, TRLs
 4. **Implementation** – risk & mitigation measures
 5. **Excellence** – scope (bullet points in topic text)
 6. *(For RIAs: **Impact** – economic viability check)*
- The 3 'biggest' evaluation elements*

Top 5 most common weaknesses ordered by frequency

1. Excellence – methodology
2. Excellence – ambition level, (going beyond) SOTA, TRLs
3. Excellence – scope (bullet points in topic text)
4. Impact – expected outcomes (= bullet points in topic text)
5. Implementation – work plan

*You can't hide
a bad idea...*

A good and convincing CBE JU proposal



Ensure that the proposed work is within the **scope of the topic**



Demonstrate that the idea is **ambitious** and goes beyond the **state of the art**



Your **methodology** must take into account open science practices and interdisciplinarity (+ gender dimension, if applicable)



Show clearly how the proposed work could contribute to the **outcomes and impacts** described in the work programme (the pathway to impact)



Describe the planned measures to **maximise the impact** of the project ('plan for dissemination & exploitation including communication activities')



Demonstrate the quality of the **implementation**, including work plan, resources and participants



Read carefully the **AWP2024** and the **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**, for a good understanding of the context and long-term objectives of CBE JU !!!

Thank you for your attention!



**Circular
Bio-based
Europe**
Joint Undertaking

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www.cbe.europa.eu

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