



**Circular
Bio-based
Europe**
Joint Undertaking

CBE JU 2026 call: specific requirements

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Consortium**



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CBE JU 2026 call specific requirements

- **OBJECTIVE:** ensuring that all funded projects
 - ✓ Use **sustainably sourced feedstock**
 - ✓ Achieve high standards of **environmental sustainability**
 - ✓ Ensure good **business prospects**
 - ✓ Include the participation of all **relevant actors**
 - ✓ Consider **cross-disciplinary aspects** and use of **digital technologies**
- They apply to all topics, according to their type of action



Described in a dedicated section (2.2.3.1) of the CBE JU Annual Work Programme 2026

CBE JU 2026 requirements: summary table

Specific CBE JU requirement	Type of action	Section in Part B
Bio-based feedstock description	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	1.2 Methodology
Environmental performance, circularity and sustainability assessment: ex-ante and ex-post	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	1.2 Methodology + 3.1 Workplan & resources
Multi-actor approach (MAA)	All types of actions	1.2 Methodology
Digital technologies	RIA and IA, incl. FLAG	1.2 Methodology
Cross-disciplinary aspects	All types of actions	1.2 Methodology
Socio-economic impacts	IAs, incl. FLAG	2.1 Pathways to impact 2.2 Measures to maximise impact
Business case, business model	RIA and IA	2.2 Measures to maximise impact
Executive summary of business plan	FLAG	Annex (Business plan, FLAG)
Business plan	FLAG	

Bio-based feedstock (1/2)

1. **Describe the bio-based feedstock**
2. **Include its geographical origin**
 - ✓ Use bio-based feedstock that is both produced or generated and processed in EU Member States and/or countries associated to Horizon Europe
 - ✓ Explain how it will contribute to strengthen European bio-based value chains
3. **Include information on how it is produced or generated**, respecting ecological limits. You can refer to aspects related to climate change mitigation, biodiversity protection, pollution prevention and protection of water resources

Bio-based feedstock (2/2)

Under the condition of respecting the “food first” and “cascading use” principles, **agricultural biomass** can be used as feedstock for CBE JU projects.

In the case of **IAs, incl. FLAG**

- Clarify amount of biomass needed in the medium long-term
- Assess if it may potentially interfere with food supply chain
- Describe actions to mitigate the identified (if any)

Environmental performance, circularity & sustainability

Ex-ante assessment: All RIAs and IAs, incl. FLAG

- Identification of the environmental critical issues
- Estimation of the environmental sustainability and circularity, compared to relevant benchmarks
- Preliminary assessment of the carbon capture, use or storage potential, when relevant

Ex-post assessment

- **RIA:** include a dedicated task to use the early-stage data to assess the potential improvements of the environmental performances, as well as a preliminary assessment of their social impacts
- **IAs, incl. FLAG:** include a dedicated work package or task to assess ex-post the environmental impacts and circularity, using appropriate LCSA methodologies

Multi-actor approach (MAA)

- Identify the relevant actors and define how the proposed project targets their needs/challenges/opportunities
- Define a MAA that contributes to and speeds up the acceptability and uptake of new solutions
- Explain how the project will deliver practical, tangible and/or ready to use services and/or products
- When engaging primary producers and local communities describe the added value and broader impact for the community



Ensures adequate involvement of all **key actors in the value chains** relevant for the topic and the objective of the proposed project



Involvement along **the whole project's course**: from project idea, planning to implementation, communication and dissemination of results and to demonstration



'Co-creation' process: the practical and local knowledge of key actors are used to develop solutions and create **'co-ownership' of results**



It results in **speeding up the acceptability** and uptake of new products, approaches and solutions developed by project

Digital technologies / Cross-disciplinary aspects

Digital technologies

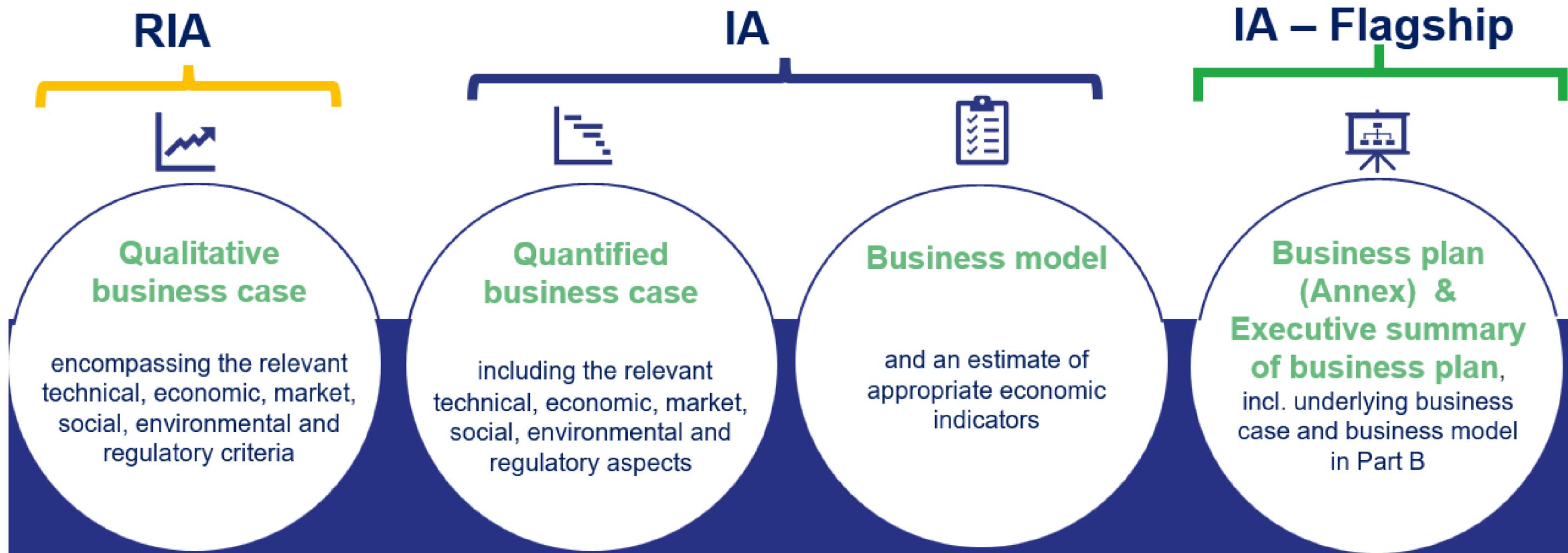
- **All RIAs and IAs, incl. FLAG:** consider applying and/or adapting existing/mature or novel digital technologies (e.g., AI, blockchain, machine learning, IoT, 6G, etc.) provided that they are instrumental to achieving the project's outcomes and scope.
- **IAs, incl. FLAG:** consider also (real-time) process monitoring, control and optimisation (including environmental performance).

Cross-disciplinary aspects

All types of actions should:

- Foster cross-disciplinarity between relevant fields of science
- Consider, as appropriate, the social, economic, behavioural, institutional, historical and/or cultural dimensions of the proposed circular bio-based innovations
- Integrate social sciences and humanities in the concept and methodology

Business aspects



All definitions and elements to include are fully detailed in the AWP2026 specific requirements' section

Socio-economic impacts

Explain how the project will contribute to creating and/or distributing **socio-economic value along the whole value chain**, including where bio-based feedstock is produced or generated, by delivering jobs, economic growth and territorial development.



For IAs ending at TRL6-7, an estimation of future value creation and distribution, when reaching full scale, is sufficient.

Recommendations

- **Use the CBE JU proposal template** to make sure all specific requirements are well included.
- **Read carefully the evaluation criteria and subcriteria** and make sure that expert evaluators will find all the information required to assess them.
- **Choose appropriate benchmarks** and show how for the products/processes you're developing improve the current environmental performance against the existing alternatives.
- **Provide evidence, references and/ or calculations** to support your claims.
- **Address all the business aspects** included in the definition of business case, business model and business plan.
- Ensure appropriate **involvement of all the necessary actors**.



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