

A competitive bioeconomy for a sustainable future

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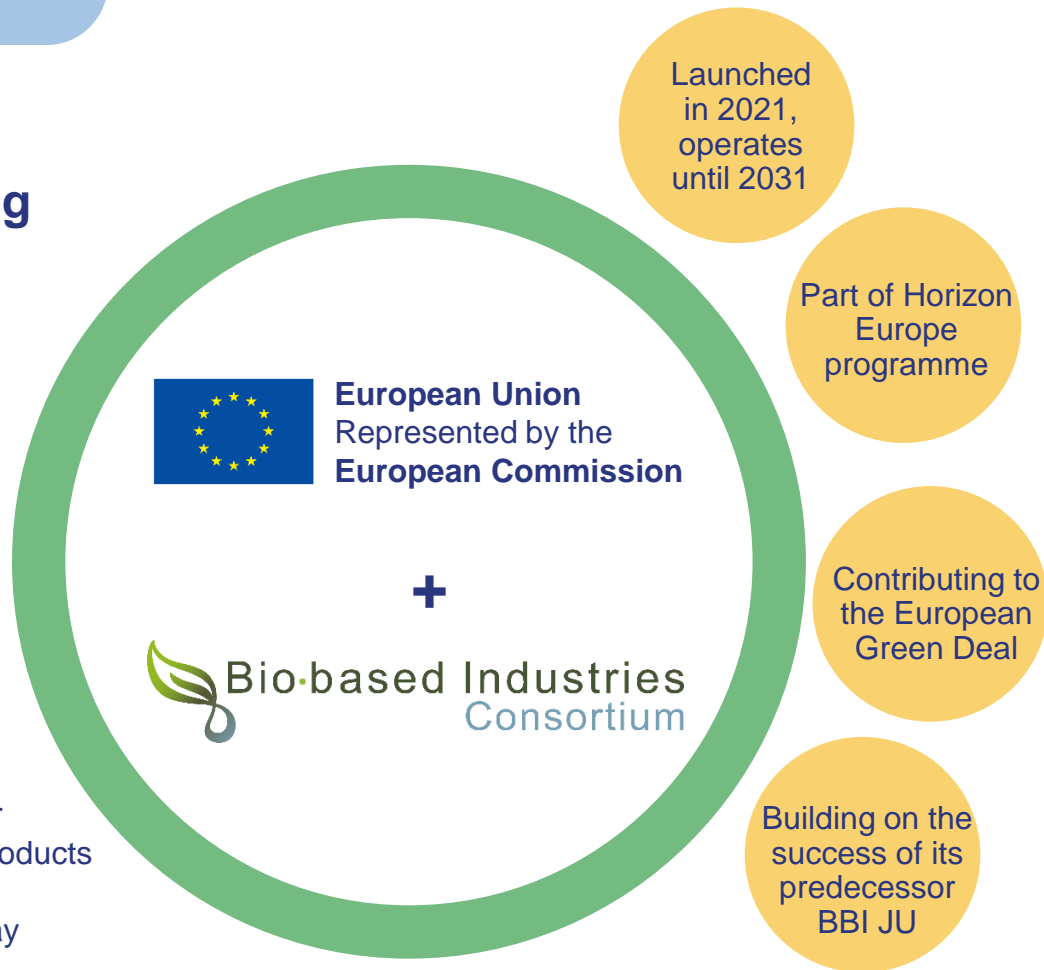
The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking

1

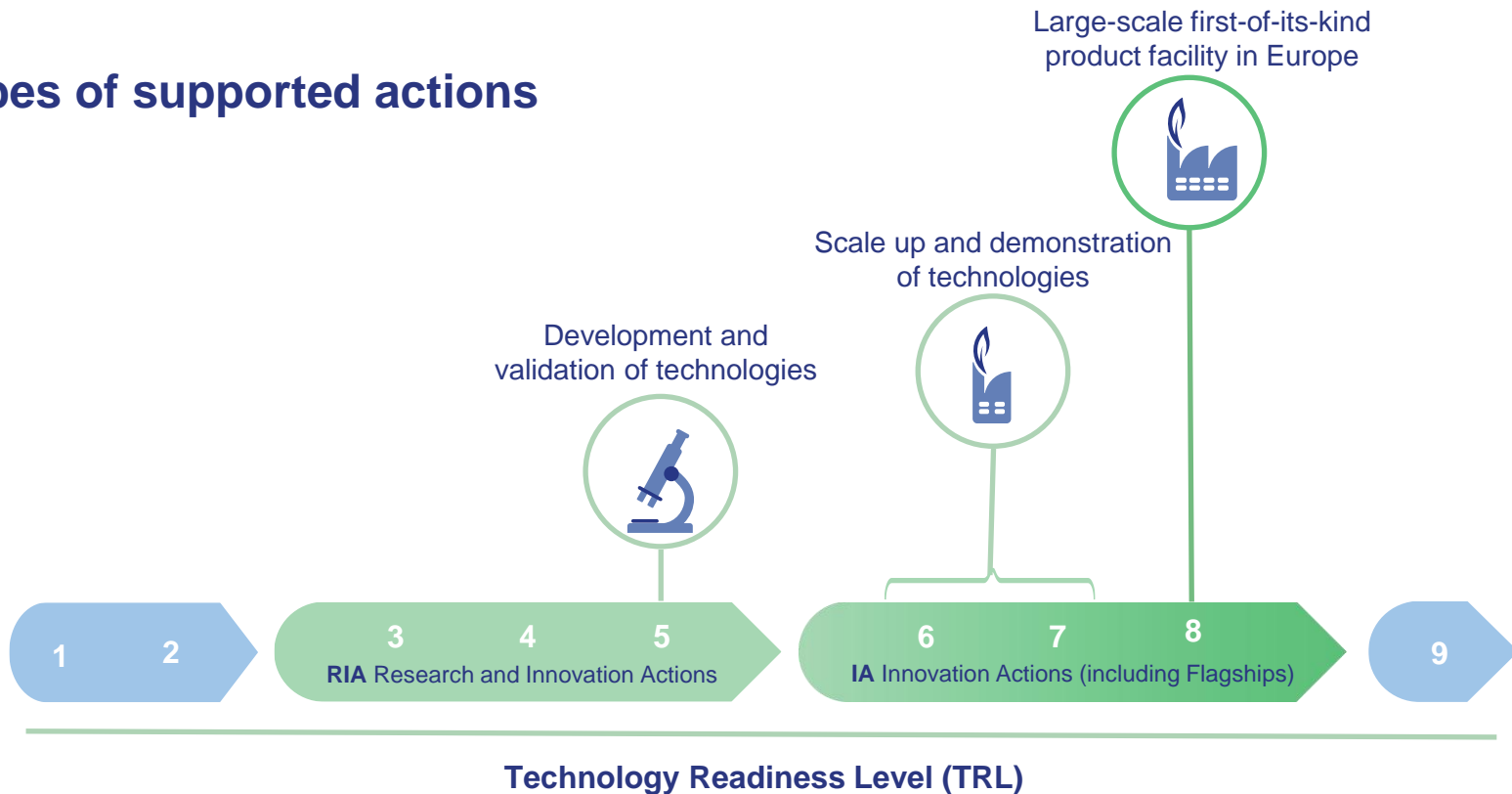
Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

€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



Types of supported actions



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

CBE JU portfolio:

2014-2023



192
projects



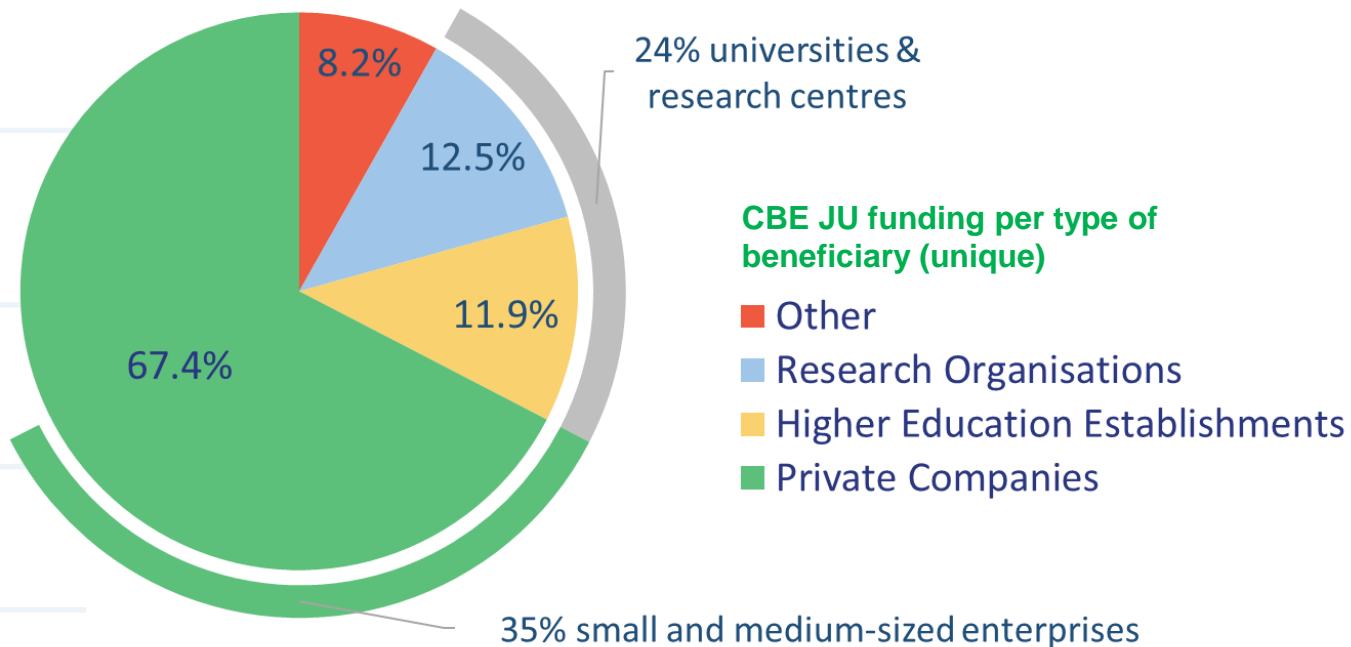
1,552
beneficiaries



€1,117 million
CBE JU
funding



43
countries

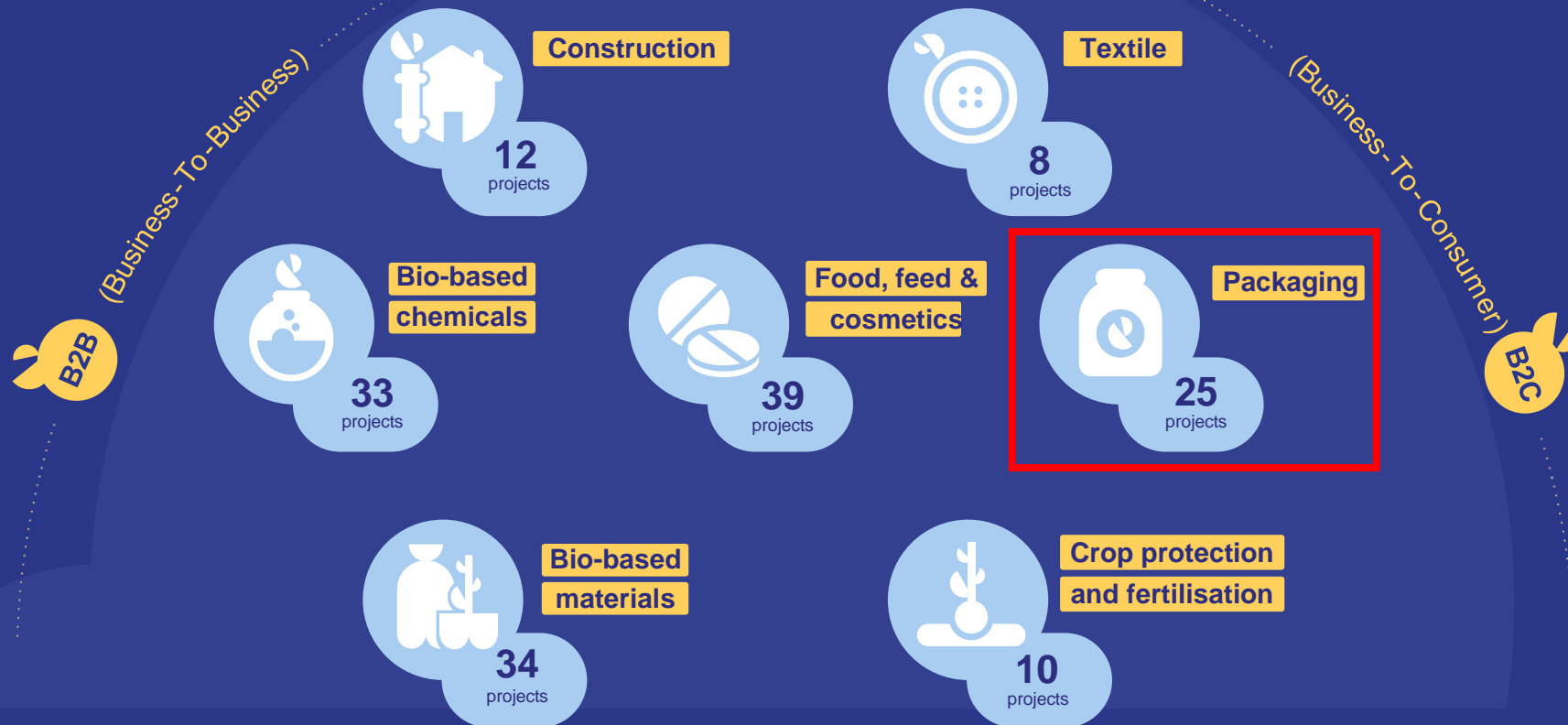


Data: CORDA, May 2024

Main feedstock types



Areas of applications

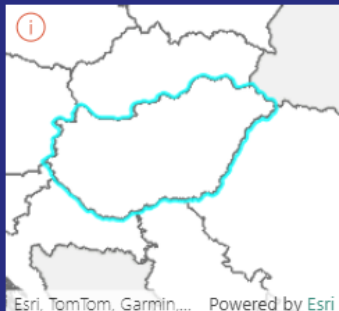


Choose a country

Hungary

0 First-of-their-kind industrial biorefineries

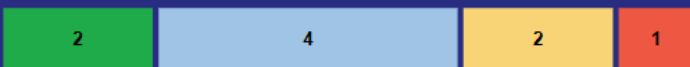
0 Demonstration plants



Locality ⓘ Type

Type of action:

- Innovation action - Flagship
- Innovation action
- Research & Innovation action
- Coordination & Support action



Feedstock used:
* by selected biorefineries

Project applications:
* of selected biorefineries

Number of projects

9

0

Completed Ongoing



Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Only private companies

CBE JU funding to SMEs

0.92M€

Number of SMEs

6

Members of the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)

1

CBE JU funding



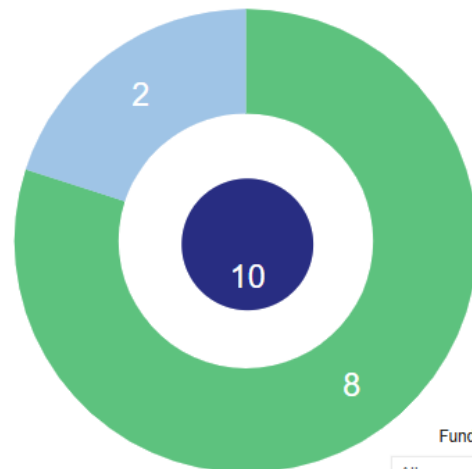
Click on a graph to filter the displayed information. Double-click on the same graph to reset the view.

0.92M€

Private companies Universities & research centres



Beneficiaries



Funding year:

All

Funding programme:

All

Only beneficiaries from the selected country are displayed.

Participating projects ⓘ link

AgriMax	link
CELEBio	link
Dendromass4Europe	link
FARMYNG	link
GreenProtein	link
LANDFEED	link
LIGNOFLAG	link

Participants ⓘ

Participants	Role	City
AGRO-MULTIFOOD TERMELESI, KERESKEDELMI ES SZOLGALTATO KORLATOLT FELELOSSEGU TARSASAG	partner	Gyongyos
ALLATORVOSTUDOMANYI EGYETEM	partner	Budapest
EXPORHUNGARY NEMZETKOZI KERESKEDELMI ES VALLALKOZASFEJLESZTESI KORLATOLT FELELOSSEGU TARSASAG	partner	Budapest
FLIEGL ABDA GEPGYARTO KORLATOLT FELELOSSEGU TARSASAG	partner	Abda
GEOSOL KORLATOLT FELELOSSEGU TARSASAG	partner	Halmajugra

CBE JU Call 2025 topic overview & structure

2

13 topics and their budget

Many input- and/or output-agnostic topics => check SRIA for framework

Type of action	Topics HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025		Million EUR
IA- Flagship	IAFlag-01	Urban-industrial symbiosis for bio-waste valorisation	18
	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	18
	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	13.5
	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	13.5
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	6
	R-03	Alternative biomanufacturing routes for natural and synthetic rubber	6
CSA	S-01	Develop and deploy new curricula and knowledge exchange practices relevant to bio-based systems	1

Total 165

Disclaimer: topic updates (incl. budget) are still possible before Call publication in the F&T Portal (tentative: 3 Apr 2025)

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

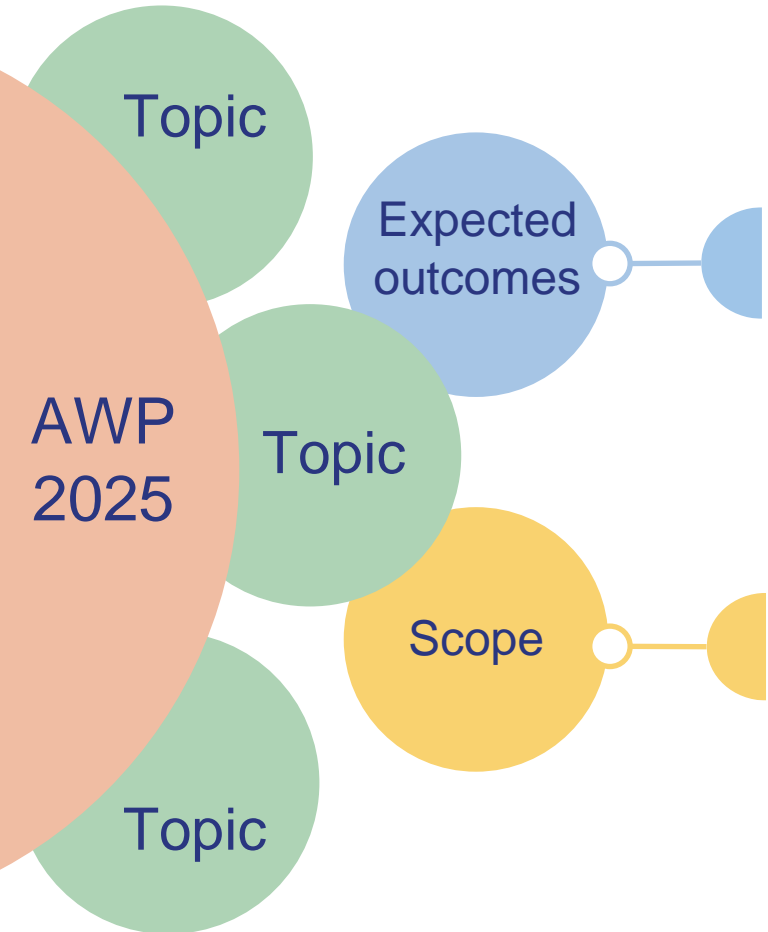
Topic

Topic

Topic

AWP
2025

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 vs. Horizon Europe
(incl. CBE specific
requirements)

3

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

HE Programme Guide

HE Online Manual

HE General Annexes

HE Annotated Model Grant Agreement



Part A Part B

Proposal structure



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: **NEW**
Ability to ensure **5% (RIA)**, 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**

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: $\geq 5\%$ 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

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

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

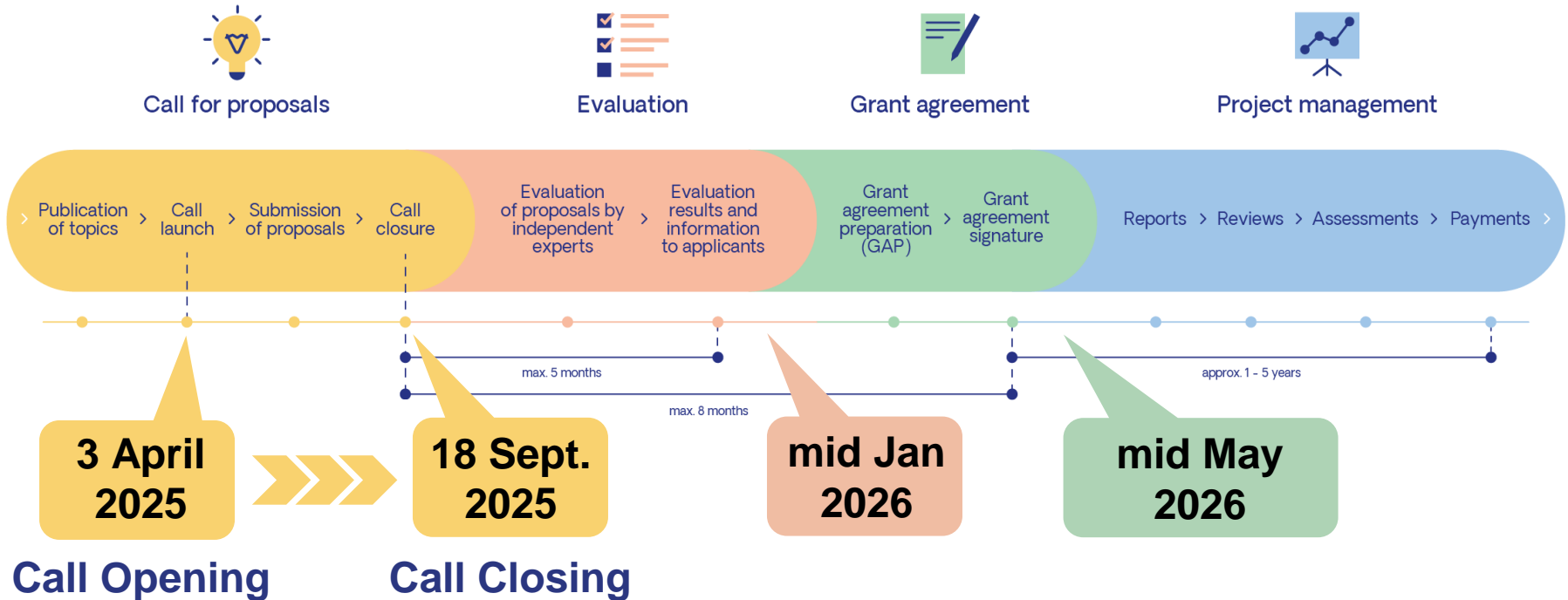
CBE JU Call 2025:

Timing, Tips & tricks and
networking opportunities

4

Estimated project start = May-June 2026

Proposal preparation



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 **AWP2025** 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.

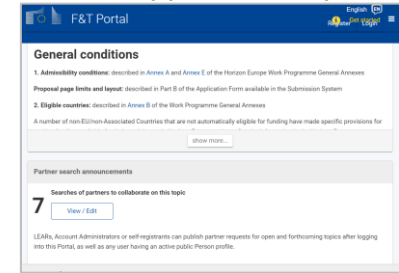


Use the **networking opportunities** offered by i) the **Funding & Tenders Portal**, ii) **CBE networking platform** and iii) **BIC member networking events**

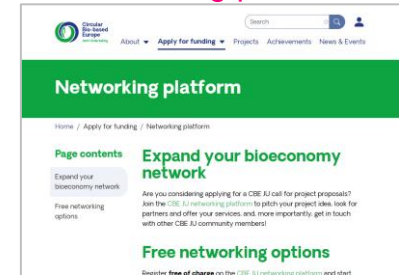
During proposal writing:

- 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



Choose this or the previous slide, delete the other one

CBE JU networking platform 2025



Join the platform

Register now!

Engage with other European bio-based economy actors
Find the right partners for your proposal

Choose this or the previous slide, delete the other one

CBE JU Info Day 2025



3 April, Brussels

Register now!

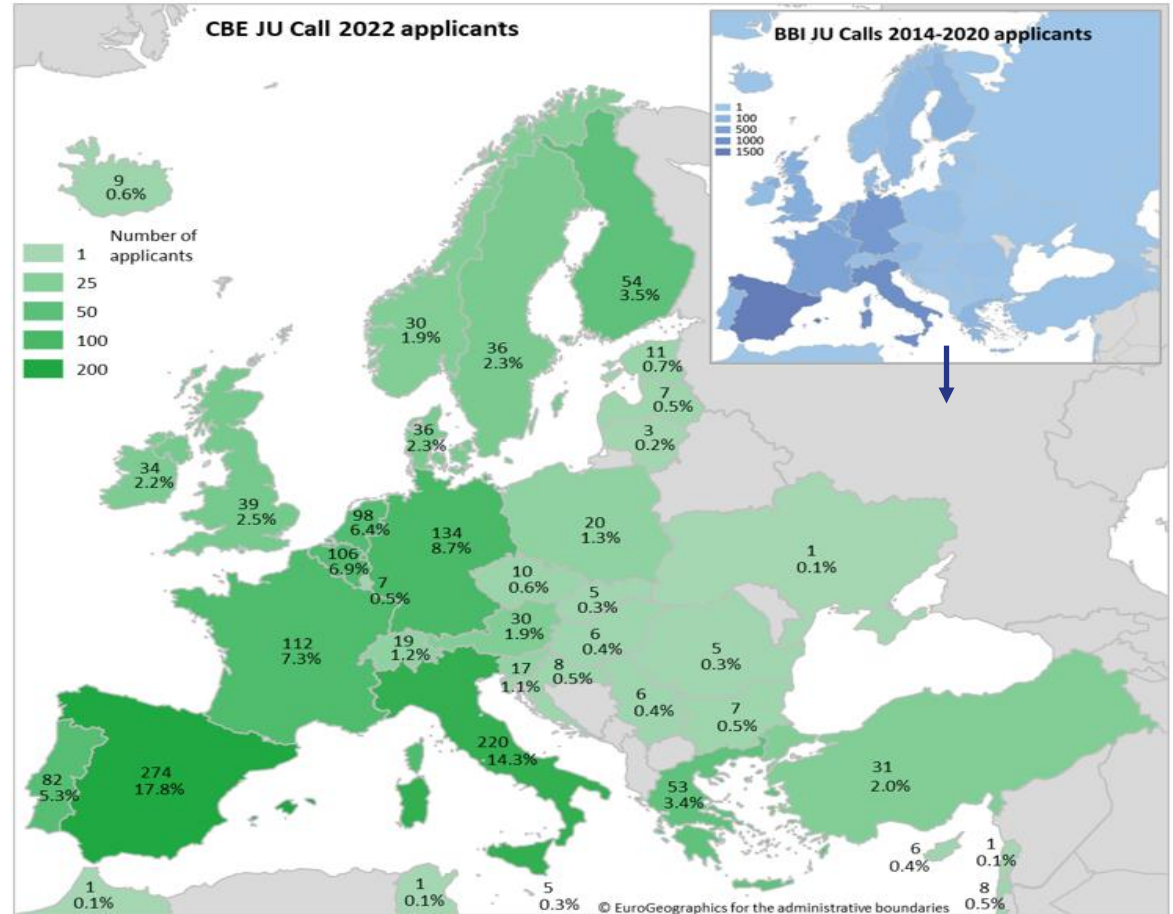
#CBEInfoDay

CBE JU Widening participation Strategy and its Action Plans

5

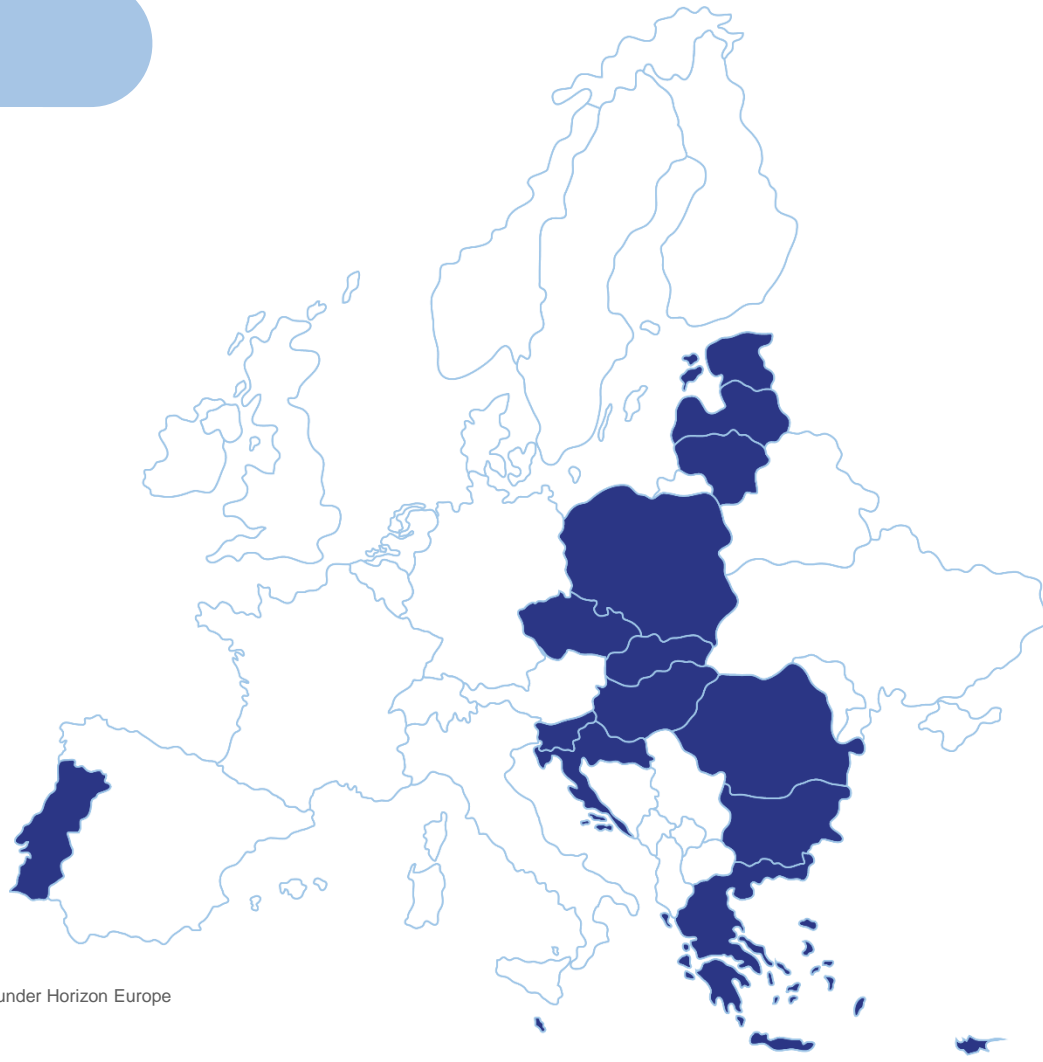
Uneven participation of European countries in CBE JU calls

CBE JU
Widening Participation strategy



15 countries*

Bulgaria
Croatia,
Cyprus
Czechia
Estonia
Greece
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia



*EU Member States included in the list of widening countries under Horizon Europe

Type of actions (examples from 2024)

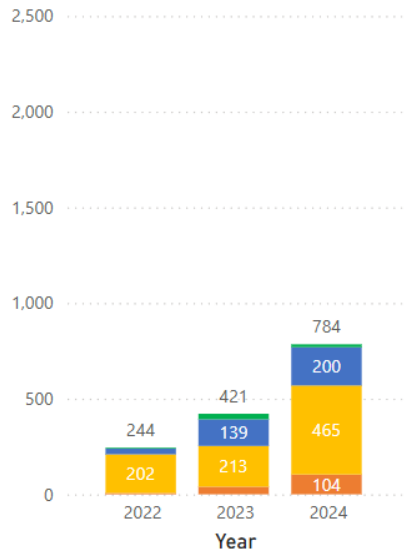
- **National info days in 2024** *in person* combined with visits to local industry sites or *online* (13)
- Strong collaboration with **NCPs** (WIDERA.NET & CARE4BIO)
- **Very high participation** of widening (23%) at CBE JU onsite info day 2024
- A widening-specific **CSA topic** included in WP2024
- Increased **cooperation with networks** active in widening countries (BIOEAST, COST, CEE2ACT)
- **Bilateral dialogues** with countries/ governments to engage in the partnership
- **Specific communication campaigns**

CBE JU calls 2022-2024: analysis of applicants from widening countries

Type of actions

Nr applicants

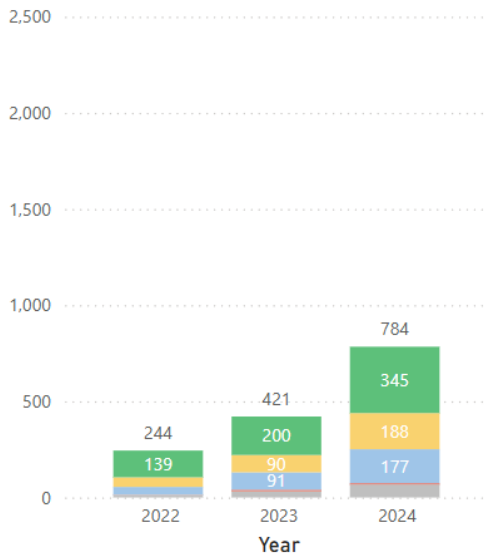
ToA ● CSA ● RIA ● IA ● IAFLAG



Type of applicants

Nr applicants

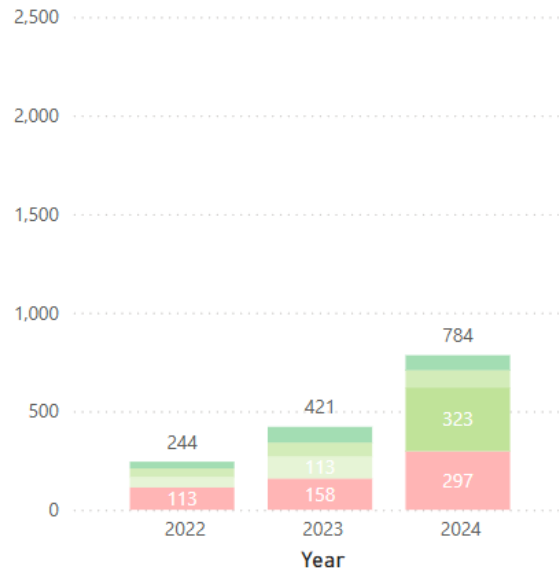
ToE ● OTH ● PUB ● REC ● HES ● PRC



Evaluation results

Nr applicants

ToBM ● REJECTED ● NO_MONEY ● RESERVE ● MAIN



6 lessons learnt from 2023-2024

Involvement of national stakeholders was essential for success

NCP, SRG, regional Clusters/ Hubs can make the difference (e.g. EL, PT but also PL, HU, SK)

On-site visits by CBE & BIC was a winning strategy

to reach out to policy-makers and incentivize industry involvement

Strengthening ties with NCP (Cluster 6, WIDERA) was crucial

opened new prospects & offered new knowledge to widening applicants

Political support both at National and Regional level must be there

NCPs and other national actors cannot act alone/in avoid

Cooperation with networks active in the widening region (e.g. Bioeast) is needed to increased networking and awareness raising opportunities


Dedicated project advisory services are needed especially for SMEs

to support them in understanding the funding opportunities and prepare successful proposal

How to approach a successful proposal in CBE JU

2 April 2025, 9:00 – 13:30
Brussels




 **Target Group:** 50 potential applicants from widening countries

◆ **Registration [here](#)** - free but compulsory: *first come, first served!*

 **What to expect?**

Two participatory sessions on **Excellence** and **Impact**

Participants will gain practical insights for their proposals by **engaging with NCPs, CBE and BIC officers, and experienced applicants.**

 **Don't miss the opportunity to enhance your proposal-writing skills & network with key players in the field!**



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