Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

Scope of the CBE JU 2026 call topics

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CBE JU 2026 call topics

Topic	N	Total M€
IAFlag-01: Boosting biorefinery competitiveness through biotech	1	20
IAFlag-02: SSbD bio-based alternatives for fertilising and/or crop protection products	1	20
IAFlag-03: SSbD bio-based solutions for home and/or personal care	1	20
IAFlag-04: Diversification of nutritional food ingredient sources for increased EU resilience and strategic autonomy	1	20
IA-01: Biotech routes for valorisation of residual biomass	2	14
IA-02: Bio-based additives as alternatives to unlock and increase recyclability	2	14
IA-03: Bio-based chemicals and/or materials from woody residues	2	14
IA-04 High-performance, circular-by-design, bio-based thermosets	2	14
IA-05: Films and coatings for circular packaging	2	14
RIA-01: Addressing separation and purification challenges in biorefineries	2	6.5
RIA-02- SSbD bio-based polymers from alternative sources	2	6.5
RIA-03-Develop breakthrough and sustainable bio-based textile fibres	2	6.5
CSA-01: Supporting industry in the switch to sustainable and circular bio-based products and processes	1	1.2

CBE JU 2026 call topics: Flagships

Topic	N	Total M€
IAFlag-01: Boosting biorefinery competitiveness through biotech	1	20
IAFlag-02: SSbD bio-based alternatives for fertilising and/or crop protection products	1	20
IAFlag-03: SSbD bio-based solutions for home and/or personal care	1	20
IAFlag-04: Diversification of nutritional food ingredient sources for increased EU resilience and strategic autonomy	1	20

- Funding: **20 M€ for 1 project**. Funding rate: **60%** for companies, **100%** for non-profit entities
- **IKOP threshold: at least 20%** of eligible costs of the project as a whole
  - With a funding rate of 60%, this means that at least 50% of the eligible costs must be allocated to companies that are (or become via “project membership”) BIC members
- End **TRL 8** for the main activities. Activities at lower TRL are allowed to e.g. pave the way to next gen
- **Quantified business case and business plan** including replication potential (Annex)
- **Multi-actor approach**: see topic for specific actors to be involved
- **Links and complementarities** to previous / ongoing projects: see topic for specific projects
- **Contribution to CBE specific requirements**: see topic for specific details
- **Environmental impact and SSbD assessment**

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-01: Boosting biorefinery competitiveness through biotech

Funding	20 M€ for 1 project selected
Fund. rate	60% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	8
Expected outcomes	Full industrial scale **biorefinery and related value chain(s)** for the sustainable production … using **biotech as a key enabling technology**. • Availability of bio-based products meeting **market and technical performance requirements….** • Improvement of **sustainability, circularity and resource efficiency** … • Contribution to increasing the EU's **strategic autonomy, resilience and competitiveness**.
Scope (overview)	• Demonstrate (at TRL 8) a sustainable and robust biomanufacturing route to obtain biobased product(s). Focus on **processes in which biotechnology is the key enabling technology; the integration of (upstream and/or downstream) supporting unit operations based on technologies other than biotechnology**. Products in scope include **chemicals, intermediates, polymers, ingredients and enzymes**. Food and feed ingredients as main application are out of scope. … • Demonstrate (at TRL 8) the **further conversion or use of the obtained biorefinery product(s) into at least one end-product driving the business case**; …

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

Funding	20 M€ for 1 project selected
Fund. rate	60% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	8
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** ….
Scope (overview)	• 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. • Validate (at TRL 6 and above) … into the formulation of end-product(s) and test their agronomic efficiency, safety and sustainability to prove the achievement of similar or improved properties compared to defined benchmarks available …. • Test the developed product(s) with primary producers on the field (demo farms) for selected crops and monitor their effects on soil health and quality, as well as on water. ….

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-03: SSbD bio-based solutions for home and/or personal care

Funding	20 M€ for 1 project selected
Fund. rate	60% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	8
Expected outcomes	…. **SSbD bio-based solutions for home and/or personal care sector** with significantly improved sustainability. • Wider availability of bio-based products in home and/or personal care sector meeting both regulatory standards and technical performance requirements. • Increased **consumer/end user acceptance** of bio-based solutions, …. • Contribution to the EU **strategic autonomy, resilience and competitiveness**,..
Scope (overview)	• Demonstrate (at TRL 8) the production of SSbD bio-based solution(s) as an **alternative to conventional chemicals, ingredients and combinations thereof, that are currently used in the formulation of home and/or personal care products (including cosmetics).** SSbd biobased chemicals/ingredients and biotechnology solutions are both in scope. Materials entering the end product formulation (e.g., granulates, powders, microbeads, micro/nano cellulose) are also in scope, while other materials related to home and personal care applications (e.g., nonwovens, other wipes, packaging) are out of scope. • Demonstrate (at TRL 7 and above) the application of the bio-based solution(s) into the **formulation of market relevant end-product(s).** Assess technical performances of endproduct(s), ensuring that their final properties meet market application requirements. …. • Test that the **release and accumulation of pollutants and harmful substances** in the water is being avoided, including microplastics. When biodegradable solutions are targeted, validate biodegradability …..

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-04: Diversification of nutritional food ingredient sources for increased EU resilience and strategic autonomy

Funding	20 M€ for 1 project selected
Fund. rate	60% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	8
Expected outcomes	• Full industrial scale biorefinery and related value chain(s) for the **production of nutritional food ingredients**. • **Resilience and strategic autonomy of EU food ….• Increased environmental sustainability of food sectors** ….• **Improved consumers awareness and acceptance** of nutritional food ingredients from alternative sources, contributing to sustainable healthy diets
Scope (overview)	• Demonstrate (at TRL 8) the efficient production of **nutritional ingredients for food applications. Proteins, lipids, specialty carbohydrates, and fibres are in scope**. **Target at least one of these** as the main product driving the business case. ……. All sources of bio-based feedstock are in scope. Direct production of food from food crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture is not in scope. The use of industrial grade feedstock from agricultural crops is in scope for conversion into food grade ingredients. • Validate (at TRL 6 and above) the use of the obtained nutritional food ingredient(s) into the **formulation of at least 1 food product** proving quality, stability, nutritional and sensorial properties. ….. • Address **resource efficiency and circularity** aspects to increase economic and socioenvironmental added value. When pursuing circular models, ensure that neither pathogens nor contaminants are injected back in the loop, to avoid negative toxicological effects.

CBE JU 2026 call topics – Innovation Actions

Topic	N	Total M€
IA-01: Biotech routes for valorisation of residual biomass	2	14
IA-02: Bio-based additives as alternatives to unlock and increase recyclability	2	14
IA-03: Bio-based chemicals and/or materials from woody residues	2	14
IA-04 High-performance, circular-by-design, bio-based thermosets	2	14
IA-05: Films and coatings for circular packaging	2	14

- Funding: **14 M€ for 2 projects**. Funding rate: **60%** for companies, **100%** for non-profit entities
- **IKOP threshold: at least 15%** of eligible costs of the project as a whole
  - With a funding rate of 60%, this means that at least 37,5% of the eligible costs must be allocated to companies that are (or become via “project membership”) BIC members
- End **TRL 6-7** for the main activities. 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
- **Quantified business model and business case**, including potential for upscaling
- **Environmental impact and SSbD assessment**

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-01: Biotech routes for valorisation of residual biomass

Funding	14 M€ for 2 projects selected
Fund. rate	60% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	6-7
Expected outcomes	Increased **added value of residual biomass** for biorefinery applications. • Availability of a **wider portfolio of sustainable bio-based products** via industrial biotech. • **Robust, scalable and efficient biotech** process(es) applicable to residual biomass
Scope overview	• Demonstrate (at least TRL 6) efficient **biotechnology-based processes to convert residual biomass streams into bio-based chemicals, intermediates, polymers, materials, ingredients and/or enzymes**. ….The feedstock in scope includes: **Forestry and agricultural residues** and/or side streams from the processing of forestry and agricultural biomass …residues from **aquatic biomass**, … **urban and/or industrial bio-based waste and side-streams, mixed streams** Integrate **optimised biomass pretreatment/fractionation processes …** The valorisation of by-products and side streams across the value chain via the cascading approach is in scope. • Validate (at TRL 5 and above) **conversion (or use) of biorefinery product(s) into endproducts** proving to fulfil market requirements for selected applications sectors. • Address **resource efficiency and circularity**. …

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-02: Bio-based additives as alternatives to unlock and increase recyclability and/or biodegradability

Funding	14 M€ for 2 projects selected
Fund. Rate	60% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	6-7
Expected outcomes	Wider availability of **bio-based additives** targeting **high functional properties**, stability and compatibility with polymers/matrices. • Contribution to **improved circularity** of end products in relevant market sectors. • **Potential replicability** into other industrial sectors…• Reduction or avoidance of **environmental impacts** related to life cycle of additives….
Scope overview	• Demonstrate (at least at TRL 6) innovative processes for the **synthesis of bio-based SSbD additives** that: **Enable a circular EoL** for materials and/or products that are currently not recyclable and/or not biodegradable, or **Improve circularity** of materials and/or product… (recycling and/or biodegradation). …addressing existing bottlenecks in the **circular EoL** • Provide alternative solutions that prevent the **release of harmful chemicals** during the product life cycle… • Demonstrate (at least at TRL 6) the **compatibility and processability of SSbD bio-based additives within the formulation/manufacturing** of materials and/or products. …Target at least **two distinct market sectors** in cooperation with end-users. • For biodegradability ensure safety in different environments (soil and water) … • For recyclability any recycling route is in scope

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-03: Bio-based chemicals and/or materials from woody residues

Funding	14 M€ for 2 projects selected
Fund. rate	60% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	6-7
Expected outcomes	Increased **availability** of bio-based chemicals and/or bio-based materials from woody residues. • Increased **sustainability** of forest-based value chains in cooperation with local forestry owners/cooperatives. • Improved **end-of-life (EoL) of bio-based products** from woody residues
Scope overview	• Demonstrate (TRL 6 and above) innovative technologies to obtain **bio-based chemicals and/or materials from woody residues**. Feedstock in scope includes woody residues generated at forestry and/or at industrial processing sites, …. • Validate (TRL 5 and above) the obtained chemicals/materials into **end products**. Assess the products' **performance** and ensure that they fulfil technical performance requirements according to the end market application(s). • Apply the **eco-design principles**, in line with the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, to the end-product(s) for sustainable EoL and test it at TRL5 and above. Incineration is not in scope.

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-04 High-performance, circular-by-design, biobased thermosets

Funding	14 M€ for 2 projects selected
Fund. rate	60% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	6-7
Expected outcomes	Wider **availability** of bio-based thermoset materials meeting high technical performance requirements. • Improved **circularity** of thermosets and downstream application(s) against specified market benchmarks taking into account production, use and EoL.
Scope overview	• Demonstrate (at least at TRL 6) the resource-efficient production of innovative **bio-based thermosets, targeting both high performances and circularity**. Functionalisation by introducing bio- or non-bio-based additives is also in scope. • Demonstrate (at least at TRL 6) the developed bio-based thermosets conversion into circular end-products, … • Apply **eco-design principles**, in line with the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, to enable circularity of the thermoset materials,… • Test the selected **EoL alternatives** (at TRL 5 and above). Landfilling or incineration are out of scope.

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-05: Films and coatings for circular packaging

Funding	14 M€ for 2 projects selected
Fund. rate	60% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	6-7
Expected outcomes	Wider **availability** of bio-based films and coatings for packaging products. • Improved **technical performances** of packaging products compared to fossil based and/or bio-based benchmarks. • Improved **circularity** of packaging products against specified market benchmarks…
Scope overview	• Demonstrate (at least TRL 6) innovative technologies for obtaining **bio-based films and/or coatings suitable for improving performance of packaging products**. Both food and nonfood packaging are in scope. At least one non-food packaging application to be addressed….. • Demonstrate (at least TRL 6) the applicability of the developed solution(s) in the **manufacturing of packaging product prototypes,** ensuring compatibility with industrial packaging … • Assess targeted **products properties** according to the intended application(s) under conditions occurring during the use phases, including transport and storage. … • Apply the **eco-design principles**, / Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, … • Test the selected **EoL alternatives** (at TRL 5 and above). …. Reuse and remanufacturing are also in scope ….. Landfilling or incineration are out of scope.

CBE JU 2026 call topics - RIA

Topic	N	Total M€
RIA-01: Addressing separation and purification challenges in biorefineries	2	6.5
RIA-02- SSbD bio-based polymers from alternative sources	2	6.5
RIA-03-Develop breakthrough and sustainable bio-based textile fibres	2	6.5

- Funding: **6.5 M€ for 2 projects**. Funding rate: **100%** for companies, **100%** for non-profit entities
- **IKOP threshold: at least 5%** of eligible costs of the project as a whole
  - Since the maximum funding rate is 100% for all entities, IKOP is obtained by voluntary reduction of the funding rate of (a subset of) BIC members in the proposal.
- 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
- **Qualitative business case** showing promise when upscaled
- **Environmental impact assessment** (based on preliminary data)
- **SSbD assessment** only when specified

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-RIA-01: Addressing separation and purification challenges in biorefineries

Funding	6.5 M€ for 2 projects selected
Fund. rate	100% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	5
Expected outcomes	**…competitiveness, efficiency, sustainability, circularity and safety** of industrial biorefineries. • Efficient, selective and scalable **separation and purification technology** platform(s) ….**to be integrated** within existing and/or new biorefineries. • **Purity and stability of targeted intermediates**/product(s) compatible with further conversion requirements
Scope overview	• **Develop scalable separation and purification technologies** and test the developed innovative solutions on **at least 3 use cases** from biorefinery processes at industrial or demo scale. Address at least two: (1) increase efficiency when using available green solvents (including water), or develop novel ones and in both cases minimise the use of harsh solvents; (2) applying process intensification … through reduction of process steps; (3) reducing thermal and/or electric energy and water consumption. • Address **compatibility** of the innovative separation and purification solutions with existing upstream technologies or develop solutions (upstream and downstream challenges). • Test and validate the performance of targeted technologies and their effect on selected bio-based product(s). Both novel (not yet available on the market) and well-established bio-based products are in scope.

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-RIA-02- SSbD bio-based polymers from alternative sources

Funding	6.5 M€ for 2 projects selected
Fund. Rate	100% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	5
Expected outcomes	Sustainable **feedstock diversification** for the production of bio-based polymers. • Scalable process(es) for obtaining **SSbD bio-based polymers** from bio-based feedstock **alternative to primary biomass.** • Enlarge the portfolio of **performant bio-based polymers…**
Scope overview	• Develop (at TRL 5) efficient processes for **synthesis and/or extraction of bio-based polymer(s)** from the alternative sources in scope, targeting high yield and selectivity. Primary biomass from agriculture and forestry is out of scope; … Both new bio-based polymers and already established ones …. are in scope. • Integrate further isolation and purification (when relevant) of obtained bio-based polymer(s) according to **specific application requirements**. Functionalisation of purified bio-based polymers to achieve targeted properties is also in scope. • Test (at least at TRL 4) the suitability of obtained bio-based polymers in circular-by-design final applications targeting at least two market sectors. … • Test (at least at TRL 4) for suitable, **safe and sustainable EoL options** …. Biodegradability...

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-RIA-03-Develop breakthrough and sustainable bio-based textile fibres

Funding	6.5 M€ for 2 projects selected
Fund. rate	100% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	5
Expected outcomes	Wider **availability** of natural and/or man-made bio-based fibres meeting market requirements. • **Scalable production processes** for novel man-made and/or modified natural fibres. • Enhanced **circularity and prevent microplastics release** compared to benchmarks
Scope overview	• Develop breakthrough processes to yield **bio-based textile fibres from sustainably sourced biomass feedstock.** Bio-based textile waste is eligible as feedstock. Bio-based man-made (synthetic and semi-synthetic) fibres and/or the extraction, refinement and functionalisation of natural fibres are in scope. • Ensure compatibility with existing textile manufacturing processes and equipment to facilitate market penetration. • Design the bio-based fibre(s) to improve specific technical requirements against state-of-the-art benchmarks, …. • Design the bio-based textile fibres for **sustainable end of life**. Assess the actual feasibility of the targeted end of life option(s) . Prevent **release of microplastics** and other harmful substances along the whole product life cycle.

CBE JU 2026 call topics - CSA

Topic	N	Total M€
CSA-01: Supporting industry in the switch to sustainable and circular bio-based products and processes	1	1.2

- Funding: **1.2 M€ for 1 project**. Funding rate: **100%** for all participants
- 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

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-CSA-01: Supporting industry in the switch to sustainable and circular bio-based products and processes

Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

Funding	1.2 M€ for 1 project selected
Fund. rate	100% for companies, 100% for not-for-profit entities
End TRL	N/A
Expected outcomes	Identification of **technical, market and regulatory barriers and possible solutions** for industry to 'switch to bio-based'. • Contribution to filling the gap between **bio-based sectors and the broader industrial landscape**
Scope overview	• Perform a **consultation among non-bio-based and partially bio-based industries to identify barriers** preventing them to adopt/diversify bio-based feedstock and processes in their operations. Include at **least 3 industrial sectors** that are critical for the green transition. • Analyse the outcomes from the consultation to **identify barriers** to bio-based transition and propose possible solutions. Validate the results with end users/consumers…. • Identify **case studies and success stories** showcasing best practice… • Create a **forum** bringing together bio-based industries, feedstock providers, non-bio-based and partially bio-based industries, investors, policymakers, demand-side actors …to facilitate the dialogue among the stakeholders … • Develop and publish **sectoral and cross-sectoral roadmaps** ….

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