

# Annual Activity Report 2025



**Circular  
Bio-based  
Europe**  
Joint Undertaking

# **CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2025**

In accordance with Article 26 of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 and Article 23 of the Financial Rules of the CBE JU.

The Consolidated Annual Activity Report will be made publicly available after its approval by the Governing Board.

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## FACTSHEET

<b>Name of the JU</b>	Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The CBE JU implements part of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme. Its main general objectives under this latest framework are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ accelerate innovation and develop bio-based innovative solutions;</li> <li>▶ accelerate market deployment of existing mature and innovative bio-based solutions;</li> <li>▶ ensure a high level of environmental performance of bio-based industrial systems.</li> </ul> <p>A wider set of objectives are set out in Articles 4, 5 and 46 of <a href="#">Council Regulation establishing the CBE JU</a>.</p>
<b>Legal basis</b>	Article 187 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing regulations (EC) No 219/2007, (EU) No 557/2014, (EU) No 558/2014, (EU) No 559/2014, (EU) No 560/2014, (EU) No 561/2014 and (EU) No 642/2014.
<b>Executive Director</b>	<p>Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore</p> <p><a href="#">Executive Office   Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking</a></p>
<b>Governing Board</b>	<p>Chair: Rob Beekers, Director of New Business Development at Cargill Bio-Industrial Group</p> <p>Vice-chair: John Bell, Director for Healthy Planet, DG RTD</p> <p>A full list of the members of the Governing Board is provided in section 4.2.</p>
<b>Other bodies</b>	<p><a href="#">States' Representatives Group</a></p> <p><a href="#">Scientific Committee</a></p>
<b>Number of staff</b>	29
<b>Total available budget in 2025<sup>1</sup></b>	<p>Commitment appropriations (CA) in<sup>2</sup> kEUR 181 363</p> <p>Payment appropriations (PA) in<sup>3</sup> kEUR 184 890</p>
<b>Budget implementation/execution</b>	<p>Commitment appropriations: total consumption (amount in EUR and percentage spent on total)</p> <p>Title 1 – kEUR 3 584 (86 % of kEUR 4 183)</p> <p>Title 2 – kEUR 2 883 (87 % of kEUR 3 295)</p> <p>Title 3 – kEUR 173 419 (100 % of kEUR 174 005)</p>

<sup>1</sup> The total budget includes the operational budget (used for funding selected projects) and the administrative budget (used for funding Programme Office activities). Figures are from the most recent voted amended budget.

<sup>2</sup> Voted commitment appropriations stood at kEUR 222 583, including kEUR 71 972 of unused appropriations from previous years.

<sup>3</sup> Voted payment appropriations stood at kEUR 191 275, including kEUR 30 365 of unused appropriations from previous years.

	<p>Payment appropriations: total consumption: (amount in EUR and percentage spent of the total)</p> <p>Title 1 – kEUR 3 591 (76 % of kEUR 4 698)</p> <p>Title 2 – kEUR 2 270 (74 % of kEUR 3 079)</p> <p>Title 3 – kEUR 154 878 (87 % of kEUR 177 231)</p> <p>Total commitment appropriations: 99 %</p> <p>Total payment appropriations: 87 %</p>
<b>Grants/Tenders/Awards</b>	<p>The project portfolio consists of a total of 220 funded projects of which 88 were still ongoing at the end of 2025 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 82 grants (CBE JU/Horizon Europe)</li> <li>▶ 6 grants (BBI JU/Horizon 2020)</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Research &amp; Innovation Agenda</b>	<p>Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)</p>
<b>Call implementation</b>	<p>Number of calls launched in 2025: <b>1</b></p> <p>Number of proposals submitted: <b>248</b></p> <p>Number of eligible proposals: <b>222</b></p> <p>Number of proposals selected for funding: <b>24*</b></p> <p><i>*grant agreements to be signed in 2026</i></p>
<b>Participation, including SMEs</b>	<p>Total number of participations in the funded projects <b>3 081</b>, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>39 %</b> SMEs, receiving 38 % of the EU funding</li> <li>▶ <b>57 %</b> private for-profit companies, receiving 57 % of EU funding</li> <li>▶ <b>55 %</b> newcomers, defined as participants, which have not received any funding in previous years either from the CBE JU or its predecessor (BBI JU)</li> </ul> <p><i>(Reference to recital 29 and Article 26 of Council Regulation establishing the JUs under Horizon Europe regarding the assessment of the level of SME participation and JU attractiveness to newcomers).</i></p>

## FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2025 Annual Activity Report (AAR) of the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU). 2025 was a pivotal year for the bioeconomy. The European Commission presented a new strategy confirming its central position in the EU policy landscape. The Strategy recognises the CBE JU as a key actor in scaling up circular, bio-based technologies and facilitating their transition from laboratory to market.

The work undertaken jointly by the European Commission and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC) demonstrated once again that the strategic alliance between the public and private sectors creates highly attractive conditions for investment in Europe. In 2025, 30 new grant agreements were signed, fully committing the budget available under the 2024 call. At the same time, the 2025 call attracted a record number of applications, resulting in another strong portfolio of new projects, with a particular focus on high-TRL actions, including demonstration projects and first-of-their-kind biorefineries. This shows the remarkable effectiveness of the programme and the continued attractiveness of CBE JU.

The CBE JU Programme Office continued to promote the success stories of funded projects, in particular by highlighting the successful completion of BBI JU legacy projects such as [AFTERBIOCHEM](#), [VIOBOND](#) and [SCALE](#). Important project milestones were highlighted and acknowledged including those of [SUSTAINEXT](#), [CERISEA](#) and [Rural BioReFarmeries](#). The communication campaigns of the CBE JU continue to be effective and impactful and the updated corporate website provides our valued stakeholders with a wealth of information about participation and the impacts achieved by our beneficiaries.

Despite an increase in the number of running grants, the CBE JU Programme Office has maintained a high level of efficiency, providing timely payments, information to applicants and signature of grants, and continuing to support project delivery and monitor key performance indicators (KPIs). Importantly, project KPI reporting reflects impressive progress as we reach the halfway point of the CBE JU programme's funding.

The CBE JU, jointly with the European Commission and the BIC, continued to work with its community, achieving promising outcomes owing to the widening participation strategy. It has also published its synergies strategy and organised specific workshops to maintain high stakeholder mobilisation. In this context, the Working Group on Primary Producers began its work under the Polish Presidency of the EU and the Deployment Group on Finance and Investment made significant progress towards its establishment.

2025 was a challenging year in terms of human resources management, and I would like to thank all colleagues for going the extra mile in these difficult times. Their commitment and dedication have enabled the Programme Office to maintain an excellent level of performance. CBE JU staff are exceptional and remain highly motivated, providing outstanding services to our stakeholders.

Finally, I would like to thank the European Commission and the Bio-based Industries Consortium for their fruitful collaboration and for their trust in the Programme Office. This collaboration demonstrates the strength of the CBE JU partnership, showcasing a shared strategic vision that is essential for 'scaling up' the bioeconomy in Europe and maintaining Europe's leadership in this strategic sector. Thanks to the commitment of its funding partners, the Joint Undertaking remains a unique instrument that can deliver a *'competitive bioeconomy for a sustainable Europe'*.

Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore,  
CBE JU Executive Director

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

The year 2025 was significant for Europe's circular bioeconomy as it saw the publication of the [Strategy for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy](#). The new strategy aims to boost innovation and support for European companies in successfully navigating the green transition and making bio-based innovation a reality on the ground.

Against the backdrop of an increasingly unpredictable geopolitical landscape, the new strategy highlights the vital role of the bioeconomy in bolstering Europe's competitiveness, resilience, and strategic autonomy. The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) will implement the actions set out in the strategy, focusing on supporting the scaling up of innovation and investments and building on the work carried out under this strategic funding instrument with a view to maintaining Europe's leadership in the bioeconomy.

In this evolving landscape, 2025 was marked by significant milestones and achievements for the CBE JU.

The 2025 call for project proposals broke previous records in terms of both the number of proposals submitted and the amount of funding requested. Notably, 45 % of applicants were newcomers to the programme, illustrating the continued attractiveness and relevance of the funding instrument, as well as its openness to new applicants. Thirty proposals were selected for funding from the CBE JU 2024 call, with continued high SME participation being a key success factor. Other noteworthy highlights included the successful implementation of the **Widening Participation Strategy Action Plan 2023-2024**, the adoption of a new country-focused Action Plan for 2025-2027 to build on the achievements to date, and the publication of the first **CBE JU Synergy Strategy**. Other highlights included the establishment of the **Working Group on Primary Producers** and progress on the **Deployment Group on Finance and Investments**. **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** for the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) continue to be monitored, surpassing expectations. The KPIs for CBE JU-funded projects illustrate highly promising results.

Although a lot has been achieved in 2025, the CBE JU will continue to play a key role in transferring promising European innovation from the laboratory to the marketplace and contributing to the concrete implementation of the new bioeconomy strategy in the coming years.

### Operational achievements

By the end of 2025, the project portfolio comprised 220 projects, of which 132 had been completed and 88 were ongoing. Of these, six projects funded under the BBI JU programme were still running.

Throughout the year, a number of **projects reached key milestones**. In Spain, construction began on the [SUSTAINEXT](#) biorefinery in Hervás, while the [CERISEA](#) project broke ground in Roussillon, France. The world's first industrial microalgae biorefinery, part of the [SCALE](#) project opened in southern France. Furthermore, Munster Technological University, the project co-ordinator behind the [Rural BioReFarmeries](#) project, was successful in leveraging additional funding from national sources to launch an upstream green biorefinery pilot plant in Ireland. Plans are in place to open a downstream unit in the summer of 2026.

After 10 years, the **BBI JU programme is coming to a close**. The reported results clearly confirm the programme's success, with all KPIs linked to project outputs (KPIs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8) exceeding the initial targets.

With a **budget of EUR 172 million, the CBE JU 2025 call** received 240 eligible proposals requesting more than EUR 1.4 billion in total funding. **The proportion of SMEs participating remained high** at 34 % of all applicants. This consistently high level of participation indicates that the CBE JU programme continues to meet the needs of SMEs, remaining an important catalyst for innovation and growth. Participation from widening countries also increased, with a significant number of applicants from underrepresented countries, as defined in the CBE JU Widening Participation Strategy. Of all applicants, 45 % were **newcomers** to the programme, predominantly representing industry and SMEs. These figures highlight that the **programme remains highly attractive, open and relevant to industry and SMEs**, and confirm that the CBE JU has not yet reached saturation point. Engagement is still expanding, particularly in the private sector.

Thirty proposals were selected for funding in the **CBE JU 2024 call**. Once again, SMEs played a significant role, accounting for nearly one-third of beneficiaries and receiving a similar proportion of the funding. Around half (51 %) of all unique beneficiaries in the 2024 call were newcomers, predominantly from private for-profit companies (66 %), demonstrating the programme's ongoing appeal to the corporate sector. The same trend was seen among SMEs, with more than half of SME beneficiaries applying to the programme for the first time.

Another operational highlight was the successful implementation of the **CBE JU Widening Participation Strategy Action Plan 2023–2024**. As previously mentioned, the effect of the strategy can be seen in the increased participation of applicants from widening countries in call 2025.

The implementation of the Action Plan 2023–2024 provided valuable lessons that have informed the development of a more country-specific Action Plan for 2025–2027. This new plan is designed to address the unique needs and characteristics of each country more effectively. While further efforts are required in a number of countries, momentum is building thanks to the mobilisation of the CBE JU and local actors.

The CBE JU published its **Synergy Strategy** in 2025, which aims to support investment by matching innovation needs with the right funding at the right time. By combining EU, national and regional resources, this Strategy supports the scaling up of industrial projects with a significant local impact.

While it is important to recognise that most CBE JU-funded projects are still in their early phases, with the first projects only being launched only in 2023, **progress is nevertheless being made with regard to all CBE JU specific KPI's**. Participation in projects by primary producers has already reached half of the target, with 50 producers currently involved out of a target of 100 (KPI 1). To increase consumer awareness and stimulate the market uptake of bio-based solutions, the strategic involvement of brand owners in funded projects (KPI 7) is approaching the target of 50, with 47 brand owners currently involved. KPI 10.1 reflects the inclusivity of CBE JU project participation, with 106 newcomer participants from underrepresented countries by the end of 2025, which is well on track to meet the target of 150 by the end of the programme.

A key impact of the JU as a funding instrument is its ability to attract and mobilise additional private financing, thereby multiplying the impact of public funding by leveraging private ones. By the end of 2025, BBI JU projects had achieved a **leverage effect of EUR 3.62 for every EUR 1 of EU funding**, which is well above the target of EUR 2.85 for the initiative. This leverage effect has

demonstrated the confidence and interest of industry in the projects supported by the BBI JU and CBE JU, highlighting that the bioeconomy is considered to offer more than delivering on green objectives and represents a clear market opportunity.

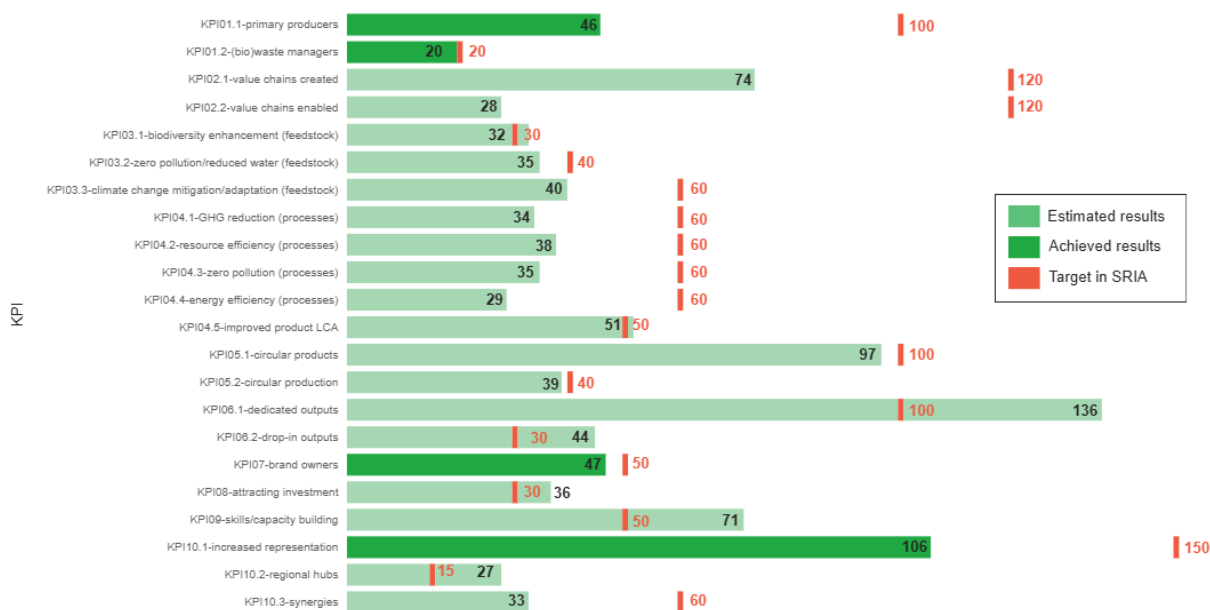


Figure 1 CBE JU KPIs: results vs SIRA targets

## Communication activities

Fifteen campaigns were launched during the year to showcase the partnership's impact, two of which were dedicated to highlighting the final results of the BBI JU. The CBE JU website now features a **new policy impact section**, reflecting the partnership's contribution to key EU policy objectives and highlighting the JU's role in strengthening the EU's leadership in the bioeconomy. Key project milestones were presented, as was a **new interactive dashboard showing country and organisation participation** in CBE JU-funded projects. The **CBE JU Info Day 2025**, held on 3 April, continued to generate significant interest, attracting **450 on-site participants and facilitating nearly 1 000 networking meetings**. Information about the 2026 call, published at the end of the year, attracted 20 000 views.

## Governance

On 24 June 2025, a strategic meeting was held between Commissioner Zaharieva, who is responsible for Startups, Research and Innovation, and representatives from the bio-based industries. Organised alongside the European Commission event, '*R&I for a Competitive Green Transition*', it provided stakeholders in the bio-based industries with a valuable opportunity to discuss the future of Europe's bioeconomy and contribute to the EU Bioeconomy Strategy discussions.

Progress was made on establishing the **Deployment Group on Finance and Investments** with the publication of the EIB study on '*Scaling up Europe's bio-based industries*'. The new Bioeconomy Strategy also referenced a Bioeconomy Investment Group and discussions are ongoing between the EC, BIC and the CBE JU Programme Office regarding the creation of an EC deployment group as part of the CBE JU mandate.

Significant advancements were also made by the Working Group on Primary Producers, including the appointment of the first group of members in April 2025, the signing of the Coordination and Support Action (CSA) Grant Agreement with the [RootLinks](#) project, which will be providing support, the formal establishment of the working group on 11 June 2025, and the delivery of the first action plan within the December 2025 deadline.

## Financial management and internal control

The CBE JU has systematically examined available control results and indicators, as well as the observations and recommendations of the Internal Audit Service and the European Court of Auditors.

All elements above have been assessed in order to determine their impact on management assurance regarding the achievement of the control objectives. Further details can be found in Section 4 on Internal Control and Financial Management.

In conclusion, management has reasonable assurance that, overall, suitable controls are in place and working as intended, and risks are being appropriately monitored and mitigated. The Executive Director, in their capacity as Authorising Officer by Delegation, has signed the Declaration of Assurance.

## Conclusion

The examples mentioned above demonstrate that the CBE JU is well on track to achieving its objectives by the end of the programme. The impressive participation of SMEs in the programme, as well as the number of new applicants and beneficiaries underscores the fact that this strategic funding instrument continues to be a vital de-risking mechanism for the sector. The notable leverage effect generated by the projects emphasises that the JU brings added value by multiplying public funding resources and mobilising a key industrial ecosystem for Europe. This is a key indication that the JU is delivering by triggering, attracting and mobilising private investment in Europe.

As we enter 2026 amidst an increasingly uncertain and unpredictable geopolitical environment, the CBE JU is supporting European innovation, entrepreneurs and small businesses by bringing together cutting-edge, bio-based solutions and products to the market, thereby benefiting both European consumers and the environment.

At a time when Europe is once again feeling the economic impact of its dependency on fossil resources, the bioeconomy offers real and tangible solutions. The European circular bioeconomy supports Europe's strategic autonomy by creating local value chains, contributing to Europe's resilience by reducing dependency on fossil fuels and boosting European competitiveness by modernising the industrial base and promoting high-growth green sectors.

Looking ahead to 2026, it will be another important year for the European circular bioeconomy. With increasing competition from other regions of the world to lead the race in this strategic sector, the urgent need to scale up and commercialise European bio-based innovation remains a key focus.

## 1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2025

This chapter sets out the main activities and key achievements of the CBE JU in 2025, including the BBI JU legacy. It covers scientific and technological advances, progress against target KPIs, the expected impacts in terms of competitiveness, growth and job creation and our contribution to addressing societal challenges.

### 1.1. KEY CBE JU 2025 OBJECTIVES, ASSOCIATED RISKS AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES

Operating under the Horizon Europe programme, the CBE JU aims to **accelerate innovation and the market uptake of innovative bio-based solutions while improving the sustainability and circularity of bio-based systems**. This includes areas such as the end-of-life of products, zero pollution, contribution to climate change mitigation and resource efficiency. In addition, the sustainable and local sourcing of biomass, the use of all types of bio-based side streams and the reuse, recycling and upcycling of resources all play a key role in ensuring a sustainable and efficient use of natural resources.

The **transition from a fossil-based economy to a bioeconomy** requires sustainable innovative bio-based products that can successfully replace their current fossil-based counterparts while fully meeting market requirements. The bioeconomy also has great potential to support regional development by bringing together diverse stakeholders across the value chain, including primary producers, consumers, technology developers, researchers and companies exploring new cross-sector collaborations and business models.

In this context, the CBE JU is expected to play a pivotal role in implementing the new [EU Bioeconomy Strategy](#) to support transition from a fossil-based economy to a sustainable bioeconomy, following on from the 2012 and 2018 strategies. The CBE JU also contributes directly to the [EU initiative on Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing](#) and especially the upcoming Biotech Act II by increasing the innovation and competitiveness of industrial biotechnology, supporting the scaling up of biotechnological solutions and promoting greater biomanufacturing capacity at European level.

While fostering industrial competitiveness, resilience and strategic autonomy, the CBE JU will continue to align with the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Clean Industrial Deal, as well as the A Clean Planet for All Communication and the Fit for 55 package. These initiatives aim to help the EU achieve its ambitious targets of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 % (compared to 1990) by 2030 and becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The CBE JU will also support the EU commitments set out in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the COP21 Paris Climate Agreement.

The chapters below present how the CBE JU 2025 call contributes to its objectives and strategic priorities, setting out the specific operational and management objectives for 2025 alongside the associated operational risks and mitigating, preventive and corrective measures.

### 1.1.1. The CBE JU’s objectives and strategic priorities

Figure 1 illustrates the general and specific objectives of the CBE JU, as set out in the Council Regulation establishing the Joint Undertakings under the [Horizon Europe Programme](#). It also shows the related strategic priorities, as detailed in the CBE JU Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). Figure 2 and Figure 3 present the links between the topics set out in the 2025 CBE JU Annual Work Programme and the CBE JU’s general and specific objectives, together with the strategic priorities identified in the SRIA across the three main blocks (feedstock, processing and products), and the cross-cutting priorities.

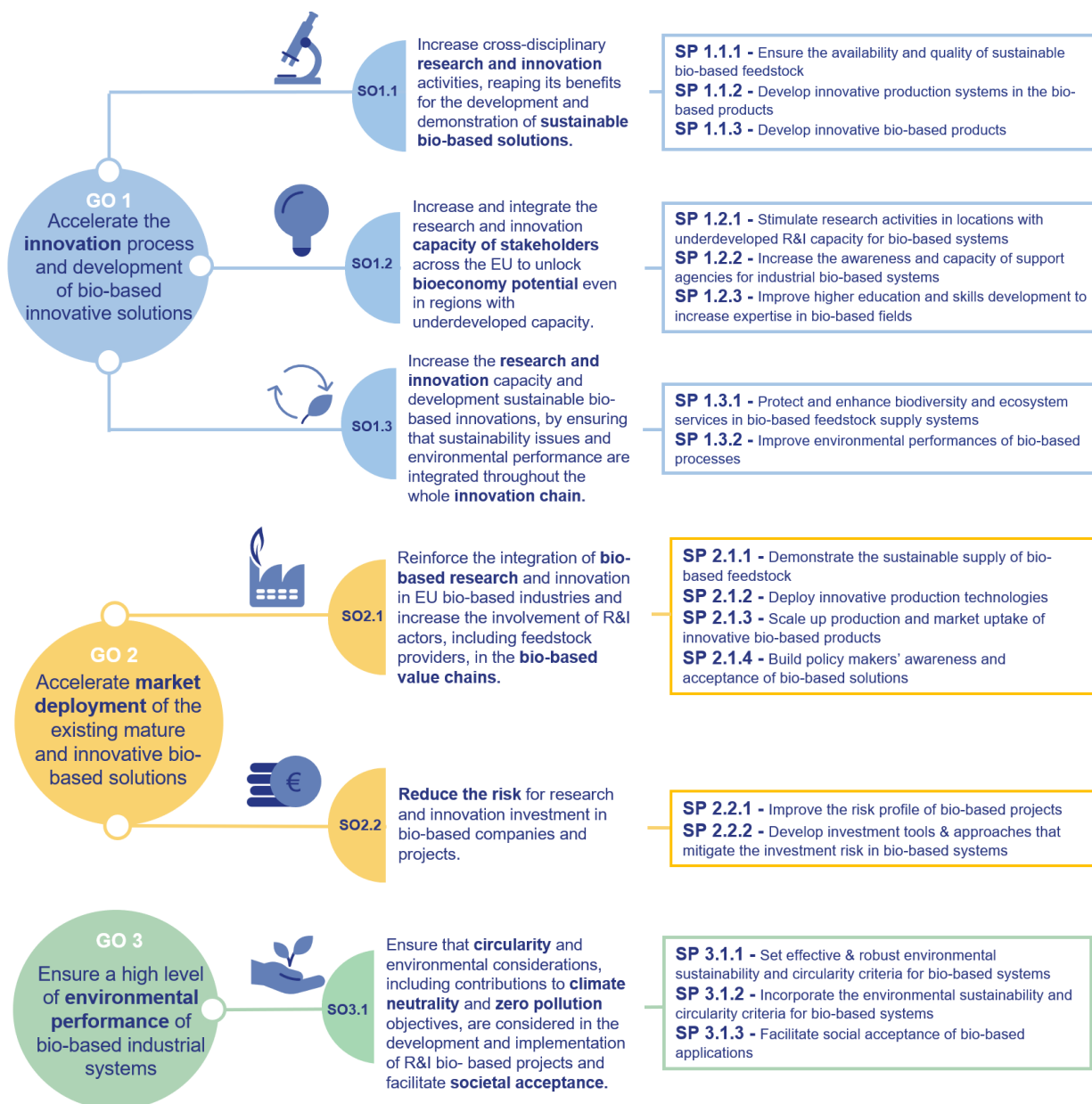


Figure 2 CBE JU’s general (GOs) and specific objectives (SOs) and related SRIA strategic priorities (SPs) with their logical link highlighted with three different colours (light blue GO1, dark yellow GO2 and light green GO3).

## Types of actions and TRLs

The CBE JU implements its research and innovation programme through four types of actions as described in the CBE JU SRIA, targeting different Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs).

As shown in Figure 2, while **Research and Innovation Actions** (RIAs) focus on filling technological innovation gaps, **Innovation Actions** (IAs) prioritise integrating and up-scaling technologies. Ultimately, IAs-Flagships bring technologies closer to commercial deployment by demonstrating them at industrial scale, as exemplified by first-of-a-kind **flagship biorefineries**. **Coordination and Support Actions** (CSAs) aim to create value chains by addressing cross-cutting challenges.

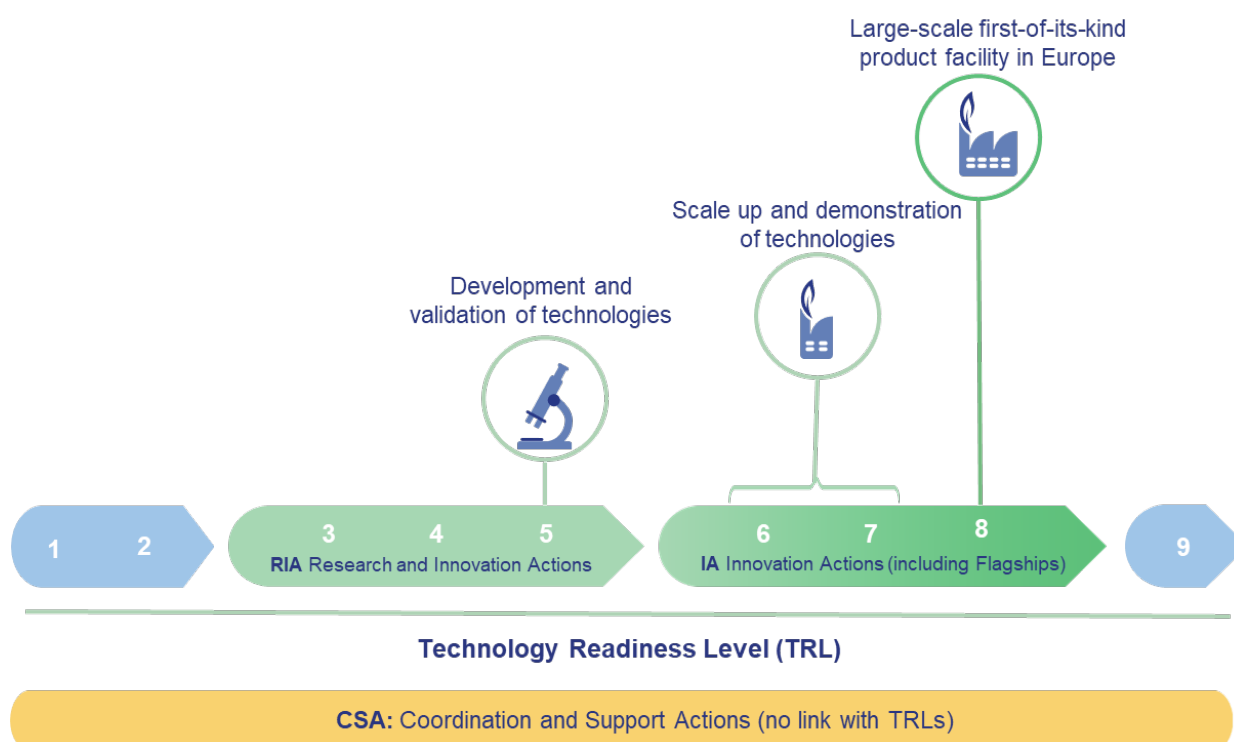


Figure 3 Types of action in relation to their respective TRLs.

While all types of actions contribute significantly to the three general objectives (see Figure 4), there is some correlation between the general objectives and the different types of actions. For example, all RIAs and IAs up to TRL7 contribute to general objective 1, which is to accelerate the innovation process and development of bio-based solutions (GO1), while all Flagships clearly support GO2, which is to promote market deployment. RIAs and IAs, including Flagships, aim to ensure a high level of environmental performance and the circularity of bio-based industrial systems (GO3). In AWP2025, the CSA topic focused specifically on developing and deploying new curricula in the field of bio-based systems, contributing particularly to objective 2.1 *Increase and integrate the research and innovation capacity of stakeholders across the Union*.

A similar correlation can be observed in the SRIA strategic priorities, which are also linked to the GOs, as indicated by the colour coding in the Figure 2. In addition, Figure 5 also shows that some topics have a stronger focus on feedstock type, processing or final products/applications across all types of actions, while also addressing other cross-cutting aspects, such as communication, finance and setting up of environmental sustainability frameworks.

CBE JU specific objectives		CBE JU Topics AWP 2025												
		IA-Flag01	IA-Flag02	IA-Flag03	IA-Flag04	IA-01	IA-02	IA-03	IA-04	IA-05	R-01	R-02	R-03	S-01
1. Accelerate the innovation process and development of bio-based innovative solutions	1.1. Increase cross-disciplinary research and innovation activities, reaping its benefits for the development and demonstration of sustainable bio-based solutions.					X			X		X	X	X	
	1.2. Increase and integrate the research and innovation capacity of stakeholders across the EU to unlock bioeconomy potential even in regions with underdeveloped capacity.										X		X	X
	1.3. Increase the research and innovation capacity and development sustainable bio-based innovations, by ensuring that sustainability issues and environmental performance are integrated throughout the whole innovation chain.					X	X				X	X	X	
2. Accelerate market deployment of the existing mature and innovative biobased solutions	2.1. Reinforce the integration of bio-based research and innovation in EU bio-based industries and increase the involvement of R&I actors, including feedstock providers, in the bio-based value chains.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
	2.2. Reduce the risk for research and innovation investment in bio-based companies and projects.													
3. Ensure a high level of environmental performance of bio-based industrial systems	3.1. Ensure that circularity and environmental considerations, including contributions to climate neutrality and zero pollution objectives, are considered in the development and implementation of R&I bio-based projects and facilitate societal acceptance.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Figure 4 Contribution of AWP 2025 topics to the CBE JU-specific objectives.

SRIA strategic priorities		CBE JU Topics AWP 2025												
		IA-Flag01	IA-Flag02	IA-Flag03	IA-Flag04	IA-01	IA-02	IA-03	IA-04	IA-05	R-01	R-02	R-03	S-01
FEEDSTOCK	1.1.1. Ensure the availability and quality of sustainable bio-based feedstock					X					X		X	
	1.3.1. Protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services in bio-based feedstock supply systems										X	X	X	
	2.1.1. Demonstrate the sustainable supply of bio-based feedstock	X	X	X		X								
PROCESSING	1.1.2. Develop innovative production systems in the bio-based industry					X			X		X		X	

		CBE JU Topics AWP 2025												
		IA-Flag01	IA-Flag02	IA-Flag03	IA-Flag04	IA-01	IA-02	IA-03	IA-04	IA-05	R-01	R-02	R-03	S-01
		<b>SRIA strategic priorities</b>												
	1.3.2. Improve environmental performances of bio-based processes						X		X					
	2.1.2. Deploy innovative production technologies	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
<b>PRODUCTS</b>	1.1.3. Develop innovative bio-based products					X					X	X	X	
	2.1.3. Scale-up production and market uptake of innovative bio-based products		X	X	X		X	X		X				
<b>CROSS-CUTTING</b>	<b>Communication</b>	1.2.1. Stimulate research activities in countries and regions with underdeveloped R&I capacity for bio-based systems										X		
		1.2.2. Increase the awareness and capacity of national and regional research support agencies for industrial bio-based systems												
		1.2.3. Facilitate the development of expertise in bio-based fields by improving higher education and skills development in the private sector												X
		2.1.4. Build policy makers' awareness and acceptance of bio-based solutions												
		3.1.3. Facilitate social acceptance of bio-based applications	X		X	X	X		X		X			
	<b>Finance</b>	2.2.1. Improve the risk profile of bio-based projects												
		2.2.2. Develop investment tools and approaches that mitigate the investment risk in bio-based systems												
	<b>Environmental sustainability framework</b>	3.1.1. Set effective and robust environmental sustainability and circularity criteria for bio-based systems												
		3.1.2. Incorporate the environmental sustainability and circularity criteria in bio-based systems	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Figure 5 Contribution of AWP 2025 topics to SRIA strategic priorities.

### 1.1.2. The CBE JU's operational and management objectives in 2025

During the CBE JU Governing Board meeting on 3 October 2024, the Executive Director presented the following priorities for 2025, focusing on three areas:

#### Governance

- ▶ Collaborate with the European Commission and the BIC on the follow-up of the biotech and biomanufacturing initiative action plan and the revision of the Bioeconomy strategy.
- ▶ Contribute to the discussions and preparations for the next research and innovation framework programme, including the future set-up of the European partnerships.
- ▶ In this context, focus on the deployment challenges of the bio-based sector by supporting the establishment of the deployment groups on finance and investment and primary producers, with a view to addressing some of the critical areas set out in the Commission's communication.

#### Project and programme management

- ▶ Call and project management remain at the core of the JU's work, including evaluating, selecting and signing new grant agreements for the 2024 call; ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of ongoing projects; launching the 2025 call; and supporting the drafting of the 2026 call.
- ▶ Analyse and report on progress regarding corporate and specific project KPIs, as well as the evolution of the CBE JU portfolio to ensure the continuous impact of the initiative.
- ▶ Focus on strengthening synergies with other EU programmes in order to raise the awareness of CBE JU applicants about additional funding opportunities.

#### Communication

- ▶ Strengthen the narrative on the circular bioeconomy by providing concrete examples of successful projects which are scaling up innovative technologies in Europe and supporting green growth.
- ▶ Highlight the role of SMEs in providing disruptive innovation and supporting the development of novel, CBE JU-funded biorefineries in Europe. The campaign will also target the new European Commission and the European Parliament through exhibitions and ad hoc events.

### 1.1.3. Associated risks and mitigation measures

In line with the CBE JU risk identification and mitigation procedures, the risk assessment exercise carried out in respect of the objectives and priorities for 2025, assessed the risks identified which varied in terms of importance, convergence and interdependency. Other emerging risks were additionally identified and monitored throughout the year in terms of likelihood and impact.

These risks were detailed in the CBE JU Risk Register, together with appropriate risk responses, responsibilities and implementation deadlines by the JU Programme Office and external stakeholders.

In 2025, the CBE JU did not identify any critical risk that needed to be publicly disclosed, with possible reservations to be made by the management regarding the effective achievement of the objectives for the year. Overall, the results of the risk assessment exercise confirmed the trend of previous years, providing reasonable assurance over the CBE JU's capacity to identify potential threats and, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, set up adequate responsive actions to support the effective and efficient management of its core activities.

Nevertheless, a high level of concern remains for 2025 and beyond due to the impact of the current geopolitical situation on the European economy, particularly on the CBE JU initiative's industry-driven sector. Out of 1 200 participants in CBE JU projects, 51 % are private, for-profit companies and ~36 % are SMEs. Therefore, private investment decisions or commitments to ongoing and future projects may suddenly be re-prioritised.

The CBE JU's governance bodies and its management are fully engaged in monitoring these risks, fostering communication channels with project consortia, and ensuring the timely and qualitative achievement of the initiative's multi-annual strategic objectives. Furthermore, in 2025, new tasks were implemented without any additional allocation of human resources to carry out these additional activities.

## 1.2. RESEARCH & INNOVATION ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

This section provides an overview of the CBE JU project portfolio, which uses a variety of processes and technologies based on different types of biomass to develop a wide range of bio-based products for different uses. These range from feed and food ingredients to packaging, construction, personal and home care, and the automotive industry, among others. The CBE JU project portfolio currently includes 82 CBE JU projects from the first three CBE JU calls in 2022, 2023 and 2024, as well as completed and ongoing BBI JU projects. For simplicity, we will refer to these projects collectively as the CBE JU projects/portfolio.

### 1.2.1. Overview of the CBE JU portfolio and its evolution

The CBE JU portfolio currently consists of 220 funded projects in total, of which 132 were completed by the end of 2025 and 88 are still ongoing. As shown in Figure 6, only 6 projects (3 IA-DEMO and 3 IA-FLAG) funded under the BBI JU programme were still running at the end of 2025, while all BBI JU RIA and CSA projects had been completed.

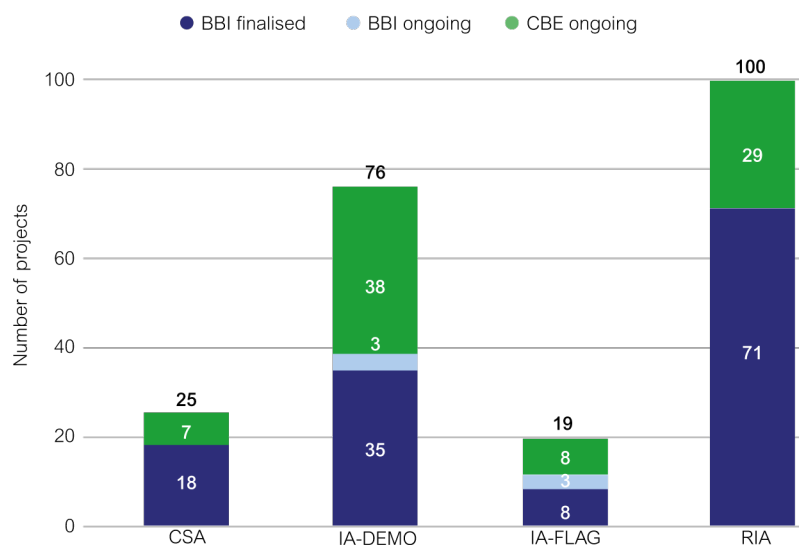


Figure 6 Number of CBE JU projects per type of action completed and ongoing at the end of 2025.

Considering the total amount of funding distributed in both programmes (Figure 7), it is clear that funding for IA-DEMO projects is significantly higher than the total funding for RIA and IA-FLAG projects. This is not surprising, given that the core objective of the JU is to scale up research and innovation to TRL 6-7 and demonstrate its viability for industrial-scale investment at TRL 8. In addition, by the end of 2025, more funding will be concentrated in ongoing IA-DEMO projects than in completed ones.

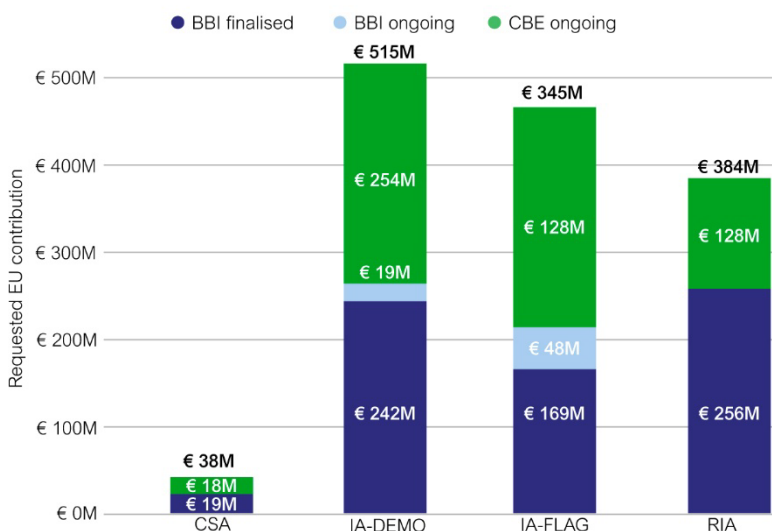


Figure 7 Total EU contribution per type of action completed and ongoing at the end of 2025.

Figure 8 shows the locations of the Flagship biorefineries (i.e. industrial-scale plants) and the Innovation Action demonstration plants funded by the BBI JU and CBE JU up until the end of 2025.

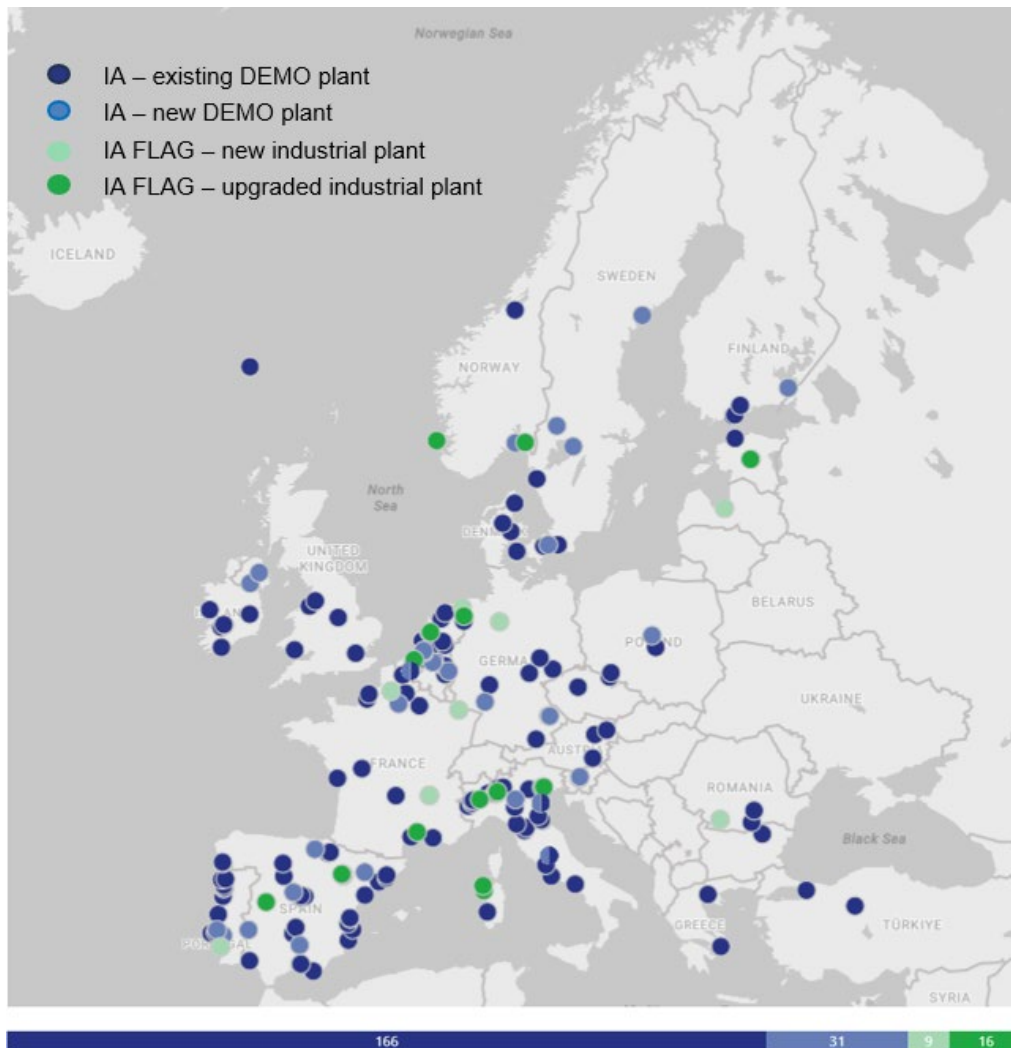


Figure 8 CBE JU funded innovation action demonstration plants and Flagship location.

The demonstration plants are divided into two categories:

- ▶ Existing demonstration plants (light blue). These are facilities that are typically already owned or operated by project beneficiaries and are used to scale up technologies and increase production capacity.
- ▶ New demonstration plants (dark blue), on the other hand, are newly built installations designed specifically for demonstration purposes.

Similarly, Flagship plants are categorised as follows:

- ▶ Upgraded industrial plants (dark green): existing facilities that are either already owned by project partners or retrofitted to accommodate the new technology.
- ▶ New industrial plants (light green): purpose-built industrial plants developed from the ground up to operate at an industrial scale.

It is important to note that projects do not necessarily correspond to a single facility, as they may involve multiple sites, particularly in the case of IA projects.

## Main sources of feedstock

Figure 9 shows the five main types of feedstock used by the CBE JU projects, excluding CSAs:

- ▶ **Agri-food feedstock** is the most widely used, with more than half of projects focusing on the utilisation of residues from the agri-food industry.
- ▶ **Forest-based feedstock** follows closely behind with around a third of CBE JU projects reporting the use of lignocellulosic side streams and wood residues.
- ▶ Various **side and waste streams** are also exploited in a significant number of projects, with the organic fraction of municipal solid waste being particularly prominent.
- ▶ **Aquatic feedstock** and, in particular micro- and macro-algae, are used in an increasing number of CBE JU projects.
- ▶ A small proportion of the CBE JU project portfolio focuses on the direct utilisation of **biogenic gaseous CO<sub>2</sub>**.
- ▶ Finally, a very small number of projects use **'other' feedstocks**.

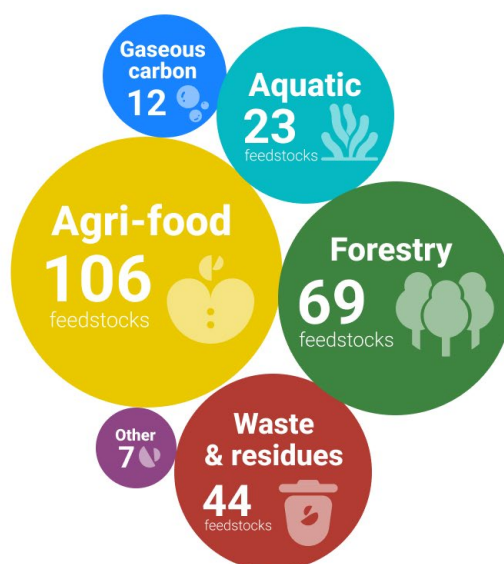


Figure 9 Number of CBE JU RIAs and IAs, including Flagships, projects in relation to all kinds of feedstock used.

While the majority of projects focus on one type of feedstock, 53 have reported the use of more than one type. The table below sets out examples of CBE JU projects funded under the 2024 call, together with the primary feedstock source used across the different categories.

Feedstock	CBE JU project
Agri-food	<b>RUNFASTER4EU</b> (IA-Flagship) is building a replicable value chain by cultivating oil crops on marginal land and converting the plots into a productive source of renewable feedstock. The vegetable oils and residual biomass obtained from these crops are processed in two flagship biorefineries in Italy using a cascade approach. This enables the conversion of plant extracts into a wide range of high-value, bio-based products, including building blocks and bio-based plastics to cosmetics, bio-stimulants, feed ingredients and NIPU for vertical gardens.
Forest-based	<b>WoodVALOR</b> (RIA) tackles the challenge of using contaminated waste wood as sustainable feedstock. It is developing advanced decontamination and

Feedstock	CBE JU project
	<p>fractionation technologies to safely recover and utilise wood components to produce bio-based binders, acrylic acid, fatty acids and other ingredients for paints, coatings and sustainable materials. The project will also produce biochar from residues for soil remediation and mineral recovery.</p> <p><b>The Woodtreat</b> (RIA) project aims to address the challenge of valorising highly polluted post-consumer wood and creosote-treated wood waste streams, which are currently incinerated or sent to landfill. The goal is to recover clean secondary raw materials and transform them into high-value, bio-based products while reducing the environmental and health risks associated with wood preservatives.</p>
Aquatic	<p><b>ALLIANCE</b> (IA-DEMO) uses microalgae biomass as renewable feedstock, cultivating various strains of microalgae, including Spirulina and Chlorella. The feedstock is processed using a multi-product biorefinery approach to extract algae-based ingredients for use in food, aquafeed and agriculture.</p>
Waste	<p><b>SPLENDOR</b> (IA-DEMO) focuses on converting black liquor, an underutilised lignin-rich by-product of the pulp and paper industry, into valuable bio-aromatic chemicals such as vanillin. Depolymerisation converts the lignin content of this waste feedstock into high-value, bio-based building blocks for fine chemicals, coatings, plasticisers and fuel components.</p> <p><b>SOUL</b> (IA-DEMO) uses several feedstocks, including the organic fraction of municipal solid waste, as a renewable source for developing fully biodegradable, bio-based plastics for agricultural applications. These bio-based materials are designed to biodegrade safely in soil by avoiding eco-toxicity and microplastic accumulation and environmental impacts on soil quality and fertility, as well as combining biodegradability-in-soil with different end-of-life options.</p>
Biogenic gaseous carbon gas	<p><b>UNICO2RN</b> (IA-DEMO) uses biogenic carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) as a carbon feedstock, capturing it from various sources through the use of advanced technology for highly efficient CO<sub>2</sub> capture and purification. The gaseous carbon is then converted via gas fermentation into microbial proteins, providing a sustainable nutritional source for human food and animal feed, as well as biodegradable biopolymers that can replace conventional plastics.</p> <p><b>ECOFUNC</b> (IA-DEMO) focuses on producing bio-based polymers using CO<sub>2</sub> as a carbon source. Owing to their well-known mechanical and thermal properties, these bio-based polymers are used as building blocks to build panels for walls, ceilings, facades and tiles.</p>

Table 1 Examples of sources of feedstock used in CBE JU projects from call 2024.

## Technologies

Most technologies used by CBE JU projects fall into three main categories. As shown in Figure 10, **chemical and thermochemical** technologies, as well as **industrial biotechnology**, account for a similar proportion, whereas **mechanical and thermomechanical** technologies are less prevalent in the CBE JU portfolio. The distribution of these technologies across the three types of actions varies, with chemical and thermochemical technologies dominating projects at lower TRLs and industrial biotechnology being the most prevalent in IA-DEMO and IA-Flag. Mechanical and thermomechanical technologies are the least represented across all types of actions.

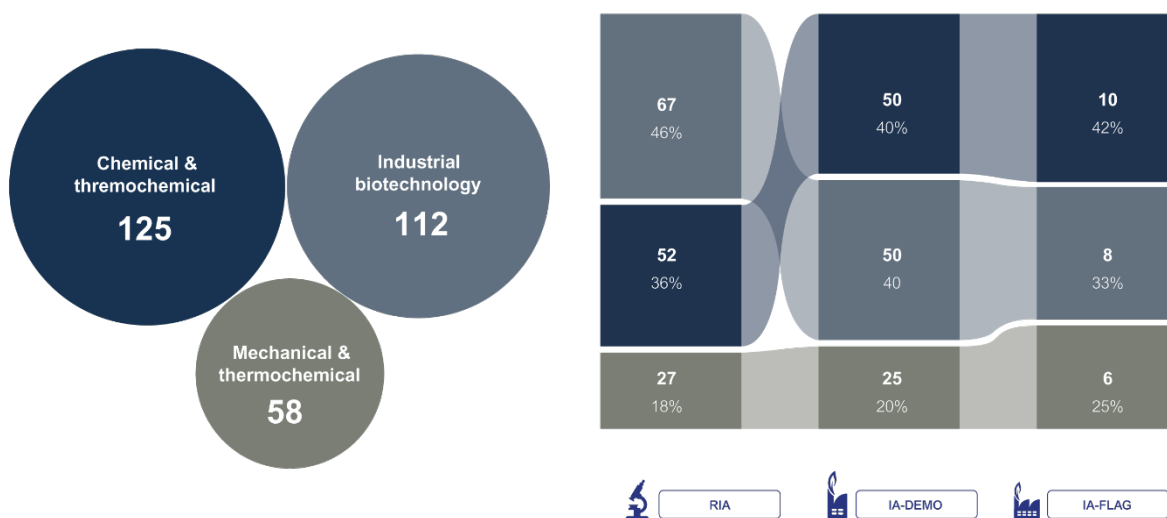


Figure 10 On the left, number of CBE JU RIAs and IAs, including Flagships, projects reporting each technology category. On the right, distribution of the technology categories per type of action.

The table below sets out examples of CBE JU projects from the 2024 call, together with the main technology used.

Technology	CBE JU project
<b>Chemical and thermochemical</b>	<b>HIBISCUS</b> (IA-DEMO) aims to convert lignin and vegetable oils into high-performance materials for use in the construction sector. The project uses the chemical transformation of the oils and lignin depolymerisation to develop five pilot-scale, bio-based construction solutions containing up to 80 % of bio-based content.
<b>Mechanical and thermochemical</b>	<b>BIOS MATER</b> (IA-DEMO) is developing a new generation of bio-based construction materials. These materials are produced using various technologies, including texturised injection moulding for functional bio-based wall panels and 3D printing for functional bio-based floor tiles. The project tailors materials from renewable biomass residues that meet functional requirements such as durability, fire resistance, insulation and mechanical strength for real-world buildings.
<b>Industrial biotechnology</b>	<b>Purple4Life</b> (RIA) harnesses a unique class of microorganisms called purple phototrophic bacteria, which can convert various carbon substrates such as sugars, alcohols and CO <sub>2</sub> into nutrient-rich biomass. These bacteria upcycle secondary side streams into high-value ingredients with antioxidant and mitochondrial health-enhancing properties for use in food and feed products.

Table 2 Examples of technologies used in CBE JU projects from Call 2024.

## Application areas

As shown in Figure 11, the CBE JU project portfolio covers seven major application areas. The most represented area is packaging, followed by cosmetics and home care, and food and feed. Construction and agriculture have a similar share, with the automotive and textile sectors being smaller.



Figure 11 Number of CBE JU projects developing products in each application area (excluding CSA).

The table below sets out examples of CBE JU projects from the 2024 call, together with products developed in the different application areas.

Applications	CBE JU project
Cosmetics and home care	<b>SOLRESS</b> (IA-DEMO) aims to transform solvent production by developing an integrated biorefinery system based on lignocellulosic biomass and post-consumer coffee grounds. These feedstocks are then transformed into sustainable, high-performance solvents for various applications, including cosmetics and personal care to be used in the production of encapsulated active ingredients.
Automotive	<b>LIGNOFUN</b> (IA-DEMO) uses two abundant side streams, black liquor and kraft lignin, as a source of lignin for conversion into bio-based aromatic compounds. These lignin derived components are used in the production of foams, nylon 66, adhesives, coatings, composites, wood panels, and rubber products, among others.
Construction	<b>CERISEA</b> (IA-Flagship) aims to industrialise the production of 5-hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) using an innovative, resource-efficient process that utilises renewable feedstocks from the agri-food sector and advanced fructose derived from non-food sources. With an annual production target of 3 000 tonnes, the aim is to validate the use of pure HMF in a wide range of applications, including

Applications	CBE JU project
	resins, functionalised biopolymers, polyesters, polyamides, polyurethanes and plasticisers that meet market demand.
Agriculture	<b>INSOIL</b> (IA-DEMO) develops in-soil biodegradable agricultural products from sustainable bio-based feedstocks, including agricultural residues and microbial biomass, to replace conventional, single-use plastics in crop production. These new materials promote soil health while reducing microplastics and reliance on fossil-derived polymers.
Food and feed	<b>CleanAlgae2Value</b> (IA-DEMO) aims to demonstrate a scalable 'Micro-Algae Biorefinery Upgrade Module' for producing ingredients such as protein isolates, oils, natural pigments and starch for the food and packaging industries.
Packaging	<b>CERNET</b> (IA-DEMO) focuses on converting biogenic gaseous carbon emissions (CO <sub>2</sub> and methane) from wineries, waste plants and bioethanol production into chemicals and ingredients in three different plants targeting different applications. The Spanish demonstrator will convert biogenic emissions into bioplastics to be validated for packaging applications.
Textile	<b>BLUECOAT</b> (RIA) uses different renewable resources, such as bio-based polymers, natural fibres and plant-based proteins from waste, for the production of coatings for textile applications with exceptional technical performance in demanding and extreme conditions, such as resistance to high and low temperatures, prolonged exposure to an aqueous environment and UV radiation.

Table 3 Examples of applications in CBE JU projects from the 2024 call.

## CBE JU Coordination and Support Actions

Lastly, the 25 funded CSAs are grouped in the table below according to their main area of focus. The CSAs funded under the 2024 call are highlighted in yellow.

Project focus	Project acronym	Project title
Public awareness and engagement	BIOWAYS	Increase public awareness of bio-based products and applications supporting the growth of the European bioeconomy
	BioCannDo	Bioeconomy awareness and discourse project
	BIOBRIDGES	Bridging consumers, brands and the bio-based industry to improve the market of sustainable bio-based products
	Allthings.bioPRO	Game changer for the bio-based economy
Increasing bioprocess efficiency	Tech4Biowaste	A dynamic database of relevant technologies of bio-waste utilisation
	ICT-BIOCHAIN	ICT tools in efficient biomass supply chains for sustainable chemical production
	COPILOT	CO-creating the next generation platform of PILOT and demo infrastructures, unlocking faster innovation and EU bioeconomy growth
Mapping and improving	STAR4BBI	Standards and regulations for the bio-based industry
	BIOCIRCULARCITIES	Exploring the circular bioeconomy potential in cities. Proactive instruments for policymakers and stakeholders

Project focus	Project acronym	Project title
regulatory frameworks	BIORADAR	Monitoring system of the environmental and social sustainability and circularity of industrial bio-based systems
	BioINSouth	Supporting regional environmental sustainability assessment for the BIO-based sectors to improve INnovation, INdustries and INclusivity in SOUTH Europe
Education, skills and career development	UrBIOfuture	Boosting future careers, education and research in the European bio-based industry
	BIObec	Preparing the creation of Bio-based Education Centres to meet industry needs and boost the contribution of the bioeconomy to societal challenges
	NEBA Alliance	New European Bauhaus Academy Alliance
Network and strategy development	RoadToBio	Roadmap for the Chemical Industry in Europe towards a Bioeconomy
	PILOTS4U	A network of bioeconomy open-access pilot and multipurpose demo facilities
	BiOPEN	The open innovation platform to stimulate the business and innovation potential of the bio-based sector in Europe
	LIFT	Unleash the potential of CSA results to contribute to sustainable and competitive Bio-based Industries in Europe
	CELEBio	Central European leaders of bioeconomy network
	BIOSWITCH	Encouraging brand owners to switch to bio-based in highly innovative ecosystems
	MPowerBIO	Empowering SME Clusters to help SMEs overcome the valley of death
	BioeconomyVenture	Raising disruptive bioeconomy ventures, startups and spin-offs to the top
	BIOECONOMY GIANTS	Fostering collaboration among primary producers and beyond to promote sustainable growth
	BIO-INSPIRE	Enhancing bio-based innovation and participation in under-represented regions through cluster mobilisation and collaborative governance
RootLinks	Primary Sector Working Group Support Project	

Table 4 List of the CSAs regrouped according to the main focus of the project.

## 1.2.2. Main research and innovation achievements

In 2025, the projects funded by the CBE JU achieved significant milestones. This section presents examples that highlight the projects' promising impactful results, illustrating how sustainable bio-based solutions can address some of society's most pressing challenges. In particular, the examples below demonstrate how CBE JU projects contribute to **EU resilience, strategic autonomy and sustainability goals** by reducing reliance on imports and deploying resource-efficient, low-carbon technologies and processes. These solutions utilise various types of bio-based side streams, residues and other underutilised resources to produce sustainable bio-based ingredients, chemicals and materials.



### SUSTAINEXT (IA-Flagship, started in June 2023)

The CBE JU-funded SUSTAINEXT broke ground earlier this year in Hervás, Spain, with the construction of a plant designed to process 20 kilotons of agricultural side streams and medicinal and aromatic plants into healthy ingredients for use in food and feed, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics. This plant is strategically located in the Extremadura region renowned for its agricultural



heritage, where it brings new development and job opportunities to the bio-based industries. The consortium, comprised of 21 beneficiaries and led by the SME NATA C BIOTECH SL, brings together the invaluable expertise of farmers, researchers and end-users to ensure the successful achievement of the project's competitiveness and sustainability goals.

### CERISEA (IA-Flagship, started in March 2025)

Construction of the CBE JU-funded CERISEA production plant officially began in Roussillon, France, at the end of 2025. A milestone event was held on 24 October 2025 to mark this occasion, which was attended by the CBE JU, local authorities, construction partners and institutional representatives. Led by Michelin ResiCare, the project will realise a first-of-its-kind large-scale production plant of 5-HMF in Europe, with an output of up to 3 000 tonnes per year. This strategic

molecule enables new sustainable applications in resins, polymers, crop science and specialty chemicals.

### **COPILLOT** (CSA, launched in June 2024)

The Coordination and Support Action project COPILLOT, which is expanding the database initiated by the BBI-funded project Pilots4U, has launched an online database containing more than 100 state-of-the-art open access pilot and demonstration facilities in at least 21 countries. This database will support companies and research institutions in bringing their ideas from concept to market deployment. The project focuses on capacity building, service training and matchmaking opportunities to strengthen the EU bioeconomy. It also frequently hosts scale-up and training webinars in collaboration with experts, organises onsite study visits Pilot and Demonstration Infrastructure Fairs, and connects companies with facilities. The consortium brings together a unique mix of start-up networks, spin-offs, corporations, investors and public authorities. All materials are available on the project's website: [www.biopilots4u.eu](http://www.biopilots4u.eu).



### **Rural BioReFarmeries** (IA-DEMO, launched in December 2024)



The Rural BioReFarmeries project involves the development of a concept of small decentralised local biorefineries that focus on converting underutilised grassland biomass, and more specifically grass juice, into human-grade protein and protein concentrates for animal feed. By involving farmers, industry and other collaborators, the project creates a local loop in which farmers benefit from rural grasslands to feed their animals, reducing their reliance on expensive soymeal imports and lowering their carbon footprint. Despite being in its early stages, the project shows

promise in delivering a successful decentralised green biorefinery concept for European farmers, owing to the support of a strong and experienced consortium. Munster Technological University, the co-ordinator of Rural BioReFarmeries, has leveraged additional funding from national sources to launch an upstream green biorefinery pilot plant in Ireland, with plans to open a downstream unit in summer 2026.

### 1.2.3. BBI JU programme finalisation

After 10 years, all BBI JU projects are coming to a close. Figure 12 shows the cumulative contributions of **BBI JU-specific KPIs** against the targets set in the **BBI JU SIRA 2017** and clearly confirms the success of the BBI JU programme, with all KPIs linked to project outputs (KPIs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8) exceeding the initial targets.

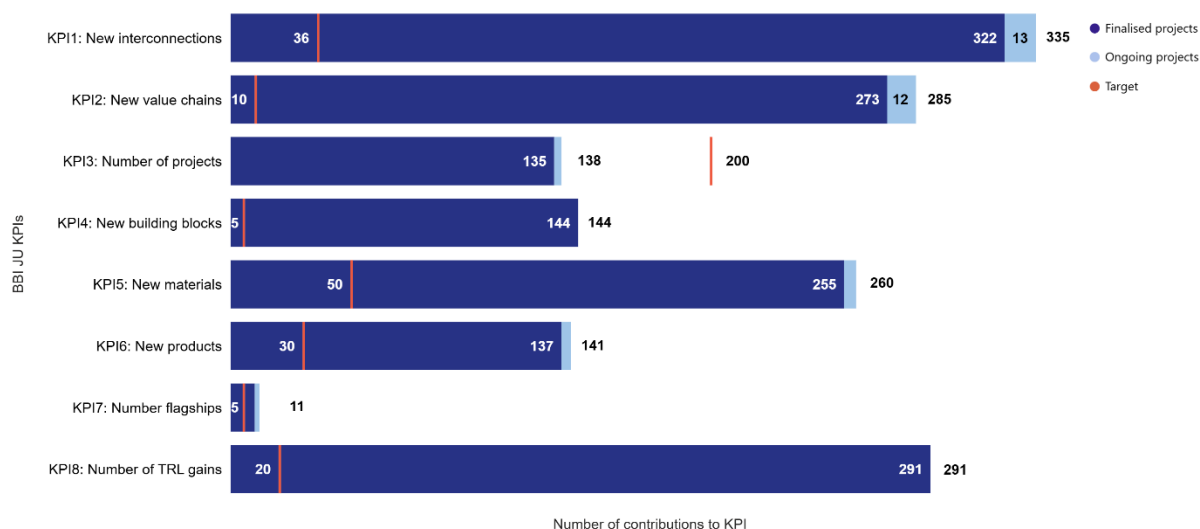


Figure 12 BBI JU KPIs: results vs. SIRA targets

Data on the contribution of 16 BBI JU-funded projects, which were still ongoing or were completed in 2025, was collected via the new KPI & Impact web tool developed for the purpose of CBE JU reporting. This tool covers both quantitative and qualitative information on KPI results and expected project impacts. For ongoing projects, the figure refers to expected contributions. For completed projects, the data has been finalised as reported at the end of the project.

Examples of BBI JU projects, which were completed in 2025, are set out below.

#### AFTERBIOCHEM (IA-Flagship, concluded in April 2025)

The flagship project AFTERBIOCHEM successfully demonstrated the development and operation of a first-of-its-kind biorefinery, which has enabled the industrial-scale production of several bio-based, low-carbon organic acids. The project optimised the use of feedstock and explored

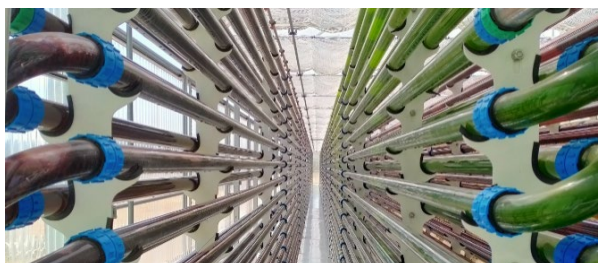


alternative sourcing strategies to support the deployment of future biorefineries. In addition, the consortium advanced the valorisation of fermentation co-products by developing them for use as fertilisers suitable for organic farming and tested the production of additional bio-based molecules such as esters. The project highlights the crucial role of scaling up biotechnological processes to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable European bioeconomy. Overall, the project confirmed the robustness of this innovative biorefinery model and highlighted its potential for further industrial deployment in Europe and beyond.

### SCALE (IA-Flagship, concluded in May 2025)

The SCALE microalgae biorefinery was officially inaugurated on 11 July 2025, marking a milestone for the bio-based sector in Europe. Microphyt's SCALE plant, located in Baillargues in the south of France, is the world's first industrial-scale microalgae biorefinery. With more than 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> of infrastructure and exclusive photobioreactor technology, the new biorefinery enables the large-scale cultivation of microalgae in a controlled, sustainable and efficient manner. It is expected to produce more 100 tonnes of natural active ingredients per year for use in various industries, including health, nutrition, dietary supplements, cosmetics and animal feed.

Over the last four years, the SCALE team has developed a variety of consumer products containing active ingredients extracted from microalgae. Eleven of these products, including PhaeOptim™, ZenGut™, and PhycoSi™, have already been commercialised in around 15 countries in response to growing demand for natural, clinically validated and sustainable solutions. The SCALE biorefinery has also boosted the economy in the greater Montpellier area by creating over 60 direct jobs in production, engineering, maintenance and research and development. It has also generated more than 200 indirect jobs through from the establishment of related local supply chains.



### PEFerence (IA-Flagship, concluded in October 2025)



In 2025, the PEFerence project achieved the successful start-up of the sugar dehydration (SDH) unit and all auxiliary systems and utilities at its FDCA Flagship Plant in Delfzijl.

The plant is being commissioned in phases, with the oxidation and purification units set to be ready for start-up by mid-2026.

This biorefinery demonstrates the feasibility of the large-scale production of the sustainable, bio-based chemical furandicarboxylic acid (FDCA). This molecule can be used to produce a variety of circular chemicals and polymers, including polyesters, polyamides, coating resins and plasticisers and, crucially polyethylene furanoate (PEF), a 100 % bio-based alternative plastic that outperforms traditional fossil-based PET. A bio-based material, PEF has properties that make it suitable for a wide range of applications, including food and beverage packaging, textiles and consumer goods. The consortium has developed and validated polyethylene furanoate (PEF) and FDCA-based demonstrators, including bottles and other packaging solutions (e.g. trays, pouches and tubes), adhesives and speciality applications. The project has therefore successfully paved the way for the deployment of FDCA- and PEF-based products in the market by demonstrating improved barrier and mechanical properties in end-use applications, and securing food contact approvals in

the EU, US and Japan. Strong market demand is evidenced by more than 20 offtake agreements with major brand owners.

### PLENITUDE (IA Flagship, concluded in December 2025)

The flagship project PLENITUDE successfully demonstrated the full-scale production of mycoprotein, an alternative protein produced by fermenting *Fusarium venenatum*. The ENOUGH flagship plant, located in the Netherlands, smartly combined aerobic fermentation with a traditional biorefinery plant, integrating mycoprotein with bioethanol production. These two processes rely on a common feedstock: cereal crops and their residues. Mycoprotein ABUNDA® has an excellent low-carbon and low-water-footprint, a neutral taste and is therefore perfect for many food and feed applications. It is also a great source of all nine essential amino acids, fibre, zinc and iron, and contains only small amounts of saturated fatty acids. This makes it a healthier and greener choice for European consumers.



### REDWine (IA-DEMO, concluded in December 2025)

The REDWine project, which is coordinated by the AVIPE wine co-operative in Palmela, Portugal, has demonstrated the feasibility of an innovative concept with significant potential to enhance the sustainability of winemaking. By capturing fermentation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and recycling liquid effluents, the project creates new circular value chains while opening additional economic opportunities for wine-producing regions. Since July 2025, the REDWine facilities have captured around two tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually generated during grape fermentation and have used it as a carbon source for cultivating the microalgae *Chlorella* in two types of photobioreactors. The liquid effluents from the winemaking process are also valorised by being incorporated into the microalgae cultivation medium. The microalgal biomass produced is subsequently processed through a biorefinery approach, enabling the extraction and cascading use of valuable compounds. These ingredients can then be used to formulate new bio-based products for applications for use in the food, cosmetics and agricultural sectors.



### MULTISTR3AM (IA-DEMO project, concluded in April 2025)

Although algae offer an environmentally friendly resource with potential applications in fuel, food and manufacturing materials, microalgae products still struggle to achieve the economies of scale of conventional crops. The MULTISTR3AM project has developed a sustainable biorefinery on an abandoned industrial site in Lisbon retrofitted to process multiple microalgae species. This was achieved using integrated technologies that reduce production costs and improve scalability. More than 40 microalgae-derived ingredients were produced for industrial partners in the food, animal



feed and fragrance industries during the research. The project relied heavily on international and cross-sector collaboration, ultimately focusing on three main products: beta-carotene-rich oils for use as food colourants and antioxidants, protein-rich additives for animal feed, and protein-based capsules designed to protect and gradually release fragrance ingredients. The newly developed ingredients are currently undergoing rigorous testing and tasting before entering the market. This represents an important first step in building confidence that microalgal ingredients could eventually become mainstream.

### UNLOCK (IA-DEMO project, concluded in April 2025)

The poultry sector in Europe is the second largest meat producer, accounting for a 31 % of total meat output. Currently, only around 25 % of the feathers generated are collected separately for use in feather meal and fertiliser applications (low-value applications with high processing costs and a low profit margin), while the rest are either landfilled and incinerated, or collected with other poultry by-products for use in poultry meal production. However, feathers are composed of almost 90 % keratin, a valuable protein that can be used as a source of raw materials for biodegradable products, such as bioplastics for use in agriculture.

In this context, the BBI JU UNLOCK demonstration project has designed and demonstrated an economically and environmentally sustainable supply chain for a feather-based bioeconomy, generating innovative, bio-based functional materials for agricultural applications. UNLOCK has demonstrated new keratin-based bioplastics and geotextiles that can provide added functionalities and advantages derived from the use of feather keratin, including: (i) tailor-made biodegradation adjusted to the crop duration; (ii) nitrogen input to the soil; (iii) zero waste generation at the end of their life; and (iv) cost-competitive materials. The project's results demonstrate the feasibility of such value chains for the application of treated feathers in four end products for the agricultural sector, including the construction of a demonstration plant for processing feather directly at the slaughterhouse.



## 1.3. CALLS FOR PROPOSALS, GRANT INFORMATION AND OTHER FUNDED ACTIONS

### 1.3.1. 2025 call for proposals (applicants)

The CBE JU 2025 call for proposals allocated EUR 172 million to the following four types of actions: four Innovation Actions – Flagships (IA-Flag); five Innovation Actions (IA); three Research and Innovation Actions (RIA); and one Coordination and Support Action (CSA).

The table below sets out an overview of the main topics of the call (including the budget allocated to each topic), and the number of evaluated proposals per topic.

Type of action	Topic	Indicative topic budget	Estimated number of grants	Total requested EU contribution (eligible proposals)	Number of evaluated proposals	Actual budget / Total requested
IAFlag	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IAFlag-01	€ 20,000,000	1	€60,954,872.94	3	33%
	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IAFlag-02	€ 20,000,000	1	€37,731,653.60	2	50%
	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IAFlag-03	€ 20,000,000	1	€142,787,434.00	8	13%
	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IAFlag-04	€ 20,000,000	1	€34,282,349.75	2	50%
IA	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IA-01	€ 14,000,000	2	€76,645,305.00	11	18%
	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IA-02	€ 14,000,000	2	€90,847,180.06	15	13%
	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IA-03	€ 14,000,000	2	€231,723,480.71	35	9%
	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IA-04	€ 14,000,000	2	€94,045,915.65	14	14%
	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IA-05	€ 14,000,000	2	€110,896,473.40	17	12%
RIA	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-RIA-01	€ 7,000,000	2	€303,300,468.60	31	10%
	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-RIA-02	€ 7,000,000	2	€180,028,209.41	52	6%
	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-RIA-03	€ 7,000,000	2	€47,544,238.32	14	14%
CSA	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-CSA-01	€ 1,000,000	1	€18,093,709.50	18	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025</b>	<b>€ 172,000,000</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>€1,428,881,290.94</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>11%</b>

Table 5 Overview of the CBE JU 2025 call topics and proposals submitted per type of action (eligible and admissible proposals).

Between the opening of the call opening on 3 April 2025 and its closure on 18 September 2025, 248 proposals were submitted. According to the rules set out in sections A and B of the [Horizon Europe General Annexes](#), eight proposals were found to be ineligible and/or inadmissible. As a result, 240 proposals were evaluated, requesting more than EUR 1.4 billion in total funding. The proposals were submitted by consortia consisting of some 12 entities on average, with individual consortia ranging from 3 to 30 organisations. This variation depends mainly on the type of action as well as the complexity of the proposed project.

On average, across all topics, the 2025 CBE JU call received 12 proposals per available grant. This represents a significant increase compared to call 2024, which saw an average of

10 proposals submitted per grant. The increase in interest was most pronounced for high-TRL topics. For the IA type of action, an average of 10 proposals were submitted for each foreseen grant, nearly double the number for call 2024 (5.5 proposals). Though less pronounced, the IA-Flagship type of action also saw a notable increase of 50 %, rising from an average of 3 proposals per grant in call 2024 to 4.5 in call 2025.

The proportion of SMEs participating remained high at 34 % of all applicants. Participation by BIC members increased, from 48 % of all applicants in call 2024 to 60 % in call 2025. This increase was largely driven by a new requirement for RIA proposals to also ensure a minimum level of in-kind contributions to operational activities from BIC members. There was also greater participation from widening countries, with an increased number of applicants from underrepresented countries as defined in the [CBE JU Widening Strategy](#) (see the section on widening participation for more information).

### Geographical distribution of applicants

In terms of country participation, the consortia comprised entities from one (in CSA) to 12 different countries. On average, consortia comprised participants from seven different countries. Overall, as shown in Figure 13, most applicants were from EU Member States (8 % of all applicants, or 2 349 out of 2 749 participants). Applicants from associated countries accounted for 14 % of the total number of participants (386 in total). These included applicants from the 2 most recent countries to become associated, or provisionally associated, to Horizon Europe or the relevant parts thereof — Egypt (two applications), Morocco (five applications), the Republic of Korea (15 applications) and Switzerland (35 applications). The remaining 0.5 % of applicants were from third countries (14 applications from Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, China, Indonesia, Peru, Singapore and the United States).

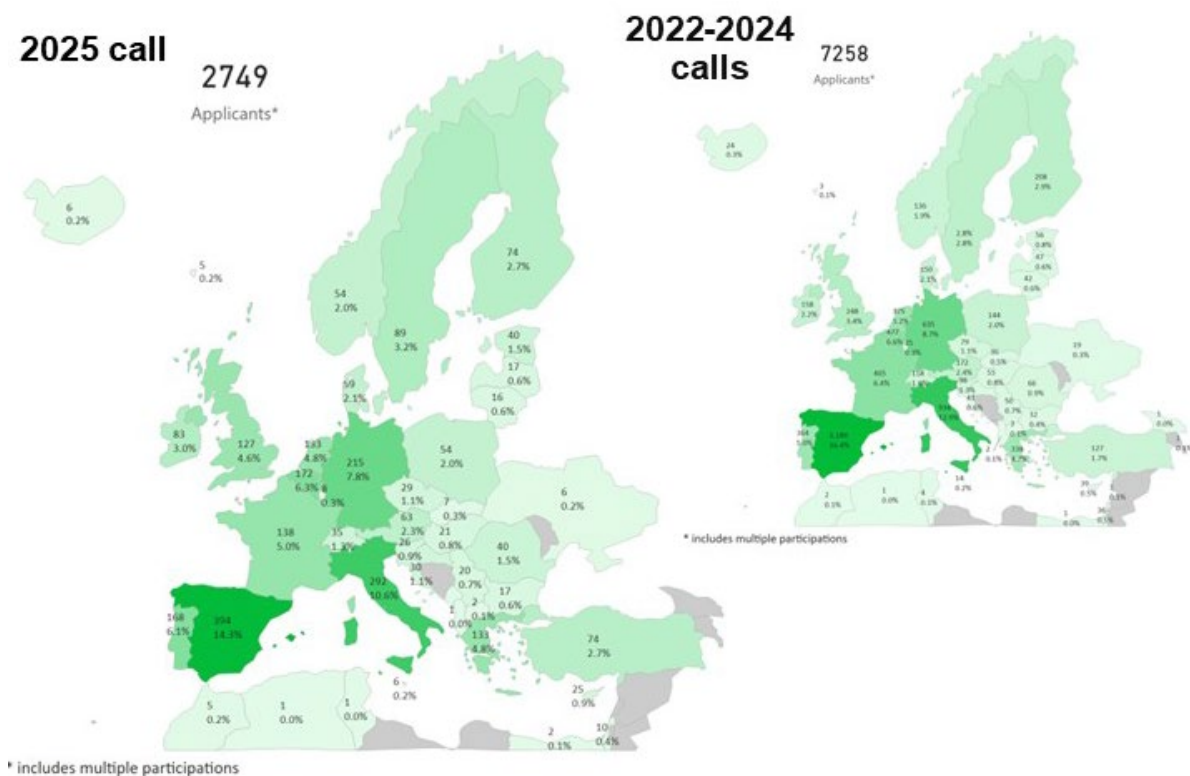
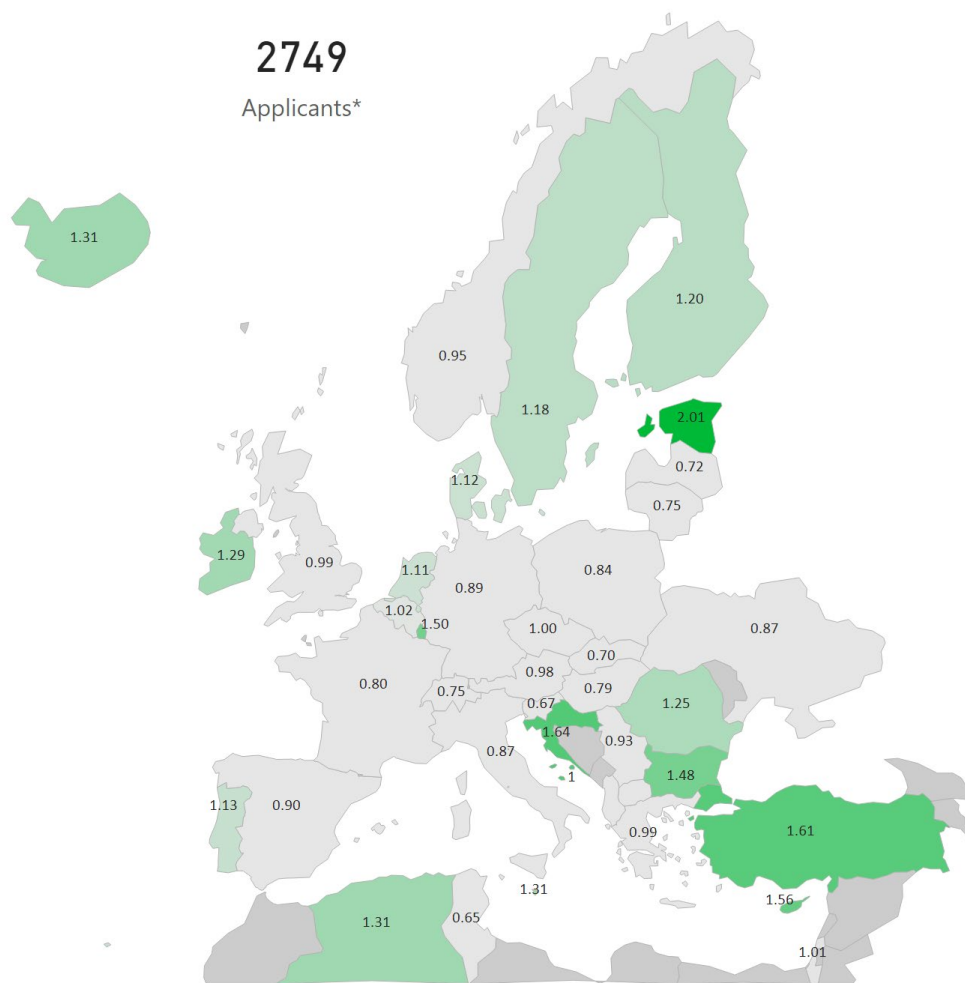


Figure 13 shows the CBE JU 2025 call. Percentage of applicants per country, calculated from the total number of applicants (2 749 in total, including multiple counts of participation in more than one proposal) and the number of applicants per country.

This is compared to the total number of applicants in CBE JU calls from 2022 to 2024, also as a percentage, calculated from the total number of applicants (7 258 in total, including multiple counts of participation in more than one proposal). The number of applicants in the 2024 call (not unique) that are not shown on the map includes: Associated countries: Canada (19), New Zealand (2), South Korea (15). Third countries: Australia (1), Bangladesh (1), China (1), Colombia (2), Ethiopia (1), Indonesia (1), Peru (1), Singapore (3), United States (2).

Applicants from all 27 Member States were represented in the 2025 call. The overall distribution pattern is very similar to that seen in the calls conducted between 2022 and 2024. However, as shown in Figure 14, some countries have significantly increased their share in terms of total number of applicants.

Several Member States from widening countries increased their share of total participations compared to the 2024 call: Estonia (+101 %), Croatia (+64 %), Cyprus (+56 %), Bulgaria (+48 %) and Romania (+25 %). There were also increases in the number of applicants from Turkey (+61 %), Luxemburg (+50 %), Iceland (+31 %), Algeria (+31 %) and Ireland (+29 %).



\* includes multiple participations

Figure 14 shows the ratio of each country's share of the total number of applicants (2 749 for the 2025 call and 3 597 for the 2024 call) in the CBE JU 2025 vs 2024 call. Each value reflects the change in a country's share of applicants in the 2025 call compared to the 2024 call. A value above 1 indicates an increase (e.g. 2 represents a twofold increase), while a value below 1 indicates a decrease (e.g. 0.5 represents a halving).

## Types of applicants, including SMEs

The CBE JU 2025 call for proposals attracted interest from different types of applicants (Figure 15). In 2025, private companies were the leading group of applicants, accounting for 47% of the total. This is mainly due to the large number of topics at a higher TRL (IAs, including Flagships), which shows that the CBE JU calls are becoming increasingly appealing to the private sector, particularly SMEs.

As in previous years, SMEs accounted for around one third of all applicants. This consistently high level of participation indicates that the CBE JU programme continues to address the needs of SMEs and remains an important catalyst for SME innovation and growth.

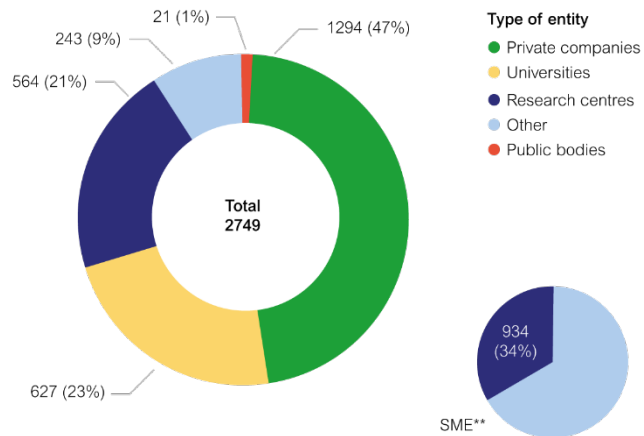


Figure 15 CBE JU 2025 call (not unique) applicants per type of applicant and related percentage calculated from the total number of applicants. \*\* SME data are based on self-declaration at proposal stage.

## Newcomers

Forty-five per cent of all applicants in call 2025 were newcomers to the programme, meaning that they had never previously received funding through BBI JU or CBE JU (761 out of 1 686 unique applicants). This trend was particularly strong among companies and SMEs, where newcomers represented more than half of all applicants – a figure that is substantially higher than in other categories such as universities and research centres (Figure 16). The figures emphasise that the programme remains highly attractive and relevant to industry and SMEs and confirm that CBE JU has not yet reached a saturation point. Engagement is still expanding, especially within the private sector.

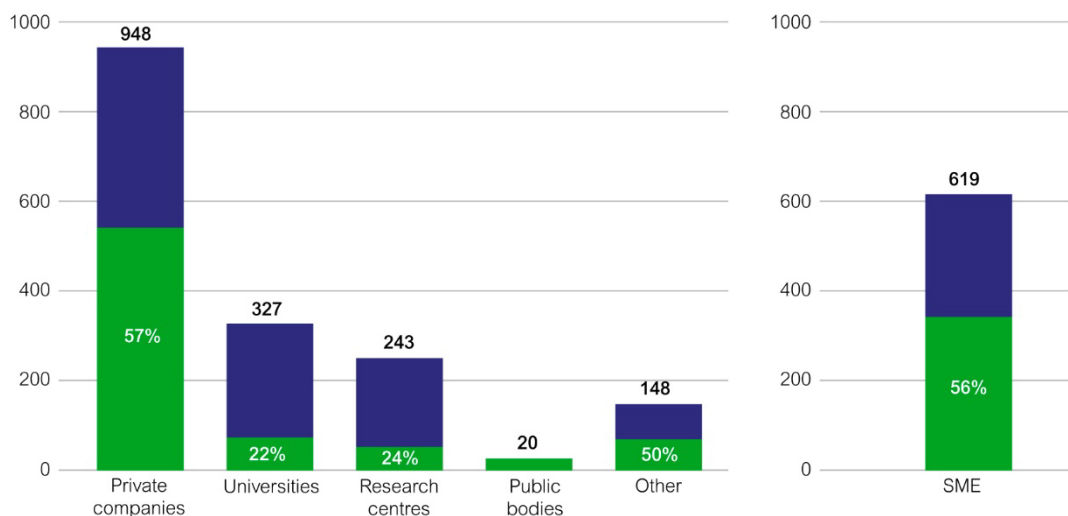


Figure 16 CBE JU 2025 call applicants (1 686 unique applicants) by applicant type and the percentage share of (unique) newcomers (dark green).

## BIC members

In 2024, around a third of all applicants were BIC members. In call 2025, this figure increased sharply to nearly two thirds. As shown in Figure 16, this steep increase is largely driven by a high number of applicants who are new BIC members. This is likely encouraged in part by the new IKOP requirement for RIA-type of projects in call 2025. However, among project coordinators, the proportion of BIC members has increased from just over half to two thirds (Figure 17). This suggests that growing BIC membership is associated with a stronger willingness to take a leading role in CBE JU proposals, rather than merely fulfilling a minimum participation requirement.

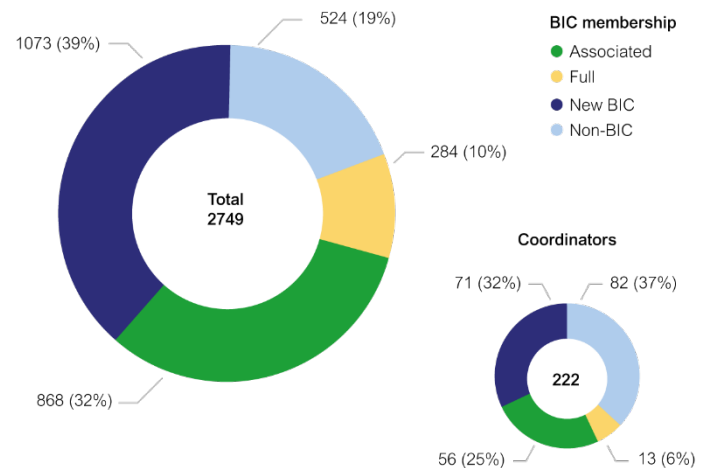


Figure 17 CBE JU 2025 call (not unique) applicants, incl. coordinators, by type of BIC membership (full member, associated member, new [project] member, or non-BIC), as absolute values and related % of total.

As shown in Figure 18, BIC members applied across all types of actions. Participation was strongest in RIA and IA actions, reflecting the higher number of proposals submitted under these actions.

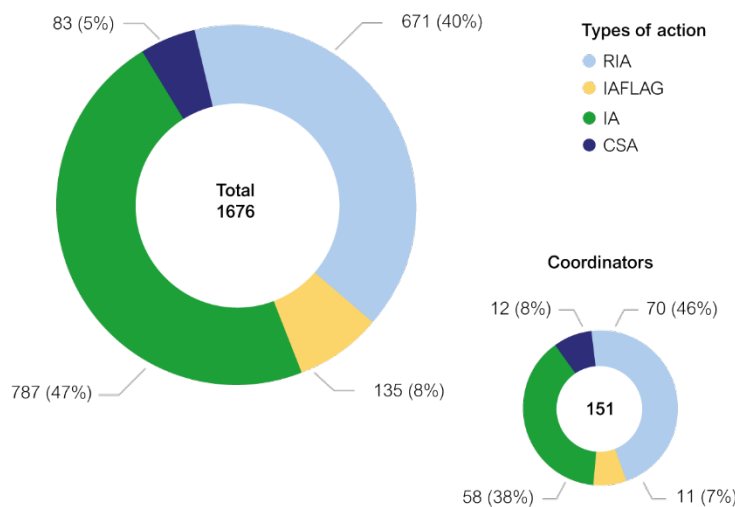


Figure 18 CBE JU 2025 call (not unique) BIC applicants, including coordinators, by type of action, as absolute values and related percentage of total, and 2024 call EU contributions requested by BIC applicants by type of action, as absolute values and related.

Overall, BIC members represent a majority of all applicants (1 676 out of 2 749, or 61 %). Their share varies only modestly across action types.

A similar picture emerges when focusing only on BIC members in co-ordinating roles. This indicates that members of CBE JU's private partners remain engaged in research and innovation across the full range of technological readiness levels, from TRL 4-5 in RIAs to TRL 8 in IA-Flagships, as well as in non-technological CSAs.

### 1.3.2. Grants under the CBE JU 2024 call

Thirty proposals were selected for funding under CBE JU's 2024 call. Grant agreement preparation (GAP) in respect of these proposals commenced on 15 January 2025 and concluded within the 'Time to Grant' (TTG) deadline (21 May 2025), with all grant agreements signed. The list of proposals funded under the 2024 call is set out below per type of action.

Topic	Project acronym	Project title	Total costs	EU contribution	Duration	Number of participants
IAFlag-01	RUNFASTER4EU	RUNFASTER4EU-Flagship demonstration of Bio-based value chains For valorisation of sustainable oil crops for marketable applications	EUR 31 792 949	EUR 19 908 650	60	18
IAFlag-02	CERISEA	Competitive production of HMF and derivatives for an Eco-designed and Resilient Industry towards Sustainable European Autonomy	EUR 40 487 246	EUR 19 999 795	48	16
IA-01	INSOIL	Safe bio-based and biodegradable IN-SOIL solutions for circular and sustainable crop production	EUR 8 120 540	EUR 6 577 685	48	16
IA-01	SOUL	Bio-based in Soil applications with Optimal biodegradation in their Ultimate Life – The SOUL project	EUR 10 014 752	EUR 7 267 600	48	19
IA-02	ALLIANCE	European microalgae alliance (ALLIANCE): innovative, safe and sustainable multiproduct biorefineries for a blue biobased economy	EUR 8 895 641	EUR 7 360 662	48	19
IA-02	CleanAlgae2 Value	Demonstrating a cost competitive, sustainable, scalable intensified micro-algae bioprocess for the	EUR 10 380 476	EUR 7 483 218	48	15

Topic	Project acronym	Project title	Total costs	EU contribution	Duration	Number of participants
		production of food-grade medium value, carbon negative Ingredients exceeding Market Standards				
IA-02	MULTIPLY	Multiplying feasible microalgae-derived products at scale	EUR 9 668 466	EUR 7 450 982	48	17
IA-03	SOLRESS	Innovative biotech routes for efficient bio-based solvent production promoting a safe and sustainable European industry	EUR 9 166 120	EUR 7 044 900	48	17
IA-04	BIOS MATER	Re-designing the construction sector: Sustainable and functional bio-based construction products and building elements	EUR 9 650 180	EUR 7 463 260	48	22
IA-04	ECOFUNC	Eco-Friendly Circular and Functional Building Materials for Sustainable Construction	EUR 8 517 682	EUR 7 154 695	48	17
IA-04	HIBISCUS	High-performance circular and Bio-based materials in the Construction and Building Sector	EUR 9 173 874	EUR 7 497 303	48	13
IA-05	LIGNOFUN	LIGNin-based aromatic FUNnelling to high-value biochemicals and biomaterials production	EUR 8 840 506	EUR 7 496 382	48	18
IA-05	SPLENDOR	Sustainable production of lignin-derived end-products via depolymerisation reactions	EUR 9 194 802	EUR 7 318 641	36	12
IA-06	SUSBOARD	Biobased adhesives for sustainable wood-based boards	EUR 9 062 199	EUR 6 904 063	48	9
IA-06	SUSPENSE	Sustainable, safe, and high-	EUR 9 304 008	EUR 7 488 697	48	17

Topic	Project acronym	Project title	Total costs	EU contribution	Duration	Number of participants
		performance bio-based adhesives for wood-based composites				
IA-07	CERNET	biogeniC gasEsous caRbon conversion into high added value chemicals and ingredients through a bio-based NETwork	EUR 9 901 980	EUR 7 498 570	48	21
IA-07	UNICO2RN	Flexible and Efficient Capture and Bioconversion of CO2 to Materials and Ingredients	EUR 11 508 665	EUR 7 499 958	48	11
RIA-01	WoodTreat	INnovative INtegral approach for WOOD waste depollution and multi-sector valorization	EUR 3 542 200	EUR 3 500 000	48	21
RIA-01	WoodVALOR	Valorisation and Eco-Design of Post-Consumer Wood Waste into Sustainable Bio-Based Products	EUR 3 515 430	EUR 3 515 430	36	11
RIA-02	Fabulose	Fabricating vegan and circular leather alternatives from bio-tech derived cellulose	EUR 3 498 440	EUR 3 498 440	42	11
RIA-02	MYCOCIRCL E	Upcycling mushroom waste to replace animal derived chemicals	EUR 3 486 568	EUR 3 486 568	36	10
RIA-03	CROPSAFE	Crop Protection Strategies for the Transition to Environmentally-Friendly Agriculture	EUR 5 236 543	EUR 4 893 904	48	15
RIA-03	ZELDA	Zero-waste Lignocellulose-Derived biorefinery products for smArt plant protection	EUR 5 012 497	EUR 5 012 497	48	17
RIA-04	BIO4COAT	Biobased building blocks from biorefinery for sage diamond-like and biopoyurethane	EUR 3 493 570	EUR 3 493 570	48	10

Topic	Project acronym	Project title	Total costs	EU contribution	Duration	Number of participants
		coating solutions under extreme and demanding conditions of use and end of life				
RIA-04	BLUECOAT	Bio-based long lasting safe and sustainable by design surface coating for demanding and extreme conditions	EUR 3 503 123	EUR 3 503 123	48	17
RIA-05	MARMADE	MARine bioMass valorizAtion for food and fEed innovation	EUR 3 499 985	EUR 3 499 985	48	11
RIA-05	Purple4Life	Innovative, sustainable and circular production of purple phototrophic bacteria as health - promoting ingredients for food and feed applications	EUR 3 754 819	EUR 3 721 694	48	12
CSA-01	BIOECONOMY GIANTS	FosterinG collaboration among primAry producers and beyoNd to promoTe Sustainable growth	EUR 3 999 466	EUR 3 999 466	30	18
CSA-02	BIO-INSPIRE	Enhancing bio-based innovations and participation in under-represented regions through cluster mobilization and collaborative governance	EUR 2 999 180	EUR 2 999 180	36	14
CSA-03	RootLinks	Primary Sector Working Group Support Project	EUR 2 999 661	EUR 2 999 661	48	9
<b>Total</b>			<b>EUR 262 221 567</b>	<b>EUR 197 538 577</b>		

Table 6 Overview of projects funded via the CBE JU 2024 call.

## Geographical distribution of participants

A total of 453 beneficiaries were awarded grants in the 2024 call. This figure includes beneficiaries participating in one or more than one funded project. Therefore, all Member States had at least one beneficiary, except Latvia. There were also beneficiaries from eight associated countries: Albania, Canada, Israel, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. Spain had the most beneficiaries, at more than 16 %, followed by Italy and Germany with more than 10 % each. Entities from France and Belgium accounted for 8.4 % and 7.3 %, respectively. The United Kingdom is the most highly represented Associated Country with 5.5 % participation, closely followed by Greece with 5.1 %. Portugal, the Netherlands and Sweden each account for around 4 % of participants. This distribution pattern is generally similar to that of BBI JU beneficiaries funded in calls conducted between 2014 and 2020.

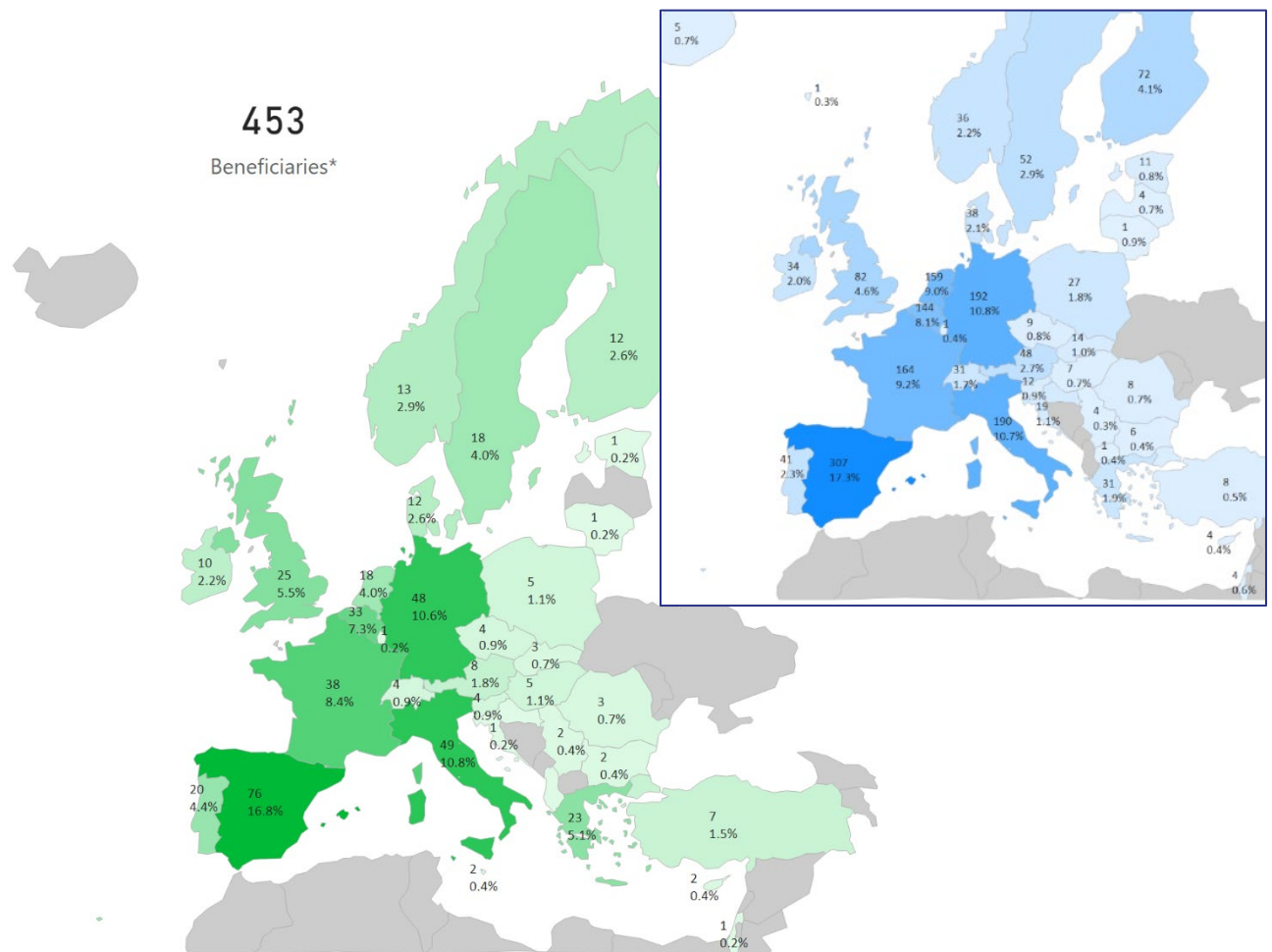


Figure 19 CBE JU 2024 call beneficiary percentage per country. This is calculated from the total number of beneficiaries (453 beneficiaries, i.e. including multiple counts of entities participating in more than one project) and related number of beneficiaries per country. This is also compared with the total beneficiaries of BBI JU calls (2014-2020), also as beneficiary percentage per country calculated from the total number of beneficiaries (1 773 beneficiaries, including multiple participations).

## Types of participants, including SMEs

Various entities received funding under the 2024 call, including universities, research centres, public bodies and private for-profit companies. As shown in Figure 20, private for-profit companies accounted for almost half of all beneficiaries, receiving half of the total EU contribution (97 million out of 197 million).

SMEs played a particularly significant role, accounting for nearly one-third of beneficiaries and receiving one-third of the funding. This demonstrates the programme's continued strong relevance to SMEs.

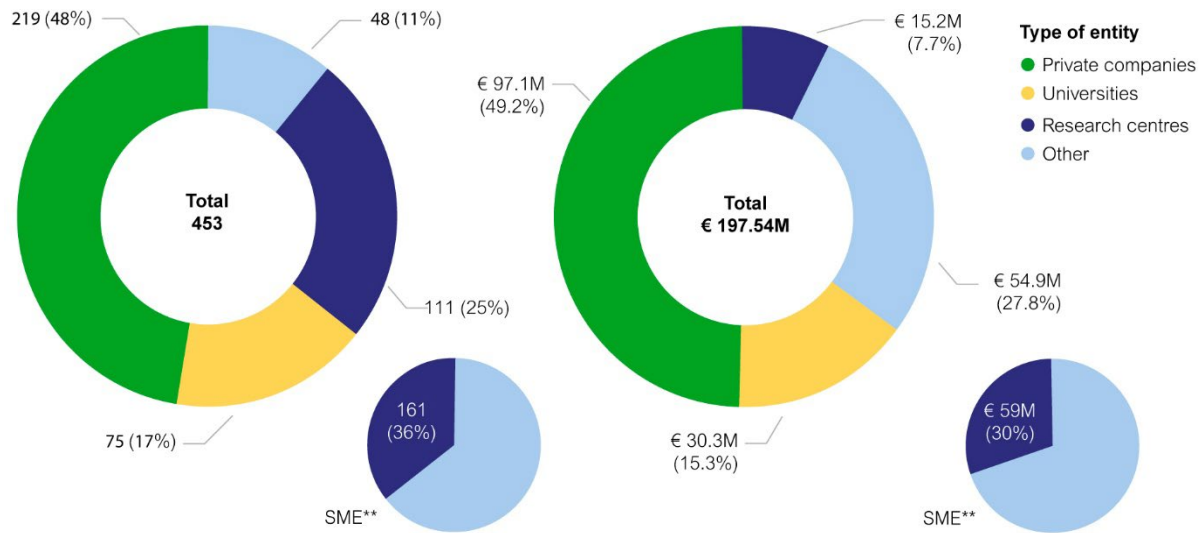


Figure 20 CBE JU 2024 call beneficiaries (left), including beneficiaries participating in one or more than one funded project, as well as the requested EU contribution (right) by type of participant and related percentage calculated from the total.

Focusing on project **co-ordinators**, Figure 21 shows a well-balanced distribution across different types of organisations.

Both universities and research centres each account for 30 % of all co-ordinators. SMEs likewise represent 30 % of co-ordinators.

When considering only the higher TRL IA and IA-Flag topics, SMEs account for an impressive 40 % of all co-ordinators. This is particularly notable, as it confirms the strong and active involvement of SMEs in the programme.

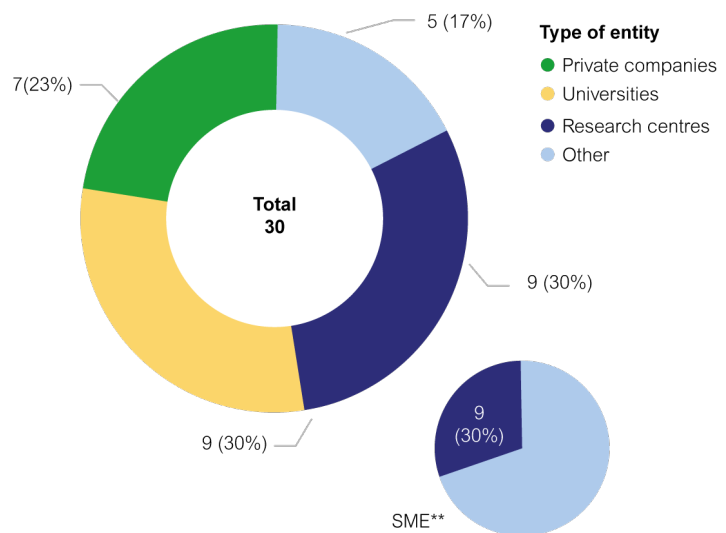


Figure 21 CBE JU 2024 call coordinators by type of participant and related percentage calculated from the total.

## Newcomers

Figure 22 shows that around half (51 %) of all unique beneficiaries in the 2024 call were newcomers, defined as entities that had not received funding from BBI/ CBE JU in any of the previous calls. Most newcomers to the 2024 call were private for-profit companies (66 %), demonstrating that the programme continues to attract significant interest from the corporate sector. The same trend is observed among SMEs, with more than half of SME beneficiaries participating in the programme for the first time.

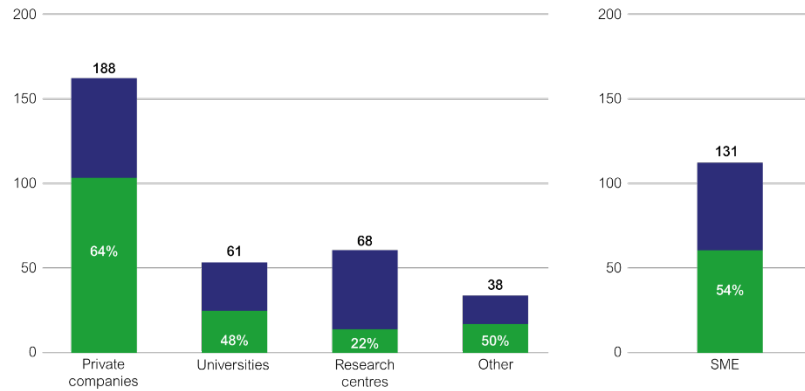


Figure 22 CBE JU 2024 beneficiaries (355 unique beneficiaries) by applicant type, and percentage share of (unique) newcomers (dark green).

## BIC members

Around 40 % of beneficiaries of the 2024 call were BIC members (178 out of 453). Among coordinators, this figure increased to 60 % (18 out of 30), demonstrating that many BIC members are willing to play a leading role in project implementation. In terms of the requested EU contribution, 82 % of the total EU contribution to BIC members was awarded for IA and IA-Flag projects focused on demonstration and up-scaling, mirroring the substantial private contributions made by these companies.

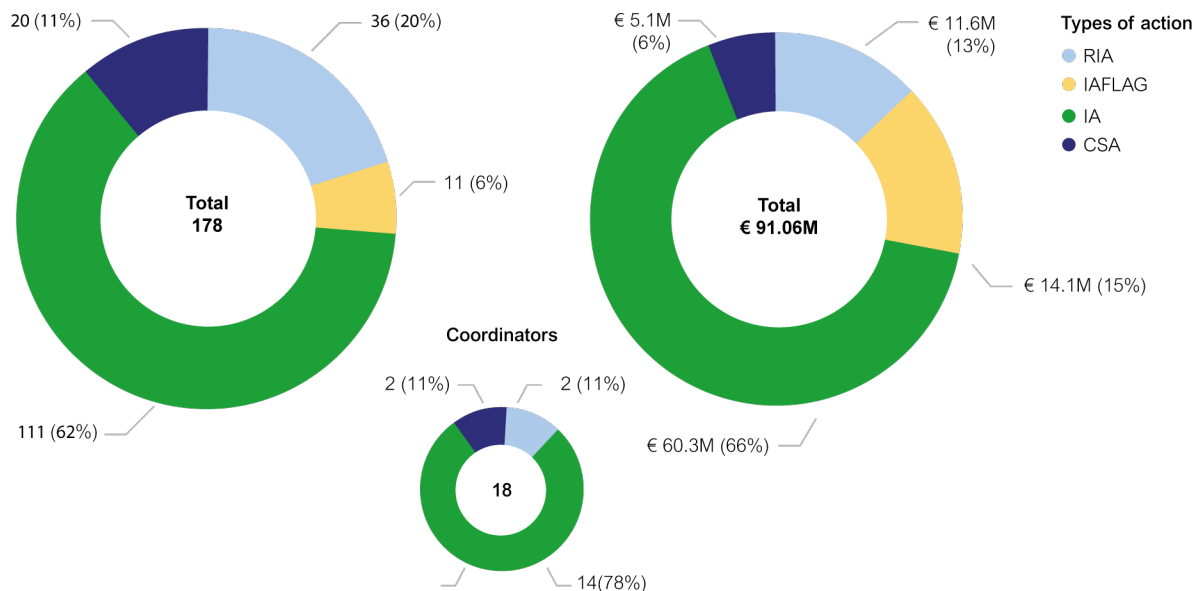


Figure 23 CBE JU 2024 call BIC beneficiaries and coordinators (including beneficiaries participating in one or more than one funded project) and the EU contributions requested by BIC beneficiaries (top right), categorised by type of action and presented as absolute values and the related percentage of the total.

## 1.4. EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND OUTCOMES

Below is an overview of the published the 2025 call, including details on proposal submission, evaluation processes and key statistics.

### 1.4.1. CBE JU 2025 call process

In 2025, the CBE JU launched a call for proposals, using the [Horizon Europe grant lifecycle processes](#) and IT tools. Within this framework, the call followed a structured approach consisting of the following steps.

- ▶ **Call publication** on the Commission's Open Funding and Tender portal ([F&T portal](#)). This enabled potential applicants to find CBE JU call topics, proposal templates and relevant guidelines;
- ▶ **Submission of proposals.** Before call closure, applicants had to select the topic(s) for which they wished to apply, register all organisations in their consortium and submit their proposal(s) via the F&T portal;
- ▶ **Evaluation of proposals.** All proposals that passed the stage of admissibility and eligibility checks were evaluated by external experts. Within five months of closing date, all applicants received a letter detailing the evaluation results via the F&T portal, along with a decision based on the outcome of the evaluation. Unsuccessful applicants could submit a complaint (and launch the so-called 'redress procedure') within 30 days of receiving the letter notifying them of the evaluation results;
- ▶ **Grant Agreement Preparation (GAP).** The highest-scoring proposals were invited to proceed to the GAP phase. Grant agreements should be signed within eight months of call closure.

By 31 December 2025, the publication, submission and evaluation of proposals submitted in the 2025 call had concluded. The proposal co-ordinators received their Evaluation Result Letters (ERLs) on 14 January 2026.

### 1.4.2. Call publication and proposal submission

On 18 December 2024, the CBE JU published its annual work programme (AWP) for 2025 on its website. This included information about the topics of the 2025 call and its total budget of 172 million. The CBE JU 2025 call was officially launched on 3 April 2025 when it was published on the [EU Funding & Tender portal](#). Before and after its publication, the CBE JU promoted the call during the CBE JU Info & Networking Day in Brussels on 23 April 2024 and at several locally organised CBE JU Info days. Applicants were invited to submit proposals by 18 September 2025, 17:00 Brussels time. The CBE JU received 248 project proposals by this deadline. Information about the number of proposals submitted (and the funding requested) per topic was published on the CBE JU website on 22 September 2025, ranging between 2 and 53 proposals per topic.

### 1.4.3. Call evaluation

The evaluation of the proposals received in the call was based on the award criteria and evaluation rules set out in CBE JU's AWP 2025. In line with the principles of the Horizon Europe programme, all proposals were evaluated as submitted.

#### Expert types, selection process and statistics

Following the publication of the call, the CBE JU invited various experts to express interest in participating in the evaluation of the proposals received under the 2025 call. Candidates were asked to complete an online expert profile in the [relevant section on the Funding & Tender portal](#). All experts were selected ensuring a high level of skills, experience and knowledge in the areas of each call topic, including project management, business management, innovation, exploitation, dissemination and communication. Particular attention was paid to achieving an appropriate balance of skills, experience and knowledge, as well as geographical diversity, gender and private/public sector representation, ensuring that experts who had never participated as evaluators in Horizon Europe/Horizon 2020 were also hired.

Five types of external experts were involved in the evaluation process:

- ▶ **Evaluators:** depending on the type of action, each proposal was assessed by three to five experts (three for RIA/CSA projects, four for IA projects and five for IA-Flag projects). These experts used the award criteria and evaluation rules set out in the conditions for the CBE JU call set out in the AWP 2025.
- ▶ **Rapporteurs:** experts responsible for the drafting of 'Consensus reports', reflecting the discussions during consensus meetings (see next section for more information).
- ▶ **Quality controllers:** experts tasked with reading the consensus reports from the consensus meetings and providing feedback to ensure that the final summary evaluation reports are of a high quality and that the evaluation of each criterion is consistent within and across topics.
- ▶ **Ethics experts:** tasked with verifying that proposals complied with the ethical rules and standards of the Horizon Europe programme.
- ▶ **Independent observer:** responsible for overseeing the entire evaluation process, this expert had access to all training and meetings. The observer provided an independent assessment of the conduct and fairness of evaluation sessions, examined how the evaluation criteria were applied and suggested ways to further improve the overall evaluation process. Following the evaluation, a summary of the independent observer report was published as topic update on the Funding & Tenders Portal.

In total, 123 evaluators of 32 different nationalities (not counting dual nationalities) assisted in evaluating the 2025 call. As shown in Figure 24, most evaluators were from 23 Member States (111 evaluators). Eight evaluators were from five associated countries and four were from four third countries. The gender ratio of experts was 51 women to 72 men.

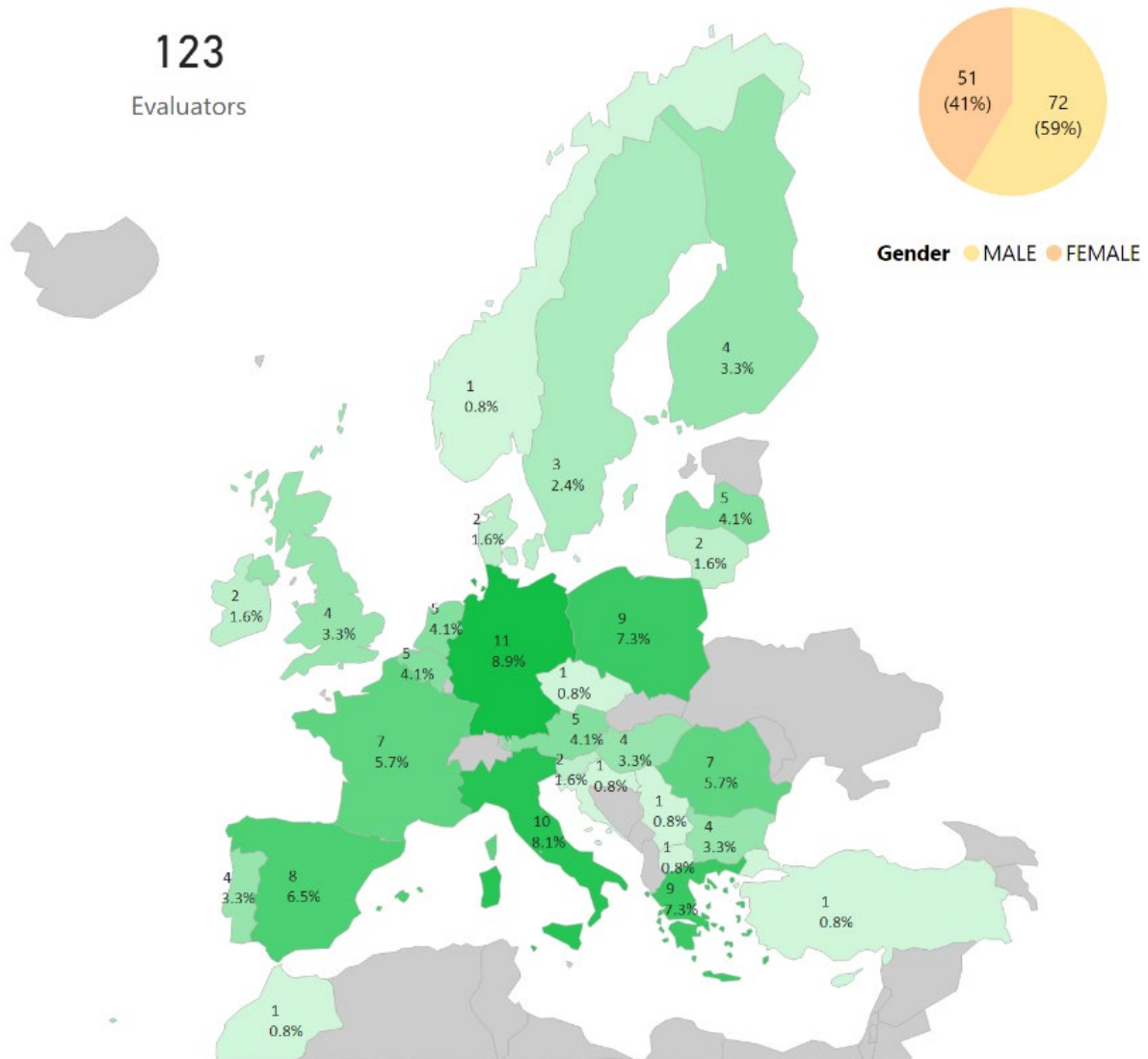


Figure 24 Nationalities of the evaluators in the CBE JU 2025 call, per country and gender. Australia (1), Brazil (1), India (1) and Morocco (1) are not shown on the map.

## Evaluation process

- Admissibility and eligibility:** After call closure, the admissibility and eligibility of all proposals was verified, taking into account the conditions for the CBE JU call and the requirements set out in sections A and B of the [Horizon Europe General Annexes for the period 2023–2025](#).
- Proposals assigned to experts:** Each proposal was assigned to a panel of three to five expert evaluators, plus a rapporteur, depending on the type of action, as previously outlined. For topics with a high volume of submissions, beyond what a single panel could realistically evaluate, multiple topic subpanels were established.
- Individual evaluation:** This phase lasted from 6 October until 9 November 2025. On 6 October 2025, the evaluators attended a briefing webinar covering the applicable rules, processes, procedures, evaluation criteria, scope and objectives of the call. On 16 October 2025, the CBE JU conducted an additional webinar for the rapporteurs to ensure that they were prepared for the consensus evaluations.

- ▶ **Consensus phase:** This phase took place between 10 and 28 November 2025. During each of the three weeks work consisted of consensus meetings, cross-reading and ranking panels for all topics where more than one panel of experts evaluated proposals. Additionally, hearings were organised for all IA flagship proposals. During these meetings, applicants were invited to clarify their respective business plans. The expert evaluators used this additional input to finalise the IA flagship consensus reports.
- ▶ **Proposal ranking and priority:** The AWP 2025 included separate budget lines for each topic. The proposals for each topic were ranked on the basis of the ESRs, taking into account the conditions set out in the AWP 2025. Where scores were equal, tiebreakers were used to establish a priority order, as explained in section F of the [Horizon Europe General Annexes 2023–2025](#). The CBE JU Programme Office then drew up the 'EU call ranked lists' for each topic, based on the priority order and the available budget and sent them to the CBE JU Governing Board for approval.
- ▶ **The ethics evaluation** was conducted between 2 and 12 December 2025.

## Redress

For the **2025 call**, the deadline for submitting redress requests was in 2026. Consequently, the outcomes of any further appeals related to the 2025 call will be addressed in the next AAR.

Regarding the **2024 call**, of the two requests for redress were submitted. However, neither appeal was found to have merit. The redress analysis confirmed that the evaluation procedure had been conducted in accordance with the rules and the original evaluation remained unchanged, meaning that no re-evaluation was required. The cases were analysed in accordance with the relevant Horizon Europe procedures and processes and the results were communicated to the respective applicants in 2025.

## 1.5. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES LINKED TO PAST CALLS

This chapter sets out a summary of the key follow-up activities related to the 2023 calls and the main lessons learned from the 2025 call. It also details the work carried out as part of the new CBE JU Widening Participation strategy.

### 1.5.1. Lessons learned from the 2025 call

During the evaluation of the 2025 call, the CBE JU provided three distinct channels to external experts through which they could share their feedback and suggestions for improving the evaluation process.

- ▶ At the end of each consensus week, when experts could provide collective feedback during their panel's closing meeting or the ranking panel meeting.
- ▶ Online, via an e-questionnaire, where experts could provide feedback anonymously and voluntarily.
- ▶ Through the independent observer who participated in consensus meetings of their choice (allowing experts to share their perspectives directly during these sessions) and encouraged them to provide further input individually via email.

All collected feedback confirmed that the CBE JU evaluation process is of a high quality, reliable and consistent and ensures fairness and impartiality.

Notwithstanding this positive assessment, the following areas for improvement were identified:

- ▶ **Guidelines:** Although the guidelines received before and during the evaluation were considered very useful and comprehensive, additional guidance would be welcome regarding the requirements for the business plan, business case, risk mitigation, intellectual property rights and exploitation matters.
- ▶ **Topics:** While the topics were generally considered clear and focused, some issues were identified, namely:
  - A few topics contained overlapping requirements between different sections of the topic narrative, or between the topic narrative and the specific requirements, mainly regarding environmental requirements.
  - Certain terms (e.g. 'retrofitting' or 'primary feedstock') were considered insufficiently specific and could benefit from clearer definitions.
- ▶ **Highly submitted topics:** For a limited number of topics that attracted a high volume of applications, evaluators suggested that more specific or restrictive requirements could have helped focus the proposals more effectively.

These and other lessons learned will be taken into account when preparing future annual work programmes and the related calls. Several improvements have already been partially incorporated into the AWP 2026.

### 1.5.2. Widening participation strategy

Drawing on the results of the submissions in the 2022 call, the CBE JU developed and launched a [Widening Participation Strategy](#) with the following twofold objective:

1. Stepping up the participation of less represented countries and regions in the CBE JU programme and ensuring their meaningful involvement in JU-funded actions.

2. Stimulating research and innovation in countries and regions with less mature bio-based systems, as also stated in CBE JU KPI n.10 (*‘Improve the participation of regions and countries with high unexploited potential and strategic interest to develop it’*).

## Widening Action Plan 2023–2024: outcomes and lessons learned

In 2025, the increase in the number of applications was markedly higher in the 15 widening countries than in the other Member States, compared to 2022, 2023 and 2024 (see Figure 25).

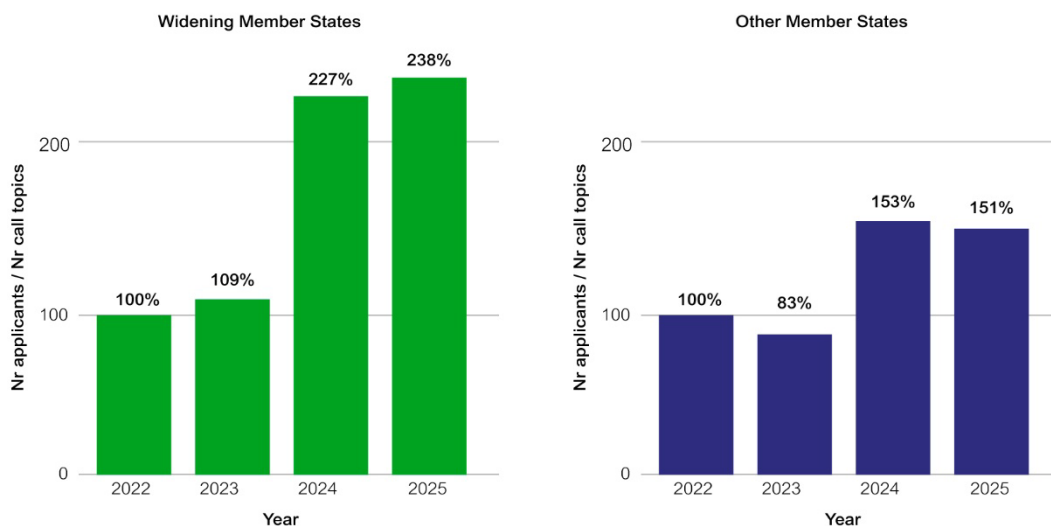


Figure 25 Number of applicants normalised for the number of topics per year in the period 2022–2024, from widening WPS Member States and other Member States. In each case, the value for 2022 was set at 100 %.

The data in Figure 26 also suggests that there is an active community of industrial stakeholders in all countries interested in the CBE JU programme and applying to Innovation Actions (DEMO and Flagship). This confirms the CBE JU’s efforts in widening countries are attracting the intended audience.

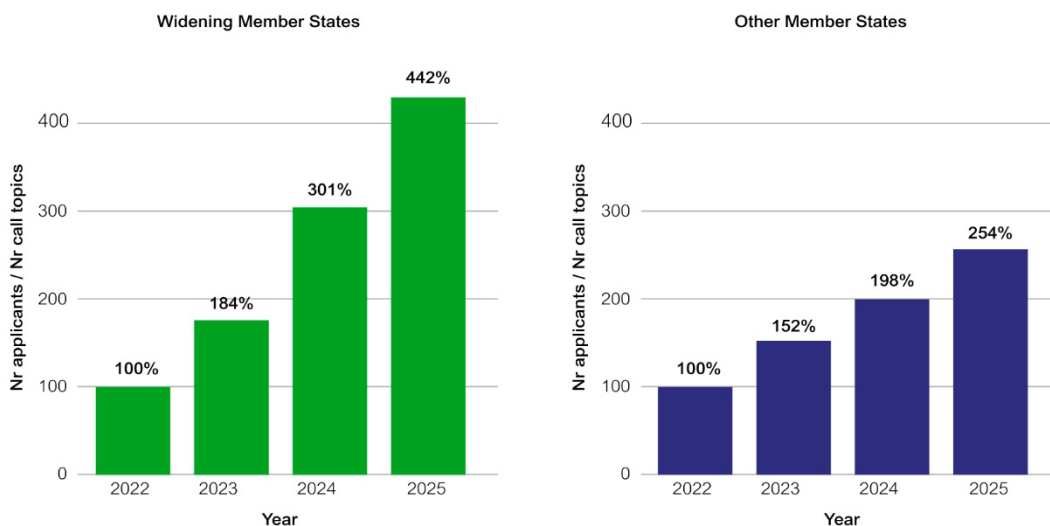


Figure 26 Number of private-for-profit applicants to Innovation Action topics (DEMO and Flagship) normalised per year in the period 2022–2024, from Member States from widening countries and other Member States. In each case, the value for 2022 was set at 100 %.

In 2025, the CBE JU reviewed the first preliminary results of activities implemented under the [Widening Action Plan 2023–2024](#), identifying the following lessons learned:

- ▶ The **involvement of national stakeholders was essential for success**: SRG, regional clusters and hubs, can make a real difference in mobilising the community and reaching out to the right stakeholders. This was evident in Greece and Portugal, but also in Poland, Hungary and Slovakia.
- ▶ The **organisation of on-site visits by the CBE and the BIC was a winning strategy** for reaching out to policymakers and incentivising industry involvement. Following the good examples set by Poland and Portugal, this has now become standard practice for all countries where a national information day is organised.
- ▶ **Strengthening ties with NCPs was crucial** as it opened up new opportunities and provided participants with new insights. Cooperating with Cluster 6 NCPs Care4Bio and WIDERA allowed us to reach a large number of new potential applicants and train some of them on the features of the CBE call first-hand.
- ▶ **Political support is needed both at the national and regional levels**, as NCPs and other national actors cannot act alone. Support from policymakers at all levels will not only facilitate the engagement of local actors but will also be essential for innovation actions, which have a strong territorial dimension.
- ▶ Co-operation with networks active in the widening region (BIOEAST, CEE2ACT, etc.) is needed to step up networking and awareness raising as these bring together diverse constituencies from widening countries who are already aware of the CBE programme and may have a strong interest in it.
- ▶ **Dedicated project advisory services can support SMEs in preparing successful proposals**. The complexity of EU funding and the features and requirements for the calls under the CBE programme should not be underestimated and some organisations, particularly SMEs, would benefit greatly from a project advisory service to guide them through the opportunities and needs.

## Highlights from the Widening Action Plan 2025–2027

Based on the lessons learnt, the CBE JU programme has drafted a new [Widening Action Plan 2025–2027](#). This was agreed with the EC and the BIC in the spring of 2025 and includes actions until the end of the CBE programme.

The new Action Plan is **country-focused**, to better account for the specificities and needs of countries, although some of the actions apply across the board in all widening countries.

- ▶ **On-site CBE JU national information days**: the CBE JU Programme Office strongly encouraged the EU countries targeted by the Widening Strategy to organise CBE JU national information days in order to increase the knowledge and engagement among local bio-based stakeholders. In co-operation with the members of the States' Representatives Group (SRG), the CBE JU organised and participated in **10 national information days**, most of which were held in person in **Greece, Czechia, Portugal, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Romania, Poland and Croatia**. The events were combined with on-site visits to local industries active in the bioeconomy sector, providing an excellent opportunity to learn first-hand about the needs and opportunities in the respective countries, allowing the CBE JU to tailor its actions and strategies accordingly.
- ▶ **Dedicated training for the participants from widening countries**: Training for potential applicants from the widening countries was organised alongside the CBE JU Information

Day 2025. The session focused on how to prepare and submit a successful proposal relating to Innovation Actions, including flagships. The event was highly appreciated by participants and continued the series of widening-specific training which has been offered since 2024.

- ▶ Participation in the SCAR-Bioeast workshop with experts from the Member States and the SCAR Steering Group. On 7 February 2025, a dedicated ad hoc SCAR Steering Group (SG) meeting took place to further discuss gaps and identify needs with a view to strengthening the bioeconomy in Central and Eastern Europe. The CBE JU presented the actions undertaken under the Widening Strategy, sharing initial lessons learned and the future outlook with participants.
- ▶ In 2025, the CBE JU Programme Office also worked with two funded **Strategic Coordination and Support Actions** (CSAs), to further the key aims of the CBE Widening Strategy.
  - ▶ **BIO-INSPIRE**, a CSA focused on widening, kicked off in the summer of 2025. Led by a Greek Coordinator, the project brought together regional bioeconomy clusters from seven widening countries. It started by identifying and mobilising cluster members from widening countries for relevant CBE JU events and initiatives, such as upcoming info days.
  - ▶ The CSA **BioINSouth** has launched eight regional hubs: two in countries covered by the Widening Participation Strategy and six in regions underrepresented in the CBE JU programme. These hubs involve actors from the quadruple helix and are an essential step in further involving key local stakeholders in the CBE JU programme.

More specifically, the CBE JU Programme Office will intensify its efforts in the widening countries where an additional push is needed by the end of the programme. For countries such as Poland, Romania, Hungary, Czechia, Slovakia and Lithuania, where a momentum is being built thanks to the mobilisation of local actors and the CBE JU, the focus will be on continuing increasing participation and improving the countries' success rate in all types of actions. In Bulgaria, stakeholder mobilisation will remain a priority, while in Slovenia and Croatia greater industry involvement could lead to meaningful participation in higher TRL actions. The positive results achieved by Greece and Portugal suggest that the focus can shift towards Flagships. Meanwhile, Cyprus and Malta will continue to be the target of actions aimed at ensuring that they fully exploit the CBE JU programme and its opportunities, in line with their national priorities for the circular bioeconomy.

## 1.6. OPENNESS, COOPERATION, SYNERGIES AND CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND ACTIVITIES

### 1.6.1. Openness

Since its establishment, the CBE JU has operated in accordance with the principles of openness and transparency set out in [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2085](#) establishing the Joint Undertakings. The CBE JU demonstrates openness towards all stakeholders at all levels of its operations. The open call principle was applied without exception, and there were no restrictions in terms of budget allocation or number of beneficiaries.

When designing the AWP 2025, feedback on the content of the programme was gathered via two consultations with the CBE JU's advisory bodies: the States' Representatives Group and the Scientific Committee. Their input helped to identify programme priorities and ensure a strong portfolio of actions was included in the final version of the AWP.

The AWP 2025 was widely advertised by various means to reach a large and diverse audience of stakeholders and potential applicants. The main channels were the CBE JU website, CBE JU social media (LinkedIn and X), and newsletters. In addition, the **CBE JU Info Day**, which took place on 23 April 2025 and attracted close to 450 participants in Brussels and nearly 1 200 participants online. Fourteen per cent of the in-person attendees came from the widening countries and 60 % of registered participants were newcomers to the CBE JU or the BBI JU information days. Forty-three per cent of in-person participants were affiliated with SMEs and 33 % were affiliated with BIC member organisations – an increase from 33 % and 29 %, respectively, at the 2024 CBE JU information day. The event combined an in-depth information session in the morning with extensive matchmaking and networking opportunities in the afternoon. Nearly 1 000 networking meetings between participants were scheduled in person, and a further 400 online. In addition, **24 national CBE JU information days** were held in 2025, several of which combined on-site visits to local industrial facilities.

The CBE JU has also developed a detailed set of **FAQs for applicants**<sup>4</sup>, explaining specific terminology and rules relating to consortium building and cost eligibility among other things. The document is updated on a regular basis to reflect incoming questions from applicants and includes a section on topic interpretation to clarify content-related queries. An online **CBE JU networking platform** was set up to provide applicants with additional opportunities and remained open until the deadline for submission of project proposals. Services available on the platform included facilitating networking with potential consortium partners, providing a forum to pitch project ideas and creating a space to express interest in a topic or schedule B2B meetings.

For transparency purposes, details of submissions and the evaluation results of the 2025 call were published on the CBE JU website as well as on the Funding and Tenders Portal.

These measures have significantly contributed to attracting a diverse audience of applicants. The 2025 call saw an increased participation from applicants in the widening countries compared to previous calls, and confirmed the continued strong interest of SMEs in the CBE JU programme, with SMEs accounting for a significant share of private-sector applicants.

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<sup>4</sup> The latest version of the call 2025 FAQs for applicants is available here: [FAQ for applicants Call 2025 v7.pdf](#)

## 1.6.2. Co-operation and synergies

As required by [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2085](#) 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertaking, the CBE JU is committed to seeking and maximising synergies, as well as fostering closer collaboration with other relevant initiatives at European, regional and national level with a view to achieving the greatest possible scientific, socio-economic and environmental impact. As such, the CBE JU is expected to foster closer ties at the:

- ▶ **European level** with:
  - other parts of the Horizon Europe (HE) programme, including Cluster 6 activities, the HE Missions and relevant co-programmed/co-founded and institutionalised partnerships, etc;
  - other Union programmes and funding instruments, especially those supporting the deployment of innovative solutions, education and regional development.
- ▶ **National and regional level** with relevant programmes such as Cohesion Policy Funds, and the national recovery and resilience plans.

A notable achievement for the CBE JU in 2025 was the publication of its [Synergy Strategy](#), following an intensive mapping and stakeholder engagement process. The strategy recognises that fragmentation across funding sources creates barriers for industry, particularly SMEs. The main aim of the strategy is to foster a co-ordinated approach that can unlock new investment streams of investment by matching innovation needs with the right funding tools at the right time, and by combining EU, national and regional funding to scale up industrial demonstrations with a high local and regional impact. This approach is intended to support greater alignment between research, innovation, and deployment objectives. It also improves the overall impact of EU funding by promoting complementarity.

Figure 27 below illustrates the synergy landscape in which the CBE JU operates. This landscape forms the basis of the formal CBE JU Synergy Strategy document, which has been prepared for discussion by the governing bodies of the programme.

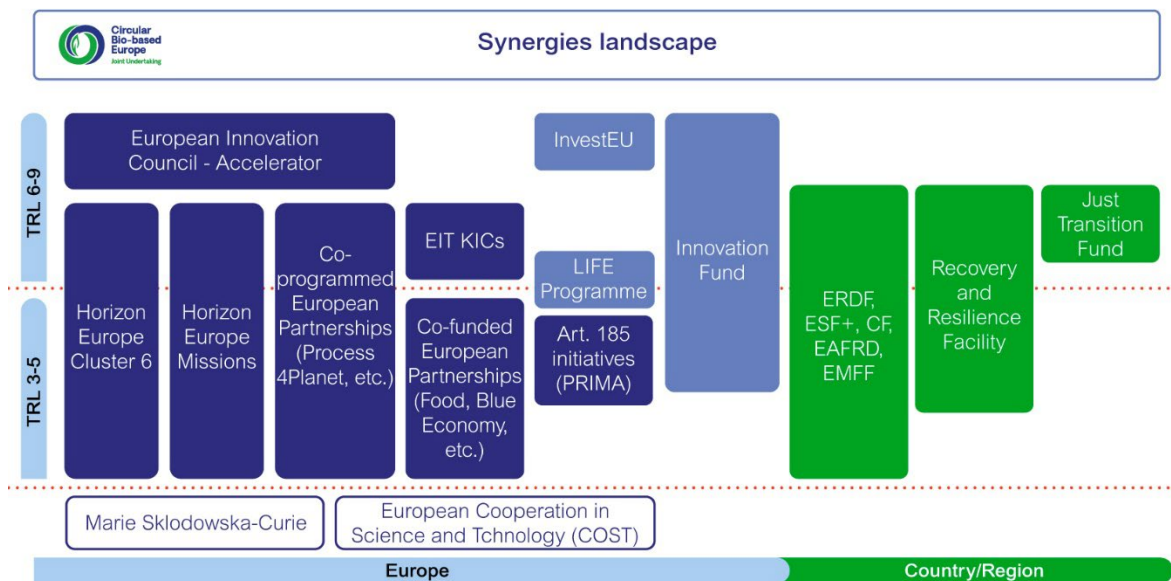


Figure 27 CBE JU synergies landscape.

## Synergies at European level

In 2025, the CBE JU continued to strengthen its co-operation with EU institutions, Horizon Europe partnerships, HE missions, and other relevant initiatives at European level. In particular, activities were implemented across four categories: Strategic Planning, Coordinated Programming, Synergy at Portfolio Level, and Outreach and Dissemination.

These actions have contributed to improved alignment across funding instruments' priorities, increased the visibility of the CBE JU programme and created more opportunities for beneficiaries to engage with complementary initiatives. The main achievements are reported below.

### a. Strategic planning

Strategic planning activities involve high-level dialogue with key Commission services and financial instruments, supporting long-term alignment and exploring opportunities for future cooperation. Strategic planning actions are more limited in number and scope.

#### Main achievements in 2025

- ▶ **DG MARE:** Two meetings were held in 2025 to discuss the potential establishment of a new partnership and explore complementarities in the aquatic biomass domain. DG MARE requested a second meeting, confirming continued interest in collaboration.
- ▶ **ECBF:** Engagement with the European Circular Bioeconomy Fund continued under the existing MoU. A meeting was organised to facilitate ongoing information exchange on project pipelines and potential co-funding opportunities.

### b. Co-ordinated programming

In 2025, co-ordinated programming activities supported alignment with Horizon Europe partnerships and other EU initiatives. Progress was made in selected areas. Some co-ordinated programming activities scheduled for 2025 were postponed to 2026, including meetings with: Accelerating Farming Systems Transition Partnership, Process4Planet, Raw Materials for the Green and Digital Transition Partnership, Safe and Sustainable Food System Partnership, and Soil Deal for Europe. These pending actions highlight the need to prioritise structured engagement with only the most relevant Horizon Europe partnerships in 2026, based on need or linked to specific activities (e.g. the Food partnership for the Cluster workshop).

#### Main achievements in 2025

- ▶ **Textile of the Future Partnership:** Continued exchanges with ATEX and DG GROW supported alignment with the SRIA partnership and the identification of areas of common interest.
- ▶ **Agriculture of Data Partnership:** The CBE JU participated in the launch event on the premises of DG AGRI. Although the CBE JU is referenced, the thematic scope of the event was not directly relevant.
- ▶ **Mission Soil:** The CBE JU organised two meetings with DG AGRI and DG RTD to structure programming and synergy activities and ensure a coherent thematic programming and providing the foundation for joint initiatives in the outreach and dissemination, as well as in participation in relevant events organised by the Mission Soil Secretariat.

### c. Synergy at portfolio level

In 2025, portfolio-level synergies were a major area of focus, with several high-impact initiatives being implemented in co-operation with other EU agencies and services. These portfolio-level synergies were productive in 2025, contributing significantly to cross-programme learning, raising the visibility of CBE JU projects and informing policy development. However, some actions were not completed as planned, particularly those related to the synergies with Process4Planet. A stronger operationalisation with the MSCA and the Innovation Fund should be sought.

#### Main achievements in 2025

- ▶ **First, CBE JU Cluster project Workshop on bio-based materials:** the CBE JU organised a cross-agency workshop involving the REA, the CINEA, the EISMEA, the PRIMA, the BIC and more than 30 projects.
- ▶ **JRC Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy:** The CBE JU contributed to the JRC expert workshop on bio-based plastics.
- ▶ **CINEA/DG MARE – Algae portfolio mapping:** The CBE JU contributed to the cross-programme mapping of algae-related projects and participated in a follow-up meeting to support this initiative.
- ▶ **EUFOR workshop on forest-based Innovations:** The CBE JU contributed to discussions on scaling up forest-based innovations.
- ▶ **Food Partnership:** The CBE JU remained active on the advisory board of the preparatory action and attended its final event in Brussels, supporting the need for industrial engagement at the food bio-based interface.
- ▶ **ECOSYSTEX:** the CBE JU participated in the community of practice to promote synergies among textile projects.

### d. Outreach and dissemination

In 2025, extensive outreach and dissemination activities supported stakeholder engagement, widening participation and increasing the visibility of the CBE JU programme. These activities were highly effective, contributing to increased awareness of CBE JU funding opportunities across multiple communities. Some actions were not completed as planned, particularly those related to the synergies with some partnerships, such as Process4Planet and Farming. The activities involving the mutual analysis of respective calls and the updated mapping of the new COST action have been postponed to 2026 and are currently being planned.

#### Main achievements in 2025

- ▶ **COST participation at the CBE JU Info Day 2025:** Strong engagement achieved, with plans to organise event annually in the future.
- ▶ MSCA SE participation in CBE JU Info Day 2025: Strong interaction with participants.
- ▶ **Enterprise Europe Network (EEN):** Support continued in widening countries.
- ▶ **Blue bioeconomy outreach:** Presentations at the BlueBio End-Term Meeting and the EU4Algae Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **Agriculture sector-specific outreach:** Presentations at the EATIP AGM and collaboration with the CAP Network, as well as participation in info day and events.
- ▶ **Interaction with Mission Soil:** Creation of a policy factsheet and valorisation of the contribution of CBE JU projects to the Mission objective at the Mission Soil Week conference.

## Synergies at national and regional level

Research and innovation remain central priorities of the European Structural and Investment Funds, with the bioeconomy featuring prominently in the smart specialisation strategies of most European regions. Instruments under the NextGenerationEU programme, such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Just Transition Fund, are increasingly supporting research and innovation activities that contribute to the green and digital transitions.

In 2025, the CBE JU aimed to gather robust feedback from national and regional stakeholders in order to further operationalise the section of the CBE JU Synergies Strategy dedicated to co-operation with national and regional funding instruments. This work aimed to address persistent structural barriers, including misaligned funding rules, and strengthen dialogue with managing authorities. Enhancing upstream synergies, such as capacity building, proposal development support, and targeted outreach, is essential to increasing participation from underrepresented regions. The CBE JU also aims to explore strategies to enable it to make more effective use of mechanisms such as the STEP Seal, redirecting high-quality but unfunded proposals to alternative funding streams and thereby maximising the impact of EU investments.

For national and regional stakeholders, a key priority is aligning local strategies with EU level objectives while responding to territorial needs. The CBE JU intended to begin collecting feedback to improve coherence with Smart Specialisation Strategies and address the administrative and legal barriers hindering the implementation of synergies. Progress in these areas will contribute to a more balanced and competitive European research and innovation landscape, supporting the broader ambitions of the European Green Deal.

To advance this agenda, the CBE JU organised a dedicated workshop in October 2025. The resulting [outcome report](#) captures the main discussions and recommendations, focusing particularly on identifying barriers to effective synergies across funding sources and showcasing best practices for leveraging national and regional instruments in support of the bio-based sector.

While 2024 centred on the publication of the CBE JU Synergies Strategy and initially collecting of stakeholder input, activities in 2025 shifted towards more structured, forward-looking actions to operationalise synergies with national and regional funding. In this context, proactive engagement with umbrella organisations representing regions and Member States with a strategic interest in the bioeconomy will be essential. Complementary actions foreseen under the CBE JU Widening Participation Strategy, together with the strategic guidance provided by the CBE JU States' Representatives Group (SRG), will play a pivotal role in translating the strategy into concrete and impactful measures.

## 1.7. PROGRESS ON KEY IMPACT PATHWAYS AND JU KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

In line with the Horizon Europe framework, the performance of the CBE JU programme is monitored through a framework of key impact pathways (KIPs) and key performance indicators (KPIs), which are defined at the following three levels: general Horizon Europe KIPs, Horizon Europe Common JU KPIs and CBE JU-specific KPIs, as defined in the SRIA.

### 1.7.1. Progress against Horizon Europe key impact pathways

All programmes operating under Horizon Europe (HE), including the CBE JU programme, use a common set of indicators. The indicators are structured around three key impact pathways (KIPs): (1) scientific impact, (2) societal impact, and (3) technological and economic impact. The KIPs are defined for the short, medium and long term. Medium- and long-term results will only start to materialise at a later stage, towards the end of the project lifetime and beyond.

Some short-term indicators are available and correspond to the outcomes of ongoing CBE JU projects from calls 2022, 2023 and 2024. These projects are still in the early stages and therefore their contributions to the short-term indicators reported below is still limited.

- ▶ **Scientific impact pathway indicators** relate to the scientific impact through the creation of high-quality new knowledge, the strengthening of human capital in R&I, and the fostering of knowledge diffusion and open-source projects. CBE JU projects have so far reported 14 peer-reviewed publications resulting from their activities and 79.5 % share of research outputs (open data, publications, software, etc.) are shared through open knowledge infrastructures. In addition, more than 1 600 researchers are involved in upskilling activities, such as training, mentoring and access to R&I infrastructure in ongoing CBE JU projects, of whom 51.1 % are women and 48.9 % are men.
- ▶ **Societal impact pathway indicators** address the Union's policy priorities and global challenges, ensuring citizen involvement in the co-creation of R&I knowledge and having a positive impact on society. So far, 13 CBE JU projects have reported engaging citizens and end-users in their activities.
- ▶ **Technological and economic impact pathway indicators** refer to the number of innovative results produced, as well as the socio-economic impact achieved in terms of new jobs and co-investment. Ongoing CBE JU projects have already reported 28 new innovative results, including innovative products, processes and methods. In terms of socio-economic impact, CBE JU projects have created or maintained 307 full-time equivalent jobs. This reflects the significant impact of high TRL industrial projects in generating socio-economic benefits for rural and urban areas alike. In addition, the co-investment, defined as total costs minus the EU contribution after applying the reduced funding methodology, amounts to EUR 307 million, reflecting significant additional investment leverage.

The list of specific indicators and the results achieved against these in 2025 are set out in Annex 5.6 Scoreboard of Horizon Europe's Common Key Impact Pathway indicators. This data has been collected through a centrally managed dashboard developed by the European Commission for all parts of the Programme.

## 1.7.2. Progress against HE Common JU KPIs

A common framework has been established to monitor the progress of all European Partnerships, including JUs. This includes defining the Partnership Specific Impact Pathway, identifying the main contributions to the UN SDGs, and establishing a set of specific partnership indicators related to various criteria, such as directionality and additionality, coherence, synergies, transparency, openness, and international visibility and positioning. Annex 5.7 includes the indicators linked to these criteria and a short description of the most important aspects per criterion is provided below.

### Directionality and additionality

The investments mobilised by the CBE JU directly support key EU priorities, particularly those set out in the European Green Deal, while also enhancing the resilience and strategic autonomy of the European Union.

The CBE JU's mission and strategic priorities are aligned with the overarching objectives of the **European Green Deal**: climate neutrality and inclusive economic growth decoupled from the use of resources. By supporting the development and deployment of sustainable and competitive bio-based industries, the partnership contributes to the transition towards a circular and climate-neutral economy. These activities foster industrial innovation, generate skilled employment, support the revitalisation of rural regions and contribute to the reindustrialisation of Europe.

Environmental and circularity considerations are integrated across the programme. CBE JU-funded projects develop solutions that mitigate climate change by substituting fossil-based products with sustainable, bio-based alternatives, and improving the efficiency and circularity of natural resource use. They also help to reduce pollution and support biodiversity protection.

The CBE JU also strengthens **the resilience and strategic autonomy** of the EU bioeconomy by supporting the development of sustainable and locally anchored value chains. By engaging with stakeholders across the entire value chain, from primary producers and technology providers to industry and end-users, the CBE JU activities help to diversify income opportunities, promote job creation, and reinforce regional economic ecosystems.

There is a strong emphasis on innovation deployment. Around 80 % of the CBE JU budget is dedicated to innovation actions, including flagship projects that support the establishment of the first biorefineries of their kind in Europe. These projects **accelerate the industrial scale-up of bio-based solutions while creating direct and indirect green jobs**, particularly in rural and coastal regions. Complementary research and co-ordination actions further contribute by developing the necessary technologies, skills and knowledge needed for the long-term expansion of sustainable bio-based industries.

### Coherence and synergies

The CBE JU aims to ensure coherence within the European research and innovation landscape and published its first Synergy Strategy in 2025. As part of this strategy, the CBE JU carries out various types of activities:

- ▶ Strategic planning activities, which encompass high-level dialogue with key Commission services and financial instruments such as the European Circular Bioeconomy Fund to explore potential co-funding opportunities.
- ▶ Co-ordinating programming activities take place with several European partnerships addressing related thematic areas, including the Agriculture of Data Partnership,

Process4Planet, Raw Materials for the Green and Digital Transition Partnership, Safe and Sustainable Food System Partnership and Soil Deal for Europe.

- ▶ Synergies with EU missions, notably the EU Mission: Restore Our Ocean and Waters and the EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe, whose objectives are reflected in the CBE JU annual work programmes.
- ▶ Synergies at project portfolio level, such as the Cluster Workshop on Bio-based Materials, REA, CINEA, EISMEA, PRIMA, BIC and more than 30 projects, or the Algae portfolio mapping, together with the CINEA and DG MARE among others.
- ▶ Synergies at regional level and national level, with the European Structural and Investment Funds or Instruments under the NextGenerationEU programme through a workshop to identify barriers and best practices across Europe. In addition, different Member States have reported receiving complementary and cumulative funding from various Structural and Investments Funds, including the EARFRD, the EMFAF and the ERDF.

For more details, see section 1.6.2 Cooperation and Synergies.

## Transparency and openness

The openness of the CBE JU programme is reflected in the broad and diverse range of participants it attracts. To date, 4 171 unique applicants from 68 countries have applied to the programme. In the 2024 call alone, 182 newcomer beneficiaries from 34 different countries joined in new projects, demonstrating the partnership's ability to attract new actors to the European bio-based innovation ecosystem.

Additional actions support participation from less active countries and regions, in line with the widening objectives of Horizon Europe and ensuring that opportunities linked to the bio-based transition are accessible across Europe. See section 1.5.2 for more details on the CBE JU's Widening Participation Strategy.

## Outreach and international visibility

The CBE JU actively promotes the visibility of Europe's bio-based innovation ecosystem by engaging at global, European and national level.

At the European and international level, the CBE JU has participated in numerous events, including the World Bioeconomy Association, the European Biomass Conference and Exhibition, the Go Circular Summit, and BIOKET or Bioeconomy for Youth, to name but a few.

At the national level, 24 information days have been organised across Europe to raise awareness of funding opportunities and support engagement with national bioeconomy communities. Through these activities, the CBE JU strengthens Europe's leadership and international visibility in sustainable and circular bio-based industries.

## Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The contribution of the CBE JU and the BBI JU project portfolio to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is monitored on an annual basis. Examining the number of BBI JU projects that report on their contributions (Figure 28) reveals that the CBE/BBI JU programme has a significant contribution to the following SDGs:

- ▶ SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.
- ▶ SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- ▶ SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Contribution of CBE JU and BBI JU projects to SDGs

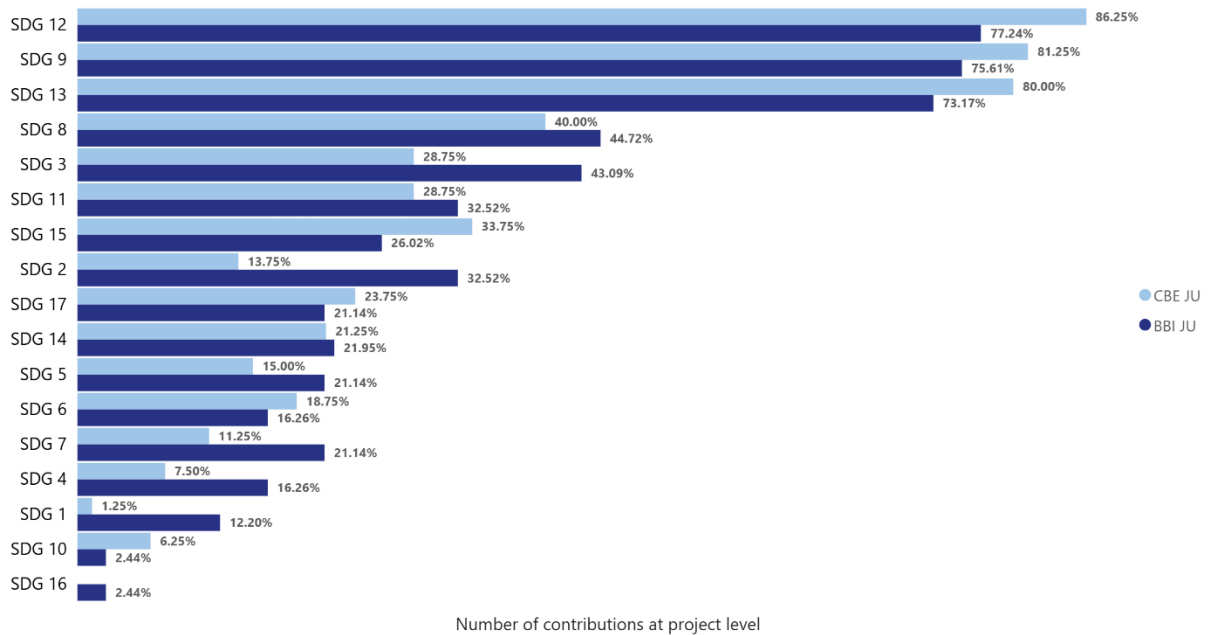


Figure 28 Reported contribution of BBI JU and CBE JU projects (percentage over total number of projects) towards the different UN SDGs.

### 1.7.3. Progress against CBE JU-specific KPIs

In accordance with the Council Regulation establishing the Joint Undertakings, a set of CBE JU key performance indicators (KPIs) has been defined to track the achievement of the general and specific objectives of the CBE JU. These KPIs and their respective targets are set out in the CBE JU SRIA and are closely linked to the strategic priorities described therein.

Table 7 illustrates how the 10 overarching KPIs are broken down into sub-KPIs measurement, each with specific targets to be achieved by 2031. To facilitate accurate reporting, a handbook providing definitions of the KPIs and relevant examples of potential contributions<sup>5</sup> is also available.

CBE KPIs: objectives and units of measurement				2031 targets
1	Strategic participation and integration of feedstock producers and suppliers towards large-scale valorisation of sustainable biomass	1.1	Number of primary producers involved as project beneficiaries and/or engaged in value chains at project level	100
		1.2	Number of waste management actors involved as project beneficiaries and/or engaged in value chains at project level	20
2	Unlock sustainable and circular bio-based feedstock for the industry	2	Number of innovative bio-based value chains created or enabled based on sustainably sourced biomass	120
3	Ensure environmental sustainability of feedstock	3.1	Number of projects using feedstock generated with practices that contribute to enhance biodiversity	30
		3.2	Number of projects using feedstock generated with practices aiming at zero-pollution (soil, water, air) and/or at reducing water consumption	40
		3.3	Number of projects using feedstock generated with practices contributing to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation	60
4	Improve environmental sustainability of production processes and value chains	4.1	Number of projects with innovative & sustainable processes that contribute to GHG emission reduction	60
		4.2	Number of projects developing innovative & sustainable processes that improve resource efficiency and zero waste	60
		4.3	Number of projects developing innovative & sustainable processes enabling zero pollution	60
		4.4	Number of projects with innovative & sustainable processes with improved energy efficiency	60
		4.5	Number of products with improved life cycle environmental performance	50

<sup>5</sup> CBE JU Key Performance Indicators handbook.

CBE KPIs: objectives and units of measurement				2031 targets
5	Expand circularity in bio-based value chains	5.1	Number of innovative products that are biodegradable, compostable, recyclable, reused or upcycled (circular by design)	100
		5.2	Number projects developing circular production processes (incl. industrial urban symbiosis)	40
6	Increase innovative bio-based outputs and products	6.1	Number of innovative bio-based dedicated outputs, with novel or significantly improved properties vs relevant alternatives	90
		6.2	Number of innovative bio-based drop-in outputs meeting applications requirements	30
7	Improve the market uptake of bio-based products	7	Number of brand owners involved as project partners and/or engaged with other mechanisms	50
8	Attract investment on the bio-based sector	8	Number of actions implemented at project level to attract investment and/or to create awareness in the investment/funding community	30
9	Increase resilience and capacity in the bio-based sector	9	Number of projects contributing to develop the skills and capacity needed by the EU bio-based sector	50
10	Improve participation of regions and countries with high unexploited potential and strategic interest to develop it	10	Number of participants from the underrepresented EU countries and region	150
		10	Number of regional hubs established and operated to process bio-based feedstocks and other aspects	15
		10	Number of projects with synergies with other funding programmes at EU, national or regional level	60

Table 7 CBE JU-specific key performance indicators as set out in the CBE JU SRIA.

## CBE JU-specific KPI reporting

The CBE JU monitors the contribution of funded projects to both the CBE JU-specific KPIs and other expected impacts of the programme. Each must report on its contribution using a dedicated reporting web tool developed by the CBE JU Programme Office. Initial reporting at the beginning of the project establishes the expected contribution, which is then updated and validated based on the project's actual evolution at each reporting period. This section presents the aggregated results for each KPI from 2025 onwards (including data from 82 projects funded under Call 2022–2024), along with selected examples.

Figure 29 presents an overview of the progression of the CBE KPIs, as reported for the year 2025.

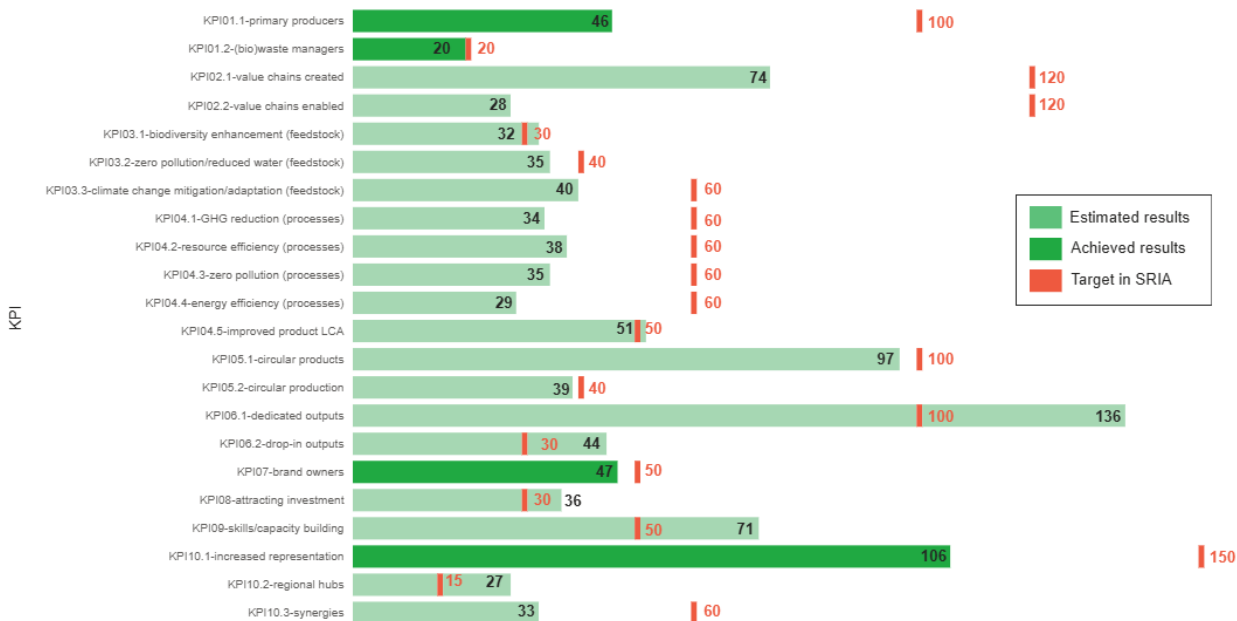


Figure 29 Overview of the estimated (light green) and achieved (dark green) contributions to the CBE JU KPIs, as reported by projects vs. SRIA targets (orange).

When interpreting the aggregated results, it is important to recognise that most CBE JU-funded projects are still in the early stages, with the first projects not being launched until 2023. This is the reason why reporting distinguishes between KPIs that monitor the strategic and inclusive involvement of specific parties (KPIs 1.1, 1.2, 7 and 10) and KPIs relating to project outcomes. The former can be considered results as the participation of the relevant parties is determined at the time of signature of grant agreements, while the latter KPIs monitor aspects that can only be verified once the project outcomes have been confirmed and reviewed by the CBE JU Programme Office with the help of independent expert reviewers. Therefore, the data in the following section represents the expected contributions of these KPIs, as reported by project consortia. To visualise these differences, the realised KPI contributions are shown in dark green and the projected contributions are shown in light green.

## KPI 1: Strategic participation and integration of feedstock producers and suppliers towards large-scale valorisation of sustainable biomass

To achieve maximum impact and consider the entire value chain, the CBE JU encourages **primary producers**<sup>6</sup> to participate in the projects it funds either as beneficiaries or as actors in the projects' value chains (**KPI n1.1**, Figure 30).

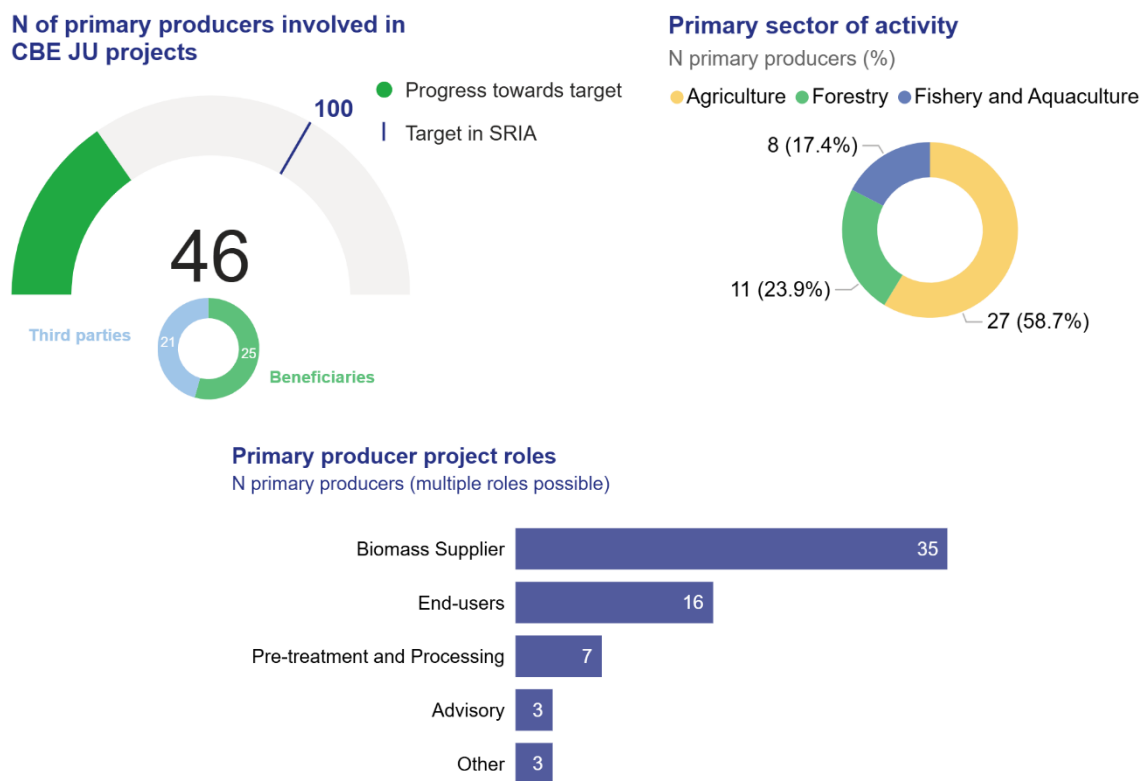


Figure 30 Overall progress towards achieving KPI 1.1 (top left). The main sectors of activity of the primary producers (top right) and the project roles assumed by the primary producers (bottom; multiple roles possible), both including all types of participation (project beneficiaries or third-party involvement).

In total, 46 primary producers<sup>7</sup> are involved in CBE JU projects, of whom 25 are project beneficiaries. The remaining 21 are involved as members of an advisory board, for example, or parties engaged under long-term agreements.

Further analysis of their main activities shows that almost 60 % operate in the agricultural sector, while forestry and fisheries and aquaculture represent 24 % and 17 %, respectively. While primary producers often play the role of biomass suppliers in CBE JU projects, they also play other strategic roles in bio-based value chains. These include the pre-treatment and processing of biomass and acting as potential end users of bio-based solutions.

Examples of the strategic involvement of primary producers in CBE JU projects are reported below.

<sup>6</sup> Primary producers are defined as legal entities operating in one of the primary sectors (agriculture, forestry, fishery and aquaculture), in work related to the production, harvest, handling, and storage of biological resources before these are moved to either processing or distribution. To be considered, producing biological resources should be a key part of its business.

<sup>7</sup> Beneficiaries according to Article 7 of the Model Grant Agreement (MGA) and affiliated entities according to Article 8.

<b>RootLinks</b> (ongoing CSA)	The RootLinks CSA supports primary producers by focusing on their capacity building and raising awareness of bio-based solutions, and the related funding opportunities. The project focuses on three sectors: agriculture, forestry and the blue economy. It connects primary producers with research and innovation funding programmes, strengthening their role in the European circular bioeconomy.
<b>CROPSAFE</b> (ongoing RIA)	The CROPSAFE project aims to develop new bioactives derived from renewable sources to replace toxic chemical pesticides. One of the crops for which the project aims to provide an alternative solution for is the banana which is under threat by the Banana Weevil (BW) and Fusarium Wilt ('Panama Disease'). Coplaca, a Canary Islands farming cooperative and project beneficiary, represents approximately 3 000 banana farmers, and is therefore provides direct access to diverse growing conditions and authentic farmer feedback.

Similarly, to enable new value chains based on tertiary biomass, the involvement of (bio)waste managers<sup>8</sup> (KPI 1.2) will be encouraged where relevant to the scope of the project.

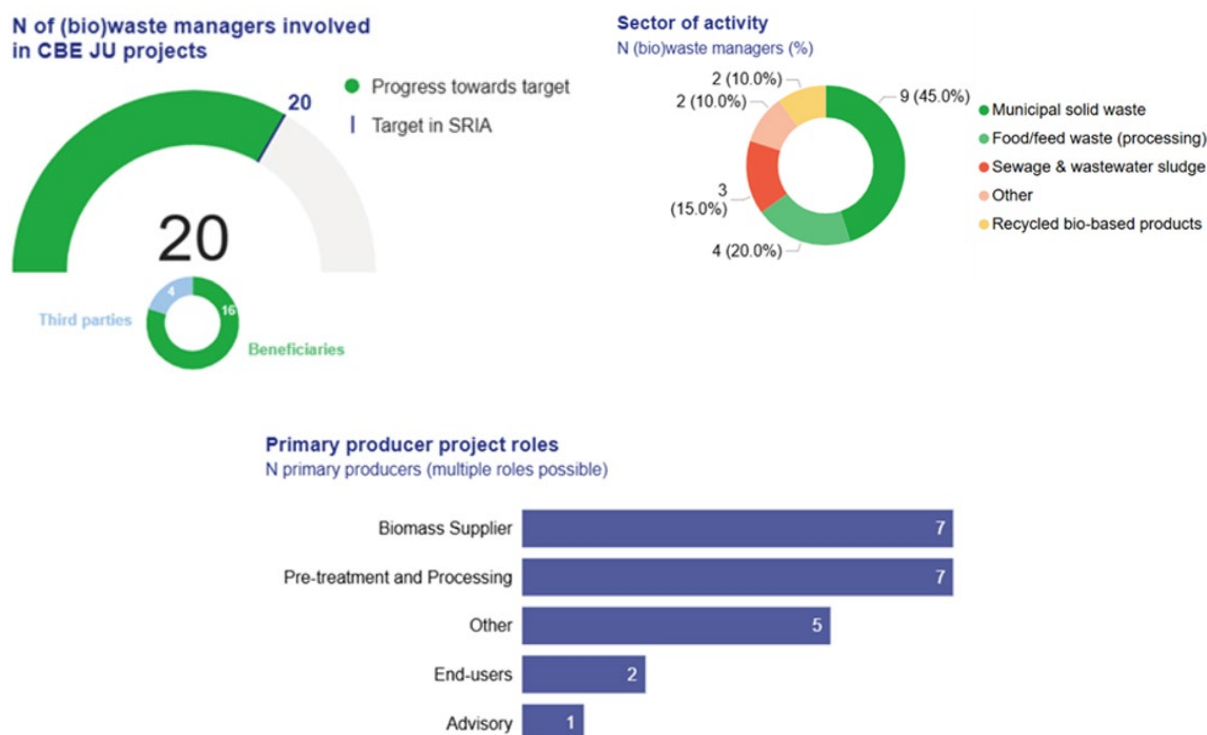


Figure 31 KPI 1.2 Overall progress towards KPI achievement (top left), the main sectors of activity of the (bio)waste managers (top right) and the project roles assumed by the (bio)waste managers (bottom; multiple roles possible). (\*) Includes all types of participation (project beneficiaries or third-party involvement).

As shown in Figure 31, 16 (bio-)waste managers are involved in CBE JU projects as beneficiaries, while four others are involved as third parties. Those dealing with municipal solid waste (including the organic fraction) are the most represented category (45 %). However, CBE JU projects also involve operators managing food and feed waste from processing, end-of-life bio-based products and wastewater treatment. The figure above also highlights the strategic role of (bio)waste managers in new bio-based value chains. The most common role is supplying biomass to the

<sup>8</sup> In this context, (bio)waste managers are considered as private companies or municipalities involved in the collecting, sorting, processing and/or recycling of municipal or industrial waste.

project, which involves pre-treatment and processing of waste to prepare it for further transformation into higher-value products.

Examples of the strategic involvement of (bio)waste managers in CBE JU projects are set out below.

<p><b>UNICO2RN</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO)</p>	<p>VEOLIA is involved in the UNICO2RN project as a biowaste management company. They treat various types of biowaste, such as sludge from wastewater, organic waste from households or restaurants, or the agricultural sector, using controlled composting or anaerobic digestion. The produced biogenic gaseous carbon is supplied to partner in the UNICO2RN project that converts it into microbial proteins, amino acids and biodegradable polyesters.</p>
<p><b>CERNET</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO)</p>	<p>Two (bio)waste management companies, the Spanish Biometagas La Galera and the Italian Acea Pinerolese, support the project's aims to demonstrate sustainable value chains that produce high-value chemicals and ingredients based on CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions. They both handle waste streams such as municipal solid waste and its organic fraction, or residues from agricultural processes. In the CERNET project, four production chains will be established in three central locations across six European countries.</p>

## KPI 2: Unlock sustainable and circular bio-based feedstocks for the industry

While IAs, and especially flagship projects, consider the entire bio-based value chain, RIAs can be instrumental in creating **new bio-based value chains**<sup>9</sup> by filling gaps in technological innovation. This KPI therefore distinguishes between projects that create new value chains (IAs, including flagship projects) and those that enable them (RIAs) based on sustainably sourced biomass. Figure 32 illustrates the ambition to create 74 innovative bio-based value chains and enable a further 28 through ongoing CBE JU projects.

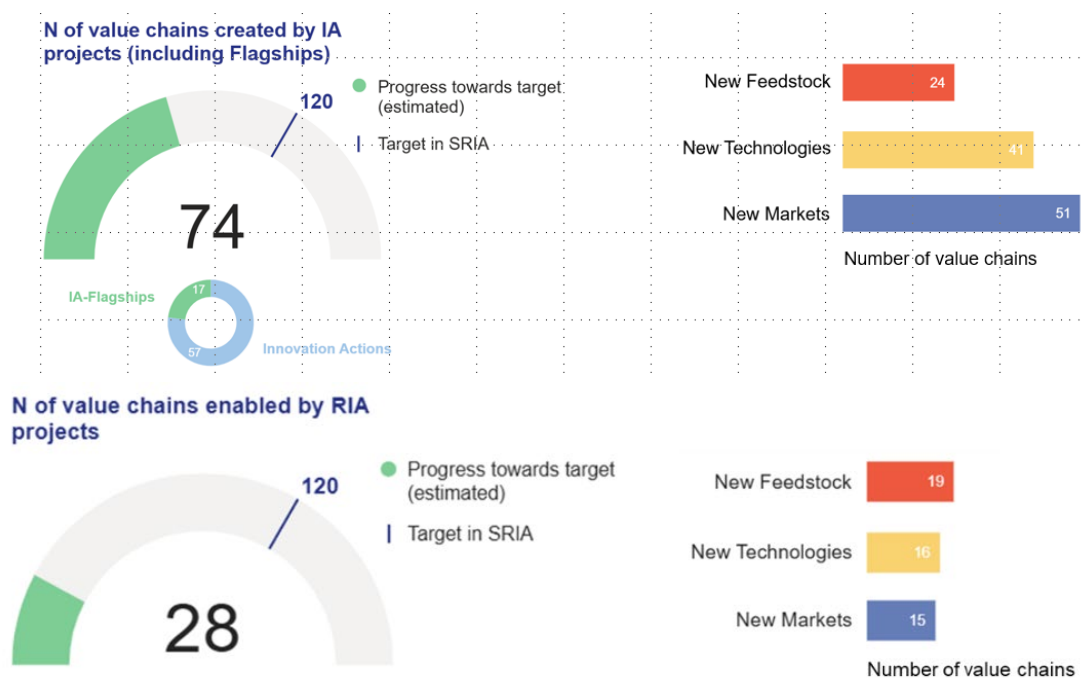


Figure 32 KPI 2 Unlock sustainable and circular bio-based feedstocks – projected number of innovative bio-based value chains created (IA, IA-Flagship) and enabled (RIA) through CBE projects (left) and aspects of innovation of the value chains (right) with respect to feedstocks, markets and technologies.

Examples of innovative bio-based value chains created by CBE JU projects are reported below.

<b>Purple4Life</b> (ongoing RIA)	<p>This project aims to enable purple phototrophic bacteria as a production platform for food and feed ingredients. Through four distinct processes, these bacteria valorise different feedstocks and metabolic states. Significant regulatory barriers will need to be addressed before they can be introduced to the market, especially regarding the use of novel food and feed.</p>
<b>SPLENDOR</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO)	<p>SPLENDOR is developing an innovative technology to transform lignin into high-value aromatic chemicals. The project uses black liquor, a by-product of the pulp and paper industry, which is not commonly valorised but is instead burnt for energy and heat. The SPLENDOR project introduces a novel blend of lignin-based aromatic chemicals to the market using this technology.</p>

<sup>9</sup> To be considered a new bio-based value chain, there must be at least one new/innovative element introduced into the value chain. This may be a novel feedstock, new markets targeted by the bio-based solutions and/or innovative technologies for converting sustainable feedstocks into bio-based products.

### KPI 3: Ensure the environmental sustainability of feedstock

One of the general objectives of the CBE JU is to ensure the good environmental performance of bio-based industrial systems. Ensuring that sufficient quantities of sustainable feedstock are available is fundamental to achieving this objective. KPI 3 monitors progress towards achieving these objectives.

**KPI 3.1** (reported in Figure 33) monitors the number of CBE JU-funded projects that contribute to **the enhancement of biodiversity**. Projects can contribute to this KPI by developing or improving (integrated) practices and/or methodologies and/or tools to enhance biodiversity when providing feedstocks for bio-based systems. These contributions are in addition to the requirements for responsible land use, which are integral to all the CBE JU-funded projects. The improvement of practices in the production and supply of feedstocks from the agricultural, food, and forestry sectors is the most common way in which contributing projects address this KPI.

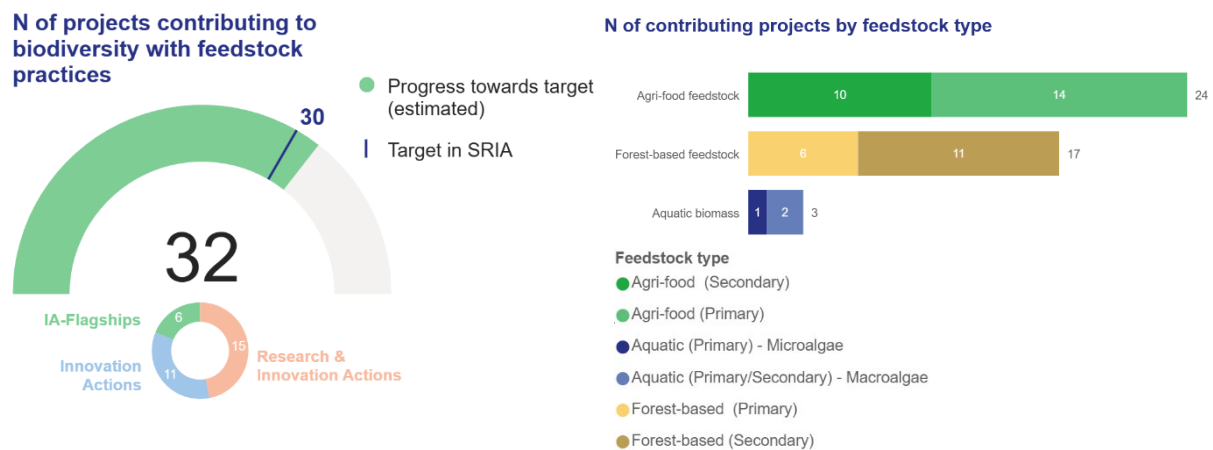


Figure 33 KPI 3.1 Number of projects using feedstock generated with practices that contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity (top), as well as the number of contributing projects per feedstock type (including IA, IA-Flagship and RIA projects).

Examples of feedstock production and supply practices that contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity in CBE JU projects are reported below.

<b>MARMADE</b> (ongoing RIA)	MARMADE’s sources its aquatic feedstock using practices that contribute to biodiversity conservation and restoration. The crustacean residues used in the project are collected as part of an invasive species control programme aimed at reducing the predatory pressure on native benthic fauna.
<b>BIOS MATER</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO)	The project uses secondary agri-food feedstock, primarily flax and hemp, to produce construction materials. These crops are cultivated using rotation and field retting, and are associated with low usage of pesticides. These approaches support soil microflora and pollinator biodiversity during flowering periods.

**KPI 3.2** monitors the number of the CBE JU-funded projects that **reduce pollution (soil, water and air) and/or water consumption** by improving feedstock production and supply practices. Similar to KPI 3.1, the majority of contributing projects are improving practices related to the production and/or supply of feedstocks (primary and secondary) from the agricultural, food, and forestry sectors (see Figure 34). Fewer projects aim to reduce the waste and water consumption associated with producing aquatic feedstocks (micro- and macroalgae). Notably, of the projects contributing to this KPI, the majority (71 %) contribute to both goals.

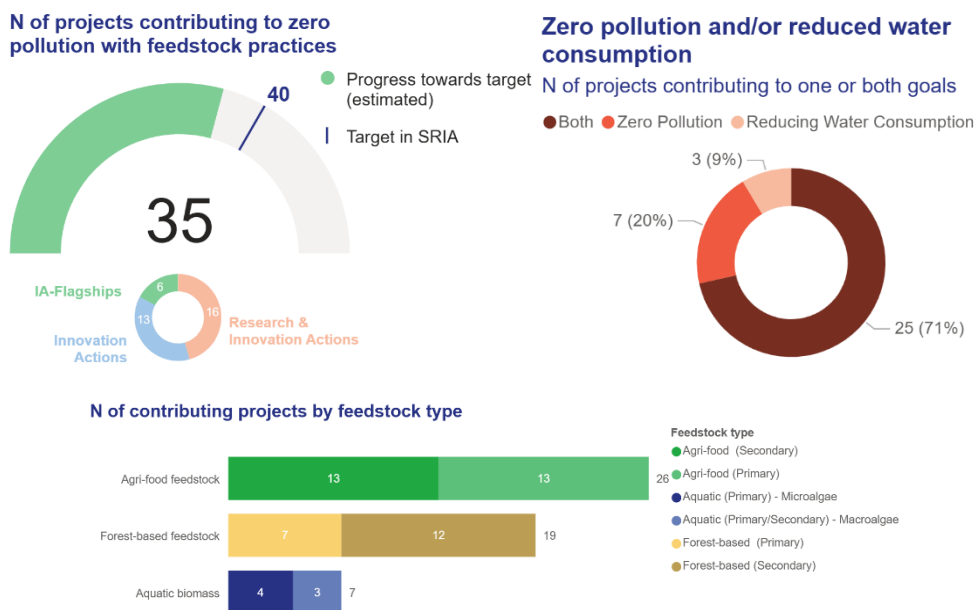


Figure 34 KPI 3.2 Number of projects using feedstocks produced with practices aiming at zero pollution (soil, water and air) and/or reduced water consumption (top left), number of projects addressing the specific objectives (zero pollution, reduced water consumption or both; top right) and number of contributing projects by feedstock type (including IA, IA-flagship and RIA projects, bottom).

Below are examples of feedstock production and supply practices in CBE JU projects that aim to achieve zero pollution (soil, water and air) and/or reduced water consumption.

<b>ZELDA</b> (ongoing RIA) zero pollution/ reduced water consumption	The ZELDA project utilises feedstock grown in certified and sustainably managed forests. Its birchwood residues and other forestry side streams, classified as secondary forest-based feedstock, are cultivated with resource efficiency and cascading use in mind. These practices can significantly reduce soil and water pollution, and the overall water consumption.
<b>ALLIANCE</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO) reduced water consumption	The ALLIANCE project is developing a scalable and cost-effective microalgal biorefinery that focuses on multiple products in the food, feed, and agriculture sectors. As part of the microalgae cultivation process, the project focuses on reusing waste streams as nutrient sources and recycling water, thus reducing overall water consumption.

**KPI 3.3** (shown in Figure 35) monitors the number of the CBE JU-funded projects that **improve climate-related impacts**, including ILUC impacts, by improving feedstock production and supply practices, including feedstock pre-processing prior to storage and transportation. The most commonly reported practices contribute to climate change mitigation, with almost half of the contributing projects supporting both goals (i.e. climate change mitigation and adaptation).

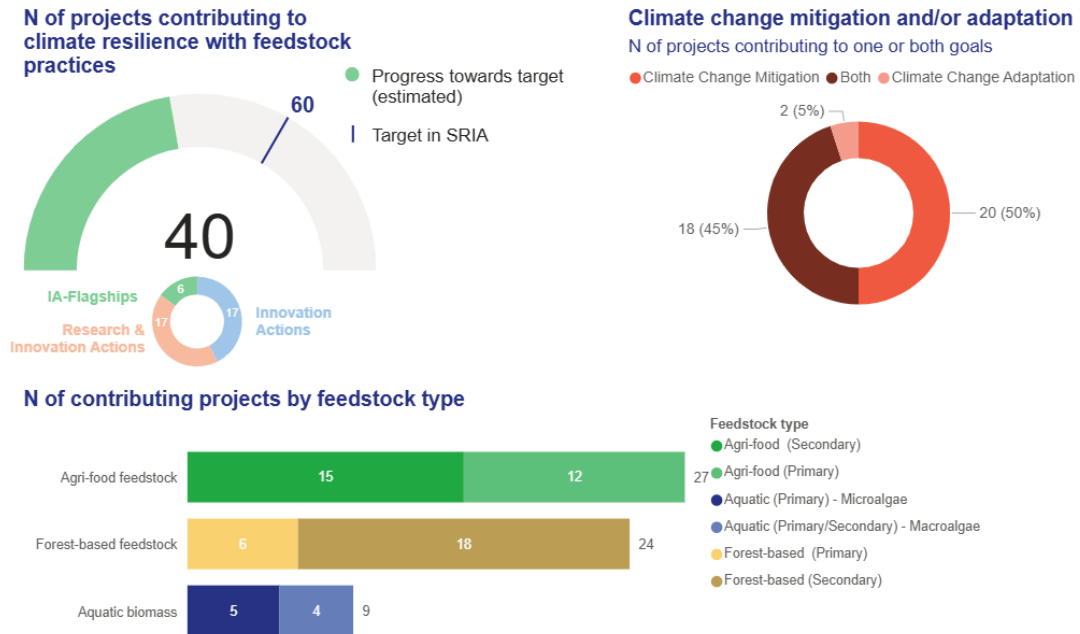


Figure 35 KPI 3.3 Number of projects using feedstock produced with practices that contribute to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation at the top left, number of projects addressing the specific aims (climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation or both) at the top right and number of contributing projects by feedstock type (including IA, IA-Flagship and RIA projects) at the bottom.

Below are examples of feedstock production and supply practices in CBE JU projects that aim to achieve zero pollution of soil, water and air, and/or reduced water consumption.

<p><b>SOUL</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO) climate change mitigation and adaptation</p>	<p>The SOUL project tackles the negative impacts of fossil-based plastics in agriculture by developing bio-based alternatives. Its feedstocks come from sources with high mitigation potential, such as cork from cork oak trees, crops grown on marginal land and cellulose recovered from wastewater. These contribute directly through carbon sequestration and by avoiding land use change, or indirectly by avoiding GHG emission from sludge decomposition.</p>
<p><b>BRILIAN</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO)</p>	<p>The BRILIAN project deploys sustainable agricultural practices in sunflower, safflower and cardoon cultivation. These low-input plants require minimal fertilisation and irrigation, as they thrive in marginal lands and semi-arid conditions. In addition to lowering emission-intensive inputs such as synthetic fertilisers and agricultural machinery, these plants improve soil quality and resilience in dry or degraded areas.</p>

## KPI 4: Improve the environmental sustainability of bio-based production processes and value chains

The CBE JU SRIA identifies the enhancement of the environmental performance of bio-based processes as a priority area for further research and innovation (SP 1.3.2). Accordingly, KPI 4 has been introduced to track the contributions of CBE JU-funded projects towards achieving more energy-, carbon- and resource-efficient processes while minimising pollution and waste.

KPI 4 comprises five KPIs for monitoring these environmental aspects individually. The most significant impact is expected to come from IAs, including flagship projects, as these represent process improvements that have been demonstrated in a relevant or operational environment. However, RIA projects can also contribute by validating improvements at laboratory scale or in a relevant environment. The first four KPIs provide a comprehensive overview of the projects' processes, while KPI 4.5 evaluates the environmental performance of the entire value chain, including the final bio-based product.

- KPI 4.1** (presented in Figure 36) monitors the number of CBE JU-funded projects that develop, demonstrate or scale up bio-based processes with a **reduced carbon footprint** compared to the current benchmarks. Thirty-four IA projects report that they expect to make a positive contribution by reducing their carbon footprint through the use of more efficient processes and/or the use of processes that capture and utilise (biogenic) CO<sub>2</sub>.

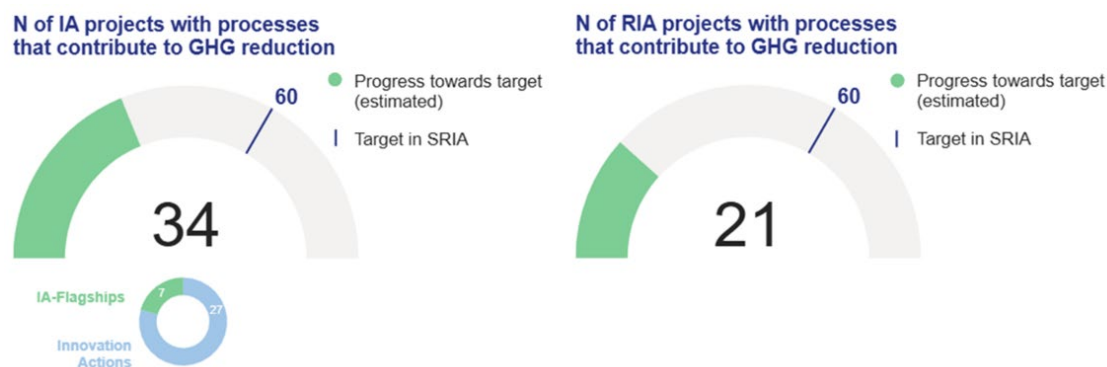


Figure 36 KPI 4.1 - Number of projects with innovative and sustainable processes that contribute to GHG emission reduction.

- KPI 4.2** (see Figure 37) monitors the number of CBE JU-funded projects that develop, demonstrate or scale up more resource efficient bio-based processes that are more resource-efficient and produce less waste than current benchmarks. Thirty-eight IAs report that they will develop innovative processes that enable the cascading use of all biomass streams, for example, to fully valorise all fractions.

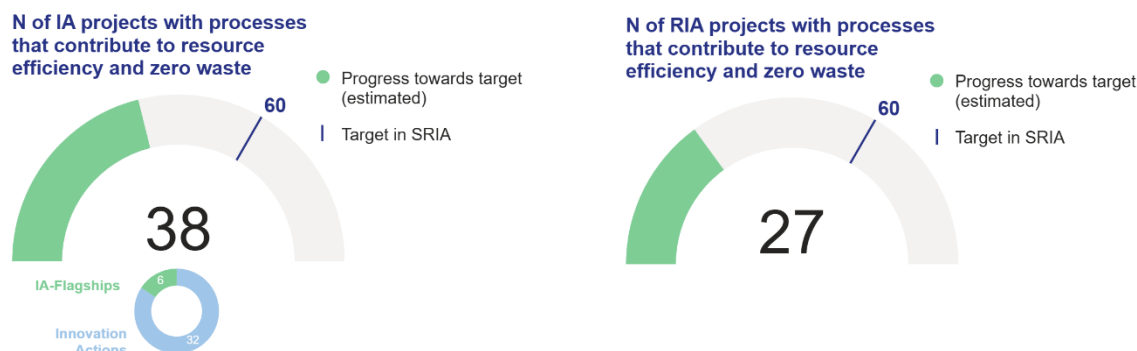


Figure 37 KPI 4.2 - Number of projects developing innovative and sustainable processes that improve resource efficiency and achieve zero waste.

► **KPI 4.3** (Figure 38) monitors the number of CBE JU-funded projects that develop, demonstrate or scale up bio-based processes that contribute to zero pollution targets. Thirty-six IAs report a positive contribution, e.g. by reducing or eliminating the use of hazardous materials and chemicals.

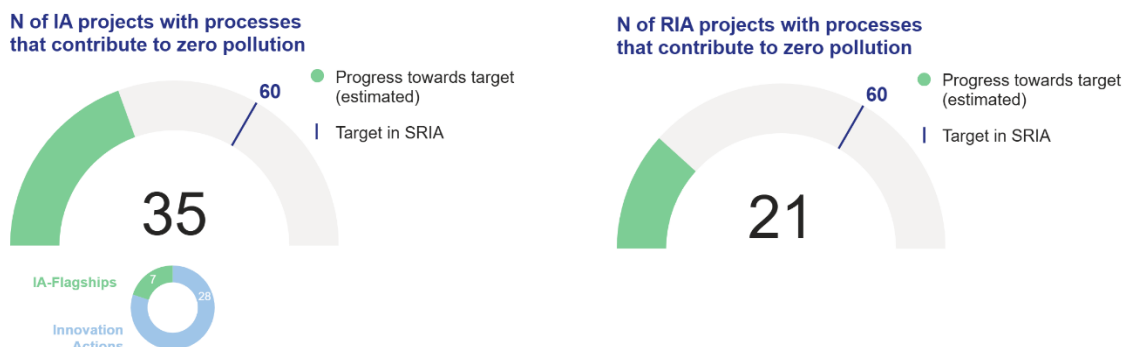


Figure 38 KPIs 4.3 Number of projects developing innovative and sustainable processes enabling zero pollution.

► **KPI 4.4** (Figure 36) tracks the number of CBE JU-funded projects that develop, demonstrate or scale up bio-based processes that are more energy efficient than current processes. The benchmark(s) may address either fossil-based or bio-based feedstocks. Twenty-nine IA projects expect to contribute positively to this KPI.

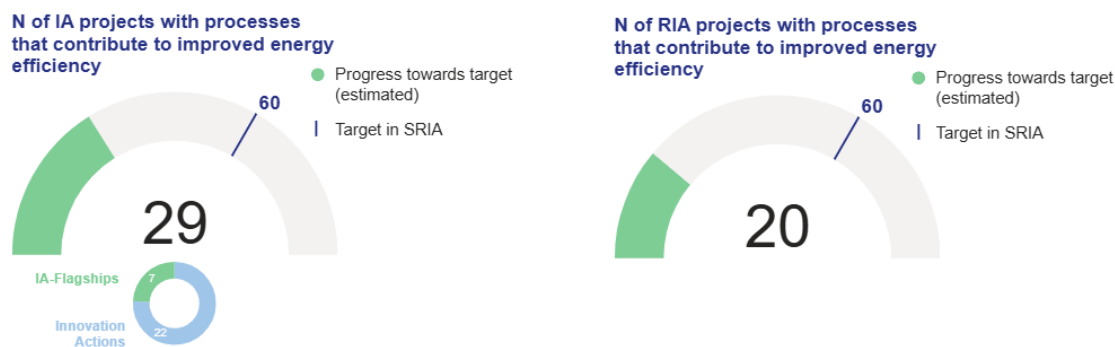


Figure 39 KPI 4.4 Number of projects with innovative & sustainable processes with improved energy efficiency.

► **KPI 4.5** (Figure 40) monitors the number of bio-based products that are developed, demonstrated or scaled up in CBE JU-funded projects, which improve environmental performance compared to the current (fossil-based and/or bio-based) benchmarks (Figure 41). Overall, the IA projects report a total of 51 (consumer) products that are expected to have an improved lifecycle performance, which will be further verified by LCA and other analyses. As the improved lifecycle performance of other outputs (e.g. building blocks and materials) has the potential to improve the LCA of the final product (e.g. in the case of drop-in solutions), this dimension is also monitored.

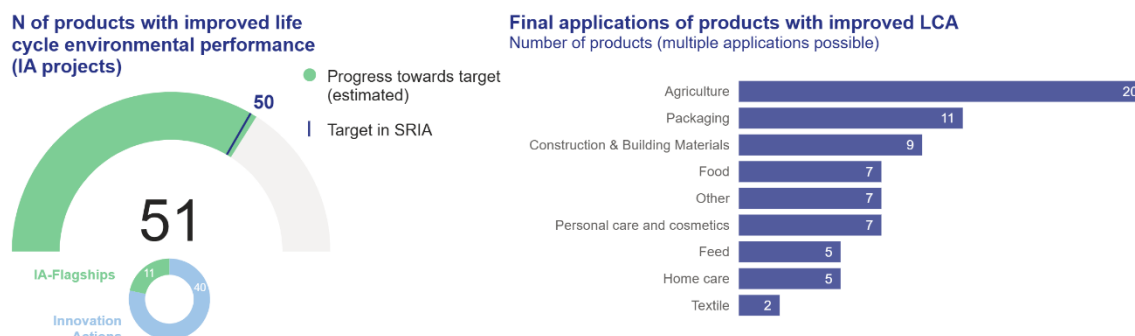


Figure 40 KPI 4.5 Number of products (and other outputs) with improved lifecycle environmental performance demonstrated in IA/IA-Flagship projects (left). Final applications of the bio-based products (right).

Examples of innovative & sustainable processes in the CBE JU projects for all KPIs 4 are reported below.

<b>CleanAlgae2Value</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO) GHG reduction	The CleanAlgae2Value project directly valorises captured CO <sub>2</sub> via its Micro-Algae Biorefinery Upgrade Module into food ingredients with verified carbon negative carbon footprint.
<b>BIO4COAT</b> (ongoing RIA) GHG reduction and energy efficiency	This project reduces GHG emissions by replacing fossil-based intermediates with bio-based alternatives with lower energy demand and improving end-of-life management. It also implements energy-efficient processes, reducing the energy demand of coating production.
<b>WoodVALOR</b> (ongoing RIA) zero waste, zero pollution and energy efficiency	The project uses innovative technology to integrate waste heat into bioprocessing operations, thereby reducing overall energy costs. The project's overall setup aims to transform all fractions of decontaminated forest-based feedstock into valuable products, thus avoiding waste production and preventing further pollution.
<b>CERNET</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO) GHG reduction and resource efficiency	The CERNET project combines on-site CO <sub>2</sub> capture and utilisation, thereby avoiding transport-related costs and emissions. It also integrates renewable energy and advanced processing technologies contributing to further GHG reduction and resource efficiency.
<b>PROSPER</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO) resource efficiency and zero waste	The PROSPER recycling process will utilise green solvents following internal recycling, thereby minimising waste and ensuring a sustainable and efficient approach. Improved sorting efficiency will increase capture rates and reduce the current loss of bio-based materials as residues due to the limitations of conventional sorting technologies.
<b>ECOFUNC</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO) improved life cycle environmental performance	The ECOFUNC project aims to produce bio-based construction materials that will demonstrate lower life-cycle energy and resource impacts than conventional alternatives. These novel materials will contain a significant proportion of recyclable content and have lower life-cycle costs due to their improved durability and lower maintenance needs.

## KPI 5: Expand circularity in bio-based value chains

To maximise the positive impact of the products developed under CBE JU-funded projects, it is crucial to monitor their end-of-life options compared to current fossil and/or bio-based benchmarks. Although **KPI 5.1** focuses on bio-based end products, building blocks and materials with improved circularity aspects are also monitored.

In total, the CBE JU-funded projects intend to develop 97 innovative products with at least one circularity feature, including biodegradability, compostability, recyclability, reusability or ‘upcyclability’, as shown in Figure 41. Products designed for biodegradability and recyclability are particularly well represented, as are circular products for agriculture. The circular design strategy is generally aligned with product’s intended use and typical end of life. For example, products intended for agricultural use, where release into the open environment is often unavoidable and recovery for reuse or recycling is typically not feasible<sup>10</sup>, will be designed for biodegradability. The most common characteristics of the circular products intended for packaging applications are biodegradability and recyclability, both at 80 %.

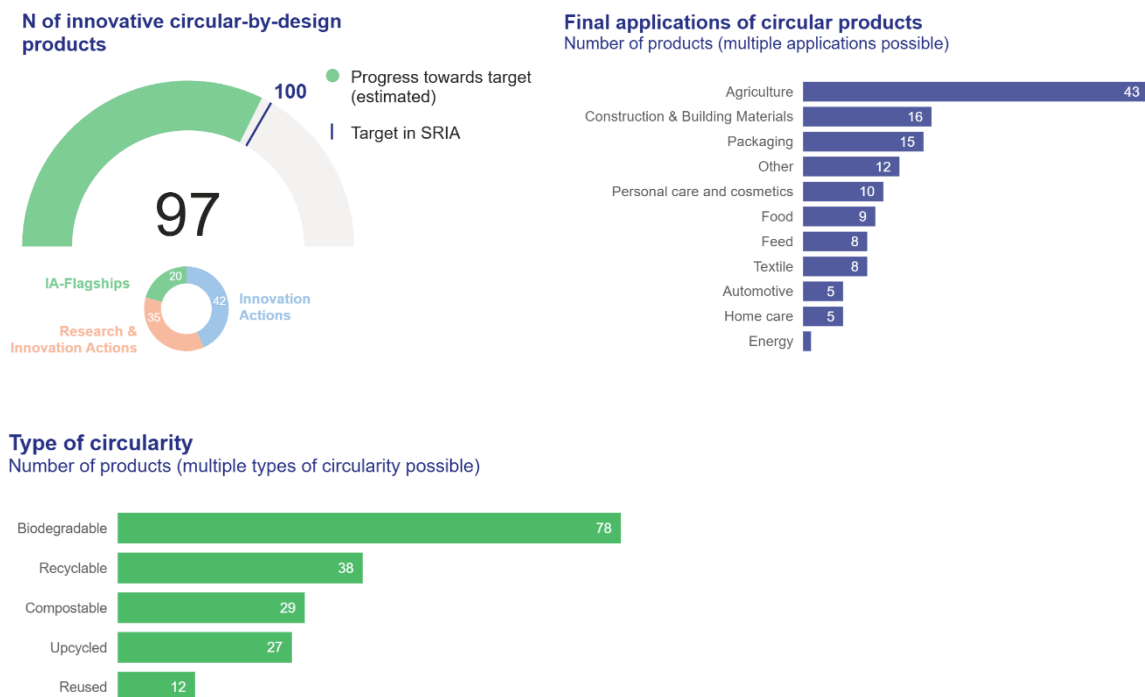


Figure 41 KPI 5.1 Expansion of circularity in bio-based value chains and the breakdown by product characteristics. Number of innovative circular products developed, demonstrated and/or up-scaled in RIA, IA and IA-Flagship projects (top left). Characteristics of the circular bio-based products (top right). Final applications of bio-based circular products are shown at the bottom.

Below are examples of products that are biodegradable, compostable, recyclable, reusable or up-cyclable (circular by design) that have been developed under CBE JU projects.

<sup>10</sup> Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment - Publications Office of the EU.

<b>INSOIL</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO)	The INSOIL project is developing bio-based, in-soil biodegradable products that can replace non-biodegradable fossil-based alternatives and preventing macro- and microplastic pollution. These products the form of mulch films or plant guards. In addition, these products can prevent fertiliser leaching and protecting nearby water sources.
<b>CROPSAFE</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO)	CROPSAFE aims to develop a range of bio-based biopesticides to combat common pests in potato, tomato and banana crops. Unlike commercial pesticides, fungicides or insecticides, which can be harmful to the environment and farmers, the project's solutions offer a safer alternative while helping to reduce soil degradation and improve soil quality.

**KPI 5.2** focuses on the number of the CBE JU-funded projects developing bio-based value chains that close the loop by minimising resource input requirements (e.g. feedstock and process auxiliaries) and consumption, as well as waste generation (outputs), of production processes. This includes industrial and industrial-urban symbiosis, where waste or by-products of an industrial process or an (peri-)urban environment become the raw material or input for (another) industrial process. Across all IAs, 39 projects report the development of circular production processes are reported in Figure 42.

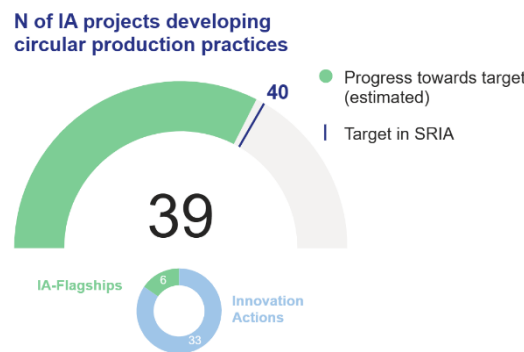


Figure 42 Number of projects (IA/IA-FLAG) developing circular production practices (incl. industrial and industrial urban symbiosis)

Examples of circular production practices (including industrial and industrial-urban symbiosis) developed in CBE JU projects are reported below.

<b>ECOFUNC</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO)	ECOFUNC establishes a circular production model linking industrial carbon capture, biopolymer synthesis, product manufacturing and recycling. The project also aims to develop PHA-based products and recycling methods for materials from the automotive and construction industries, thereby supporting their decarbonisation targets.
<b>SUSBOARD</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO)	SUSBOARD addresses the recyclability of particleboard by developing a new type of formaldehyde-free adhesive. This adhesive will have positive impacts on the recyclability of particleboard and medium-density fibreboards, as well as the overall emission of the production process and safety, given that formaldehyde is considered a carcinogen.

## KPI 6: Increase innovative bio-based outputs and products

KPI 6 has been developed in line with CBE JU SP 1.1.3 (Develop innovative bio-based products) and SP 2.1.3 (Scale up production and market uptake of innovative bio-based products). This KPI monitors two main areas of innovation for demonstration or scaling up: bio-based outputs with novel or significantly improved properties compared to existing alternatives (**KPI 6.1**), and bio-based drop-in outputs that meet application requirements (**KPI 6.2**).

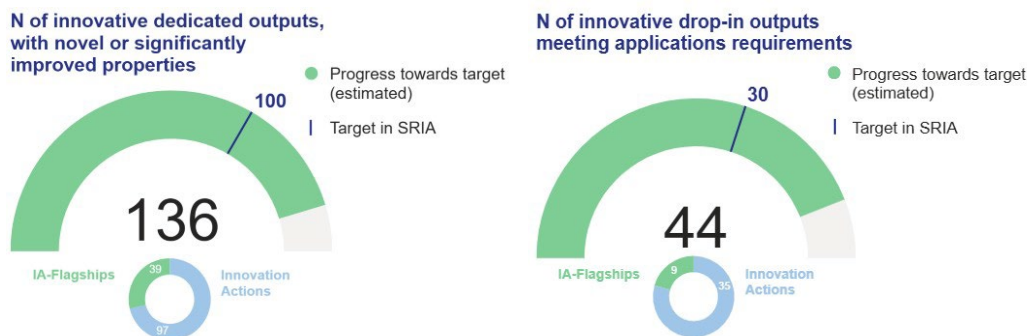


Figure 43 KPI 6 Increase innovative bio-based outputs and products.

Figure 43 shows that, for KPI 6.1, there are 136 outputs (including bio-based products, materials and building blocks developed by IAs) with novel or significantly improved properties. For KPI 6.2, the IA projects demonstrate 44 drop-in outputs that meet application requirements.

To gain a clearer understanding of the nature of these innovative outputs and their final applications, further details are provided in Figure 44.

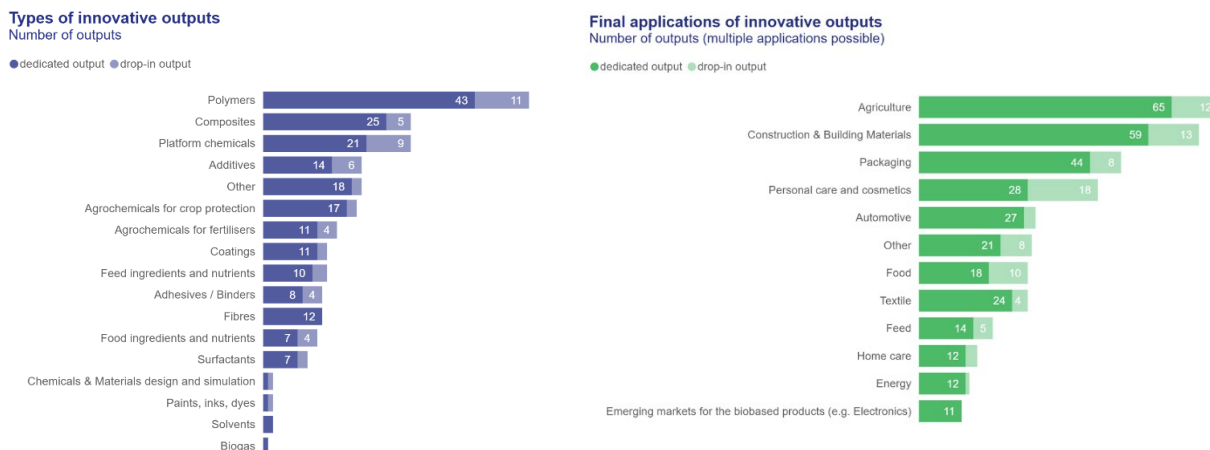


Figure 44 The two charts show the different types of bio-based outputs from all different types of action (RIA, IA and IAFlag) and their main application areas.

Examples of innovative bio-based dedicated outputs and drop-in outputs in the CBE JU projects are reported below.

<b>WoodVALOR</b> (ongoing RIA) drop-in output	WoodVALOR utilises contaminated wood materials to produce various bio-based chemicals and polymers with potential applications in many areas. Some of these are drop-in dyes and pigments for use in the production of industrial paints.
<b>SOUL</b> (ongoing IA-DEMO) dedicated output	SOUL aims to develop novel bio-based materials and products for agriculture, such as mulch films, tree guards, seedling dispensers, and plant clips. Current waste management systems struggle to recycle these fossil-based products, which leads to environmental pollution.

## KPI 7: Improve the market uptake of bio-based products

To stimulate the market uptake of bio-based solutions and in line with the multi-actor approach, the CBE JU encourages brand owners<sup>11</sup> to play a strategic role in the projects it funds. Genuine involvement of brand owners, either as project participants, or through other mechanisms (e.g. a different form of contract or membership of the advisory board), is expected to increase consumer awareness and the overall uptake of bio-based products.

Figure 45 shows the progress towards engaging business-to-consumer (B2C) **brand owners** as project beneficiaries against the target to be achieved by 2031. This includes companies that sell cars, home and personal care products, and food and feed products directly to consumers. Of the 47 brand owners involved, 36 are beneficiaries and are therefore participating directly in project activities<sup>12</sup> of which 17 are currently involved in IA-Flag projects (TRL 8 projects aimed at supporting the first application and uptake of bio-based solutions in the EU market).

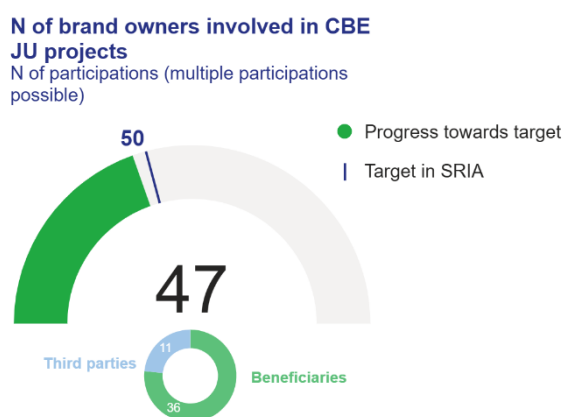


Figure 45 KPI 7 Improve the market uptake of bio-based products.

Below are some examples of brand owners' (B2C) involvement in CBE JU projects.

<b>BLUECOAT</b> (ongoing RIA)	The BLUECOAT project is developing safe and sustainable coatings based on natural materials, such as fibres, bio-based plastics and proteins derived from waste products. In addition to SOPREMA (construction) and ZIRKULU (clothing), the project also engages with P&G and AkzoNobel as associated partners.
<b>RUNFASTER4EU</b> (ongoing IA-Flag)	The flagship project RUNFASTER4EU aims to transform underutilised land into a productive source of sustainable feedstock by growing low-input oleaginous plants on these marginal lands. The project plans to produce building blocks and intermediates for use in cosmetics, feed, agrochemicals, and bioplastics. To this, AHAVA and Cifo are involved as beneficiaries, delivering these solutions to consumers.

<sup>11</sup> Refers to industrial stakeholders selling commodities under a registered brand. They may be existing or new stakeholders of bio-based value chains, contributing to the market uptake of bio-based products.

<sup>12</sup> Including Beneficiaries (Article 7 of the MGA) and Affiliated Entities (Article 8 of the MGA).

## KPI 8: Attract investment to the bio-based sector

In line with SRIA priority 2.2.2, which aims to improve the interaction between those involved in circular bio-based systems and the investment sector, this KPI monitors the activities under CBE JU-funded projects that raise awareness of bio-based sector opportunities and/or encourage investment in the bio-based sector.

Figure 46 shows the number of projects that plan to implement actions in this area. Planned actions include participation in pitch events and the organisation of workshops and webinars to raise awareness among the investment/financing community of the potential applications of innovative bio-based solutions.

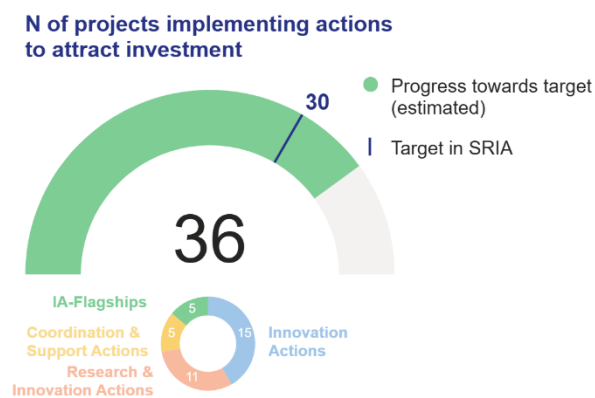


Figure 46 KPI 8 Attract investment to the bio-based sector.

Examples of actions to attract investment in CBE JU projects are reported below.

<p><b>BIO4COAT</b> (ongoing RIA)</p>	<p>BIO4COAT aims to attract investors by organising roadshow series, setting up one-on-one curated meetings, attending pitch and demo events, and organising site visits. Furthermore, the project will host targeted webinars and conferences, send topic-focused newsletter and briefings, and participate in networking events with cluster and accelerators.</p>
<p><b>RootLinks</b> (ongoing CSA)</p>	<p>The RootLinks project plans actions to facilitate access to markets for newly developed value chains, focusing specifically on primary producers. The project focuses on raising awareness, building capacity and enhancing cross-sector collaboration.</p>

## KPI 9: Increase resilience and capacity in the bio-based sector

One of the specific objectives of the CBE JU initiative is to strengthen and integrate the research and innovation capacity of stakeholders across the Union (CBE JU SO 1.2). The SRIA therefore outlines actions under strategic priority 1.2.3 *Facilitate the development of expertise in bio-based fields by improving higher education and skills development* and includes a KPI to monitor the number of projects contributing to this objective.

Figure 47 KPI 9 Increase resilience and capacity in the bio-based sector shows the number of projects that plan to increase skills and capacity in the bio-based sector. Some concrete actions include training programmes for different target groups, including industry stakeholders and PhD students. Examples of the CBE JU projects that develop the skills and capacity needed by the EU bio-based sector.

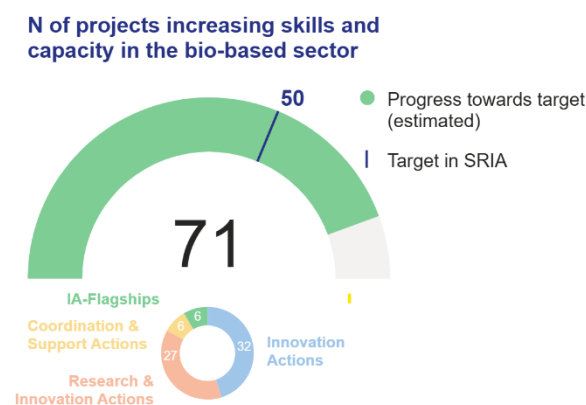


Figure 47 KPI 9 Increase resilience and capacity in the bio-based sector

Below are some examples of projects for KPI 9: Increase resilience and capacity in the bio-based sector.

<p><b>BIOECONOMY GIANTS</b> (ongoing CSA)</p>	<p>The BIOECONOMY GIANTS addresses the shortage of skills among primary producers (farmers, foresters, etc.) and improves collaboration between them. The project designs trainings and support actions directed towards these primary producers. These trainings can take the form of a hand-on bootcamp focused on specific skills, such as sustainability assessment or business model design, or building a network of clusters and ecosystems to empower the primary producers.</p>
<p><b>MARMADE</b> (ongoing RIA)</p>	<p>The MARMADE project harnesses local aquatic feedstocks and converts them into high-value ingredients for use in food, feed and nutraceuticals. It plans skills-focused trainings tackling business model design, sustainability assessments and green biorefinery technologies. Furthermore, the project trains students and early-career researchers via the academic partners, thereby strengthening the pool of talent in the marine bioeconomy and biotechnology sectors. In addition to training, the project also plans other events aimed at stakeholder engagement and knowledge transfer across partner countries.</p>

## KPI 10: Improve participation of regions and countries with high unexploited potential and a strategic interest in its development

In line with the objectives of the CBE JU, particularly objective 1.2, which aims to strengthen and integrate the research and innovation capacity of stakeholders across the Union, and SRIA priority 1.2.1 *Stimulate research activities in countries and regions with underdeveloped R&I capacity for bio-based systems*, KPI 10 has been designed to monitor the impact of the programme on countries and regions with high but untapped bioeconomy potential.

**KPI 10.1** is an indicator of how inclusive participation in the CBE JU projects has become, compared to the BBI JU programme. Figure 49 illustrates the number of distinct new participants from underrepresented countries and/or regions, as defined in the CBE JU KPI Handbook. It also illustrates the distribution of newcomers at country and regional level.

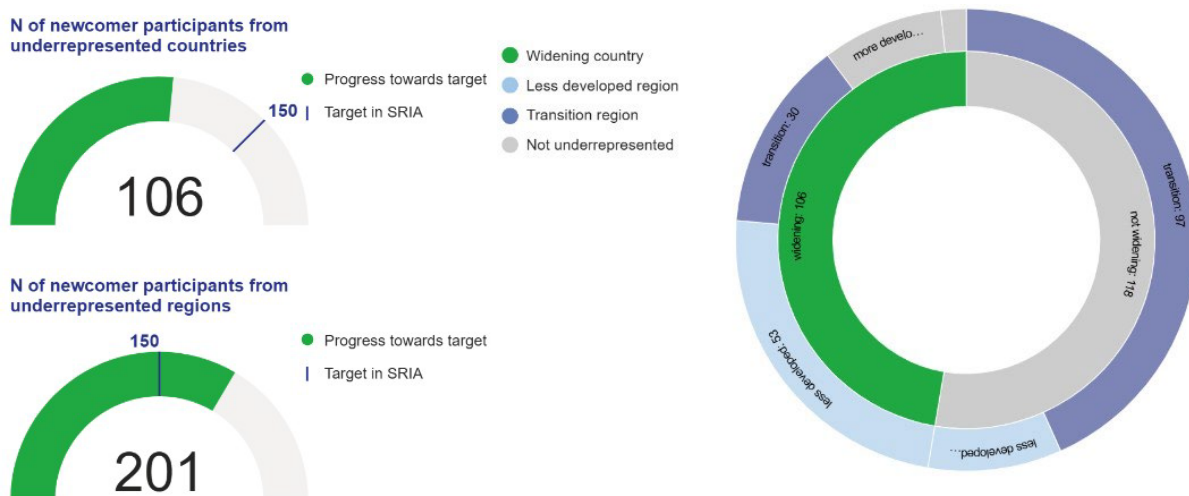


Figure 48 Progress towards KPI 10.1 (country level, top left). Number of newcomer beneficiaries from underrepresented EU regions (bottom left). Combined country and regional dimension (number of newcomer participants, right; underrepresented regions in blue and countries in green).

In Figure 49 below shows that **KPI 10.2** focuses on the objective of contributing to capacity building in the regions. To this end, it monitors the establishment of regional hubs that serve as platforms for cooperation, information and collaboration, and stakeholder engagement. **KPI 10.3** monitors the number of CBE JU-funded projects that receive additional funding from the EU, national or regional sources, e.g. for regional infrastructure/facilities.

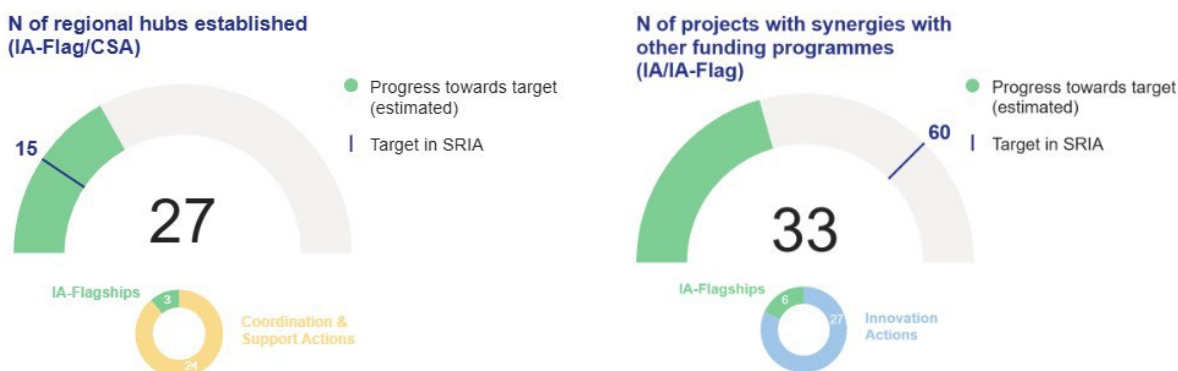


Figure 49 Improve participation of regions and countries with high unexploited potential and strategic interest to develop it.

Below are examples of regional hubs established under CBE JU-funded projects, along with details of synergies with other funding programmes.

<b>BIO-INSPIRE</b> (ongoing CSA)	The aim of the project is to establish seven regional bioeconomy clusters to promote cross-sectoral co-operation, stakeholder engagement and exchange of knowledge on bio-based feedstocks and value chains. These hubs operate within the project's scope and are interconnected with each other via the project's knowledge exchange platform and the communities of practice network.
<b>CERISEA</b> (ongoing IA-Flag)	The flagship project CERISEA, coordinated by the Michelin Engineered Polymers division, represents a total investment of EUR 60 million. In addition to funding from CBE JU, it has received support from ADEME, the French ecological transition agency.

In addition, Table 8 and Table 9 show how the participation of underrepresented countries and regions is evolving compared to the BBI JU programme, which is used as a benchmark and is reported respectively in Annex I and Annex II of the [CBE JU Widening Participation Strategy](#).

Country	Number of participations in BBI JU projects	Number of participations in CBE JU projects	Number of newcomers to CBE JU projects
PT	42	42	24
EL	32	51	25
PL	28	14	8
HR	19	6	1
EE	14	13	6
SI	12	12	8
SK	12	4	3
CZ	10	13	5
HU	10	7	6
RO	8	6	6
BG	6	5	5
CY	4	3	3
LV	4	5	3
LT	1	1	1
MT	0	3	2

Table 8 Participation of underrepresented countries in CBE JU projects compared to the benchmark for BBI JU projects as reported in Annex I and II of the [CBE JU widening participation strategy](#). Newcomers refers to distinct participants who have never participated in a BBI JU programme.

Region	Number of participations in BBI JU projects	Number of participations in CBE JU projects	Number of newcomers to CBE JU projects
Comunidad Valenciana	48	40	16
Andalucía	27	22	9
Sardegna	21	14	
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	19	2	1
Castilla y León	15	16	8
Eesti	14	13	6
Attiki	14	23	12

Region	Number of participations in BBI JU projects	Number of participations in CBE JU projects	Number of newcomers to CBE JU projects
Galicia	14	8	5
Centro	14	25	13
Jadranska Hrvatska	13	5	
Kentriki Makedonia	12	14	4
Languedoc-Roussillon	12	2	
Pohjois- ja Itä-Suomi	11	8	2
Picardie	11	7	2
Bretagne	11	3	2
Liège	10	4	1
Pays de la Loire	10	1	1
Etelä-Suomi	9	9	4
Campania	9	11	2
Región de Murcia	8	3	2
Limburg	7	1	
Hainaut	6	8	4
La Rioja	6	10	6
Midi-Pyrénées	6	6	5
Auvergne	6	2	2
Dresden	5	1	1
Castilla-La Mancha	5	3	1
Nord-Pas de Calais	5	3	1
Alsace	5	7	1
Champagne-Ardenne	5	2	
Łódzkie	5	2	2
Yugozapaden	4	2	2
Kýpros	4	3	3
Jihovýchod	4	4	2
Sjælland	4	3	2
Dytiki Makedonia	4	3	1
Länsi-Suomi	4	2	2
Centre - Val de Loire	4	1	1
Basse-Normandie	4	1	
Lorraine	4	2	1
Northern and Western	4	4	2
Latvija	4	4	2
Dolnośląskie	4	2	1
Norra Mellansverige	4	2	1
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	3	2	
Lüneburg	3	3	2
Extremadura	3	7	6
Kontinentalna Hrvatska (NUTS 2016)	3	1	1
Zachodniopomorskie	3	2	1

Region	Number of participations in BBI JU projects	Number of participations in CBE JU projects	Number of newcomers to CBE JU projects
Norte	3	8	6
Kriti	2	3	1
Franche-Comté	2	3	
Észak-Magyarország	2	1	1
Dél-Alföld	2	1	
Marche	2	7	6
Friesland	2	3	2
Wielkopolskie	2	2	1
Alentejo	2	1	
Yuzhen tsentralen	1	2	2
Aquitaine	1	7	7
Poitou-Charentes	1	1	1
Puglia	1	1	1
Umbria	1	2	
Flevoland	1	2	1
Lubelskie	1	3	1
Algarve	1	2	1
Nord-Vest	1	1	1
Vzhodna Slovenija	1	3	3
Západné Slovensko	1	2	1
Východné Slovensko	1	1	1
Severen tsentralen		1	1
Severovýchod		1	1
Střední Morava		1	1
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki		3	2
Thessalia		1	1
Dytiki Ellada		3	3
Peloponnisos		1	1
Principado de Asturias		2	2
Canarias		1	1
Haute-Normandie		2	2
Basilicata		1	1
Sicilia		1	1
Malta		3	2
Małopolskie		1	1
Vest		1	1

Table 9 Participation of underrepresented regions in CBE JU projects compared to the benchmark for BBI JU projects. Number of newcomers refers to distinct participants who have never participated in a BBI JU programme. NUTS 2 codes are according to the NUTS 2021 classification.

## 1.8. DISSEMINATION AND INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECT RESULTS

According to data provided by the project beneficiaries via the [Continuous reporting IT module](#) on the [EU Funding & Tenders portal](#), a total of 37 new peer-reviewed publications were reported in 2025. Of these, 23 were from still ongoing BBI JU projects and 14 were from CBE JU projects from calls 2022 and 2023. Between 2015 and 2025, the BBI JU projects obtained or registered 75 intellectual property rights of various types: 60 patents, one registered design and 14 trademarks. None have yet been registered for CBE JU projects. A detailed overview of the publications and the different types of intellectual property is set out in Annexes 5.3 and b5.4.

In the next tables, sets out a summary of the communication activities and other dissemination activities implemented by BBI JU and CBE JU projects to date, excluding scientific publications. The CBE JU values show the initial dissemination and communication activities reported by the 41 projects in the 2022 and 2023 calls, while the BBI JU tables show the cumulative amount until 2025.

	BBI JU	CBE JU
Event (conference, meeting, workshop, internet debate, round table, group discussion, etc.)	1 166	183
Exhibition	862	16
Interview	-	4
Media article	3214	135
Newsletter	-	62
Press release	844	46
Print materials (brochure, leaflet, posters, stickers, banners, etc.)	45112	54
Social media	37 785	270
TV/Radio campaign	582	5
Video	880	6
Website	227 902	117
Other	442	52

Table 10 Number of communication activities reported by BBI JU and CBE JU projects until 2025 via the Funding & Tenders Portal (total/cumulative amounts). The reporting structure for dissemination and communication activities has changed from Horizon 2020 (BBI JU) to Horizon Europe (CBE JU). Where values are missing for BBI JU, this is because the type of activity was not yet a separate reporting category.

	BBI JU	CBE JU
Clustering activities	-	44
Collaboration with EU-funded projects	-	31
Conferences	3 295	270
Education and training events	509	45
Meetings	980	16
Other scientific collaboration	1 070	3
Other	-	44

Table 11 Number of dissemination activities reported by BBI and CBE JU projects until 2025 via the Funding & Tenders Portal (total/cumulative amounts). The reporting structure for dissemination and communication activities has changed from Horizon

2020 (BBI JU) to Horizon Europe (CBE JU). When values are missing for BBI JU, this is because the type of activity was not yet a separate reporting category.

	BBI JU: people reached	CBE JU: audiences reached
Citizens	217 M	320
Civil society	34 M	253
EU Institutions	415 K (incl. other policymakers)	267
Industry, business partners	18 M	856
Innovators	-	354
International organisation (UN body, OECD, etc.)	-	54
Investors	204 K	175
Local authorities	-	122
National authorities	-	187
Regional authorities	-	148
Research communities	28 M	726
Specific end user communities	647 K	173
Specific user communities (if applicable)	-	17
Other	12.5 M	159

Table 12 Number of people (BBI JU) or audiences (CBE JU) reached with each dissemination and communication activity, reported by BBI JU and CBE JU projects until 2025 via the Funding & Tenders Portal (total/cumulative amounts). The type of reporting has changed from number of people reached in Horizon 2020 (BBI JU), to number of audiences reached in Horizon Europe (CBE JU). Also the reporting structure has changed. When values are missing for BBI JU, this is because the type of activity was not yet a separate reporting category.

## 2. SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS

### 2.1. COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

CBE JU's communication focused on two priorities:

1. Highlighting the role of the BBI & CBE JU in Europe's green growth.
2. Supporting CBE JU's core business by promoting funding opportunities for 2025 and 2026, the results of the 2024 call, and the milestones of CBE JU-funded projects.

CBE JU Programme Office launched 15 campaigns to showcase the partnership's impact, two of which were dedicated to highlighting the final results of the BBI JU. A new [policy impacts section](#) on the CBE JU website is now reflecting the partnership's contribution to key EU policy objectives and highlighting the JU's role in boosting the EU's bioeconomy leadership. Communication activities have also focussed on showcasing long-term impacts, such as demonstrating how [small businesses and startups have scaled innovations with the CBE JU support](#).

In 2025, CBE JU celebrated several key project milestones, including the [inauguration of the SCALE biorefinery](#) near Montpellier in France. In addition to the [project information](#) available on the CBE JU website, an [interactive dashboard](#) on country and organisation participation in CBE JU-funded projects, as well as a [publication on all projects](#), have enhanced the visibility of programme implementation.

The CBE JU's funding opportunities continued to attract significant interest, with 450 participants attending the Info Day 2025 on 3 April in person and close to 1 000 networking meetings being held. In addition, the 2026 call information published at the end of the year received nearly 20 000 views. The CBE JU increased its visibility among new stakeholder communities by participating in the EU Green Week exhibition for the first time.

#### 2.1.1. Highlighting the BBI & CBE JU role in green growth

2025 marked the near-completion of the BBI JU programme, and CBE JU Programme Office communicated on its main achievements in two waves: as part of the 2024 results, which were highlighted in a [dedicated campaign](#), and in the publication *Investing for impact: building Europe's bio-based future*, which was released at the end of the year.

The long-term achievements of CBE JU-funded projects were reflected in the communication on the [replication of the EMBRACED project's industrial bio-based production model in a new biorefinery infrastructure across Italy](#), as well as in the campaign [promoting the industrial growth of SMEs through the CBE JU](#).

CBE JU has launched a new [interactive dashboard](#) for exploring the participation of countries and organisations in BBI/CBE JU-funded projects. The dashboard offers numerous filtering options, such as project type, funding level and geographic distribution, and provides a new way to explore how EU Member States and associated countries are involved in these projects.

In July, the CBE JU released an updated edition of its flagship brochure *A competitive bioeconomy for a sustainable future*. The publication highlights key milestones, such as the deployment of biorefineries that are the first of their kind, progress towards the achievement of the programme's KPIs, and the investments made.

A new policy impacts section has been launched on the CBE JU website. It demonstrates how the CBE JU is supporting EU priorities and how the partnership is advancing the European bioeconomy.

During the year, the CBE JU also presented the programme's contribution, via the funded project activities, to new EU policy initiatives, such as the [Competitiveness Compass](#), the vision for the future of agriculture and food in Europe, the [Clean Industrial Deal](#), the [EU Startup and scaleup strategy](#), the [European Ocean Pact](#), the [European Life Sciences Strategy](#), the [European Chemicals Industry Action Plan](#), and the [European Commission's Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy](#).

CBE JU raised awareness of the partnership and its achievements at key events. For the first time, the partnership showcased bio-based solutions to new audiences at the EU Green Week and also had a stand at the Research and Innovation for a Competitive Green Transition conference in Brussels. Alongside other JUs, we presented the public-private partnership model to MEPs at the European Parliament. As in previous years, the CBE JU co-organised the Industry track at the EUBCE (European Biomass Conference & Exhibition). Several high-level events featured CBE JU speakers: the Go Circular Summit, the BIOKET, the ERIAFF network conference, the Polish Presidency Conference 'Research, Innovation and Digitalisation to Boost the Competitiveness of European Agriculture', the Research and Innovation for a Competitive Green Transition conference, the Biotech and Biomanufacturing Policy Summit, the European Mission Soil conference, the European Bioeconomy Conference, the Danish Presidency conference 'Boosting and mainstreaming the bioeconomy' and the European Business Summit. CBE JU also took part in the event 'A Nature-First Economy: Towards a Healthy Society on a Thriving Planet' hosted by the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance and His Majesty King Charles III. This was followed by a high-level meeting on the bioeconomy at Windsor castle. In total, the CBE JU participated in 61 events, delivering presentations at 47 of them.

The CBE JU's work was highlighted in specialised media outlets, including [Science Business](#), [Milano Finanza](#), [Il Bioeconomista](#) and [Projects Magazine](#).

A vast network of multipliers, including national contact points, BIC members, various European Commission services, the CBE JU Governing Board, the States' Representatives Group and the Scientific Committee, project representatives and specialised media, supported key CBE JU communication efforts.

## 2.1.2. Supporting CBE JU's core business

Promoting funding opportunities and project achievements was at the heart of this communication objective.

### Promoting funding opportunities

The [CBE JU 2025 Info Day](#) on attracted 450 in-person participants and close to 1 200 online viewers. Fourteen per cent of the attendees were from [underrepresented countries](#), a nine-point decrease from 2024 due to the unavailability of WIDERA.NET travel grants.

Sixty per cent of registered participants were newcomers to the CBE JU/BBU JU Info Days, demonstrating the events' wide reach and appeal beyond the established partnership community. This represents a seven-point decrease compared to 2024, which is partly explained by the programme's recognition at its sixth call for project proposals.

Close to 1 000 networking meetings were held on site, with many more planned online. While the number of on-site meetings has decreased, the number of online meetings has doubled compared to 2024. Around 1 400 potential applicants were actively engaged on the [CBE JU networking platform](#), demonstrating its effectiveness for the community.

Info day statistics /year	2025	2024	Change
Number of on-site participants	447	460	-3 %
Number of online participants	1 169	1 515	-23 %
Percentage of first-time participants to CBE JU info days	60 %	65 %	-7 points
Number of onsite networking meetings	997	1 307	-23 %
Number of online networking meetings	427	214	+20 %

Table 13 Comparison of main CBE JU Info Day statistics 2025-2024.

Sixty per cent of participants responded to the event satisfaction survey, rating the event as highly useful and indicating its potential for widespread dissemination.

Response /year	2025	2024
% received answers to their questions about the CBE JU call	91 %	90 %
% will share the information received with other people	96 %	98 %

Table 14 Comparison of CBE JU Info Day participant survey responses 2025-2024.

In cooperation with local organisers, the CBE JU promoted national information days in 20 countries with the aim of attracting new applicants.

A total of nine communications were published on the launch, submission, results and project details, covering different phases of the **2024, 2025 and 2026 calls**. Three highlights:

- ▶ **Thirty new projects** selected in the 2024 call were promoted on the CBE JU's digital channels throughout the summer, attracting more than 63 000 views on social media.
- ▶ In December, the CBE JU published details of the **2026 funding opportunities** as part of its Annual Work Programme, and this communication received more than 25 000 views across all channels combined and nearly 3 100 engagements on LinkedIn.
- ▶ The communication on the closing of the 2025 call was viewed 7 000 times on LinkedIn and prompted more than 2 300 engagements, with the newsletter being opened nearly 5 300 times.

## Promoting biotechnology and biomanufacturing achievements

CBE JU supported key milestones of its flagship projects. In Latvia, the **VIOBOND** project completed the [foundations for its biorefinery](#) in Riga, while construction began on the **SUSTAINEXT** biorefinery in Hervás, Spain. In Southern France, the world's first industrial microalgae biorefinery was opened as part of the **SCALE** project, and the **CERISEA** project broke ground in Roussillon to build [Europe's first industrial-scale 5-HMF production facility](#).

Twelve project achievement stories were featured on the [CBE JU website](#) and on social media throughout the year. This drop in numbers is due to the shift in focus towards articles on the CBE JU's contribution to key EU policies, as well as campaigns that highlight the achievements of the BBI JU and CBE JU programmes.

Year	Stories published	Website views	LinkedIn views
2025	12	1 200	51 000
2024	25	5 500	103 000
<b>Change</b>	<b>-52 %</b>	<b>-78 %</b>	<b>-50 %</b>

Table 15 Statistics on the project achievement stories published in 2024–2025.

In addition to project achievement stories, the CBE JU implemented 28 targeted digital campaigns in 2025 to support call promotion, policy visibility, and project milestones. On average, each campaign generated 5 400 LinkedIn views and 1 400 engagements per message. Compared to 2024, the average engagement per campaign increased significantly (from 800 to 1 400 engagements per message), reflecting stronger interaction with audiences.

A campaign on World Bioproduct Day also performed strongly, attracting more than 3 300 engagements on LinkedIn.

The launch of the country and organisation participation dashboard attracted 2 200 website views, demonstrating stakeholder interest in programme data tools. See campaign statistics below for more details.

Throughout the year, CBE JU-funded projects were featured in the regional and national media:

- ▶ The POLYMEER project was [featured on the BBC](#).
- ▶ The launch of the SUSTAINEXT biorefinery construction was highlighted on the [Spanish national radio and the regional TV](#). The project also received positive coverage in [El Espanol, El Economista](#), on regional TV and radio.
- ▶ The Goodbyo project was on the Italian TV science programme [Leonardo](#).
- ▶ The VIOBOND project was featured in the weekly Latvian magazine [Ir](#) and on the [national TV evening news](#).
- ▶ Evita Mārtinsone, winner of the EUCYS 2025 bioeconomy prize, was featured on the [Latvian national TV evening news](#) on in the [Ir](#) magazine.

The [#CBEScaleUp](#) photo and video competition was launched among CBE JU-funded projects, with the winners to be announced at the Stakeholder Forum in five categories.

CBE JU was preparing the second [Stakeholder Forum](#) taking place in early 2026. To prepare for the forum and improve delivery to the CBE JU community, a stakeholder study was launched at the end of the year, which will be completed in the first part of 2026.

### **Other communication projects**

Winner of the [European Union Contest for Young Scientists \(EUCYS\) 2025](#) in the bioeconomy category received significant exposure across the CBE JU's communication channels. The 2024 prize winners were also welcomed to Brussels for a series of meetings with representatives of EU institutions (European Parliament, European Commission, CBE JU) and Member States.

## Overview of digital campaigns in 2025

Campaign	LinkedIn: views per message	LinkedIn: engagement per message	Newsletter: total opens	Website: article views
Call 2024 evaluations results	7 860	3 984	3 952	2 000
VIOBOND foundations completion	3 376	962	n/a	174
Info Day 2025 registrations launch	5 061	167	3 686	700
Clean Industrial Deal	2 553	777	n/a	270
Info Day 2025	24 743	3 808	3 791	660
Call for proposals 2025 opening	5 764	1 388	4 012	1 000
SUSTAINEXT biorefinery construction begins	2 074	305	n/a	270
Working group on primary producers kicks off	3 322	541	n/a	530
CBE JU cluster workshop	6 223	2 744	n/a	400
CBE JU country & organisation participation dashboard	4 359	1 204	n/a	2 200
2024 in focus: highlights from CBE JU	6 493	573	4 100	780
#CBESF26 save the date	2 707	213	4 500	n/a
World bioproduct day	6 380	3 365	n/a	1 630
European Chemicals Industry Action Plan	2 172	294	n/a	281
SCALE's unique microalgae biorefinery opens in France	4 086	1 039	n/a	437
Recycling plant in Treviso inaugurated	2 380	444	n/a	203
A competitive bioeconomy for a sustainable future	12 220	700	n/a	770
CBE JU call closes with 248 project proposals submitted	7 000	2 311	5 260	2 700
CERISEA facility construction launch	6 400	1 700	n/a	230
30 new projects kick-off – general announcement	4 600	375	5 000	2 300
CBE JU welcomes the EU's Bioeconomy Strategy	6 000	2 131	n/a	280
#CBESF26 registrations open	3 030	218	4 809	700
2026 work programme announced	10 000	3 074	7 400	2 900
#CBEScaleUp photo competition	2 623	166	n/a	741
Season's greetings	2 400	795	2 500	n/a
2025 wrap up	5 000	3 000	n/a	300
30 new projects kick-off (one by one)	2 100	990	n/a	n/a
BBI results	2 000	800	n/a	300
2025 campaign average	5 400	1 400	4 500	910
2024 campaign average	5 200	800	5 500	1 400
<b>Change</b>	<b>+4 %</b>	<b>+75 %</b>	<b>-18 %</b>	<b>-35%</b>

Table 16 Digital campaigns in 2025: statistics.

#CBEResearch: this is the hashtag the CBE JU uses on social media to share scientific articles stemming from CBE JU-funded projects. Many of these are also featured in CBE JU's newsletter.

Year	Messages	LinkedIn views
2025	43	89 000
2024	34	65 000
<b>Change</b>	<b>+26 %</b>	<b>+37 %</b>

Table 17 #CBEResearch statistics 2024-2025.

### 2.1.3. Boosting communication channels and tools

#### Website

In 2025, the CBE JU further strengthened its website as the central access point for programme information and funding opportunities. Key enhancements included:

- ▶ adding the EU policy impacts section to reinforce the visibility of CBE JU's contribution to EU priorities;
- ▶ adding the country and organisation participation section to improve data accessibility;
- ▶ deploying multilingual functionality across all EU languages to significantly improve accessibility and inclusiveness.

	Visits	Page views	Actions per visit	Average session (in mins)	Bounce rate	New users	Downloaded documents
2025	132 473	395 083	2.45	02:11	70.72 %	59 %	44 570
2024	189 000	368 000	2.40	02:25	69 %	58 %	27 000
<b>Change</b>	<b>-30 %</b>	<b>+7 %</b>	<b>+2 %</b>	<b>-6 %</b>	<b>+2.5 %</b>	<b>+1.7 %</b>	<b>+65 %</b>

Table 18 Website statistics in 2024-2025.

In 2025, traffic to the CBE JU website reached 132 473 visits and 395 083 page views. This represents a 30 % decrease in terms of visits and a 7 % increase in terms of page views compared to 2024. The decline in overall visits should be viewed in the broader context of changing online user behaviour, including the growing reliance on AI-powered search tools and zero-click search results, enabling users to access information directly without visiting institutional websites.

Despite the lower number of visits, user interaction remained strong, with actions per visit increasing by 2 %.

Engagement with programme content intensified significantly. Document downloads increased by 65 %, reaching 44 570 compared to 27 000 in 2024, indicating greater stakeholder interest in call documentation and funding-related resources.

Visits from widening participation countries grew by 37 %, outpacing traffic growth from non-widening countries and demonstrating continued progress towards geographical inclusiveness.

February and April 2025 saw more than 24 000 visits each, coinciding with the launch of registrations for the CBE JU Info Day 2025 and the publication of the 2025 call for project

proposals. This confirms the strong link between programme milestones and website traffic patterns.

The proportion of new users remained high at 59 %, increasing slightly compared to 2024 (+1.7 %), indicating the programme’s sustained ability to attract new audiences.

77.2 % of visitors originated from Europe. The top sources of traffic were the United Kingdom (13.4 %), the United States (13.4 %), Spain (11.2 %), France (10.1 %), Belgium (9.8 %), Italy (9.8 %), Germany (8 %), Ireland (4.6 %), Turkey (3.7 %) and Portugal (3.7).

The most visited pages were directly linked to programme activities:

- ▶ Open call for proposals (55 000 views);
- ▶ News (19 000 views);
- ▶ News article on the 2025 call topics (14 000 views);
- ▶ CBE JU Info Day 2025 (13 000 views);
- ▶ Vacancies (12 000 views).

These figures confirm that website traffic remains strongly programme-driven and aligned with funding opportunities.

## Social media

### LinkedIn

In 2025, CBE JU continued to strengthen its presence on LinkedIn.

	Organic views	Paid views	Profile visits	Followers	Clicks	Reactions	Comments	Reposts	Engagement rate
2025	834 645	96 796	20 816	27 218	111 669	16 449	624	413	12.1 %
2024	812 555	303 561	20 747	22 068	75 966	15 584	314	386	8.99 %
<b>Change</b>	<b>+3 %</b>	<b>-62%</b>	<b>+1 %</b>	<b>+23 %</b>	<b>+47 %</b>	<b>+6 %</b>	<b>+97 %</b>	<b>+7 %</b>	<b>+35 %</b>

Table 19 LinkedIn statistics 2024-2025.

The number of followers increased by 23 %, reaching 27 218. Despite a 62 % reduction in paid views, organic views rose by 3 %, exceeding 834 000. Profile visits remained stable, increasing by 1 %. Engagement indicators improved significantly. Clicks increased by 47 % (from 75 966 to 111 669). Reactions increased by 6 %, while comments nearly doubled (up by 97 % from 314 to 624). Reposts also increased by 7 %. Consequently, the engagement rate increased from 8.99 % to 12.1 %, representing a 35 % increase compared to 2024.

As in previous years, LinkedIn was the main social media driver of traffic to the website, accounting for 5 % of total visits. One post exceeded 24 000 views, two posts exceeded 15 000 views, and 25 posts surpassed 5 000 views. In 2025, CBE JU also strengthened staff presence on the social network through training and continuous support.

### X

The number of followers increased marginally (+1 %). However, changes to the platform, combined with technical issues and a sharp drop in users, have made it difficult to use X for corporate communication purposes. Since June 2024, the CBE JU has been unable to access the

platform's analytics along with other free accounts. The CBE JU's digital communication plan has been adapted accordingly to reflect the partnership's reduced presence on this social media channel. The channel remained as a secondary communication tool in 2025.

## Facebook

The CBE JU maintained its [Facebook page](#), publishing 398 posts (a 10 % increase compared to 2024). Although total views and engagement decreased compared to 2024 due to fewer paid campaigns (down by 70 %), page views increased by 44 %, and the number of followers almost doubled (+96 %). Facebook continued to support targeted sponsored campaigns in underrepresented countries.

	Followers	New followers	Posts	Views	Engagements	Page views
2025	252	134	398	122 105	2 793	5 263
2024	128	101	361	416 273	9 450	2 315
<b>Change</b>	<b>+96 %</b>	<b>+32 %</b>	<b>+10 %</b>	<b>-70 %</b>	<b>-70 %</b>	<b>+44 %</b>

Table 20 CBE JU's presence on Facebook in 2025.

## Newsletter


In 2025, CBE JU distributed 10 newsletters, increasing the subscriber base by 3 % to 6 791 subscribers. The average open rate remained strong at 37.1 % (compared to 38.8 % in 2024). Average number of opens increased by 5 %, while the total number opens remained relatively stable (down by 1.9 %). Clicks increased significantly by 33 % (from 506 to 675 on average), and the average click rate increased from 8.7 % to 10.2 % (up by 17 %). The most successful issue, announcing the 2026 call topics, achieved a total of 7 304 opens. The second most read issue, covering the 2025 call participation results, achieved a total of 5 260 opens.

	Open	Open rate %	Total opens	Clicks	Click rate %
2025 average	2 448	37.1	5 052	675	10.2 %
2024 average	2 331	38.8 %	5 153	506	8.7 %
<b>Change</b>	<b>+5 %</b>	<b>-4.4 %</b>	<b>-1,9 %</b>	<b>+33 %</b>	<b>+17 %</b>

Table 21 Newsletter statistics.

The newsletter remained the second-largest source of website traffic, generating 12 426 visits (a 3 % increase compared to 2024).

## Videos

Thumbnail	Title and views
	<p><b>When ideas and partners match for success</b> 800 views</p>

Thumbnail	Title and views
	<p><b>Call for projects 2025: join the CBE JU networking platform</b> 700 views</p>
	<p><b>CBE JU Project Cluster Workshop 2025 - Kevin O'Connor</b> 300 views</p>
	<p><b>CBE JU Project Cluster Workshop 2025 - Ed de Jong</b> 300 views</p>
	<p><b>REDYSIGN - CBE JU-funded project</b> 2 300 views</p>
	<p><b>CBE JU Stakeholder Forum 2026</b> 3 000 views</p>
	<p><b>BBI JU - investing for impact &amp; building Europe's bio-based future</b> 2 350 views</p>

Table 22 Videos produced in 2025.

## 2.2. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

In 2025, the CBE JU continued to manage projects under Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe. At the same time, it continued to manage projects funded by its predecessor, the BBI JU, under the Horizon 2020 programme in compliance with Council Regulation (EU) 560/2014 establishing the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking. There were no changes to the legal and financial framework during this period.

## 2.3. BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### 2.3.1. Overview

2025 was the fourth year for which there was a combined budget allocated to both the CBE JU (Horizon Europe) and the legacy BBI JU (Horizon 2020). Although there was no longer a BBI administrative budget for the first time this year, final payments for the last BBI JU ongoing projects are expected to continue until at least the end of 2027. On 12 December 2024, the Governing Board adopted the 2025 budget, totalling kEUR 173 535 in commitment appropriations (CA) and kEUR 184 029 in payment appropriations (PA), including unused reactivated appropriations from the previous year (C2). In 2025, the budget was amended three times. The first amendment reflected the increase in CBE JU staff by 1 FTE, financed by third countries contributions to Horizon Europe. The second time to reactivate part of the remaining funds from previous calls, totalling kEUR 7 000 in CA, an amount used to increase the budget of call 2025. The third amendment was related to technical adjustments and further reactivations.

The total amended budget (including reactivations from the previous year) was then kEUR 181 363 in CA and kEUR 184 889 in PA. The total amended C1 (fresh budget), excluding prior reactivations, was kEUR 147 869 in CA and kEUR 160 238 in PA.

The amounts of reactivated appropriations from previous years are as follows:

#### ► Administrative:

- BBI JU: kEUR 275 in CA, kEUR 275 in PA (a necessary technical step before refunding the BBI administrative budget surplus to the Commission and BIC members).
- CBE JU: kEUR 2 300 in CA, kEUR 2 600 in PA.

#### ► Operational:

- BBI JU: kEUR 5 in CA, kEUR 13 948 in PA.
- CBE JU: kEUR 30 914 in CA, kEUR 7 829 in PA.

In 2025, in accordance with the third amendment to the AWP 2025, the remaining surplus of BBI JU unused appropriations of kEUR 275 in administrative PA were reactivated refunded and equally to the Commission and the BIC.

In line with the provisions of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe, the BBI JU operational CAs were reactivated from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe. These appropriations are considered part of the global envelope, not an addition to it. The reactivated appropriations were allocated in priority wherever possible in line with the CBE JU's Financial Rules (Article 65). By year end they had reached 99 % consumption on the administrative CA side, 88 % on the administrative PA side, 100 % on the operational CA side, and 77 % on the operational PA side.

By the end of 2025, the remaining surplus of unused BBI JU appropriations was only kEUR 5 023 in the operational PA, which was used in 2026 to cover outstanding payments under projects implemented under the Horizon 2020 programme.

In the first year without an administrative budget for the BBI JU, the total administrative budget for CBE JU was kEUR 7 421 in CA and kEUR 7 721 in PA. Of this amount, kEUR 6 422 (86.5 %) was executed in CA and kEUR 5 837 (75.6 %) in PA.

In terms of operations, the CBE JU had a total of kEUR 172 468 available for the entire operational budget (excluding kEUR 1 198 for expert evaluators of the call).

Including prefinancing and interim and final payments of previous calls, the available budget for CBE and BBI JU combined was kEUR 176 893, with an execution rate of 87.6 %. At the end of 2025, a Governing Board decision was taken at to reactivate the CBE JU budget in 2026:

- ▶ Administrative:
- ▶ CA: kEUR 0;
- ▶ PA: kEUR 500 from 2024.

Further administrative reactivations of unused appropriations from 2025 will be introduced with the first amendment to the AWP 2026.

- ▶ Operational:
- ▶ CA: kEUR 17 870 in CA from 2023, 2024 and 2025 (of which kEUR 5 174 from the BBI JU);
- ▶ PA: kEUR 1 009 from 2024 (all from the BBI JU).

### 2.3.2. Administrative expenditure

As 2025 was the first year in which the JU had only one administrative budget, there is no distinction between CBE JU and BBI JU. All amounts concern the CBE JU administrative budget.

#### ◀ **Title 1:**

This title covers the budget lines relating to staff expenditure, such as the salaries and allowances of CBE JU staff. It also includes recruitment expenses, staff missions, expenses for the socio-medical infrastructure, and representation costs. The total CA allocated in Title 1 was kEUR 4 183, with an overall CA implementation rate of 86 % for staff-related costs. Chapters 11 and 13, which are related to salaries and missions and account for 94 % of Title 1, showed strong execution of around 90 %. In contrast, Chapters 12, 14 and 15, which are related to recruitment costs, other benefits and team building and account for 6 % of staff-related costs, were implemented at a lower rate.

The total PA allocated in Title 1 was kEUR 4 686, and the PA implementation reached 77 %.

#### ◀ **Title 2:**

This title covers all infrastructure, equipment and miscellaneous administrative expenditure budget lines. The total CA allocated to Title 2 was kEUR 3 295. The 2025 infrastructure budget achieved an overall CA implementation rate of 87 %, with only two chapters, representing less than 2 % of Title 2, showing an execution rate of less than 80 %: CBE Telecommunications and postal charges and CBE Formal meetings.

The total PA in Title 2 was kEUR 3 079 with an implementation rate of 74 %. The overall PA execution was impacted by the fact that, although the CBE JU Stakeholders Forum is taking place in March 2026, the suppliers for this major event needed to be contracted in 2025. The related invoices will only reach the CBE JU in the first half of 2026. The same applies to the CBE JU Networking Event (the total amount committed for these two events is kEUR 400 (13 % of the PA)).

The KPI web tool is another element that impacted the implementation of PA in Title 2, since it was developed throughout 2025 and will be invoiced in early 2026 (kEUR 222).

### 2.3.3. Operational expenditure

#### CA.

The overall budget implementation for the CA for Title 3 is kEUR 173 419, with an execution rate of 99.7 %.

The CBE JU call 2025 was launched in April 2025 with a budget of 172 million, with the accepted proposals totalling kEUR 171 807. The GAP phase has been launched and is expected to be finalised by the end of May 2026.

In May 2025, the GAP phase of the CBE JU 2024 call, totalling EUR 197.5 million, was finalised. Between March and November, the 30 pre-financing payments relating to this call were made.

#### PA.

The overall budget implementation rate for the PA under Title 3 is kEUR 154 878, with an execution rate of 87.6 %.

- ▶ **BBI JU:** For the ongoing BBI projects, CBE JU processed 16 interim and final payments totalling kEUR 8 924, which represent a budget execution of 64 % of the kEUR 13 948 reactivated PA credits. The reasons for the lower budget execution is linked to the failure of a large flagship project, resulting in a recovery, as well as the postponement of complex final payments of large projects to 2026.
- ▶ **CBE JU:** For the ongoing CBE projects, 27 interim payments totalling kEUR 27 155 were made for the projects from calls 2022 and 2023.
- ▶ For the projects recently signed under the CBE JU 2024 call, 30 pre-financing payments totalling kEUR 118 048 were made. The total payment execution rate is 90 %.

### 2.3.4. KPI performance

Overall, the financial KPIs showed strong performance in 2025, with all 43 validated interim and final cost claims being paid on time. The average Time to Pay (TTP) was 71 days for interim payments and 72 days for final payments. The overall average TTP was 71 days.

Regarding the Time to Pay for administrative payments, out of a total of 711 payments, a delay occurred in 109 payments (15 %). The average TTP was 21 days, late payments included. No late interest was incurred.

## Statement of revenue

Heading	Voted budget 2025		Amended budget 2025	
	Commitment appropriations (EUR)	Payment appropriations (EUR)	Commitment appropriations (EUR)	Payment appropriations (EUR)
<b>EU contribution excl. EFTA</b>	<b>117 088 457</b>	<b>153 408 608</b>	<b>117 088 457</b>	<b>153 408 608</b>
of which Administrative CBE	2 443 500	2 443 500	2 443 500	2 443 500
of which Operational CBE	114 644 957	150 965 108	114 644 957	150 965 108
<b>Third countries contribution including EFTA</b>	<b>28 219 932</b>	<b>4 218 736</b>	<b>28 219 932</b>	<b>4 268 736</b>
of which Operational (CBE) third countries contribution	25 000 000	-	24 950 000	-
of which Administrative (CBE) third countries contribution	-	-	50 000	50 000
of which Administrative (CBE) EFTA	67 196	67 196	67 196	67 196
of which Operational (CBE) EFTA	3 152 736	4 151 540	3 152 736	4 151 540
<b>Industry financial contribution</b>	<b>2 510 697</b>	<b>2 510 697</b>	<b>2 560 697</b>	<b>2 560 697</b>
of which Administrative (CBE)	2 510 697	2 510 697	2 560 697	2 560 697
<b>SUB-TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>147 819 087</b>	<b>160 138 042</b>	<b>147 869 087</b>	<b>160 238 042</b>
<b>Reactivation of unused appropriations from administrative expenditure<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>2 079 125</b>	<b>2 396 646</b>	<b>2 575 110</b>	<b>2 875 141</b>
of which from 2022 (CBE) included at chapter level	-	265 619	-	265 619
of which from 2023 (CBE) included at chapter level	797 920	532 301	797 920	532 301
of which from 2023 (CBE)	431 205	1 598 726	431 205	1 598 726
of which from 2024 (BBI)	-	-	275 317	275 317
of which from 2024 (CBE)	850 000	-	1 070 668	203 178

<sup>13</sup> The reactivations of unused administrative expenditure are shown in italics where they are included in the expenditure lines at chapter level. Figures not in italics are additional reactivations that can be executed if necessary.

Heading	Voted budget 2025		Amended budget 2025	
	Commitment appropriations (EUR)	Payment appropriations (EUR)	Commitment appropriations (EUR)	Payment appropriations (EUR)
Reactivations of unused appropriations from operational expenditure	23 637 691	21 494 998	30 919 126	21 776 432
of which from 2022 (BBI)	-	2 580 086	-	2 580 086
of which from 2022 (CBE)	19 889 574	-	19 889 574	-
of which from 2023 (BBI)	5 258	4 867 482	5 258	4 867 482
of which from 2023 (CBE)	3 742 859	4 192 533	3 742 859	4 192 533
of which from 2024 (BBI)	-	6 500 000	-	6 500 000
of which from 2024 (CBE)	-	3 354 897	7 281 435	3 636 332
<b>SUB-TOTAL reactivations</b>	<b>25 716 816</b>	<b>23 891 644</b>	<b>33 494 236</b>	<b>24 651 573</b>
<b>OTHER (ad hoc and recoveries) rounding</b>	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>173 535 902</b>	<b>184 029 685</b>	<b>181 363 322</b>	<b>184 889 615</b>

Table 23 Statement of revenue

## Statement of expenditure

The year 2025 was the first without a BBI JU administrative budget. Administrative expenditure was therefore financed exclusively from the CBE JU budget, whereas operational expenditure continued to be financed from a combination of BBI JU and CBE JU appropriations. The amounts reported in the statements of commitment and payment appropriations include C1 appropriations (current-year budget), C2 appropriations (unused appropriations carried over from previous years) and a small amount of C4 appropriations generated from ad hoc revenue received during the year.

The appropriations are prioritised as follows:

- i. BBI JU C2 operational payment appropriations;
- ii. CBE JU C2 reactivated appropriations from previous years; and
- iii. C1 fresh CBE JU budget.

C4 credits should also be executed within the same year, if possible, but any unused amounts can be reactivated in up to 3 future years, as with other types of funds.

For the administrative budget, the first column shows the amounts voted for each budget chapter (amended voted budget), while the reactivated appropriations (C2) are shown separately. The second column shows the fact that the uploaded budget, at chapter level, comprises (i) a mix of C1 and C2 reactivations for the CBE JU; and (ii) the remaining C2 reactivations for the BBI JU. The third column shows total budget execution (C1, C2 and C4) at chapter level.

### 2.3.5. Commitment appropriations

Title/ Chapter	Statement of expenditure (commitment appropriations)	Amended budget 2025 CA (voted) (EUR)	Amended budget CA 2025 after transfers (EUR)	Executed budget 2025 CA <sup>14</sup> (EUR)	%	Carry over to 2026 (EUR)	Available for future use (N+3 rule) (EUR)
<b>1</b>	<b>STAFF EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>3 721 540</b>	<b>4 183 005</b>	<b>3 584 216</b>	<b>86 %</b>	<b>39 834</b>	<b>598 790</b>
11	Staff in active employment	3 308 840	3 755 122	3 295 619	88 %	-	459 503
12	Staff recruitment / Miscellaneous expenditure	55 000	55 000	-	0 %	-	55 000
13	Mission and duty travels	75 000	75 000	69 114	92 %	5 000	5 886
14	Other staff costs (socio-medical structure)	272 700	284 719	209 483	74 %	31 153	75 237
15	Entertainment and representation expenses	10 000	13 164	10 000	76 %	3 681	3 164
<b>2</b>	<b>OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2 197 773</b>	<b>3 294 696</b>	<b>2 882 711</b>	<b>87 %</b>	<b>1 159 417</b>	<b>411 986</b>
20	Rental of buildings and associated costs	400 000	406 512	405 806	100 %	31 184	706
21	Administrative information technology)	613 393	1 031 621	870 983	84 %	314 289	160 638
22	Movable property and associated costs	5 000	-	-	0 %	-	-
23	Current administrative expenditure	24 000	55 500	49 177	89 %	7 880	6 323
24	Telecommunications and postal charges	37 000	13 000	8 000	62 %	4 771	5 000
25	Expenditure on formal meetings	74 380	59 380	36 866	62 %	4 294	22 514
26	External communication, information, publicity	417 000	950 180	772 631	81 %	534 796	177 549
27	Service contracts	452 000	497 700	458 445	92 %	191 922	39 256
28	Experts' contracts and evaluations	-	-	-	0 %	-	-
29	Expert reviewers	175 000	280 803	280 803	100 %	70 281	-
	<b>REACTIVATIONS OF PRIOR YEARS UNUSED ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET<sup>15</sup></b>	<b>2 575 110</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	of which from 2023 (CBE) included at chapter level	797 920	-	-	0 %	-	-
	of which from 2023 (CBE)	431 205	-	-	0 %	-	-

<sup>14</sup> Includes the execution of C2 reactivated and C4 assigned, at chapter level

<sup>15</sup> The unused administrative appropriations from the previous year were reactivated at chapter level and reached a total 99 % of CA execution.

Title/ Chapter	Statement of expenditure (commitment appropriations)	Amended budget 2025 CA (voted) (EUR)	Amended budget CA 2025 after transfers (EUR)	Executed budget 2025 CA <sup>14</sup> (EUR)	%	Carry over to 2026 (EUR)	Available for future use (N+3 rule) (EUR)
	of which from 2024 (BBI)	275 317	-	-	0 %	-	-
	of which from 2024 (CBE)	1 070 668	-	-	0 %	-	-
<b>3</b>	<b>OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>142 747 693</b>	<b>174 004 551</b>	<b>173 418 694</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>172 662 952</b>	<b>585 857</b>
30	Previous years' calls	-	342 990	5 258	2 %	-	337 732
31	Current year's call (s) CBE	141 549 568	172 463 436	172 463 436	100 %	172 463 436	-
32	Evaluators' contract CBE	1 198 125	1 198 125	950 000	79 %	199 516	248 125
	<b>REACTIVATIONS OF PRIOR YEAR UNUSED OPERATIONAL BUDGET</b>	<b>30 919 126</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	of which from 2022 (CBE)	19 889 574	-	-	0 %	-	-
	of which from 2023 (BBI)	5 258	-	-	0 %	-	-
	of which from 2023 (CBE)	3 742 859	-	-	0 %	-	-
	of which from 2024 (CBE)	7 281 435	-	-	0 %	-	-
	<b>SUB-TOTAL REACTIVATIONS</b>	<b>33 494 236</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>RE-ACTIVATION OF UNUSED 2024 BBI ADM APPROPRIATIONS<sup>16</sup></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>275 317</b>	<b>275 317</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
40	Re-activation of unused 2024 BBI ADM appropriation	-	275 317	275 317	100 %	-	-
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>181 363 322</b>	<b>181 757 569</b>	<b>180 160 938</b>	<b>99 %</b>	<b>173 862 203</b>	<b>1 596 633</b>

Table 24 Commitment appropriations

<sup>16</sup> Title 4 was introduced to return the unused BBI administrative appropriations to EC and BIC

### 2.3.6. Payment appropriations

Title/Chapter	Statement of expenditure (Payment appropriations)	Amended budget 2025 CA (voted) (EUR)	Amended budget CA 2025 after transfers (EUR)	Executed budget 2025 CA <sup>17</sup> (EUR)	%	Available for future use (N+3 rule) (EUR)
<b>1</b>	<b>STAFF EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>3 721 540</b>	<b>4 698 356</b>	<b>3 590 711</b>	<b>76 %</b>	<b>1 107 645</b>
11	Staff in active employment	3 308 840	4 273 637	3 295 619	77 %	978 018
12	Staff recruitment / Miscellaneous expenditure	55 000	55 000	-	0 %	55 000
13	Mission and duty travels	75 000	75 000	65 759	88 %	9 241
14	Other staff costs (socio-medical structure)	272.700	284.719	222.134	78 %	62.585
15	Entertainment and representation expenses	10 000	10 000	7 199	72 %	2 801
<b>2</b>	<b>OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2 197 773</b>	<b>3 079 376</b>	<b>2 270 122</b>	<b>74 %</b>	<b>809 258</b>
20	Rental of buildings and associated costs	400 000	397 391	374 879	94 %	22 512
21	Administrative information technology)	613 393	1 171 992	835 644	71 %	336 348
22	Movable property and associated costs	5 000	-	-	0 %	-
23	Current administrative expenditure	24 000	55 592	41 389	74 %	14 204
24	Telecommunications and postal charges	37 000	36 908	7 453	20 %	29 455
25	Expenditure on formal meetings	74 380	59 380	33 262	56 %	26 118
26	External communication, information, publicity	417 000	562 413	314 336	56 %	248 078
27	Service contracts	452 000	463 904	339 376	73 %	124 529
28	Experts' contracts and evaluations	-	-	-	0 %	-
29	Expert reviewers	175 000	331.796	323 783	98 %	8 014
	<b>REACTIVATIONS OF PRIOR YEARS UNUSED ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET<sup>18</sup></b>	<b>2 575 110</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>-</b>
	of which from 2023 (CBE) included at chapter level	797 920	-	-	0 %	-
	of which from 2023 (CBE)	431 205	-	-	0 %	-
	of which from 2024 (BBI)	275 317	-	-	0 %	-
	of which from 2024 (CBE)	1 070 668	-	-	0 %	-
<b>3</b>	<b>OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>142 747 693</b>	<b>177 230 813</b>	<b>154 878 131</b>	<b>87 %</b>	<b>22 352 682</b>
30	Previous years' calls	-	2 706 719	-	0 %	2 706 719
31	Current year's call (s) CBE <sup>19</sup>	141 549 568	172 890 527	153 692 205	89 %	19 198 322

<sup>17</sup> Includes the execution of C2 reactivated and C4 assigned, at chapter level.

<sup>18</sup> The unused administrative appropriations from the previous years were reactivated at chapter level and reached a total 88 % of PA execution.

<sup>19</sup> PA on this line relate to the prefinancing of prior year call 2024.

Title/Chapter	Statement of expenditure (Payment appropriations)	Amended budget 2025 CA (voted) (EUR)	Amended budget CA 2025 after transfers (EUR)	Executed budget 2025 CA <sup>17</sup> (EUR)	%	Available for future use (N+3 rule) (EUR)
32	Evaluators' contract CBE	1 198 125	1 633 567	1 185 926	73 %	447 641
	REACTIVATIONS OF PRIOR YEAR UNUSED OPERATIONAL APPROPRIATIONS	30 919 126	-	-	0 %	-
	of which from 2022 (CBE)	19 889 574	-	-	0 %	-
	of which from 2023 (BBI)	5 258	-	-	0 %	-
	of which from 2023 (CBE)	3 742 859	-	-	0 %	-
	of which from 2024 (CBE)	7 281 435	-	-	0 %	-
	<b>SUB-TOTAL REACTIVATIONS</b>	<b>33 494 236</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>-</b>
4	RE-ACTIVATION OF UNUSED 2024 BBI ADM APPROPRIATIONS <sup>21</sup>	-	275 317	275 317	100 %	-
40	Re-activation of unused 2024 BBI ADM appropriation	-	275 317	275 317	100 %	-
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>181 363 322</b>	<b>185 283 862</b>	<b>161 014 281</b>	<b>87 %</b>	<b>24 269 585</b>

Table 25 Payment appropriations

<sup>20</sup> The unused PA from previous years reactivated under Title 3 had a rate of execution of 77 %. While CBE JU credits were implemented with 100% execution rate, some payments of BBI JU Horizon 2020, expected before the end of the year were delayed to 2026.

<sup>21</sup> Title 4 was introduced to return the unused BBI administrative appropriations to EC and BIC.

## 2.4. FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION FROM MEMBERS OTHER THAN THE UNION

Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe sets out the new financial contributions targets for the two members of the CBE JU under the new Horizon Europe programme. The members of the Joint Undertaking are the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC) and the European Commission, with the latter representing the European Union in the partnership.

In this section, the CBE JU reports on the progress of the contributions from the BIC constituent or affiliated entities towards operational expenditure and to the additional activities, associated with the CBE initiative under both, the Horizon Europe and the Horizon 2020 framework programmes.

### 2.4.1. Contributions under Horizon Europe

According to Article 50 of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe, the BIC is expected to ensure that its constituent or affiliated entities (hereafter referred to as 'BIC members') contribute a total of at least EUR 1 billion to the CBE JU initiative by 2031, including up to EUR 23.5 million for administrative costs.

Following the additional EUR 50 million allocated to CBE JU from third-country appropriations and in accordance with Article 10(2) of the aforementioned Council Regulation, the BIC will provide a matching contribution. By the end of 2025, 40 periodic reports on CBE JU grants were received. However, no certified figures are yet available on in-kind contributions from the BIC members since the grants have not yet been finalised and neither CFS nor ex-post audits are available. The first certified figures are expected around 2027.

### In-kind contributions to operational activities (IKOP)

In accordance with Article 2(8) of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe, the IKOP is defined as the difference between the eligible project costs incurred by BIC constituent or affiliated entities, international organisations, or contributing partners when implementing projects, and the CBE JU's contribution from the to these costs.

The IKOP to be provided by BIC members is estimated at the close of each CBE JU call for proposals. The conditions for CBE JU calls and the participation of BIC members have a direct impact on the resulting IKOP.

Reference of the project-call	Total amount of IKOP planned for the project (EUR)	Reported amount of IKOP from beneficiaries by the end of 2025 (EUR)	Amount of IKOP reported by CBE JU but not validated <sup>22</sup> by the end of 2025 (EUR)	Total Amount of IKOP certified until 2025 (EUR)
CBE JU 2022 call	25 926 497	3 946 006	9 432 632	NA
CBE JU 2023 call	63 918 959	7 563 229	14 904 829	NA
CBE JU 2024 call	55 342 781	-	7 595 102	NA
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>145 188 236</b>	<b>11 509 235</b>	<b>31 932 563</b>	<b>NA</b>

Table 26 IKOP values in CBE JU grant agreements based on the latest available information including amendments.

The continuous monitoring and annual reporting of the CBE JU IKOP are based on the most recent data available in the corporate e-Grants management tools at the time of project completion.

IKOP reporting is measured at different points in time:

- ▶ An initial cumulative IKOP estimation is made at the time of signature of the grant agreements. On the basis of updated data made available in e-Grants, the CBE JU calculates each year the IKOP already incurred by BIC members in projects but not yet certified. These amounts are also reported under liabilities in Annex 5.10 to the certified accounts of the CBE JU.
- ▶ At the end of the projects, when based on a certificate of financial statement or results of ex-post audit controls, the CBE JU calculates the cumulative values of IKOP contributions certified by BIC members. These amounts are also reported under net assets in Annex 5.10 to the certified accounts of the CBE JU.

Based on the above information, the CBE JU calculates the rate of implementation of these types of contributions. By 2025, with four calls for proposals implemented (82 projects running in the second half of 2025), the following has been reported:

	2022 - 2024 calls (EUR)	Implementation of estimated IKOP
<b>Total planned IKOP</b>	145 188 236	
<b>IKOP reported but not validated</b>	31 932 563	22 %
<b>IKOP validated</b>	-	0 %
<b>2025 estimated result</b>	31 932 563	22 %

Table 27 Actual IKOP values.

Based on the information available from CBE JU grant agreements and the progress achieved in project implementation as at the end of 2025, the level of IKOP expected from BIC members is in line with initial expectations.

<sup>22</sup> Including pro-rata temporis calculation in case there is no reporting from the member or the reporting does not cover full period until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

## In-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA)

In accordance with Articles 2(10) and 51 of the Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe, the IKAA contributions made by BIC members consist of the costs incurred by the latter in implementing additional activities as defined in Article 2(9) of the aforementioned Regulation, less any contribution to those costs received from the EU.

Additional activities are planned and included in a dedicated annex to the CBE JU work programmes. They contribute to the objectives of the CBE JU and are directly linked to the uptake of results from the project portfolio managed by the CBE JU, including the projects funded under the BBI JU mandate.

These additional activities are directly linked to CBE JU projects and activities, and more specifically:

- a) investment in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and supporting infrastructure, particularly in relation to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;
- b) investment in a new, innovative and sustainable production plant or flagship;
- c) investment in new research and innovation, as well as justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment and pilot plants (research centres);
- d) standardisation activities;
- e) communication, dissemination and awareness-raising activities.

The investments directly linked to projects are:

- a) non-eligible investments necessary for the implementation of a CBE JU project throughout its duration;
- b) investments made in parallel with a CBE JU project that complement its results and raise its TRL;
- c) investments necessary for the deployment of the results of a CBE JU project following project completion until CBE JU dissolution. In justified cases, investments in the deployment of the results of projects funded under the previous initiative (BBI JU) may be taken into account.

As the IKAA is directly linked to the CBE JU project portfolio, IKAA planning will change as the number of projects changes after each CBE JU call.

In accordance with Article 11(2) of the Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe, BIC members are required to provide updated information for IKAA reporting by 31 May each year.

The design and implementation of the planning and reporting system is integrated into the IKAA IT tool, which is part of the corporate e-grants suite and was fully deployed at the end of 2024. Before the IKAA IT tool became fully operational, CBE JU collected preliminary information for the 2023–2031 IKAA planning process manually, as estimated by BIC members at the start of the first projects under Horizon Europe. In 2025, CBE JU launched a catch-up exercise, requesting that its

private members compile their planned IKAA from the previous calls in the IKAA IT tool. To that end, guidelines have been published on the CBE JU website. The estimated value of IKAA expected in relation to CBE JU grants signed to date is EUR 467 508 552 (cumulative for all years and categories). The revised planned IKAA is subject to approval by the Governing Board through an amendment to the 2026 CBE JU annual work programme. However, despite being very promising, this level of IKAA cannot be taken as a reference since no certification has yet taken place. The periodicity and the thresholds for IKAA certification are currently under discussion with the Commission services. See Annex 5.9 for more information.

Call	IKAA value in CBE JU grants – evolution (EUR)	Amount of certified IKAA (EUR)
2022	149 054 756	9 631 937
2023	243 886 970	5 361 612
2024	74 566 826	100 000
<b>TOTAL since 2022</b>	<b>467 508 552</b>	<b>15 093 549</b>

Table 28 IKAA value in CBE JU grants – evolution. Data does not match previous reporting as based on the catch-up exercise performed in 2025.

## Overall industry contribution to the CBE JU initiative

The table below consolidates the actual contribution values for 2025. As already noted, these values correspond to a portfolio of 82 projects, the implementation of which began in the second half of 2023.

Consolidated contributions from CBE BIC members in 2025	
Nature	Amount (EUR)
Financial contributions (FCs)	5 916 911
In-Kind to Operational Activities (IKOP) reported, not validated	31 932 563
In-Kind to Additional Activities (IKAA) reported, not certified	72 805 915
In-Kind to Additional Activities (IKAA) certified	15 093 549
<b>TOTAL contributions reported</b>	<b>125 748 938</b>

Table 29 Consolidated contributions from CBE BIC members in 2025.

### 2.4.2. Contributions under Horizon 2020

This section deals with the financial contributions to the BBI JU by members other than the Union or its constituent entities (hereafter referred to as BBI BIC members), in accordance with the requirements laid down in [Council Regulation \(EU\) 560/2014](#) establishing the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU), which has since been replaced by the CBE JU.

According to the above-mentioned Council Regulation, by the end of the 2014 –2024 JU mandate, BBI BIC members are required to make the following contributions:

- ▶ at least EUR 182.5 million in financial contributions towards operational costs;
- ▶ an in-kind contribution to operational costs to be made by implementing BBI JU projects (BBI IKOP);

- ▶ at least EUR 1.755 billion in the form of in-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA)<sup>23</sup>;
- ▶ at least EUR 2.73 billion (including financial contributions to administrative costs).

## Financial contribution to operational activities

In 2018, in compliance with Article 4(5) of Council Regulation (EU) 560/2014 establishing the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking, the European Commission reduced the EU contribution to operational commitments from EUR 975 million to EUR 835 million to compensate for a projected shortfall in contributions to operational costs by BBI BIC member of EUR 179 million. This brought to an end the expectation that the BBI BIC member would fully achieve the target for financial contributions to operational costs.

At the end of 2018, the financial contributions paid by the BIC and/or its constituent entities as direct contributions to the BBI JU operational budget totalled EUR 3 250 000. This amount is not expected to change and in 2019 its Annual Report, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) recommended that *'Where a JU founding regulation requests operational financial contributions from the JU's private members, it is very important that it also provides for an appropriate legal framework that ensures that the required financial contribution amount will be achieved by the end of the programme'*<sup>24</sup>.

## In-kind contribution to operational costs (BBI IKOP)

In accordance with Article 12(3)(c) of Council Regulation (EU) No 560/2014 establishing the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking, the BBI JU IKOP is defined as the difference between the certified project costs and the accepted EU contribution for the relevant BBI JU BIC.

The above-mentioned Council Regulation does not set a specific target for the BBI IKOP. Indicative targets were set in the annual work programmes of the BBI JU. The targets were indicative because the BBI JU had launched calls for proposals that were fully open and none of the successful beneficiaries were obliged to join the BIC consortium.

The BBI JU IKOP can be categorised at three different levels in terms of the status of the related project costs: (1) expected/committed in signed grant agreements; (2) estimated/reported by BIC members on an annual basis<sup>25</sup>; and (3) certified and validated, mostly at the end of projects.

### a. Estimated IKOP in signed grant agreements

Following the final BBI JU call in 2021, the total value of IKOP committed through signed grant agreements amounted to EUR 214.6 million, accounting for 26 % of the overall EU grant funding (EUR 822.1 million). The ratio of BBI JU IKOP committed by BIC members in proportion to the indicative targets set out in the AWP has significantly decreased over the years as the number of non-BIC members applying for grants in BBI JU calls increased. Budgetary cuts and further reductions in operational commitment appropriations in the grant agreements reduced the BBI JU

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<sup>23</sup> Additional activities are outside the BBI Joint Undertaking's work plan for contributing to the objectives of the BBI Initiative.

<sup>24</sup> Annual report on the EU Joint Undertakings for the financial year 2019, page 33

<sup>25</sup> These estimations are used to calculate the IKOP accruals reported in the annual accounts of the JU (see Annex 5.10)

IKOP to be leveraged by financial contributions that were ultimately not committed to indirect actions.

Years	Committed values (EUR)			Ratios with committed EU contribution	
	Committed EU contribution	IKOP targets in AWP's	IKOP actually committed in grants	Target IKOP	Committed IKOP
2014	49 653 708	23 785 000	21 701 660	48 %	44 %
2015	178 849 526	105 000 000	48 150 883	59 %	27 %
2016	182 873 089	110 000 000	40 212 944	60 %	22 %
2017	85 161 992	40 000 000	28 418 194	47 %	33 %
2018	102 881 595	45 000 000	36 612 058	44 %	36 %
2019	118 186 833	60 000 000	17 459 496	51 %	15 %
2020	104 460 161	49 000 000	22 027 548	47 %	21 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>822 066 904</b>	<b>432 785 000</b>	<b>214 582 780</b>	<b>53 %</b>	<b>26 %</b>

Table 30 IKOP expected/committed in signed grant agreements at the implementation of BBI JU calls.

#### ***b. IKOP incurred by BIC members on an annual basis***

In addition to implementing, reporting on and closing of BBI JU projects, including any potential amendments, the actual IKOP realisation is estimated on an annual basis. Supporting information is gathered in accordance with the accounting methodologies established by the JU. The accrued values are reported under liabilities in the JU's annual accounts.<sup>26</sup> The reported values are still estimates, as the JU reserves the right to adjust both components of the IKOP calculation until final project reporting and audit certification are complete.

At the end of 2025, the estimated IKOP incurred on BBI JU projects but not yet certified amounted to EUR 14.4 million.

### **Certified IKOP (mostly at the end of the projects)**

The actual IKOP is calculated by CBE JU mainly on the basis of Certificates of Financial Statements submitted by the BIC members at the end of BBI JU projects. Additional information may come from the ex-post controls carried out on financial statements by the European Commission<sup>27</sup>. IKOP contributions are calculated on a yearly basis and the cumulative values are reported in JU's annual accounts under its net assets.

At the end of 2025, the total balance of certified IKOP provided by BIC members amounted to EUR 149 887 792.

<sup>26</sup> These estimations are used to calculate the IKOP accruals reported in the annual accounts of the JU, (see Annex 5.10)

<sup>27</sup> Detailed information on ex-post controls on operational expenditure are provided in section 4.1.1

	BBI IKOP consolidation (EUR)	Implementation
BBI IKOP planned	214 582 780	
BBI IKOP reported but not validated	14 434 959	7 %
BBI IKOP validated	149 887 792	70 %
<b>2025 result</b>	<b>164 322 751</b>	<b>77 %</b>

Table 31 Actual values of BBI IKOP and expected leverage.

## In-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA)

The IKAA represents the in-kind contributions made by BBI BIC members when implementing additional activities outside the AWP, as established under the BBI JU mandate. Nevertheless, these activities contribute to the objectives of the BBI initiative. BBI BIC members are required to submit additional activity plans (AAPs) to the JU Governing Board for approval on an annual basis.

These contributions are certified as having been realised by independent external auditors in compliance with Article 4(4) of Council Regulations (EU) No 560/2014 establishing the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking. The chart below shows an analysis of the expected change in the cumulative BBI IKAA values for the period 2015–2025 (in order to achieve the specific BBI IKAA target by 2025) and of the cumulative BBI IKAA values certified by the end of 2025.

As reported in previous AARs, the IKAA planning and certification processes were both negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic between 2019 and 2021. Since 2022, however, the BBI JU BIC members have been able to make additional IKAA contributions. As explained in the section below, this means that they are expected to meet the overall target for BIC members' contributions to the BBI initiative (EUR 2.73 billion).

Taking into account the amount planned for 2025 (EUR 106 million), the total additional investment by the end of 2025 was EUR 2.5 billion. This meets the target of EUR 2 493 573 477.

	BBI IKAA consolidation (EUR)	Implementation
BBI IKAA expected	2 493 573 477	
BBI IKAA reported, not yet certified	106 000 000	4 %
BBI IKAA certified	2 404 436 175	96 %
<b>2025 result</b>	<b>2 510 436 175</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Table 32 Actual values of BBI IKAA.

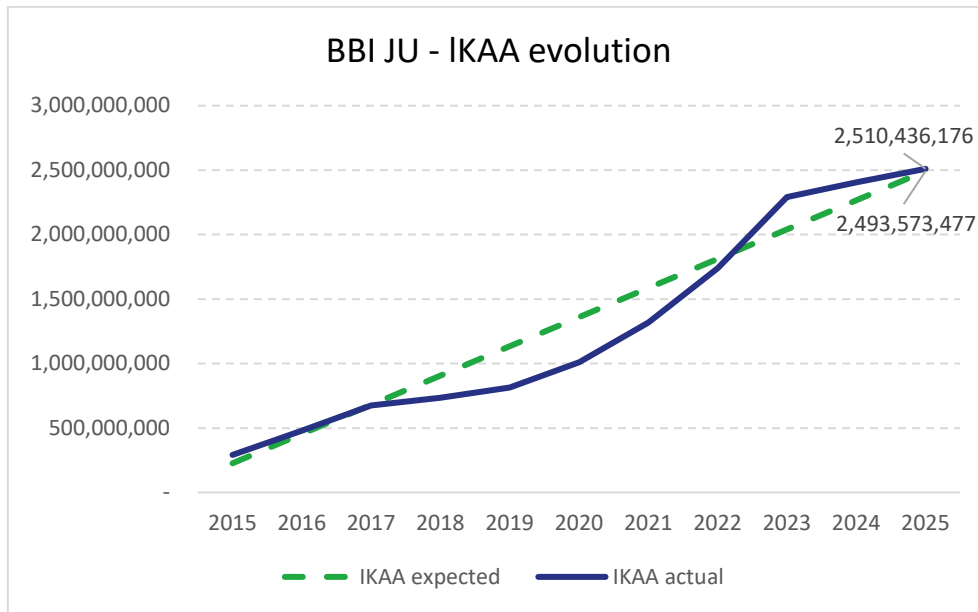


Figure 50 BBI JU IKAA evolution (2015–2025)

## Overall industry contribution to the BBI JU initiative

The value of financial contributions to operational costs achieved in 2018 will not change, and this contribution to the overall target will be minimal, cumulating with the financial contributions made to the administrative costs of the BBI JU.

Regarding the total contributions of BBI BIC members, the BBI IKOP target was set at the closure of the BBI JU calls. It will contribute to achieving the overall legal target once all BBI JU projects have been completed. Six of these projects are still ongoing, with the last one expected to be completed in 2027.

The specific legal target for the BBI IKAA was achieved by 2023. As reported above, the IKAA will also play a pivotal role in achieving the overall target of EUR 2.73 billion for BIC contributions to the BBI initiative.

EUR	IKOP	Financial (operational and administrative)	IKAA	Overall legal target
<b>Targets</b>	<b>214 582 780</b>	<b>21 843 743</b>	<b>2 493 573 477</b>	<b>2 730 000 000*</b>
2025 results*	164 322 751	21 843 743	2 510 436 176	2 696 626 068
Target ratio	77 %	100 %	101 %	99 %

Table 33 Actual targets for the types of contributions to be provided by BIC members and 2025 results against the overall target.

\*2025 results as follows:

- IKOP: Total amount certified + incurred, and not yet certified.
- Financial (Operational and administrative): amount corrected from previous years.
- IKAA: The amount includes EUR 106 million planned, not yet certified.

## Monitoring the leverage effect of the BBI JU initiative

The leverage effect aims to measure the ability of the BBI initiative to attract additional funding from beneficiaries, whether they are members of the JU or not, and to multiply Horizon 2020 budget resources, including through additional activities.

By the time of the final BBI JU call for proposals in 2021, the maximum estimated EU contribution in BBI JU grants until 2025 was EUR 822 066 904.

The leverage calculation takes into account not only the contributions of BBI BIC members, but also those of other beneficiaries of EU funding participating in BBI JU projects. The additional financing to be calculated for the leverage effect corresponds to the in-kind contributions provided by all participants in BBI JU projects (All Participants In-Kind contributions, APIK). This corresponds to the costs incurred by all participants in implementing indirect actions, minus the contribution of the BBI JU and any other Union contribution towards these costs. At the end of the BBI JU's final call for proposals in 2021, the estimated APIK stood at EUR 487 928 957.

To measure the leverage effect, the European Commission has proposed a calculation formula that has been applied to all Joint Undertakings since the mid-term evaluation of those operating under Horizon 2020. This formula excludes contributions to the administrative costs of the Joint Undertaking. Excluding these contributions to the administrative costs of the BBI JU, the final target leverage effect is EUR 2.85. The formula was formally adopted by the BBI JU Governing Board in 2017<sup>28</sup>. It provides an indication of the total leverage effect of the initiative over a given period.

The formula is as follows: *(Total) leverage = Operational leverage + additional leverage:*

$$\text{Operational leverage} = \frac{\sum \text{APIK}^{29} + \sum \text{FC}^{30}}{\sum \text{EU contribution}^{31}}$$

$$\text{Additional leverage} = \frac{\sum \text{IKAA}^{32}}{\sum \text{EU contribution}}$$

As each element of this calculation has its own reporting and certification process, which differ significantly over time, the result will not reach an appropriate level of reliability until the end of the programme. Despite this, the Governing Board of the BBI JU has agreed to monitor the leverage effect on an annual basis once the different elements of the calculation reach a consistent level of reliability.

<sup>28</sup> BBI JU Governing Board meeting of 28 June 2017.

<sup>29</sup> All Participants In Kind contribution (APIK) is the difference between the total costs and the JU contribution of the grant agreements signed by the cut-off date of the data reported in the AAR.

<sup>30</sup> Total amount of financial ('cash') contributions by BIC, delivered at programme level, and/or by BIC constituent entities that are beneficiaries not receiving funding, delivered at project level and committed by the cut-off date of the data reported in the AAR.

<sup>31</sup> Total amount of EU funding committed in grant agreements signed by the cut-off date of the data reported in the AAR.

<sup>32</sup> Total amount of in-kind contribution to additional activities by BIC and/or its constituent entities implemented by the cut-off date of the data reported in the AAR and duly certified later.

Until the end of 2025, the reported operational leverage remains unchanged from the 2021 figure. The additional leverage is 'expected' because the certification of the BBI IKAA Plan 2025 is still ongoing. The following table shows the cumulative value of contributions to the BBI initiative over the 2015–2025 period.

Year	Cumulative values of contributions to the BBI JU initiative (EUR)					Leverage evolution
	APIK	BIC financial contributions	IKAA certified	Total	EU funding	
2015	33 107 991	-	291 482 000	324 589 991	49 653 708	6.54
2016	121 090 840	750 000	478 859 001	600 699 841	228 503 234	2.63
2017	250 427 121	1 250 000	674 844 239	926 521 360	411 376 322	2.25
2018	308 723 689	3 250 000	734 763 805	1 046 737 494	496 538 314	2.11
2019	378 041 578	3 250 000	813 846 895	1 195 138 473	599 419 909	1.99
2020	424 791 217	3 250 000	1 010 760 042	1 438 801 259	717 606 742	2.00
2021	487 928 957	3 250 000	1,318,600,140	1 809 779 097	822 066 903	2.20
2022	487 928 957	3 250 000	1 739 096 172	2 230 275 130	822 066 903	2.71
2023	487 928 957	3 250 000	2 292 521 595	2 783 700 553	822 066 903	3.39
2024	487 928 957	3 250 000	2 404 721 595	2 895 900 552	822 066 903	3.52
2025	<b>487 928 957</b>	<b>3 250 000</b>	<b>2 510 436 176</b>	<b>3 001 615 133</b>	<b>822 066 903</b>	<b>3.65</b>

Table 34 Components of the leverage effect calculation over the first years of the initiative.

The value of the leverage effect of the BBI JU initiative at the end of 2025 is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Operational leverage} = (487\,928\,957 + 3\,250\,000^{33}) / 822\,066\,903 = 0.60$$

$$2\,510\,436\,176 / 822\,066\,903 = 3.05$$

$$(\text{Total}) \text{ expected leverage by end 2025} = 0.60 + 3.05 = 3.65$$

The expected leverage is therefore already above the 2025 target. The chart below shows the change in the leverage effect over the period 2015–2025.

<sup>33</sup> This amount includes the financial contribution from the member other than the Union and its constituent entities at programme and project level.

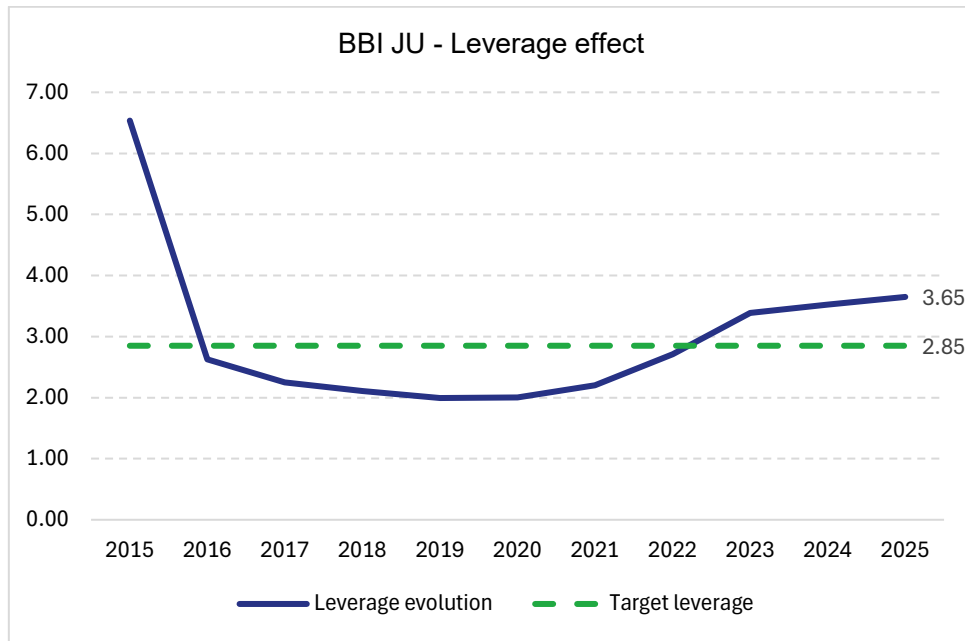


Figure 51 Evolution of the leverage effect 2015–2025.

## 2.5. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS

Where possible, the CBE JU continued to use the existing framework contracts with the European Commission.

It also signed specific contracts under the framework contract managed jointly with the other JUs operating from the White Atrium, particularly for common IT services. In addition, CBE JU made use of the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) in force with the European Commission until the end of 2025. Several other contracts were signed for less than EUR 15 000 each. The table below shows the contracts signed in 2025 for individual amounts higher than EUR 15 000.

Contractor	Type of contract	Tender procedure	Subject of the contract	Signature date	Amount (in EUR)
Randstad	FWC HR/2024/OP/0095	Various specific contracts under a framework contract	Interim staff	various	335 205
ADRIA CONGREX SRL	CBE JU OP/2023/0 1-Lot 2	Various specific contracts under a framework contract	Media Relations	various	63 517
Phrenos	CBE JU OP/2023/0 1-Lot 3	Various specific contracts under a framework contract	Social media	various	15 387
Formato Verde	CBE JU OP/2023/0 1-Lot 1	Various specific contracts under a framework contract	Communication services: content writing, design and animations	various	90 677
NTT DATA Belgique Consortium	BUDG-2022-OP-0010 DIMOS VI CASCADE 4	Specific Contract under a framework contract	Development of a web tool to collect KPI data from project coordinator	21.11.2024	197 926
ORACLE	DI/07871 ORACLE SERV	Specific Contract under a framework contract	PP SYSTAL assistance for JUs	22.1.2025	17 545
Softwareone	DI-08030 SIDE III MC1	Specific Contract under a framework contract	Remotely Invigilated Exams - Test & Supervision for 7 JUs	15.7.2025	41 552
EBSCO	FWC 10844 (OP/2022/OP/0002)	Specific Contract under a framework contract	Renewal of Politico Sustainability Pro subscription	09.3.2025	25 219

Insight	FWC DI-08090 SIDE III DPS MC2	Specific Contract under a framework contract	RenEwal of Microsoft Licenses + purchase of additional storage	30.4.2025	27 811
Bechtle Brussels	FWC DI/07720 SIDE II  FWC DI/08031 SIDE III	Specific Contract under a framework contract	Renewal of SYSTAL Licenses	22.1.2025  20.3.2025	145 738

Table 35 Specific contracts signed in 2025.

## 2.6. IT AND LOGISTICS

During the second half of the reference year, the focus was on the IT-related preparatory work for successful onboarding following the transition from ABAC to SUMMA.

The following IT-related tasks were completed:

- ▶ CBE JU migrated corporate data from the on-premises file server to a SharePoint site featuring multiple document libraries. This move improved security by allowing the phase-out of on-premises shared folders while providing team members with advanced collaboration tools.
- ▶ The successful migration from Windows 10 to Windows 11 ensured that CBE JU's corporate devices were kept up to date and that security features were enhanced.
- ▶ As a cloud-based application, the second development cycle of the CBE JU KPI web app was completed, resulting in valuable data collection and meaningful visualisation for stakeholders.
- ▶ A pilot project named 'AI@CBE' was conducted to set up a local, internal generative AI chatbot. A dedicated on-premises server was used to host low-cost, open-source, customisable AI solutions for text generation. The outcome was a generative AI tool accessible only on the CBE JU internal network, designed to securely and privately process sensitive information. Despite the use of low-end hardware and quantised (reduced) language models, the initial results allow for further development using more powerful resources and larger language models. A successful inventory exercise for non-IT items resulted in the clean migration of CBE JU assets data from ABAC to SUMMA. The exercise was also an opportunity to update the assets management policy.
- ▶ As part of the IT Back Office Arrangement ('IT BOA') services offered to all Joint Undertakings, and in collaboration with the SCIC services of DIGIT, the CBE JU took the lead in renewing the IT equipment in the common meeting rooms on the premises of the White Atrium building in order to make them fully hybrid.
- ▶ In the context of the IT BOA, the CBE JU was also appointed as co-lead to provide horizontal support to all JUs (limited in scope to the common infrastructure) in the process leading to compliance with the Cybersecurity Regulation. In collaboration with the other JUs, CERT-EU and the service company Inetum, a comprehensive Cybersecurity plan was adopted with foundational deliverables such as maturity assessments, risk analysis and an information security policy. Such compliance safeguards key IT assets of the organisation while ensuring the correct implementation of mandatory legal requirements.
- ▶ A training session on AI technologies awareness was organised to foster safe use of generative AI technologies among staff and mitigate associated risks. With support from CERT-EU, a phishing exercise was conducted to enhance cybersecurity awareness among staff members. CBE JU will use the outcome of this exercise to further improve its staff security posture. In 2025, CBE JU participated in the Joint Awareness & Preparedness Cybersecurity Exercise (JASPER) organised by CERT-EU and ENISA for the second consecutive year. The outcome of the exercise demonstrated CBE JU's effective response to the incident.

## 2.7. HUMAN RESOURCES

### 2.7.1. HR management

#### Staff and recruitment

According to the staff establishment plan, the JU Programme Office consisted of 28 statutory staff at the end of 2025, corresponding to an occupation rate of 96.55 %. The vacant post was not filled after 2025 as it was part of the staff reduction planned for 2027. However, in total, CBE JU has 29 statutory staff members, including one contractual agent recruited with a contribution from third countries. CBE JU welcomed six new colleagues this year to fill the following positions: Communication Assistant (Temporary Agent), Call Coordinator (Temporary Agent), Knowledge Management Officer (Contract Agent), Financial and Accounting Correspondent (Temporary Agent), Financial Officer (Contract Agent) and Financial Assistant (contract agent). One of the contractual agent positions is a new post financed by an associated country's contribution.

As in previous years, CBE JU offered young graduates and early career professionals the opportunity to undertake a six-month traineeship at its premises. This scheme aims to provide trainees with first-hand experience of how an EU body operates, as well as an insight into CBE JU's objectives and activities. Two trainees joined the Programme Unit and one trainee joined the Communications team.

The call for expressions of interest in the 2026 traineeship session was organised via a joint selection procedure between CBE JU and another joint undertaking for the communications role and resulted in the selection of one trainee for the CBE communications team.

To reinforce the team during periods of long-term leave and address specific short-term needs, CBE JU also employed interim agents (3FTEs) through the framework contract with the European Commission.

The table and the chart below provide statistical data on staff, including the gender and geographical balance at the CBE JU as of 31 December 2025.

#### a. Gender balance/ Average age

	Average age	Staff	%
Male	45,3	9	31%
Female	42,6	20	69%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,95</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 36 Average age of CBE JU staff.

This year, the CBE JU achieved a gender balance in its management positions, with women now holding 66 % of middle and senior management roles.

**b. Geographical balance**

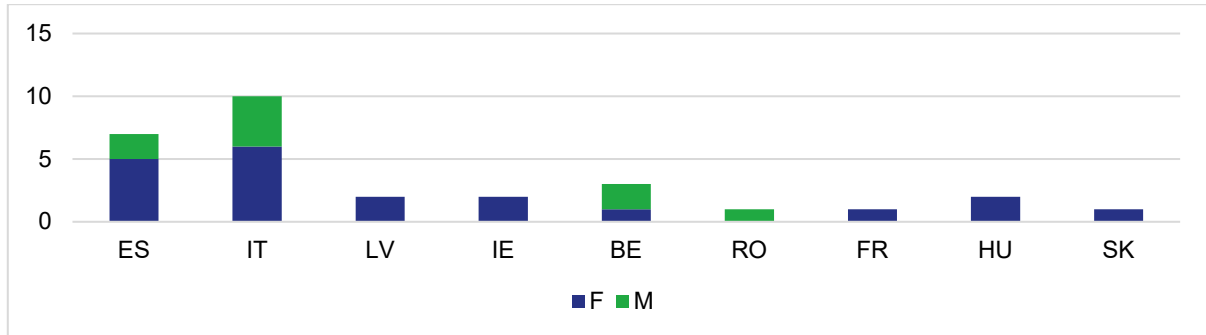


Figure 52 Geographic balance of CBE JU staff.

**Legal framework**

During the reference year, the HR Office continued to strengthen the legal framework of the CBE JU by applying the European Commission’s implementing rules as follows:

Specific Implementing Rules (SIRs) brought in in 2025	
Title of the SIR	Reference and date of the GB decision
Adopting by analogy the Commission Decision C(2025)2495 of 13 May 2025 on the general provisions for implementing Articles 11,12 and 13 of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations of Officials and on authorised travel (new mission guide)	CBE-GB-08/25 of 26 June 2025

Table 37 Specific Implementing Rules (SIRs) brought in in 2025.

CBE JU conducted its annual appraisal and reclassification exercises. It also held information sessions for staff on these matters.

**Learning and career development**

In 2025, the CBE JU overhauled its learning and development framework, aligning it with its annual objectives and corporate values. This initiative highlights the importance that CBE JU places on developing its staff’s skills to ensure that they can thrive in their roles and are fully equipped to take on new challenges.

As in previous years, the CBE JU made use of its Service Level Agreements with the European Commission to provide access to a wide catalogue of learning courses and ad hoc learning opportunities.

In addition, in-house training sessions on AI fundamentals, ethics and having a growth mindset were organised, as well as a team-building event.

## 2.7.2. Efficiency gains and synergies

Article 13 of the Council Regulation establishing the Joint Undertakings, identifies human resources support as one of the areas for common back-office arrangements (BOAs). The CBE JU, together with the IHI JU as back-up, took the lead in setting up the BOA HR.

The BOA HR implements actions in three main areas of HR support: recruitment, the HR legal framework, and HR digitalisation. Its objectives are to maximise synergies between JUs, harmonise procedures by valorising best practices, ensure coherent HR support services, achieve efficiencies and economies of scale, and increase the bargaining power of JUs operating under the SBA with contractors and service providers.

### HR Back Office Arrangement and activities carried out in 2025

In 2025, the Joint Undertakings continued to optimise their synergies and implemented several initiatives in the areas mentioned above.

In line with the HR BOA Action Plan 2025, the JUs have:

- ▶ Finalised the alignment and harmonisation of the selection and recruitment practices across all JUs;
- ▶ conducted a state-of-play analysis of the inter-JU Competency Framework, which will be further developed in 2026;
- ▶ launched a pilot initiative to establish common Service Level Agreements (SLAs) between DG HR and the JUs for the provision of badges;
- ▶ strengthened cooperation by organising an HR Officers' Away Day to share best practices and enhance collaboration;
- ▶ shared reserve lists to reduce time-to-recruit, providing expertise and resources by contributing as panel members to several selection procedures across JUs;
- ▶ supported newly established JUs by providing guidance, advice, and templates;
- ▶ centralised the organisation of training courses of common interest for all JUs (e.g. ethics and integrity, respect and dignity in the workplace, first aid training);
- ▶ joined the Standing Working Party as part of a dedicated JU cluster to facilitate effective participation of the JUs;
- ▶ contributed to the development of a common JU HR legal framework by sharing Executive Director and Governing Board decisions on various HR regulatory matters;
- ▶ finalised the selection of new Confidential Counsellors to reinforce the existing network.

As interinstitutional partners, the JUs have also attended meetings organised by the European Commission on the HR transformation programme, which aims to set up a new IT platform to replace SYSPER. The JUs will further strengthen this collaboration in 2026.

As the lead JU for the HR BOA, CBE JU also coordinated the inter-JU HR Officers network and governance-related tasks. Notably, at the end of 2025, the CBE JU launched an amendment to the HR BOA SLA, enlarging the composition of the Steering Committee to include all Heads of Administration and Finance of the signatory JUs. This enhanced collaboration is a first step towards a further strengthening of the collaboration among JUs in the HR domain in 2026.

## Other BOAs

### *BOA Procurement*

In 2025, the BOA Procurement will continue to deliver tangible benefits and added value to all participating Joint Undertakings. The larger budgetary volume and economies of scale increased the economic operators' interest in the open tender procedure for communication services, which was launched by the CAJU on behalf of nine JUs. This may explain the exceptionally high number of tenders received in response to this open call.

This inter-institutional open procedure aims to establish multiple framework service contracts in cascade to provide communication services to up to nine Joint Undertakings (JUs), including Clean Aviation, the CBE JU, the Chips JU, the EuroHPC JU, EU-RAIL, the SESAR3 JU, the IHI JU, the GHEDCTP3 JU and the SNS JU. These framework contracts will support the communication teams of the relevant EU bodies by providing strategic, editorial, digital and event management services, as well as web-related support. To address the wide range of support required, the procurement is divided into four lots: (1) strategy, editorial, media and publications (LOT 1 – EUR 5 300 000), (2) digital communication (LOT 2 – EUR 3 500 000), (3) events (LOT 3 – EUR 12 600 000) and (4) web services (LOT 4 – EUR 4 400 000). Up to three framework contracts will be signed for each lot, which will be implemented through specific contracts requested by the participating JUs according to their individual communication needs. CBE JU led the evaluation of LOT 3 under the open tender for communication services.

At the same time, the ad hoc deployment of legal and procurement resources made available by other JUs to CAJU demonstrated the effectiveness of the concept of solidarity and synergy.

The activities of BOA Procurement in 2025 were not limited to conducting tender procedures. They also included a feasibility analysis of how the corporate e-procurement tools provided by DIGIT could support the current operational and implementation model of the Jus in relation to joint specific contracts.

In 2025, the CBE JU led the inter-Joint Undertakings (JUs) Framework Contract (FWC) on Thematic Communication services, contributing to the BOA procurement. This had for a total value of EUR 3 402 850 and involved four JUs.

### *BOA Accounting*

The Joint Undertakings (JUs) took over the accounting services previously provided by DG BUDG until 30 November 2022. They successfully implemented the Framework Contract (BOA) for Accounting Services in 2022, enabling the new arrangements to be applied immediately for the 2022 accounting closure. EU-Rail is the lead JU for this BOA and signed the SLA with the other JUs on 16 December 2022. Accounting services will be provided by three Accounting Officers coming from the following JUs: CA JU, SESAR JU and EU-Rail JU.

#### **Organisation:**

- ▶ The Executive Director of the Lead JU is responsible for organising, overseeing and coordinating the accounting services for the other JUs on the basis of an annex to the BOA SLA.

- ▶ The Head of Corporate Services or another officer with the necessary grade, skills and competencies of the Lead JU shall act as Accounting Coordinator of the BOA Accounting Officers.

The Accounting Officer of a JU providing accounting services delivers those services to one or more beneficiary JUs and is responsible for the accounts that they sign off, while relying on the support and coordination provided by the lead JU. To ensure the provision of these services, the EC and the JUs agreed to use the support of three additional Contractual Agents and an external accounting services provider.

The BOA for Accounting services are fully operational and are delivering the intended services. These include preparing the provisional and final annual accounts for 10 JUs, liaising with the audit teams on accounting matters, following up on accounts receivable past their due date, VAT reporting to the Belgian authorities, annual accounting system validation, budget inscription, etc.

In 2025, BOA Accounting continued to ensure the continuity of its business services, preparing the provisional accounts for the 10 JUs in a timely manner. The European Court of Auditors had already issued a clean opinion for 9 out of 10 JUs. BOA Accounting also provided ad hoc support for the implementation and update of financial systems and processes upon request. As of January 2025, the BOA team comprises three Accounting Officers, supported by three Accounting Assistants.

### **BOA ICT**

Following the signature of the SLA and the Descriptions of Services by the 10 JUs at the end of 2024, and in accordance with Article 13 of the SBA, the BOA for ICT formally became operational on 1 January 2025, continuing the shared-service arrangements established over the previous 14 years. ICT activities were carried out in accordance with the priorities set out in the BOA ICT Annual Work Programme (AWP) and the agreed common services, namely:

- ▶ Service area #1 Inter-JU IT governance,
- ▶ Service area #2 Management of shared ICT infrastructure, and Service area #4 Workplace services provision;
- ▶ Service area #5 Security and compliance management;
- ▶ In 2025, the JUs held four ICT Steering Committee meetings, as in previous years. During these meetings:
  - ▶ the implementation of the common ICT annual work plan and budget for 2025 (AWP 2025) was monitored;
  - ▶ the common ICT annual work plan and budget for 2026 (AWP 2026) was defined and adopted early during the September 2025 meeting.

The AWP 2025 contains the following seven actions and related budget:

- ▶ Action 1. BOA ICT implementation
- ▶ Action 2. Next FWC for ICT Managed services
- ▶ Action 3. Upgrade Common Meeting
- ▶ Action 4. Internet line provider
- ▶ Action 5 Security regulation(s)

- ▶ Action 6. SaaS O365
- ▶ Action 7. Windows 11 migration
- ▶ Action 8. Reconversion of the White Atrium building.

The actions set out in the AWP 2025 were implemented in accordance with the plan. Particular effort was devoted to the cybersecurity action plan, which was implemented in full accordance with the timeline defined in the Cybersecurity Regulation. The activities implementing this part of the AWP 2025 were led by IHI JU and CBE JU and were then broken down per JU. This resulted in the delivery of the four mandatory documents according to the Cybersecurity Regulation:

- ▶ Cybersecurity review;
- ▶ Risk assessment;
- ▶ Maturity assessment;
- ▶ Cybersecurity plan.

## 3. GOVERNANCE

### 3.1. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

In 2025, there was a change in the composition of the Governing Board with James Morrison (Director Healthy Planet, DG RTD of the European Commission) replacing John Bell following his retirement from the European Commission at the end of August. Mr. Morrison was elected as Vice Chair on 14 October.

James Morrison (Director Healthy Planet, DG RTD of the European Commission. At the Governing Board meeting on 9 December, James Morrison (Director Healthy Planet, DG RTD of the European Commission) was elected as Chair of the CBE JU Governing Board, Rob Beekers (BIC) was elected Vice Chair for a period of two years.

In October 2025, the States' Representatives Group (SRG) elected Ugnė Dirdaitė, representing Lithuania, as the new Vice Chair, following the successful double mandate of Fabio Fava from Italy.

The first mandate of the Scientific Committee (SC) ended in March 2025. Eleven out of the fifteen members committee expressed their interest in a second mandate, and four new candidates joined from the SC reserve list. During their meeting on 1 April 2025, the SC also elected a new Chair, with Kevin O'Connor taking up this role, and Piergiuseppe Morone continuing as Vice Chair.

### 3.2. PHASING-OUT PLAN MONITORING

In accordance with Article 19(4)(v) of the Council Regulation, the Governing Board adopted the phasing-out plan for Horizon Europe on 14 December 2023 (Decision CBE-GB-11/23).

In 2024, the CBE JU worked on a revised version of the plan, incorporating strategic considerations and scenario analysis to ensure the continuation of its activities in the event of reduced, or absent, funding under the Horizon Europe programme. The updated phasing-out plan was adopted by the Governing Board on 2 May 2025 (CBE-GB-7/25).

The phasing-out plan is a living document that will be updated further as the scenarios for the future of the Research and Innovation Framework Programme become clearer.

### 3.3. GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board of the CBE JU held four ordinary meetings on 18 March, 26 June, 14 October and 9 December 2025.

In addition, a strategic meeting was held on 24 June 2025 with Commissioner Zaharieva, who is responsible for Startups, Research and Innovation, and representatives from the bio-based industries. The meeting, which took place alongside the European Commission event *R&I for a Competitive Green Transition*, provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the future of the European bioeconomy and contribute to the discussions on the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy.

The members of the Governing Board in 2025 are listed in the table below.

EC	BIC CONSTITUTIVE ENTITIES
<b>John Bell</b> Director for Healthy Planet, DG RTD/B (Vice-Chair) (until 31 September 2025)	<b>Rob Beekers</b> Strategic Marketing & Innovation, CARGILL BIO INDUSTRIAL (CBI) (Chair)
<b>James Morrison</b> Director for Healthy Planet, DG RTD/B (Vice-Chair) (from 1 September 2025)	<b>Giulia Gregori</b> Manager Strategic Planning and Corporate Communication, NOVAMONT
<b>Astrid Ladefoged</b> Head of Unit, DG RTD/B1	<b>Christophe Luguel</b> Head of Industrialisation & Financing at Bioeconomy for Change (B4C)
<b>Kristin Schreiber</b> Director for Ecosystems I: Chemicals, Food, Retail, DG GROW/F	<b>Alex Michine</b> CEO of METGEN
<b>Maria Cristina Russo</b> Director for Prosperity, DG RTD/E	<b>Stuart Askew</b> Senior Director, R&D, P&G (from 1 October 2025)
<b>Diego Canga Fano</b> Director for Quality Policy, Research & Innovation, Outreach, DG AGRI/F	

Table 38 CBE JU Governing Board members.

In 2025, the Governing Board of the CBE JU adopted the following decisions:

- ▶ CBE-GB-1/25: Approving the 2024 call ranking list;
- ▶ CBE-GB-2/25: Approving the selection process for the members of the working group on Primary Producers of the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking;
- ▶ CBE-GB-3/2: Adopting the first amended Work Programme for 2025;
- ▶ CBE-GB-4/25: Adopting the second amended Work Programme for 2025;
- ▶ CBE-GB-5/25: Appointing four new Scientific Committee Members;
- ▶ CBE-GB-6/25: Appointment of members to the working group on Primary Producers of the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking;
- ▶ CBE-GB-7/25: Adopting the updated phasing-out plan from Horizon Europe;
- ▶ CBE-GB-8/25: Adopting by analogy the Commission Decision C(2025)2495 of 13 May 2025 on the general provisions for implementing Articles 11, 12 and 13 of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations of Officials and on authorised travel;
- ▶ CBE-GB-9/25: Approving the Annual Activity Report 2024 including the corresponding expenditure and adopting its Assessment;
- ▶ CBE-GB-10/25: 2024 Final Accounts;
- ▶ CBE-GB-11/25: Adopting the third amended WP 2025;
- ▶ CBE-GB-12/25: Adopting the Annual Work Programme and Budget 2026;
- ▶ CBE-GB-13/25: Appointment of new members to the working group on primary producers of the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking.

## 3.4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2025, Nicolás Giacomuzzi-Moore, Executive Director of the CBE JU, continued to lead the Joint Undertaking.

As the legal representative of the CBE JU, he is responsible for the day-to-day management and its operations in accordance with Article 19 of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe<sup>34</sup>.

The Executive Director of the Joint Undertaking is appointed by the Governing Board and is responsible for implementing its work programme, managing its resources efficiently, and representing it in its external relations. They oversee administrative and financial matters, prepare annual activity reports and ensure compliance with EU regulations and policies.

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<sup>34</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing Regulations (EC) No 219/2007, (EU) No 557/2014, (EU) No 558/2014, (EU) No 559/2014, (EU) No 560/2014, (EU) No 561/2014 and (EU) No 642/2014.

## 3.5. STATES' REPRESENTATIVES GROUP

### 3.5.1. SRG membership in 2025

The states' representatives group is the CBE JU advisory body representing the EU Member States and associated countries. At the end of 2025, the SRG comprised 77 members (41 full members and 36 alternate members), 62 % of whom were women and 38 % were men. The group is chaired by Ms Sari Tasa, the Finnish representative. Fabio Fava, the Italian representative, served as Vice-Chair of the group until October 2025, following the end of his double mandate in the SRG. From October 2025, Ms Ugnė Dirdaitė, the Lithuanian representative, began her mandate as the new Vice-Chair. The list of the SRG members, together with the rules of procedure and a description of their tasks, is published on the [CBE JU website](#).

### 3.5.2. Main activities and achievements in 2025

At various stages, the CBE JU Governing Board consulted the SRG on the AWP 2026 and received valuable advice. The SRG also provided advice on other strategic matters, including the requirements and results of calls for proposals, widening actions, synergies with other initiatives, the finance and investment deployment group, and the primary producers deployment group.

In addition, the SRG submitted a common position paper as part of the consultation on the bioeconomy strategy. The SRG was also consulted on the final draft of the 2024 AAR in June 2025.

SRG members played a pivotal role as CBE JU ambassadors in 2025 through their involvement in specific national or regional measures, including dissemination events, deployment activities and mobilisation of key stakeholders. A list of events is set out in the annexes, including the national information days organised by SRG members with the support of the CBE JU Programme Officer to provide information about the CBE JU 2025 call for proposals.

SRG members report to the Governing Board on an annual basis on national and regional policies and initiatives. The aim is to highlight policies and strategies that align with the CBE JU and identify opportunities to collaborate with these initiatives to further the CBE JU's own work. Information is exchanged through reports submitted by the SRG members at the end of each calendar year in accordance with Article 20(10) of the Council Regulation. Each SRG meeting also provides an opportunity to exchange information on national and regional research and innovation programmes, communication and deployment work, in order to better coordinate activities more effectively with those of the CBE JU. A task force of SRG members (comprising BE, FI, ES, IE, IT and PT) oversees reporting obligations and proposes improvements to reporting activities where necessary, taking into account lessons learned from previous exercises.

In 2025, the SRG members submitted their reports in 2025, providing relevant information on the status of the circular bioeconomy at national and regional level. These reports included updates on activities and examples of good practice that contribute to the CBE JU's objectives, such as other funding instruments, educational initiatives and activities undertaken at national level to promote the circular bio-based economy and the CBE JU. The reports were shared within the group and made available to the GB. Based on information provided by SRG members, the CBE JU produces an internal dashboard each year to enable a more user-friendly visualisation of the data.

### 3.5.3.CBE JU SRG meetings in 2025

The Programme Office held two face-to-face SRG meetings, the first on 2 April and the second on 9 October 2025. These were attended by the Chair of the Governing Board, the Chair of the Scientific Committee, the CBE JU Executive Director, the BIC Consortium, the EC and the CBE JU Programme Office staff. The main issues discussed at the two SRG meetings are reported below.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> SRG meeting held on 2 April 2025

- ▶ The SRG reviewed and provided input on the first draft of the 2026 Annual Work Programme and provided input on it, including a preliminary list of topics. Members expressed an overall positive view.
- ▶ The SRG exchanged information on the latest national and regional activities and initiatives relevant to the CBE JU, including R&I programmes, dissemination and communication activities, deployment activities, and policy initiatives, in accordance with Articles 20(9) and 20(10) of the Council Regulation.
- ▶ The SRG received updates on the implementation of the CBE JU programme, including the main achievements presented in the draft Annual Activity Report 2024, and the status and progress achieved towards the achievement of the CBE JU priorities for 2025. In particular, the SRG received an update on the status of the deployment group on finance and investments and the working group on primary producers and the outcomes of the 2024 call evaluation. The SRG also received updates on communication activities and dissemination materials, including information on the web-based CBE country dashboard.
- ▶ The European Commission provided updates on the latest developments in policy initiatives relevant to the CBE JU, including the Life Sciences Strategy, the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, and the Circular Economy Act.
- ▶ The BIC provided updates on activities relevant to the CBE JU, including the status of BIC membership, the BIC's Open Innovation competition, a new country report focusing on Hungary, and various other reports (e.g. the Biowaste study, the Biomass study and the Trends 2025 report). The BISC-E 2025 was also mentioned.

#### Eighth SRG meeting held on 9 October 2025

- ▶ SRG representatives re-elected Sari Tasa (Finland) as SRG Chair for a new and final two-year term and elected Ugnė Dirdaitė (Lithuania) as Vice Chair, following the completion of the double mandate of Fabio Fava (Italy).
- ▶ The SRG discussed the pre-final draft of the 2026 Annual Work Programme (second consultation) and provided advice, expressing an overall positive opinion.
- ▶ The SRG received updates and discussed the status of implementation of the CBE JU programme, including on progress towards the achievement of the CBE JU priorities for 2025 and the outlook for 2026. SRG members were provided with statistics on submissions to the 2025 call and updates on other CBE JU activities, including progress on deployment and working groups, the synergies strategy and the action plan to the widening strategy. In addition, the SRG also received information on the ongoing work to develop dashboards to visualise relevant information, such as policy hurdles encountered in projects, country statistics, and the impacts of the project portfolio.

- ▶ SRG members shared updates on national and regional policies and initiatives related to the CBE JU.
- ▶ The SRG received an update from the European Commission on policy initiatives relevant to the CBE JU, including the EU Startup and Scale up Strategy, the Life Sciences Strategy, the Circular Economy Act, the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, and the European Innovation Act. The European Commission also shared an overview of the first draft of the Horizon Europe programme for the period 2028–2034 (proposal published in July 2025), including its pillars, the link with the Competitiveness Fund and the vision for future partnerships.
- ▶ The SRG received updates from the BIC on activities relevant to the CBE JU, including membership growth and progress under its three pillars (Innovation and Scale-up, Access to Finance, and Policy Support). This included the Open Innovation Competition 2025, recent BIC reports (e.g. Biowaste, Biomass and Trends 2025), and key policy contributions, such as papers on the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy and the IPCEI on biotech/biomanufacturing, as well as the upcoming BISC-E.

## 3.6. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

### 3.6.1. SC membership

According to Articles 21 and 55 of the Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085, the Scientific Committee (SC) is one of the advisory bodies of the CBE JU. The CBE JU SC is composed of 15 independent experts, ensuring balanced representation of globally recognised experts from academia, industry, SMEs, non-governmental organisations and regulatory bodies. Collectively, SC members have the necessary scientific and technical expertise to provide science-based recommendations to the CBE JU<sup>35</sup>.

The SC is chaired by Mr. Kevin O'Connor, with Mr. Piergiuseppe Morone serving as Vice-chair. Following the SC renewal in April 2025, nine of the SC members are women (60 %) and six are men (40 %). More information on SC members can be found on the [CBE JU website](#).

### 3.6.2. SC mandate renewal and election of SC Chair and Vice-Chair

The SC members were appointed by the Governing Board on 4 March 2022, following the establishment of the CBE JU, for a three-year term, renewable once, in accordance with the SC Rules of Procedure.

The first SC mandate concluded in March 2025. Eleven SC members expressed their interest in continuing to be part of the SC, while four declined. Four new candidates were invited to join, selected from the SC reserve list adopted at the time of the selection.

During the 7<sup>th</sup> SC meeting on 1 April, the following changes in the SC composition were formalised:

- ▶ SC members Olivier Dubois, Christian Huyghe, Jozsef Popp and Gerhard Weiss left the SC and were thanked for their contributions during the last mandate.
- ▶ Newly selected SC members Arnaud Dragicevic, Sandra Krommes, Zane Vincevica-Gaile and Antonis Zorpas were welcomed to the SC.

The SC Chair and Vice-Chair were also elected at the SC meeting.

The Executive Director thanked the former SC Chair, Helena Vieira, for her leadership and contributions in this role. She expressed her gratitude and satisfaction for having acted as SC Chair and facilitating the key role of SC in providing advice on CBE JU's strategic programming documents.

Kevin O'Connor and Piergiuseppe Morone were unanimously elected as SC Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, having previously responded to the call for expressions of interest in these roles.

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<sup>35</sup> The list of SC members, including their background and expertise, can be found on the CBE JU website here: [Scientific Committee | Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking \(CBE JU\)](#).

### 3.6.3. Activities and achievements of the SC in 2025

The SC was consulted and provided valuable advice to the CBE JU Governing Board on the Multi-annual Programming (MAP) document and the AWP 2026 at various stages, via the programming documents consultations launched in April and September 2025, respectively.

In order to promote interaction and facilitate the communication between the two advisory bodies, the SC Chair attended both meetings of the SRG and presented the main discussion points and advice provided by SC members on the AWP 2026 and other strategic matters.

SC members were updated on BIC and the EC activities and initiatives relevant to the CBE JU, as well as on progress in implementing the CBE JU programme and the 2025 call, including the results of submissions and other relevant CBE JU activity updates.

SC members are also active ambassadors of the CBE JU programme. They disseminate relevant information about the CBE JU programme to networks, including academia, industry, research centres and international organisations, and promote their activities.

### 3.6.4. CBE JU SC meetings in 2025

The CBE JU Programme Office held two SC meetings, one on 1 April and one on 8 October 2025. The first meeting took place online and the second one was held in person in Brussels. The meetings were also attended by the Chair of the GB, the Chair of the SRG, the Executive Director of the CBE JU, the BIC, the European Commission (EC), and CBE JU Programme Office staff.

The main issues discussed at the two SC meetings are reported below.

#### Seventh SC meeting held on 1 April 2025

- ▶ The SC mandate was renewed and four new SC members were welcomed. Kevin O'Connor and Piergiuseppe Morone were elected as SC Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.
- ▶ The SC discussed and provided advice on the first draft of the 2025 AWP, including a preliminary list of topics.
- ▶ The SC received updates on the implementation of the CBE JU programme, including the main achievements presented in the draft 2024 AAR, and on the status and progress towards achieving the CBE JU priorities for 2025. In particular, the SC was informed of the progress made in establishing deployment and working groups, the implementation of the CBE JU's Widening Participation Strategy and its action plan, the newly signed grant agreements under the 2024 call, and updates on communication activities and dissemination materials, including information on the web-based CBE country dashboard.
- ▶ The European Commission provided updates on the latest policy initiative developments relevant to the CBE JU, including the Life Sciences Strategy, the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, and the Circular Economy Act.
- ▶ The BIC provided updates on activities relevant to the CBE JU, including the status of BIC membership, the BIC's Open Innovation Competition, a new country report focusing on Hungary, and various other reports (e.g. the Biowaste Study, the Biomass Study and the Trends 2025 Report). The BISC-E 2025 was also mentioned.

## Eighth SC meeting held on 8 October 2025

- ▶ The SC discussed and provided advice on the pre-final draft of the 2026 AWP (second consultation), expressing an overall positive opinion.
- ▶ The SC received updates and discussed the status of implementation of the CBE JU programme, including the progress towards achieving the CBE JU priorities for 2025 and the outlook for 2026. SC members were provided with about statistics on the submissions to the 2025 call and updates on other CBE JU activities, including progress on deployment and working groups, the Synergies Strategy, and the action plan to the Widening Strategy. The SC also received information on the development of dashboards to visualise relevant CBE JU programme information, such as policy hurdles encountered in projects, country statistics and impact of the project portfolio.
- ▶ The European Commission provided updates on policy initiatives relevant to the CBE JU, including the EU Startup and Scale up Strategy, the Life Sciences Strategy, the Circular Economy Act, the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, and the European Innovation Act. The European Commission also shared an overview of the first draft of the Horizon Europe programme for the period 2028–2034 (proposal published in July 2025), including its pillars, the link with the Competitiveness Fund and the vision for future partnerships.
- ▶ BIC informed SC members on activities relevant to the CBE JU, including membership growth and progress under its three pillars (Innovation and Scale-up, Access to Finance, and Policy Support). This included the Open Innovation Competition 2025, recent BIC reports (e.g. Biowaste, Biomass and Trends 2025), and key policy contributions, such as papers on the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy and the IPCEI on biotech/biomanufacturing, as well as the upcoming BISC-E.

## 3.7. DEPLOYMENT AND WORKING GROUPS

### 3.7.1. Deployment group on finance & investments

Work continued towards establishing the Deployment Group on Finance and Investments, The group, composed of the EC, BIC and CBE JU Programme Office, focused primarily on defining areas of interventions to overcome the investment 'valleys of death' identified by the study led by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and presented to the Governing Board in March 2025.

The study titled 'Scaling up Europe's bio-based industries' was made public by the EIB at the end of October 2025. It was referenced in the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy (COM(2025) 960), which mentions a Bioeconomy Investment Deployment Group to be convened by the European Commission as a means of accelerating investment mobilisation in the bio-based industries.

In April 2026, a scoping event was organised aimed at exploring the interest of financial institutions in joining the group.

### 3.7.2. Working group on primary producers

#### Purpose

The CBE JU Working Group on Primary Producers (WG PP) has been set up in accordance with Article 17(2)(x) of the Council Regulation establishing the Joint Undertakings.

The working group aims to address the challenges that primary producers face in adopting circular bio-based solutions and innovations, while ensuring that they benefit from participating in new, innovative circular and bio-based value chains. To this end, the working group has been mandated to prepare and implement an action plan, which will propose practical and actionable solutions to address key challenges, such as a lack of awareness, limited integration into value chains and the technical and financial risks associated with adopting circular bio-based innovations.

#### Membership

The working group<sup>36</sup> is made up of 79 stakeholders from different regions, representing the primary sectors of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture who are appointed by the Governing Board for their commitment and expertise. John Brosnan, Bioeconomy Executive for the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society (ICOS), chairs the working group, and his role is supported by five Vice-Chairs representing different primary sectors and regions of Europe.

The entities represented in the working group include primary producers, primary producer cooperatives, and other types of entities closely associated with them, such as primary producers associations, primary producer networks, advisory services for primary producers, etc.

The RootLinks<sup>37</sup> project supports the group's mandate by facilitating their work, strengthening communication, and turning ideas into action.

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<sup>36</sup> The full list of working group members, including the names and affiliations of the Chair and Vice-Chairs, is available on the CBE JU website: [Working group on primary producers](#) | [Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking \(CBE JU\)](#).

<sup>37</sup> [RootLinks project](#) and [RootLinks webpage](#)

A Strategic Committee, comprising the EC, BIC and the CBE Programme Office, steers the working group's activities and provides strategic advice, ensuring they remain aligned with the group's mandate and that the working group successfully achieves its objectives.

## Progress and achievements in 2025

- ▶ Finalisation of the conceptual design of the working group, including the Governing Board's decision in January 2025 on the process and criteria for establishing the working group.
- ▶ Publication of the call for expressions of interest to join the working group, with a first cut-off date of 28 February 2025.
- ▶ Appointment of the first members of the working group by the Governing Board in April 2025.
- ▶ Signature of the Grant Agreement with the RootLinks project on 1 April 2025, ensuring that the supporting mechanism for the working group was in place ahead of its establishment.
- ▶ The Working Group on Primary Producers was formally established on 11 June 2025 at its inaugural meeting in Warsaw, Poland. The meeting was held alongside an event organised under the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU. During this meeting, the governance structure was agreed and put in place, and a chair and deputy chairs were elected.
- ▶ Publication (15 September 2025) of a second cut-off date for expressions of interest to expand the working group, focusing on targeting primary sectors (e.g. aquatic and forestry) and geographical areas (primary producers from Central and Eastern European countries) with lower level of representation following the first cut-off date.
- ▶ Delivery of the first draft action plan which was shared with the Strategic Committee by December 2025.

## 4. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROL

This section presents the results of controls and other relevant information supporting the management's assurance on the achievement of the financial management and internal control objectives. It provides the necessary information to confirm that available evidence is complete, reliable and comprehensive. It reports on the performance of the internal control and management systems covering all activities, programmes and management modes relevant to the CBE JU. In addition, it describes the internal control and risk management systems in place and includes an assessment of their effectiveness in terms of compliance, efficiency and effectiveness.

Assurance is provided following an assessment of the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

This review is carried out both by management, which monitor the functioning of the internal control systems on a continuous basis, and internal and external auditors. The results are documented in the annual assessment of the internal control framework and reported to the Executive Director of the CBE JU. The reports used in the assessment are listed in Annex 5.13.

These reports are the result of a systematic analysis of all available evidence. This approach provides sufficient guarantees as to the completeness and reliability of the reported information and results, ensuring full coverage of the budget under the accountability of the Executive Director of the CBE JU. The budget of CBE JU comprises different categories of expenditure, namely staff and other administrative costs and grant management costs.

The CBE JU operates within a largely corporate grant management control environment. The results reported in the following sections are the outcome of controls designed primarily by the Common Implementation Centre within the European Commission (CIC), which is responsible for the control system of the R&I framework programmes. The CBE JU actively participates in the various governance structures put in place by the CIC, contributing to the development and improvement of the common legal framework, business processes and IT tools. For staff expenses and other administrative costs, CBE JU uses exclusively the EC accounting system (ABAC for financial operations in 2025 and SUMMA in 2026) and the eTendering and eProcurement solutions provided at corporate level for public procurement procedures.

CBE JU has adopted and regularly updates a financial procedures manual, which describes the financial processes involved in budget execution. These cover all financial operations, taking into account the lean structure of CBE JU, the risks associated with the management environment and the nature of the financial operations. They have been established to standardise the mandatory steps in the processing of financial transactions and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the different actors, including the controls they carry out.

However, certain control activities carried out in CBE JU cannot be fully captured by quantitative indicators, despite their significant contribution to the overall benefits of programme implementation or the centralised support delivered to the Commission services. These activities include feedback for joint policy making, process improvement, information and communication, and the dissemination and exploitation of the project results.

## 4.1. RESULTS OF CONTROLS

This section reports on and assesses the elements identified by management to provide assurance on the achievement of the following internal control objectives: (1) effectiveness, efficiency and economy of operations; (2) reliability of reporting; (3) safeguarding of assets and information; (4) prevention, detection, correction and follow-up of fraud and irregularities; and (5) adequate management of the risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, taking into account the multiannual nature of programmes and the nature of the payments concerned.

### 4.1.1. Effectiveness of controls

The results of the controls on the legality and regularity of transactions, the prevention of fraud and the safeguarding of assets are set out below.

#### Legality and regularity of financial transactions

The CBE JU applies internal control procedures to ensure the adequate management of the risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions it for which it is responsible, taking into account the multiannual nature of programmes and the nature of the payments concerned.

The results of the controls carried out are measured by means of *ex post* audits of transactions from the operational budget of the CBE JU.

*Ex post* controls on operational expenditure are carried out in accordance with the Horizon 2020 audit strategy, which is risk-based and builds on the lessons learned from Horizon 2020. The CIC has developed these audit strategies in co-operation with all its clients – the European Commission services, the executive agencies and the joint undertakings.

The main objective of the audit strategies is to provide the individual authorising officers with the necessary elements of assurance in a timely manner to enable them to report on the budget expenditure for which they are responsible. Ex-post controls on operational expenditure contribute in particular to:

- ▶ assessing the legality and regularity of expenditure on a multiannual basis;
- ▶ providing an indication of the effectiveness of the related *ex ante* controls;
- ▶ providing the basis for corrective and recovery mechanisms, where appropriate.

The Common Audit Service within the European Commission (CAS) is a CIC service serving all Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe stakeholders in the implementation of the audit strategy. Its mission is to deliver a corporate approach throughout the audit cycle: audit selection, planning, application of rules, relations with beneficiaries and management information on the audit process.

The CBE JU is effectively integrated into this control chain. It participates in the audit process definition and in the monitoring of its implementation in continuous collaboration with the CAS and its clients. The main objectives of this co-operation are to align operations and exploit synergies in the joint audit effort. The efficiency gains should reduce the audit costs and the administrative burden on auditees, in line with the specific objectives for *ex post* controls set out above.

In conclusion, as in previous years, the CBE JU believes that the expenditure incurred under the Horizon 2020 programme in 2025 does not warrant a reservation.

### **Horizon 2020 programme**

The representative detected error rate calculated by the CBE JU for year 2025 is 1.62% (3.83 % calculated by the Common Audit Service (CAS) for the whole Horizon 2020 programme). The residual error rate calculated by the CBE JU for the year 2025 is 1.11 % (1.78 % calculated by the Common Audit Service (CAS) for the entire Horizon 2020 programme).

The methodology used to calculate the error rates for the CBE JU is described in Annex 5.11 'Materiality criteria'. The calculations of the overall error rates for Horizon 2020 are detailed in the European Commission's Annual Activity Report.

The results of these controls are intended to contribute to the achievement of the multi-annual targets for detected errors in expenditure incurred under the Horizon 2020 programme. The expectations set out of the Horizon 2020 framework programme are the same as those set out in the legislative proposal for the BBI JU. According to these expectations, the error rate should be between 2 % and 5 % on an annual basis, with the ultimate aim of achieving a residual error level as close as possible to 2 % at the closure of the multi-annual programme<sup>38</sup>.

### **Horizon Europe programme**

In the CBE JU, the Horizon Europe payment population remains limited in 2025 and the first ex-post audits are still ongoing. Therefore, no error rates are available for Horizon Europe for 2025 as the ex-post audit campaign for this framework programme was planned for the beginning of 2024 for transactions within the scope of such campaigns from 2025 onwards.

Regarding Horizon Europe, the cumulative detected Representative Error Rate is -4.38 % and the Residual Error Rate is -4.05 %.

DG RTD reported an overall reservation on the Horizon Europe Framework Programme (including Euratom), stating that 'at the end of 2025, the residual error rate is significantly above the 2 % materiality threshold envisaged for the multi-annual period'.

## **Fraud prevention, detection and correction**

A common anti-fraud strategy has been put in place in the Research and Innovation Family (RAFS), covering the prevention and detection of potential fraud and the conditions for its investigation. The strategy is proportionate to the level of risk and the nature and magnitude of the fraud identified. The strategy has been developed and implemented in cooperation with the Fraud and Irregularities in Research Committee (FAIR), which brings together the European

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<sup>38</sup> Legislative Financial Statement as part of the 2011 Commission proposal for the Regulation on Horizon 2020 (COM/2011/809) of 30 November 2011, pages 98-102, as recalled in the Commission proposal for the Regulation on the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (COM/2013/496) of 10 July 2014, pages 34-36.

Commission's services, and the executive agencies and joint undertakings implementing the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe framework programmes.

CBE JU staff are continuously updated on how to identify fraud risks and are equipped with the necessary tools to prevent, detect and report suspicious cases. The Learning and Development Framework requires mandatory fraud awareness, prevention and detection training to be included in the training maps of all staff involved in financial transactions.

The JU Programme Office has designated a liaison officer responsible for managing all activities relating to fraud reporting to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). The officer will provide support in OLAF's investigations, follow up on recommendations and co-operate on fraud prevention.

In December 2021, the FAIR agreed on a set of mandatory common indicators to measure and monitor the overall performance of the RAFS:

Indicator	2025 result
Number of new cases sent to OLAF and opened in the year, and cases handled by OLAF relevant to the granting authority in a given year	0
Number of OLAF financial recommendations received in a given year	1
Internal awareness-raising actions (e.g. training events)	1
Cooperation with stakeholders, such as participation in the FAIR Committee, etc.	2

Table 39 Overall performance of the RAFS.

In 2025, no new OLAF investigations were notified to the CBE JU and one new recommendation was received. Internal awareness training was provided to staff, and the CBE JU participated in two FAIR meetings and in the adoption of the 2025 RAFS update.

In conclusion, no matters have arisen that could impact the Authorising Officer's assurance as outlined in section 4.5.2 below.

## Assets and information, reliability of reporting

In 2025, the following controls were performed to monitor and safeguard the assets and information, and the reliability of reporting in the JU:

- The Accounting Officer conducted their annual evaluation of the local financial systems of the CBE JU. The evaluation methodology was adapted in 2023 to take into account the results of previous years' evaluations. This involved reviewing available information on the follow-up conducted on the 2024 evaluation, analysing a sample of the operations authorised during the financial year 2025, and examining key performance indicators. The evaluation did not identify any internal control weaknesses that would have a material impact on the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of the information required to draft the annual accounts and produce reliable reports.
- Lastly, the Management Representation Letter issued by the CBE JU's Authorising Officer and Accounting Officer on the 2025 Provisional Accounts did not contain any reservations in respect of the opinion that they present fairly, in all material respects, the financial

position of the CBE JU, the results of its operations, its cash flows, and the changes in its net assets as at 31 December 2025.

Overall, no material issues and/or weakness in the internal control system were identified in 2025. The JU has reasonable assurance regarding the effectiveness of controls put in place to safeguard assets and ensure the reliability of reporting.

#### 4.1.2. Efficiency of controls ('Time to')

The efficiency indicators set out in the Financial Regulation<sup>39</sup> are 'Time to Pay' (TTP), 'Time to Inform' (TTI) and 'Time to Grant' (TTG).

- ▶ The TTG for the 2025 call was achieved at 100 %.
- ▶ For operational expenditure, all 43 interim and final cost claims validated in 2025 were paid on time, with an average TTP of 71 days for interim payments and 72 days for final payments.
- ▶ The TTP for administrative payments showed that delays occurred in 109 (15 %) of the 711 payments made. The average TTP was 21 days, including late payments. No late interest was due.

#### 4.1.3. Economy of controls

For a programme-implementing organisation such as the CBE JU, the assessment of the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of controls focuses on yearly activities related to the management of the annual budget. This includes both the operational and financial facets of operations.

**The cost-effectiveness of controls** compares the benefits of controls with their costs. The quantification of the benefits of controls reflects the cumulative value of corrections applied to cost claims that were reviewed and processed by the organisation during the year. However, other benefits of controls are not included in the calculation, such as *ex ante* monitoring and communication activities resulting in fewer corrections being made and the deterrent effect of controls on fraud or conflicts of interest.

**The cost-efficiency of controls** is determined by comparing the cost of controls with the resulting operational performance of the organisation. Recognising that reducing controls may lower their costs and speed up processes but may also increase the risk of error (and vice versa), the most relevant KPIs of the above-mentioned control results are Time to Pay of underlying cost claims and the residual error rate detected by ex-post controls on operational expenditure.

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<sup>39</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

#### 4.1.4. Conclusion on the cost-effectiveness of controls

Overall, the controls put in place by the CBE JU have effectively achieved their objectives, safeguarding the JU's assets and ensuring the accuracy and reliability of data and the legality and regularity of the underlying financial transactions.

The results of the CBE JU for 2025, presented in the table below, warrant the conclusion that the controls performed on financial transactions:

- ▶ were cost-effective, as the benefits of the controls were greater than the costs;
- ▶ were cost-efficient, as the organisation achieved a high operational performance in the execution of payments with a relatively low cost of controls (0.68 % of the yearly expenditure) and kept the residual error rates on operational expenditure below 2 %.

2025 payments (in EUR)	96 249 872
<b>Estimated costs of controls (in EUR)</b>	<b>649 846</b>
<i>As a % of yearly expenditure</i>	<i>0.68</i>
<b>Benefits of controls (in EUR) <sup>40</sup></b>	<b>2 381 143</b>
<i>As a % of yearly expenditure</i>	<i>2.47</i>
<i>% Administrative payments on time</i>	<i>85</i>
<i>% Operational payments on time</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>% Residual error rate on operational expenditure</i>	<i>1.11</i>

Table 40 Results of the 2025 assessment of cost-effectiveness and cost-efficiency of controls.

<sup>40</sup> The table includes the ex-post audits.

## 4.2. AUDIT OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section sets out briefly the state of play for all audit observations and recommendations reported by auditors, relating either to performance aspects or internal control and financial management. Further details for Internal Audit Service (IAS) and European Court of Auditors (ECA) audits can be found in Annex 13.

Where an audit has detected weaknesses affecting an internal control principle or the JU's assurance, a detailed analysis is provided in section 4.3 below. Where applicable, the impact on the AOD's assurance is presented in section 4.4.

In 2025, the CBE JU did not identify any material issues and/or weaknesses affecting the internal control system with an impact on the AO's assurance.

### 4.2.1. Internal audit

The Internal Audit Service (IAS) of the European Commission carries out the internal audit function for the CBE JU.

The IAS also updated the risk assessment of CBE JU's operations for its 2025 audit plan. The IAS audit of the CBE JU is guided by the Strategic Internal Audit Plan, which is based on the in-depth risk assessment conducted in 2023. The plan covers the period from 2024 to 2026 and is updated on an annual basis.

### 4.2.2. Audit by the European Court of Auditors

In 2025, the ECA audited the CBE JU's accounts<sup>41</sup> for 2024. In the final audit report, the ECA provides an unqualified opinion on the reliability of the accounts of all JUs.

Chapter 2 of the report sets out an overview of the results for all JUs in FY 2024. In that chapter, the ECA makes recommendations addressed at all JUs.

In particular, the ECA audited:

- a) the accounts of the CBE, which comprise the financial statements and the reports on the implementation of the budget for the financial year ended 31 December 2024, and
- b) the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying those accounts.

The conclusion for 2024 is that CBE's accounts present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as at 31 December 2024, the results of its operations, its cash flows and the changes in net assets for the year then ended in accordance with its financial regulation and the accounting rules adopted by the Commission's accounting officer. The revenue and the payments underlying the CBE's accounts for the year 2024 is legal and regular in all material respects.

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<sup>41</sup> Annual report on EU joint undertakings for the 2024 financial year.

In Chapter 3, which is specific to the CBE JU, the ECA provides observations regarding on budgetary management and on the legality and regularity of transactions. The ECA noted that the CBE JU had closed one of the previous observations while two were still open.







In 2025, as in previous reporting years, no critical recommendations or findings were reported by the ECA for the CBE JU. In the Annual Report on EU Joint Undertakings for FY 2024, the ECA gave unqualified opinions on the reliability of JU's accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions. Some actions listed in the ECA report published in 2025 are ongoing.

Findings remaining from former ECA reports are disclosed in the table below (see also Annex 13).

In 2024, the Baker Tilly EU external audit team was engaged for two years (2024 and 2025) to conduct audits of the financial years concerned. The objective was to obtain reasonable assurance and form an opinion on the reliability of the provisional and final annual accounts.

In March 2025, the Baker Tilly EU external audit team concluded that the CBE JU accounts were reliable and fairly stated, with no significant general findings identified or material observations made.

In January 2026, the Baker Tilly EU external audit team launched a new audit of the CBE JU's 2025 Annual Accounts, while the ECA launched an audit on CBE JU's 2025 budget revenues.

Reported	Audit title	JUs	Accepted recommendation	State of play in 2025	Impact on the assurance for 2025
2021	Annual report on EU joint undertakings for the 2024 financial year	All JUs except F4E	JUs should implement a time-recording system to obtain objective data on staff time spent on each activity.		
	Annual report on EU joint undertakings for the 2024 financial year	All JUs except F4E	JUs should develop a formalised model or guidance on how to estimate staff needs (including essential competences) for each activity and unit, with the objective of optimising the use of staff resources.		
2022	Annual report on EU joint undertakings for the 2024 financial year	All JUs except F4E, EU-Rail, CA, IHI, the Chips JU	Under Horizon Europe, all JUs should implement a risk-based approach to grant management that covers the main grant management phases from preparation to payment. In this context, JUs should in particular ensure that: (a) potentially risky		












Reported	Audit title	JUs	Accepted recommendation	State of play in 2025	Impact on the assurance for 2025
			beneficiaries and projects are subject to intensified ex ante controls or ex post audits; and (b) important ex post audit results are duly considered in the risk assessment for future ex ante controls.		
2021, 2022, 2023	Annual report on EU joint undertakings for the 2024 financial year	CBE JU	Upward revision of the Horizon 2020 target regarding private members' in-kind contributions to additional activities to compensate for the reduction in their indicative target for in-kind contributions to the JU's operational activities.		
2023	Annual report on EU joint undertakings for the 2024 financial year	CBE JU	Business continuity plan (BCP) and disaster recovery plan (DRP) out of date.		

Table 41 ECA Audit recommendations

State of play		Assurance	
	Action plan implemented		No impact on the assurance
	Action plan implementation is ongoing		Impact on the assurance
	Preparation of the action plan		

### 4.2.3. Audit by the Internal Audit Service (IAS)

In January 2025, the Internal Audit Service launched the following audits:

-  Audit of the establishment of back-office arrangements (this is relevant to the CBE JU as it leads the BOA HR). In October 2025, the IAS initiated the fieldwork phase;
-  Audit of the management of in-kind contributions (design under Horizon Europe) in the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), the CBE JU, the CA JU, and the SESAR 3 JU). The final audit report was published in December 2025. The IAS concluded that the governance, risk management and control framework for in-kind contributions to operational activities (IKOP) is adequately designed and effectively implemented. It nevertheless identified opportunities to further improve the planning, reporting and oversight of in-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA), with a particular focus on plans, reports and implementation monitoring, with the objective of

enhancing compliance with the applicable regulatory framework. The audit report acknowledges the ongoing efforts undertaken by the CBE JU to establish a robust framework for the management of IKAA under Horizon Europe. In this context, the CBE JU implemented key measures to reinforce governance, risk management and controls during 2025, including the establishment of a dedicated team responsible for IKAA management and the development and publication of IKAA management guidelines, made available to private members on the CBE JU website. In mid-2025, the CBE JU initiated a catch-up exercise regarding the IKAA planning and reporting of the previous calls, which is expected to be completed by Q12026 leading to an update of the IKAA plan in the first amendment of the Annual Work Plan 2026. The catch-up exercise regarding the reporting of IKAA will start in Q22026. In parallel, the IKAA planning of call 2025 will be implemented during the Grant Agreement Preparation according to the published guidelines.

#### Internal Audit Service







Reported	Audit title	Accepted recommendation (very important)	State of play in 2025	Impact on the assurance for 2025
2025	Management of in-kind contributions under Horizon Europe	Process to Handle 'Ikaa Plans'		
		Process to Handle 'Ikaa Reports'		
		Monitoring of in-Kind Contributions		

Table 42 IAS Audit recommendations

State of play		Assurance	
	Action plan implemented or awaiting review from IAS		No impact on the assurance
	Action plan implementation is ongoing		Impact on the assurance
	Preparation of the action plan		

The CBE JU has addressed the identified weaknesses relating to in-kind contribution management by implementing a dedicated action plan, which was shared and agreed with the IAS. All audit recommendations are being regularly followed up and are expected to be fully implemented by June 2026.

## 4.2.4. Overall conclusions

In conclusion, in 2025 all IAS recommendations were addressed with a detailed action plan, which was closely monitored. In its audit of the Annual Report on EU Joint Undertakings for the financial year 2024, the ECA gave an unqualified opinion on the reliability of JU's accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

All conclusions of the internal and external audit work provided assurance to the Executive Director and the Governing Board on the compliance, effectiveness and efficiency of the internal control framework implemented by the CBE JU. The work of the auditors and the follow-up actions to the audit recommendations taken by the CBE JU form part of the evidence base used to assess the effectiveness of the JU's internal control systems as reported in section 4.3 and the management's conclusions on assurance set out in the section 4.4.

### 4.3. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL (IC) SYSTEMS

The Commission has adopted an Internal Control Framework based on the highest international standards, i.e. the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) Internal Control Integrated Framework, the golden standard for internal control systems. The CBE JU has adapted the Internal Control Framework to its specific characteristics and organisational structure. The internal control systems are suited to achieving its policy and internal control objectives in accordance with the internal control principles, having due regard to the risks associated with the environment in which it operates.

CBE JU has assessed its internal control system during the reporting year and has concluded that:

it is effective and the components and principles are present and functioning well overall, but some improvements are needed as minor deficiencies were identified related to component 3 and 4. The identified deficiencies do not have an impact on the assurance.

The internal control framework of the CBE JU is based on 17 control principles. It is aligned with the Commission's control framework and has been in force since 1 January 2020. All the principles of the new control model are embedded throughout the organisational structure of the CBE JU and are based on a combination of ex-ante and ex-post controls, segregation of duties, documented processes and procedures, control of deviations, and promotion of ethical behaviour.

In this context, the Executive Director steers and oversees the management of risk and internal control management, supported by the Internal Control and Audit Officer and the members of the management team, which reviews the robustness of reporting on operational performance. The CBE JU staff at all levels ensure the proper implementation of the internal control framework through clearly defined roles, accountability, objectives and performance evaluation mechanisms.

The results of the 2025 Internal Control Framework assessment confirm that the CBE JU's control systems are in place and functioning effectively. At the level of principles, the self-assessment of the combined impact of the detected strengths and weaknesses provided reasonable assurance as to the presence and effective functioning of all 17 principles. Some minor deficiencies were identified, which did not affect the effectiveness of the integrated internal control systems. Rather, they provided an opportunity to establish an action plan for 2026, aiming to enhance their effectiveness and strengthen the cross-reliance of the relevant systems.

As a result, all five components of internal control are considered to be in place and operating reasonably well in an integrated manner.

1. The control environment component, which provides the basis for the implementation of internal controls throughout the organisation, has not been found to have any significant weaknesses and all underlying principles are found to be fully in place and effective.
2. The risk assessment component is a dynamic and iterative process for identifying and assessing risks that could prevent the achievement of objectives and determining how such risks should be managed. No weaknesses were identified in this component and all underlying principles were found to be in place and effective.

3. For the control activities component, which ensures the mitigation of risks related to the achievement of objectives, no critical weaknesses were identified, and all underlying principles were found to be fully in place and effective. A moderate case concerning testing of business continuity arrangements for the JUs based in the same building will be addressed in 2026 and a closer monitoring of the indicators related to the payment process and administrative budget consumption will be further enhance.
4. The information and communication component ensures that the information necessary for internal control and evidence of the achievement of objectives is available. A moderate case of incomplete adherence to the CAAR corporate template concerning the in kind contribution management (planning and reporting) was identified. However, following the closing of the catch-up exercise CBE JU will fully comply with the AAR corporate template requirements. No other weaknesses have been identified for this component and all underlying principles were found to be fully in place and effective.
5. The monitoring activities component is in place and functioning well: continuous and specific assessments are used to ascertain whether each of the five components of internal control is in place and functioning. Continuous assessments, built into business processes at different levels of the organisation, provide timely information on deficiencies. Findings are evaluated and deficiencies are flagged up and corrected in a timely manner, with serious matters reported as appropriate.

#### 4.3.1. Continuous monitoring

Management structures are comprehensive. The design and implementation of management and control structures cover all programmes and activities. Specifically on spending programmes, they cover all expenditure types, delivery mechanisms and budget management and support the CBE JU in achieving its policy, operational and control objectives.

The CBE JU continuously monitors the performance of the internal control system through a number of indicators. For operational expenditure, this monitoring is built into the e-grants suite of IT tools and reports can be generated at any time with real-time information on operational performance. The information systems (SyGMa) and workflows (COMPASS) ensure that transaction processes are recorded in the IT accounting system (ABAC in 2025 and as from January 2026 in SUMMA) with a high degree of automation, that controls are embedded in each workflow, that assessments, deviations and formal notifications are registered, and that documents are kept on file (ARES).

Staff performing assessments in regular workflows or in specific assessments have good knowledge of control requirements and objectives. Operational and financial staff have received specific corporate training (preparing and signing grant agreements, reporting and payments, project monitoring, amendments, fraud prevention in the research family, and other relevant topics) and the CBE JU organises internal workshops on financial or operational matters as required.

The CBE JU regularly convenes governance bodies, management and staff meetings with agendas that include reports on the implementation of previously agreed action plans and discussions of emerging business.

Where there are indications that a specific risk is emerging in a process, or the results of ongoing controls results show a sudden drop in performance in a particular area, managers may take direct action (specific assessments) to identify the root causes of the risk/underperformance/inefficiency and plan corrective action.

There is a procedure for reporting and assessing exceptions, non-compliance and internal control weaknesses and it is implemented when relevant. The resulting assessments and remedial action plans are submitted to the Authorising Officer for approval and entered in a register.

The Head of the Internal Control and Audit monitors and reports on the timely implementation of action plans, either documented or resulting from audit recommendations.

### **4.3.2. Risk assessment and management**

Risk management adds value to the organisation by supporting it efficiently and effectively in achieving its objectives. Its effectiveness is regularly assessed as an integral component of the internal control system of the organisation (see section 4.3 above). The level of resources devoted to it and the amount of documentation produced are adequate and proportionate to the criticality of the activities concerned. Management across the JU Programme Office is promptly alerted to emerging risks. In addition, the Governing Board is notified of risks in a timely manner, enabling it to discuss and agree appropriate responses.

The effective management of risks throughout 2025 is detailed in section 1.1.3.

At the end of 2025, the CBE JU conducted a risk assessment exercise on the achievement of the objectives described in this work programme for 2025. The assessment evaluated the root causes of each identified risk and its potential consequences, taking into account the controls in place and the convergences and interdependencies between risks. This process is documented in the internal risk register, which includes a description of the response plans, specifying the party responsible for each action and the individual deadlines. Relevant information is disclosed in the CBE JU Annual Work Programme 2025, section 2.2.1.

### **4.3.3. Prevention of conflicts of interest**

The JU Programme Office has developed a comprehensive set of rules and procedures that are effectively implemented across its entire governance structure as follows:

- ▶ Upon joining the team of the JU Programme Office, each staff member agrees to the application of the Staff Regulations and signs a declaration of honour on the management of conflicts of interest.
- ▶ All staff members receive a copy of the Code of Good Administrative Behaviour. There is also mandatory training on managing conflicts of interest and whistleblowing as part of the Learning and Development Framework of the CBE JU.
- ▶ Conflict of interest procedures are in place for the members of both the Governing Board and the Advisory Boards (States Representative Group and Scientific Committee) of the CBE JU. In addition to the general rules on conflict of interest set out in the rules of procedure of each Joint Undertaking, Decision 13/17 of the Governing Board of 13

December 2017 contains specific rules on the prevention and management of conflicts of interest applicable to the bodies of the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking. Specific measures have been put in place to prevent and manage conflicts of interest of experts in charge of reviewing projects and tenders.

In 2025, these control systems operated effectively and there are no matters to report that can affect the reasonable assurance to be provided by the Authorising Officer in section 4.5.2 below.

#### 4.4. CONCLUSION OF ASSURANCE

Based on the elements reported in section 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3, the weaknesses were promptly identified and assessed, resulting in not impairing the assurance that CEB JU has legally and regularly reached its objectives, soundly managing resources, without omitting any significant information and giving a true and fair view of its performance.

In conclusion, based on the elements reported above, management has reasonable assurance that, overall, effective controls are in place and working as intended; risks are being appropriately monitored and mitigated; and necessary improvements and reinforcements are being implemented. The Executive Director, in his capacity as Authorising Officer by Delegation has signed the Declaration of Assurance.

## 4.5. STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

### 4.5.1. Assessment of the Annual Activity Report by the Governing Board

On 25 March 2026, the Governing Board of the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) established a working group to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the 2025 Annual Activity Report (AAR 2025). The CBE Programme Office submitted the draft report to the Governing Board on 30 March 2026, and during its meeting on 25 June 2026, the working group presented its findings in accordance with Article 16 of the Governing Board's Rules of Procedure.

#### Analysis by the Working Group

The AAR 2025 provides a thorough and accurate account of progress made towards the objectives outlined in the 2025 Annual Work Plan (AWP), adopted on 12 December 2024. The report highlights record engagement, strategic advancements, and operational success, as detailed below.

**The CBE JU continues to attract strong and diverse participation, particularly from SMEs and widening countries, demonstrating the effectiveness of its Widening Participation Strategy:**

- ▶ The 2025 Call for Proposals received a record 240 eligible submissions, requesting over €1.4 billion in funding.
- ▶ 45% of applicants were newcomers, reinforcing the programme's attractiveness and openness.
- ▶ SME participation reached 34%, while engagement from widening countries increased significantly, reflecting successful outreach efforts supported by the widening participation strategy.

**The CBE JU project portfolio continues to drive the transition towards a circular bio-based economy, with notable developments in feedstock diversification, technological innovation, and market applications:**

- ▶ By the end of 2025, the BBI/CBE JU supported 220 projects (132 completed, 88 ongoing).
- ▶ Agri-food and forest-based feedstocks remain dominant (over 80% of projects), but there is a growing use of aquatic and waste streams, with biogenic gaseous CO<sub>2</sub> emerging as a potential future feedstock.
- ▶ Packaging remains the most represented sector, followed by cosmetics & home care, food & feed, construction, and agriculture.
- ▶ Projects cover a broad range of Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), accelerating market-readiness while fostering a pipeline for future innovation.

**The Widening Participation Strategy (2023) and Synergies Strategy (2025) enhance the impact and reach of the CBE JU:**

- ▶ Substantial increases in participation from widening countries were observed in info days and proposal consortia. The 2025–2027 Widening Action Plan identifies country-specific needs, aiming to further boost engagement from underrepresented EU regions.
- ▶ The Synergies Strategy will facilitate coordination between EU, national, and regional funding to support the scaling of industrial projects.

**The Working Group on Primary Producers was officially established and made significant progress:**

- ▶ This includes the timely achievement of key milestones: the finalisation of the working group's concept and criteria (January), launch a call for members (February), and appointment of the first members (April). The group was formally established on 11 June in Warsaw, where its governance (including Chair and Vice-Chairs) was finalised, supported by the RootLinks Grant Agreement (signed 1 April).
- ▶ A first draft action plan was shared with the European Commission and BIC by December 2025.

**The steps towards establishing a Deployment Group on Finance and Investments advanced significantly, supported by political endorsement:**

- ▶ Focused on addressing investment gaps (the "valleys of death") identified by the European Investment Bank (EIB), with findings presented to the Governing Board in March 2026 and published in October 2026.
- ▶ The new EU Bioeconomy Strategy (COM(2025) 960) references a Bioeconomy Investment Deployment Group, giving strong political impetus to the ongoing establishment of the Deployment Group under the CBE JU.

**Key indicators show progress and performance:**

- ▶ BBI JU legacy projects (6 remaining) have exceeded initial KPI targets for project outputs.
- ▶ CBE JU-specific KPIs are progressing as expected, considering that projects only started from 2022.
- ▶ Horizon Europe (HE) Common JU KPIs and HE Key Impact Pathways (KIPs) show early-stage progress, with some data still pending due to the recent start dates of projects.

**Since the beginning of the partnership, the EU's and BIC's contribution to the CBE JU are in line with the commitments set out in the Council Regulation.**

- ▶ Administrative cost contributions from the EU and BIC totalled EUR 11 883 822 (*EUR 5 966 911 EU and EUR 5 916 911 BIC*). EUR 50 000 from BIC's contribution was transferred at the beginning of 2026).
- ▶ The EU's contribution towards operational costs was EUR 398 997 401
- ▶ BIC and its constituents reported a planned IKOP and IKA of 612 696 788 EUR, currently under validation and certification.

**The partnership has demonstrated a successful leverage effect.**

- ▶ BBI JU projects achieved a leverage effect of €3.65 for every €1 of EU funding, surpassing the original target.

### **The implementation aspects of the programme continue to be appropriately managed.**

- ▶ High operational standards were maintained, evidenced by the efficient implementation of Call 2025, grant signatures and payments.
- ▶ Communication activities showcase the partnership and funded projects. Among others, the yearly successful organisation of the info day contributes to increase participation to the open call including newcomers and participants from widening countries.
- ▶ The report identifies operational risks, confirms proper resource utilisation, and demonstrates the efficiency of internal controls.
- ▶ Audit findings were addressed with appropriate action plans, ensuring compliance with the programme office's control framework.

## **Governing Board conclusion and recommendations**

Based on the working group's assessment, the Executive Director's declaration of assurance, and the evidence presented in the AAR 2025, the Governing Board concludes that:

- ▶ The 2025 key objectives were successfully met, in full compliance with principles of legality and sound financial management.
- ▶ The CBE JU is commended for its outstanding performance in 2025 and encouraged to maintain its high standards of excellence.

The Board particularly acknowledges the major achievement of developing of the CBE JU-specific KPIs dashboard, providing valuable insights into partnership progress.

While recognising the strong performance, the Governing Board recommends that the CBE JU:

- ▶ Implement the Internal Audit Service (IAS) recommendations on in-kind contribution (IKAA) planning and reporting.
- ▶ Finalise the establishment of the Deployment Group on Finance and Investments to accelerate investment mobilisation.
- ▶ Enhance communication on progress related to Common JU KPIs and HE KIPs, particularly for medium- to long-term impact.

## 4.5.2. Declaration of assurance



 Ref. Area(2026)5013365 - 02/06/2026

### Declaration of Assurance of the Authorising Officer

*I, the undersigned, Nicolo Giacomuzzi-Moore, Executive Director of the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU), in my capacity as authorising officer:*

- *Declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view<sup>1</sup>.*
- *State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.*

*This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, such as the results of the self-assessment, ex-post controls, the work of the Internal Audit Service and the lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors for years prior to the year of this declaration.*

- *Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the institution CBE JU.*

Place: Brussels

Signed in ARES

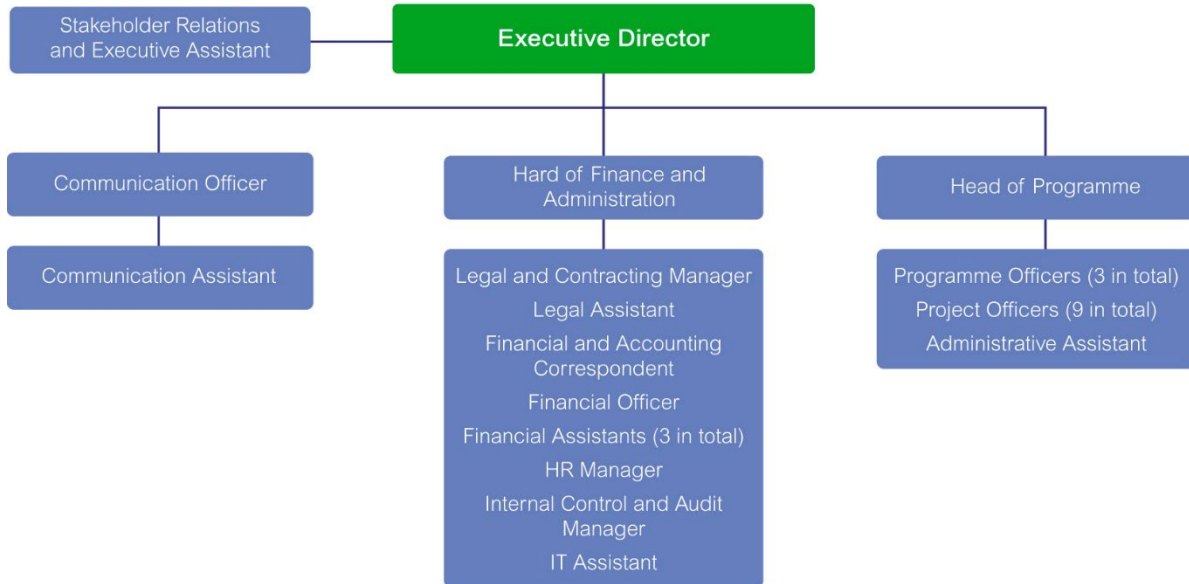
Nicolo GIACOMUZZI-MOORE  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> True and fair in this context means a reliable, complete and correct view on the state of affairs in the JU

## 5. ANNEXES

### 5.1. ORGANISATIONAL CHART



## 5.2. ESTABLISHMENT PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HR MANAGEMENT

Function group and grade	2024				2025				
	Authorised			Actually filled as of 31/12/2024		Authorised		Actually filled as of 31/12/2025	
	Perm.	Temp.		Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.
AD 16									
AD 15									
AD 14		1		1			1		1
AD 13		1							
AD 12		1					1		1
AD 11				2			1		1
AD 10		2		2			2		1
AD 9		3		3			4		3
AD 8		2		1					
AD 7				1			1		2
10AD 6									
AD 5									1
<b>TOTAL AD</b>		10		10		10		10	
AST 11									
AST10									
AST 9									
AST 8									
AST 7									
AST 6									
AST 5		1		1			1		1
AST 4		1		1			1		1
AST 3		1		1			1		1
AST 2									
AST 1									
<b>TOTAL AST</b>		3		3		3		3	
AST/SC 6									
AST/SC 5									
AST/SC 4									
AST/SC 3									
AST/SC 2									
AST/SC 1									
<b>TOTAL AST/SC</b>									
<b>TOTAL AD+AST</b>									
<b>AST/SC</b>									

GRAND TOTAL	13	13	13	13
<b>Contract Agents</b>	<b>Authorised</b>		<b>Actually filled as of 31/12/2025</b>	
Function Group IV	10		10 + 1*	
Function Group III	6		5	
Function Group II				
Function Group I				
<b>TOTAL</b>	16		15 + 1	

► Additional post financed by third countries appropriations.

<b>Seconded National Experts</b>	<b>Authorised</b>	<b>Actually filled as of 31/12/2024</b>
	0	0

### 5.3. PUBLICATIONS FROM PROJECTS

- A. Susmozas, L. Schroedter, P. Manzanares, R. Iglesias, R. Schneider, J. Venus, I. Ballesteros / 2025 / Enhanced enzymatic digestibility of steam-exploded short rotation hardwood species *Betula pendula* and its potential for lactic acid production / *Journal of Cleaner Production* / 494 / 145042 / Elsevier BV / 10.1016/j.jclepro.2025.145042 / 09596526 / <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2025.145042>
- Aline Marien, Benjamin Dubois, Olivier Fumière, Abigaël Anselmo, Julien Maljean, Clémence Debailleul, Jean-François Morin, Frédéric Debode / 2025 / Authentication of Insect-Based Products in Food and Feed: A Benchmark Survey / *Insects* / 16 / 729 / Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI) / 10.3390/insects16070729 / 20754450
- Alireza Taherzadeh-Fard; Alejandro Comejo; Sergio Jiménez; Lucia G. Barbu / 2025 / Numerical Analysis of Damage in Composites: From Intra-Layer to Delamination and Data-Assisted Methods / *Mathematics* / MDPI / 10.3390/MATH13101578 / 2227-7390
- Ana Falcón-Piñeiro, Javier Zaguire-Martínez, Ana Claudia Ibáñez-Hernández, Enrique Guillamón, Kristell Santander, Belén Barrero-Domínguez, Silvia López-Feria, Dolores Garrido, Alberto Baños / 2025 / Evaluation of the Biostimulant Activity and Verticillium Wilt Protection of an Onion Extract in Olive Crops (*Olea Europaea*) / *Plants* / 13 / 2499 / Universidad de Granada / 10.3390/plants13172499 / 22237747 / <https://hdl.handle.net/10481/94447>
- Arriaga, M.; Pinar, F.J.; Izarra, I.; Amo, J.d.; Vicente, J.; Fernández-Morales, F.J.; Mena, J. / 2025 / Valorization of Agri-Food Waste into PHA and Bioplastics: From Waste Selection to Transformation / *Appl. Sci.* / MDPI / 2076-3417
- Arulselvan Ponnudurai, Peter Schulze, Andreas Seidel-Morgenstern, Heike Lorenz / 2025 / LigniFrac: Proof of concept of a scalable continuous lignin fractionation process / *Chemical Engineering Journal* / 510 / 161113 / Elsevier BV / 10.1016/j.cej.2025.161113 / 13858947
- Audrey Pissard, Sébastien Gofflot, Vincent Baeten, Bernard Lecler, Bénédicte Lorrette, Jean-François Morin, Frederic Debode / 2025 / Chitin Assessment in Insect-Based Products from Reference Methods to Near-Infrared Models / *Insects* / 16 / 924 / Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI) / 10.3390/insects16090924 / 20754450
- Biao Li, Peng Jin, Yifeng Zhang / 2025 / Powering up protein: How hydrogel-coated electrodes enhance biohybrid production / *Water Research* / 278 / Elsevier BV / 10.1016/J.WATRES.2025.123341 / 00431354
- Caitriona Winters, Mario Culebras, Maurice N. Collins / 2025 / Electrically conductive lignin reinforced PAA/HA scaffolds with enhanced biological activity via polyelectrolyte multilayer coatings for tissue engineering applications / *Scientific Reports* / 15 / Springer Science and Business Media LLC / 10.1038/S41598-025-99440-8 / 20452322
- Camila Jiménez-González, Laura Fernández-De-Castro, Ana María Torrado, Clara Fuciños, Elena Díaz-de-Apodaca, María Luisa Rúa / 2025 / Nutritional evaluation of high-value alternative proteins extracted from legume defective seeds / *Food Chemistry* / 481 / 143936 / Elsevier BV / 10.1016/j.foodchem.2025.143936 / 03088146
- Daniela Bárcenas-Pérez, Diana Gomes, Celina Parreira, Luís Costa, José Cheel / 2025 / Recovery of  $\beta$ -Carotene from Microalga *Dunaliella* sp. by HPCCC / *Processes* / 13 / 1812 / MDPI AG / 10.3390/pr13061812 / 22279717
- Ed de Jong, Ingrid Goumans, Roy (H. A.) Visser, Ángel Puente, Gert-Jan Gruter / 2025 / The Opportunities and Challenges of Biobased Packaging Solutions / *Polymers* / 17 / 2217 / MDPI AG / 10.3390/polym17162217 / 20734360 / <https://zenodo.org/records/16874748>
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## 5.4. PATENTS FROM PROJECTS

Project acronym	Number of IPRs	Type of IPR
BIOMOTIVE	5	Patent
BIOVEXO	3	2 patents + 1 trademark
DEEP PURPLE	2	Patent
EMBRACED	6	Patent
EnzOx2	2	Patent
EUCALIVA	1	Registered design
FARMYNG	7	Patent
HYPERBIOCOAT	1	Patent
InDIRECT	3	Patent
OLEAF4VALUE	1	Patent
PEFERENCE	9	Patent
PHERA	4	Patent
PULP2VALUE	2	Patent
SCALE	20	8 patents + 12 trademarks
SUSBIND	1	Patent
TECH4EFFECT	1	Trademark
VEHICLE	5	Patent

## 5.5 SCOREBOARD OF HORIZON 2020 LEGACY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS<sup>42</sup>

		KPI	Definition	Target at the end of H2020	Results in 2025
Industrial leadership	12	SME - Share of participating SMEs Introducing innovations new to the company or the market (covering the period of the project plus three years)	Number and % of Participating SMEs that have introduced innovations to the company or to the market	50 %	769 SMEs participated in BBI JU, out of 1874 beneficiaries (41 %) <sup>43</sup> 236 SMEs introducing innovations to the company or the market
	13	SME – Growth and job creation in participating SMEs	Turnover and number of employees of a company in focus, notably the decrease or increase during the reporting period	To be developed based on FP7 ex-post evaluation and /or first Horizon 2020 project results	Turnover: calculation ongoing EUR Employees: 714
Societal challenges	14	Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals	The percentage of papers published in the top 10 % impact ranked journals by subject category	On average, 20 publications per EUR 10 million funding	308
	15	Patent applications and patents awarded in the area of the JTI	Number of patent applications by theme; Number of awarded patents by theme	On average, 2 per EUR 10 million funding (2014-2020)	40 patent applications and 21 patents awarded
	16	Number of prototypes and testing activities	Number of prototypes and testing (feasibility/demonstration) activities	To be developed on the basis of first Horizon 2020 results	1418

<sup>42</sup> Data source of KPIs results: Horizon Europe dashboard developed by the European Commission, unless explicitly indicated otherwise.

<sup>43</sup> Data source: Corda, March 2026 (multiple participations).

		KPI	Definition	Target at the end of H2020	Results in 2025
Evaluation	17	Number of joint public-private publications in projects	Number and share of joint public-private publications out of all relevant publications		To be developed on the basis of first Horizon 2020 results 739
	18	New products, processes, and methods launched into the market	Number of projects with new innovative products, processes, and methods. Project count and drop-down list allowing to choose the type processes, products, methods		To be developed on the basis of first Horizon 2020 results Number of projects with new innovative: Products: 106 Processes: 91 Methods: 56
	NA	Time to inform (TTI) all applicants of the outcome of the evaluation of their application from the final date for submission of completed proposals	To provide applicants with high-quality and timely evaluation results and feedback after each evaluation step by implementing and monitoring a high scientific level peer reviewed process	Number and % of information letters sent to applicants within target, Average TTI (calendar days), Maximum TTI (calendar days)	153 calendar days n/a in 2025
NA	Redress after evaluations		Number of redresses requested	n/a n/a in 2025	
Grants	NA	Time to grant (TTG) measured (average) from Call deadline to signature of grants	To minimise the duration of the granting process aiming at ensuring a prompt implementation of the Grant Agreements through a simple and transparent grant preparation process	Number and % of grants signed within target, Average TTG in calendar days, Maximum TTG in calendar days	TTG ≤ 245 days (as % of GAs signed) n/a in 2025
	NA	Time to sign (TTS) grant agreements from the date of informing successful applicants (information letters)		Number and % of grants signed within target, Average TTS in calendar days, Maximum TTS in calendar days	TTS ≥ 92 calendar days n/a in 2025

		KPI	Definition	Target at the end of H2020	Results in 2025
Payments	NA	Time to pay (TTP) (% made on time) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ pre-financing</li> <li>▶ interim payment</li> <li>▶ final payment</li> </ul>	To optimise the payments circuits, both operational and administrative, including payments to experts (Average number of days for Grants pre-financing, interim payments and final payments; Number of experts appointed Average number of days for administrative payments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ pre-financing (30 days)</li> <li>▶ interim payment (90 days)</li> <li>▶ final payment (90 days)</li> </ul>	Operational: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ pre-financing (n/a in 2025)</li> <li>▶ interim payments 100% on time. Average TTP 75 days</li> <li>▶ final payments 100% on time. Average TTP 72 days</li> </ul>
	HR	NA	Vacancy rate (%)	% of posts filled in, composition of the JU staff	n/a
JU efficiency	NA	Budget implementation/ execution: 1. % CA to total budget 2. % PA to total budget	Realistic yearly budget proposal, possibility to monitor and report on its execution, both in commitment (CA) and payments (PA), in line with sound financial management principle % of CA and PA	100% in CA and PA	CA execution (n/a in 2025) PA execution 77 % (kEUR 8 925 out of total kEUR 11 579 (prior year unused reactivations))
	NA	Administrative Budget: number and % of total of late payments	Realistic yearly budget proposal, possibility to monitor and report on its execution in line with sound financial management principle (Number of delayed payments % of delayed payments (of the total))	n/a	n/a in 2025

## 5.6. SCOREBOARD OF HORIZON EUROPE COMMON KEY IMPACT PATHWAYS INDICATORS (KIPS)<sup>44</sup>

Data source: European Commission's Horizon Europe dashboard. Only short-term indicators are currently available.

Key Impact Pathway <sup>45</sup>	Short-term	Medium-term	Longer-term	Detail per action or globally for 2025
<b>Towards scientific impact</b>				
<b>1-Creating high-quality new knowledge</b>	<b>Publications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications resulting from the Programme</li> </ul>	<b>Citations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field-Weighted Citation Index of peer-reviewed Publications resulting from the Programme</li> </ul>	<b>World-class science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and share of peer-reviewed publications resulting from the projects funded by the Programme with core contribution to scientific fields</li> </ul>	14
<b>2-Strengthening human capital in R&amp;I</b>	<b>Skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of researchers involved in upskilling (training, mentoring/coaching, mobility and access to R&amp;I infrastructures) activities in projects funded by the Programme</li> </ul>	<b>Careers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and share of upskilled researchers involved in the Programme with increased individual impact in their R&amp;I field</li> </ul>	<b>Working conditions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and share of upskilled researchers involved in the Programme with improved working conditions, including researchers' salaries</li> </ul>	1618 (woman 51.11 %; man 48.9 %)
<b>3-Fostering diffusion of knowledge and open science</b>	<b>Shared knowledge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of research outputs (open data/publication/software etc.) resulting from the Programme shared through open knowledge infrastructures</li> </ul>	<b>Knowledge diffusion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of open access research outputs resulting from the Programme actively used/cited</li> </ul>	<b>New collaborations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of Programme beneficiaries which have developed new transdisciplinary/trans-sectoral collaborations with users of their open</li> </ul>	79.5%

<sup>44</sup> Based on Annex V to Regulation 2021/695/EU

Key Impact Pathway <sup>45</sup>	Short-term	Medium-term	Longer-term	Detail per action or globally for 2025
<b>Towards scientific impact</b>				
			access research outputs resulting from the Programme	
<b>Towards societal impact</b>				
<b>4-Addressing Union policy priorities and global challenges through R&amp;I</b>	<b>Results</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and share of results aimed at addressing identified Union policy priorities and global challenges (including SDGs) (multidimensional: for each identified priority)</li> </ul> Including: Number and share of climate-relevant results aimed at delivering on the Union's commitment under the Paris Agreement	<b>Solutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and share of innovations and research outcomes addressing identified Union policy priorities and global challenges (including SDGs) (multidimensional: for each identified priority)</li> </ul> Including: Number and share of climate-relevant innovations and research outcomes delivering on Union's commitment under the Paris Agreement	<b>Benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aggregated estimated effects from use/exploitation of results funded by the Programme on tackling identified Union policy priorities and global challenges, including SDGs, and contribution to the policy and law-making cycle (such as norms and standards) (multidimensional: for each identified priority)</li> </ul> Including: Aggregated estimated effects from use/exploitation of climate-relevant results funded by the Programme on delivering on the Union's commitment under the Paris Agreement including contribution to the policy and law-making cycle (such as norms and standards)	Not available
<b>5-Delivering benefits and impact through R&amp;I missions</b>	<b>R&amp;I mission results</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Results in specific R&amp;I missions (multidimensional: for each identified mission)</li> </ul>	<b>R&amp;I mission outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outcomes in specific R&amp;I missions (multidimensional: for each identified mission)</li> </ul>	<b>R&amp;I mission targets met</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targets achieved in specific R&amp;I missions (multidimensional: for each identified mission)</li> </ul>	Not available
<b>6-Strengthening the uptake of R&amp;I in society</b>	<b>Co-creation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and share of projects funded by the Programme where Union</li> </ul>	<b>Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and share of participating legal entities which have citizen and end-user</li> </ul>	<b>Societal R&amp;I uptake</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uptake and outreach of co-created scientific results and innovative solutions generated under the Programme</li> </ul>	13 projects with citizens and/or end-users

Key Impact Pathway <sup>45</sup>	Short-term	Medium-term	Longer-term	Detail per action or globally for 2025
<b>Towards scientific impact</b>				
	citizens and end-users contribute to the co-creation of R&I content:	engagement mechanisms in place after the end of projects funded by the Programme		engagement activities
<b>Towards technological / economic impact</b>				
<b>7-Generating innovation-based growth</b>	<b>Innovative results</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of innovative products, processes or methods resulting from the Programme (by type of innovation) &amp; Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications</li> </ul>	<b>Innovations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of innovations resulting from the projects funded by the Programme (by type of innovation) including from awarded IPRs</li> </ul>	<b>Economic growth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation, growth &amp; market shares of companies having developed innovations in the Programme</li> </ul>	28
<b>8-Creating more and better jobs</b>	<b>Supported employment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created, and jobs maintained in participating legal entities for the project funded by the Programme (by type of job)</li> </ul>	<b>Sustained employment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase of FTE jobs in participating legal entities following the project funded by the Programme (by type of job)</li> </ul>	<b>Total employment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of direct &amp; indirect jobs created or maintained due to diffusion of results from the Programme (by type of job)</li> </ul>	307
<b>9- Leveraging investments in R&amp;I</b>	<b>Co-investment (= Total Cost after application of the reduced funding methodology) – EU Contribution)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amount of public &amp; private investment mobilised with the initial investment from the Programme</li> </ul>	<b>Scaling-up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amount of public &amp; private investment mobilised to exploit or scale-up results from the Programme (including foreign direct investments)</li> </ul>	<b>Contribution to '3 % target'</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union progress towards 3 % GDP target due to the Programme</li> </ul>	164.7 million

## 5.7. HORIZON EUROPE PARTNERSHIP KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS<sup>46</sup>

N°	Criterion addressed	Proposed common indicators	Baseline <sup>47</sup>	Results for 2025	Target <sup>48</sup> CR
1	Additionality	Progress towards (financial and in-kind) contributions from partners other than the Union, i.e. committed vs. actual <sup>49</sup>	n/a: planning of contributions still ongoing until 2025. Interim results BBI overall target: EUR 2.73 billion.	Consolidated contributions from CBE BIC members in 2025. Total contributions reported in 2025 (FCs, IKOP, IKAA): EUR 125.7million	EUR 1 000 million <sup>50</sup>
2	Additionality/ Synergies	Additional investments <sup>51</sup> triggered by the EU contribution, including qualitative impacts related to additional activities	n/a		n/a
3	Directionality	Overall (public and private, in-kind and cash) investments mobilised towards EU priorities	Green Deal: 100 % of investments Resilience: 100 % of investments	Green Deal: 100 % Resilience: 100 %	n/a

<sup>46</sup> Based on an interim report published on 21 June 2021 (Commission Experts' report, Section 5 and Appendix 1).

<sup>47</sup> The baseline refers to the cumulative results for BBI JU programme, CBE JU predecessor partnership under H2020.

<sup>48</sup> In the Council Regulation, targets have been only set for the financial and in-kind contributions of both partners, EU and BIC. For the other indicators, there are no targets set for 2027.

<sup>49</sup> The target for contributions from partners other than the Union (BIC) is 1000 million €.

<sup>50</sup> As per SBA.

<sup>51</sup> According to the guidance, these are additional activities or investments triggered by the partnership (not as part of the partnership but in addition to it). Partnership acts as a kind of a trigger (e.g., because of a partnership, MS decides to launch a national programme). These can include e.g. private investments in training or activities required for putting on the market the product/service which results from the European Partnership; or public investments mobilised from other EU/ national / regional programmes (e.g. ERDF, CEF).

N°	Criterion addressed	Proposed common indicators	Baseline <sup>47</sup>	Results for 2025	Target <sup>48</sup> CR
4	International visibility and positioning	International actors <sup>52</sup> involved	43 (not unique) beneficiaries from 6 countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, South Africa, Switzerland and United States)	21 (not unique) beneficiaries from 4 countries (China 1, Japan 2, Republic of Korea 1 and Switzerland 17)	n/a
5	Transparency and openness	Share & type of stakeholders and countries invited/engaged <sup>53</sup>	4 307 unique eligible applicants from 75 different countries (33 % SME <sup>54</sup> , 71 % private for profit companies, 22% Higher Education Establishments and Research Centres)	4171 unique eligible applicants from 68 different countries (39 % SME*, 63% Private for Profit Companies, 27 % Higher Education Establishments and Research Centres)	n/a
6	Transparency and openness	No and types of newcomer members <sup>55</sup> in partnerships and their countries of origin (geographical coverage)	n/a	<b>39</b> unique eligible newcomer BIC member applicants from 31 different countries (55% SME*, 80% Private for Profit Companies, 12% Higher Education Establishments and Research Centres)	n/a
7	Transparency and openness	No and types of newcomer beneficiaries <sup>56</sup> in funded projects (in terms of	1200 unique beneficiaries	<b>182</b> unique newcomer beneficiaries from 34 different countries (38 % RIA, 55 % IA and 7% CSA)	n/a

<sup>52</sup> Number of beneficiaries and associated partners from third countries (non-EU, non-associated countries). The baseline refers to the BBI JU programme and the 2025 results to the 2022, 2023 and 2024 call projects, which were signed in 2023, 2024 and 2025, respectively.

<sup>53</sup> Number of unique applicants. The baseline refers to the BBI JU programme, 2025 results refer to applicants of the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 calls.

<sup>54</sup> SMEs include both private and non-profit SME.

<sup>55</sup> In legal terms, the only member of the CBE JU partnership other than the EU is the Bio-based industries consortium (BIC). In this indicator, the number of newcomer applicants that are BIC members is reported, 2024 results refer to applicants of the 2024 call.

<sup>56</sup> The baseline refers to unique beneficiaries under the BBI JU programme, and 2025 results refer to unique beneficiaries in CBE JU 2024 call projects.

N°	Criterion addressed	Proposed common indicators	Baseline <sup>47</sup>	Results for 2025	Target <sup>48</sup> CR
		types and countries of origin)			
8	Synergies and coherence	Number and type of coordinated and joint activities with other European Partnerships <sup>57</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a
9	Synergies and coherence	Number and type of coordinated and joint activities with other R&I Initiatives at EU /national/ regional/sectorial level <sup>58</sup>	n/a	Strategic Planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 2 meetings with DG MARE;</li> <li>▶ 1 meeting with the European Circular Bioeconomy Fund;</li> </ul> Co-ordinated Programming: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ exchanges with ATEX, DG GROW and Textile of the Future Partnership;</li> <li>▶ participation in the launch of Agriculture of Data Partnership,</li> <li>▶ 2 meetings on Mission Soil;</li> </ul> Synergy at Portfolio Level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>6 workshops</b> (CBE JU Cluster on bio-based materials, JRC Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy, CINEA/DG MARE, EUFORE workshop on forest-based Innovations, Food Partnership, ECOSYSTEMEX)</li> </ul> Outreach and Dissemination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ COST and MSCA SE participation at CBE JU Info Day 2025, support in Enterprise Europe Network;</li> <li>▶ outreach in Blue bioeconomy and Agriculture, interaction with Mission Soil;</li> </ul>	n/a

<sup>57</sup> Please see a more detailed description of these activities in section 1.7.2 Progress against HE Common JUs KPIs.

<sup>58</sup> Please see a more detailed description of these activities in section 1.7.2 Progress against HE Common JUs KPIs.

N°	Criterion addressed	Proposed common indicators	Baseline <sup>47</sup>	Results for 2025	Target <sup>48</sup> CR
10	Synergies and coherence	Complementary and cumulative funding from other Union funds (HE, National funding, ERDF, RRF, Other cohesion policy funds, CEF, DEP, LIFE, other) <sup>59</sup>	n/a	SRG countries (22 replies) reported synergies with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ European Structural Investment Funds: 14 countries, 13 EAFRD, 7 EMFAF, 11 ERDF, 3 ESF+, 7 CF, 2 Other ESIF. (1 no synergies; 2 not aware of synergies; 5 no reply).</li> <li>▶ RRF, JTF and IF: 12 countries, 10 RRF, 6 JTF, 1 IF (10, no other EU funds).</li> <li>▶ National and Regional funding programmes: 14 countries (3 no fundings, 1 not aware, 4 no reply).</li> </ul>	n/a
11	International visibility and positioning	Visibility of the partnership in national, European, international policy/industry cycles	n/a	Total number of events: 61 Participation of CBE JU at international events at global, European and national level 60: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1 Global events: World Bioeconomy Association (online),</li> <li>▶ 60 EU events (please see Annex for the full list of events)</li> <li>▶ 24 national/regional info days in 20 countries;</li> </ul>	n/a

<sup>59</sup> Currently there is no complementary funding from other Union funds. However, complementary/cumulative funding is being monitored through: i) the States' representatives group's national reporting, where countries indicate on other EU funding instruments to support activities relevant for the circular/bio-based sector and ii) via the CBE JU specific KPI 10.3 *Number of projects with synergies with other funding programmes at EU, national or regional level*. See section 1.7.3 Progress towards JU-specific KPIs for more information.

<sup>60</sup> Please see Annex 5.12 for a full list of events with CBE JU participation

## 5.8. SCOREBOARD OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS SPECIFIC TO THE CBE JU

The KPIs reported in this table are the one set for the CBE JU partnership in its [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#).

KPI	Unit of measurement	Estimated target 2025 <sup>a</sup>	Estimated target 2027 <sup>a</sup>	Ambition >2027	Results for 2025
<b>Resources (input), processes and activities</b>					
1. Strategic participation and integration of feedstock producers and suppliers towards large-scale valorisation of sustainable biomass	1.1. No of primary producers, involved as project beneficiaries and/or engaged in value chains at project level	52	79	100	46
	1.2. No of (bio)waste management actors, involved as project beneficiaries and/or engaged in value chains at project level	10	16	20	20
3. Ensure environmental sustainability of feedstock	3.1. No of projects using feedstock generated with practices that contribute to enhance biodiversity	16	24	30	32*
	3.2. No of projects using feedstock generated with practices aiming at zero-pollution (soil, water, air) and/or at reducing water consumption	19	28	40	35*
	3.3. No of projects using feedstock generated with practices contributing to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation	32	47	60	40*
7. Improve the market uptake of biobased products	7. No of brand owners involved as project partners and/or engaged with other mechanisms	24	38	50	47
<b>Outcomes</b>					
2. Unlock sustainable and circular	2. No of innovative bio-based value chains created or enabled	60	95	120	74*

KPI	Unit of measurement	Estimated target 2025 <sup>a</sup>	Estimated target 2027 <sup>a</sup>	Ambition >2027	Results for 2025
<b>Resources (input), processes and activities</b>					
biobased feedstock for the industry	based on sustainably sourced biomass				
4. Improve environmental sustainability of bio-based production processes and value chains	4.1. No of projects with innovative & sustainable processes that contribute to GHG emissions reduction	32	47	60	34*
	4.2. No of projects developing innovative & sustainable processes that improve on resource efficiency and zero waste	32	47	60	38*
	4.3. No of projects developing innovative & sustainable processes enabling to address zero pollution	32	47	60	35*
	4.4. No of projects with innovative & sustainable processes with improved energy efficiency	32	47	60	29*
	4.5. No of products with improved life cycle environmental performance	25	40	50	51*
5. Expand circularity in bio-based value chains	5.1. No of innovative products that are biodegradable, compostable, recyclable, reused or upcycled (circular by design)	51	76	100	97*
6. Increase innovative bio-based outputs and products	5.2. No projects developing circular production practices (incl. industrial & industrial-urban symbiosis)	20	32	40	39*
	6.1. No of innovative bio-based dedicated outputs, with novel or significantly improved properties vs. relevant alternatives	47	71	100	136*
	6.2. No of innovative bio-based drop-in	16	24	30	44*

KPI	Unit of measurement	Estimated target 2025 <sup>a</sup>	Estimated target 2027 <sup>a</sup>	Ambition >2027	Results for 2025
<b>Resources (input), processes and activities</b>					
	outputs meeting applications requirements				
8. Attract investment on the bio-based sector	8. No of actions implemented at project level to attract investment and/or to create awareness in the investment/funding community	15	23	30	36*
9. Increase resilience and capacity in the bio-based sector	9. No of projects contributing to develop the skills and capacity needed by the EU bio-based sector	26	40	50	71*
10. Improve participation of regions and countries with high unexploited potential and strategic interest to develop it	10.1. No of participants from the underrepresented EU countries and region	50	100	150	106
	10.2. No of regional hubs established and operated to process bio-based feedstocks and other cooperation aspects	8	13	15	27*
	10.3. No of projects with synergies with other funding programmes at EU, national or regional level	30	47	60	33*

(\*) Projected contributions reported by CBE JU projects to be validated via expert review of the project reporting.



## 5.9. IKAA REPORT

The design and implementation of the planning and reporting system is integrated into the corporate e-grants suite, the IKAA IT tool, which was fully deployed at the end of 2024. In the meantime, the CBE JU manually collected preliminary information for the 2023-2031 IKAA planning, as estimated by BIC members at the start of the first projects under Horizon Europe. In 2025, CBE JU launched a catch-up exercise to request its private members to compile their planned IKAA from the previous calls in the IKAA IT tool. This exercise will be completed in Q1 2026 and the 2026 annual work programme will be amended accordingly. The catch-up exercise regarding reporting will be launched after the approval of the planned IKAA by the Governing Board and is expected to be completed by 31 May 2026.

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description				Annual reporting (2025)					Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type	AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified	
Prototype line for organo sheets	Update of prototype line for material development.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	BIOntier	N	€40,000	€40,000	€ -	€60,000	€60,000	€ -	€60,000	
Pilot line for organo sheets	Pilot line for organo sheets on existing vertical press (1500 T).	2. Scale-up of technologies	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	BIOntier	N	€ -	€ -	€ -	€120,000	€120,000	€ -	€120,000	
Flagship Investment	Investment for the flagship plant "Michelin Roussillon" in Roussillon, France.	3. Demonstrators	(b) Investments in a new innovative and sustainable production plant or flagship;	Y	CERISEA	N	€25,133,333	€18,000,000	€ -	€25,133,333	€18,000,000	€ -	€18,000,000	
New business development	Business development activities to grow up a new HMF market in Europe.	4. Creating new business opportunities	(e) Communication, dissemination and awareness-raising activities (not falling in previous scope of investments)	Y	CERISEA	N	€120,000	€120,000	€ -	€120,000	€120,000	€ -	€120,000	
Construction of biowaste-to-bioplastic pilot facility	Design and construction of a pilot plant facility at industrial scale a first-of-its-kind retrofitted biorefinery for the valorisation of food waste streams and additional biomasses into high-value bio-based chemicals and intermediates, lactic acid (LA) as well as derived	3. Demonstrators	(b) Investments in a new innovative and sustainable production plant or flagship;	Y	CIRCLE	N	€1,500,000	€ -	€ -	€1,500,000	€ -	€ -	€ -	

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type	AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified	
	products, including polylactic acid (PLA).													
R&D	new product innovation, process optimisation, product development, customer support, formulation	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	COUNTLESS	N	€550,000	€550,000	€ -	€550,000	€550,000	€ -	€550,000	
Business Development	sales activities (outreach, calls, visits), attendance to fairs and tradeshows, marketing and communication.	4. Creating new business opportunities	(e) Communication, dissemination and awareness-raising activities (not falling in previous scope of investments)	Y	COUNTLESS	N	€570,000	€570,000	€ -	€570,000	€570,000	€ -	€570,000	
Brabender/Kahl pelletizing and tray distillation equipment for pilot-plant result assessment	High-precision machine used for processing and shaping materials, particularly in the food, plastic, and chemical industries. Specialised machinery used for pelletizing used often for feed, biomass. Separation equipment used in industrial processes to separate mixtures into their individual components based on differences in boiling points.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	ELLIPSE	N	€ -	€ -	€ -	€248,448	€153,067	€ -	€153,067	
Polycondensation design with pelletizing and distillation	Facility for producing polymers via condensation reactions. High-precision equipment for	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	ELLIPSE	N	€ -	€ -	€ -	€232,145	€342,938	€ -	€342,938	

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type		AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
equipment for pilot-plant evaluation	processing and shaping materials in food, plastics, and chemicals. Specialised machinery for pelletizing biomass or feed. Distillation equipment for separating mixtures into components based on boiling-point differences.													
Purchase of 75m <sup>3</sup> fermentation reactor	Purchase and construction of 75m <sup>3</sup> fermentation vessel used for upscaling activities of biochemical processes and products with the goal of enhancing market uptake. Upscaling of fermentation processes such as: *Alternative proteins, *Specialty carbohydrates, *Colorants, *Novel materials, *Medical biotech-products, *Cosmetics and biosurfactants, *Biofuels, *Biopesticide.	3. Demonstrators	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;	Y	LUCRA	N	€180,000	€182,470	€ -	€13,160,000	€12,018,326	€7,397,281	€4,621,045	
Development of innovative ammonia stripping	Developing a novel device to efficiently recover ammoniacal nitrogen from the	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities,	Y	MANUREFINE RY	N	€119,800	€12,838	€ -	€359,400	€12,838	€ -	€12,838	

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description				Annual reporting (2025)					Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type	AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified	
	effluent of anaerobic digesters		tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);											
Development of selected methane-oxidising bacterial cultures	Enriching methane-oxidising cultures especially adapted to the conditions imposed in a biogas fermenter, aiming at producing microbial protein.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	MANUREFINE RY	N	€11,167	€ -	€ -	€33,501	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Improving microbial catalysed hydrolysis in Anaerobic digestion (AD)	Evaluating in-situ and ex-situ microbial catalysed processes to improve the hydrolysis of complex organic wastes used in anaerobic digesters, aiming at improving the CO2 footprint of renewable natural gas (RNG) production, and for the production of biogenic carboxylates.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	MANUREFINE RY	N	€95,680	€662,434	€ -	€287,040	€662,434	€ -	€662,434	
Formulation pilot plant	Set-up of a world-class, food-grade pilot plant for the advanced formulation of ingredients (vitamins, colours) for food, nutraceutical and cosmeceutical applications.	3. Demonstrators	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;	Y	MULTIPLY	N	€500,000	€ -	€ -	€500,000	€ -	€ -	€ -	

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025															
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)						
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type		AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified	
Training safety, HACCP, quality & project management	In-house training to support implementation of project technology.	5. Training and skills development	(d) Standardisation activities (not falling in previous scope of investments)		Y	MULTIPLY	N	€25,000	€25,000	€ -	€25,000	€25,000	€ -	€25,000	
Demonstration-scale microalgae production system	Expanding microalgae production capacity by demonstrating scale-up of innovative technology prior to commercialisation.	3. Demonstrators	(b) Investments in a new innovative and sustainable production plant or flagship;		Y	MULTIPLY	N	€424,000	€598,275	€ -	€424,000	€598,275	€ -	€598,275	
Downstream process scale-up	Pilot-scale testing of downstream processing unit operations.	2. Scale-up of technologies	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;		Y	MULTIPLY	N	€146,000	€129,378	€ -	€146,000	€129,378	€ -	€129,378	
Product and business development	Bringing novel bio-based products to market and participating in R&D activities to further support the sector development.	4. Creating new business opportunities	(b) Investments in a new innovative and sustainable production plant or flagship;		Y	MULTIPLY	N	€178,000	€54,475	€ -	€178,000	€54,475	€ -	€54,475	
Increasing the awareness of company activities	Participation in networking and outreach activities targeting both industrial actors and general public.	8. Communication, dissemination, awareness raising, citizen engagement	(e) Communication, dissemination and awareness-raising activities (not falling in previous scope of investments)		Y	MULTIPLY	N	€10,000	€10,438	€ -	€10,000	€10,438	€ -	€10,438	
Microalgal Cultivation Using Upcycled Nutrients	This activity focuses on optimising microalgal cultivation using	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities,		Y	MULTIPLY	N	€39,397	€36,259	€ -	€41,057	€37,919	€ -	€37,919	

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type		AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
and Integrated Biorefinery	upcycled nutrient-rich side streams and validating the process at pilot scale. It includes developing a biorefinery approach to extract multiple valuable components, with full characterisation to evaluate regulatory compliance.		tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);											
Optimisation of Large-Scale Microalgal Biomass Production and Valorisation	This activity supports the optimisation of algae cultivation and the development of scalable business models for integrated biorefineries. It includes pilot-scale assessments to improve biomass productivity and cost efficiency, as well as the design of go-to-market strategies for products derived from algae-based processes across various sectors.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);		Y	MULTIPLY	N	€61,545	€103,056	€ -	€100,994	€142,505	€ -	€142,505
CAPTUS-Demonstrate energy intensive industry-integrated solutions to produce liquid renewable energy	"Demonstration-scale optimisation of microalgae cultivation using industrial CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, including the design, engineering, and operation of	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);		Y	MULTIPLY	N	€102,484	€33,201	€ -	€126,475	€57,193	€ -	€57,193

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type		AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
	photobioreactors. The activity focuses on maximising biomass production, CO <sub>2</sub> capture efficiency, and evaluating cost-effective harvesting methods for further conversion into renewable bio-oils.													
Integrated Use of Algae in Sustainable Aquaculture and Food Applications	This activity operates a pilot system integrating fish and macroalgae cultivation in recirculating aquaculture systems. Circular economy principles are applied to improve sustainability and resource efficiency. The system enables year-round biomass production, real-time digital monitoring, and onsite processing to valorise algae biomass into high-value food-related products	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);		Y	MULTIPLY	N	€85,080	€89,559	€ -	€129,735	€134,213	€ -	€134,213
Retrieving novel Textile solutions from Marine and Terrestrial biomass	This activity involves the pilot-scale production of microalgal biomass to extract bioactive pigments for textile dyeing and	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);		Y	MULTIPLY	N	€31,574	€57,370	€ -	€33,544	€59,340	€ -	€59,340

CBE JU IKA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type		AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
	functionalization. It includes optimising cultivation conditions, improving harvesting and sustainable extraction methods, and characterising compounds for bioactivity. The process will be scaled to industrial level, supporting the development of innovative bio-based textiles.													
Foundational & complementary R&I on bio-based polymers supporting NEXT STEP research	Synthesis and modification of bio-based polymers and additives via chemical or enzymatic routes; development of functional copolymers. Biomass valorization to obtain biopolymers and extracts for plastic functionalization. Synthesis of monomers, additives, nanoparticles, and capsules with antimicrobial, flame-retardant, or hydrophobic properties. Low-impact processes,	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	NEXT-STEP	N	€15,427	€5,633	€ -	€115,427	€115,650	€ -	€115,650	

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type		AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
	mechanochemical intensification													
PHA Flagships	Paques Biomaterials is investing in building the first PHA production plants using waste feedstocks. This will not be 1 single plant, but 3 plants, 2 for PHA biomass and 1 for PHA extraction. The PHA biomass will have a total capacity of 7.5 kton/y and the PHA extraction will have capacity for 6 kton/y.	3. Demonstrators	(b) Investments in a new innovative and sustainable production plant or flagship;		Y	PROMOFER	N	€1,400,000	€1,724,983	€ -	€1,550,000	€2,048,983	€ -	€2,048,983
PHA Demonstration facilities	Paques Biomaterials invested into building 2 demo plants for PHA production: PHAENIX for PHA biomass production and CEF for Caleyda (pure PHA) extraction. Both plants are based on the IP developed by Paques Biomaterials and allow the production of relevant volumes of PHA samples for market development, up to signing off-take agreements. Both plants	3. Demonstrators	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;		Y	PROMOFER	N	€2,202,428	€2,974,510	€ -	€4,742,087	€5,514,169	€ -	€5,514,169

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type		AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
	are used by Paques Biomaterials, but we keep open.													
Foundational & complementary R&I on bio-based polymers supporting PROMOFER (initiated pre-project)	Synthesis of bio-based polymers and additives; chemical and enzymatic polymer modification; development of special copolymers. Biomass valorisation to obtain biopolymers and extracts for plastic functionalization. Synthesis of monomers, additives, nanoparticles, and capsules. Low-impact processes and mechanochemical intensification. Characterisation equipment, balances, and mills.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);		Y	PROMOFER	N	€13,489	€543,885	€ -	€1,255,299	€1,367,152	€ -	€1,367,152
Development of Biostimulants for the Agricultural Industry	The activity develops seaweed-based biostimulants from bioactive compounds extracted from Laminaria hyperborea. It includes compound identification, formulation for agriculture, and lab and greenhouse trials	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);		Y	PROTEUS	N	€430,293	€31,286	€ -	€430,293	€31,286	€ -	€31,286

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025													
Description				Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type	AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
	assessing growth, yield, nutrient uptake, and stress tolerance, while also evaluating scalability, stability, and regulatory compliance to support Alginor's circular biorefinery strategy.												
Development of Sustainable Preservation Methods for Seaweed Biomass	This activity develops sustainable preservation methods for Laminaria hyperborea, extending raw material stability from days to weeks without toxic additives. Using mild organic acids, natural antimicrobials, and physical treatments, the work prevents degradation while preserving alginate and fucoidan. Pilot-scale testing and rapid analytical QC tools support improved logistics and a more efficient.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	PROTEUS	N	€430,293	€90,122	€ -	€430,293	€90,122	€ -	€90,122
Development of Versatile High-Volume Seaweed Transport and Discharge Systems	This activity develops efficient systems for handling, transporting, and discharging Laminaria hyperborea	3. Demonstrators	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	PROTEUS	N	€430,293	€ -	€ -	€430,293	€ -	€ -	€ -

CBE JU IKA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type		AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
	from Alginor's harvesting vessel. It includes high-volume discharge technologies, onboard preservation solutions, and automated volume quantification to ensure product integrity, safety, and traceability, enabling a formaldehyde-free and scalable kelp biorefinery supply chain.													
Project:Bio-refining 2 – Development of a Demonstration Unit for Bioactive Ingredients from Kelp	This activity develops and demonstrates Alginor's biorefining process for Laminaria hyperborea, enabling full biomass utilisation. It focuses on sustainable, low-energy refining without toxic chemicals, process and factory design, and green production of bioactive ingredients. Results support large-scale industrial demonstration and new bio-based value chains.	3. Demonstrators	(b) Investments in a new innovative and sustainable production plant or flagship;	Y	PROTEUS	N	€3,889,798	€4,301,554	€ -	€10,116,528	€10,080,211	€ -	€10,080,211	
R&D project: Algefilm	The activity aims to develop algae film prototypes from	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities,	Y	PROTEUS	N	€ -	€ -	€ -	€946,683	€944,969	€ -	€944,969	

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type		AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
	Laminaria hyperborea and evaluates their performance against conventional plastics. Prototypes are tested with partners and customers for qualification and validation. The project this activity belongs to is funded by the Research Council of Norway (BIA) with 70% public support, and full gross costs are included in the IKAA report.		tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);											
R&D project: Cellunor	This activity develops cost-efficient methods for extracting and processing cellulose from Laminaria hyperborea. The activity targets kelp-based cellulose products such as MCC, nanocellulose, and cellulose powders for pharmaceutical and cosmetic applications. With a NOK 32 million budget, the activity funded by the Research Council of Norway (BIA)	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);		Y	PROTEUS	N	€1,060,155	€560,100	€ -	€2,492,369	€1,992,314	€ -	€1,992,314

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description				Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)						
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type	AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified	
	with 50% public support and reported in IKAA.													
R&D project: Fucomed	This activity focuses on increasing the market potential of fucoidan by optimising extraction to achieve high molecular weight and sulphation. These properties are critical for medical and pharmaceutical applications. The project is funded by the Research Council of Norway (BIA) with 70% public support, and full gross costs are included in IKAA reporting.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	PROTEUS	N	€ -	€ -	€ -	€609,972	€609,971	€ -	€609,971	
Valorisation of Side Streams from Alginate Production in BioDem	Focus on developing and demonstrate processes of separation, purification and valorisation of side streams generated during alginate production. These streams contain valuable components such as fucoidan, lemnarin, cellulose and polyphenols. Includes systematic characterisation,	2. Scale-up of technologies	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;	Y	PROTEUS	N	€430,293	€ -	€ -	€430,293	€ -	€ -	€ -	

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description				Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)						
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type	AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified	
	followed by pilot-scale testing and process optimisation at the BioDemo facility.													
Hydrolysis enzyme recycle & continuous hydrolysis demo	The additional activity consists of designing and constructing a demo plant for the demonstration of continuous hydrolysis technology with enzyme recycle.	2. Scale-up of technologies	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	REDYSIGN	N	€748,650	€ -	€ -	€1,572,165	€ -	€ -	€ -	
Investments made to improve the environmental outputs of products	TIMAC is investing in a Solar Energy Initiative in line with the company's commitment to sustainable manufacturing to reduce the environmental externalities of its activities. The general environmental benefits are carbon reduction, resource efficiency and LCA Improvements.	2. Scale-up of technologies	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;	Y	ReLeaf	N	€750,000	€881,706	€ -	€750,000	€881,706	€ -	€881,706	
Investments made to improve the social outputs of products	Strategic Roofing System Upgrade & Seismic Reinforcement Initiative to mitigate risks from seismic events and environmental stressors, protect personnel through proactive	2. Scale-up of technologies	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;	Y	ReLeaf	N	€210,000	€221,676	€ -	€210,000	€221,676	€ -	€221,676	

CBE JU IKA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type		AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
	hazard reduction and safeguard assets against long-term structural degradation.													
Investments made to improve the environmental, social and economic outputs of products	Upgrade of the Granulation Screening System to improve the economic, social and environmental impacts of Bio-Based Materials transformation.	2. Scale-up of technologies	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;		Y	ReLeaf	N	€1,000,000	€1,173,109	€ -	€1,000,000	€1,173,109	€ -	€1,173,109
Investments made to improve efficiency and safety outputs of our processes	Drying Filtration System Upgrade to enhance product quality, to increase work safety and improve the work environment.	2. Scale-up of technologies	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;		Y	ReLeaf	N	€850,000	€955,053	€ -	€850,000	€955,053	€ -	€955,053
Investments made to improve the process efficiency	Advanced Heat Exchanger Installation for Dilution System Optimisation to improve overall process efficiency.	2. Scale-up of technologies	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;		Y	ReLeaf	N	€130,000	€110,577	€ -	€130,000	€110,577	€ -	€110,577
Infrastructure & equipment procurement & commissioning' for	Investment in the development of new green biorefinery piloting facilities.	2. Scale-up of technologies	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in		Y	Rural BioReFarmeries	N	€165,314	€165,314	€ -	€165,314	€165,314	€ -	€165,314

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description				Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)						
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type	AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified	
downstream green biorefinery pilot plant			particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;											
Infrastructure & equipment procurement & commissioning's for upstream green biorefinery pilot plant	Investment in the development of new green biorefinery piloting facilities.	2. Scale-up of technologies	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;	Y	Rural BioReFarmeries	€89,900	€89,900	€ -	€299,666	€299,666	€ -	€299,666		
Infrastructure & equipment procurement and commissioning for demonstration-scale green biorefinery	Investment in development of new green biorefinery demonstration facilities.	3. Demonstrators	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;	Y	Rural BioReFarmeries	€703,414	€1,111,393	€ -	€811,039	€1,219,018	€ -	€1,219,018		
Rental of new facility	Investment and rental of office space at Farm Zero C.	8. Communication, dissemination, awareness raising, citizen engagement	(e) Communication, dissemination and awareness-raising activities (not falling in previous scope of investments)	Y	Rural BioReFarmeries	€20,650	€20,606	€ -	€61,950	€61,818	€ -	€61,818		
Research Scale Up Activities	License fee payment for access to farm and feedstocks for testing.	1. Support to additional R&I	(d) Standardisation activities (not falling in previous scope of investments)	Y	Rural BioReFarmeries	€20,000	€20,000	€ -	€40,000	€40,000	€ -	€40,000		
Research Scale Up Activities	Investing in feedstocks for testing as part of project.	1. Support to additional R&I	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable	Y	Rural BioReFarmeries	€12,500	€ -	€ -	€50,000	€ -	€ -	€ -		

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type		AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
			equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;											
Research Scale Up Activities	Investment in Farm Zero C.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	Rural BioReFarmeries	N	€151,000	€151,000	€ -	€151,000	€151,000	€ -	€151,000	
Support on communication and Engagement Activities	Supporting dissemination across industry, policy and students.	8. Communication, dissemination, awareness raising, citizen engagement	(e) Communication, dissemination and awareness-raising activities (not falling in previous scope of investments)	Y	Rural BioReFarmeries	N	€20,000	€15,340	€ -	€20,000	€15,340	€ -	€15,340	
Support on communication and Engagement Activities	Supporting dissemination among farmers.	8. Communication, dissemination, awareness raising, citizen engagement	(e) Communication, dissemination and awareness-raising activities (not falling in previous scope of investments)	Y	Rural BioReFarmeries	N	€ -	€ -	€ -	€24,000	€10,659	€ -	€10,659	
Purchase of auxiliary equipment.	Purchase of various non-consumable equipment to support the improved development of the activities proposed in WP3 and WP6.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	SOLRESS	N	€50,000	€64,115	€ -	€50,000	€64,115	€ -	€64,115	

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description				Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)						
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type	AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified	
R&D on advanced bio-based materials	Research and development activities on bio-based materials.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	SSUCHY-Next	N	€2,159,727	€2,159,727	€ -	€4,298,070	€4,298,070	€ -	€4,298,070	
Scale-up and industrial deployment of bio-based technologies	Scale-up of pilot and industrial equipment for bio-based materials.	2. Scale-up of technologies	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;	Y	SSUCHY-Next	N	€377,168	€377,168	€ -	€691,475	€691,475	€ -	€691,475	
Communication and dissemination of project results	Communication, dissemination and awareness-raising for Woodoo's bio-based materials.	8. Communication, dissemination, awareness raising, citizen engagement	(e) Communication, dissemination and awareness-raising activities (not falling in previous scope of investments)	Y	SSUCHY-Next	N	€98,093	€98,093	€ -	€147,139	€147,139	€ -	€147,139	
Investment in Lab and small pilot Equipment	In SURFs UP AmphiStar needs this new lab infrastructure to enable them to further optimise the fermentation processes to work towards optimisation of the establishment of the DEMO plant in SURFs Up, but also for a commercial plant later on as an impact of the SURFs Up project.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	SURFs UP	N	€100,000	€60,000	€ -	€100,000	€60,000	€ -	€60,000	

CBE JU IKA A REPORTING AAR2025														
Description				Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)						
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type	AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified	
Purchase of lab and pilot scale fermentation and downstream processing equipment	Purchase of fermentation and purification equipment on lab pilot scale used both for upscaling activities of biochemical processes and products, such as alternative proteins, specialty carbohydrates, colorants, novel materials, cosmetics, biosurfactants, specialty carbohydrates, biopesticides, biofuels, pharmaceuticals, with the goal of enhancing market uptake.	2. Scale-up of technologies	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;	Y	SURFs UP	N	€1,000,000	€1,034,505	€ -	€7,200,001	€8,479,177	€5,361,612	€3,117,565	
Demonstration line dedicated to fibre-based construction materials and packaging solutions.	Fiberwood is upgrading its Järvenpää pilot machine and building a modular demo line for fullscale trials and scaleup. Phase 1— fibrefoam preparation, panel forming and drying will start in December 2025. The demo line enables iterative optimisation and trial production. Phase 1 is funded by Business	2. Scale-up of technologies	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	SUSPENSE	N	€4,000,000	€4,671,270	€ -	€4,671,270	€4,671,270	€ -	€4,671,270	

CBE JU IKA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description				Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)						
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type	AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified	
	Finland and company equity.													
Optimisation and commissioning of demo line for fibre-based insulation and packaging materials	Phase 2 of the demo line upgrade (September 2025–December 2027) will increase Fiberwood’s technology to TRL 8, expand pilot capacity and add all key units required for a future commercial line. The energy-efficient, flexible system will support cost-effective production, rapid product development and faster market entry via pilot series, customer samples and certification readiness.	2. Scale-up of technologies	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	SUSPENSE	N	€385,405	€33,477	€ -	€385,405	€33,477	€ -	€33,477	
Piloting, upscaling and developing hot water extracted natural polymeric hemicelluloses and tannins	Development of other hot water extracted polysaccharide and tannin use areas and upscaling them to industrial uses. Together they reach viable business, not relying on single possible glue route outcome in 4 years time with SUSPENSE project.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	SUSPENSE	N	€720,000	€612,000	€100,000	€720,000	€612,000	€100,000	€512,000	

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description				Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)						
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type	AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified	
Depreciation costs of industrial plant	Depreciation costs of current extraction plant of the company, dedicated to the scaling up of processes.	3. Demonstrators	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;	Y	SUSTAINEXT	N	€882,000	€1,525,622	€ -	€1,764,000	€2,931,358	€1,405,736	€1,525,622	
D&C not covered during project's duration	Participation in trade shows and international events for D&C activities related to the project and not covered by CBE, during the project implementation.	8. Communication, dissemination, awareness raising, citizen engagement	(e) Communication, dissemination and awareness-raising activities (not falling in previous scope of investments)	Y	SUSTAINEXT	N	€50,000	€50,000	€ -	€100,000	€100,000	€ -	€100,000	
R&D derived from the action: new biomass and clinical trials	R&D projects including application of SustainNext concept to new materials and clinical trials.	1. Support to additional R&I	(c) Investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);	Y	SUSTAINEXT	N	€500,000	€588,303	€ -	€1,328,920	€1,417,223	€828,920	€588,303	
Investments in infrastructure for large-scale demonstration of an integrated biorefinery	The additional activity consists of investments in new installations for the specific large-scale demonstration of integrated biorefinery which exploits biobased building blocks and polyester to be used for the production of biobased materials.	3. Demonstrators	(b) Investments in a new innovative and sustainable production plant or flagship;	Y	TERRIFIC	N	€1,386,057	€1,386,057	€ -	€1,386,057	€1,386,057	€ -	€1,386,057	

CBE JU IKAA REPORTING AAR2025														
Description					Annual reporting (2025)				Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)					
Title	Description	Category	Scope/Type		AA linked to projects	Project acronym	AA linked to programme	Estimated value for the year	incurred value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
Investment in Fermenter infrastructure	Procurement and subsequent commissioning of bioreactors with operating volumes of 30 L, 300 L, and 3000 L in order to adapt them to the specific requirements of basidiomycetes in liquid culture, which are being developed, among other things, within this project.	3. Demonstrators	(a) Investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;		Y	Zest	N	€1	€250,000	€ -	€800,001	€1,050,000	€ -	€1,050,000
								<b>€56,805,406</b>	<b>€49,332,837</b>	<b>€100,000</b>	<b>€97,415,681</b>	<b>€87,899,464</b>	<b>€15,093,549</b>	<b>€72,805,915</b>

IKAA Reporting 2025- breakdown per country				
Country (Code)	Incurring value	2025	Certified value	2025
Belgium	€	1,276,975.38	€	-
Denmark	€	792,566.00	€	-
Finland	€	5,316,746.95	€	100,000.00
France	€	20,819,987.51	€	-
Germany	€	250,000.00	€	-
Ireland	€	1,573,552.65	€	-
Italy	€	4,728,177.96	€	-
Netherlands	€	5,374,765.47	€	-
Norway	€	4,983,062.00	€	-
Portugal	€	319,444.60	€	-
Spain	€	2,777,558.90	€	-
Switzerland	€	1,120,000.00	€	-
	€	<b>49,332,837.42</b>	€	<b>100,000.00</b>

IKAA Reporting 2022-2025- breakdown per country				
Country (Code)	Incurring value	2022-2025	Certified value	2022-2025
Belgium	€	20,557,503.04	€	12,758,893.01
Denmark	€	792,566.00	€	-
Finland	€	5,316,746.95	€	100,000.00
France	€	23,461,683.80	€	-
Germany	€	1,050,000.00	€	-
Ireland	€	1,962,814.43	€	-
Italy	€	4,728,177.96	€	-
Netherlands	€	8,238,424.47	€	-
Norway	€	13,748,873.00	€	-
Portugal	€	431,170.82	€	-
Spain	€	6,491,503.71	€	2,234,656.03
Switzerland	€	1,120,000.00	€	-
	€	<b>87,899,464.18</b>	€	<b>15,093,549.04</b>

CBE IKAA REPORTING AAR2025						
Annual reporting (2025)			Cumulative reporting (2022-2025)			
Estimated value for the year	Incurring value for the year	Certified value for the year	Estimated AA total value	Cumulative AA value incurred	Cumulative AA value certified	Cumulative AA value not yet certified
€ 56,805,406	€ 49,332,837	€ 100,000	€ 97,415,681	€ 87,899,464	€ 15,093,549	€ 72,805,915



## 5.10. FINAL ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

This annex starts on the next page.



# Annual accounts of the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

## Financial year 2025

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## CERTIFICATION OF THE ACCOUNTS

I acknowledge my responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the annual accounts of the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking, in accordance with Article 52 of the Model Financial Regulation ('MFR')<sup>1</sup> and I hereby certify that the annual accounts of the Circular Bio-based Europe JU for the year 2025 have been prepared in accordance with Chapter 8 and the accounting rules adopted by the Commission's Accounting Officer, as are to be applied by all the institutions and Union bodies.

I have obtained from the Authorising Officer, who certified its reliability, all the information necessary for the production of the accounts that show the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking's assets and liabilities and the budgetary implementation.

Based on this information, and on such checks as I deemed necessary to sign off the accounts, I have a reasonable assurance that the accounts present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position, the results of the operations and the cash-flow of the Circular Bio-based Europe JU.

My assurance statement related to the Final Accounts 2025 will be transmitted to the Accounting Officer of the Commission. The Management Representation Letter, signed by the Authorising Officer and myself, will be sent to the European Court of Auditors for the audit of the Final Accounts.

Qualified electronic signature by: KATTY

HANCQ

Date 2026-06-03 06:31:49 UTC

Katty Hancq

**Accounting Officer of the  
Circular Bio-based Europe Joint  
Undertaking**

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<sup>1</sup>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/887 of 13 March 2019 on the model financial regulation for public-private partnership bodies referred to in Article 71 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION NOTE

## 1. General background on the entity

### Establishment

Horizon Europe – the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – aims to increase the EU's research and innovation impact by combining European partnership co-investment with additional private and public sector funds in areas where the scope and scale of the research and innovation resources can help achieve the EU's Horizon Europe priorities, notably, its Pillar II – Global challenges and European industrial competitiveness.

The setting up of the joint undertakings under Horizon Europe was regulated through Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 (also known as the Single Basic Act) and published in the Official Journal on 30 November 2021.

Under the Single Basic Act (Article 174.3), the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) shall be the legal and universal successor, in respect of all contracts, including employment contracts and grant agreements, liabilities and acquired property, of the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking established by Council Regulation (EU) 2014/560 of 6 May 2014, which it shall replace and succeed. The Joint Undertaking is based in Brussels. The Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking, known also as BBI JU, was a public-private partnership between the European Union (EU) and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC). It aimed to bring together all relevant stakeholders and contributes to establishing Europe as a key player in the research, demonstration and deployment of advanced bio-based products and biofuels.

### Mission

CBE JU's mission is to implement, under Horizon Europe rules, the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) developed jointly by the industry and by the European Commission and adopted by the CBE JU Governing Board, by organising calls for proposals to support research, demonstration and deployment activities enabling the collaboration between stakeholders along the entire value chains, covering primary production of biomass, processing industry and final use.

### Main operational activities

CBE JU contributes to a more resource-efficient and sustainable low-carbon economy, and to increasing economic growth and employment, in particular in rural areas, by developing sustainable and competitive bio-based industries in Europe. This is based on advanced biorefineries that source their biomass sustainably and in particular aims to:

- Accelerate the innovation process and development of the bio-based innovative solutions;
- Accelerate the market deployment of the existing mature innovative bio-based systems; and
- Ensure high level of environmental performance of bio-based industrial systems.

### Governance

CBE JU is headed by an Executive Director, who is accountable to a Governing Board – the main decision-making body of the CBE JU. The Governing Board has overall responsibility for the strategic orientation and the operations of the CBE JU and supervises the implementation of its activities.

It brings together the two groups of the JU's Members:

The EU, represented by the European Commission (the Commission);

The Bio-based Industries Consortium Aisbl (the 'BIC'), a non-profit organisation established under Belgium law, with its permanent office in Brussels, Belgium.

The Governing Board is made up of five representatives from the Commission and five representatives of the Members other than the Union, at least one of which should represent SMEs.

Other bodies of CBE JU are:

The Scientific Committee, which is composed of a balanced representation of worldwide recognised experts from academia, industry, SMEs, non-governmental organisations and regulatory bodies;

The States' Representatives Group, which is composed of one representative of each Member State and of each country associated to Horizon Europe;

The Stakeholders' or Deployment Groups.

## **Sources of financing**

CBE JU is jointly funded by the EU and the "Members other than the Union" (BIC) through financial contributions paid in instalments and in-kind contributions consisting of the costs incurred by them in implementing indirect actions that are not reimbursed by the CBE JU. The resources of the CBE JU entered to its budget are composed of:

Members' financial contributions to the administrative costs;

Members' financial contributions to the operational costs;

Any revenue generated by the JU;

Any other financial contributions, resources and revenues.

## 2. Annual accounts

### Basis for preparation

The legal framework and the deadlines for the preparation of the annual accounts are set by the Model Financial Regulation (MFR)<sup>1</sup>. As per this regulation, the annual accounts are prepared in accordance with the rules adopted by the Accounting Officer of the Commission (EU Accounting Rules, EAR), which are based on internationally accepted accounting standards for the public sector (IPSAS).

### Accounting Officer

In accordance with the MFR, the Governing Board of the entity appoints the Accounting Officer who is, amongst other tasks, responsible for preparation of the annual accounts.

The Single Basic Act<sup>2</sup> establishing the new generations of JUs, required, within one year following the date of entry into force of the Regulation, the establishment of back-office arrangements, to provide horizontal support functions to the joint undertakings, by concluding service level agreements. The Accounting Back Office (Acco BOA) was established and took over the accounting services from the Accounting Officer of the European Commission from 1 December 2022.

Following the decision of the **Circular Bio-based Europe** Joint Undertaking Governing Board of 29 November 2022 (CBE-GB-15/22), on behalf of the Back Office Arrangement Accounting (BOA), Ms. Katty Hancq, as of 1 December 2022, acts as the Accounting Officer and Ms. Andrea Tóth and Mr. Andrei Hretu were nominated as Deputy Accounting Officers of **Circular Bio-based Europe** Joint Undertaking. Following the enactment of the contingency back-up plan for long term leaves, the deputisation of Ms. Andrea Tóth was activated from the date of 15 November 2024, in accordance with the GB decision CBE-GB-15/22. The deputy Accounting Officer was appointed with the same responsibility and the same conditions as the Accounting Officer. The deputisation arrangements ended when the Accounting Officer nominated by GB decision CBE-GB-15/22 dated 29 November 2022 returned to her functions on 01 September 2025. This was shared during the Governing Board meeting of 14 October 2025.

### Composition of the annual accounts

The annual accounts cover the period from 1 January to 31 December and comprise the financial statements and the reports on the implementation of the budget. While the financial statements and the complementary notes are prepared on an accrual accounting basis, the budget implementation reports are primarily based on movements of cash.

### Process from provisional accounts to discharge

The provisional annual accounts prepared by the Accounting Officer are transmitted, by 1 March of the following year, to the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and to the audit company contracted by the JU. Following the audit, the Accounting Officer prepares the final annual accounts and submits them to the Governing Board for opinion.

The final annual accounts, together with the opinion of the Governing Board, are sent to the Accounting Officer of the Commission, the European Court of Auditors, the European Parliament and the Council, by 1 July of the following financial year. The ECA scrutinises the final annual accounts and includes any findings in the annual report for the European Parliament and the Council.

It falls to the Council to recommend, and then to the European Parliament to decide, whether to grant discharge to the Executive Director in respect of the implementation of the budget for a given financial year. Amongst other elements this decision is also based on a review of the accounts and the annual report of the ECA.

<sup>1</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/887 of 13 March 2019 on the model financial regulation for public-private partnership bodies referred to in Article 71 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 14 2, 29.5.2019, p. 16)

<sup>2</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and

## 3. Operational highlights

### Achievements of the year

CBE JU accomplished its major annual objectives, by signing the third batch of grant agreements under the Horizon Europe mandate, successfully completing evaluations of the fourth call for proposals, recruiting new staff, managing the running projects and promoting their achievements.

The most important achievements of 2025 were as follows.

The fourth CBE JU call under Horizon Europe was published in April and the evaluations were successfully carried out in late autumn, setting the basis for the signature of the grant agreements in 2026.

Over the same period, the JU's founding partners prepared the ambitious Annual Work Plan 2026 with a large call of over EUR 170.7 million. The definition of the call topics for 2026 was a result of the joint effort in defining and respecting a very tight planning and in involving to a maximum extent the Scientific Committee and the States' Representatives Group in the process.

On the project management side, the GAP of the 2024 call was successfully completed within the deadlines, and the pre-financing payments all made. For ongoing BBI JU-funded projects, 16 interim and final payments were processed on time for a total amount of EUR 8.9 million, while for CBE JU-funded projects, 27 interim payments were processed for a total amount of EUR 27.2 million. The total amount of net payments (including prefinancing) for 2025 was over EUR 154 million, reaching a 87% execution of the voted budget.

While the budget implementation was good overall, it was impacted by deviations linked to the payments of flagship projects. On the administrative side, the remaining of the BBI JU legacy budget for an amount of kEUR 275 was returned to the Commission and to BIC during 2025.

The CBE JU 2025 communications highlights include a successful Info Day for potential applicants with about 450 in-person and close to 1,200 remote participants, and nearly 1,000 networking meetings held on the day; several high-level project milestones, such as completion of the SCALE microalgae biorefinery in France; promotion of the CBE JU achievements on digital channels (e.g., campaign on SME participation in the programme), as well as via publications (e.g., *A competitive bioeconomy for a sustainable future*) and via events (e.g., BIOKET, EUBCE). A campaign on the success of the BBI JU programme marked the end of the programme. Several large projects, such as the organisation of the CBE JU Stakeholder Forum and the networking event to take place in March and April 2026 respectively, were also initiated in 2025.

CBE JU moved forward with the development of a web app designed in 2024 to collect project data pertaining to CBE JU key performance indicators (KPIs) and impact assessments. The first development round concluded successfully with the submission of comprehensive data from recently funded projects, facilitating structured analysis and communication regarding CBE JU's specific objectives. A follow-up contract was launched to enhance the internal interface and refining validation and data extraction procedures for reporting purposes. While the project was technically accomplished during 2025, invoicing and payment will be finalized in Q1 2026.

In 2025, CBE JU was fully staffed, four staff members were replaced and one position was not replaced in anticipation of the staff cut to be implemented by December 2027. One financial officer was recruited, for 50% financed by associated countries contributions.

CBE JU continued to lead the Back Office Arrangement for HR jointly with IHI JU. The BOA HR continued to work on joint actions, under the coordination of CBE JU, improving the coherence of the HR IT landscape and legal framework, sharing good practices, implementing joint selection procedures where possible and sharing reserve lists. The procedure for selecting new confidential counsellors to reinforce the joint network was finalised.

### Budget and budget implementation

2025 was the fourth year for which there was a combined budget for both CBE JU (Horizon Europe) as well as the BBI JU (Horizon 2020) legacy. While there was no more BBI JU administrative budget for the first time this year, final payments for the last BBI JU ongoing projects are expected to be made up to (at least) the end of 2027. The Governing Board adopted the 2025 budget on 12 December 2024, for a global amount of kEUR 173

535 in commitment appropriations (CA) and kEUR 184 029 in payment appropriations (PA), including prior year unused reactivated appropriations (C2). The budget was amended three times in 2025 as follows:

1. The first time, in February 2025, to reflect the increase of the CBE JU staff by 1 FTE, financed by third countries contributions to Horizon Europe. To finance the additional resource, an amount of kEUR 100 CA and equivalent PA was transferred from Title 3 to Title 1.
2. In March 2025, to reactivate part of the remaining leftovers from previous calls for an amount of kEUR 7 000 in CA to increase the budget of the Call 2025.
3. In September 2025, to transfer kEUR 50 in CA and PA from Title 1 to Title 3 of the budget. This amount originated from the additional United Kingdom contribution amounting to kEUR 100 which was fully allocated to the administrative budget while only half was necessary as the other half will be contributed by BIC. The third amendment also provided for a mirroring increase by kEUR 50 in CA and PA of BIC contribution to match the additional UK contribution. The amendment also reflected a technical adjustment further to a clerical error. An amount of 14 million of unused H2020 PA was paid back to the Commission in 2025. The CBE JU requested this amount in 2026 to cover for its needs for Horizon Europe project-related payments. Further reactivations to administrative budget in the amount of kEUR 221 in CA and kEUR 203 in PA, reactivations to operational budget in the amount of kEUR 281 in CA and PA as well as reactivation of remaining unused H2020 administrative appropriations to be repaid to the EC and BIC in the amount of kEUR 275 in CA and PA were introduced.

The total amended budget (including prior year reactivations) was then kEUR 181 363 in CA and kEUR 184 889 in PA. The total amended C1 (fresh budget), without prior year reactivations, was kEUR 147 869 in CA and kEUR 160 238 in PA.

The amounts of prior years' reactivated appropriations are as follows:

Administrative

- ✓ BBI JU: kEUR 275 in CA, kEUR 275 in PA (a necessary technical step before refunding the surplus to the Commission and BIC members)
- ✓ CBE JU : kEUR 2 300 in CA, kEUR 2 600 in PA

Operational

- ✓ BBI JU: kEUR 5 in CA, kEUR 13 948 in PA
- ✓ CBE JU : kEUR 30 914 in CA, kEUR 7 829 in PA

In 2025, as per third amendment of AWP 2025, the remaining surplus of BBI JU unused appropriations of kEUR 275 in administrative PA was reactivated and equally refunded to the Commission and to BIC.

The BBI JU operational CA were reactivated from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe in line with the provisions of the Single Basic Act establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe. They are deemed part of the global envelope and not in addition to it.

The reactivated appropriations were consumed wherever possible in priority in line with CBE's Financial Rules art. 6(5), and reached 99% consumption on the administrative CA side, 88% on the administrative PA side, 100% on the operational CA side and 77% on the operational PA side by year end. The lower execution rate on the operational PA side could be explained by the suspension of several final payments for flagship projects of H2020 Programme.

At the end of 2025, there was only a remaining surplus of BBI JU unused appropriations of kEUR 5 023 in operational PA, which will be used in 2026 to cover the outstanding payments for H2020 Programme projects.

For the first year for which there was no administrative budget for BBI JU anymore, the total administrative budget for CBE JU was kEUR 7 421 in CA and kEUR 7 721 in PA. Of this amount, kEUR 6 422 representing 86.5% was executed in CA and kEUR 5 837 representing 75.6% in PA.

On the operational side, for CBE JU, the CA available for the whole operational budget was kEUR 172 468 (this excludes kEUR 1 198 in the operational budget for expert-evaluators of the call). The whole commitment available was used to launch the 2025 call. On the PA side, including pre financing and interim and final payments of

previous calls, the available budget for both CBE and BBI JU was kEUR 176 893 million and the execution rate was 87.6%.

A Governing Board decision was taken at the end of 2025 to reactivate in the 2026 budget of CBE JU:

Administrative:

- ✓ CA: kEUR 0
- ✓ PA: kEUR 500 from 2024

Further administrative reactivations from 2025 unused appropriations will be introduced with the first amendment of AWP 2026.

Operational:

- ✓ CA: kEUR 17 870 in CA from 2023, 2024 and 2025 (of which kEUR 5 174 from BBI JU)
- ✓ PA: kEUR 1 009 from 2024 (all from BBI JU).

### **Administrative expenditure**

As 2025 was the first year, where JU had only one administrative budget, there is no distinction between CBE and BBI, all amounts concern CBE JU administrative budget.

#### **Title 1:**

The total allocated CA in Title 1 were kEUR 4 183. Overall CA implementation of staff-related costs was 86%. Chapters 11 and 13, related to salaries and missions and presenting the major part of Title 1 (94%), showed a strong execution of around 90%, while Chapters 12, 14, 15 related to recruitment costs, other benefits and team building, presenting 6% of staff-related costs, were implemented with a lower rate.

The total allocated PA in Title 1 were kEUR 4 686, and the PA implementation reached 77%.

#### **Title 2:**

The total allocated CA in Title 2 were kEUR 3 295. The 2025 infrastructure budget achieved an overall CA implementation of 87%, where only two chapters, representing less than 2% of Title 2, showed an execution of less than 80% - CBE Telecommunication and postal charges (62%, kEUR 8) and CBE Formal meetings (62%, kEUR 37).

The total PA in Title 2 were kEUR 3 079 with an implementation rate of 74%. The overall PA execution was impacted by the fact that although the CBE JU Stakeholders Forum is taking place in March 2026, the contracting of the suppliers of this major event needed to take place already in 2025 and the related invoices will only reach CBE JU during the first part of 2026. The same for the CBE JU Networking Event (total amount committed for the 2 major events is kEUR 400 (13% of the PA).

The KPI web tool is another element that impacted the implementation of PA in Title 2, since the KPIs web tool was developed throughout 2025 but will be invoiced early 2026 (kEUR 219).

### **Operational expenditure**

**CA.** The overall budget implementation of the CA for Title 3 is kEUR 173 419, with an execution rate of 99.7%.

The CBE JU call 2025 was launched in April 2025 for a total of EUR 172 million, of which the accepted proposals totalled kEUR 171 807. The GAP phase has been launched and is expected to be finalised by end May 2026.

In May 2025, the GAP phase of CBE JU 2024 call, totalling EUR 197.5 million, was finalised, and between March and November, the 30 prefinancing payments relating to this call were made.

**PA.** The overall budget implementation of the PA for Title 3 is kEUR 154 878, with an execution rate of 87.6%.

**BBI JU:** For the ongoing BBI projects, CBE JU processed 16 interim and final payments for a total of kEUR 8 924, which represent a budget execution of 64% over the kEUR 13 948 reactivated PA credits. The reasons for the lower budget execution is linked to the failure of a large flagship project, which resulted in a recovery, and complex final payments of large projects that were postponed to 2026.

**CBE JU:** For the ongoing CBE projects, 27 interim payments were performed for the projects from the calls 2022 and 2023, for an amount of kEUR 27 155. For the recently signed projects on the CBE JU 2024 call, 30 pre-financing payments were made for an amount of kEUR 118 048. The total payment execution rate is 90%

### Impact of the activities in the financial statements

In the financial statements, the impact of the above-mentioned activities resulted in:

**Pre-financing:** In 2024 another call for proposals under the Horizon Europe Programme was launched and the pre-financing was paid in 2025 for a total EUR 118.048 thousand. Nevertheless, for ongoing CBE JU and BBI JU projects and the finalisation of several projects the clearing of the pre-financing with incurred expenses, impacted the increase of pre-financing from EUR 224.471 thousand in 2024 to EUR 295.424 thousand in 2025 (see note **2.3**).

**Increase of payables:** The payables increased by EUR 9,602 thousand (2024: EUR 94.459 thousand, 2025: EUR 104 061 thousand) mainly because of the increased number of received cost claims as well as the contributions in cash to be validated. (see note **2.7**).

**Operational costs:** The increase in the operational costs (2024: EUR 88.642 thousand; 2025: EUR 142.359 thousand) is mainly due to an increase in the estimated in-kind contributions and operational project costs for Horizon Europe projects (see note **3.4**).

CIRCULAR BIO-BASED EUROPE JOINT UNDERTAKING

FINANCIAL YEAR 2025

# **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES**

**BALANCE SHEET**

	Note	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
<i>Intangible assets</i>	2.1	224,015.00	-
<i>Intangible asset under construction</i>	2.1	219,174.15	280,018.75
<i>Property, plant and equipment</i>	2.2	68,588.00	78,376.00
<i>Long term pre-financing</i>	2.3	175,641,807.42	149,143,106.98
		176,153,584.57	149,501,501.73
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
<i>short term Pre-financing</i>	2.3	119,782,050.98	75,327,635.62
<i>Exchange receivables and non-exchange recoverable</i>	2.4	46,844,241.43	61,495,212.82
<i>Cash and cash Equivalents</i>	2.5	0.00	-
		166,626,292.41	136,822,848.44
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>342,779,876.98</b>	<b>286,324,350.17</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
<i>Payables</i>	2.7	-	-
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
<i>Short term provisions</i>	2.6	-	-
<i>Payables and other liabilities</i>	2.7	104,060,768.30	94,458,589.64
<i>Accrued charges and deferred income</i>	2.8	56,905,718.75	44,969,226.00
		160,966,487.05	139,427,815.64
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>160,966,487.05</b>	<b>139,427,815.64</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
<i>Contribution from Members</i>	2.9	1,310,719,015.17	1,127,945,150.86
<i>Accumulated deficit</i>		(981,048,616.33)	(888,307,320.18)
<i>Economic result of the year</i>		(147,857,008.91)	(92,741,296.15)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>181,813,389.93</b>	<b>146,896,534.53</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		<b>342,779,876.98</b>	<b>286,324,350.17</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

	Note	2025	2024
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>Revenue from non-exchange transactions</b>			
<i>Recovery of operating expenses</i>	3.1	281,414.17	880,283.22
		<b>281,414.17</b>	<b>880,283.22</b>
<b>Revenue from exchange transactions</b>			
<i>Financial revenues</i>	3.3	12,642.85	-
<i>Other exchange revenue</i>		48,834.35	71,464.60
		<b>61,477.20</b>	<b>71,464.60</b>
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>342,891.37</b>	<b>951,747.82</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<i>Operational costs</i>	3.4	(142,359,148.26)	(88,642,113.32)
<i>Staff costs</i>	3.5	(3,389,959.47)	(3,105,891.08)
<i>Financial expenses</i>	3.6	-	(126,413.53)
<i>Other expenses</i>	3.7	(2,450,792.55)	(1,818,626.04)
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>(148,199,900.28)</b>	<b>(93,693,043.97)</b>
<b>ECONOMIC RESULT OF THE YEAR</b>		<b>(147,857,008.91)</b>	<b>(92,741,296.15)</b>

**CASHFLOW STATEMENT<sup>1</sup>**

	2025	2024
<i>Economic result of the year</i>	(147,857,008.91)	(92,741,296.15)
<b><u>Operating activities</u></b>		
Depreciation and amortization	81,041.73	25,690.86
Increase/(Decrease) in in-kind contributions	45,720,319.54	12,309,890.22
Other non-cash movements	-	0.06
(Increase)/Decrease in pre-financing	(70,953,115.80)	(84,103,057.70)
(Increase)/Decrease in exchange receivables and non-exchange	14,650,971.39	(3,047,116.18)
Increase/(Decrease) in payables	9,602,178.66	15,816,172.09
Increase/(Decrease) in accrued charges & deferred income	11,936,492.75	15,535,343.25
<b><u>Financing activities</u></b>		
Increase/(Decrease) in cash contributions	137,053,544.77	136,408,434.86
<b><u>Investing activities</u></b>		
(Increase)/Decrease in intangible assets and property, plant, equipment	(234,424.13)	(204,061.31)
<b>Net Cashflow</b>	-	-
Net Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at year-end	-	-

<sup>1</sup> The treasury of Circular Bio-based Europe JU is integrated into the Commission's treasury system. Because of this Circular Bio-based Europe JU does not have any bank accounts of its own. All payments and receipts are processed via the Commission's treasury system and registered on intercompany accounts, which are presented under the heading non-exchange recoverables.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Contribution from Members	Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit)	Economic result of the year	Net Assets
<b>BALANCE AS AT 31.12.2023</b>	<b>979,226,825.78</b>	<b>(760,505,237.48)</b>	<b>(127,802,082.70)</b>	<b>90,919,505.60</b>
Allocation 2023 economic result	-	(127,802,082.70)	127,802,082.70	-
Cash contribution	136,408,434.86	-	-	136,408,434.86
Contribution in-kind	12,309,890.22	-	-	12,309,890.22
Economic result of the year	-	-	(92,741,296.15)	(92,741,296.15)
<b>BALANCE AS AT 31.12.2024</b>	<b>1,127,945,150.86</b>	<b>(888,307,320.18)</b>	<b>(92,741,296.15)</b>	<b>146,896,534.53</b>
Allocation 2024 economic result	-	(92,741,296.15)	92,741,296.15	-
Cash contribution	137,053,544.77	-	-	137,053,544.77
Contribution in-kind	45,720,319.54	-	-	45,720,319.54
Economic result of the year	-	-	(147,857,008.91)	(147,857,008.91)
<b>BALANCE AS AT 31.12.2025</b>	<b>1,310,719,015.17</b>	<b>(981,048,616.33)</b>	<b>(147,857,008.91)</b>	<b>181,813,389.93</b>

# **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

# 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

## 1.1. ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

The objective of financial statements is to provide information about the financial position, performance and cash flows of an entity that is useful to a wide range of stakeholders.

The overall considerations (or accounting principles) to be followed when preparing the financial statements are laid down in EU Accounting Rule 1 'Financial Statements' and are the same as those described in IPSAS 1: fair presentation, accrual basis, going concern, consistency of presentation, materiality, aggregation, offsetting and comparative information. The qualitative characteristics of financial reporting are relevance, faithful representation (reliability), understandability, timeliness, comparability and verifiability.

## 1.2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

### 1.2.1. Reporting period

Financial statements are presented annually. The accounting year begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December.

### 1.2.2. Currency and basis for conversion

The annual accounts are presented in euros, the budget implementation tables are presented in thousands of euros, the euro being the EU's functional currency. Foreign currency transactions are translated into euros using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of foreign currency transactions and from the re-translation at year end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of financial performance. Different conversion methods apply to property, plant and equipment and intangible assets, which retain their value in euros at the date when they were purchased.

Year-end balances of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into euros on the basis of the European Central Bank (ECB) exchange rates applying on 31 December.

#### Euro exchange rates

Currency	31.12.2025	31.12.2024	Currency	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
<b>BGN</b>	<b>1.9558</b>	1.9558	<b>PLN</b>	<b>4.221</b>	4.275
<b>CZK</b>	<b>24.237</b>	25.185	<b>RON</b>	<b>5.0968</b>	4.9743
<b>DKK</b>	<b>7.4689</b>	7.4578	<b>SEK</b>	<b>10.8215</b>	11.459
<b>GBP</b>	<b>0.8726</b>	0.82918	<b>CHF</b>	<b>0.9314</b>	0.9412
<b>NOK</b>	<b>11.843</b>	11.795	<b>JPY</b>	<b>184.09</b>	163.06
<b>HUF</b>	<b>385.15</b>	411.35	<b>USD</b>	<b>1.175</b>	1.0389

### 1.2.3. Use of estimates

In accordance with IPSAS and generally accepted accounting principles, the financial statements necessarily include amounts based on estimates and assumptions by management based on the most reliable information available. Significant estimates include, but are not limited to: financial risk of accounts receivable and the amounts disclosed in the notes concerning accrued revenue and charges, provisions, degree of impairment of intangible assets and property, plant and equipment, contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Reasonable estimates are an essential part of the preparation of financial statements and do not undermine their reliability. An estimate may need revision if changes occur in the circumstances on which the estimate was based or as a result of new information or more experience. By its nature, the revision of an estimate does not relate to prior periods and is not the correction of an error. The effect of a change in accounting estimate shall be recognised in the surplus or deficit in the periods in which it becomes known.

### 1.2.4. Application of new and revised European Union Accounting Rules (EAR)

#### New EAR adopted and effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025

On 12 December 2025 the Accounting Officer of the European Commission adopted a targeted amendment of EAR 1 'Financial Statements'. The amendment, which is effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025, introduced changes to the guidance on the Segment Report. As Circular Bio-Based Europe JU is not obliged to, and does not prepare, a Segment Report, the amendment has no impact on its annual accounts.

#### New EAR adopted with application after 31 December 2025

**Revised EAR 8:** On 15 April 2025 the Accounting Officer of the European Commission adopted the revised EAR 8 'Leases', which is effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2027. The revised EAR 8 has been updated in line with IPSAS 43 'Leases' (including the amendment 'Concessionary Leases and Other Arrangements Conveying Rights over Assets'). The main change as compared to the current EAR 8 is the introduction of a right-of-use recognition and measurement model, which requires lessees to recognise all leases, including concessionary leases, on the balance sheet, unless the short-term or low-value exemption applies. The current distinction of leases as either operating leases or finance leases, with only the latter recognised on the balance sheet, will no longer be applicable. For lessors, the revised EAR 8 largely carries forward the existing accounting requirements, with additional guidance and clarifications. Consequently, the initial application of the revised EAR 8 is expected to result in more leases being recognised on the balance sheet, with a corresponding increase in right-of-use assets and lease liabilities. The impact of the revised EAR 8, including on concessionary leases and other relevant arrangements, will continue to be assessed over the 2026 calendar year prior to the 1 January 2027 effective date.

The scope of lease contracts falling under IPSAS 43 will be limited to the rental commitment of the office building of the Joint Undertaking. The total commitment under **note 3.7** can give an indication of the impact of the new standard on the financial statements.

**Revised EAR 1:** On 15 April 2025 the Accounting Officer of the European Commission adopted the amended EAR 1 'Financial Statements', which is effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2027. The objective of the amendment is to ensure a consistent classification of all borrowings within financing activities. Under the current EAR 1 borrowings related to leases, the acquisition of property, plant and equipment, and back-to-back operations are classified within operating activities. Under the revised EAR 1, financing activities will include all activities that result in changes on the size and composition of borrowings, without the above exceptions. The impact of the revised EAR 1 will continue to be assessed over the 2026 calendar year prior to the 1 January 2027 effective date.

## Revised IPSAS standards which have been issued, and are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025

**IPSAS 46 - Measurement:** IPSAS 46 provides a unified framework for measuring assets and liabilities by setting out how commonly used measurement bases such as historical cost, fair value, cost of fulfilment, and the newly introduced current operational value should be applied in the public sector. It introduces generic guidance on fair value for the first time and establishes current operational value as a public-sector-specific basis for valuing assets held for service delivery rather than cash generation. The standard enhances consistency and clarity in initial and subsequent measurement across IPSAS. The application of this new standard is not expected to have a material impact on the Annual Accounts of the JU.

**IPSAS 45 - Property, Plant and Equipment:** IPSAS 45 updates the accounting requirements for property, plant, and equipment by replacing IPSAS 17, introducing current operational value as an additional measurement basis, and bringing heritage and infrastructure assets within scope where they meet the PPE definition. It provides new guidance on recognising and measuring these assets, highlighting traits such as restricted use, irreplaceability, and long or indefinite useful lives, and enhances consistency in PPE measurement and disclosure across the public sector. The application of this new standard is not expected to have a material impact on the Annual Accounts of the JU.

**IPSAS 44 - Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations:** IPSAS 44 sets out the accounting, presentation, and disclosure requirements for non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations, drawing largely from IFRS 5. It requires assets classified as held for sale to be measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell, with depreciation ceasing once classified, and mandates that such assets, as well as the results of discontinued operations, be presented separately in the financial statements. The application of this new standard will not have any impact on the JU given that it does not have any asset or operation that fall under IPSAS 44.

## Revised and New IPSAS Standards which have been issued, and are effective for the annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2026.

**IPSAS 47 - Revenue:** IPSAS 47 provides a single, comprehensive source of revenue accounting guidance for the public sector by replacing IPSAS 9, IPSAS 11 and IPSAS 23, and introducing two distinct accounting models based on whether a revenue transaction arises from a binding arrangement or from a non-binding arrangement. It requires entities to first identify the nature of the revenue transaction and then determine whether enforceable rights and obligations exist; revenue from binding arrangements is recognised and measured using principles tailored to enforceable performance requirements, while revenue from non-binding arrangements, including taxes and transfers, is accounted for using separate recognition and measurement requirements that reflect the absence of enforceable obligations. IPSAS 47 clarifies and refines public-sector revenue concepts, provides focused guidance to support consistent application across diverse revenue streams, and consolidates all revenue accounting principles into one standard. IPSAS 47 is effective for periods beginning on or after 1 January 2026, with early application permitted.

**IPSAS 48 - Transfer Expenses:** IPSAS 48 sets out the accounting requirements for transfer expenses - transactions where an entity provides goods, services, or other assets without receiving resources in return - using two accounting models based on whether a binding arrangement exists. Transfer expenses arising from binding arrangements are recognised when transfer rights are derecognised or transfer obligations are recognised, while those without binding arrangements are recognised when a provision is recorded or, if none exists, when control of the resources is lost. The standard fills a major gap in IPSAS by providing clear recognition, measurement, presentation, and disclosure requirements from the perspective of the transfer provider. IPSAS 48 is effective for periods beginning on or after 1 January 2026, with early application permitted.

**Amendments to IPSAS 12 - Inventory, IPSAS 21 - Impairment Non-Cash Generating Assets and IPSAS 3 - Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors:** The amendments include the introduction of current operational value in IPSAS 12, and IPSAS 21, the addition of a definition of accounting estimates to IPSAS 3, and the enhancement of the terminology in current value measurement disclosures. These amendments will be effective for periods beginning on or after 1 January 2028, with early application permitted.

The Accounting Officer of the European Commission (following consultation with the accounting officers of other EU bodies) is assessing the impact of the above standards on the Annual Accounts and considering a possible revision of relevant EAR accordingly. For the new standards and amendments where early application has been permitted, no early application has been adopted.

## 1.3. BALANCE SHEET

### 1.3.1. Intangible assets

An intangible asset is an identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance. An asset is identifiable if it is either separable or arises from binding arrangements. Acquired intangible assets are stated at historical cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Internally developed intangible assets are capitalised when the relevant criteria of the EU accounting rules are met, and the expenses relate solely to the development phase of the asset. Intangible assets are amortised on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives (3 to 11 years).

### 1.3.2. Property, plant and equipment

All property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or transfer of the asset. Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the entity and its cost can be measured reliably. Repairs and maintenance costs are charged to the statement of financial performance during the financial period in which they are incurred. Land is not depreciated, as it is deemed to have an indefinite useful life. Assets under construction are not depreciated as these assets are not yet available for use. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost less their residual values over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Type of asset	Straight line depreciation rate
<i>Buildings</i>	4 % to 10 %
<i>Plant and equipment</i>	10 % to 25 %
<i>Furniture and vehicles</i>	10 % to 25 %
<i>Computer hardware</i>	25 % to 33 %
<i>Other</i>	10 % to 33 %

Gains or losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds less selling expenses with the carrying amount of the disposed asset and are included in the statement of financial performance.

## Leases

A lease is an agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee, in return for a payment or series of payments, the right to use an asset for an agreed period of time. Leases are classified as either finance leases or operating leases.

Finance leases are leases where substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership are transferred to the lessee.

An operating lease is a lease other than a finance lease, i.e., a lease where the lessor retains substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. When entering an operating lease as a lessee, the operating lease payments are recognised as an expense in the statement of financial performance on a straight-line basis over the lease term with neither an asset nor a liability recognised in the balance sheet.

### 1.3.3. Impairment of non-financial assets

Assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation/depreciation and are tested annually for impairment. Assets that are subject to amortisation/depreciation are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication at the reporting date that an asset may be impaired. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable (service) amount. The recoverable (service) amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use.

Intangible assets and property, plant and equipment residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at least once per year. If the reasons for impairments recognised in previous years no longer apply, the impairment losses are reversed accordingly.

### 1.3.4. Financial assets

The classification of the financial instruments is determined at initial recognition. Based on the management model and the asset contractual cash-flow characteristics the financial assets can be classified in three categories: Financial assets at amortised cost ('AC'), financial assets at fair value through net assets/equity ('FVNA') or financial assets at fair value through surplus or deficit ('FVSD'). Based on this classification, the entity has only 'financial assets at amortised cost', which are exchange receivables.

Financial assets at amortised cost are non-derivative financial assets that meet two conditions: 1) The entity holds them in order to collect the contractual cash flows. 2) On specified days, there are contractual cash flows that are solely payments of the principal and interest on the outstanding principal.

Financial assets at amortised cost are included in current assets, except for those with maturity of more than 12 months from the balance sheet reporting date.

## Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets at amortised cost are initially recognised at their fair value plus the transaction costs.

## Subsequent measurement

Financial assets at amortised cost are carried at amortised cost, which is the amount initially recognised minus the principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative amortisation of the interests using the effective interest method. In addition, the entity recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses over the lifetime of the financial assets. At each reporting date, the annual movement in the loss allowance adjusts the carrying amount of the financial asset. In the statement of financial performance, the entity recognises an impairment gain or loss for the adjustment of the loss allowance.

## Derecognition

Financial assets at amortised cost are derecognised either when the rights to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or are waived, or and when the entity has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership to another party.

### 1.3.5. Pre-financing amounts

Pre-financing is a payment intended to provide the beneficiary with a cash advance, i.e. afloat. It may be split into several payments over a period defined in the particular contract, decision, agreement or basic legal act. The float or advance is either used for the purpose for which it was provided during the period defined in the agreement or it is repaid. If the beneficiary does not incur eligible expenditure, he has the obligation to return the pre-financing advance to the entity. Thus, as the entity retains control over the pre-financing and is entitled to a refund for the ineligible part, the amount is recognised as an asset.

Pre-financing is initially recognised on the balance sheet when cash is transferred to the recipient. It is measured at the amount of the consideration given. In subsequent periods pre-financing is measured at the amount initially recognised on the balance sheet less eligible expenses (including estimated amounts where necessary) incurred during the period. Pre-financing is classified as a current asset unless it is considered unlikely to be cleared within the next twelve months from the reporting period, in which case it is classified as long-term pre-financing.

### 1.3.6. Receivables and recoverables

The EU accounting rules require separate presentation of exchange and non-exchange transactions. To distinguish between the two categories, the term 'receivable' is reserved for exchange transactions, whereas for non-exchange transactions, i.e., when the EU receives value from another entity without directly giving approximately equal value in exchange, the term 'recoverables' is used (e.g., recoverables from Member States related to own resources).

Receivables from exchange transactions meet the definition of financial instruments. The entity classified them as financial assets at amortised cost and measured them accordingly.

Recoverables from non-exchange transactions are carried at fair value as at the date of acquisition less write-down for impairment. A write-down for impairment is established when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the recoverables. The amount of the write-down is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the recoverable amount. The amount of the write-down is recognised in the statement of financial performance.

### 1.3.7. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are financial assets at amortised cost and include cash at hand, deposits held at call or at short notice with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

### 1.3.8. Payables

Included under accounts payable are both amounts related to exchange transactions such as the purchase of goods and services, and to non-exchange transactions e.g., to cost claims from beneficiaries, grants or other EU funding, or pre-financing received (see note **1.6.1**), or non-validated in-kind contributions to operational activities (see note **1.6.2**).

Where grants or other funding are provided to the beneficiaries, the cost claims are recorded as payables for the requested amount, at the moment when the cost claim is received. Upon verification and acceptance of the eligible costs, the payables are valued at the accepted and eligible amount.

Payables arising from the purchase of goods and services are recognised at invoice reception for the original amount. The corresponding expenses are entered in the accounts when the supplies or services are delivered and accepted by the entity.

#### 1.3.9. Accrued and deferred revenue and charges

Transactions and events are recognised in the financial statements in the period to which they relate. At year end, if an invoice is not yet issued but the service has been rendered, or the supplies have been delivered by the entity or a contractual agreement exists (e.g., by reference to a contract), an accrued revenue will be recognised in the financial statements. In addition, at year end, if an invoice is issued but the services have not yet been rendered or the goods supplied have not yet been delivered, the revenue will be deferred and recognised in the subsequent accounting period.

Expenses are also accounted for in the period to which they relate. At the end of the accounting period, accrued expenses are recognised based on an estimated amount of the transfer obligation of the period. The calculation of accrued expenses is done in accordance with detailed operational and practical guidelines issued by the Accounting Officer. These aim at ensuring that the financial statements provide a faithful representation of the economic and other phenomena they purport to represent. By analogy, if a payment has been made in advance for services or goods that have not yet been received, the expense will be deferred and recognised in the subsequent accounting period.

#### 1.3.10. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a present legal or constructive obligation towards third parties as a result of past events, it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses. The amount of the provision is the best estimate of the expenditure expected to be required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. Where the provision involves a large number of items, the obligation is estimated by weighting all possible outcomes by their associated probabilities ('expected value' method).

When an obligation arises by uncertain future events that are not wholly within the control of the entity, a contingent liability is disclosed (refer to note **1.5.2**).

#### 1.3.11. Net assets

Net assets are the residual of assets and liabilities and comprise accumulated contributions received from the Members of the JU (EU and industry) less the accumulated contributions used. The contributions include financial contributions received by the JU and contributions provided by the Members to the funded projects in-kind. The net assets also contain reserves, if applicable. Refer to note **1.6** for details.

## 1.4. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

### 1.4.1. Revenue

Revenue comprises gross inflows of economic benefits or service potential received and receivable by the entity, which represents an increase in net assets, other than increases relating to contributions from members.

Depending on the nature of the underlying transactions in the statement of financial performance, revenue is distinguished between:

#### *(i) Revenue from non-exchange transactions*

Revenue from non-exchange transactions are taxes and transfers because the transferor provides resources to the recipient entity, without the recipient entity providing approximately equal value directly in exchange. Transfers are inflows of future economic benefits or service potential from non-exchange transactions, other than taxes. For the EU entities, transfers mostly comprise funds received from the Commission (e.g., balancing subsidy to the traditional agencies, operating subsidy for the delegation agreements).

The entity shall recognise an asset in respect of transfers when the entity controls the resources as a result of a past event (the transfer) and expects to receive future economic benefits or service potential from those resources, and when the fair value can be reliably measured. An inflow of resources from a non-exchange transaction recognised as an asset (i.e., cash) is also recognised as revenue, except to the extent that the entity has a present obligation in respect of that transfer (condition), which needs to be satisfied before the revenue can be recognised. Until the condition is met the revenue is deferred and recognised as a liability.

#### *(ii) Revenue from exchange transactions*

Revenue from the sale of goods and services is recognised when the significant risk and rewards of ownership of the goods are transferred to the purchaser. Revenue associated with a transaction involving the provision of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date.

### 1.4.2. Expenses

Expenses are decreases in economic benefits or service potential during the reporting period in the form of outflows or consumption of assets or the incurring of liabilities that result in decreases in net assets. They include both the expenses from exchange transactions and expenses from non-exchange transactions.

Expenses from exchange transactions arising from the purchase of goods and services are recognised when the supplies are delivered and accepted by the entity. They are valued at the original invoice amount. Furthermore, at the balance sheet date expenses related to the service delivered during the period for which an invoice has not yet been received or accepted are recognised in the statement of financial performance.

Expenses from non-exchange transactions relate to transfers to beneficiaries and can be of three types: entitlements, transfers under agreement and discretionary grants, contributions and donations. Transfers are recognised as expenses in the period during which the events giving rise to the transfer occurred, as long as: the nature of the transfer is allowed by regulation, or an agreement has been signed authorising the transfer; any eligibility criteria have been met by the beneficiary; and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

When a request for payment or cost claim is received and meets the recognition criteria, it is recognised as an expense for the eligible amount. At year end, incurred eligible expenses due to the beneficiaries but not yet reported are estimated and recorded as accrued expense.

## 1.5. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

### 1.5.1. Contingent assets

A contingent asset is a possible asset that arises from past events and of which the existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity. A contingent asset is disclosed when an inflow of economic benefits or service potential is probable.

### 1.5.2. Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is either a possible obligation of which the existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity; or a present obligation where it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation.

A contingent liability also arises in the rare circumstances where a present obligation exists but cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the accounts. They are disclosed unless the possibility of an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential is remote.

## 1.6. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The contributions from the Members of the Joint Undertaking (JU) form the funding of the JU and are treated as contributions from owners. An owner in this context does not mean an owner in the sense of owning shares of the JU (no shares are issued) but rather in the sense of political interest and governance of the JU by exercising the voting rights linked to these contributions.

### 1.6.1. Financial contributions

Financial contributions are contributions of Members made in cash in order to provide funding of the operational or administrative needs of the JU.

#### Horizon 2020 Programme:

Financial contributions are contributions of Members made in cash in order to provide funding of the operational or administrative needs of the JU. These financial contributions are recognised in net assets in the period in which the enforceable right to receive the payment was established.

#### Horizon Europe Programme:

- EU Contributions: In accordance with Article 19 of the Financial Framework Partnership Agreement (FFPA) 2020-2027, the JU received from the European Union a pre-financing payment for the implementation of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme.
- According to the Specific Guidance for the accounting of the EU cash contributions received by the Joint Undertakings under FFPA related to MFF 2021-2027, the contributions payments made by the EU for the Horizon Europe Programme are accounted for as 'Contributions in cash to be validated'. During the provisional accounting closure, the JU should, on the basis of the payment's

implementation report, determine the amounts of operating and administrative expenditure that have been covered from the EU financial contributions to the Horizon Europe Programme. In the accounting of the JU the underlying amount should be, for the purpose of the preparation of the provisional financial statements, transferred from the provisional payments to the net assets of the JU (cut-off procedure). It will be qualified as final payments and formally transferred to the net assets once the Commission has accepted the Consolidated Annual Activity Report – AAR (Art. 19.2 FFPA)

- Private (Bio-based Industries Consortium) contributions: financial contributions are contributions made in cash in order to provide funding of the administrative needs of the JU. These financial contributions are recognised in net assets in the period in which the enforceable right to receive the payment was established.

### 1.6.2. In-kind contributions

Members other than the EU (i.e., 'Private Members') can also contribute resources other than cash, e.g., laboratory equipment, specialised staff, etc. These in-kind contributions consist of the costs incurred by Private Members in implementing indirect actions.

The Regulation distinguishes between two types of in-kind contributions: (1) in-kind contributions to operational activities (IKOP) and (2) in-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA).

The IKOP represents in-kind contributions made to the JU linked to its work plan and co-financed by the EU.

The IKOP is recognised in the net assets of the JU in the period in which the conditions for Members' contributions stipulated by the Regulation are met.

As IKOP calculated from periodic cost claims of projects is not automatically recorded in the statement of financial performance, at year end, this incurred IKOP as well as IKOP not yet reported (via received costs claims) is estimated and recorded as payables and other liabilities ('Contributions of Members to be validated').

The EU makes available cash contributions to the CBE projects in advance of the project start date (until the total of this pre-financing payment and other periodic cost reimbursements reach 90% of the agreed maximum grant amount for the project), providing the beneficiaries with a sufficient "frontloading" of funds to implement the programme activities. On the other hand, the in-kind contributions provided by the private Members can be verified and recognised only after the activities are concluded, reported and certified.

The EU cash contributions are validated and recognised in the accounts of the JU when paid to the JU (or based on the payments processed by the JU, in the case of HE, see point **2.9**) at the beginning of the project implementation, while Members' in-kind contributions are only recognised after validation of the costs incurred and declared. Consequently, due to this time gap, during the programme implementation the amounts of contributions recognised per member category (EU and Private Members) differ significantly from each other. This gap between the recognised amount of EU cash contributions on the one hand and in-kind contributions on the other will be closed as the programme approaches the finalisation stage.

Due to major simplifications introduced in the H2020 Programme (which continue to be applied also for Horizon Europe), the certification of IKOP is based on the CFS<sup>2</sup> certificate for the total eligible project costs. The certificates for IKOP are only due to be submitted to the JU after the end of the last project reporting period. This time frame causes a major delay between the date when the IKOP balances are committed (upon signature of the grant) and the moment they are finally validated and recognised in the net assets of the JU.

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<sup>2</sup> CFS: Certificate on Financial Statements

The IKAA (under Horizon 2020 Programme) are contributions linked to implementing additional activities, included in the annual additional activities plan annexed to the main part of the work programme, that do not receive financial support from the Joint Undertaking but contribute to its objectives.

These additional activities (under the Horizon Europe Programme) are directly linked to the projects and activities of the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking, including in particular:

- a) investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;
- b) investments in a new innovative and sustainable production plant or flagship;
- c) investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment or pilot plants (research centres);
- d) standardisation activities.

Because the outflow of resources related to those activities is outside of the JU's control, these contributions are not recognised in its financial statements. However, to provide a complete picture of the operational activities related to the JU they are still disclosed as additional information in the notes.

## 2. NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

### ASSETS

#### 2.1. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Intangible asset under construction	Intangible asset	TOTAL
<i>Gross carrying amount at 31.12.2024</i>	280,018.75	-	280,018.75
<i>Transfers</i>	(280,018.75)	280,018.75	-
<i>Additions</i>	219,174.15	-	219,174.15
<b>Gross carrying amount at 31.12.2025</b>	<b>219,174.15</b>	<b>280,018.75</b>	<b>499,192.90</b>
<i>Accumulated depreciation at 31.12.2024</i>	-	-	-
<i>Depreciation charge for the year</i>	-	(56,003.75)	(56,003.75)
<b>Accumulated depreciation at 31.12.2025</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(56,003.75)</b>	<b>(56,003.75)</b>
<b>NET CARRYING AMOUNT AT 31.12.2025</b>	<b>219,174.15</b>	<b>224,015.00</b>	<b>443,189.15</b>
<i>NET CARRYING AMOUNT AT 31.12.2024</i>	<i>280,018.75</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>280,018.75</i>

In 2023, IT development costs were booked under "intangible assets under construction". This related to the development of a KPI tool for project reporting, with a total value of EUR 280 thousand. The second phase of the development, for EUR 198 thousand, was contracted in 2024 with an extension in 2025 to EUR 219k.

The first phase of KPI tool for project reporting development was finalised in 2024 and the tool is considered functional since 01/01/2025. It has been since then transferred to the intangible assets account and will be depreciated over the useful life of 5 years.

Additional developments performed during 2024 and 2025 are accounted as intangible assets under construction as at 31/12/2025. Once considered functional, will be transferred to the intangible assets account and will be depreciated over the useful life of 5 years.

## 2.2. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment are tangible assets that are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and are expected to be used during more than one reporting period.

	Furniture and vehicles	Computer hardware	Other	TOTAL
<i>Gross carrying amount at 31.12.2024</i>	76,004.57	137,409.54	43,450.52	256,864.63
<i>Additions</i>	-	14,771.32	478.66	15,249.98
<b>Gross carrying amount at 31.12.2025</b>	<b>76,004.57</b>	<b>152,180.86</b>	<b>43,929.18</b>	<b>272,114.61</b>
<i>Accumulated depreciation at 31.12.2024</i>	(40,859.57)	(96,790.54)	(40,838.52)	(178,488.63)
<i>Depreciation charge for the year</i>	(7,792.00)	(15,461.32)	(1,784.66)	(25,037.98)
<b>Accumulated depreciation at 31.12.2025</b>	<b>(48,651.57)</b>	<b>(112,251.86)</b>	<b>(42,623.18)</b>	<b>(203,526.61)</b>
<b>NET CARRYING AMOUNT AT 31.12.2025</b>	<b>27,353.00</b>	<b>39,929.00</b>	<b>1,306.00</b>	<b>68,588.00</b>
<i>NET CARRYING AMOUNT AT 31.12.2024</i>	35,145.00	40,619.00	2,612.00	78,376.00

The additions are related to additional IT equipment (laptops and mobile phones).

## 2.3. PRE-FINANCING

The estimation of the clearing is made using information from cost claims received until 31 January 2026 for periods before 31 December 2025 and a pro-rata temporis cost calculation for periods until 31 December 2025 which are not covered by a cost claim. The pre-financing is cleared as per the grant agreements conditions, i.e. once the value of the disbursed payments has reached 90% of the grant agreement value.

	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
<i>Long term pre-financing</i>	175,641,807.42	149,143,106.98
<i>Short term pre-financing</i>	119,782,050.98	75,327,635.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>295,423,858.40</b>	<b>224,470,742.60</b>

For all pre-financing amounts open at 31 December 2025 a case-by-case assessment was performed and all pre-financing that was considered unlikely to be cleared in the course of 2026 was classified as non-current pre-financing. The outstanding pre-financing presented under this heading is net of estimated (cut-off) expenses for ongoing projects without validated cost claims as at 31 December 2025.

The clearing of pre-financing against year-end (cut-off) adjustments amounted to EUR 78.921 thousand (2024: EUR 79.354 thousand) for ongoing projects without validated cost claims as at 31 December 2025. The remaining portion of the cut-off expenses is recorded in accrued charges (see note **2.8**).

In 2025 the 5<sup>th</sup> call for proposals under the Horizon Europe Programme was launched (there was one in 2022, two in 2023 and one in 2024) and the pre-financing will only be paid in 2026. For ongoing CBE JU and BBI JU projects - with the finalisation of several projects and the clearing of the pre-financing against incurred expenses, there was an overall increase of pre-financing from EUR 224.471 thousand in 2024 to EUR 295.424 thousand in 2025 (of which EUR 273.776 thousand for H Europe and EUR 21.648 thousand for H2020).

## 2.4. EXCHANGE RECEIVABLES & NON-EXCHANGE RECOVERABLES

Exchange transactions are transactions in which the entity receives assets or services, or has liabilities extinguished, and directly gives approximately equal value (primarily in the form of goods, services or use of assets) to the other party in exchange. Non-exchange transactions are transactions in which an entity either receives value from another entity without directly giving approximately equal value in exchange or gives value to another entity without directly receiving approximately equal value in exchange. The amounts included under this heading are fully composed of current receivables from exchange transactions.

	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
<b>Recoverables from non-exchange transactions</b>		
<i>Central treasury liaison accounts</i>	46,654,796.40	61,101,406.46
	<b>46,654,796.40</b>	<b>61,101,406.46</b>
<b>Receivables from exchange transactions</b>		
<i>Customers</i>	3,102,069.37	3,265,589.47
<i>Amounts written down (-)</i>	(2,955,934.49)	(2,968,577.34)
<i>Accrued income and deferred charges</i>	45,448.83	108,502.61
<i>Other</i>	(2,138.68)	(11,708.38)
	<b>189,445.03</b>	<b>393,806.36</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,844,241.43</b>	<b>61,495,212.82</b>

The largest amount under this heading relates to the central treasury liaison (intercompany) accounts with the European Commission that represent a virtual bank account of CBE JU. The treasury of CBE JU has been integrated into the European Commission's treasury system. The payments and receipts are processed via the European Commission's treasury system and registered on these intercompany accounts. The ending balance of this heading is thus the result of the incoming and outgoing payments and represents the funds available for the Joint Undertaking.

In the third amendment to AWP 2025 GB of CBE JU has approved additional contribution from Private Member BIC to compensate the additional UK administrative contribution in the amount of EUR 50 thousand. This contribution has not been requested or received in 2025, although relates to this year. In early 2026 a recovery order has been established and the amount will be recovered.

The amount written down for 2023 loss relates to a provision against a doubtful debt which arose in 2022 following the early termination of a large Flagship project, BIOSKOH. In addition, in 2024 the write-down includes a recoverable from another project beneficiary, who has declared bankruptcy.

A write-down down for doubtful debts was also raised for beneficiary Upfront Chromatography in project Prominent, because the beneficiary contested the recoverable amount, following implementation of an ex-post audit result. Nonetheless, CBE JU is launching judicial procedures to recover the debt.

During 2025 no new amounts have been written off as CBE JU is pursuing the debt with the assistance of external legal consultants and the debts are more recent than one year.

## 2.5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The payments and receipts are processed via the Commission's treasury system and registered on liaison accounts, which are presented under heading 'receivables from non-exchange transactions' (see 2.4).

## LIABILITIES

### 2.6. PROVISIONS

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a present legal or constructive obligation towards third parties as a result of past events, it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses. The amount of the provision is the best estimate of the expenditure expected to be required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. Where the provision involves a large number of items, the obligation is estimated by weighting all possible outcomes by their associated probabilities ('expected value' method).

As of 31 December 2025, the Joint Undertaking did not have any provisions (2024: none).

### 2.7. PAYABLES AND OTHER LIABILITIES

Payables are liabilities to pay for goods or services that have been received or supplied and - unlike accrued charges - have already been invoiced or formally agreed with the supplier. Payables can relate to both exchange transactions (such as the purchase of goods and services) and non-exchange transactions (e.g., cost claims from beneficiaries of grants, pre-financing or other EU funding)

	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
<b>Contributions to be validated</b>		
<i>Contributions in kind from Members to be validated</i>	46,367,522.47	56,042,125.68
<i>Cash contribution from EC to be validated</i>	40,731,658.68	31,919,907.56
	<b>87,099,181.15</b>	<b>87,962,033.24</b>
<b>Payables to entities</b>		
<i>Suppliers</i>	13,022,462.74	3,883,145.10
<i>Others</i>	3,939,124.41	2,613,411.30
	<b>16,961,587.15</b>	<b>6,496,556.40</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,060,768.30</b>	<b>94,458,589.64</b>

Included under the heading 'Contributions in-kind from Members to be validated' are the in-kind contributions from Members related to on-going projects without a validated certification (in the form of a recognised audit certificate of total declared costs) at 31 December. The amount for 2025 is recognised based on a calculation of IKOP in reporting period costs claims, complemented with a pro rata calculation for periods not covered by cost claims and based on total IKOP allocated to Member beneficiaries in the project grant agreements. The total estimate split per programme BBI EUR 14.436 thousand, CBE EUR 31.932 thousand.

The increase of the cash to be validated is related to unexecuted pre-financing payments for the prior year call. The remaining funds will be used in 2026.

The 'contributions in cash to be validated' are the received but unspent EC financial contributions to the Horizon Europe Programme (note **1.6.1**). The amount of vendor payables relates to invoices and cost claims received but not yet validated and paid at the year end.

## 2.8. ACCRUED CHARGES

Accruals are liabilities to pay for goods or services that have been received or supplied but - unlike payables - have not yet been invoiced or formally agreed with the supplier. They include amounts due to employees (e.g. accruals for untaken holidays). The calculation of accruals is based on the open amount of budgetary commitments at year-end. The portion of the estimated accrued charges relating to pre-financing paid has been recorded as a reduction of the pre-financing amounts.

	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
<i>Accrued charges</i>	56,905,718.75	44,962,744.90
<i>Other passive accruals and deferrals</i>	-	6,481.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,905,718.75</b>	<b>44,969,226.00</b>

The heading comprises estimated operational costs of EUR 56,351 thousand, accrued intangible assets under construction of EUR 219 thousand, accrued administrative expenses of EUR 250 thousand and accrued staff expense for untaken leave of EUR 86 thousand. Accrued operating charges relate to on-going projects without a validated cost statement where the 2025 expense was estimated on a case-by-case basis using the best available information about the projects at 31 December 2025.

The portion of the estimated accrued charges which relates to pre-financing paid has been recorded as a reduction of the pre-financing amounts in line with the H2020 and HE rules (see note **2.3**). Of the total operational accrual of EUR 56.351 thousand, EUR 51.804 thousand relates to H Europe projects and EUR 4.547 thousand relates to H2020 projects.

## NET ASSETS

### 2.9. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The JU is funded by contributions from its Members. Given their funding nature these contributions, which comprise both cash contributions and contributions in kind, are recognised in the JU's net assets as 'Contributions from owners' once validated. The term 'owner' does not imply ownership of any shares of the JU (in fact no shares are issued) but reflects the specific governance of the JU where voting rights are allocated in accordance with the contributions made.

In accordance with Article 19 of the Financial Framework Partnership Agreement (FFPA) 2020-2027, the CBE JU received from the European Union a pre-financing payment of EUR 159.159 thousand for the implementation of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme (see note **1.6.1**). According to the Specific Guidance for the accounting of the EU cash contributions received by the joint undertakings under FFPA related to MFF 2021-2027, the contributions payments made by the EU for the Horizon Europe Programme are accounted for as 'Contributions in cash to be validated'. They will be qualified as final payments and formally transferred to the net assets once the Commission has accepted the Consolidated Annual Activity Report – AAR (Art. 19.2 FFPA).

Programming period	2025		2024		Total
	Cash	in-Kind	Cash	in-Kind	
Horizon 2020	790,731,657.63	149,887,791.72	805,525,277.74	104,167,472.18	909,692,699.92
Horizon Europe	370,099,565.82		218,252,450.94	-	218,252,450.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,160,831,223.45</b>	<b>149,887,791.72</b>	<b>1,023,777,678.68</b>	<b>104,167,472.18</b>	<b>1,127,945,150.86</b>

## 2.9.1. 2014-2020 (Horizon 2020) MFF: Total Members' Contributions

With regard to the Horizon 2020 Programme, Council Regulation (EC) No 2014/560 (its current legal mandate stems from the amending Regulation (EU) 2018/121 of 23 January 2018) distinguishes between Members (European Commission, Industry Grouping) and non-Members of the JU. In addition, only the in-kind contributions from the Members that are both certified by external auditors and validated by the Executive Director of CBE JU are accounted for in the JU's net assets. Estimated in-kind contributions, i.e. contributions for which no certifications have been received and/or this certification has not been validated by the Executive Director, are reported under 'other liabilities' (see note 2.7).

Member	Commission		Industry Grouping		Total	
	Cash		Cash	In kind	Cash	In kind
<i>Running costs contributions at 31.12.2024</i>	18,673,090.28		18,731,401.00	-	18,731,401.00	37,404,491.28
<i>Current year contributions</i>	(137,658.27)		(137,658.26)	-	(137,658.26)	(275,316.53)
<b>Running costs contributions at 31.12.2025</b>	<b>18,535,432.01</b>		<b>18,593,742.74</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,593,742.74</b>	<b>37,129,174.75</b>
<i>Operating costs contributions at 31.12.2024</i>	764,870,736.46		3,250,000.00	104,167,472.18	107,417,472.18	768,120,736.46
<i>Adjustment of previous year</i>	(470,825.00)		-	-	-	(470,825.00)
<i>Current year contributions</i>	(14,047,428.58)		-	45,720,319.54	45,720,319.54	(14,047,428.58)
<b>Operating costs contributions at 31.12.2025</b>	<b>750,352,482.88</b>		<b>3,250,000.00</b>	<b>149,887,791.72</b>	<b>153,137,791.72</b>	<b>753,602,482.88</b>
<i>TOTAL contributions at 31.12.2024</i>	783,543,826.74		21,981,401.00	104,167,472.18	126,148,873.18	805,525,227.74
<b>TOTAL contributions at 31.12.2025</b>	<b>768,887,914.89</b>		<b>21,843,742.74</b>	<b>149,887,791.72</b>	<b>171,731,534.46</b>	<b>790,731,657.63</b>

Negative current year contribution refers to the paid back operational and administrative unused contributions to the Commission and BIC. Adjustment of previous years relates to the REA experts contribution that was incorrectly presented under H2020 contribution.

The rules relating to distribution of voting rights are defined in Article 54 of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021. Based on this article, the number of votes of the Members other than the Union shall collectively hold 50% of the voting rights. For what concerns the total level of the contribution by BIC Members at the end of 2025, the IKOP target was set at the closure of the BBI JU calls, and it will contribute to achieving the overall legal target alongside the finalisation of BBI JU projects (9% of which are still ongoing).

### 2.9.2. Research and Innovation Funding Programme for 2021-2027 (Horizon Europe)

In accordance with Article 19 of the Financial Framework Partnership Agreement (FFPA) 2020-2027, in 2024 the CBE JU received from the European Union a pre-financing payment for the amount of EUR 159.159 thousand for the implementation of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme (see note 1.6.1). According to the Specific Guidance for the accounting of the EU cash contributions received by the Joint Undertakings under FFPA related to MFF 2021- 2027, the contributions payments made by the EU for the Horizon Europe Programme are accounted for as 'Contributions in cash to be validated'. They will be qualified as final payments and formally transferred to the net assets once the Commission has accepted the Consolidated Annual Activity Report – AAR (Art. 19.2 FFPA). Under the new SBA (Horizon Europe Programme) the in-kind contributions to operational activities should be accounted for solely on the basis of eligible costs and should be reported and audited in accordance with the mechanism applicable to the specific grant agreement. These legal requirements do not change the substance of the operation. Also, under Horizon Europe, only contributions validated and accepted by the Executive Director can be recognised under net assets. Therefore, the same accounting treatment as used under the previous regulations should be applied to IKOP under Horizon Europe.

	Member		Industry Grouping		Total	
	Commission		Cash		Cash	
<i>Running costs contributions at 31.12.2024</i>						
	1,862,299.56		3,406,214.50		5,268,514.06	
<i>Current year contributions</i>	2,911,964.65		2,510,697.00		5,422,661.65	
<b>Running costs contributions at 31.12.2025</b>	<b>4,774,264.21</b>		<b>5,916,911.50</b>		<b>10,691,175.71</b>	
<i>Operating costs contributions at 31.12.2024</i>	212,983,936.88		-		212,983,936.88	
<i>Adjustment of previous year</i>	470,825.00		-		470,825.00	
<i>Current year contributions</i>	145,953,628.23		-		145,953,628.23	
<b>Operating costs contributions at 31.12.2025</b>	<b>359,408,390.11</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>359,408,390.11</b>	
<i>TOTAL contributions at 31.12.2024</i>	214,846,236.44		3,406,214.50		218,252,450.94	
<b>TOTAL contributions at 31.12.2025</b>	<b>364,182,654.32</b>		<b>5,916,911.50</b>		<b>370,099,565.82</b>	

Adjustment of previous years relates to the REA experts contribution that was incorrectly presented under H2020 contribution.

The rules relating to distribution of voting rights are defined in Article 54 of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021. Based on this article, the number of votes of the Members other than the Union shall collectively hold 50% of the voting rights.

### 3. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

#### REVENUE

#### NON-EXCHANGE REVENUE

Revenue from non-exchange transactions relates to transactions where the transferor provides resources to the recipient entity without the recipient entity providing approximately equal value directly in exchange. The heading mainly includes amounts received from the Commission during the year and recoveries of operational expenses.

#### 3.1. RECOVERY OF EXPENSES

The revenue resulting from recovery of expenses refers to operational expenses recovered from beneficiaries during the year and adjustments coming from audits that will be collected in the following year.

	2025	2024
<i>Recovery of expenses</i>	281,414.17	880,283.22

The revenue resulting from recovery of expenses refers to operational expenses recovered from beneficiaries during the year and adjustments coming from audits that will be collected in the following year. In 2025 the JU made substantial efforts to finalise the outstanding audit implementation files.

#### 3.2. OTHER NON-EXCHANGE REVENUE

The Joint Undertaking did not have any other non-exchange revenue in 2025 or in 2024.

#### EXCHANGE REVENUE

#### 3.3. REVENUE FROM EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS

The revenue from exchange transactions and events relates to the following types of transactions: rendering of services; sales of goods; and the use by others of entity assets yielding interest, royalties and dividends.

	2025	2024
<i>Recovery of administrative expenses</i>	44,496.00	71,455.70
<i>Financial revenue</i>	4,338.17	8.90
<i>Net Impairment losses on receivables</i>	12,642.85	-
<i>Other</i>	0.18	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,477.20</b>	<b>71,464.60</b>

In 2025 there was no decrease in recharges to other JUs for common JU administrative costs (such as the Systal HR tool implementation), for which CBE was the lead contracting JU during the year, but a change in the presentation. Recharges related to the expenses of the same year are presented as a decrease of costs rather than revenue

Financial revenue presents interest on late payments. In 2025 a correction of impairment losses on receivables took place.

## EXPENSES

### 3.4. OPERATIONAL COSTS

Included under this heading are operational expenses related to projects that were carried out in the current year. The part of the operational costs related to on-going projects without any validated cost claims (or equivalent) available on 31 December was estimated using the best information available at the time of preparation of the annual accounts. The estimation is based on the case-by-case assessment of completion which ensures that only costs that reflect the services or work performed by 31 December are included in the operational costs of the year. Depending on the availability of information at the time of preparation of the annual accounts, the estimates are based on costs incurred to date as a proportion of the estimated total costs of the projects ("pro-rata temporis").

The break-down of the operational costs between in-kind and EU contribution as well as between the programmes is given in the table below:

	2025	2024
<i>Operational costs: in-kind contributions - HE</i>	20,060,673.36	8,163,298.25
<i>Operational costs: in-kind contributions - H2020</i>	15,985,042.97	- 2,155,208.94
<b>Total operational costs from in-kind contributions</b>	<b>36,045,716.33</b>	<b>6,008,089.31</b>
<i>Operational costs: EU contributions - H2020</i>	16,870,863.92	39,011,339.45
<i>Operational costs: EU contributions - HE</i>	89,442,568.01	43,622,684.56
<b>Total operational costs from EU contributions</b>	<b>106,313,431.93</b>	<b>82,634,024.01</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,359,148.26</b>	<b>88,642,113.32</b>

Depending on the availability of information at the time of the preparation of the annual accounts, the estimates are based on cost claims received or by pro rata temporis estimates based on total project grant amounts (remaining balance).

The operational costs from estimated in-kind contributions were estimated in cases where no project cost claims covering the whole year were validated at the year end. Instead of basing the estimates on annual declarations of IKOP from the private Members, the real amount of IKOP from the project cost claims validated relating to the reporting year is calculated in combination with a pro rata estimate of remaining costs based on total IKOP allocated to the project, calculated for the remaining period after the cost claim end date.

The overall increase in operational costs from in-kind contributions is in line with the phasing out of the H2020 projects and the gradual start-up of projects for the first calls of H Europe (with 82 ongoing projects as at end 2025).

The operational cost from EU contributions shows an overall increase, despite the reduction in EU contributions to H2020 projects.

### 3.5. STAFF COSTS

This heading includes the expenses for salaries, allowances and other employment-related benefits. Based on the service level agreement between the JU and the Commission, the calculation of staff-related costs is carried out by the Commission's Office for Administration and Payment of Individual Entitlements (also known as the Paymaster's Office - PMO). The pensions of the JU staff members are covered by the Pension Scheme of European Officials. This pension scheme is a defined benefit plan, i.e. the amount of benefit an employee will receive on retirement depends on several factors, the most important of which is years of service. Both the JU staff, the JU and the EU budget contribute to the pension scheme, with the contribution percentage being revised annually in line with the changes in the Staff Regulation governing the scheme. The cost to the EU Budget is not reflected in the JU accounts. Similarly, no provision related to the future pension payments is recognised in the annual accounts of the JU, as the obligation falls to the Commission. As per Article 83a (2) of the Staff Regulations, the part paid by the JU shall correspond to the percentage share between a) the JU's revenues without the subsidy from the general budget, and b) its total revenues. To avoid disruptive variations over time, the JU's employer's pension contribution is calculated with a single percentage share for the whole duration of the JU. This single percentage was established on the basis of the EU and non-EU Members' respective contributions, as foreseen in the JU's legal basis, with a correction and regularisation to be foreseen in the last year of existence of the JU. The contribution of the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking was set as 2,3% of the total pension scheme contributions. This contribution is accounted for within staff costs.

In view of implementation problems and the principle of good administration, it was agreed between the Commission and the JUs that the provisions of Article 83a (2) are applied only to the JUs set up by the SBA and the Euro HPC JU, and not to those established under the previous Regulations. Given the late entry into force of the SBA at the end of November 2021, it became applicable as from 2022.

	2025	2024
<i>Staff costs</i>	3,389,959.47	3,105,891.08

The increase in 2025 is related to the indexation of salaries and the reclassification exercise, as well as replacement of 4 staff members during the year and recruitment of additional financial officer.

### 3.6. FINANCE EXPENSES

	2025	2024
<i>Interest expense on late payment of charges</i>	-	5.20
<i>Amounts written down Recoverables</i>	-	126,408.33
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>126,413.53</b>

The amount written down for 2023 loss relates to a provision against a doubtful debt which arose in 2022 following the early termination of a large Flagship project, BIOSKOH. In 2024 the write-down included a recoverable from a beneficiary of a large Flagship project, BIOSKOH, who declared bankruptcy.

A write-down down for doubtful debts was also raised for beneficiary Upfront Chromatography in project Prominent, because the beneficiary contested the recoverable amount, following implementation of an ex-post audit result. Nonetheless, CBE JU is launching judicial procedures to recover the debt.

During 2025 no new amounts have been written down as CBE JU is pursuing the debt with the assistance of external legal consultants and the debts are more recent than one year.

### 3.7. OTHER EXPENSES

Included under this heading are expenses of administrative nature such as external non-IT services, operating leasing expenses, communications and publications, training costs etc.

	2025	2024
<i>External IT services</i>	863,196.65	538,019.16
<i>External non-IT services</i>	405,438.58	408,882.57
<i>Experts' expenses</i>	340,710.58	124,721.02
<i>Communications &amp; publications</i>	268,520.60	197,789.00
<i>Rent expenses</i>	267,641.31	346,830.73
<i>Maintenance and security expenses</i>	99,036.75	3,355.00
<i>Intangible fixed asset related expenses</i>	56,003.75	-
<i>Missions</i>	52,376.50	73,415.45
<i>Legal Expenses</i>	31,515.75	8,065.00
<i>Property, plant and equipment related expenses</i>	25,037.98	25,690.86
<i>Training costs</i>	22,435.33	54,676.86
<i>Office Supplies &amp; maintenance</i>	14,600.83	21,597.62
<i>Car &amp; transport expenditures</i>	3,575.74	254.45
<i>Insurances</i>	542.70	169.26
<i>Recruitment costs</i>	159.48	14,590.28
<i>Losses on realisation of trade debtors</i>	0.02	568.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,450,792.55</b>	<b>1,818,626.04</b>

The increase in External IT costs (EUR 325 thousand) is mainly due to additional fees related to the onboarding of SUMMA (EUR 200 thousand) and other related IT support services. The rise in the expert's expenses (EUR 216 thousand) is explained by the increased number of projects in the reporting phase. Communication expenses increased in 2025 by EUR 71 thousand due to a preparation to the next Stakeholder Forum and Networking Event which take place in early 2026.

As KPI tool has been fully operational since 01.01.2025, amortisation is recorded in 2025.

Rent expenses concern the CBE JU office in the 'White Atrium' building whose lease has been extended till 31/12/2031 following an award decision early 2025. In 2025 there is a change in the presentation of the expenses, where charges are no longer part of rent expenses, but presented separately under maintenance and security expenses.

Amounts committed to be paid during the remaining term of this lease contract include rent and related charges and are as follows:

	Future amounts to be paid			
	< 1 year	1- 5 years	> 5 years	Total
<i>Buildings</i>	236,591.73	994,641.14	283,020.05	1,514,252.92

## 4. OTHER SIGNIFICANT DISCLOSURES

### 4.1. CONTINGENT ASSETS

	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
<i>Ex-post audit results</i>	-	942,690

CBE JU has taken measures and advanced significantly during 2024 and 2025 in catch up exercise related to ex-post audits, as well as regarding recovery of outstanding amounts due. By the end of 2025 there are still some uncertainties in the amount to recover and the possibility of timely recovery of ex-post audits results, therefore no contingent assets are reported.

### 4.2. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Joint Undertaking does not have any ongoing legal cases or any other events raising contingent liabilities.

### 4.3. OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS NOT YET EXPENSED

The outstanding commitments not yet expensed comprise the budgetary RAL ('Reste à Liquider') less related amounts that have been included as expenses in the current year's statement of financial performance. The RAL represents the open budgetary commitments for which payments and/or decommitments have not yet been made. This is a normal consequence of the existence of multi-annual programmes.

	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
<i>Outstanding commitments not yet expensed</i>	296,719,637	308,737,427

The outstanding commitments not yet expensed are the result of the correction of the budgetary RAL with the estimated costs, determined by using the accrual-based principle, which is not reflected in the budgetary result, where the cash-based principle is used. The decrease between the years is due to the decrease of EUR 9 million in the budgetary RAL, an increase of EUR 9 million in the open vendor balance and an increase of EUR 11 million in the accruals, which is shown in the budget implementation reports (see chapter 6).

## 4.4. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

According to both Council Regulation (EU) No 558/2014 and Council Regulation (EU) No 2021/2085, the Members other than the Union shall provide in-kind contributions to the Joint Undertaking.

Under the H2020 Programme, in-kind contributions by Private Member beneficiaries and their affiliated entities consist of the costs incurred by them in implementing indirect actions less the contribution of the Joint Undertaking and any other Union contribution to those costs. For the purpose of valuing these in-kind contributions, the costs are determined in accordance with the usual cost accounting practices of the entities concerned, the applicable accounting standards of the country where the entity is established, and also the applicable International Accounting Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards. The costs shall be certified by an independent external auditor appointed by the entity concerned. The valuation method may be verified by the Joint Undertaking, should there be any uncertainty arising from the certification.

Further simplification was introduced under the Horizon Europe Programme. In that context, a simplified reporting mechanism was put in place for the Members, who are no longer required to report on non-eligible costs for in-kind contributions to operational activities. According to Art.2. (8) of the SBA: "in-kind contributions to operational activities means contributions by private members, constituent entities or the affiliated entities of either, by international organisations and by contributing partners, consisting of the eligible costs incurred by them in implementing indirect actions less the contribution of that joint undertaking and of the participating states of that joint undertaking to those costs". Consequently, in-kind contributions to operational activities are accounted for solely on the basis of eligible costs and reported and audited in accordance with the mechanism applicable to the specific grant agreement. Such accounting based on eligible costs allows for the automated calculation of in-kind contributions to operational activities via the Horizon Europe IT tools.

## 4.5. IN-KIND IN ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (IKAA)

The joint undertakings provide a systematic opportunity and incentive for Members other than the Union to combine their research and innovation activities with those of the joint undertaking. Additional activities do not receive financial support from the joint undertaking. However, they are accounted for as Members' in-kind contributions to additional activities when they contribute to the objectives of the joint undertaking and are directly linked to its activities, including non-eligible costs of indirect actions funded by the joint undertaking where this is provided for in the annual additional activities plan. That link can be established through the uptake of results from indirect actions funded by the joint undertaking or its preceding initiatives, or by demonstrating a significant Union added value. The respective costs should be certified by an independent audit body appointed by the entity concerned, subject to the valuation method being open to verification by the joint undertaking in the event of uncertainty. Council Regulation (EU) No 2021/2085 laid down more specific provisions concerning the scope of additional activities for each joint undertaking, to the extent that it is necessary to achieve the desired directionality and impact.

"Additional activity" means an activity, included in the annual additional activities plan annexed to the main part of the work programme, that does not receive financial support from the joint undertaking but contributes to its objectives, and is directly linked to the uptake of results from projects under that joint undertaking or its preceding initiatives or that has a significant Union added value.

In-kind contributions to additional activities are contributions by the Private Members, constituent entities or the affiliated entities of either, and by international organisations, consisting of the costs incurred by them in implementing additional activities less any contribution to those costs from the Union and from the participating states of that joint undertaking.

Art. 49 of the SBA defines the scope of CBE's additional activities:

- (a) investments in new facilities demonstrating a new value chain, including investments in durable equipment, tools and accompanying infrastructure, in particular related to regional deployment and its sustainability verification;
- (b) investments in a new innovative and sustainable production plant or flagship;
- (c) investments in new research and innovation and justified infrastructure, including facilities, tools, durable equipment, or pilot plants (research centres);
- (d) standardisation activities;
- (e) communication, dissemination and awareness-raising activities.

## 4.6. CONTRIBUTIONS PER PROGRAMME

Members' contributions (as per Funding regulation)						
	EU cash (a)	Third country contribution (UK) (b)	Private members' cash (c)	Private members' IKOP (d)	Private members' IKAA (e)	Total (f)=(a)+(b)+(c)+(d)+(e)
H2020	835,000,000.00	-	22,195,488.31	263,293,995.00	2,444,510,516.69	3,565,000,000.00
Horizon Europe	966,714,000.00	50,000,000.00	23,850,000.00	1.026.150.000,00		2,066,714,000.00

Members' contributions as of 31.12.2025										
	EU cash validated	EU cash not validated (PF)	Other members cash	Other members cash not paid	Other members IKOP validated	Other members IKOP reported but not validated	IKAA certified	IKAA reported but not certified	Total	Achievement rate
H2020	768,887,914.89	-	21,843,742.74	-	149,887,791.72	14,434,959.17	2,404,436,175.87	106,000,000.00	3,465,490,584.39	97%
Horizon Europe	364,182,654.32	40,731,658.68	5,916,911.50	50,000.00	-	31,932,563.30	15,093,549.04	72,805,915.14	530,713,251.98	26%

### 2014-2020 (Horizon 2020) MFF: Total Members' Contributions

H2020 contributions are in line with expectations. For what concerns the EU cash contributions validated at the end of 2025, it should be noted that EUR 58 million (7.5% of EUR 768,9 million) represent open pre-financing (based on paid cost claims and before accounting adjustments). As such they are not EU cash contributions validated by CBE JU as being spent in the projects, but they constitute a cash advance which remains a receivable until clearing.

Regarding the contributions by other Members at the end of 2025, the IKOP target was set at the closure of all the BBI JU calls in signed grants. It is not a legal target set in the founding regulation of the BBI JU initiative and the IKOP will contribute to achieving the overall legal target alongside the finalisation of BBI JU projects (9% of which are still ongoing). The specific legal target for IKAA contributions was already achieved in 2022 at the planning stage, and the planning cycle for these contributions will continue until the end of 2024. Therefore, IKAA will play a pivotal role in the achievement of the EUR 2,73 billion overall target of BIC contributions to the BBI initiative. In order to achieve this result, the IKAA planning process aims at around EUR 2,5 billion to be contributed by the end of the initiative.

### 2021-2027 (Horizon Europe) MFF: Total Members' Contributions

In 2025, in addition to the cut for support of Ukraine which took place in 2024, there was another cut regarding the envelope of Horizon Europe Programme to finance AI Gigafactories for a total amount of EUR 9.3 million.

CBE JU received an additional budget of EUR 50 million from third countries appropriations which was split between the administrative budget (for an amount of EUR 350 thousand) and the operational budget (for an amount of EUR 49.65 thousand). In accordance with Art. 10(2) of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021, BIC will match the corresponding increased contribution.

For the EU cash contributions validated at the end of 2025 under Horizon Europe, it shall be noted that four calls out of the seven planned (including the small NEBA call for 2023) have been implemented by the closure and EUR 316,3 million (87% of EUR 364,2 million) represent open pre-financing, and its accounting treatment follows the same steps described above for H2020 contributions.

In the third amendment to AWP 2025 GB of CBE JU has approved additional contribution from Private Member BIC to compensate the additional UK administrative contribution in the amount of EUR 50 thousand. This contribution has not been requested or received in 2025, although relates to this year. In early 2026 a recovery order has been established and the amount has been recovered.

Regarding the contributions by other Members at the end of 2025 under Horizon Europe, there is a total of EUR 31.9 million IKOP accrued as combination of pro rata estimation and IKOP from the cost claims, as 37 claims have already been received by year end for the first CBE JU projects that started in 2023 and 2024.

During 2025 CBE JU has performed a major catch up exercise during which all BIC members were requested to provide a revised IKAA plan for Calls 2022, 2023 and 2024. IKAA Plans have been revised and approved by the GB decision CBE-GB-4/26 of 22 April 2026. The corresponding IKAA reports have been received and will be sent for validation to the Governing Board as part of annual activity report and annual accounts 2025 in June 2026.

## 4.7. RELATED PARTIES

The related parties of the organisation include its Executive Director and the Governing Board members holding voting rights.

As transactions between the JU and these parties take place as part of the normal operations of the JU and on terms and conditions that are normal for such transactions, no specific disclosures are required. The key management entitlements are disclosed in note **4.8**

More information on the composition of the Governing Board can be found in the governance section of the organisation's website.

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

## 4.8. KEY MANAGEMENT ENTITLEMENTS

The Executive Director is remunerated in accordance with the Staff Regulations of the European Union, which establish the rights and obligations of all officials of the EU. The Staff Regulations are published on the Europa website.

	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
<i>Executive Director</i>	<i>AD 14</i>	<i>AD 14</i>

The Executive Director is remunerated in accordance with the Staff Regulations of the European Union that is published on the Europa website and is the official document describing the rights and the obligations of all officials of the EU. At its meeting of 17 June 2022, the CBE JU Governing Board took note of the previous Executive Director's resignation with effect from 1 September 2023. On 25 July 2023, the GB appointed Nicolo' Giacomuzzi-Moore as CBE JU's Executive Director ad interim as of 1 September 2023. He was officially nominated as the new Executive Director during the Governing Board meeting of 6 December 2023 and took up his official duties in early January 2024.

## 4.9. OTHER EVENTS

### Russian war of aggression against Ukraine

The war does not affect materially the recognition and measurement of any assets and liabilities on the balance sheet nor of any revenue and expenses recognised in the statement of financial performance.

Based on the facts and circumstances at the time of preparation of these financial statements, in particular, the evolving situation, the financial effect of the war on subsequent reporting periods of the CBE JU cannot be reliably estimated.

## 4.10. OTHER INFORMATION

### BREXIT - United Kingdom joins Horizon Europe Programme

As of 1 January 2024, the United Kingdom became an associated country to Horizon Europe. Its researchers are able to participate in this research and innovation programme of the EU on the same terms as researchers from other associated countries and will have access to Horizon Europe funding. As this association agreement only applied for calls and budget 2024 onwards, carry over from budget 2022 and 2023 could not be used to finance UK participants.

#### **4.11. EVENTS AFTER REPORTING DATE**

At the time of preparation of these financial statements, the management is not aware of any events that should be disclosed as non-adjusting events or taken into account in these financial statements as adjusting events.

#### **4.12. OBSERVATIONS ON MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS**

Not applicable.

## 5. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

### 5.1. TYPES OF RISK

**Market risk** is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate, because of variations in market prices. Market risk embodies not only the potential for loss, but also the potential for gain. It comprises currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk (the entity has no significant interest rate risk and other price risk).

(1) **Currency risk** is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. This risk arises from the change in the price of a foreign currency against the functional currency of an entity.

(2) **Interest rate risk** is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. As an example, higher interest rates will lead to lower prices of fixed rate bonds (other things equal), and vice versa. The entity does not have any securities thus it is not exposed to the interest rate risk.

**Credit risk** is the risk of loss due to a debtor's non-payment or other failure to meet a contractual obligation. The default events include a delay in repayments, and bankruptcy.

**Liquidity risk** is the risk that an EU entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset.

### 5.2. CURRENCY RISKS

At the end of the year, the financial assets are composed of exchange receivables. The financial liabilities are composed of accounts payable. Their ending balances are quoted in EUR, the entity is thus not exposed to currency risk.

### 5.3. CREDIT RISK

At the end of the year, the financial assets comprise exchange receivables that are not past due for more than 30 days. As no credit loss is expected during the lifetime of those receivables the entity is not exposed to any significant credit risk.

### 5.4. LIQUIDITY RISK

The financial liabilities are mainly composed of accounts payable. All the accounts payable have remaining contractual maturity of less than 1 year.

CIRCULAR BIO-BASED EUROPE JOINT UNDERTAKING

FINANCIAL YEAR 2025

# **THE BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES**

# 1. BUDGETARY PRINCIPLES AND STRUCTURE

## 1.1. BUDGETARY PRINCIPLES

The establishment and implementation of the budget of Circular Bio-based Europe is governed by the following basic principles set out in the Chapter 2 of the Financial Rules of the Joint Undertaking:

### **Principles of unity and budget accuracy**

This principle means that no revenue shall be collected and no expenditure effected unless booked to a line in the budget of the joint undertaking. No expenditure may be committed or authorised in excess of the appropriations authorised by the budget. An appropriation may be entered in the budget only if it is for an item of expenditure considered necessary.

### **Principle of annuality**

The appropriations entered in the budget shall be authorised for a financial year which shall run from 1 January to 31 December.

### **Principle of equilibrium**

Revenue and payment appropriations shall be in balance.

### **Principle of unit of account**

The budget shall be drawn up and implemented in euro and the accounts shall be presented in euro.

### **Principle of universality**

Total revenue shall cover total payment appropriations and all revenue and expenditure shall be entered in full without any adjustment against each other.

### **Principle of specification**

Appropriations shall be earmarked for specific purposes at least by title and chapter.

### **Principle of sound financial management**

Appropriations shall be used in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, namely in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

### **Principle of economy**

The principle of economy requires that the resources used by the JU in the pursuit of its activities shall be made available in due time, in appropriate quantity and quality and at the best price.

### **Principle of efficiency**

The principle of efficiency concerns the best relationship between resources employed and results achieved.

### **Principle of effectiveness**

The principle of effectiveness concerns the attainment of the specific objectives set and the achievement of the intended results.

### **Principle of internal control**

The principle of internal control of budget implementation means that the JU budget shall be implemented in compliance with effective and efficient internal control in order to provide reasonable assurance of achieving effectiveness, efficiency and economy of operations; reliability of reporting; safeguarding of assets and information; prevention, detection, correction and follow-up of fraud and irregularities; inadequate management of the risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, taking into account the multi-annual character of the programmes as well as the nature of the payments concerned.

### **Principle of transparency**

The budget shall be established and implemented and the accounts presented in accordance with the principle of transparency. The budget and any amending budgets shall be published on the internet site of the joint undertaking within four weeks of their adoption and shall be transmitted to the Commission and the Court of Auditor.

## 1.2. STRUCTURE AND PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET

Since 1 January 2015, no distinction between non-dissociated and dissociated appropriations is made. All appropriations follow the dissociated logic.

Following the provisions of the Financial Rules of the Joint Undertaking, the budget accounts shall consist of a statement of revenue and a statement of expenditure. The budget is distributed in the following titles:

### **Title 1**

Budget lines relating to staff expenditure such as salaries and allowances for personnel working with the Joint Undertaking. It also includes recruitment expenses, staff missions, expenses for the socio-medical infrastructure and representation costs.

### **Title 2**

Budget lines relating to all infrastructure, equipment and miscellaneous administrative expenditure.

### **Title 3**

Budget lines providing for the implementation of the activities and tasks assigned to the Joint Undertaking in accordance with its establishing Council Regulation.

### **Title 4**

Budget lines created for the purpose of reimbursing unused administrative appropriations of the H2020 Programme equally to the Commission and to BIC.

## 2. RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUDGET

EUR '000

	Title	2025	2024
<b>Revenue</b>		<b>160,594</b>	<b>161,209</b>
of which:			
BBI Joint Undertaking revenues	1	-	1
Other income BBI	1	348	235
CBE European Commission (incl. EFTA) contribution administrative expenditure	1	2,561	1,751
CBE European Commission (incl. EFTA) contribution operational expenditure	1	155,117	157,408
CBE Bio-based Industries Consortium contribution administrative expenditures	1	2,511	1,751
CBE Other income	1	58	63
<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>(161,014)</b>	<b>(158,181)</b>
of which:			
Staff expenditure	1	(3,591)	(3,185)
Administrative expenditure	2	(2,270)	(2,649)
Operational expenditure	3	(154,878)	(152,347)
Re-activation of unused 2024 BBI	4	(275)	-
<b>Exchange rate differences</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Budget result</b>		<b>(420)</b>	<b>3,027</b>

### 3. RECONCILIATION OF ECONOMIC RESULT WITH BUDGET RESULT

EUR '000

	2025	2024
<b>ECONOMIC RESULT OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>(147,857)</b>	<b>(92,741)</b>
<b>Adjustment for accrual items (items not in the budgetary result but included in the economic result)</b>	<b>105 294</b>	<b>67,208</b>
<i>In-kind contributions validated in the year</i>	45 720	12 310
<i>Adjustments for accrual cut-off (net)</i>	12 130	(12 385)
<i>Unpaid invoices at year end but booked in charges (class 6)</i>	-	2,508
<i>Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of intangible and tangible assets</i>	81	26
<i>Recovery Orders issued in the year in class 7 and not yet cashed</i>	(191)	(423)
<i>Pre-financing paid in previous year and cleared in the year</i>	47,528	65,050
<i>Write-off receivables</i>	(13)	126
<i>Other income adjustment</i>	47	-
<i>Other individually immaterial items</i>	(8)	(4)
<b>Adjustment for budgetary items (item included in the budgetary result but not in the economic result)</b>	<b>42,143</b>	<b>28,561</b>
<i>Members' cash contributions collected in the year</i>	160,188	160,910
<i>Unused H2020 Adm contributions paid back</i>	(275)	-
<i>Asset acquisitions (less unpaid amounts)</i>	(15)	(204)
<i>New pre-financing paid in the year and remaining open as at 31 December</i>	(118,048)	(132,149)
<i>Entitlements established in previous year and cashed in the year</i>	293	4
<i>Other individually immaterial</i>	-	-
<b>BUDGET RESULT OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>(420)</b>	<b>3,027</b>



## 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET REVENUE

### 4.1. Implementation of budget revenue

Item	Income appropriations		Entitlements established			Revenue			Out-standing	
	Initial budget	Final budget	Current year	Carried over/ Reactivation	Total	On entitlements of current year	On entitlements carried over/ Reactivation	Total		%
	1	2	3	4	5=3+4	6	7	8=6+7	9=8/5	10=5-8
1001 BBI EUROPEAN COMMISS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1002 BBI EUROPEAN COMMISS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1003 BBI BIO-BASED INDUSTRIES CONSORTIUM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1006 OTHER INCOME BBI	p.m.	p.m.	(29)	3 494	3 465	(174)	522	3 48	10 %	3 117
1007 CBE EUROPEAN COMMISSION	2 511	2 561	2 561	0	2 561	2 561	0	2 561	100 %	0
1008 CBE EUROPEAN COMMISSION	155 117	155 117	155 117	0	155 117	155 117	0	155 117	100 %	0
1009 CBE BIO-BASED INDUSTRIES CONSORTIUM	2 511	2 561	2 511	0	2 511	2 511	0	2 511	100 %	0
1012 CBE OTHER INCOME	p.m.	p.m.	58	0	58	57	0	57	97 %	2
<b>Total Chapter 10</b>	<b>160 138</b>	<b>160 238</b>	<b>160 217</b>	<b>3 494</b>	<b>163 711</b>	<b>160 071</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>160 592</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>3 118</b>
<b>Total Title 1</b>	<b>160 138</b>	<b>160 238</b>	<b>160 217</b>	<b>3 494</b>	<b>163 711</b>	<b>160 071</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>160 592</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>3 118</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL CASH</b>	<b>160 138</b>	<b>160 238</b>	<b>160 217</b>	<b>3 494</b>	<b>163 711</b>	<b>160 071</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>160 592</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>3 118</b>
2017 C2 REACTIVATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR AD	266	266		266	266		266	266	100 %	
2020 BBI C2 REACTIVATION OF APPROPRIATIONS	2 131	2 610		2 610	2 610		2 610	2 610	100 %	
2030 BBI C2 REACTIVATION OF APPROPRIATIONS	21 495	21 776		21 776	21 776		21 776	21 776	100 %	
<b>Total Chapter 20</b>	<b>23 892</b>	<b>24 652</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24 652</b>	<b>24 652</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24 652</b>	<b>24 652</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Title 2</b>	<b>23 892</b>	<b>24 652</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24 652</b>	<b>24 652</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24 652</b>	<b>24 652</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>184 030</b>	<b>184 890</b>	<b>160 217</b>	<b>28 146</b>	<b>188 362</b>	<b>160 071</b>	<b>25 173</b>	<b>185 244</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>3 118</b>

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET EXPENDITURE

### 5.1. Breakdown & changes in commitment appropriations

#### 5.1.1. Breakdown & changes in commitment appropriations – Title 1

EUR '000

Item	Budget appropriations			Additional appropriations			Total approp. available
	Initial adopted budget 1	Amending budgets 2	Transfers 3	Final adopted budget 4=1+2+3	Reactivated appropriations 5	Assigned revenue 6	
1101 CBE STAFF COSTS	2 311	100	0	2 411	1 244	0	1 244
1111 CBE TRAINEES	100	0	0	100	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 11</b>	<b>2 411</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 511</b>	<b>1 244</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 244</b>
1200 BBI SUNDRY RECRUITMENT EXPENSES	7	0	(7)	0	0	0	0
1202 CBE SUNDRY RECRUITMENT	5	0	7	12	0	0	0
1203 CBE INSTALLATION, RESETTLEMENT AND DAILY ALLOWANCE	43	0	0	43	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 12</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1301 CBE MISSION EXPENSES	75	0	0	75	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 13</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1404 CBE MEDICAL SERVICE	31	0	0	31	0	0	0
1405 CBE MOBILITY COSTS AND OTHER SOCIAL EXPENSES	167	0	0	167	0	0	0
1406 CBE TRAINING	70	0	0	70	0	12	12
1407 CBE SUPPLEMENTARY AID FOR THE DISABLED	5	0	0	5	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 14</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
1501 CBE STAFF TEAMBUILDI	10	0	0	10	3	0	3
<b>Total Chapter 15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Title 1</b>	<b>2 824</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 924</b>	<b>1 247</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1 259</b>
							<b>8=4+7</b>
							3 655
							100
							<b>3 755</b>
							0
							12
							43
							<b>55</b>
							75
							<b>75</b>
							31
							167
							82
							5
							<b>285</b>
							13
							<b>13</b>
							<b>4 183</b>

## 5.1.2. Breakdown &amp; changes in commitment appropriations – Title 2

EUR '000

	Item	Budget appropriations				Additional appropriations				Total appropri. available
		Initial adopted budget	Amending budgets	Transfers	Final adopted budget	Reactivated appropriations	Assigned revenue	Total		
		1	2	3	4=1+2+3	5	6	7=5+6	8=4+7	
2001	CBE RENTALS	350	0	(203)	148	253	0	253	400	
2011	CBE CHARGES AND WORK	50	0	(43)	7	0	0	0	7	
	<b>Total Chapter 20</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>( 246)</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>407</b>	
2102	CBE IT EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE PURCHASE	477	0	200	677	139	0	139	816	
2103	CBE OTHER IT COSTS	136	0	0	136	35	44	79	215	
	<b>Total Chapter 21</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>1 032</b>	
2201	CBE MOVABLE PROPERTY	5	0	(5)	0	0	0	0	0	
	<b>Total Chapter 22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
2304	CBE STATIONERY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	20	
2305	CBE FINANCIAL CHARGE	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	5	
2306	CBE LEGAL EXPENDITURE	4	0	9	13	18	0	18	31	
	<b>Total Chapter 23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>56</b>	
2401	CBE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL CHARGES	37	0	(24)	13	0	0	0	13	
	<b>Total Chapter 24</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(24)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	
2501	CBE EXPENDITURE ON FORMAL MEETINGS	74	0	(15)	59	0	0	0	59	
	<b>Total Chapter 25</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>	
2604	CBE EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS	190	0	0	190	464	0	464	654	
2605	CBE MATERIALS	95	0	27	122	0	0	0	122	
2606	CBE COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS	70	0	0	70	0	0	0	70	

2607	CBE PUBLIC RELATIONS	62	0	0	0	62	42	0	42	104
<b>Total Chapter 26</b>		<b>417</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>950</b>
2703	CBE STUDIES, CONSULT	50	0	(10)	40	21	21	0	21	60
2704	CBE SERVICE CONTRACT	100	0	10	110	52	52	0	52	163
2705	CBE AUDIT COSTS	27	0	(27)	0	0	0	0	0	0
2707	CBE EXTERNAL STAFF	275	0	0	275	0	0	0	0	275
<b>Total Chapter 27</b>		<b>452</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(27)</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>498</b>
2901	CBE EXPERT REVIEWERS	175	0	76	251	30	30	0	30	281
<b>Total Chapter 29</b>		<b>175</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>281</b>
<b>Total Title 2</b>		<b>2 198</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 198</b>	<b>1 052</b>	<b>1 097</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1 097</b>	<b>3 295</b>

5.1.3. Breakdown & changes in commitment appropriations – Title 3

Item	Budget appropriations				Additional appropriations			Total approp. available
	Initial adopted budget	Amending budgets	Transfers	Final adopted budget	Reactivated appropriations	Assigned revenue	Total	
3000	0	0	0	0	5	6	7=5+6	8=4+7
<b>Total Chapter 30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>343</b>
3101	142 048	(50)	(448)	141 550	30 914	0	30 914	172 463
<b>Total Chapter 31</b>	<b>142 048</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>(448)</b>	<b>141 550</b>	<b>30 914</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30 914</b>	<b>172 463</b>
3200	750	0	448	1 198	0	0	0	1 198
<b>Total Chapter 32</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>1 198</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 198</b>
<b>Total Title 3</b>	<b>142 798</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>142 748</b>	<b>30 919</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>31 257</b>	<b>174 005</b>

5.1.4. Breakdown & changes in commitment appropriations – Title 4

Item	Budget appropriations			Additional appropriations			Total approp. available	
	Initial adopted budget	Amending budgets	Transfers	Final adopted budget	Reactivated appropriations	Assigned revenue		Total
	1	2	3	4=1+2+3	5	6	7=5+6	8=4+7
4000 Re-activation of unused 2024 BBI ADM appropriation	0	0	0	0	275	0	275	275
<b>Total Chapter 40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>Total Title 4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>147 819</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>147 869</b>	<b>33 494</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>33 888</b>	<b>181 758</b>

## 5.2. Breakdown & changes in payment appropriations

### 5.2.1. Breakdown & changes in payment appropriations – Title 1

EUR '000

Item	Budget appropriations			Additional appropriations			Total apppr. available
	Initial budget adopted	Amending budgets	Transfers	Final adopted budget	Reactivated appropriations	Assigned revenue	
	1	2	3	4=1+2+3	5	6	7=5+6
1101 CBE STAFF COSTS	2 311	100	0	2 411	1 763	0	1 763
1111 CBE TRAINEES	100	0	0	100	0	0	100
<b>Total Chapter 11</b>	<b>2 411</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 511</b>	<b>1 763</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 763</b>
1200 BBI SUNDRY RECRUITMENT EXPENSES	7	0	(7)	0	0	0	0
1202 CBE SUNDRY RECRUITMENT	5	0	7	12	0	0	12
1203 CBE INSTALLATION, RESETTLEMENT AND DAILY ALLOWANCE	43	0	0	43	0	0	43
<b>Total Chapter 12</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>
1301 CBE MISSION EXPENSES	75	0	0	75	0	0	75
<b>Total Chapter 13</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>
1404 CBE MEDICAL SERVICE	31	0	0	31	0	0	31
1405 CBE MOBILITY COSTS AND OTHER SOCIAL EXPENSES	167	0	0	167	0	0	167
1406 CBE TRAINING	70	0	0	70	0	12	82
1407 CBE SUPPLEMENTARY AID FOR THE DISABLED	5	0	0	5	0	0	5
<b>Total Chapter 14</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>285</b>
1501 CBE STAFF TEAMBUILDI	10	0	0	10	0	0	10
<b>Total Chapter 15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Title 1</b>	<b>2 824</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 924</b>	<b>1 763</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1 775</b>
							<b>8=4+7</b>

## 5.2.2. Breakdown &amp; changes in payment appropriations – Title 2

	Item	Budget appropriations				Additional appropriations				Total appropri. available
		Initial adopted budget	Amending budgets	Transfers	Final adopted budget	Reactivated appropriations	Assigned revenue	Total		
		1	2	3	4=1+2+3	5	6	7=5+6	8=4+7	
2001	CBE RENTALS	350	0	(203)	148	253	0	253	400	
2011	CBE CHARGES AND WORK	50	0	(43)	7	0	0	0	7	
	<b>Total Chapter 20</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(246)</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>407</b>	
2102	CBE IT EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE PURCHASE	477	0	200	677	139	0	139	816	
2103	CBE OTHER IT COSTS	136	0	0	136	35	44	79	215	
	<b>Total Chapter 21</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>1 032</b>	
2201	CBE MOVABLE PROPERTY	5	0	(5)	0	0	0	0	0	
	<b>Total Chapter 22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
2304	CBE STATIONERY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	20	
2305	CBE FINANCIAL CHARGE	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	5	
2306	CBE LEGAL EXPENDITURE	4	0	9	13	18	0	18	31	
	<b>Total Chapter 23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>56</b>	
2401	CBE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL CHARGES	37	0	(24)	13	0	0	0	13	
	<b>Total Chapter 24</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(24)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	
2501	CBE EXPENDITURE ON FORMAL MEETINGS	74	0	(15)	59	0	0	0	59	
	<b>Total Chapter 25</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>	
2604	CBE EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS	190	0	0	190	464	0	464	654	
2605	CBE MATERIALS	95	0	27	122	0	0	0	122	
2606	CBE COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS	70	0	0	70	0	0	0	70	
2607	CBE PUBLIC RELATIONS	62	0	0	62	42	0	42	104	

<b>Total Chapter 26</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>950</b>
2703 CBE STUDIES, CONSULT	50	0	(10)	40	21	0	21	60
2704 CBE SERVICE CONTRACT	100	0	10	110	52	0	52	163
2705 CBE AUDIT COSTS	27	0	(27)	0	0	0	0	0
2707 CBE EXTERNAL STAFF	275	0	0	275	0	0	0	275
<b>Total Chapter 27</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(27)</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>498</b>
2901 CBE EXPERT REVIEWERS	175	0	76	251	30	0	30	281
<b>Total Chapter 29</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>281</b>
<b>Total Title 2</b>	<b>2 198</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 198</b>	<b>1 052</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1 097</b>	<b>3 295</b>

## 5.2.3. Breakdown &amp; changes in payment appropriations – Title 3

Item	Budget appropriations			Additional appropriations			Total appropri. available
	Initial adopted budget	Amending budgets	Transfers	Final adopted budget	Reactivated appropriations	Assigned revenue	
3000 BBI PREVIOUS YEARS' CALL	0	0	0	0	5	338	343
<b>Total Chapter 30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>343</b>
3101 CBE CURRENT YEAR CALL	142 048	(50)	(448)	141 550	30 914	0	30 914
<b>Total Chapter 31</b>	<b>142 048</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>(448)</b>	<b>141 550</b>	<b>30 914</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>172 463</b>
3200 CBE EVALUATORS' CONTRACTS AND MEETINGS	750	0	448	1 198	0	0	1 198
<b>Total Chapter 32</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>1 198</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 198</b>
<b>Total Title 3</b>	<b>142 798</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>142 748</b>	<b>30 919</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>174 005</b>

EUR '000

5.2.4. Breakdown & changes in payment appropriations – Title 4

Item	Budget appropriations				Additional appropriations			Total approp. available
	Initial budget adopted	Amending budgets	Transfers	Final adopted budget	Reactivated appropriations	Assigned revenue	Total	
4000	1	2	3	4=1+2+3	5	6	7=5+6	8=4+7
Re-activation of unused 2024 BBI ADM appropriation	0	0	0	0	275	0	275	275
<b>Total Chapter 40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>Total Title 4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>160 138</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>160 238</b>	<b>24 652</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>25 046</b>	<b>185 284</b>

## 5.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS

### 5.3.1. Implementation of commitment appropriations – Title 1

EUR '000

	Item	Total approp. available	Commitments made				Appropriations carried over to 2026			Appropriations lapsing				
			from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. revenue	Total	%	Assign. revenue	By decision	Total	from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. revenue	Total
		1	2	3	4	5=2+3+4	6=5/1	7	8	9=7+8	10	11	12	13=10+11+12
1101	CBE STAFF COSTS	3 655	2 024	1 243	0	3 267	89 %	0	0	0	387	1	0	388
1111	CBE TRAINEES	100	28	0	0	28	28 %	0	0	0	72	0	0	72
	<b>Total Chapter 11</b>	<b>3 755</b>	<b>2 052</b>	<b>1 243</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3 296</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>460</b>
1202	CBE SUNDRY RECRUITMENT	12	0	0	0	0	0 %	0	0	0	12	0	0	12
1203	CBE INSTALLATION, RESETTLEMENT AND DAILY ALLOWANCE	43	0	0	0	0	0 %	0	0	0	43	0	0	43
	<b>Total Chapter 12</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>
1301	CBE MISSION EXPENSES	75	69	0	0	69	92 %	0	0	0	6	0	0	6
	<b>Total Chapter 13</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
1404	CBE MEDICAL SERVICE	31	16	0	0	16	52 %	0	0	0	15	0	0	15
1405	CBE MOBILITY COSTS AND OTHER SOCIAL EXPENSES	167	152	0	0	152	91 %	0	0	0	15	0	0	15
1406	CBE TRAINING	82	42	0	0	42	51 %	0	0	0	28	0	12	40



## 5.3.2. Implementation of commitment appropriations – Title 2

EUR '000

Item	Total approp. available	Commitments made				Appropriations carried over to 2026			Appropriations lapsing			Total	
		from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. revenue	Total	%	Assign. revenue	By decision	Total	from final adopt. budget	from re-activations		from assign. revenue
	1	2	3	4	5=2+3+4	6=5/1	7	8	9=7+8	10	11	12	13=10+11+12
2001 CBE RENTALS	400	148	253	0	400	100 %	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2011 CBE CHARGES AND WORK	7	6	0	0	6	89 %	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total Chapter 20</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
2102 CBE IT EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE PURCHASE	816	623	135	0	758	93 %	0	0	0	54	4	0	58
2103 CBE OTHER IT COSTS	215	33	35	44	113	52 %	0	0	0	103	0	0	103
<b>Total Chapter 21</b>	<b>1 032</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>161</b>
2304 CBE STATIONERY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES	20	18	0	0	18	91 %	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
2305 CBE FINANCIAL CHARGE	5	0	0	0	0	10 %	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
2306 CBE LEGAL EXPENDITURE	31	13	18	0	31	100 %	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 23</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
2401 CBE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL CHARGES	13	8	0	0	8	62 %	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
<b>Total Chapter 24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>



## 5.3.3. Implementation of commitment appropriations – Title 3

EUR '000

Item	Total approp. available	Commitments made				Appropriations carried over to 2026				Appropriations lapsing			
		from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. revenue	Total	%	Assign. revenue	By decision	Total	from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. revenue	Total
	1	2	3	4	5=2+3+4	6=5/1	7	8	9=7+8	10	11	12	13=10+11+12
3000 BBI PREVIOUS YEARS' CALL	343	0	5	0	5	2%	0	0	0	0	0	338	338
<b>Total Chapter 30</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>338</b>
3101 CBE CURRENT YEAR CALL	172 463	141 550	30 914	0	172 463	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 31</b>	<b>172 463</b>	<b>141 550</b>	<b>30 914</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>172 463</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
3200 CBE EVALUATORS' CONTRACTS AND MEETINGS	1 198	950	0	0	950	79%	0	0	0	248	0	0	248
<b>Total Chapter 32</b>	<b>1 198</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>248</b>
<b>Total Title 3</b>	<b>174 005</b>	<b>142 500</b>	<b>30 919</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>173 419</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>586</b>

5.3.4. Implementation of commitment appropriations – Title 4

EUR '000

Item	Total approp. available	Commitments made				Appropriations carried over to 2026			Appropriations lapsing				
		from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. revenue	Total	%	Assign. revenue	By decision	Total	from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. revenue	Total
	1	2	3	4	5=2+3+4	6=5/1	7	8	9=7+8	10	11	12	13=10+11+12
Re-activation of unused 2024 BBI ADM appropriation	275	0	275	0	275	100 %	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 40</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Title 4</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>181 758</b>	<b>146 637</b>	<b>33 480</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>180 161</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 232</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>1 597</b>

## 5.4. IMPLEMENTATION OF PAYMENT APPROPRIATIONS

### 5.4.1. Implementation of payment appropriations – Title 1

EUR '000

Item	Total approp. availab.	Payments made				Appropriations carried over to 2026				Appropriations lapsing				
		from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. revenue	Total	%	Autom. carry-overs	By decision	Assigned rev.	Total	from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. rev.	Total
	1	2	3	4	5=2+3+4	6=5/1	7	8	9	10=7+8+9	11	12	13	14=11+12+13
1101 CBE STAFF COSTS	4 174	1 767	1 500	0	3 267	78 %	0	0	0	0	644	263	0	906
1111 CBE TRAINEES	100	28	0	0	28	28 %	0	0	0	0	72	0	0	72
<b>Total Chapter 11</b>	<b>4 274</b>	<b>1 796</b>	<b>1 500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3 296</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>978</b>
1202 CBE SUNDRY RECRUITMENT	12	0	0	0	0	0 %	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	12
1203 CBE INSTALLATION, RESETTLEMENT AND DAILY ALLOWANCE	43	0	0	0	0	0 %	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	43
<b>Total Chapter 12</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>
1301 CBE MISSION EXPENSES	75	66	0	0	66	88 %	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	9
<b>Total Chapter 13</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
1404 CBE MEDICAL SERVICE	31	16	0	0	16	52 %	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	15
1405 CBE MOBILITY COSTS AND OTHER SOCIAL EXPENSES	167	155	0	0	155	93 %	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	12
1406 CBE TRAINING	82	52	0	0	52	63 %	0	0	0	0	18	0	12	30
1407 CBE SUPPLEMENTARY AID FOR THE DISABLED	5	0	0	0	0	0 %	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5

<b>Total Chapter 14</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>63</b>
1501 CBE STAFF TEAMBUILDI	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
<b>Total Chapter 15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Title 1</b>	<b>4 698</b>	<b>2 091</b>	<b>1 500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3 591</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1 108</b>

## 5.4.2. Implementation of payment appropriations – Title 2

EUR '000

Item	Total approp. availab.	Payments made				Appropriations carried over to 2026				Appropriations lapsing				
		from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. revenue	Total	%	Autom. carry-overs	By decision	Assigned rev.	Total	from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. rev.	Total
	1	2	3	4	5=2+3+4	6=5/1	7	8	9	10=7+8+9	11	12	13	14=11+12+13
2001 CBE RENTALS	372	93	276	0	369	99%	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
2011 CBE CHARGES AND WORK	25	6	0	0	6	23%	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	19
<b>Total Chapter 20</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>
2102 CBE IT EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE PURCHASE	964	484	256	0	741	77%	0	0	0	0	193	30	0	224
2103 CBE OTHER IT COSTS	208	54	18	23	95	46%	0	0	0	0	82	10	21	113
<b>Total Chapter 21</b>	<b>1 172</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>336</b>
2304 CBE STATIONERY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES	20	14	0	0	14	71%	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6
2305 CBE FINANCIAL CHARGE	5	0	0	0	0	10%	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
2306 CBE LEGAL EXPENDITURE	31	9	18	0	27	88%	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
2307 CBE OTHER CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	0	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 23</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
2401 CBE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL CHARGES	37	7	0	0	7	20%	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	29
<b>Total Chapter 24</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>



## 5.4.3. Implementation of payment appropriations – Title 3

EUR '000

Item	Total approp. availab.	Payments made				Appropriations carried over to 2026				Appropriations lapsing				
		from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. revenue	Total	%	Autom. carry-overs	By decision	Assigned rev.	Total	from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. rev.	Total
	1	2	3	4	5=2+3+4	6=5/1	7	8	9	10=7+8+9	11	12	13	14=11+12+13
3000 BBI PREVIOUS YEARS' CALL	2 707	0	0	0	0	0 %	0	0	0	0	0	2 369	338	2 707
<b>Total Chapter 30</b>	<b>2 707</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 369</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>2 707</b>
3100 BBI CURRENT YEAR CALL	11 579	0	8 925	0	8 925	77 %	0	0	0	0	0	2 654	0	2 654
3101 CBE CURRENT YEAR CALL	161 312	136 939	7 829	0	144 768	90 %	0	0	0	0	16 544	0	0	16 544
<b>Total Chapter 31</b>	<b>172 891</b>	<b>136 939</b>	<b>16 753</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>153 692</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16 544</b>	<b>2 654</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19 198</b>
3200 CBE EVALUATORS' CONTRACTS AND MEETINGS	1 634	1 186	0	0	1 186	73 %	0	0	0	0	448	0	0	448
<b>Total Chapter 32</b>	<b>1 634</b>	<b>1 186</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 186</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>448</b>
<b>Total Title 3</b>	<b>177 231</b>	<b>138 125</b>	<b>16 753</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>154 878</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16 992</b>	<b>5 023</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>22 353</b>

5.4.4 Implementation of payment appropriations – Title 4

EUR '000

Item	Total approp. availab.	Payments made			Appropriations carried over to 2026				Appropriations lapsing					
		from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. revenue	Total	%	Autom. carry-overs	By decision	Assigned rev.	Total	from final adopt. budget	from re-activations	from assign. rev.	Total
	1	2	3	4	5=2+3+4	6=5/1	7	8	9	10=7+8+9	11	12	13	14=11+12+13
Re-activation of unused 2024 BBI ADM appropriation	275	0	275	0	275	100 %	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 40</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Title 4</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>185 284</b>	<b>141 666</b>	<b>19 325</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>161 014</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18 572</b>	<b>5 327</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>24 270</b>

## 6. OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS

### 6.1. Outstanding commitments – Title 1

EUR '000

Item	Commitments outstanding at the end of previous year			Commitments of the current year				Total commitment outstanding at year-end	
	Commitm. carried forward from previous year	Decommit. Revaluation Cancellations	Pay-ments	Total	Commit-ments made during the year	Cancel-lation of commit. which cannot be carried forward	Commit. outstand-ing at year-end		
	1	2	3	4=1+2-3	5	6	7	8=5-6-7	9=4+8
1101 CBE STAFF COSTS	11	(11)	0	0	3 267	3 267	0	0	0
1111 CBE TRAINEES	1	(1)	0	0	28	28	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3 296</b>	<b>3 296</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1202 CBE SUNDRY RECRUITMENT	3	(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1301 CBE MISSION EXPENSES	55	(54)	2	0	69	64	0	5	5
<b>Total Chapter 13</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>(54)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
1404 CBE MEDICAL SERVICE	3	(3)	0	0	16	16	0	0	0
1405 CBE MOBILITY COSTS AND OTHER SOCIAL EXPENSES	36	(19)	17	0	152	138	0	14	14
1406 CBE TRAINING	48	(21)	27	0	42	25	0	17	17
<b>Total Chapter 14</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>
1501 CBE STAFF TEAMBUILDI	1	0	1	0	10	6	0	4	4
<b>Total Chapter 15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Title 1</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>(111)</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3 584</b>	<b>3 544</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>

## 6.2. Outstanding commitments – Title 2

EUR '000

Item	Commitments outstanding at the end of previous year			Commitments of the current year				Total commitment. outstanding at year-end
	Commitm. carried forward from previous year	Decommit. Revaluation Cancellations	Pay-ments	Total	Commit-ments made during the year	Pay-ments	Cancel-lation of commit. which cannot be carried forward	
	1	2	3	4=1+2-3	5	6	7	8=5-6-7
2001 CBE RENTALS	0	0	0	0	400	369	0	31
2011 CBE CHARGES AND WORK	0	(0)	0	0	6	6	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>
2102 CBE IT EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE PURCHASE	304	(26)	80	198	758	661	0	97
2103 CBE OTHER IT COSTS	1	0	1	0	113	94	0	19
<b>Total Chapter 21</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>(26)</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>116</b>
2304 CBE STATIONERY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	18	14	0	4
2305 CBE FINANCIAL CHARGE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2306 CBE LEGAL EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	31	27	0	4
2307 CBE OTHER CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
2401 CBE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL CHARGES	7	(3)	4	0	8	3	0	5
<b>Total Chapter 24</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>

2501	CBE EXPENDITURE ON FORMAL MEETINGS	1	(0)	1	0	37	33	0	4	4
<b>Total Chapter 25</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
2604	CBE EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS	56	(3)	40	13	578	175	0	403	416
2605	CBE MATERIALS	16	(0)	16	0	108	31	0	77	77
2606	CBE COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS	8	0	8	0	18	18	0	0	0
2607	CBE PUBLIC RELATIONS	0	0	0	0	69	27	0	42	42
<b>Total Chapter 26</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>535</b>
2703	CBE STUDIES, CONSULT	28	(28)	0	0	60	60	0	0	0
2704	CBE SERVICE CONTRACT	11	(2)	9	0	163	4	0	158	158
2705	CBE AUDIT COSTS	48	0	29	19	0	0	0	0	19
2707	CBE EXTERNAL STAFF	17	0	17	0	236	222	0	14	14
<b>Total Chapter 27</b>		<b>103</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>192</b>
2901	CBE EXPERT REVIEWERS	120	(7)	113	0	281	211	0	70	70
<b>Total Chapter 29</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Total Title 2</b>		<b>617</b>	<b>(70)</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>2 883</b>	<b>1 953</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>1 159</b>

### 6.3. Outstanding commitments – Title 3

EUR '000

Item	Commitments outstanding at the end of previous year				Commitments of the current year				Total commitm. outstanding at year-end
	Commitm. carried forward from previous year	Decommit. Revaluation Cancellations	Pay-ments	Total	Commit-ments made during the year	Cancel-lation of commit. which cannot be carried forward	Pay-ments	Commit. outstanding at year-end	
	1	2	3	4=1+2-3	5	7	6	8=5-6-7	9=4+8
3000 BBI PREVIOUS YEARS' CALL	7 271	(1)	0	7 271	5	0	0	5	7 276
<b>Total Chapter 30</b>	<b>7 271</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7 271</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7 276</b>
3100 BBI CURRENT YEAR CALL	23 519	(749)	8 925	13 846	0	0	0	0	13 846
3101 CBE CURRENT YEAR CALL	325 394	(9 141)	144 768	171 485	172 463	0	0	172 463	343 948
<b>Total Chapter 31</b>	<b>348 913</b>	<b>(9 890)</b>	<b>153 692</b>	<b>185 330</b>	<b>172 463</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>172 463</b>	<b>357 794</b>
3200 CBE EVALUATORS' CONTRACTS AND MEETINGS	529	0	435	94	950	0	750	200	293
<b>Total Chapter 32</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>293</b>
<b>Total Title 3</b>	<b>356 713</b>	<b>(9 891)</b>	<b>154 128</b>	<b>192 695</b>	<b>173 419</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>172 668</b>	<b>365 363</b>

**6.4. Outstanding commitments – Title 4**

EUR '000

Item	Commitments outstanding at the end of previous year				Commitments of the current year				Total commitm. outstanding at year- end
	Commitm. carried for- ward from pre- vious year	Decommit. Revaluation Cancel- lations	Pay- ments	Total	Commit- ments made during the year	Cancel- lation of commit. which cannot be carried forward	Commit. outstand- ing at year-end		
	1	2	3	4=1+2-3	5	6	7	8=5-6-7	9=4+8
4000 Re-activation of unused 2024 BBI ADM appropriation	0	0	0	0	275	275	0	0	0
<b>Total Chapter 40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Title 4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>357 487</b>	<b>(10 072)</b>	<b>154 491</b>	<b>192 925</b>	<b>180 161</b>	<b>6 523</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>173 638</b>	<b>366 562</b>

## 7. GLOSSARY

### **Administrative appropriations**

Appropriations to cover the running costs of the entities (staff, buildings, office equipment).

### **Adopted budget**

Draft budget becomes the adopted budget as soon as approved by the budgetary authority.

### **Amending budget**

Decision adopted during the budget year to amend (increase, decrease, transfer) aspects of the adopted budget of that year.

### **Appropriations**

Budget funding.

The budget forecasts both commitments (legal pledges to provide finance) and payments (cash or bank transfers to the beneficiaries). Appropriations for commitments and payments often differ — differentiated appropriations — because multiannual programmes and projects are usually fully committed in the year they are decided and are paid over the years as the implementation of the programme and project progresses.

### **Assigned revenue**

Revenue dedicated to finance specific items of expenditure.

### **Budget result**

The difference between income received and amounts paid, including adjustments for carry-overs, cancellations and exchange rate differences.

For agencies, the resulting amount will have to be reimbursed to the funding authority.

### **Budget implementation**

Consumption of the budget through expenditure and revenue operations.

### **Budget item / Budget line / Budget position**

Revenue and expenditure are shown in the budget structure in accordance with a binding nomenclature, which reflects the nature and purpose of each item, as imposed by the budgetary authority. The individual headings (title, chapter, article or item) provide a formal description of the nomenclature.

### **Budgetary commitment**

Operation by which the authorising officer responsible reserves the budget appropriations necessary to cover for subsequent payments to honour legal commitments.

### **Cancellation of appropriations**

Appropriations which have not been used by the end of the financial year and which cannot be carried over, shall be cancelled.

### **Carryover of appropriations**

Exception to the principle of annuality in so far as appropriations that could not be used in a given budget year may, under strict conditions, be exceptionally carried over for use during the following year.

### **Commitment appropriations**

Commitment appropriations cover the total value of legal obligations (contracts, grant agreements or decisions) that could be signed in the current financial year.

### **De-commitment**

Operation whereby the authorising officer responsible cancels wholly or partly the reservation of appropriations previously made by means of a budgetary commitment.

### **Differentiated appropriations.**

Differentiated appropriations are used to finance multiannual operations; they cover, for the current financial year, the total cost of the legal obligations entered into for operations whose implementation extends over more than one financial year.

### **Economic result**

Impact on the balance sheet of expenditure and revenue based on accrual accounting rules.

### **Entitlements established**

Right to collect income from a debtor as recognised through the issuing of a recovery order.

### **Exchange rate difference**

The difference resulting from currency exchange rates applied to the transactions concerning countries outside the euro area, or from the revaluation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies at the date of the accounts.

### **Expenditure**

Term used to describe spending the budget from all types of funds sources.

### **Grants**

Direct financial contributions from the budget to third-party beneficiaries, engaged in activities that serve Union policies.

### **Lapsing appropriations**

Unused appropriations to be cancelled at the end of the financial year. Lapsing means the cancellation of all or part of the authorisation to make expenditures and/or incur liabilities, as represented by an appropriation.

For joint undertakings (and EIT), as specified in their Financial Rules, any unused appropriations may be entered in the estimate of revenue and expenditure of up to the following three financial years (the so-called "N+3" rule). Hence, lapsing appropriations for JUs can be re-activated until financial year "N+3".

## **Legal basis / basic act**

The legal act adopted by the legislative authority (usually the Council and European Parliament) specifying the objective of a Union spending programme, the purpose of the appropriations, the rules for intervention, expiry date and the relevant financial rules to serve as a legal basis for the implementation of the spending programme.

## **Legal commitment**

The act whereby the Authorising Officer enters into an obligation towards third parties which results in a charge for the Union budget.

Common forms of legal commitments are contracts in the case of procurement, grant agreements and grant decisions.

## **Non-differentiated appropriations**

Appropriations which meet annual needs and must therefore be committed during the budget year. Only amounts qualifying for automatic carryover can be disbursed in the following year. Non-differentiated appropriations which have not been used, i.e. committed, by the end of the year, are cancelled (unless, exceptionally, permission is given by a Commission decision for a non-automatic carryover). Non-differentiated appropriations apply to administrative expenditure and commitment appropriations equal payment appropriations.

## **Operational appropriations**

Operational appropriations finance the different policies, mainly in the form of grants or procurement.

## **Outstanding commitments**

Outstanding commitments (or RAL, from the French 'reste à liquider') are defined as the amount of appropriations committed that have not yet been paid. They stem directly from the existence of multiannual programmes and the dissociation between commitment and payment appropriations.

## **Payment appropriations**

Payment appropriations cover expenditure due in the current year, arising from legal commitments entered in the current year and/or earlier years.

## **RAL (Reste à liquider)**

Amount remaining to be paid on a budgetary commitment at a given moment. Cf. Outstanding commitments

## **Surplus**

Positive difference between revenue and expenditure, which has to be returned to the funding authority. Cf. Budget result

## **Transfer between budget lines**

Transfers between budget lines imply the relocation of appropriations from one budget line to another, in the course of the financial year, and thereby they constitute an exception to the budgetary principle of specification.

## 5.11. MATERIALITY CRITERIA

The 'materiality' concept provides the Executive Director with a basis for assessing the importance of the weaknesses/risks that have been identified and thus whether those weaknesses should be subject to a formal reservation to his declaration.

When deciding whether something is material, both qualitative and quantitative terms have been considered.

In qualitative terms, assessing the significance of any weakness takes the following factors into account:

- ▶ the nature and scope of the weakness;
- ▶ the duration of the weakness;
- ▶ the existence of compensatory measures (mitigating controls that reduce the impact of the weakness);
- ▶ the existence of effective corrective action to correct the weaknesses (action plans and financial corrections) that have had a measurable impact.

In quantitative terms, in order to make a judgement on the significance of a weakness, the officer quantifies the potential maximum (financial) impact.

Whereas the CBE JU control strategy is multiannual (i.e. the effectiveness of the JU's control strategy can only be assessed at the end of the programme, when the strategy has been fully implemented and any errors corrected), the Executive Director is required to sign a declaration of assurance for each financial year. In order to determine whether to qualify his declaration of assurance with a reservation, the effectiveness of the JU's control system must be assessed, not only for the year of reference, but more importantly, with a multiannual perspective.

The control objective for the CBE JU is set out in the Commission proposal for the Council Regulation on the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking. It is to ensure that the 'residual error rate' – i.e. the level of errors that remain undetected and uncorrected – on an annual basis, remains between 2-5 %, with the ultimate aim of achieving a residual level of error as close as possible to 2 % at the closure of the multiannual programme. Progress towards this objective is to be (re)assessed annually, in view of the results of the ex-post audit strategy.

As long as the residual error rate is not close to 2 % at the end of a reporting year within the programme life cycle, the Authorising Officer may also look at other management information to identify the overall impact of the situation and determine whether or not to include a reservation.

If it is not possible to make an adequate calculation of the residual error rate for reasons other than audit deficiencies, the consequences are to be assessed quantitatively by estimating the likely exposure for the reporting year. The relative impact on the declaration of assurance would then be considered by analysing the available information on qualitative grounds and considering evidence from other sources and areas (e.g. information available on error rates in more experienced organisations with similar risk profiles).

## Effectiveness of controls

The starting point for determining the effectiveness of the controls in place is the ‘representative error rate’ (RepER) expressed as a percentage of errors in favour of the CBEJU, detected by ex-post audits with respect to the actual amounts of the CBE JU contributions accepted after ex-ante controls.

The representative error rate will be based on the weighted average error rate (WAER) for a population, from which a random sample has been drawn according to the following formula:

$$\text{WAER\%} = \frac{\sum (\text{er})}{\text{RepA}} = \text{RepER\%}$$

Where:

**Σ (er)** = sum of all individual errors in the sample (in value). Only looks at errors in favour of the JU<sup>61</sup>;

**RepA** = total amount of the representative audited sample expressed in EUR;

**Second step:** calculating the residual error rate.

In order to allow for the impact of the ex-post controls, this error level is to be adjusted by subtracting:

- ▶ errors detected and corrected as a result of implementing audit conclusions;
- ▶ errors corrected as a result of the extrapolation of audit results to non-audited contracts with the same beneficiary.

This results in a residual error rate that shows how much error is left in the auditable population after the outcome of ex-post audits. It is calculated by using the following formula:

$$\text{ResER\%} = \frac{[\text{RepER\%} * (\text{P-A}) - \text{RepERsys\%} * \text{E}]}{\text{P}}$$

Where:

**ResER%** = residual error rate, expressed as a percentage

**RepER%** = representative error rate, or error rate detected in the representative sample, in the form of the WAER, expressed as a percentage and calculated as described above (WAER%)

**RepERsys%** = systematic portion of the RepER% (the RepER% is composed of complementary portions reflecting the proportion of ‘systematic’ and ‘non-systematic’ errors detected) expressed as a percentage of errors in favour of the BBI JU detected by ex-post audits measured with respect

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<sup>61</sup> Adjustments in favour of the beneficiary are considered as 0 for the purpose of calculating the WAER.

to the amounts of BBI JU eligible contributions accepted after ex-ante controls. Only errors in favour of the JU that are more than 2 % (threshold for extrapolation) will be taken into consideration<sup>62</sup>.

**P** = total amount of the auditable population of cost claims, expressed in EUR

**A** = total cost accepted by Financial Officer, expressed in EUR related to the representative sampled list

**E** = total non-audited amounts of all audited beneficiaries, expressed in EUR. This will comprise the total amount of all non-audited but validated and paid costs for all audited beneficiaries, excluding those beneficiaries for which an extrapolation is ongoing

This calculation will be performed on a point-in-time basis, i.e. all the figures will be provided as of a certain date.

The Executive Director takes into account other information when considering if the overall residual error rate is a sufficient basis on which to draw a conclusion on assurance (or make a reservation) for specific segment(s) of the EU Programmes. This information may include the results of other ex-post audits, ex-ante controls, risk assessments, audit reports from external or internal auditors, etc. All this information may be used in assessing the overall impact of a weakness and considering whether to make a reservation or not.

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<sup>62</sup> Adjustments in favour of the Beneficiary are considered as 0 for the purpose of calculating the RepERsys.

## 5.12. SPECIFIC ANNEXES RELATED TO FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Reports and documentation considered for the assessment of the CBE JU's functioning in view of the AO's assurance:

- ▶ the results of internal control monitoring at JU level;
- ▶ the reports on the management of risks, including fraud and IT risks
- ▶ the reports on recorded exceptions, non-compliance events and any cases of 'confirmation of instructions' (Article 92(3) FR);
- ▶ the reports on ex-post supervision and/or audit results;
- ▶ the observations and recommendations reported by the Internal Audit Service (IAS);
- ▶ the observations and the recommendations reported by the European Court of Auditors (ECA).

## 5.13. REPORTING ON THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDITS AND ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

For IAS audits (only critical or very important recommendation):

In accordance with the 2024 Internal Audit Service (IAS) Audit Plan, the IAS conducted an audit on the management of in-kind contributions under Horizon Europe in the CBE JU. The final report was issued in December 2025. The objective of the audit was to assess whether the governance, risk management and control arrangements for in-kind contributions are adequately designed, effectively and efficiently implemented and compliant with the applicable regulatory framework.

The IAS concluded that the governance, risk management and control framework for in-kind contributions to operational activities (IKOP) is adequately designed and effectively implemented.

Yet, the IAS identified opportunities to further enhance the management and monitoring of in-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA), particularly regarding:

- ▶ the process to handle the IKAA plans;
- ▶ the process to handle the IKAA reports;
- ▶ the monitoring of the in-kind contribution.

The audit report acknowledges the ongoing efforts undertaken by the CBE JU to establish a robust framework for the management of IKAA under Horizon Europe. In this context, the CBE JU implemented key measures to reinforce governance, risk management and controls during 2025, including:

- ▶ the establishment of a dedicated team responsible for IKAA management;
- ▶ the development and publication of IKAA management guidelines, made available to private members on the CBE JU website.

In mid-2025, the CBE JU initiated a catch-up exercise regarding the IKAA planning and reporting of the previous calls, which is expected to be completed by Q2 2026, leading to an update of the IKAA plan in the Annual Work Plan 2026. The IKAA planning of call 2025 will be implemented during the Grant Agreement Preparation according to the published guidelines. In March, the CBE JU Programme Office will inform the Governing Board on the progress as regards the implementation of the action plan agreed upon with the IAS.

All the IAS recommendations are regularly monitored and the CBE JU action plans are ongoing. The action plans will be closed in Q2 2026 and submitted to the IAS.

For ECA audits: in the table below for each ECA recommendations identified has been added the related comments as reported in the [Annual report on EU joint undertakings for the 2024 financial year](#):

Reported	Audit title	JUs	Accepted recommendation	Remarks
2021	Annual report on EU joint undertakings for the 2024 financial year	All JUs except F4E	JUs should implement a time-recording system to obtain objective data on staff time spent on each activity.	<p>In 2024, under the JUs' back-office arrangement, human resources departments continued to harmonise and optimise the IT tools made available to all JUs (Sysper and Systal). In 2024, the Commission started implementing a new integrated human resource platform (HRT) to replace previous tools. In 2025, however, the Commission confirmed that the new tool would not include an activity-based time management system. The development of a separate system by the JUs would be very resource intensive and cause problems of integration into the common HR tool.</p> <p><b>Target implementation date: end of 2025.</b></p>
	Annual report on EU joint undertakings for the 2024 financial year	All JUs except F4E	JUs should develop a formalised model or guidance on how to estimate staff needs (including essential competences) for each activity and unit, with the objective of optimising the use of staff resources.	<p>Implementation of this recommendation needs to be fully supported by the Commission (the partner DGs and DG BUDG in particular), which takes the final decisions on future resource allocations to JUs. For this reason, it may not be implemented until the budget negotiations on the new MFF (around the end of 2026).</p> <p><b>Target implementation date: end of 2027.</b></p>

Reported	Audit title	JUs	Accepted recommendation	Remarks
2022	Annual report on EU joint undertakings for the 2024 financial year	All JUs except F4E, EU-Rail, CA, IHI, the Chips JU	Under Horizon Europe, all JUs should implement a risk-based approach to grant management that covers the main grant management phases from preparation to payment. In this context, JUs should in particular ensure that: (a) potentially risky beneficiaries and projects are subject to intensified ex ante controls or ex post audits; and (b) important ex post audit results are duly considered in the risk assessment for future ex ante controls.	<p>In February 2024, the research and innovation JUs developed a common implementation approach and guidance on the CAS's Horizon Europe control strategy that provides for alternative assurance mechanisms and indicators to compensate for the fact that there will be no <i>ex post</i> audits of a representative sample of beneficiaries and no error rate for each JU.</p> <p>The SNS made a large volume of Horizon Europe grant payments (some €83 million) in 2024 but has not yet implemented its risk-based control framework for such expenditure. We note that setting up an effective risk-based control framework is a time-consuming task.</p> <p><b>Target implementation date: end of 2024.</b></p>
2021, 2022, 2023	Annual report on EU joint undertakings for the 2024 financial year	CBE JU	Upward revision of the Horizon 2020 target regarding private members' in-kind contributions to additional activities to compensate for the reduction in their indicative target for in-kind contributions to the JU's operational activities.	By the end of 2024, private members had achieved 93 % of their aggregate cash and in-kind contributions target. However, around 86 % of this amount related to additional activities outside the JU's research programme.
2023	Annual report on EU joint undertakings for the 2024 financial year	CBE JU	Business continuity plan (BCP) and disaster recovery plan (DRP) out of date.	An updated common BCP and DRP were approved in December 2024. The testing of both plans is part of the 2025 common IT work programme.

The regular internal control annual self-assessment was carried out in a timely manner and the following reports were considered to reach a conclusion on the existence and functioning of the internal control system:

- ▶ Annual declaration of assurance reports provided by the Authorising Officer by Sub-Delegation (AOSD) to the delegating Authorising Officer;
- ▶ The reports on recorded exceptions, non-compliance events and internal control weaknesses;
- ▶ The opinion of the Internal Control and Audit Officer responsible for risk management and internal control;
- ▶ The outcome of activities of the ex-post audit function and fraud prevention measures;
- ▶ The results of annual risk assessments performed by the Internal Audit Service and the observations and recommendations reported during the year;
- ▶ The observations and recommendations of the European Court of Auditors;
- ▶ The observations and recommendations of the Accounting Officer in the context of the validation of the local accounting systems;
- ▶ The conclusions of the annual risk assessments;
- ▶ Security and data breach registers.

## 5.14. LIST OF EVENTS IN WHICH CBE JU PARTICIPATED

Date	Event	Place	Type of participation
15.1.2025	VIOBOND foundation inauguration event	Riga, Latvia	Speaker
30.1.2025	Textiles of the Future' webinar   EU textile research & innovation funding opportunities in 2025	Online	Speaker
4.2.2025	SRING event in EP	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
10.2.2025	Launch of the EU Bioeconomy Clusters' Alliance	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
12.2.2025	BIC matchmaking event	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
4.3.2025	Go Circular Summit	Rotterdam, Netherlands	Speaker
5.3.2025	SUSTAINEXT groundbreaking	Hervás, Spain	Speaker
11.3.2025	BIOKET	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker, exhibitor
20.3.2025	Round table - Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD)	Online	Participant
26.3.2025	UNLOCK final event	Online	Speaker
1.4.2025	BBTWINS	Brussels & online	Speaker
2.4.2025	How to build a consortium	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
3.4.2025	CBE JU Info Day 2025	Brussels, Belgium	Organiser, speaker, exhibitor
4.4.2025	The European Pilot and Demonstration Infrastructure Fair	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
7.4.2025	ERIAFF network Conference	Vic, Spain	Speaker
10.4.2025	Bioeconomy for Youth	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
29.4.2025	Waste2BioComp and BIOMATTERS Cluster event	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
29.4.2025	EU CAP Network Stand-Alone Brokerage Event -Partnering for Innovation with Impact in Agriculture and Rural Areas	Prague, Czech Republic	Speaker

Date	Event	Place	Type of participation
15.5.2025	Workshop: Scaling up forest-based innovations in Europe	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
21.5.2025	Inter-JUs event at the European Parliament	Brussels, Belgium	Organiser, exhibitor
21.5.2025	Cefic's bio-based chemical cluster event	Brussels, Belgium	Participant
21.5.2025	FOODPathS Festival	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
3.6.2025	EU Green Week	Brussels, Belgium	Exhibitor
3.6.2025	PLENITUDE final conference	The Hague, Netherlands	Speaker
6.6.2025	ECOSYSTEMEX - CBE JU webinar	Online	Speaker, organiser
9.6.2025	EUBCE	Valencia, Spain	Speaker, exhibitor
11.6.2025	Polish presidency event on agriculture	Warsaw, Poland	Speaker
17.6.2025	CBE JU projects cluster workshop on bio-based materials	Brussels, Belgium	Organiser, exhibitor
17.6.2025	World Bioeconomy Association	Online	Speaker
23.6.2025	R&I for a competitive green transition	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker, exhibitor
25.6.2025	Greenovate! Europe General Assembly	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
25.6.2025	AFTERBIOCHEM closing event	Saint-Avold, France	Participant
27.6.2025	7th International Summer School on Circular Bioeconomy and Sustainable Development	Online	Participant
11.7.2025	SCALE FLAG inauguration	Baillargues, France	Speaker
16.7.2025	BET TALKS	Online	Speaker
16.9.2025	R&I Days	Brussels, Belgium	Exhibitor
17.9.2025	4th Forest Academy for EU Decision Makers	Stockholm, Sweden	Speaker
17.9.2025	Cofund on Blue Bioeconomy	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker

Date	Event	Place	Type of participation
19.9.2025	EUCYS Prize award ceremony	Riga, Latvia	Participant
22.9.2025	EUCYS winners visit	Brussels, Belgium	Organiser
25.9.2025	IFIB	Turin, Italy	Speaker
10.10.2025	Synergies workshop	Brussels, Belgium	Organiser, speaker
15.10.2025	A Nature-First Economy: Towards a Healthy Society on a Thriving Planet	London, UK	Speaker
15.10.2025	Biotech & Biomanufacturing Policy Summit	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
15.10.2025	SPRING cluster event at the EP	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
23.10.2025	Bioeconomy regions summit 2025	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
23.10.2025	European Forestry Commission and the European Forest Week	Istanbul, Turkey	Participant
24.10.2025	CERISEA- official launch of the construction site	Péage-de-Roussillon, France	Speaker, Participant
28.10.2025	SUSTRACK Final Event	Online	Speaker
4.11.2025	From bioresources to bioeconomy: Building a low-carbon future for feed in the EU	Brussels, Belgium	Participant
5.11.2025	European Mission Soil	Aarhus, Denmark	Speaker
6.11.2025	BIOPOLY Cluster: Accelerating Innovation in Bio-based Polymers	Online	Speaker
19.11.2025	European Business Summit 25th Anniversary Edition	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
20.11.2025	European Bioeconomy Conference	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
24.11.2025	Pitch Perfect and Boost the European Bioeconomy	Brussels, Belgium	Speaker
1.12.2025	World Bioeconomy Roundtable – Copenhagen 2025	Copenhagen	Speaker
2.12.2025	FOOD 2030 Networks Conference	Copenhagen, Denmark	Speaker
2.12.2025	Danish Presidency conference: Boosting and mainstreaming the bioeconomy	Copenhagen, Denmark	Speaker

Date	Event	Place	Type of participation
3.12.2025	EU Bioeconomy conferences	Copenhagen, Denmark	Participant
8.12.2025	Scaling up Algae Innovation: Public funding and investment opportunities for start-ups and SMEs at EU level	Online	Speaker
15.12.2025	EU AGRI Food Days	Brussels, Belgium	Exhibitor

## 5.15. LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

AAR	Annual Activity Report
APIK	All Participants In-Kind contributions
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BBI JU	Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking
BIC	Bio-based Industries Consortium
BOA	Back Office Arrangement
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CA	Contractual Agent or Commitment Appropriation
CBE JU	Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking
CIC	Common Implementation Centre
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
CSA	Coordination and Support Actions
DEMOS-IA	Innovation Action for demonstrators
DG AGRI	Directorate-General Agriculture & Rural Development
DG GROW	Directorate-General Internal Markets, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
DG HR	Directorate-General for Human Resources
DG RTD	Directorate-General Research and Innovation
DPO	Data Protection Officer
EC	European Commission
ED	Executive Director
ECA	European Court of Auditors
ED	Executive Director
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIB	European Investment Bank
EU	European Union
F&T Portal	Funding & Tender opportunities Portal
FAQ	Frequently Asked Question
FC	Financial Contribution
FDCA	Furan Dicarboxylic Acid
FLAGS-IA	Innovation Action for Flagship
FWC	Framework Contract
GA	Grant Agreement
GAP	Grant Agreement preparation
GB	Governing Board of the BBI JU and CBE JU
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Green House Gas

HE	Horizon Europe
HES	Higher or Secondary Education
IA	Innovation Action
IAS	Internal Audit Service
ICF	Internal Control Framework
ICT	Information and communication technology
IFIB	International Forum on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioeconomy
IKAA	In-kind contributions by BIC's constituent entities to additional activities
IKOP	In-kind contributions by BIC's constituent entities to operational activities
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IT	Information Technology
JU	Joint Undertaking
KIPS	Key Impact Pathways
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LA	Lactic Acid
LISO	Local Informatics Security Officer
MAP	Multi-annual Planning
MGA	Model Grant Agreement
MS	Member State of the European Union
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
OFMSW	Organic Fraction of Municipal Solid Waste
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office
OTH	Other type of organisations
PA	Payment Appropriation
PEF	Polyethylene furanoate
PET	Polyethylene terephthalate
PRC	Private- for- Profit
PUB	Public Body (excluding research and education)
R&D	Research and Development
REA	Research Executive Agency
REC	Research Organisation
RIA	Research and Innovation Actions
SC	Scientific Committee of the BBI JU
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIR	Specific Implementing Rules
SIRA	Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda for BBI JU
SLA	Services Legal Agreement
SMEs	Small and Medium-Size Enterprises



SO	Strategic Orientation provided in the Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda
SRG	States' representatives group of the CBE JU
SRIA	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for CBE JU
TA	Temporary Agent
ToR	Terms of Reference
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
TTG	Time to Grant
TTI	Time to Inform
TTP	Time to Pay
UN	United Nations
WPS	Widening Participation Strategy

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