



**Circular
Bio-based
Europe**
Joint Undertaking

CBE JU 2026 call: rules and conditions

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Co-funded by
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Main features in the Horizon Europe proposal



PART A

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



MOVED FROM PART B TO PART A

- Ethics self-assessment
- Security questionnaire
- Information on participants' previous activities related to the call



PART B

- Glossary of terms
- Consistency on the use of terminology is ensured in all project phases
- Extensive explanations on what exactly should be included in each section
- **Specific CBE JU requirements** (+ AWP 2026)
- **Annex: Declaration of BIC membership** linked with specific evaluation sub-criteria

Admissibility

Same HE general admissibility conditions

- Applications must be submitted **before the call deadline, electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal
- Applications must
 - Be **complete, readable, accessible and printable**
 - Include a **plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results**, *unless provided otherwise in the specific topic*

Type of participants

Beneficiaries

- **Sign the grant agreement**
- Full rights and obligations
- Contribute to reach minimum eligibility requirement

Affiliated entities

- **Legal or capital link** with a beneficiary
- Participate with similar rights and obligations to the beneficiaries
- **Do not sign** the grant agreement

Associated partners

- Participate in the action
- **Do not sign** the grant agreement
- Cannot charge costs or claim contributions

Eligibility

Consortium composition

At least three legal entities independent from each other and each established in a different country:

- At least **one independent legal** entity established in a Member State, and
- At least **two other independent legal entities** each established either in a different Member State or an Associated Country



For CSAs the requirement is at least 1 legal entity established in a Member State or Associated Countries

Who is eligible for funding?

EU countries

- Member States (MS) including their outermost regions
- The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the MS

Non-EU countries

- Countries associated to Horizon Europe (AC)
- Low and middle income countries: See [HE Programme Guide](#)
- Other countries when announced in the call or exceptionally if their participation is essential (no exception in CBE JU 2026 AWP)

Specific cases

- Affiliated entities established in countries eligible for funding
- EU bodies
- International organisations (IO)
- International European research organisations are eligible for funding
- Other IO are not eligible (only exceptionally if participation is essential)
- IO in a MS or AC are eligible for funding for training and mobility actions and when announced in the call conditions

Associated countries

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Albania | 6. Faroe Islands | 12. Montenegro | 18. Switzerland |
| 2. Armenia | 7. Georgia | 13. New Zealand | 19. Tunisia |
| 3. Bosnia and
Herzegovina | 8. Iceland | 14. North Macedonia* | 20. Türkiye |
| 4. Canada (Pilar II) | 9. Israel | 15. Norway | 21. Ukraine |
| 5. Egypt | 10. Kosovo | 16. Republic of Korea | 22. United Kingdom |
| | 11. Moldova | 17. Serbia | |

Until association agreements start producing legal effects, the transitional arrangement is applicable to the following countries:

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1. Japan | 2. Morocco |
|----------|------------|

For the purposes of the eligibility for funding countries negotiating association to Horizon Europe will be treated as entities established in an Associated Country, IF the Horizon Europe association agreement with the third country concerned applies at the time of signature of the grant agreement.

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

Similarities and differences with Horizon Europe



Funding rate

- RIA: 100%
- IA: **60%** (100% non-profit)
- CSA: 100%



Award criteria

- RIA, IA & CSA: Excellence, Impact, Implementation
- + Impact minimum IKOP percentage
= **Ability to ensure 5% (RIA), 15% (IA) or 20% (IAFlag) of in-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP)**



Page limit

- RIA: **50 p.**
- IA: **70 p.**
- CSA: 30 p.



Scoring thresholds

- Excellence: 3/5
- Impact: **4/5**
- Implementation: 3/5
- Total: **11/15**

In-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP)

- In accordance with the Council Regulation establishing CBE JU, IKOP is defined as *‘contributions by private members, constituent entities or the affiliated entities of either, by international organisations, consisting of the eligible costs incurred by them in implementing indirect actions less the contribution of that joint undertaking to those costs.’*
- In CBE JU, the only private member is the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC). Therefore, the IKOP needs to be reflected in the budget of BIC members and affiliated entities.

IKOP vs BIC membership

BIC membership

- Consortium need to include the declaration provided by BIC regarding its membership as an Annex to the proposal.
- CBE JU will check BIC membership during evaluation via an Annex to the proposal: 1 pdf file with all 'BIC membership certificates' or BIC members involved in the consortium
- BIC membership certificates to be requested to BIC via <https://bic.elisca.app/membership/certificate/registration>
- When building your consortium, you might encounter organisations interested in becoming a BIC member (and who could 'boost' your IKOP)



'Project membership' = temporary membership option, (only) relevant for CBE JU calls: the organisation will become a BIC member if their proposal is successful

Impact subcriteria – IKOP

IKOP = Total eligible costs – requested EU contribution of private members

- In CBE JU, the only private member is the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)



Minimum percentage of IKOP must be reflected in the budget of partners that are BIC members

- Applicable to RIAs and IAs incl. Flagships
- CBE JU evaluation additional CBE JU sub-criteria with a threshold depending on type of action

‘Ability to ensure the level of in-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP) defined in the call/topic as % of total projects eligible costs (RIAs 5%, IAs 15% and IA-Flagship 20%)’

Impact subcriteria – IKOP Flagships

Example 1: IA Flagship Criterion: <u>≥ 20% IKOP</u>	BIC member	Industry / Academia	Total eligible costs	Funding rate	Requested EU contribution	IKOP
Beneficiary 1 - Coordinator (BIC member)	Y	industry	€ 7,000,000	60%	€ 4,200,000	€ 2,800,000
Beneficiary 2	N	academia	€ 590,000	100%	€ 590,000	
Beneficiary 3 (BIC member)	Y	industry	€ 5,000,000	60%	€ 3,000,000	€ 2,000,000
Beneficiary 4	N	industry	€ 3,000,000	60%	€ 1,800,000	
Beneficiary 5	N	academia	€ 800,000	100%	€ 800,000	
TOTAL			€ 16,390,000		€ 10,390,000	€ 4,800,000

Percentage IKOP = $\frac{€ 4,800,000}{€ 16,390,000} = 29,3\% > 20\%$ 

Impact subcriteria – IKOP Innovation Actions

Example 2: IA Criterion: <u>≥ 15% IKOP</u>	BIC member	Industry / Academia	Total eligible costs	Funding rate	Requested EU contribution	IKOP
Beneficiary 1 - Coordinator (BIC member)	Y	industry	€ 3,200,000	60%	€ 1,920,000	€ 1,280,000
Beneficiary 2	N	academia	€ 590,000	100%	€ 590,000	
Beneficiary 3	N	industry	€ 1,500,000	60%	€ 900,000	
Beneficiary 4	N	industry	€ 3,000,000	60%	€ 1,800,000	
Beneficiary 5	N	academia	€ 800,000	100%	€ 800,000	
TOTAL			€ 9,090,000		€ 6,010,000	€ 1,280,000

Percentage **IKOP** = $\frac{€1,280,000}{€9,090,000} = 14,1\% < 15\%$ 

Priority order

The rules set in Annex F of the General Annexes to the [Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027](#) apply in the establishment of the ranking list for each CBE JU topic as following:

In case of proposals with **identical total scores**, they will be prioritised :

- **RIA and CSA:** first Excellence and second Impact
- **IAs including Flagship:** first Impact and then Excellence



In case of **full ex-aequo** (=identical scores in each criterion), they will be prioritised :

- 1. Gender balance** among the personnel **researchers with a leading role** named in the researchers table in the proposal (proposal template part A)
- 2. Geographical diversity**, defined as the number of countries represented in the proposal, not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and if equal in number, then by budget)
- 3. Other** if needed

Application Forms		
Proposal ID XXXXXXXXX	Acronym XXXXXXXX	Participant short name: XXXX

Researchers involved in the proposal

Include only the researchers involved in the proposal, (see below definition of 'researcher'). You do not need to include in the table the identity of other persons involved in the proposal who are not researchers.

'Researchers are professionals engaged in the conception or creation of new knowledge. They conduct research and improve or develop concepts, theories, models, techniques instrumentation, software or operational methods. (Frascati Manual 2015)'

Include also person in charge of the proposal if a researcher.

Title	First Name	Last Name	Gender	Nationality	E-mail	Career stage ¹	Role of researcher (in the project)	Reference Identifier	Type of identifier
			[Woman] [Man] [Non-binary]			[Category A – Top grade researcher] [Category B – Senior researcher] [Category C – Recognised researcher] [Category D – First stage researcher]	[Leading] [Team member]		[ORCID] [Researcher Id] [Other - specify]

¹ Career stages as defined in Frascati 2015 manual:

Category A – Top grade researcher: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted. Example: 'Full professor' or 'Director of research'.

Category B – Senior researcher: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates (ISCED level 8). Examples: 'associate professor' or 'senior researcher' or 'principal investigator'.

Category C – Recognised researcher: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited. Examples: 'assistant professor', 'investigator' or 'post-doctoral fellow'.

Category D – First stage researcher: Either doctoral students at the ISCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree. Examples: 'PhD students' or 'junior researchers' (without a PhD).

Use of generative AI tools

The Horizon Europe proposal application forms (RIA, IA & CSA) gives specific guidance on the use of generative AI tools for the preparation of proposals:

- Exercise caution and careful consideration while using generative AI tools
- Review and validate thoroughly any AI-generated content to ensure its appropriateness and accuracy, as well as its compliance with intellectual property regulations
- Applicants bear the legal responsibility for the content of the proposal (including the parts produced by the AI tool)
- Declare which AI tools were used, and how

Use of generative AI tools

Specifically, applicants must:

- Verify the accuracy, validity and appropriateness of any content generated by AI tools and correct any errors/inconsistencies produced by those tools
- Provide the list of sources, including AI tools used to generate proposals' content and citations, and double-check citations to ensure their accuracy and proper references
- Be conscious of the risks of plagiarism in the use of AI tools whereas those may have reproduced content from other sources; original sources may need to be checked to avoid plagiarism
- Be respectful of personal data and confidential information by not entering these on platforms that are not managed on proprietary servers
- Be aware of the limitations of the AI tools used, including the potential for bias, errors, and gaps in knowledge

Find more information at [Living guidelines on the responsible use of generative AI in research](#)



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