

Call for project proposals

2023

Oliver ZOBELL
Project Officer,
Deputy Call Coordinator



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What follows is a summary of
the info shared during the
20/04/2023 Brussels info day.

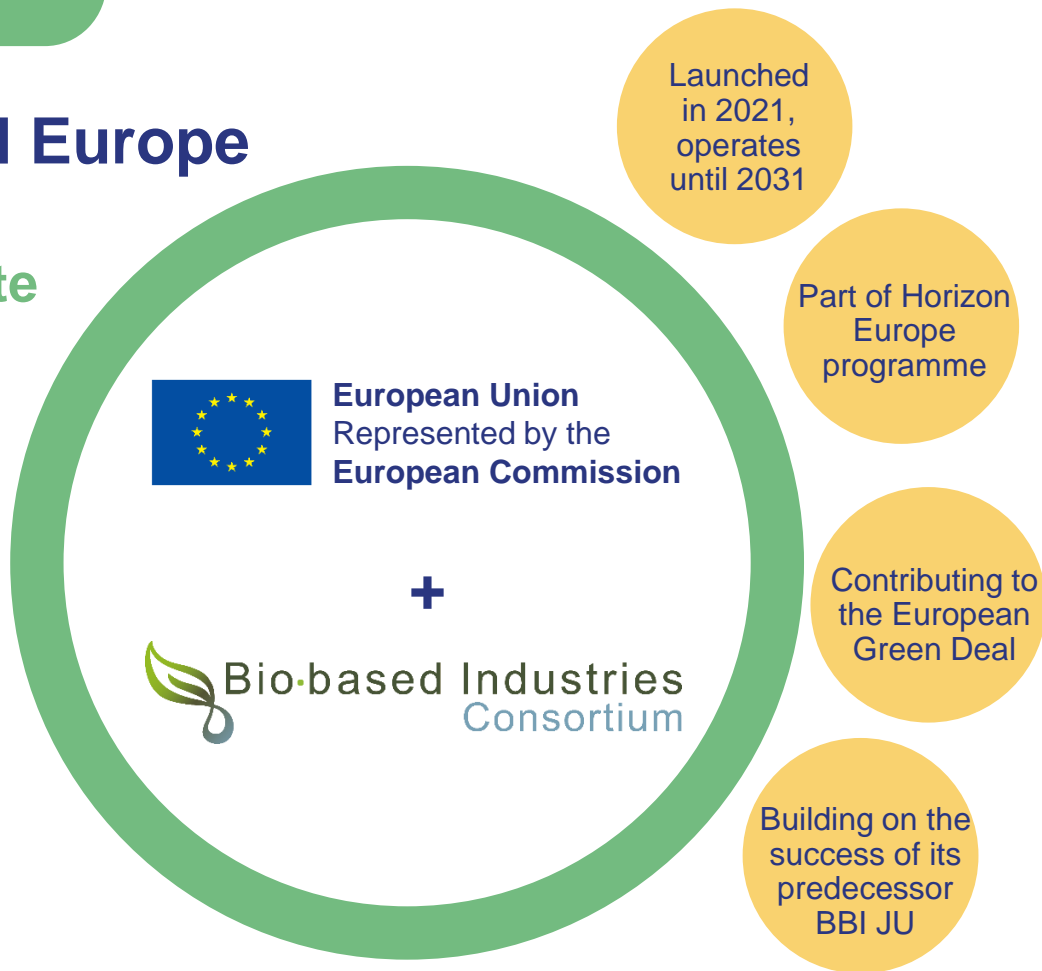
For more info, please check
[https://www.cbe.europa.eu/open
-calls-proposals](https://www.cbe.europa.eu/open-calls-proposals)

Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) and its Objectives

1

Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

€2 billion public-private
initiative





Established by the Council regulation
(EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021

Along with 8 other institutionalised partnerships



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

General and Specific CBE JU Objectives



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



Increase cross-disciplinary **research and innovation** activities, reaping its benefits for the development and demonstration of **sustainable bio-based solutions**.



Increase and integrate the research and innovation **capacity of stakeholders** across the EU to unlock **bioeconomy potential** even in regions with underdeveloped capacity.



Increase the **research and innovation** capacity and development of sustainable bio-based innovations, by ensuring that sustainability issues and environmental performance are integrated throughout the whole **innovation chain**.



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



Reinforce the integration of **bio-based research** and innovation in EU bio-based industries and increase the involvement of R&I actors, including feedstock providers, in the **bio-based value chains**.



Reduce the risk for research and innovation investment in bio-based companies and projects.

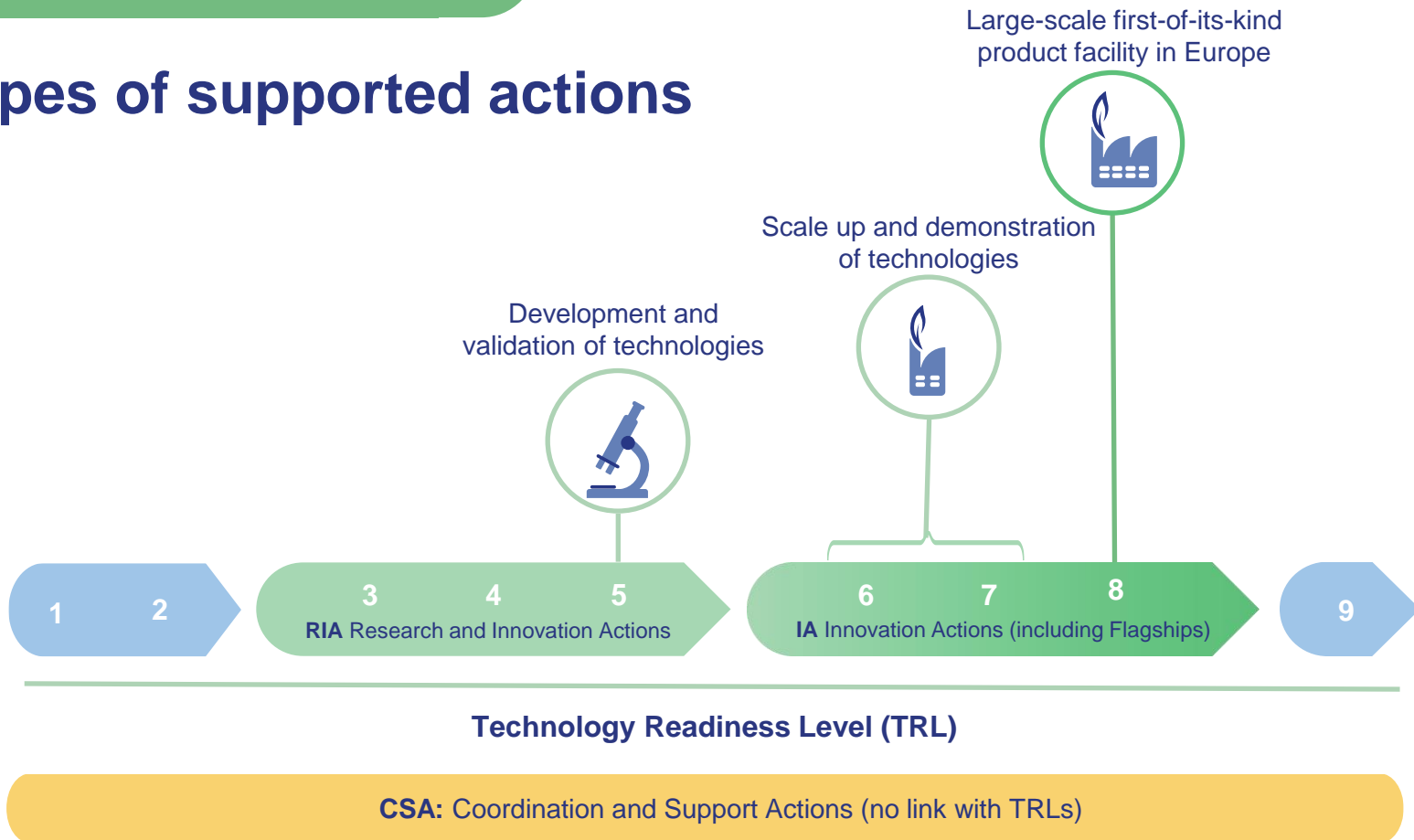


Ensure a high level of **environmental performance** of bio-based industrial systems



Ensure that **circularity** and environmental considerations, including contributions to **climate neutrality** and **zero pollution** objectives, are considered in the development and implementation of R&I bio-based projects and facilitate **societal acceptance**.

Types of supported actions



From strategy to implementation



CBE JU Annual Work
Programme (AWP) 2023:
Topics

2

18 topics and their budget

Type of action	Topics HORIZON-JU-CBE-2023		Million EUR
IA- flagship	IAFlag-01	Optimised and integrated wood-based value chains	17
	IAFlag-02	Expansion and/or retro-fitting of biorefineries towards higher-value bio-based chemicals and intermediates	17
	IAFlag-03	Bio-based packaging materials with improved properties: barrier, food contact, forming, printability, safety, recyclability /circularity-by-design	17
	IAFlag-04	Valorisation of aquatic biomass waste and residues	10
IA	IA-01	Small scale biorefining in rural areas	15
	IA-02	Production of safe, sustainable, and efficient bio-based fertilisers to improve soil health and quality	15
	IA-03	Improve fermentation processes (including downstream purification) to final bio-based products	15
	IA-04	Recycling bio-based plastics increasing sorting and recycled content (upcycling).	15
	IA-05	Development of scalable, safe bio-based surfactants, with an improved sustainability profile	15
	IA-06	Selective, sustainable production routes towards bio-based alternatives to fossil-based chemical building blocks	15
	IA-07	High performance, circular-by design, bio-based composites	15
RIA	R-01	Phyto-management; curing soil with industrial crops, utilising contaminated and saline land for industrial crop production	10
	R-02	Optimised forest-based value chains for high value applications and improved forest management	10
	R-03	Robust and optimised industrial biotech and chemical/industrial biotech processes	10
	R-04	Development of novel, high-performance bio-based polymers and co-polymers	10
	R-05	Pre-normative research to develop standards for biodegradability of bio-based products in controlled and in open environments	5
CSA	S-01	EU-wide network of pilot plants and testing facilities, improving SMEs and start-ups' access to scale-up	1.5
	S-02	Supporting the capacity of regions in environmental sustainability assessment for the bio-based sectors	3

Total 215.5

Call topic structure

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2023-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
2023

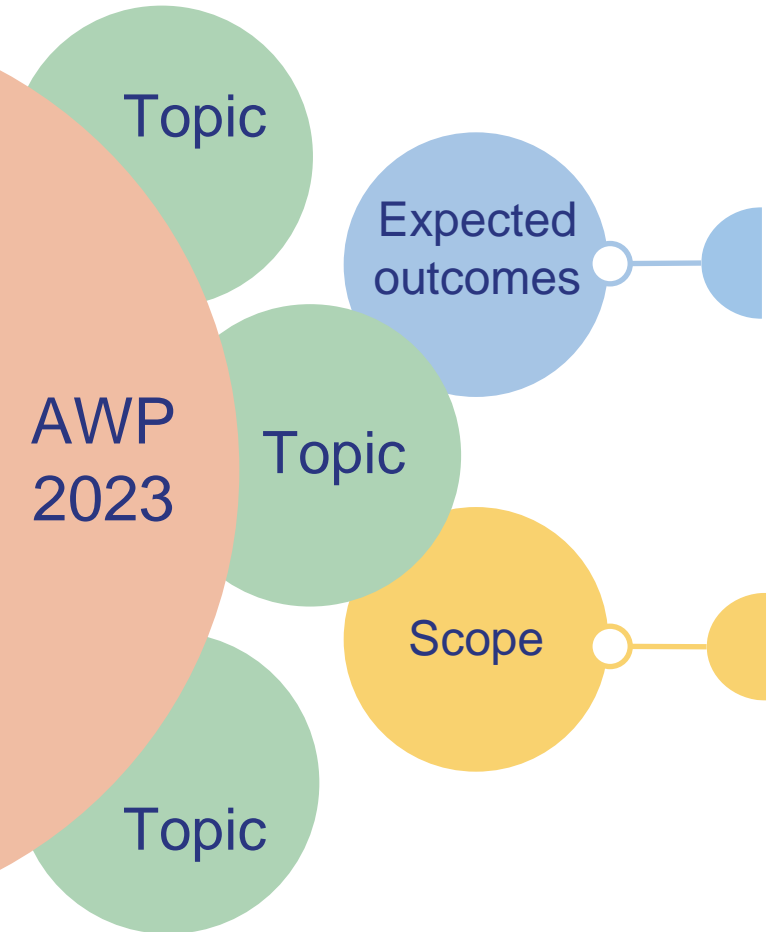
Links to SRIA priorities

Strategic Research and Innovation (SRIA) priorities		CBE JU TOPICS AWP2023																		
		IA-Flag-01	IA-Flag-02	IA-Flag-03	IA-Flag-04	IA-01	IA-02	IA-03	IA-04	IA-05	IA-06	IA-07	R-01	R-02	R-03	R-04	R-05	S-01	S-02	
FEEDSTOCK	Strategic priority 1.1.1 - Ensure the availability and quality of sustainable bio-based feedstock					X								X	X					X
	Strategic priority 1.3.1 - Protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services in bio-based feedstock supply systems													X	X					X
	Strategic priority 2.1.1 - Demonstrate the sustainable supply of bio-based feedstock				X	X	X		X	X	X			X						
PROCESSING	Strategic priority 1.1.2 - Develop innovative production systems in the bio-based industry					X									X	X				
	Strategic priority 1.3.2 - Improve environmental performances of bio-based processes													X						
	Strategic priority 2.1.2 - Deploy innovative production technologies	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
PRODUCTS	Strategic priority 1.1.3 - Develop innovative bio-based products														X	X				
	Strategic priority 2.1.3 – Scale-up production and market uptake of innovative bio-based products	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X						X		
CROSS-CUTTING	Communication	Strategic priority 1.2.1 - Stimulate research activities in countries and regions with underdeveloped R&I capacity for bio-based systems																X	X	
		Strategic priority 1.2.2 – Increase the awareness and capacity of national and regional research support agencies for industrial bio-based systems																	X	
		Strategic priority 1.2.3 - Facilitate the development of expertise in bio-based fields by improving higher education and skills development in the private sector																		
		Strategic priority 2.1.4 - Build policy makers' awareness and acceptance of bio-based solutions																		
		Strategic priority 3.1.3 – Facilitate social acceptance of bio-based applications	X	X	X	X											X			
	Finance	Strategic priority 2.2.1 – Improve the risk profile of bio-based projects																		
		Strategic priority 2.2.2 - Develop investment tools and approaches that mitigate the investment risk in bio-based systems																	X	
	Environmental sustainability framework	Strategic priority 3.1.1 - Set effective and robust environmental sustainability and circularity criteria for bio-based systems																		
		Strategic priority 3.1.2 - Incorporate the environmental sustainability and circularity criteria in bio-based systems	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X							X

Links to CBE JU KPIs

CBE KPIs: Objectives and Units of measurement		CBE JU TOPICS AWP 2023																
		IA1Flag-01	IA1Flag-02	IA1Flag-03	IA1Flag-04	IA-01	IA-02	IA-03	IA-04	IA-05	IA-06	IA-07	R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	S-01
1	Strategic participation and integration of feedstock producers and suppliers towards large-scale valorisation of sustainable biomass																	
1.1	N of primary producers, involved as project beneficiaries and/or engaged in value chains at project level			x	x									x	x			
1.2	N of bio- waste management actors, involved as project beneficiaries and/or engaged in value chains at project level				x	x				x								
2	Unlock sustainable and circular bio-based feedstock for the industry																	
2	N of innovative bio-based value chains created or enabled based on sustainably-sourced biomass				x	x	x	x		x	x			x	x			
3	Ensure environmental sustainability of feedstock																	
3.1	N of projects using feedstock generated with practices that contribute to enhance biodiversity						x			x	x	x		x				
3.2	N of projects using feedstock generated with practices aiming at zero-pollution (soil, water, air) and/or at reducing water consumption						x			x	x	x		x	x			
3.3	N of projects using feedstock generated with practices contributing to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation	x					x			x	x	x		x				
4	Improve environmental sustainability of bio-based production processes and value chains																	
4.1	N of projects with innovative & sustainable processes that contribute to GHG emission reduction					x		x			x					x		
4.2	N of projects developing innovative & sustainable processes that improve on resource efficiency and zero-waste	x	x			x	x		x	x						x		
4.3	N of projects developing innovative & sustainable processes enabling to address zero pollution					x	x	x	x		x	x				x		
4.4	N of projects with innovative & sustainable processes with improved energy efficiency	x	x				x		x			x				x		
4.5	N of products with improved life cycle environmental performance			x			x		x	x	x	x				x	x	
5	Expand circularity in bio-based value chains																	
5.1	N of innovative products that are biodegradable, compostable, recyclable, reused or upcycled (circular by design)			x						x				x			x	x
5.2	N projects developing circular production practises (incl. industrial & industrial urban symbiosis)	x	x	x	x					x					x	x	x	x
6	Increase innovative bio-based outputs and products																	
6.1	N of innovative bio-based dedicated outputs, with novel or significantly improved properties vs relevant alternatives								x		x				x	x		
6.2	N of innovative bio-based drop in outputs meeting applications requirements								x		x				x	x		
7	Improve the market uptake of bio-based products																	
7	N of brand owners involved as project partners and/or engaged with other mechanisms			x							x		x					x
8	Attract investment on the bio-based sector																	
8	N of actions implemented at project level to attract investment and/or to create awareness in the investment/funding community																	
9	Increase resilience and capacity in the bio-based sector																	
9	N of projects contributing to develop the skills and capacity needed by the EU bio-based sector																	x
10	Improve participation of regions and countries with high unexploited potential and strategic interest to develop it																	
10.1	N of participants from the underrepresented EU countries and region		x			x	x											x
10.2	N of regional hubs established and operated to process bio-based feedstocks and other cooperation aspects		x				x											
10.3	N of projects with synergies with other funding programmes at EU, national or regional level															x		x

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

CBE JU Call 2023:
Specific requirements

3

Horizon Europe + CBE requirements

Horizon Europe (HE) conditions

HE Programme Guide



HE Online Manual



HE General Annexes



HE Annotated Model Grant Agreement



Evaluation criteria

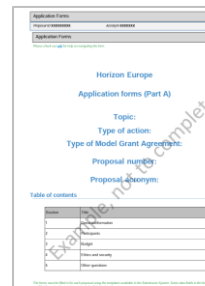


Annual Work Programme 2023

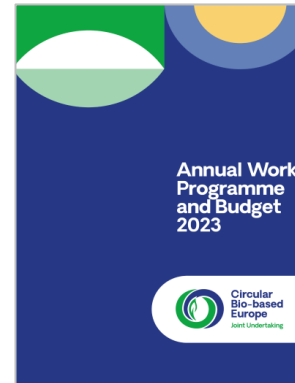
- Topics
- **Specific requirements**
- **Cross-cutting elements**
- Budget

Proposal structure

Part A



Part B

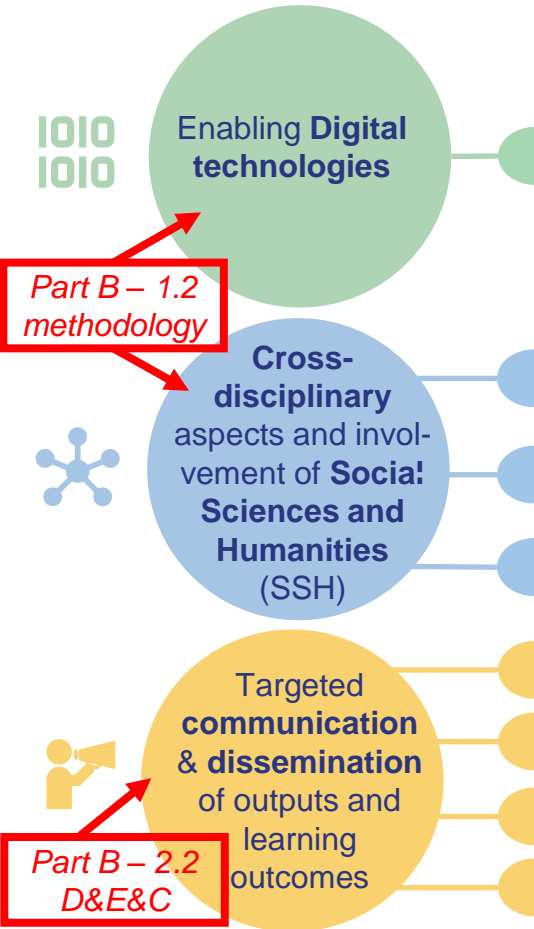


CBE JU specific requirements



Specific requirement of the CBE JU Call 2023	Type of action	Where to include it in Part B
Feedstock sourcing	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – Structured question (Y/N) in the introduction
Feedstock sustainability requirements (a,b,c,d)	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – Structured question (Y/N) in the introduction
Description of feedstock	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – 1.2 Methodology
Environmental performance - Ex-ante assesment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of environmental issues • Estimation of environmental sustainability • Estimation of carbon removal 	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – 1.2 Methodology
Ex-post assessment of environmental sustainability and circularity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated task • Dedicated task or WP (LCA) • Dedicated task or WP (LCSA) 	RIA IA FLAG	Part B – 3.1 Workplan and resources
Economic viability	RIA	Part B – 2.2 Measures to maximise impact
Business case	IA, incl. FLAG	
Business plan	FLAG	Annex (Business plan)
Recommendations to stakeholders	IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – 3.1 Workplan and resources
Multi-actor approach	IA, incl. FLAG RIA and CSA, when specified	Part B – 1.2 Methodology

Cross-cutting elements (AWP, 2.2.3.2)



- Apply and/or adapt **existing/mature or novel digital technologies** provided that they are instrumental to achieving the project's outcomes and scope.
 - ✓ **RIA and IA, incl. Flagships:** chemicals, materials, catalysts and process design & modelling (including bioinformatics); process monitoring and optimization; tracking and tracing; data analytics and data management
 - ✓ **IA, incl. Flagships:** (real-time) process monitoring and optimisation (incl. environmental performance); predictive maintenance and plant engineering.
- Foster **cross-disciplinarity** and consider the social, economic, behavioural, institutional, historical and/or cultural dimensions, as appropriate, of the proposed circular bio-based innovations.
- Ensure that **contributions from the SSH are integrated** at various stages of their proposed project, and the actions required, participants and disciplines involved.
- Consider **public awareness raising, social engagement and social impact** aspects with respect to circular bio-based solutions.
- **Disseminate** the outputs and learning outcomes from the project.
- Incorporate **publications** on data, methodologies, including LCA assessment-related data to peer-reviewed scientific journals and conferences.
- Contribute data and results to the European Commission's **Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy**.
- Add links with any trusted **repositories** for data, results and methodologies.

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>

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

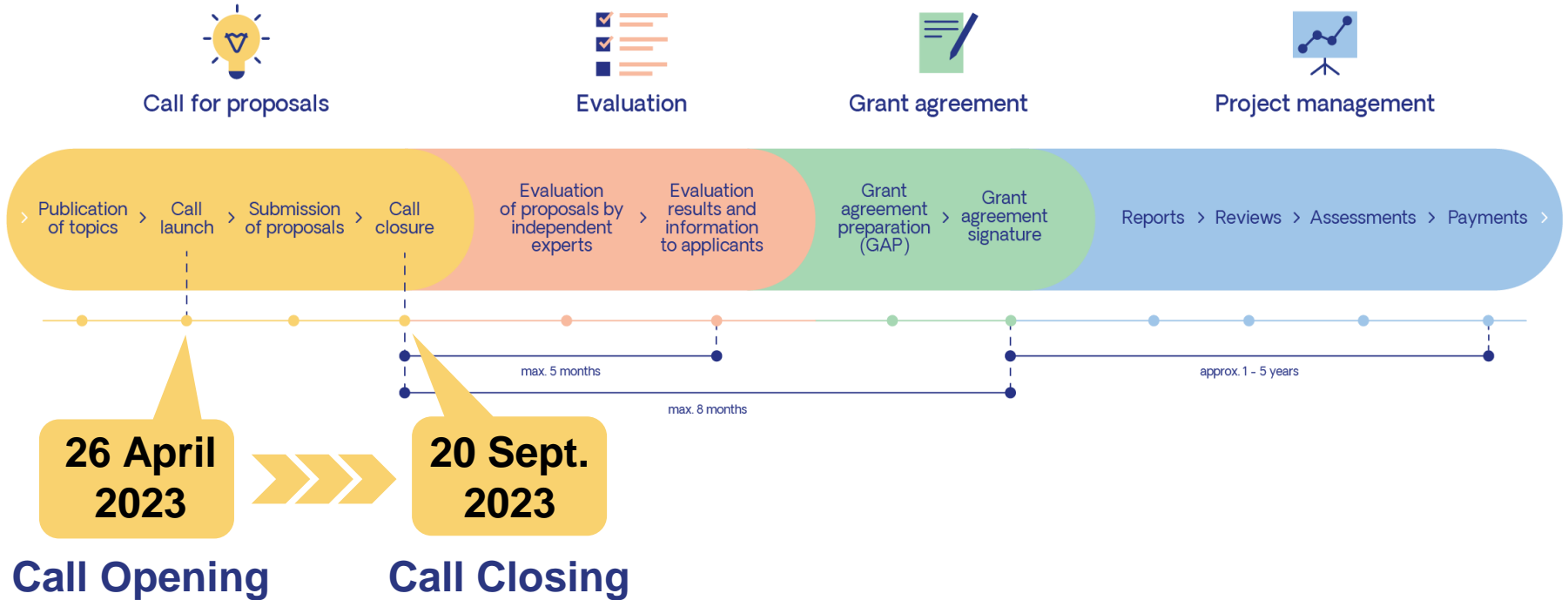
$$\text{Percentage IKOP} = \frac{\mathbf{€1,280,000}}{\mathbf{€9,090,000}} = 14,1\% < 15\% \quad \text{👎}$$

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

CBE JU Call 2023:
Proposal preparation

4

Proposal preparation



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 - Proposal - Evaluation

Topic

Scope

Expected
outcomes

Proposal – Part B

1. Excellence

- 1.1 Objectives and ambition
- 1.2 Methodology

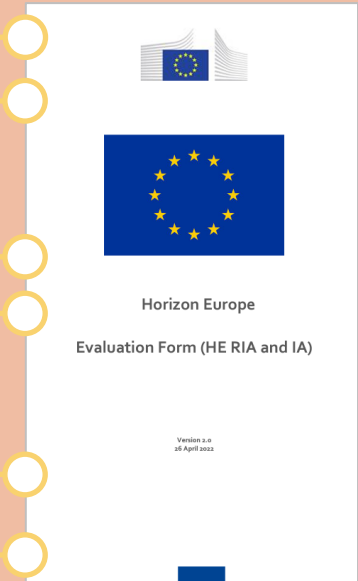
2. Impact

- 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



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')

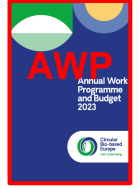


Demonstrate the quality of the **implementation**, including work plan, resources and participants



Read carefully the **AWP2023** and the **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**, for a good understanding of the context and long-term objectives of CBE JU !!!

Annexes



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

(IA topics incl. Flagships)

- **BIC membership certifications**
- *optional and indicative during evaluation phase, required only upon Grant Agreement Preparation: **IKAA plan** 'Overview of the total Additional Activity investments planned by participants and third parties to this action that are BIC members'*

CBE specific requirement

(IA-Flagship topics)

- Detailed **business plan**

CBE specific requirement

(CSA, only if applicable)

- Template '**Financial Support to Third Parties**'

Build a strong consortium

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

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

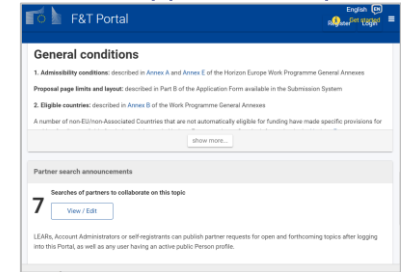


Use the **networking opportunities** offered by the Funding & Tenders Opportunities Portal, CBE JU and BIC

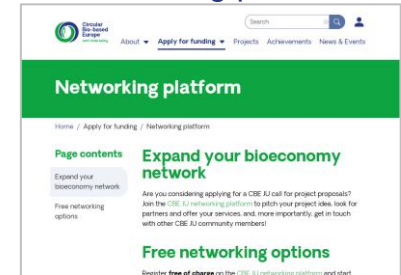
During proposal writing:

- 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.

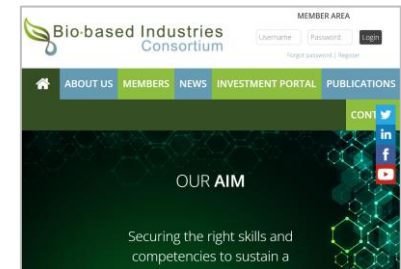
ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal



cbe.europa.eu/
networking-platform



biconsortium.eu

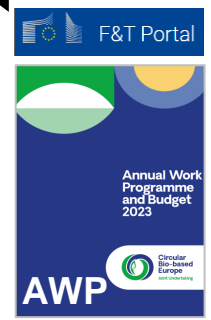


Aim for total “Topic eclipse”



Topic+ = Topic text + HE requirements + CBE JU specific requirements + CBE JU cross-cutting elements

every single word in topic text counts!



every requirement & cross-cutting element counts!

Some call 2022 numbers

Call 2022:

- 12 topics
- Total budget: 120 M€

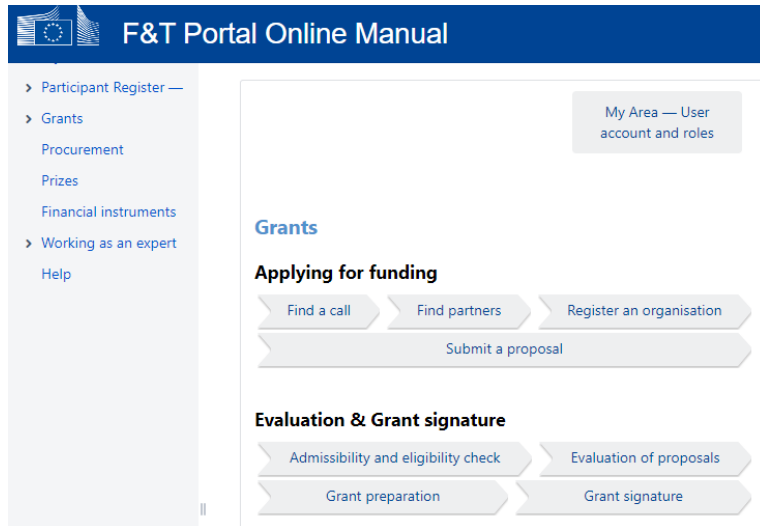
Submission:

- 125 proposals (min. 2 proposals / topic, max. 26)
- 1.542 applicants (not unique)
- Total requested budget 605 M€

Evaluation:

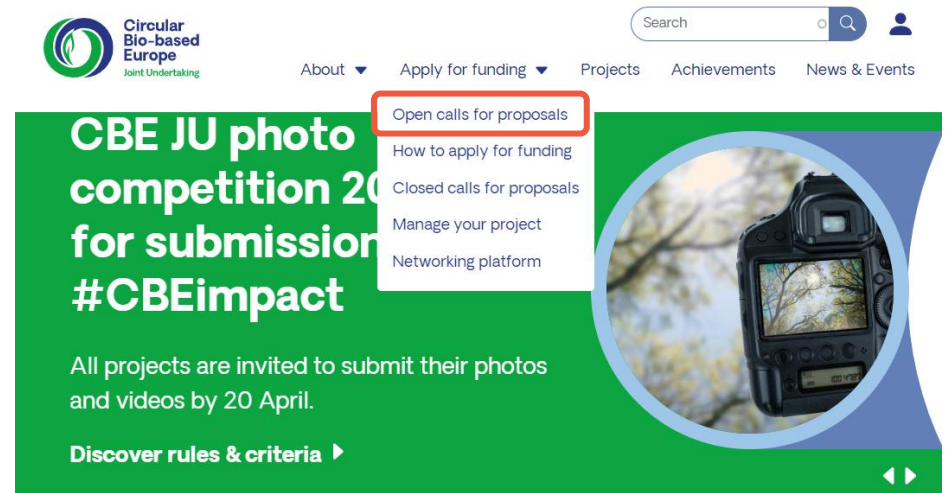
- 21 proposals selected for funding (Grant Agreement Signature ongoing)

Two main sources of information



The screenshot shows the 'F&T Portal Online Manual' interface. 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 includes a 'My Area — User account and roles' button. Under 'Grants', there is a section for 'Applying for funding' with a flowchart: 'Find a call' → 'Find partners' → 'Register an organisation' → 'Submit a proposal'. Below this is a section for 'Evaluation & Grant signature' with a flowchart: 'Admissibility and eligibility check' → 'Evaluation of proposals' → 'Grant preparation' → 'Grant signature'.

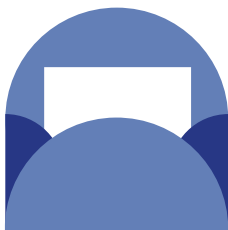
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/display/OM/Online+Manual>



The screenshot shows the CBE JU website homepage. The header includes the logo, a search bar, and navigation links: 'About', 'Apply for funding', 'Projects', 'Achievements', and 'News & Events'. A dropdown menu is open under 'Apply for funding', with 'Open calls for proposals' highlighted in a red box. The main banner features the text 'CBE JU photo competition 2023 for submission #CBEImpact' and 'All projects are invited to submit their photos and videos by 20 April.' Below the banner is a 'Discover rules & criteria' link. On the right, there is a circular image of a camera.

<https://www.cbe.europa.eu/open-calls-proposals>

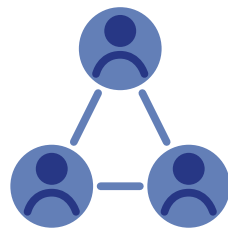
More information



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Horizon Europe
Funding and
Tender portal



europa.eu/!jH76RF

Do you want to be an expert evaluator?



CBE JU (and the whole EU research family) are always looking for **new, competent experts** in diverse fields

To be considered for the Call 2023 evaluations, please:

- Create or update your **expert profile** via <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert>
- **E-mail** experts@cbe.europa.eu ideally by end of May 2023, mentioning your expert profile number (format EX20XX1234567)



**Circular
Bio-based
Europe**
Joint Undertaking

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