

CIRCULAR BIO-BASED EUROPE JOINT UNDERTAKING (CBE-JU)



Purpose

The CBE JU is a public-private partnership between the European Union and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC), supporting Europe's transition to a circular bio-based economy. In this context, this partnership aims to financially support projects that accelerate the processes of innovation and development of bio-based solutions, accelerate market deployment of the existing mature and innovative biobased solutions, and ensure a high level of environmental performance of bio-based industrial systems.

Possible Application Areas

- Sustainable bio-based feedstocks: to ensure their availability and quality, as well as to protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services in the supply system.
- Processing technologies in the bio-based industry: to develop innovative production systems and improve the environmental performance of processes.
- Bio-based products and applications: to develop innovative products and scale-up their production and market uptake.
- Cross-cutting issues in bio-based systems: regarding communication, finance and environmental sustainability framework.

Project Types and Funding

CBE JU is a programme based on the Horizon Europe framework programme, hosting three types of actions (projects), each with specific Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and funding rate.

- Research Innovation Actions (RIA): TRL from 3 to 5 at the end of the project. Funding rate of 100% of the project eligible costs (including 25% overhead). Funding often ranges from 3 to 5 M€ per project. Project duration is around 3-4 years.

- Innovation Actions (IA): TRL from 6 to 8 at the end of the project. Funding rate of 60% of the project eligible costs (except for non-profit legal entities, with 100%), plus 25% overhead. Funding often ranges from 5 to 10 M€ per project. Project duration is around 4-5 years.
- Innovation Actions Flagships (IA-Flagships): this is a specific type of action within the CBE JU programme, meant for large-scale first-of-its-kind (FOAK) product facility in Europe. TRL 8 at the end of the project. Funding rate same as for IA. Maximum funding often is up to 20 M€ per project. Project duration is around 4-5 years.
- Coordination and Support Actions (CSA): no link to TRL. Funding rate of 100% of the project eligible costs (including 25% overhead). Funding often ranges from 3 to 4 M€ per project. Project duration is around 2-3 years.

Who Can Apply

Any type of organisation or legal entity (e.g. universities, research institutes, industry, SMEs, NGOs) established in a Member State of the European Union and associated countries to Horizon Europe.

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The application must involve a consortium integrated by at least 3 independent legal entities, 1 of them at least being established in a Member State, and 2 of them at least being established in different Member States or Associated countries.

For IA (inc. Flagships) proposals, if organisations want that their IKOP is counted, they should be a BIC member or become one before the call closure (certificates of BIC membership should be uploaded/attached).

Deadline

Calls for the CBE JU program typically open in April, with the application deadline falling in September.

CBE JU Application

Required documentation:

- Part A: participant information data
- Part B: written application form, specific for RIA (50 pages max.), IA (incl. Flagships) (70 pages), or CSA (33 pages)
- Business plan: only needed for IA-Flagships

Application forms will have to cover the following sections:

Excellence

Objectives and ambition: clarity and pertinence on the measurable goals, with an explanation on how the project pushes boundaries beyond the State-of-the-Art.

Methodology: a high-level strategy to meet objectives, showcasing feasibility and interdisciplinarity.

Impact

Pathways: credible roadmap to achieve the expected outcomes and impact. In the case of IA, incl. Flagships, the ability to ensure the level of in-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP) needs to be specified.

Dissemination, Exploitation, and Communication: a roadmap for engaging stakeholders, spreading results, and ensuring adoption post-project to maximize impact.

Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation

Work Plan and Resources: a high-level outline of activities, tasks, key milestones, and deliverables.

Capacity of participants and consortium overview: evidencing how partners make up the best team for the project, including their expertise, roles and synergies.



CBE JU – Application Process

Nordic Innovators takes the lead in the preparation and submission of a high-quality online application and preparing the technical and financial project documentation. Our collaborative approach ensures timely delivery of a strong application for the CBE JU programme.

In addition, we also provide hourly-based services to support you on specific tasks like e.g. market research, drafting of whole documents, or review and quality control.

