



**Circular
Bio-based
Europe**
Joint Undertaking

How to write a good CBE JU proposal?

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7 June 2022



In addition to having an excellent idea for a CBE JU project, you'll need to...

**Address
ALL topic
requirements
+
CBE JU additional
requirements**

+

**Understand well
the evaluation
criteria
(including
novelties of
Horizon Europe)**

+

**Be clear and
convincing!**

Understand the CBE JU
specifics:
the additional requirements

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CBE JU additional requirements...

- aim at ensuring that all funded projects will achieve:
 - high standards of sustainability, environmental protection, technoeconomic feasibility
 - participation of all relevant actors,
 - synergies with other projects
 - Etc....
- are included in a specific section of the AWP2022, and are common to all topics
- should be addressed by ALL proposals (as specified per type of action), in addition to the topic-specific requirements

Additional requirements: summary table

Additional requirement	Type of action	Where to include it in Part B
Complementarity and synergies with other projects	All	1.1 Objectives and ambition
Feedstock sourcing (eligibility)	RIAs and IAs, including Flagships	Structured question/declaration(Y/N) in the introduction
Feedstock: Environmental requirements (a,b,c,d)	RIAs and IAs, including Flagships	Structured question/declaration (Y/N) in the introduction
DNSH principle	RIAs and IAs, including Flagships	1.2. Methodology
Ex-ante assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identification of environmental issues • estimation of environmental sustainability performance, • estimation of carbon removal 	RIAs and IAs, including Flagships	1.1 Objectives and ambition and 1.2. Methodology
Ex-post Assessment of environmental sustainability and circularity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated task • Dedicated WP 	RIA IAs, including Flagships	3.1 Work plan and resources
Economic viability Business case Business plan	RIA IAs, including Flagships Flagships	2.1 Project's pathways towards impact Annex (Business plan)
Multi-actor approach	All IAs, including Flagships RIAs when specified	1.2 Methodology

Complementarity and synergies with other projects

Proposals **should build on and seek complementarity and demonstrate synergies with finalised or ongoing projects** funded under Horizon 2020 (including the BBI JU programme) and Horizon Europe or other funding schemes, either European or national, with the aim to avoid overlap and promote synergies to advance beyond the state of the art.

ATTENTION! : The proposals should reflect awareness of the running/finalised projects in relevant fields to avoid overlap.

Feedstock sourcing (eligibility criterion)

Proposals shall confirm that:

- in case they foreseen industrial operations located in **EU/EEA/EFTA countries**, the **bio-based feedstock comes from such countries**
- in case they foreseen industrial operations located in an **Associated Country**, the **bio-based feedstock comes from the same country or from neighbouring EU/EEA/EFTA countries**

EFTA: European Free Trade Association: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland

EEA: 27 EU countries, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway

Associated countries to Horizon Europe: see https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

Bio-based feedstock may include bio-waste from imported products. A non-exhaustive list of bio-based feedstock in the scope of CBE is included in Annex V of SRIA.

Environmental sustainability requirements: Feedstock

Proposals should demonstrate that the feedstock is produced **respecting local ecological limits** and considering protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystems services. As much as possible, the feedstock should come from **short supply chains**.

In addition, proposals will comply with the following:

a) Climate change mitigation:

- will not impact 'Land with high carbon stock'
- will have low/zero ILUC.

b) Biodiversity protection:

- will not use high-risk Plant Production Products (PPPs)
- will not include harvesting impacting on biodiversity in forests
- will not introduce invasive species
- will not impact land with high biodiversity and marine protected areas.

c) Zero pollution ambition (air/water/soil):

- will avoid open air burning of stubble/crop residues
- will use pesticides and fertilisers within the limits set by the organic farming framework
- will not spread manure in forestry.

d) Water resources protection:

- will not deplete surface or groundwater resources beyond replenishment capacities.

Environmental sustainability requirements: 'Do No Significant Harm' (DNSH) principle

'Do No Significant Harm' (DNSH) principle: demonstrate that their project, if funded, will not carry out activities that make a significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives listed in Article 9 of the EU Taxonomy Regulation



The DNSH principle will be taken into account when assessing the methodology of the project

Environmental sustainability requirements: at proposal stage

In addition, as part of the proposal the following should be included:

- an **identification of the environmental critical issues** early on and the explanation on how the projects will steer the development process in the right direction
- an **ex-ante estimation of the environmental sustainability performance** (including climate neutrality and zero pollution) and circularity of the proposed processes/products, compared to benchmark(s) selected by the consortium and described in the proposal.
- a **preliminary assessment of the carbon removal** (i.e., CCU and/or CCS) **potential**, if applicable.

ATTENTION ! The **benchmark(s)** should be based on the **best performing processes/products** and **should be duly justified in the proposal**. The proposal should demonstrate improvements of environmental performances compared to the selected benchmark(s).

Environmental sustainability requirements : as part of the project

Proposals should include an **ex-post assessment** of the **environmental sustainability and circularity** of all the products and processes developed and of their improvements compared with benchmark(s).

RIAs	a dedicated task to use the early stage data to assess the potential improvements of the environmental performances of processes/products developed in the project
IAs	a dedicated work package or task to assess ex-post the environmental impacts and circularity of the products or processes developed, using life-cycle assessment (LCA) methodologies
Flagship	a dedicated work package or task for full assessment of the environmental impacts and circularity of the developed products or processes, using life-cycle-sustainability assessment (LCSA) methodologies

All IAs, including Flagship: should ensure **the publication of the outputs of LCA of environmental impacts** following the principles of open science (FAIR data) and using the possibilities offered by the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) to store and give access to research data.

ATTENTION! LCA and LCSA methodologies should be based on widely used standards and certifications, and they should make use of accepted and validated approaches.

Business cases, Business models and Business plan*

RIAs	Proposals should include a check of the economic viability of the products and processes to be developed (including an analysis of the value chain and potential market for the envisaged products).
IAs, including Flagship	Proposals should be based on a sound business case and should present their business case together with the specifications of an inclusive business model , covering all actors of the value chain (from feedstock providers through to the final sellers).
Flagship	Proposals should include a preliminary business plan in a separate Annex .

ATTENTION ! Definitions are provided in the AWP2022 Glossary

*Type of Actions: All IAs, including Flagships + RIAs
when explicitly mentioned in the topic text*

The Multi-actor approach

OBJECTIVE:

ensuring the genuine and sufficient involvement of all relevant actors which serves the objectives of the topic and cover all the value chain **from the bio-based feedstock suppliers to the (end-) users.**

The **actors to be involved**

- depends on the objective of the topic and of the proposal.
- may include farmers / farmers' groups, foresters / foresters' groups, aquaculture producers, fishermen / fishermen's groups, advisors, technology suppliers and developers, businesses, brand-owners, consumer associations, local communities, citizens, civil society organisations including NGOs, government representatives, etc.

The evaluation criteria

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CBE JU follows the **same three criteria as in Horizon Europe:**

Excellence, **Impact** and **Quality and efficiency of the implementation**'

... with an additional specific CBE Impact sub-criteria for Innovation Actions:

Ability to ensure the level of in-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP) defined in the call/topic as % of total projects eligible costs (IAs 15% and IA-Flagship 20%)

RIAs and IAs

- ✓ Clarity and pertinence of the **project's objectives**, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state-of-the-art.
- ✓ Soundness of the proposed **methodology**, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.

CSAs

- ✓ Clarity and pertinence of the **project's objectives**.
- ✓ Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures, including soundness of **methodology**.

Key Questions for the evaluation



The objectives...

- Are they **clear and pertinent** to the topic?
- Are they **measurable and verifiable**?
- Are they realistically achievable?
- Is the **R&I maturity** of the proposed work in line with the topic description?
- Is the proposed work ambitious and goes **beyond the state-of-the-art**?
- Does the proposal include ground-breaking R&I, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models?
- (CBE) Are complementarities and synergies with ongoing relevant projects discussed?

The methodology...

- Is the scientific methodology (i.e. the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin the work) **clear and sound**?
- Is it clear how expertise and methods from different disciplines will be brought together and integrated in pursuit of the objectives? if applicants justify that an **inter-disciplinary approach** is unnecessary, is it credible?
- Has the **gender dimension** in research and innovation content been properly taken into account?
- Are **open science** practices implemented as an integral part of the proposed methodology?
- Is the research data management properly addressed?
- (CBE) Is the Multi-actor approach well considered?
- (CBE) Is the DNSH principle observed?

RIAs, IAs, CSAs

- ✓ **Credibility of the pathways** to achieve the **expected outcomes** and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.
- ✓ Suitability and quality of the **measures to maximize expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

CBE JU specific, for IAs:

- ✓ Ability to ensure the level of **in-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP)** defined in the call/topic as % of total projects eligible costs (IAs 15% and IA-Flagship 20%)

Key Questions for the evaluation



The proposed pathways towards impact...

- **Is the contribution** of the project towards the 1) expected outcomes of the topic and 2) the wider impacts, in the longer term, **credible**?
- Are **potential barriers to the expected outcomes** and impacts identified and **mitigation measures proposed**? Is any potential negative environmental outcome or impact identified? Is the management of the potential negative impacts properly described?
- Are the **scale and significance of the project's contribution to the expected outcomes and impacts estimated and quantified** (including baselines, benchmarks and assumptions used for those estimates)?
- (CBE) Are the economic viability (RIAs), business cases and business models (Ias, including Flagships) and business plan (Flagships) convincing?
- (CBE) Are the requested IKOP provided?

The measures to maximise the impact (dissemination, exploitation, communication)

- Are the proposed dissemination, exploitation and communication measures **suitable for the project and of good quality**? All measures should be proportionate to the scale of the project, and should contain concrete actions to be implemented both during and after the end of the project.
- Are the **target groups** (e.g. scientific community, end users, financial actors, public at large) for **these measures identified**?
- Is the **strategy for the management of intellectual property** properly outlined and suitable to support exploitation of results?

CRITERIA: QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

RIAs, IAs, CSAs

- ✓ Quality and effectiveness of the **work plan**, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.
- ✓ Capacity and role of each **participant**, and extent to which the **consortium** as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

CRITERIA: QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION



Key Questions for the evaluation

The workplan, effort and resources...

- Is the work plan of **good quality and effective**?
- Does it include quantified information so that progress can be monitored?
- Does it follow a **logic structure** (for example regarding the timing of work packages)?
- Are the **resources allocated to the work packages in line with their objectives** and deliverables?
- **Are critical risks**, relating to project implementation, identified and proper risk mitigation measures proposed?
- (CBE) Does the work plan include a dedicated task (RIAs) or WP (IAs including Flagships) for the ex-post Assessment of environmental sustainability and circularity (LCA, LSCA)?

The participants and the consortium as a whole...

- Does the consortium match the project's objectives, and bring together the **necessary disciplinary and inter-disciplinary knowledge**?
- Does the consortium include expertise in open science practices, and **gender aspects** of R&I, as appropriate?
- Do the partners have access to **critical infrastructure** needed to carry out the project activities?
- Are the **participants complementing one another** (and cover the value chain, where appropriate)
- In what way does each of them contribute to the project? Does each of them **have a valid role**, and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role (so they have sufficient operational capacity)?
- Is there **industrial/commercial involvement** in the project to ensure exploitation of the results?

A good and convincing
CBE JU proposal

3

Key principles



- 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 scientific methodology must take into account interdisciplinary, gender dimension and open science practices



- 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 the dissemination and exploitation including communication activities')



- Demonstrate the quality of the work plan, resources and participants

Recommendations and take away messages

- Every word in the topic text and additional requirements counts: **make sure you address clearly all the requirements in the proposal**
- Check the **Glossary** in the AWP2022 for definitions of specific terms used in the topic text
- Ensure that experts can find easily all the necessary information to assess the proposal against the evaluation criteria
- **Know your “audience”**: you’re not writing for the general public, but for experts evaluators in your field
- Set **ambitious and credible** targets
- **Quantify your objectives**, and provide means for verification
- Use **appropriate methodologies** and justify your claims
- Set **clear and valid baselines** and references to show the improvement your concept, technology or product is providing in relation to existing alternatives
- Read the **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** for a good understanding of the context and long-term objectives of CBE JU

Thank you for your attention!



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