



**Circular
Bio-based
Europe**
Joint Undertaking

CBE JU 2026 call: Submission and evaluation

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12 March 2026

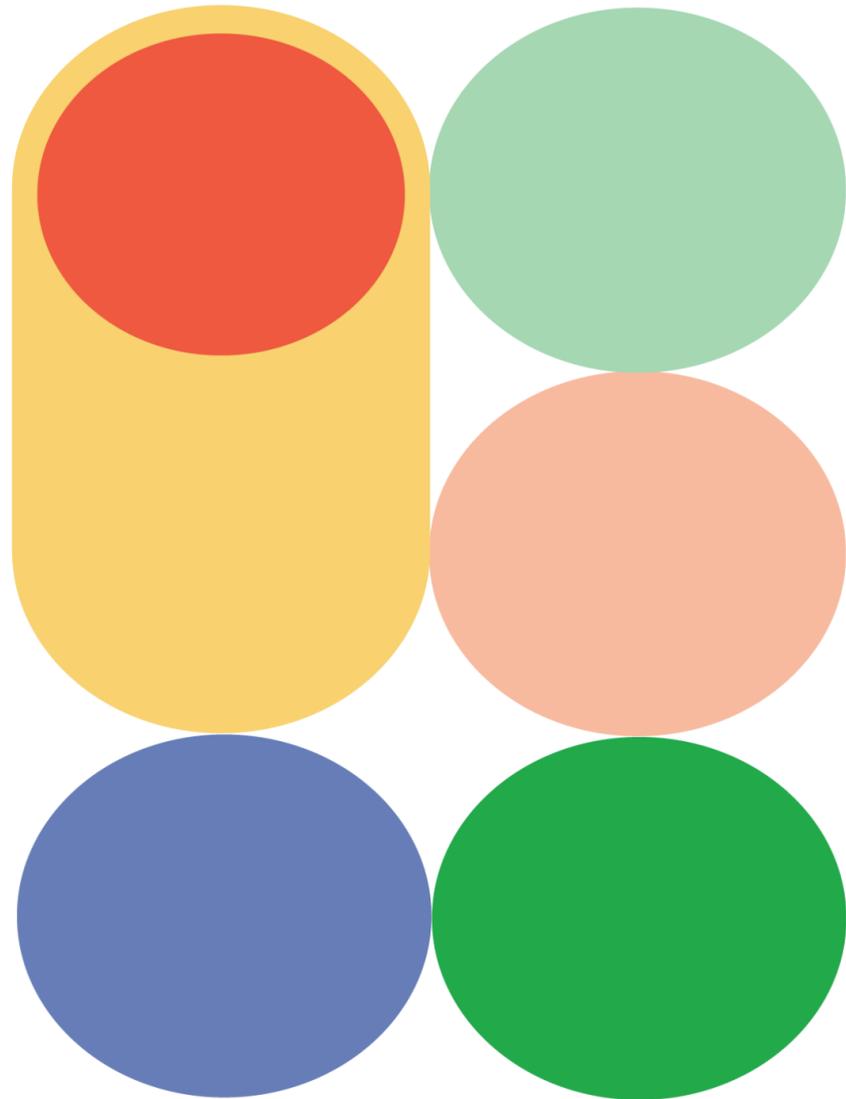
 **Bio-based Industries
Consortium**



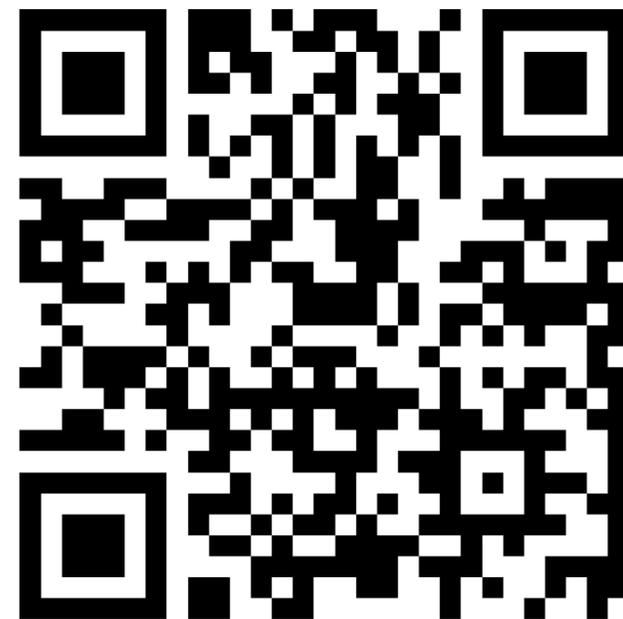
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SLIDO QR code



CBE JU Info Day 2026



Join the
conversation
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CBE JU 2026 call: timeline

Proposal submission



Call for proposals



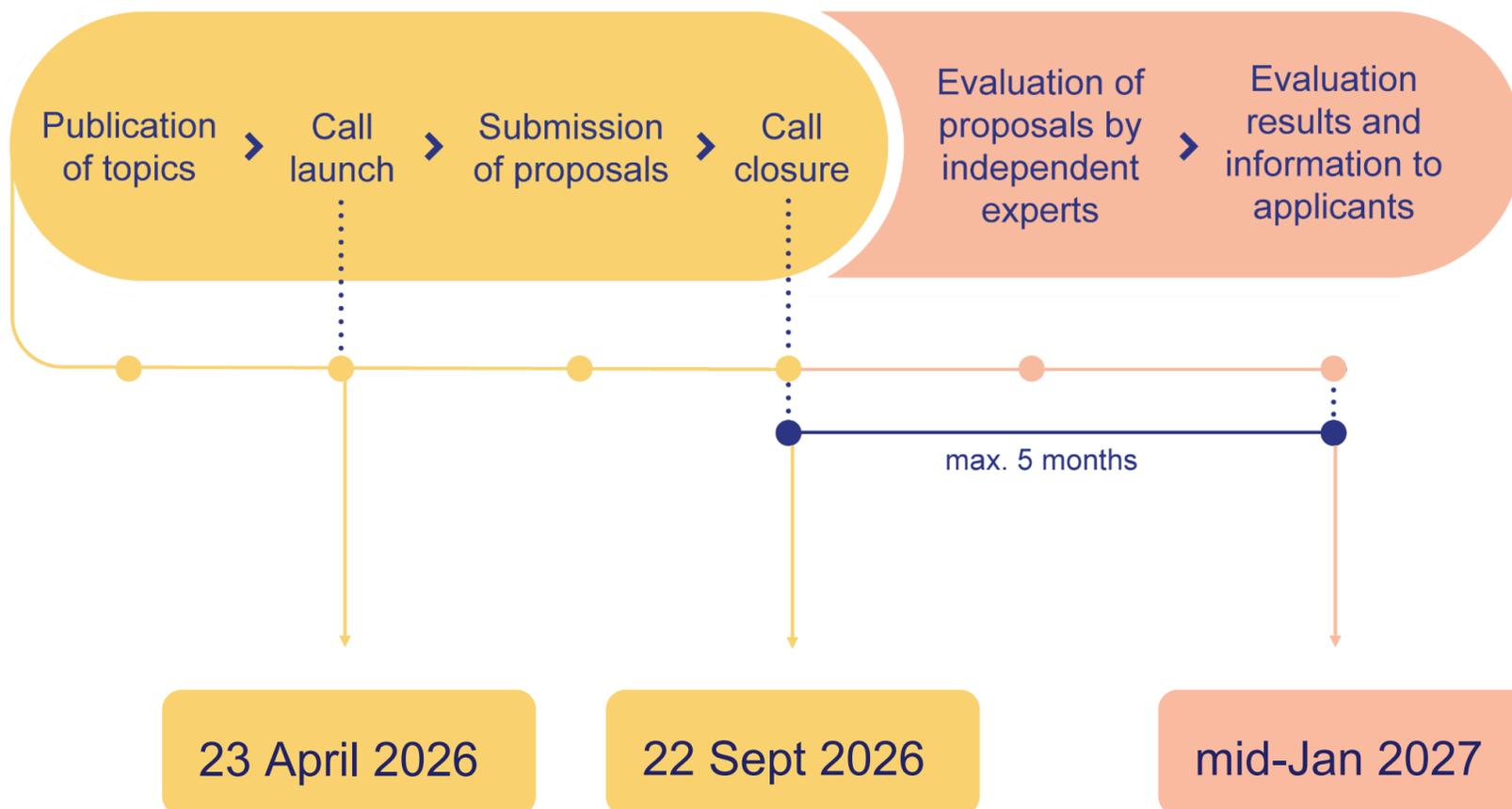
Proposal evaluation



Call for proposals



Evaluation



Grant agreement & project start



Call for proposals



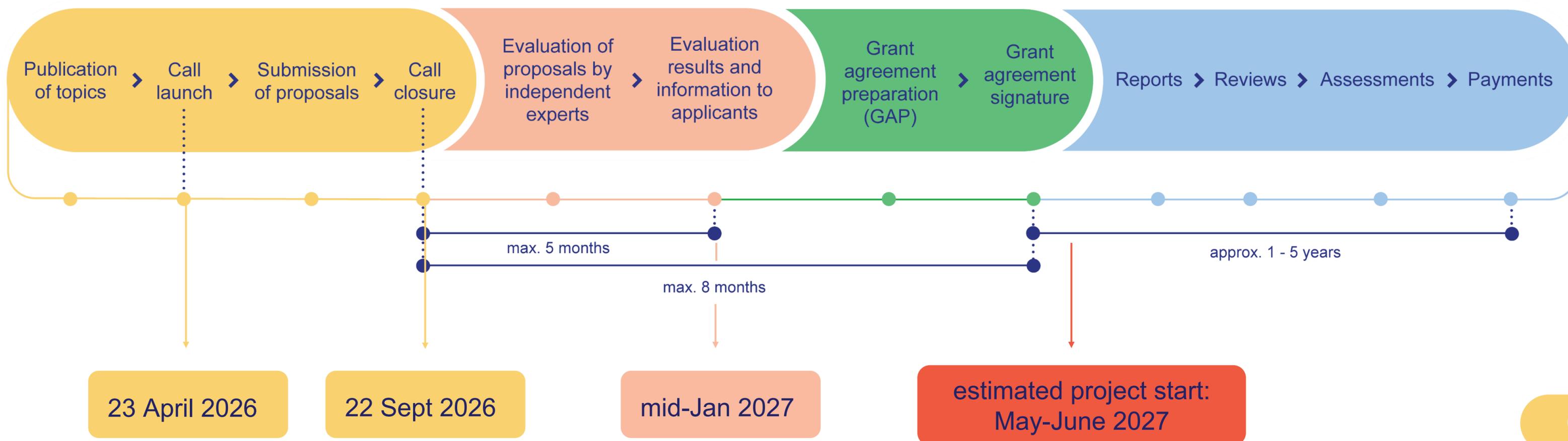
Evaluation



Grant agreement



Project management



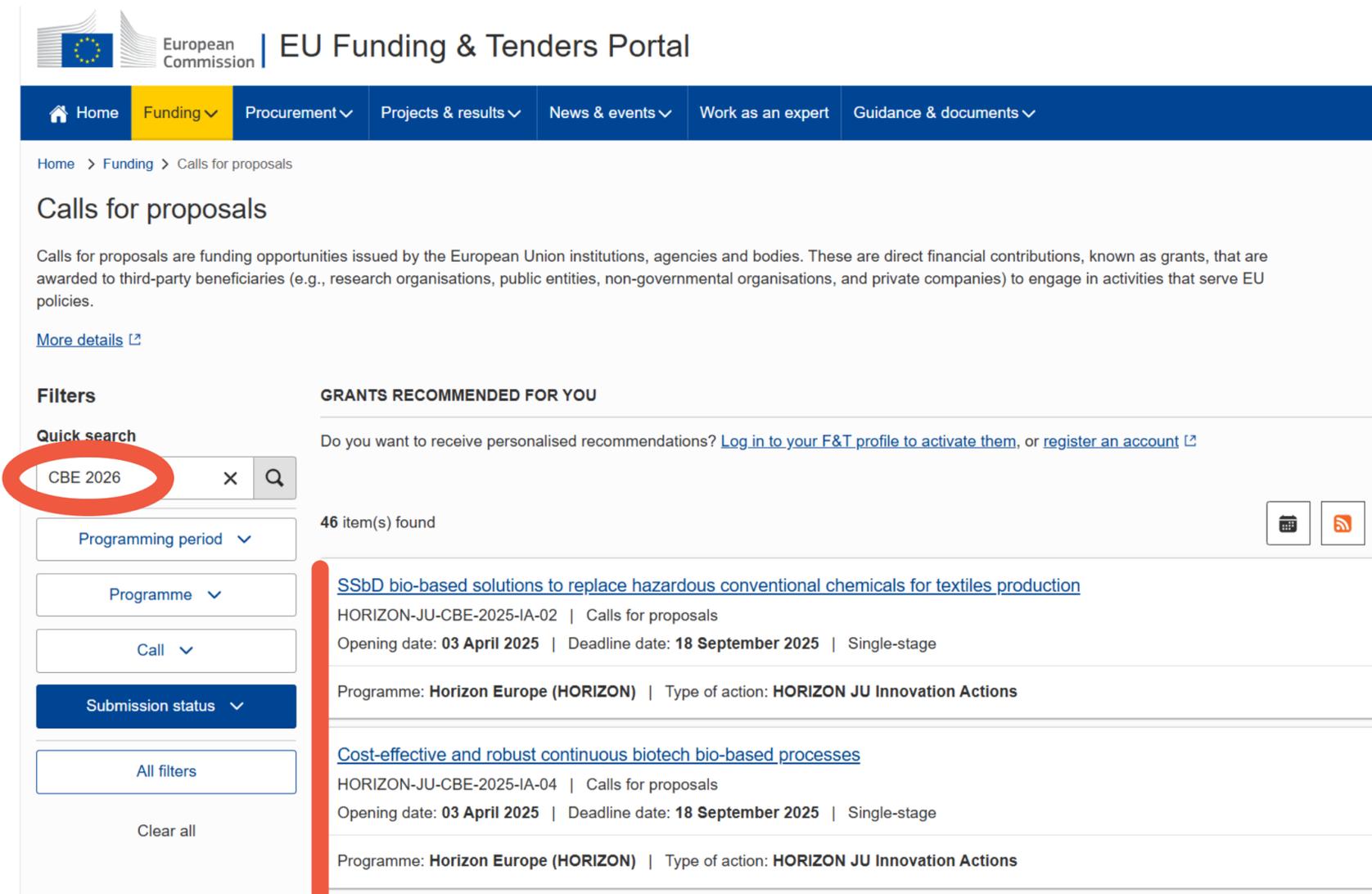
CBE JU 2026 call: proposal submission

Submission: EU Funding & Tenders Portal



Call HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026

- 👉 single stage call
- 👉 13 topics



The screenshot shows the 'EU Funding & Tenders Portal' interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Funding', 'Procurement', 'Projects & results', 'News & events', 'Work as an expert', and 'Guidance & documents'. The main content area is titled 'Calls for proposals' and includes a brief description of the funding opportunities. A search bar is visible with 'CBE 2026' entered and highlighted by a red circle. Below the search bar are filter options for 'Programming period', 'Programme', 'Call', and 'Submission status'. The search results section, titled 'GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR YOU', shows two results for 'SSbD bio-based solutions to replace hazardous conventional chemicals for textiles production' and 'Cost-effective and robust continuous biotech bio-based processes', both with opening and deadline dates of 03 April 2025 and 18 September 2025.

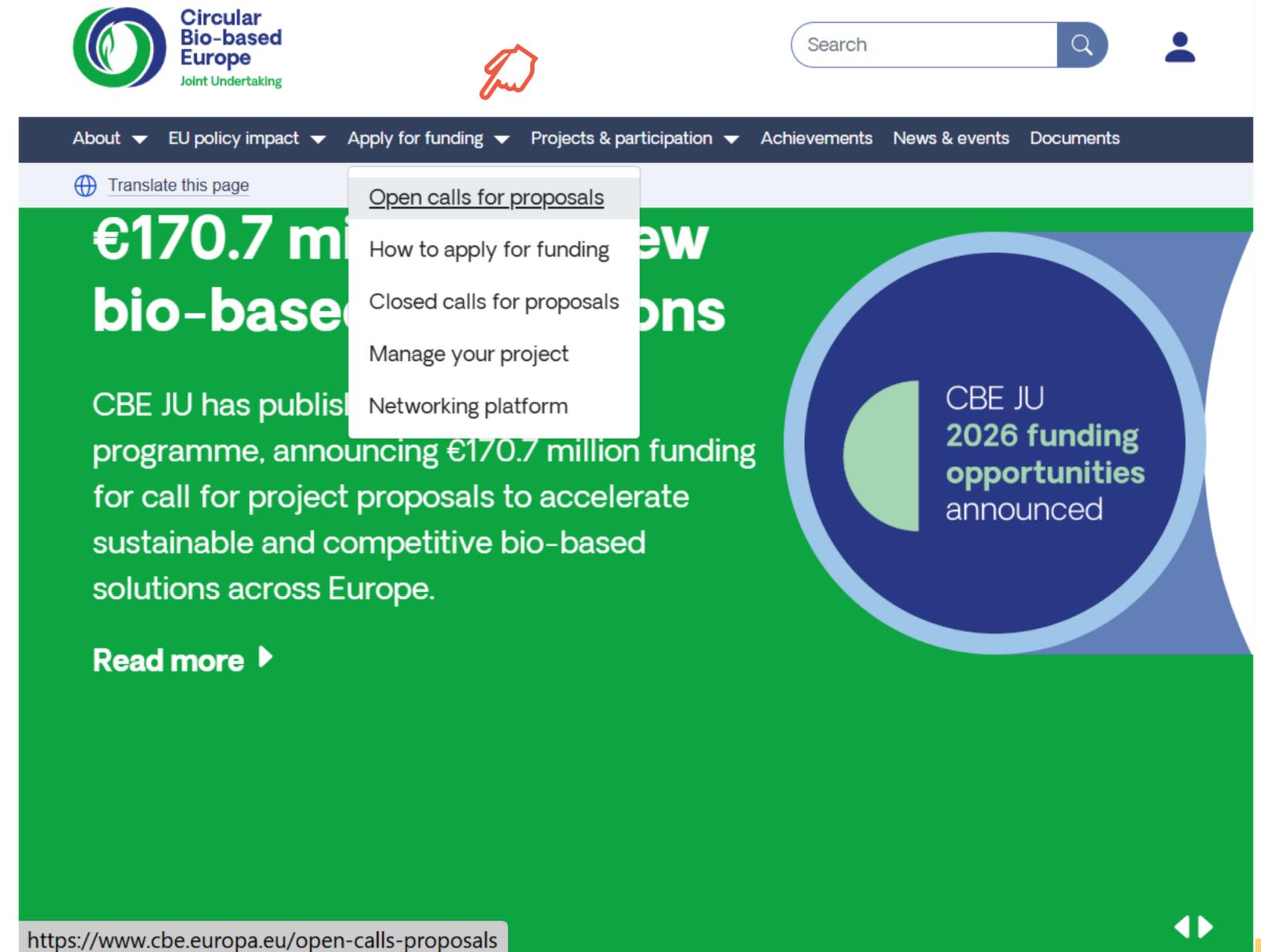
F&TP: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

Preparation: CBE JU website

Open call for proposals 2026

- 👉 Overview of call & topics
- 👉 Link to [Annual Work Programme 2026](#):
 - complete topic texts
 - call conditions & requirements
- 👉 Links to CBE JU's [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#), the [Horizon Online Manual](#), and more...

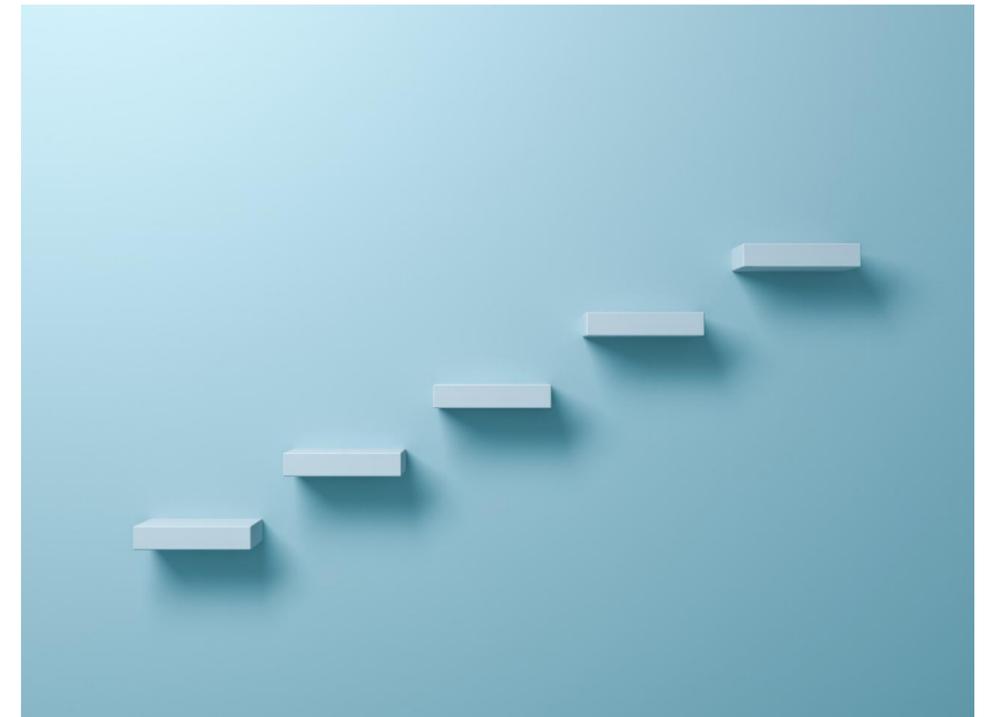
<https://www.cbe.europa.eu/>



The screenshot displays the CBE JU website interface. At the top left is the logo for Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking. A search bar and a user profile icon are on the top right. A navigation menu includes: About, EU policy impact, Apply for funding, Projects & participation, Achievements, News & events, and Documents. A 'Translate this page' button is visible. 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 content area features a green background with the text: '€170.7 million bio-based solutions'. Below this, it states: 'CBE JU has published a new programme, announcing €170.7 million funding for call for project proposals to accelerate sustainable and competitive bio-based solutions across Europe.' A 'Read more' link with a right-pointing arrow is present. On the right side, there is a circular graphic with the text: 'CBE JU 2026 funding opportunities announced'. At the bottom left of the screenshot, the URL 'https://www.cbe.europa.eu/open-calls-proposals' is shown. A navigation arrow is at the bottom right.

How to apply: Main steps

- Select the **topic** and type of action for your application.
- Read the **topic texts** and **requirements** in the [CBE JU Annual Work Programme](#).
- Find project **partners** and build a consortium. For example, via the [CBE JU networking platform](#).
- Create an **EU login** account or use an existing one on the F&TP. You (proposal coordinator) will use it to submit the proposal.
- Check if all partners have a 9-digit **Participant Identification Code (PIC)**. If not, register them.
- **Draft** your project proposal in the submission module of the F&TP topic page.
- **Submit** your proposal before the submission deadline **22 September 2026 17:00** (Brussels time).



Preparation: Start early



More than just uploading a document !

It takes time to...

Fill in the administrative data of all participants.

Write the project plan:

- ✓ up to 30 pages CSA
- ✓ up to 50 pages RIA
- ✓ up to 70 pages IA incl. IA-Flagship
- ✓ + Business plan IA-Flagship

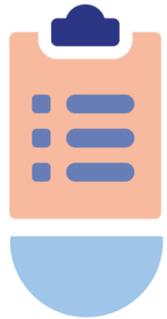
Prepare the proposal annexes.



Tip!

Overwrite function: You can submit the proposal as many times as you want. Every submitted version will replace the previous one.

Proposal parts



- **Part A** (administrative)
 - generated by the IT system with the administrative information you have included (partners...)
- **Part B** (project plan)
 - 3 sections corresponding to 3 evaluation criteria Excellence, Impact and Implementation
 - specific template for different type of actions (IA, RIA, CSA) – download from F&TP
- **Annexes**
 - RIA, IA incl. IA-Flagship: **BIC membership certificates** – must be requested with BIC
 - IA-Flagship: **Business plan** – download template from F&TP
 - (optional ‘In-Kind Contributions to Additional Activities (IKAA)’ annex for IA incl. IA-Flagships: download template from F&TP)

Topic structure



Annual Work Programme 2026:
<https://www.cbe.europa.eu/open-calls-proposals>



HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-02: SSbD bio-based alternatives for fertilising and/or crop protection products

Type of action	Innovation Action-Flagship
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 20 million
Expected EU contribution per project	It is estimated that a contribution of EUR 20 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 8 at the end of the project
Link to CBE JU Specific Objectives	2.1: Reinforce the integration of bio-based research and innovation throughout industrial bio-based systems and increase the involvement of R&I actors including feedstock providers in the bio-based value chains 3.1: Ensure the integration of circularity and environmental sustainability requirements, contribution to climate neutrality and zero pollution ambition in the development and implementation of bio-based research and innovation and facilitate societal acceptance
Link to CBE JU SRIA	2.1.1: Demonstrate the sustainable supply of bio-based feedstock 2.1.2: Deploy innovative production technologies 2.1.3: Scale up production and market uptake of innovative bio-based products 3.1.2: Incorporate the environmental sustainability and circularity criteria in bio-based systems
CBE JU KPIs	1.1: Primary producers, involved as project beneficiaries and/or engaged in value chains at project level 4: Improve environmental sustainability of bio-based production processes and value chains 6: Increase innovative bio-based outputs and products 9: Increase resilience and capacity in the bio-based sector

Expected outcomes

Successful proposals will contribute to the updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy, Farm to Fork Strategy, the Horizon Europe Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe', in particular the objectives: 'Reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration', the European Chemical Industry Action Plan as well as the Clean Industrial Deal.

Projects results are expected to contribute to the following expected outcomes:

- Full industrial scale biorefinery and related value chain(s) for the sustainable production of bio-based fertilisers and/or crop protection solutions.
- Increased availability of cost-competitive and SSbD bio-based alternatives for fertilising and/or crop protection products with suitable agronomic efficacy.
- Reduced reliance on synthetic/mineral agricultural chemical products.
- Increased EU strategic autonomy, resilience and competitiveness through a robust cooperation among bio-based industries and farmers.
- Increased soil health, including minimising accumulation of microplastics and pollutants in soil and water, with positive effects on quality, security and resilience of food production in agriculture.

Scope

FAO estimates that up to 40% of food crops are lost due to plant pests and diseases globally every year.²⁴ Chemical synthetic products are conventionally used to protect crops and other plants from pests and diseases. In parallel, the EU is largely dependent on imports of both mineral and chemical fertilisers to grow crops. In both cases, over-use of synthetic/mineral products also poses concern for soil health and food quality. Moreover, the unequal distribution and depletion of non-renewable sources risks disrupting supply chains, particularly during energy crises.

SSbD bio-based fertilising and crop protection products can offer more resilient and sustainable solutions creating an added-value partnership between agriculture and industry both upstream (for feedstock supply) and downstream (for the use of sustainable and efficient bio-based products). However, when scaling-up, challenges need to be solved in terms of process efficiency and robustness against feedstock variability, formulations stability and efficacy on the field (also in consideration of climate change effects and different soil conditions), and cost competitiveness.

Proposals under this topic should:

- Demonstrate (at TRL 8) the efficient industrial production of SSbD bio-based solutions as alternatives to current fertilising and/or crop protection products. Bioactive molecules and/or biotechnology solutions for bio-fertilisers, bio-stimulants and/or pest/disease control (e.g., bioherbicides, biopesticides, bioinsecticides), or a combination thereof, are in scope. Products in scope can be applicable at any crop(s) cycle stage.

Topic structure



Annual Work Programme 2026:
<https://www.cbe.europa.eu/open-calls-proposals>



HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-02: SSbD bio-based alternatives for fertilising and/or crop protection products

Type of action	Innovation Action-Flagship
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 20 million
Expected EU contribution per project	It is estimated that a contribution of EUR 20 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 8 at the end of the project
Link to CBE JU Specific Objectives	2.1: Reinforce the integration of bio-based research and innovation throughout industrial bio-based systems and increase the involvement of R&I actors including feedstock providers in the bio-based value chains 3.1: Ensure the integration of circularity and environmental sustainability requirements, contribution to climate neutrality and zero pollution ambition in the development and implementation of bio-based research and innovation and facilitate societal acceptance
Link to CBE JU SRIA	2.1.1: Demonstrate the sustainable supply of bio-based feedstock 2.1.2: Deploy innovative production technologies 2.1.3: Scale up production and market uptake of innovative bio-based products 3.1.2: Incorporate the environmental sustainability and circularity criteria in bio-based systems
CBE JU KPIs	1.1: Primary producers, involved as project beneficiaries and/or engaged in value chains at project level 4: Improve environmental sustainability of bio-based production processes and value chains 6: Increase innovative bio-based outputs and products 9: Increase resilience and capacity in the bio-based sector

Expected outcomes

Successful proposals will contribute to the updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy, Farm to Fork Strategy, the Horizon Europe Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe', in particular the objectives: 'Reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration', the European Chemical Industry Action Plan as well as the Clean Industrial Deal.

Projects resulting from this call will:

- Full industrial scale production of bio-based fertilisers
- Increased use of bio-based fertilisers and/or crop protection products
- Reduced environmental impact of fertilisers and crop protection products
- Increased resilience and capacity in the bio-based sector
- Increased soil health, including minimising accumulation of microplastics and pollutants in soil and water, with positive effects on quality, security and resilience of food production in agriculture.

the change to be achieved

Scope

FAO estimates that up to 40% of food crops are lost due to plant pests and diseases globally every year.²⁴ Chemical synthetic products are conventionally used to protect crops and other plants from pests and diseases. In parallel, the EU is largely dependent on imports of both mineral and chemical fertilisers to grow crops. In both cases, over use of synthetic/mineral products also poses concern for soil health and the depletion of non-renewable soil resources.

SSbD bio-based solutions create a sustainable stream (for feedstock supply and production of products). However, when used in agriculture, they need to be robustness and also in consideration of their environmental friendliness.

Proposals under this call will:

- Demonstrate innovative solutions as alternatives to synthetic molecules and/or biotechnology solutions for bio-fertilisers, bio-stimulants and/or pest/disease control (e.g., bioherbicides, biopesticides, bioinsecticides), or a combination thereof, are in scope. Products in scope can be applicable at any crop(s) cycle stage.

the problem to be solved

Proposal template (Part B)



Download from your draft proposal page in F&TP

One document, duplicated:

1. Template with instructions:

- Editorial instructions: page limit, allowed formatting...
- Definitions
- Sections **Excellence**, **Impact** and **Implementation**:
Detailed descriptions of what to include where
- Descriptions of annexes to include

2. Template without instructions:

- Empty template to draft proposal

Proposal template (Part B)



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CBE JU
proposal template
=
Horizon Europe
proposal template
+
CBE JU
specific requirements

Proposal template (Part B)



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1. Excellence

Excellence – aspects to be taken into account.

- 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.

⚠ *The following aspects will be taken into account only to the extent that the proposed work is within the scope of the work programme topic.*

1.1 Objectives and ambition [e.g. 6 pages]

- Briefly describe the objectives of your proposed work. Why are they pertinent to the work programme topic? Are they measurable and verifiable? Are they realistically achievable?
- Describe how your project goes beyond the state-of-the-art, and the extent the proposed work is ambitious. Indicate any exceptional ground-breaking R&I, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models. Where relevant, illustrate the advance by referring to products and services already available on the market. Refer to any patent or publication search carried out.
- Describe where the proposed work is positioned in terms of R&I maturity (i.e. where it is situated in the spectrum from 'idea to application', or from 'lab to market'). Where applicable, provide an indication of the Technology Readiness Level, if possible distinguishing the start and by the end of the project.

⚠ *Please bear in mind that advances beyond the state of the art must be interpreted in the light of the positioning of the project. Expectations will not be the same for RIAs at lower TRL, compared with Innovation Actions at high TRLs.*

1.2 Methodology [e.g. 22 pages]

- Describe and explain the overall methodology, including the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin your work. Explain how this will enable you to deliver your project's objectives. Refer to any important challenges you may have identified in the chosen methodology and how you intend to overcome them. [e.g. 14 pages]

⚠ *This section should be presented as a narrative. The detailed tasks and work packages are described below under 'Implementation'.*

- Describe the feedstock to be used in the project and ensure that it is under the scope of the feedstocks foreseen in the CBE JU Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) (including Annex V) (<https://www.cbe.europa.eu/system/files/2022-06/cbeju-sria.pdf>).

Include information about the geographical origin of the feedstock. Also, explain how the feedstock will contribute to strengthening the European bio-based value chains.

Include information on how the feedstock is produced or generated respecting local ecological limits.

Under the condition of respecting the "food first" and "cascading use" principles, agricultural biomass can be used as feedstock for CBE JU projects. IAs, including Flagships, should:



Specific requirements



Proposal template (Part B)

Topic

Proposal

Expected outcomes

Successful proposals will contribute to the updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy, Farm to Fork Strategy, the Horizon Europe Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe', in particular the objectives: 'Reduce soil pollution and improve soil health' as well as the Clean Industry Deal.

Projects resulting from this call should:

- Full industrial scale production of bio-based fertilisers
- Increased use of bio-based fertilisers and/or crop protection products
- Reduced use of mineral and chemical fertilisers and/or crop protection products
- Increased cooperation among bio-based industries and farmers.

- Increased soil health, including minimising accumulation of microplastics and pollutants in soil and water, with positive effects on quality, security and resilience of food production in agriculture.

Scope

FAO estimates that up to 40% of food crops are lost due to plant pests and diseases globally every year.²⁴ Chemical synthetic products are conventionally used to protect crops and other plants from pests and diseases. The use of mineral and chemical fertilisers and/or crop protection products also poses concern for the environment, especially the use of non-renewable resources.

SSbD bio-based solutions create a sustainable stream (for feedstock supply and/or products). However, work on efficiency and robustness of these solutions should also be considered in the proposal.

Proposals under this call should:

- Demonstrate (at TRL 8) the efficient industrial production of SSbD bio-based solutions as alternatives to current fertilising and/or crop protection products. Bioactive molecules and/or biotechnology solutions for bio-fertilisers, bio-stimulants and/or pest/disease control (e.g., bioherbicides, biopesticides, bioinsecticides), or a combination thereof, are in scope. Products in scope can be applicable at any crop(s) cycle stage.

Expected outcomes

Scope

1. Excellence

2. Impact

3. Implementation

- Objectives & ambition
- Methodology
- Pathways to impact
- Measures to maximise impact
- Workplan & resources
- Consortium capacity

CBE JU 2026 call: proposal evaluation

Proposal evaluation



- 3 evaluation criteria defined in the [Annual Work Programme 2026](#):

Excellence – Impact – Implementation

- Evaluation by **independent experts**
- Proposal evaluated based on what is written (not on its potential)

- **Only for IA-Flagship proposals:**

During evaluation, CBE JU organises **hearings** with applicants, focused **only** on clarifying aspects of the business plan (nothing else): CBE JU will invite you

Grant agreement & project start



Call for proposals



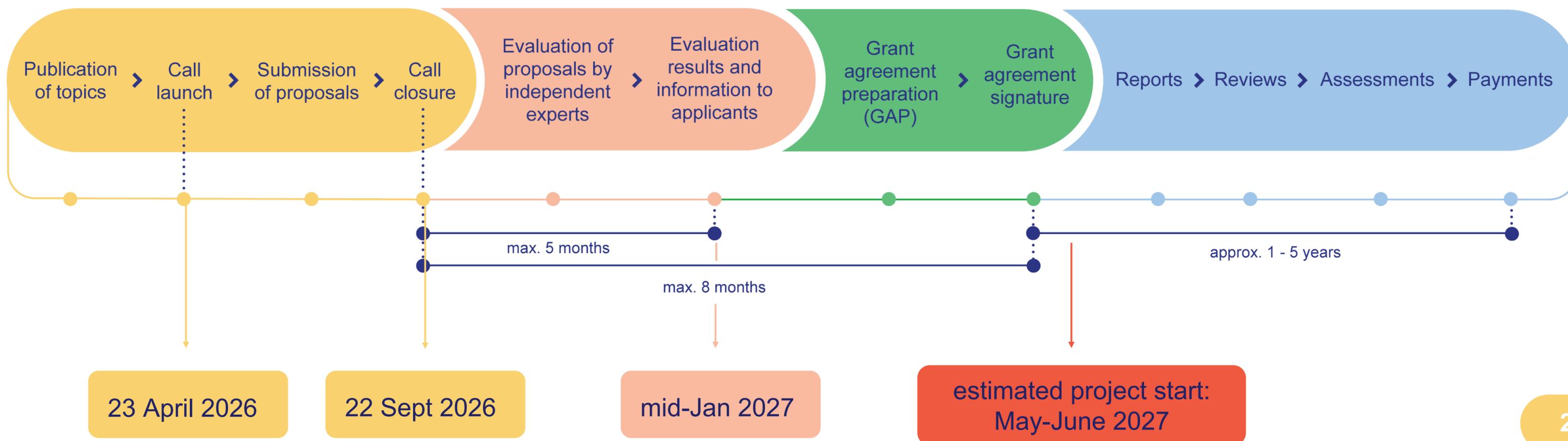
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Joint Undertaking

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