

# Call 2025: link with Horizon Europe + tips & tricks

Dieter BRIGITTA

Call Coordinator / Programme Officer

17 March 2025



# Table of contents

- **The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking**
- **Call 2025**
  - Call 2025 topic overview & structure
  - CBE JU vs. Horizon Europe: similarities & differences
  - CBE specific requirements (incl. IKOP)
- **Q&A**
- **Proposal preparation: Lessons learnt from past calls**
- **Call 2025 timing, tips & tricks and networking opportunities**
- **Q&A**

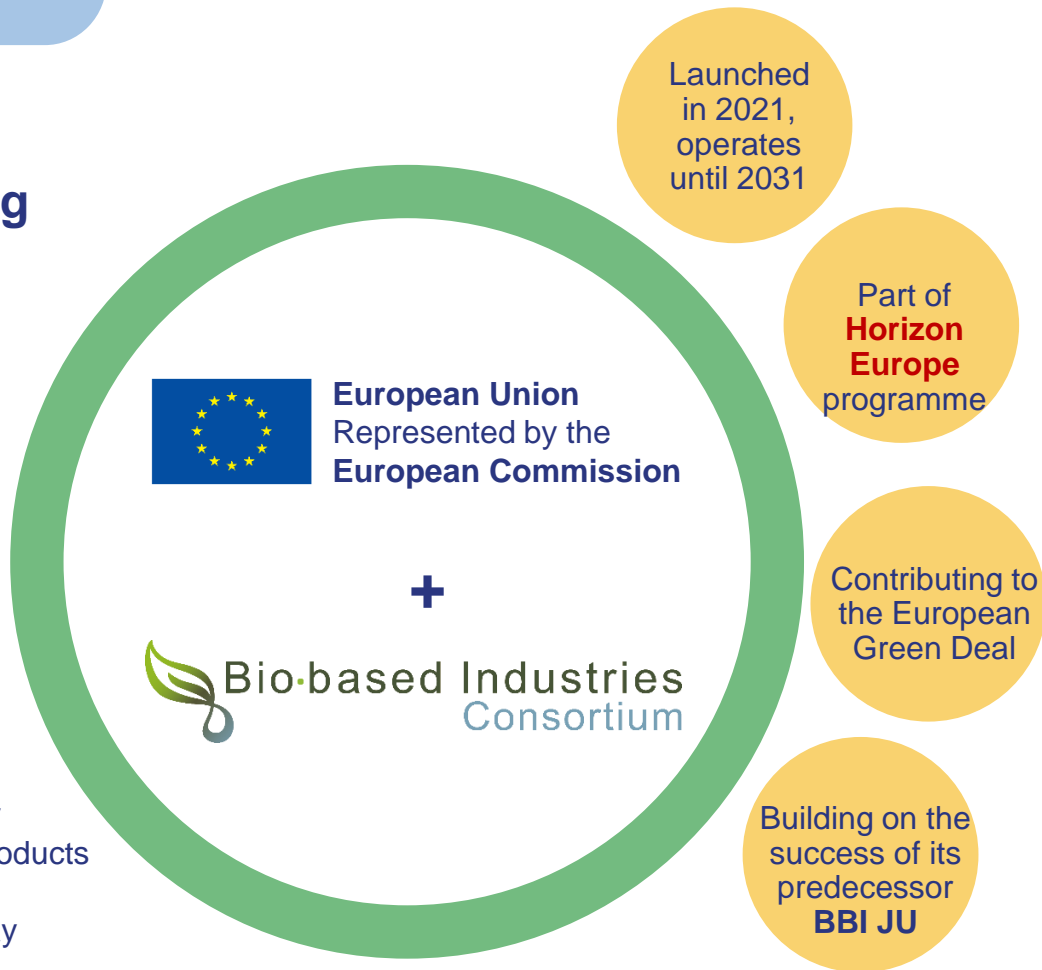
# Table of contents

- **The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking**
- **Call 2025**
  - Call 2025 topic overview & structure
  - CBE JU vs. Horizon Europe: similarities & differences
  - CBE specific requirements (incl. IKOP)
- **Q&A**
- **Proposal preparation: Lessons learnt from past calls**
- **Call 2025 timing, tips & tricks and networking opportunities**
- **Q&A**

# Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

€2 billion public-private initiative

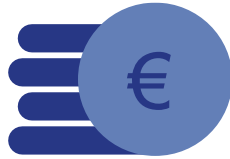
CBE JU is funding projects that deliver bio-based solutions – materials and products made from waste and biomass – in an innovative, sustainable and circular way



## CBE JU general objectives



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

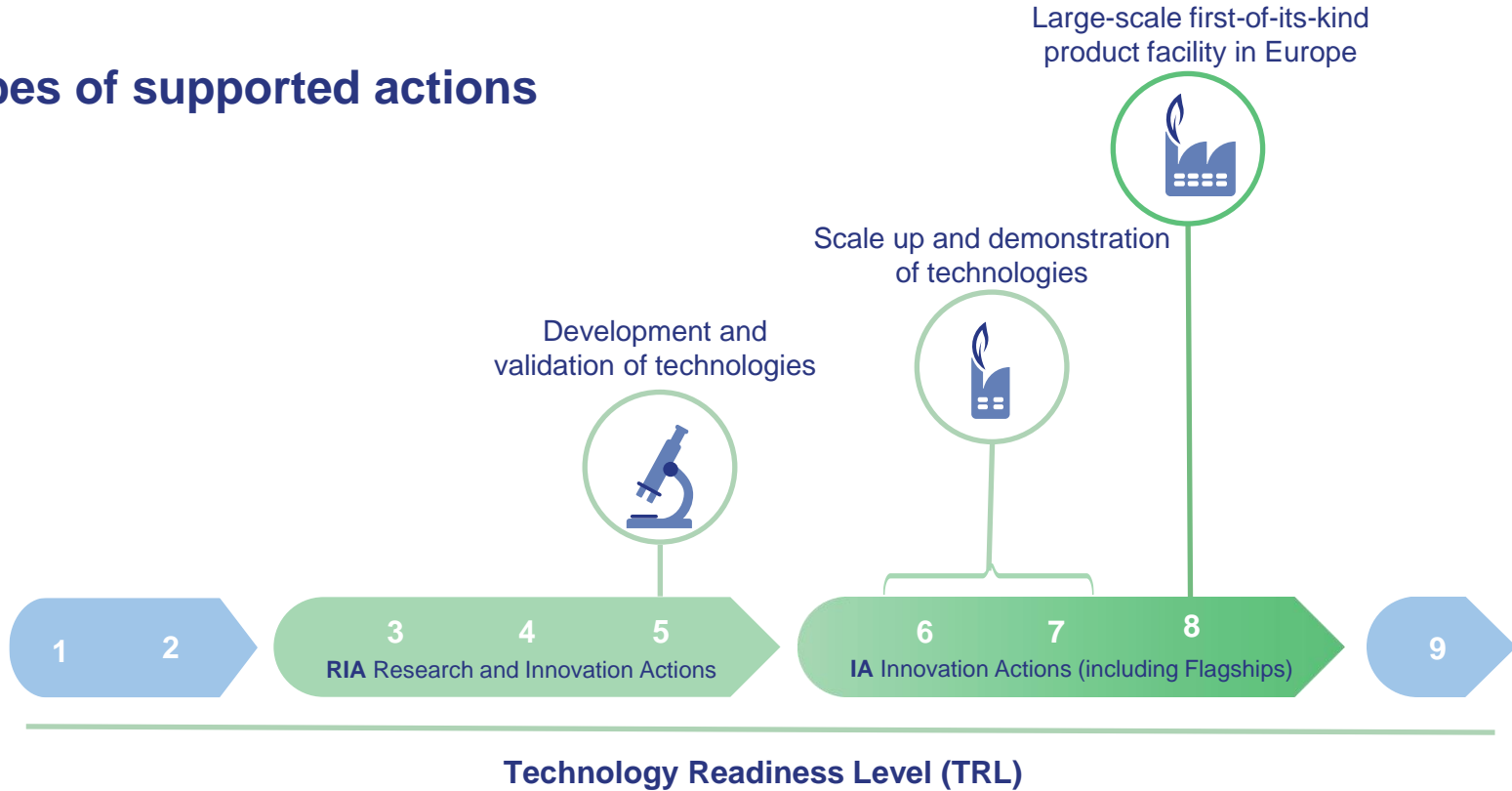


Accelerate **market deployment** of the existing mature bio-based innovative solutions



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 portfolio:

2014-2023



**192**  
projects



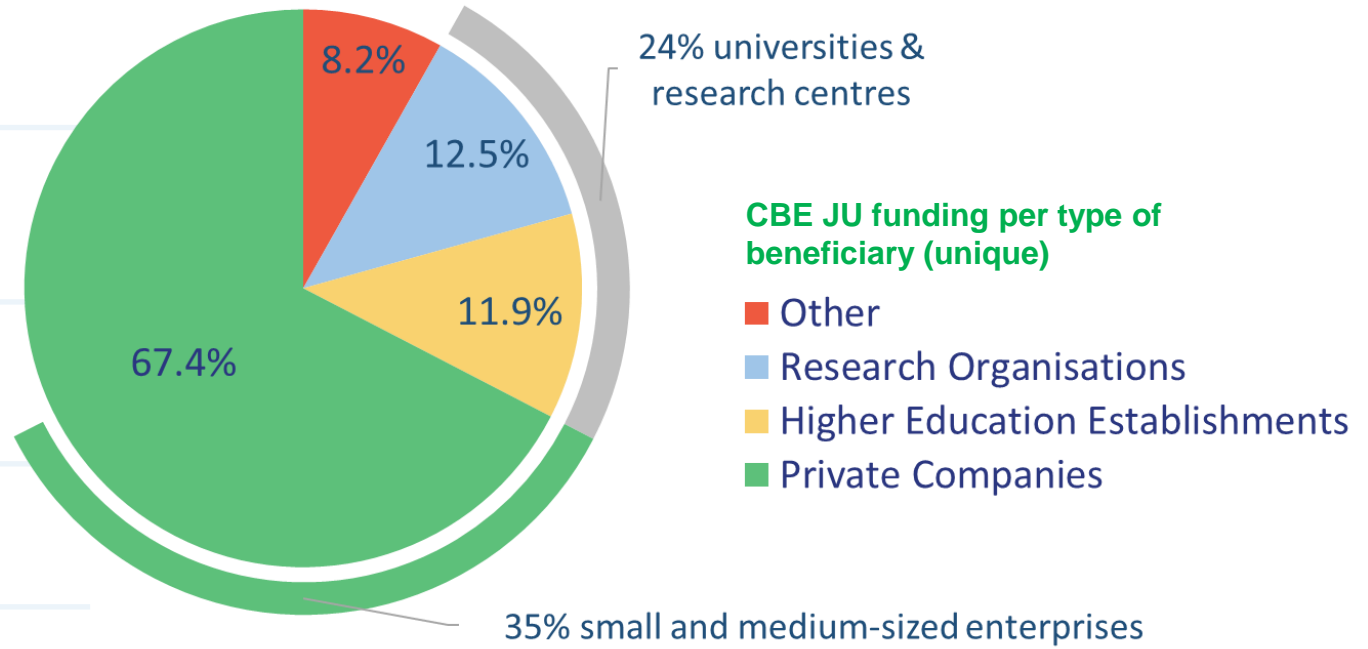
**1,552**  
beneficiaries



**€1,117** million  
CBE JU  
funding



**43**  
countries

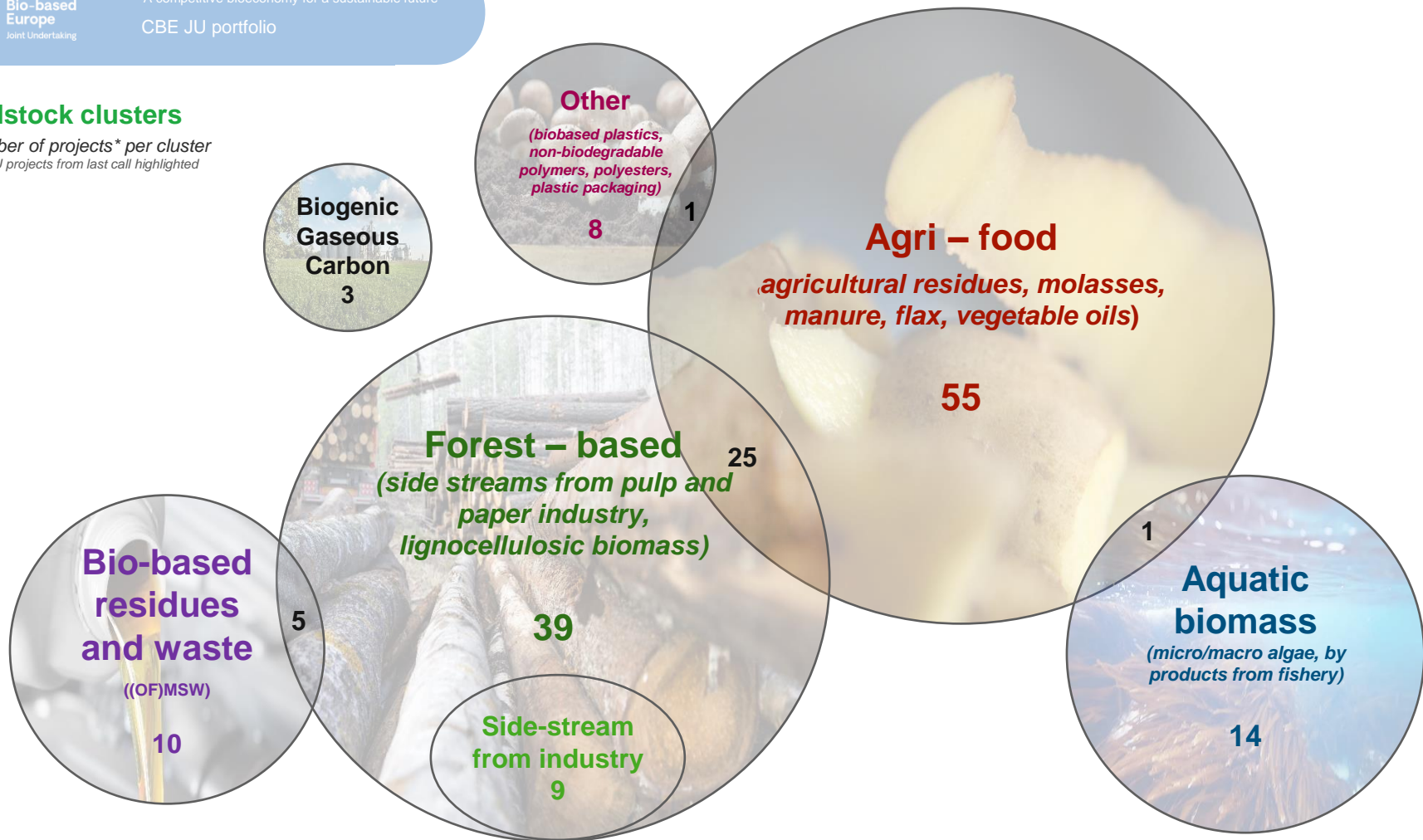


Data: CORDA, May 2024

## Feedstock clusters

- number of projects\* per cluster

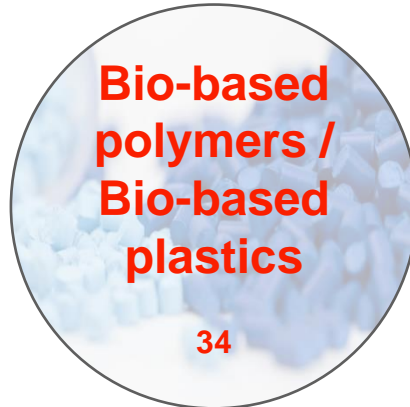
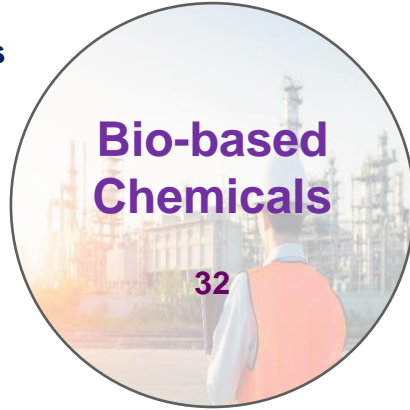
\*CBE JU projects from last call highlighted





## Areas of applications

- number of projects\* per cluster  
\*CBE JU projects from last call highlighted



From B2B (Business-To-Business) to B2C (Business-To-Consumer)

# Czechia

Number of projects

# 17

0

coordinated projects

Ongoing Completed



## Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Only private companies

CBE JU funding to SMEs

# 1,15M€

Number of SMEs

# 4

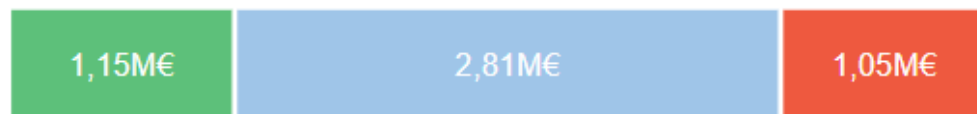
## Members of the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)

# 0

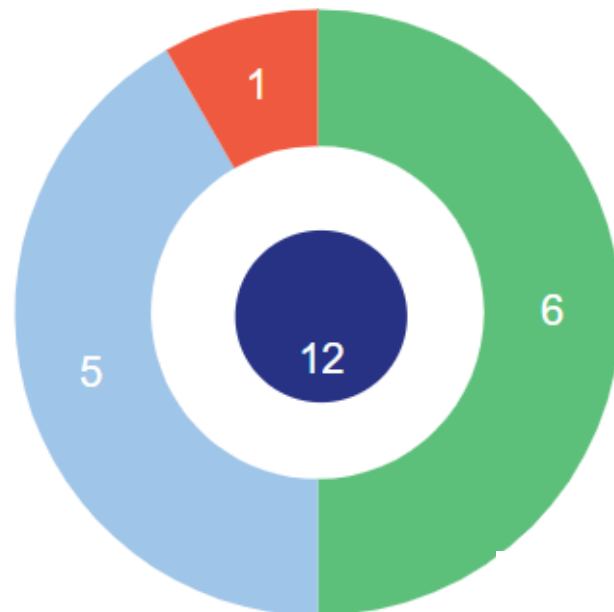
CBE JU funding

# 5,00M€

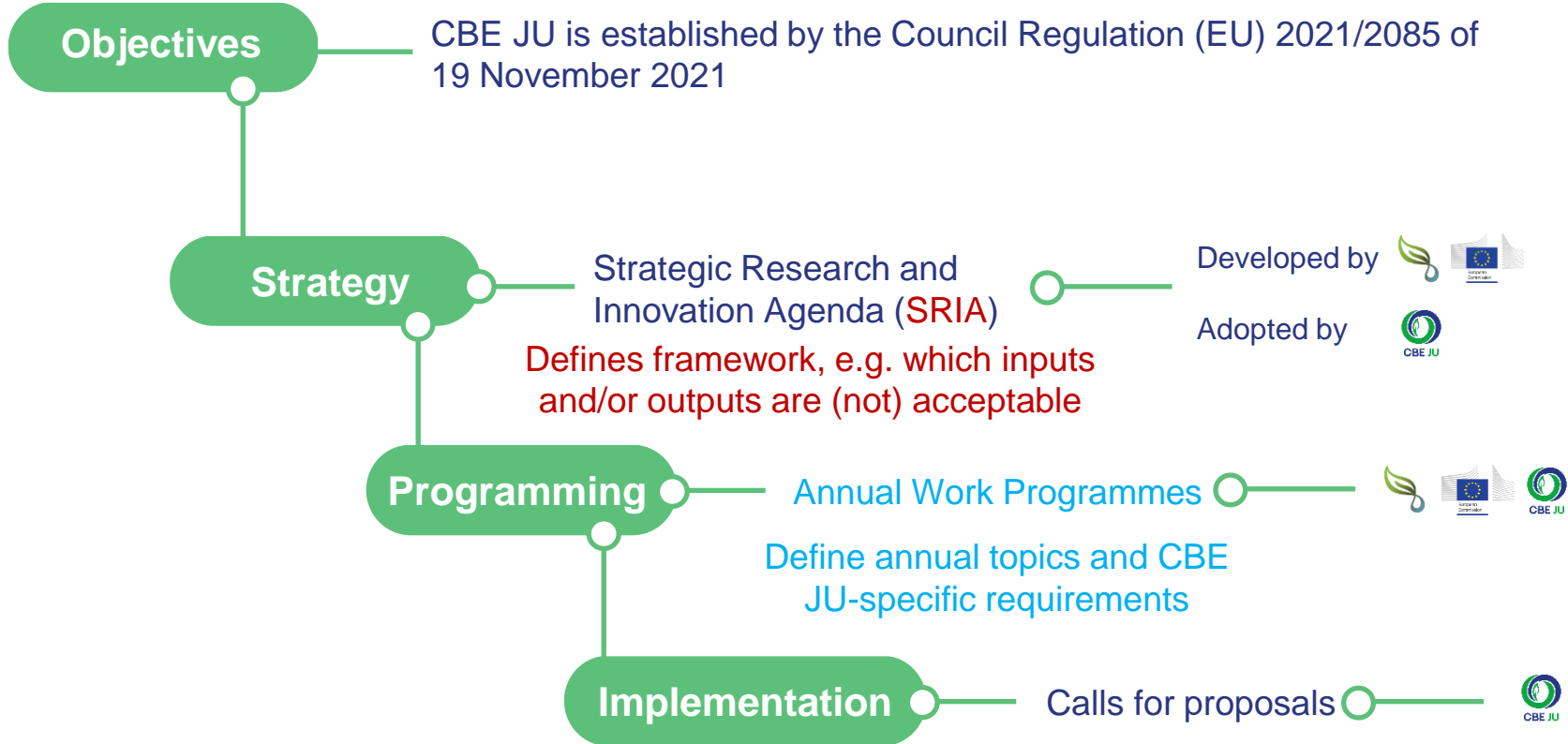
Private companies Universities & research centres other



Beneficiaries



# From strategy to implementation



# SRIA – acceptable inputs (1/2)

Annex V. Table V.1: Potential feedstock for the bio-based industry<sup>105</sup>

Bio-based feedstock category	Examples of bio-based feedstock
Agri-food feedstock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Side streams and residual streams (or residues) from agriculture and horticulture.</li> <li>• Food and feed waste: bio-waste<sup>106</sup> and side streams from the food and feed production/processing.</li> <li>• Non-edible biomass fractions of food crops.</li> <li>• Perennial grasses, fibre crops or other industrial crops.</li> <li>• Residues of lignocellulosic fraction of industrial crops.</li> <li>• Surplus streams from agricultural biomass processing such as carbohydrates or oils, respecting the “food first” and “cascading use” principles.</li> </ul>
Forest-based feedstock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damaged and/or contaminated wood.</li> <li>• Residues from lignocellulosic biomass and wood from woodlands and the forest-based industry.</li> <li>• Certified lignocellulosic biomass or certified woody biomass harvested from sustainably managed forests.</li> </ul>
Aquatic biomass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquatic biomass and residual streams (or residues) from aquatic biomass cultivation, processing, and from fisheries.</li> <li>• Industrial biomass grown in open ponds and/or closed systems.</li> </ul>

# SRIA – acceptable inputs (2/2)

Annex V. Table V.1: Potential feedstock for the bio-based industry<sup>105</sup>

<p>Industrial and municipal bio-based residues and waste (other than food waste)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bio-waste (other than food waste from production; including post-consumer waste).</li> <li>• Sewage and wastewater sludge.</li> <li>• Used cooking oil.</li> <li>• Residues and by-products from the bio-based industry.</li> <li>• Recycled bio-based products.</li> <li>• Other residues and waste that can be used in bio-based processes.</li> </ul>
<p>Biogenic gaseous carbon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon in gaseous emissions from biomass-based industrial ecosystems and biorefineries or any other bio-based operation.</li> </ul>
<p>Other / new feedstock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microbial biomass (including microorganisms).</li> <li>• Insects and fungi.</li> <li>• Residues from nature and landscape management (bio-waste other than food and post-consumer waste).</li> <li>• Products derived from multifunctional forestry practices (other than wood).</li> </ul>

*A non-exhaustive list...but an interesting framework*

# SRIA – acceptable outputs

- **SRIA, p.3**

- “The bio-based solutions and innovations that fall within the scope of CBE should focus on the production of bio-based chemicals, materials, food and feed ingredients and soil nutrients.”
- “Biofuels, bioenergy, food and feed, pharmaceuticals and medical devices are **not** within the remit of the partnership.”

- **Each Annual Work Programme (AWP)**

- Can include more narrow input and/or output requirements (e.g. specific focus of a topic, feedstock sourcing and sustainability requirements)...
- ...but submitted proposals always need to be in line with the SRIA **and** AWP
- **I.e. if the AWP or topic does not limit the use of certain inputs, or does not explicitly aim for specific outputs, then the SRIA requirements / framework are still applicable**



# Table of contents

- **The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking**
- **Call 2025**
  - Call 2025 topic overview & structure
  - CBE JU vs. Horizon Europe: similarities & differences
  - CBE specific requirements (incl. IKOP)
- **Q&A**
- **Proposal preparation: Lessons learnt from past calls**
- **Call 2025 timing, tips & tricks and networking opportunities**
- **Q&A**

# Table of contents

- The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking
- **Call 2025**
  - Call 2025 topic overview & structure
  - CBE JU vs. Horizon Europe: similarities & differences
  - CBE specific requirements (incl. IKOP)
- Q&A
- Proposal preparation: Lessons learnt from past calls
- Call 2025 timing, tips & tricks and networking opportunities
- Q&A



# 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 <b>bio-waste</b> valorisation	18
	IAFlag-02	Bio-based <b>drop-ins/smart drop-in platform chemicals</b> , via cost-effective, sustainable and resource-efficient conversion of biomass	20
	IAFlag-03	Circular-by-design <b>fibre-based packaging</b> with improved properties	18
	IAFlag-04	<b>Retrofitting</b> of (bio)refineries industrial plants towards higher-value bio-based products	20
IA	IA-01	Sustainable <b>macroalgae</b> systems for innovative, added-value applications: <b>cultivation and optimised production systems</b>	14
	IA-02	Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD) bio-based solutions to replace hazardous conventional <b>chemicals for textiles production</b>	13.5
	IA-03	Scaling-up nutritional <b>proteins</b> from alternative sources	14
	IA-04	Cost-effective and robust <b>continuous</b> biotech bio-based <b>processes</b>	14
	IA-05	SSbD bio-based <b>polymers/copolymers</b> unlocking new market applications	13.5
RIA	R-01	Valorisation of untapped <b>forest biomass</b>	7
	R-02	Bio-based and biodegradable delivery systems for <b>fertilising products</b> to reduce microplastics pollution & promote soil health	6
	R-03	<b>Alternative biomanufacturing routes</b> for natural and synthetic <b>rubber</b>	6
CSA	S-01	Develop and deploy new <b>curricula and knowledge exchange practices</b> 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

<b>Type of action</b>	Research and Innovation Action
<b>Indicative budget</b>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR <b>14</b> million
<b>Expected EU contribution per project</b>	It is estimated that a contribution of EUR <b>7</b> million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts
<b>TRL</b>	TRL <b>6-7</b> at the end of the project
<b>Link to CBE JU Specific Objectives</b>	1.1: Increase the intensity of cross-disciplinary research and innovation activities
<b>Link to CBE JU SRIA Strategic Priorities</b>	1.1.2: Develop innovative production systems in the bio-based industry 1.1.3: Develop innovative bio-based products
<b>CBE JU KPIs</b>	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

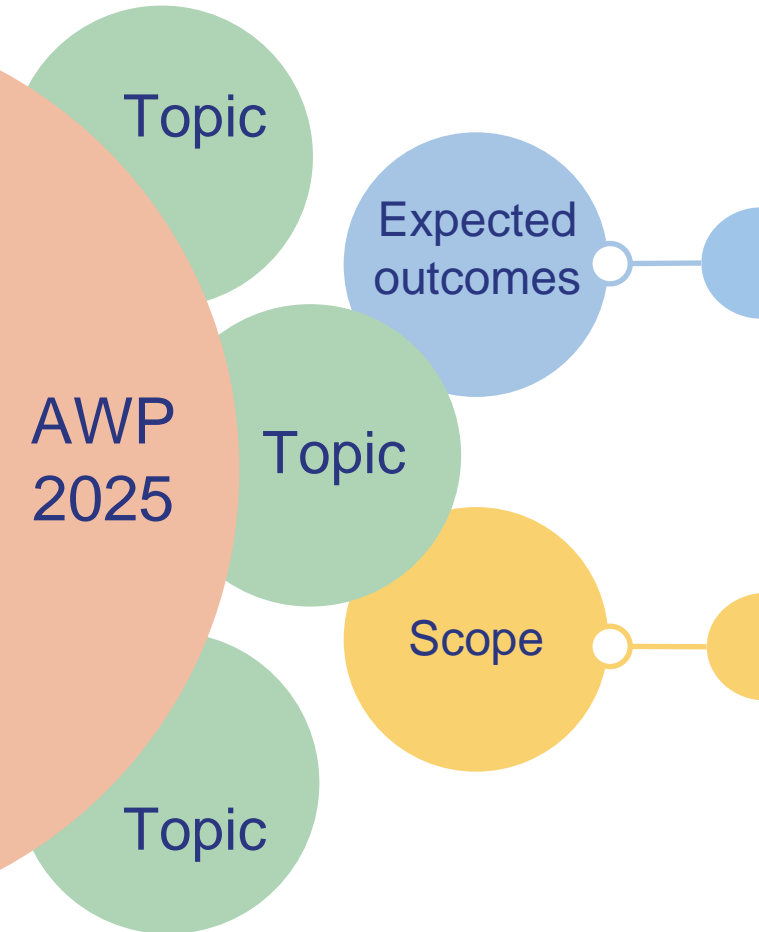
Topic

AWP  
2025

Topic

Topic

# 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

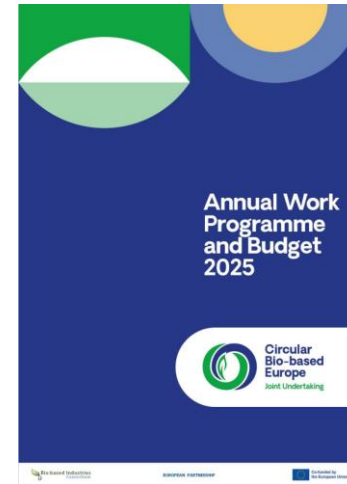
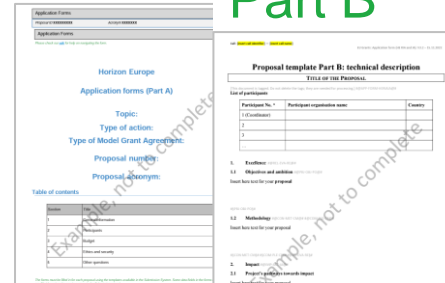
## CBE Annual Work Programme 2025

- Topics
- Specific requirements
- Budget



## Part A Part B

## Proposal structure




# CBE JU vs. HE ‘general annexes’

- **Eligibility & admissibility criteria**

- Same as the ones mentioned in the Horizon Europe General Annexes (*no derogation*)
- Most common issue in Calls 2022-2024 (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 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,

Specific CBE JU requirement	Type of action	Where to include it in Part B
<b>Feedstock sourcing (eligibility condition)</b>	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – (Y/N) question
<b>Feedstock sustainability requirements</b>	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – (Y/N) question
<b>Description of feedstock</b>	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – 1.2 Methodology
<b>Environmental performance</b>		
<b>a) Ex-ante assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of environmental issues</li> <li>• Estimation of environmental sustainability performance</li> <li>• Estimation of carbon removal potential</li> </ul>	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – 1.2 Methodology
<b>b) Ex-post assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated task for RIA</li> <li>• Dedicated task or WP (LCSA) for IA non-FLAG</li> </ul>	RIA IA, incl. FLAG	Part B - 3.1 Workplan and resources

Specific CBE JU requirement	Type of action	Where to include it in Part B
<b>Multi-actor approach (MAA)</b>	IA, incl. FLAG RIA and CSA, when specified	Part B – 1.2 Methodology
<b>Economic aspects:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Qualitative</i> business case</li> <li>• <i>Quantified</i> business case and business model</li> <li>• Executive summary of the business plan, including the underlying business case and business model</li> <li>• Business plan</li> </ul>	RIA IA non-FLAG FLAG FLAG	Part B – 2.2 Measures to maximise impact – D&E&C  FLAG: Annex (Business plan)
<b>Digital technologies</b>	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	Part B – 1.2 Methodology
<b>Cross-disciplinary aspects and Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)</b>	All types of actions	Part B – 1.2 Methodology

# Similarities and **differences** with Horizon Europe



## Funding rate

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



## Award criteria

- RIA, IA & CSA: Excellence, Impact, Implementation
- + Impact: **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**



# 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 ( <b>BIC member</b> )	Y	industry	€ 7,000,000	60%	€ 4,200,000	€ 2,800,000
Beneficiary 2	N	academia	€ 590,000	100%	€ 590,000	
Beneficiary 3 ( <b>BIC member</b> )	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	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>€ 16,390,000</b>		€ 10,390,000	<b>€ 4,800,000</b>

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

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

## Innovation Actions (example 2a: 1 BIC member)

**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 2a: IA Criterion: $\geq 15\%$ IKOP	BIC member	Industry / Academia	Total eligible costs	Funding rate	Requested EU contribution	IKOP
Beneficiary 1 - Coordinator ( <b>BIC member</b> )	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	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>€ 9,090,000</b>		€ 6,010,000	<b>€ 1,280,000</b>

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


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

## Innovation Actions (example 2b: 2 BIC members)

**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 2b: 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 (BIC member)	Y	industry	€ 1,500,000	60%	€ 900,000	<b>€ 600,000</b>
Beneficiary 4	N	industry	€ 3,000,000	60%	€ 1,800,000	
Beneficiary 5	N	academia	€ 800,000	100%	€ 800,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>€ 9,090,000</b>		€ 6,010,000	<b>€ 1,880,000</b>

$$\text{Percentage IKOP} = \frac{\text{€1,880,000}}{\text{€9,090,000}} = 20.6\% > 15\% \text{ } \img alt="thumbs up icon" data-bbox="500 895 535 950"/>$$

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

## RIAs (example 3a: 1 BIC member)



**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 3a: 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 ( <b>BIC member</b> )	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	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>€ 4,390,000</b>		€ 3,990,000	<b>€ 200,000</b>

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

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

## RIAs (example 3b: 2 BIC members)



**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 3b: 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 (BIC member)	Y	academia	€ 800,000	100%	€ 600,000	€ 200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>€ 4,390,000</b>		€ 3,990,000	<b>€ 400,000</b>

Percentage IKOP =  $\frac{€ 400,000}{€ 4,390,000} = 9\% > 5\%$

# “CBE, does my idea fit topic X?”

## Q 3.2.1: Can CBE JU check if a proposal idea is good or in line with the topic text?

No, mainly because of the following reasons:

- CBE JU Calls follow a competitive process, and the programme office cannot provide individual guidance in the interest of transparency and fairness;
- CBE JU proposals are not evaluated by CBE JU staff members, but by external experts with diverse expertise, who evaluate each proposal individually and in a panel setting. It is therefore up to each consortium to clearly describe how their proposal ticks all the boxes described in the topic text, and to convince these external experts (not CBE JU staff) that and how the proposal's objectives, concept, expected impacts and implementation measures are in line with the topic text;
- The CBE JU topic texts are the result of co-creation between the European Commission and BIC (<http://biconsortium.eu/>), and include the feedback from CBE JU's Scientific Committee and States Representatives Group. Based on these inputs, the topic texts are written in such a way that they clearly explain the challenge, yet leave a fair amount of freedom to proposal writers to come up with a suitable solution. It is up to each consortium to convince the external experts if and how the proposal's solution is appropriate to address the challenges and expected impacts described in the topic text.
- Proposal writers have 30-70 pages depending on the type of action to develop their idea and to convince expert-evaluators. A 1-page summary of a proposal idea might at first sight be 100% relevant for a topic text, but when described in 30-70 pages, it might NOT be relevant after all (and vice versa).

<https://www.cbe.europa.eu/open-calls-proposals> => FAQ for applicants

## Proposal pre-check service available

Applicants from eligible countries (*incl. Czechia*) can make use of the **pre-check proposal service** offered by the NCP\_WIDERA.NET project. [Apply for the pre-check.](#)

This service is part of the [CBE JU widening participation strategy](#) actions. More information on the [NCP\\_WIDERA.NET portal](#).

### Institutionalised European Partnerships

- Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking
- European Partnership for Key Digital Technologies
- European Partnership for Smart Networks and Services
- European Partnership for High Performance Computing
- European Partnership on Metrology
- Clean Hydrogen Partnership
- European Partnership for Clean Aviation
- SESAR 3 Joint Undertaking
- European Partnership for transforming Europe's rail system
- **Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking**

Project ends on 31/03/2025  
=> still time & budget?



## 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!* More info: [click here](#)

**💡 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!**

# Table of contents

- The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking
- **Call 2025**
  - Call 2025 topic overview & structure
  - CBE JU vs. Horizon Europe: similarities & differences
  - CBE specific requirements (incl. IKOP)
- Q&A
- Proposal preparation: Lessons learnt from past calls
- Call 2025 timing, tips & tricks and networking opportunities
- Q&A

# Table of contents

- **The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking**
- **Call 2025**
  - Call 2025 topic overview & structure
  - CBE JU vs. Horizon Europe: similarities & differences
  - CBE specific requirements (incl. IKOP)
- **Q&A**
- Proposal preparation: Lessons learnt from past calls
- Call 2025 timing, tips & tricks and networking opportunities
- Q&A



# Table of contents

- The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking
- Call 2025
  - Call 2025 topic overview & structure
  - CBE JU vs. Horizon Europe: similarities & differences
  - CBE specific requirements (incl. IKOP)
- Q&A
- **Proposal preparation: Lessons learnt from past calls**
- Call 2025 timing, tips & tricks and networking opportunities
- Q&A

## Call 2024:

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

# Call 2024 submission analysis

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

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

- Positive **correlation** between early proposal creation and success rate
- Possible reasons for **causality**: more time to build a solid consortium and cover all requirements, especially for IAs + FLAGs
- **Early creation** = earlier awareness about elements blocking submission (IT tool provides warnings) = more time to solve them => **starting to work in the Portal asap adds value!**

## Horizon Europe scoring principles

0

The proposal **fails to address the criterion** or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1

**Poor.** The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are **serious inherent weaknesses**.

2

**Fair.** The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are **significant weaknesses**.

3

**Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of **shortcomings** are present.

4

**Very Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of **shortcomings** are present.

5

**Excellent.** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any **shortcomings** are **minor**.

**CBE JU  
evaluation  
thresholds: 3/5  
or 4/5 (impact)**

# Call 2024 – evaluation outcomes

- **Call 2024: 289 evaluated proposals**
  - Using the 3 main Horizon Europe evaluation criteria: Excellence, Impact and Implementation
  - Each main criterion is further split into different evaluation *sub*criteria
  - Horizon Europe scoring principles are used
    - Max. score: 5 points per criterion, so max. 15/15 for whole proposal
    - Score per criterion is defined by how many (minor) shortcomings and/or weaknesses are identified by expert-evaluators
- **Analysis of evaluation outcomes**
  - Check which are the most common shortcomings and weaknesses...
  - ...for all proposals, for RIAs, and for IAs (to check if there is a difference or not) is
  - No analysis for CSAs and Flagships, because (too) limited amount of proposals to draw statistically relevant conclusions



# Outcomes – all proposals

Rank	Most common weaknesses	Most common shortcomings
1	<b>Impa</b> – Expected outcomes in topic text	<b>Impa</b> – Expected outcomes in topic text
2	<b>Exc</b> – Methodology	<b>Impl</b> – Work plan (overall structure, tasks, milestones, deliverables,...)
3	<b>Exc</b> – ambition (going beyond the state of the art) + appropriate TRLs	<b>Impl</b> – Risk table incl. mitigation measures
4	<b>Exc</b> – is the proposal (fully or partially) in scope	<b>Exc</b> – Methodology
5	<b>Impl</b> – Work plan (overall structure, tasks, milestones, deliverables,...)	<b>Exc</b> – ambition (going beyond the state of the art) + appropriate TRLs

(**Exc** = Excellence, **Impa** = Impact, **Impl** = Implementation)

# Outcomes – IAs incl. Flagships

Rank	Most common weaknesses	Most common shortcomings
1	<b>Impa</b> – Expected outcomes in topic text	<b>Impa</b> – Expected outcomes in topic text
2	<b>Exc</b> – Methodology	<b>Impl</b> – Work plan (overall structure, tasks, milestones, deliverables,...)
3	<b>Exc</b> – ambition (going beyond the state of the art) + appropriate TRLs	<b>Exc</b> – ambition (going beyond the state of the art) + appropriate TRLs
4	<b>Impa</b> – Business case	<b>Impl</b> – Risk table incl. mitigation measures
5	<b>Impa</b> – Business model	<b>Exc</b> – Methodology

(**Exc** = Excellence, **Impa** = Impact, **Impl** = Implementation)

# Outcomes – RIAs

Rank	Most common weaknesses	Most common shortcomings
1	<b>Impa</b> – Expected outcomes in topic text	<b>Impa</b> – Expected outcomes in topic text
2	<b>Exc</b> – Methodology	<b>Exc</b> – Methodology
3	<b>Exc</b> – ambition (going beyond the state of the art) + appropriate TRLs	<b>Impl</b> – Work plan (overall structure, tasks, milestones, deliverables,...)
4	<b>Exc</b> – is the proposal (fully or partially) in scope	<b>Impl</b> – Risk table incl. mitigation measures
5	<b>Impl</b> – Work plan (overall structure, tasks, milestones, deliverables,...)	<b>Exc</b> – ambition (going beyond the state of the art) + appropriate TRLs

(**Exc** = Excellence, **Impa** = Impact, **Impl** = Implementation)

# Conclusions

- **All proposals**
  - ‘**Expected outcomes in the topic text**’ is the source of the most common shortcomings and weaknesses in all proposals, as well as IAs and RIAs (!)
  - 2-3/5 **most common weaknesses** are **linked to Excellence** (Methodology, ambition, in scope) => *you can't hide a bad idea...*
  - Top 5 **most common shortcomings** are the **same for all types proposals**, only in a different order
  - In particular, **Risk & mitigation measures** are top 3-4/5 in shortcomings in all types of actions

# Quid proposals scoring 13.5-14.5?

## Proposals scoring between 13.5 and 14.5/15

- In Call 2024: 85 such proposals (so statistically relevant)
- Often on the threshold of (not) getting funding
- By definition: no weaknesses, only shortcomings

*What would be the most common shortcomings for these - often very well-written - proposals?*

Rank	Most common shortcomings
1	<b>Impa</b> – Business model (only in IAs incl. Flagships)
2	<b>Impa</b> – Economic viability check (only in RIAs)
3	<b>Impl</b> – Work plan (overall structure, tasks, milestones, deliverables,...)
4	<b>Impa</b> – Communication measures
5	<b>Exc</b> – ambition (going beyond the state of the art) + appropriate TRLs

*(Exc = Excellence, Impa = Impact, Impl = Implementation)*

# Conclusions & considerations

- **IAs incl. Flagships: business case and business model** are 2/5 most common weaknesses
- **Shortcomings in proposals scoring between 13.5-14.5**
  - 3/5 most common shortcomings are linked to impact...
  - ...although NOT to 'Expected outcomes in the topic text', where the most shortcomings and weaknesses are found in all proposals (!)
  - The top 2 most common shortcomings are i) economic in nature (business model and economic viability check), and ii) CBE JU-specific evaluation criteria

**CBE JU is an impact-driven programme**, and therefore has some very specific impact-related evaluation subcriteria: **business case, business model, business plan**

# Table of contents

- The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking
- Call 2025
  - Call 2025 topic overview & structure
  - CBE JU vs. Horizon Europe: similarities & differences
  - CBE specific requirements (incl. IKOP)
- Q&A
- **Proposal preparation: Lessons learnt from past calls**
- Call 2025 timing, tips & tricks and networking opportunities
- Q&A

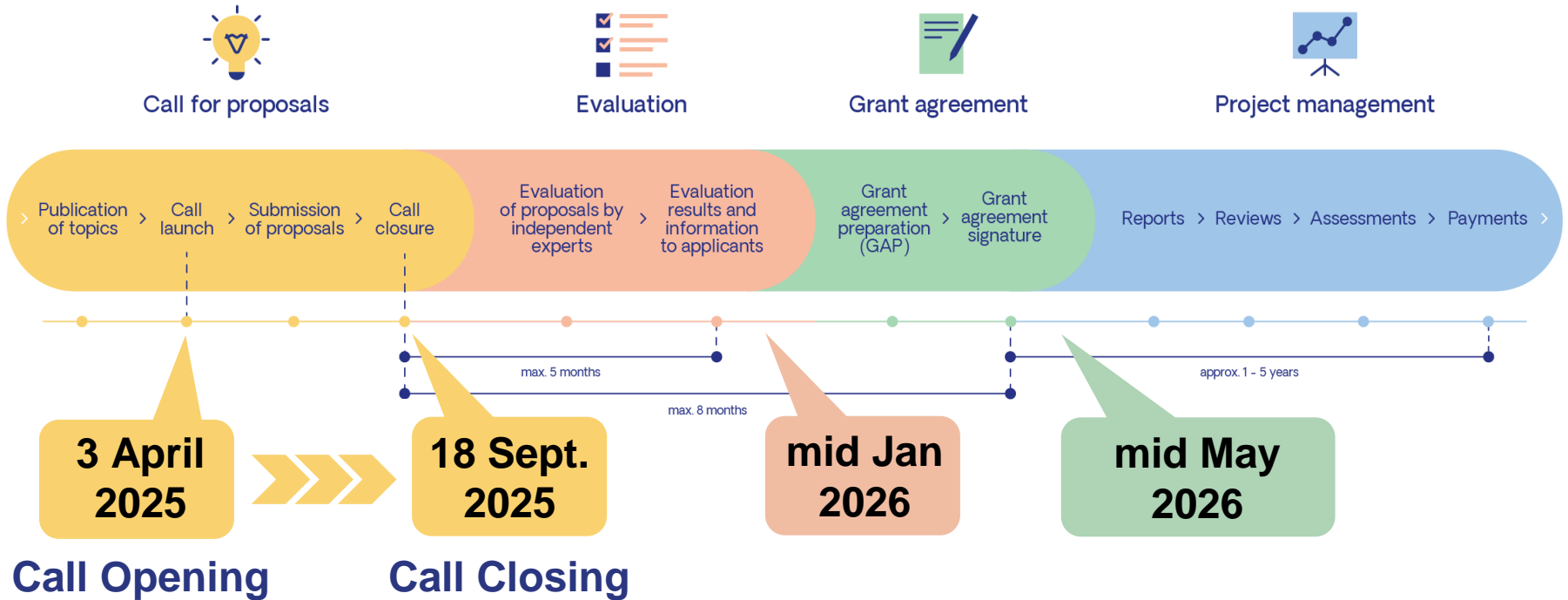
# Table of contents

- The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking
- Call 2025
  - Call 2025 topic overview & structure
  - CBE JU vs. Horizon Europe: similarities & differences
  - CBE specific requirements (incl. IKOP)
- Q&A
- Proposal preparation: Lessons learnt from past calls
- **Call 2025 timing, tips & tricks and networking opportunities**
- Q&A



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.

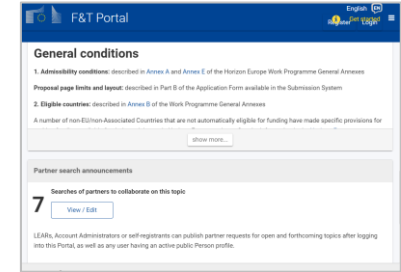


Use the **networking opportunities** offered by i) **the Funding & Tenders Portal**, ii) **CBE networking platform** and iii) **BIC member networking events**

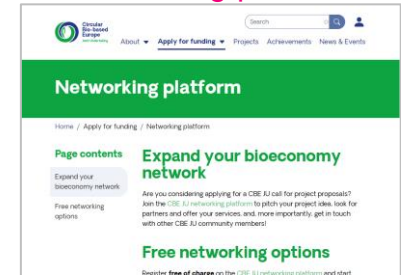
During proposal writing:

- 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.

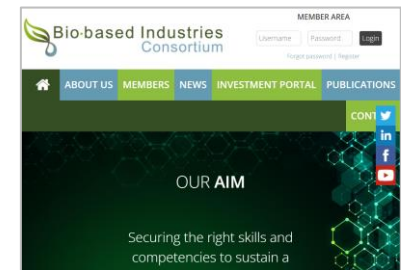
[ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal)



[cbe.europa.eu/networking-platform](https://cbe.europa.eu/networking-platform)

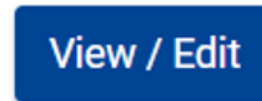
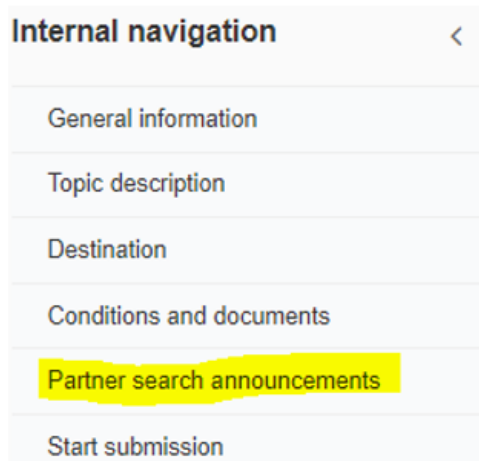


[biconsortium.eu](https://biconsortium.eu)



## Funding & Tender opportunities Portal

- ‘Partner search’ facility for each topic encoded in the Portal
- Purpose: (free) publication of publicly visible partner search requests
- Accessible via <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search>



## 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 2025, will remain open until (at least) call closure on 18 Sept 2025
- 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>

# 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



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

**320+**

**industry (full) members**

large companies and SMEs

**280+**

**associate members**

research organisations, academia and trade associations



<p><b>1 CBE JU</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>② BIC represents the private sector in a public-private partnership with the European Commission called the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking</li> </ul>	<p><b>2 Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>② Facilitating connections and providing market intelligence through activities including networking events and commissioned reports/studies</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>② Mobilising public and private finance and investors through services such as a regional funding platform and a pitching event</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 Society</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>② Increasing awareness, knowledge, acceptance and education through activities such as a student competition (BISC-E) and positive impact stories on the BIC Investment Portal</li> </ul>



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

# 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'. The 'Applying for funding' section contains a flowchart with steps: 'Find a call', 'Find partners', 'Register an organisation', and 'Submit a proposal'. The 'Evaluation & Grant signature' section contains a flowchart with steps: '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 CBE JU website homepage. At the top, there is a search bar and a navigation menu with items: 'About', 'Apply for funding', 'Projects', 'Achievements', 'News & Events', and 'Documents'. A dropdown menu is open under 'Apply for funding', listing: 'Open calls for proposals', 'How to apply for funding', 'Closed calls for proposals', 'Manage your project', and 'Networking platform'. The main banner features the text '2025 funding opportunities announced' and a circular image of a bio-based industrial facility. Below the banner, there is a text block: 'CBE JU has published its Annual Work Programme for 2025, including information about the next call for project proposals. €165 million will be dedicated to advancing competitive circular bio-based industries in Europe across 13 topics.' A 'Read more' link is visible at the bottom of the banner.

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



# CBE JU Info Day 2025

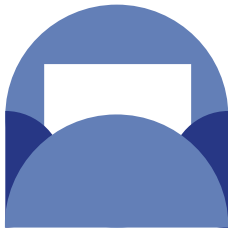


3 April, Brussels

**Register now!**

#CBEInfoDay

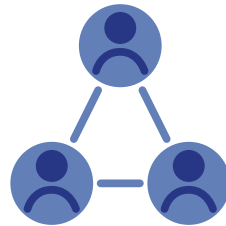
## More information



**Subscribe to  
CBE JU newsletter**



[cbe.europa.eu](https://cbe.europa.eu)



**Become a BIC  
Member**



[biconsortium.eu](https://biconsortium.eu)



**Horizon Europe Funding  
and Tender portal**



[europa.eu/!jH76RF](https://europa.eu/!jH76RF)

# Table of contents

- The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking
- Call 2025
  - Call 2025 topic overview & structure
  - CBE JU vs. Horizon Europe: similarities & differences
  - CBE specific requirements (incl. IKOP)
- Q&A
- Proposal preparation: Lessons learnt from past calls
- **Call 2025 timing, tips & tricks and networking opportunities**
- Q&A

# Table of contents

- The Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking
- Call 2025
  - Call 2025 topic overview & structure
  - CBE JU vs. Horizon Europe: similarities & differences
  - CBE specific requirements (incl. IKOP)
- Q&A
- Proposal preparation: Lessons learnt from past calls
- Call 2025 timing, tips & tricks and networking opportunities
- Q&A

