CBE JU call for proposals 2024
Overview of the funding opportunities
The Circular Bio-based Europe JU

EUROPEAN UNION
Represented by European Commission
DG R&I
DG AGRI
DG GROW

Large companies
SMEs
Universities
Technology platforms
Associations
Regional clusters
Public institutions
RTOs

What is CBE?
• Joint Undertaking under Horizon Europe
• Funding Research and Innovation projects up to TRL 8 (unicum!)
• 6 annual calls for proposals, from 2022 to 2027
• Budget: € 1 billion of public funding + € 1 billion industry investment

Advisory bodies: States Representatives Group; Scientific Committee; Deployment groups

Source: CBE JU
CBE JU participation rules

• Joint undertake under HEU same rules as HEU, with some EXCEPTIONS

New features in the Horizon Europe proposal

NEW FIELDS IN PART A

- Researchers table – needed to follow up researchers careers (HE indicator)
- Role of participating organisation
- Self-declaration on gender equality plan

FIELDS MOVED FROM PART B TO PART A

- Ethics self-assessment
- Security questionnaire (NEW! in all HE proposals)
- Information on participants’ previous activities related to the call

NEW IN PART B

- Glossary of terms.
- Consistency on the use of terminology is ensured in all project phases (from WP to proposal and reporting)
- Extensive explanations on what exactly should be included in each section.
- Specific CBE questions (More info on the Additional Requirements section of the WP 2022).
- Annex: Declaration of BIC membership linked with specific evaluation sub-criteria for Innovation Actions
- Annex: description conditions for the financial support to third parties

Source: CBE JU
CBE JU – Type of actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology Readiness Level (TRL)</th>
<th>Types of action</th>
<th>RIA Research and Innovation Actions</th>
<th>IA Innovation Actions (including Flagships)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-2 years</td>
<td>1-3 M€</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-4 years</td>
<td>7-10 M€</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>4-5 years</td>
<td>20+ M€</td>
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<td>9</td>
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</table>

Source: CBE JU

- **Development and validation of technologies**: 2-3 years, 3-5 M€
- **Scale up and demonstration of technologies**: 3-4 years, 7-10 M€
- **Large-scale first-of-its-kind product facility in Europe**: 4-5 years, 20+ M€

**RIA (Research and Innovation Actions)“Demo”**
- **3-5 M€**
- **3-4 years**

**RIA (Research and Innovation Actions)“Flagship”**
- **7-10 M€**
- **3-4 years**
- **20+ M€**
- **4-5 years**

**CSA: Coordination and Support Actions (no link with TRLs)**
- **1-2 years**
- **1-3 M€**
Who can join?

• In principle, **everybody**! Companies, universities, research centres...

• Entities from Member States, Associated Countries and some low- and medium-income Third Countries are entitled to receive funding

• Entities from other Third Countries do not receive funding from the EU, but may receive it from their national bodies

• As of 2024, the UK is (again) associated to Horizon Europe

• List of Participating countries: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

• In RIA and IA, including IAFlag, there is a **minimum requirement of at least 3 entities from 3 nations** (at least 1 of which must be a EU Member State)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of action</th>
<th>IA–Flagship</th>
<th>Topics HORIZON-JU-CBE-2024</th>
<th>Million EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IAFlag-01</td>
<td>Bio-based value chains for valorisation of sustainable oil crops</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFlag-02</td>
<td>Bio-based dedicated platform chemicals via cost-effective, sustainable and resource-efficient conversion of biomass</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFlag-03</td>
<td>Bio-based value chains for valorisation of sustainable natural fibre feedstock</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>IA-01</td>
<td>Bio-based materials and products for biodegradable in soil applications</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>IA-02</td>
<td>Sustainable microalgae as feedstock for innovative, added-value applications</td>
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<td>IA-04</td>
<td>Circular and SSbD bio-based construction &amp; building materials with functional properties</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>IA-05</td>
<td>Selective and sustainable (co)-production of lignin-derived aromatics</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>IA-06</td>
<td>Innovative bio-based adhesives and binders for circular products meeting market requirements</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>IA-07</td>
<td>Innovative conversion of biogenic gaseous carbon into bio-based chemicals, ingredients, materials</td>
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<td>RIA</td>
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<td>S-02</td>
<td>Mobilise inclusive participation in bio-based systems and supporting the CBE JU widening strategy and its action plan</td>
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<td>S-03</td>
<td>Supporting the CBE JU Deployment Group on Primary Producers</td>
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## CBE 2024 topics - FLAGSHIP

<table>
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<tr>
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- One project funded per topic, going all the way to industrial scale (TRL 8)
- Typically, 4 to 8 proposals per topic
- Funding only covering the “innovation core”, overall investment usually much higher

- IAF-01: important role of agri. Biorefinery can be based on new/upcoming or established oil crops, provided their cultivation has environmental, climate benefits
- IAF-02: dedicated platform chemicals = those not having an identical fossil-based counterpart on the market
- IAF-03: both fibre crops and wood-based fibres in scope. Modification of fibrous feedstock is in scope too (i.e. modified cellulose is in scope). Synthetic fibres such as PE, PP, PET etc are not in scope
All IAFlag topics

- Funding: **20 M€**. Funding rate: **60%** for companies, **100%** for non-profit entities
- At least **20% of eligible costs must be IKOP** = eligible costs not covered by the grant coming from BIC industry (full) members
  - Companies who are not yet BIC members and want to contribute IKOP should **become a BIC member**. “Programme” membership is free and temporary. If the proposal is successful, the company automatically becomes a full BIC industry member.
  - Info and application: [https://biconsortium.eu/membership](https://biconsortium.eu/membership)
- End **TRL 8** for the main stream of activities
  - Parallel activities at lower TRL are allowed to e.g. pave the way to next gen
- **Multi-actor approach**: see topic for specific actors to be involves
- **Links and complementarities** to previous / ongoing projects: see topic for specific projects
- Projects *may consider* opening facilities to researchers, SMEs for visiting, training or testing
- **Contribution to CBE specific requirements**: see topic for specific details
- **Business model and business plan** including replication potential
- **Environmental impact and SSbD assessment**
# CBE 2024 topics – Innovation Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of action</th>
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<td></td>
<td>IA-02 Sustainable <strong>microalgae</strong> as feedstock for innovative, added-value applications</td>
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<td>IA-07 Innovative <strong>conversion of biogenic gaseous carbon</strong> into bio-based chemicals, ingredients, materials</td>
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- Two projects funded per topic
- Should reach demo scale (TRL 6-7) during the project as a stepping stone towards full industrial scale

- IA-01: e.g. agri (mulch films, tarps) but also geotextiles, geomembranes. Must be biodegradable, can also be recyclable
- IA-02: make microalgae-based products cost-competitive to break through non-niche markets
- IA-03: solve toxicity, env. sustainability issues of solvents with smart drop-ins or alternative molecules
- IA-04: products with tailored functional properties for large-scale applications in construction and renovation of buildings
- IA-05: yield and selectivity of the process are key features
- IA-06: safer and more sustainable adhesives and binders must meet performance, cost requirements
- IA-07: direct conversion of CO₂, CO, CH₄ from bio-based operations
All IA topics

- Funding: **7.5 M€**. Funding rate: **60%** for companies, **100%** for non-profit entities
- At least **15% of eligible costs must be IKOP** = eligible costs not covered by the grant coming from BIC industry (full) members
  - Companies who are not yet BIC members and want to contribute IKOP should **become a BIC member**. “Programme” membership is free and temporary. If the proposal is successful, the company automatically becomes a full BIC industry member. Info and application: [https://biconsortium.eu/membership](https://biconsortium.eu/membership)
- End **TRL 6-7** for the main stream of activities
  - Parallel activities at lower TRL are allowed to e.g. pave the way to next gen
- **Multi-actor approach**: see topic for specific actors to be involves
- **Links and complementarities** to previous / ongoing projects: see topic for specific projects
- **Contribution to CBE specific requirements**: see topic for specific details
- **Business model** including potential for upscaling
- **Environmental impact and SSbD assessment**
CBE 2024 topics - RIA

<table>
<thead>
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<td>Innovative bio-based food/feed ingredients</td>
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</table>

- Two projects funded per topic
- Breakthrough innovation at lab or small pilot scale (end TRL 4-5)

- R-01: decontamination is key to allow safe and high yielding conversion
- R-02: in non-food markets such as cosmetics, textile, leather, chemical and material production. Co-production of food/feed is in scope in a cascading approach
- R-03: it is about crop protection (pesticides, herbicides etc.). Fertilisers and biostimulants are out scope as such, but formulations working in synergy are allowed.
- R-04: safer and more sustainable coatings must meet performance, cost requirements
- R-05: many projects on proteins already, so proposals should focus on other functions than the bulk nutritional function. That being said, formulations involving proteins working in synergy are in scope
All RIA topics

- **Funding**: 3.5 – 5 M€ per project. Funding rate: 100% for all participants
- **End TRL 4-5**
- **Multi-actor approach**: not mandatory unless specified in the topic
- **Links and complementarities** to previous / ongoing projects: see topic for specific projects
- **Contribution to CBE specific requirements**: see topic for specific details
- **Economic viability assessment** showing promise when upscaled
- **Environmental impact assessment** (based on preliminary data)
- **SSbD assessment** only when specified
### CBE 2024 topics - CSA

<table>
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<td>CSA</td>
<td>S-01 New forms of cooperation in agriculture and the forest-based sector</td>
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</table>

Total 213

- One project funded per topic
- S-01: field demonstration of improved cooperation models, not just a theoretical exercise
- S-02: increase participation of stakeholders from widening countries (Central-Eastern Europe, some Southern European countries) to bridge the gap versus North and Western players
- S-03: manage and steer the activities of the DEG of primary producers
All CSA topics

- Funding: **3 – 4 M€ per project.** Funding rate: **100%** for all participants. NB: 2025 is exceptional, budget is usually lower.
- Not related to TRL
- **Multi-actor approach:** not mandatory unless specified in the topic
- **Links and complementarities** to previous / ongoing projects: see topic for specific projects
- **Contribution to CBE specific requirements:** see topic for specific details
Official sources of information

Proposal submission and manuals


Topic text and FAQs

https://www.cbe.europa.eu/open-calls-proposals
The Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)

The only industry-led European bioeconomy association pioneering investment and creating synergies for a sustainable European circular bioeconomy.
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.

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.
BIC Industry members

65 Large companies

125 SMEs of which 41 microenterprises

15 Clusters representing 108 SMEs
CBE JU – BIC’s role

Advancing competitive, sustainable circular bio-based industries in Europe

- Public-private partnership
- Formulate the Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda (SRIA) with the EC
- Develop with EC the Annual Work Programmes
- Play an active role in CBE governance
- Cooperate with CBE JU advisory bodies and Programme Office
Each Industry Member has a seat in the **Programming Working Group**. The PWG:

- Provides initial input about priorities for the CBE AWPs (short term and medium-long term)
- Gives mandate to BIC staff to discuss the AWP with the EC
- Contributes with topic-specific input in the framework of AWP preparation
- Each Associate Member has a seat in the **Associate Members Working Group**. The AMWG:
- Provides initial input about priorities for the CBE AWPs (short term and medium-long term)
- Contributes with topic-specific input in the framework of AWP preparation
- The PWG meets regularly (3-4 times a year), usually in Brussels. The AMWG usually meets online.
- Every calendar year is dedicated to the formulation of the AWP for the following year.
Networking and matchmaking events (BIC members only)

BIC Annual matchmaking event
8 February 2024
~ 300 participants from industry and university/research
Keynote speeches
Thematic workshops on topics
Pitches of proposal concepts
Over 800 one-to-one meetings

Matchmaking continues on the online platform!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6XX6RXo8xI
Every quarter, one pitching webinar for all new members to introduce themselves
Digital library and commissioned studies

EU bioeconomy studies

BIC country reports

Biowaste study

https://biconsortium.eu/knowledge-hub
Open Innovation Competition (BIC members only)

- Large company
- SMEs
- Startups
- Research centres
- Universities

Challenge:
- Solution
- Pitch

Reward:
- 5 k€ for R&I project
- 5 k€ for Business opportunity

Bio-based Industries Consortium
Identifying new bio-based opportunities

With the idea of introducing BIC members to lesser-known sustainable feedstock and resources, BIC organised a three-part webinar focusing on marine and aquatic biomass (M&A). We explained what M&A biomass is and how it can be part of the solutions to major challenges. The webinars demonstrated current and emerging uses of M&A-based products in different high-value applications ranging from food and feed to bioplastics, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics.

Helping members to access finance is a top priority for BIC. This need is paramount, with funding gaps often appearing in projects scaling up from pilot to demonstration plants, and moving from demonstration to flagship/first-of-a-kind (FOAK) and industrial-scale projects.

We organised a webinar which included a presentation on the opportunities of the European Circular Bioeconomy Fund (ECBF), a dedicated fund investing in growth-stage companies in the European bioeconomy. MPowerBio were there to talk about bringing SMEs across the financial valley of death.

WATCH THE COVERAGE OF BIC'S MARINE & AQUATIC WEBINAR

WATCH THE WEBINAR
Connection with investors (open to all)

SMEs and startups seeking strategic funding and partnerships for the growth and deployment of their technologies and production processes in circular and bio-based economy. See the April 2024 list [here](#).

### 2024 Events:
- **April 2024** Ghent, Belgium
- **November 2024**, Wuppertal, Germany

#### 2023 - Investment Event Programmes - 2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Each Event:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40+ selected companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>40+ investors &amp; corporate partners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pitching + Meetings</td>
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</table>

*Meet the top 30-36 game-changers in Circular Economy, seeking deployment and growth as well as investments, financing and partnerships*
BIC bioeconomy regions platform

Digital partnering platform based on profiles

Bioeconomy strategy
Currently, the region is implementing the BIC strategy. Accessing the following link http://www.admonedigital/industrial/index.php?page=1621-Home-the-2014-2020-corporate-strategy-you-can-find-more-information-about-BIC-strategy

Financial incentives available for bio-based investment:
- 10% of turnover tax for companies not exceeding EUR 1 million turnover for the most 5 years. Reduction of 10% for digital enterprises
- Depreciation of R&D equipment, salaries for R&D personnel - 50% of these expenses can be deducted from the taxable income. R&D tax incentive for employees digitally oriented - Bachelor’s degree in one of the 14 technical specializations available
- The European Union Research and Innovation Program: European Social Fund. Annual revenue per employee must be over USD 10,000. Either 3% profit tax for the investments in new technologies equipment used for business purposes. The company benefits from an exemption on the income tax for reinvestment. It will not benefit from accelerated depreciation (STATE AID - CS 3077/2014). The State Aid Scheme 007/2014 has a budget of EUR 1 million for the 2014-2020 period. It aims at: supporting major INVESTMENT COSTS • Construction of new buildings • Existing cost for existing buildings • Investment in new equipment - EUR 1 million investment. To be viable and determine the operational efficiency of the company - To prove the stimulating effect of the methodology - To generate contributions to regional development • To facilitate extra investments in the region EU BUDGET CRITERIA - Financial profitability for existing companies • EU • Quality for new companies. EU REGIONS

Types of Industry sectors interested in attracting investment from:
- Agriculture & agri-food
- Bioeconomy
- Biotechnology & chemicals
- Entrepreneurship & paper
- Technology providers

Market sectors interested in:
- Automotive, Agri-Feed, R&D, Tourism, Manufacture, Wood processing (Sawmills, limited)
How the bio-based industries can contribute to a circular economy in Europe

As part of the BIC public affairs work, we engaged with the European Commission on the so-called Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) and which was published 30 November.

The bio-based sector contributes to the EU’s ambition towards a circular and carbon neutral economy by bringing reusable and recyclable packaging on the market.

In general, BIC believes the PPWR provides a framework to grow the bio-based industry in Europe and it should explicitly recognise the benefits of using recyclable and renewable feedstock in packaging solutions. There is no one-size-fits-all solution in the field of circular packaging. BIC believes that the PPWR should recognise there is a clear need for different types of packaging and the packaging materials should be chosen to fit the purpose.

BIC welcomes the inclusion of sustainably sourced bio-based carbon to replace fossil carbon in the EU Communication on sustainable carbon cycles. The EU bioeconomy is contributing towards sustainable carbon cycles. Carbon removal certification can better demonstrate that contribution. The bio-based sector is instrumental to the EU’s ambition of sustainable carbon cycles and climate mitigation by reducing atmospheric carbon and generating circular bio-based loops.

The war in Ukraine has had myriad economic effects in Europe, effects which have hit supply chains particularly hard. However, it has spurred the bloc on in efforts to become more self-sufficient and innovative. BIC believe that the bio-based industry can play a larger role in these efforts as BIC’s Marco Rupp explained in a blog post in Agro & Chemistry.

BIC is a member of the European Bioeconomy Alliance and the group produced a report outlining how the bioeconomy can contribute to European Green Deal objectives and ensuring food security.

READ THE BLOG POST
19 countries involved in 2023

The winning student team gets 5000 € and one year of complimentary BIC membership as an industry member.
The bioeconomy is part of the solution to master the green transition

The bioeconomy has a much greater economic potential than the current share of the EU economy. New materials and products with unique properties can create new markets and growth opportunities. The bioeconomy can also contribute to other societal objectives, in particular to climate and environmental objectives by 2050. The circular bioeconomy is part of the solution, it can power a climate-neutral, sustainable, resilient and competitive Europe.

But this cannot happen by itself.

EU policymakers must take action to realise the full potential of the circular bioeconomy to reach the EU's environmental, economic and social goals.

Europe must build on the strength of its bioeconomy. With a turnover EUR 2.5 billion (of which ca. 30% is in the bio-based industries), the sector provides employment to nearly 18 million people. The bioeconomy, with biorefineries at its core, supplies bio-based products which are largely sourced, manufactured, used and recycled in Europe. The science is excellent across academia and universities. Thousands of European companies are active and at the forefront of bio-based innovation.
Why join BIC

1. **CBE JU**
   - Join peers in bio-based industries to create a critical mass for priorities/topics in CBE
   - Get access to CBE working documents in advance
   - Find potential partners in proposals: feedstock suppliers, technology providers, end users

2. **Business**
   - Access our network of 240+ industries and 200+ research institutes across EU and beyond
   - Participate to BIC events (physical and online)
   - Gain insight and information from studies and webinars
   - Submit your challenges for the open innovation competition

3. **Finance**
   - Seek cooperation with ECBF, EIB and major private and public funding sources
   - Scout startups and high-tech SMEs for your own corporate capital investment
   - Access regional funds from 50+ regions across EU

4. **Society**
   - Benefit from BIC’s communication and outreach campaigns
   - Join the PA working group for advocacy
   - Strengthen cooperation with universities across EU (joint PhD, MSCA) to attract new talents

Read about what we did for our members and Europe’s bio-based industries in 2023
Thank you!

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