

CBE JU WIDENING PARTICIPATION ACTION PLAN 2023-2024

Action type	Proposed activities	Objective	Instrument	Countries targeted
A – Understanding the bottlenecks preventing a greater participation of widening countries in the CBE JU programme	A-1. Launch an online survey to SRG members and Cluster 6 NCPs from the widening countries	Collect feedback from widening countries on country-specific bottlenecks related to their participation in the CBE JU calls and identify opportunities for actions	EU survey	All widening countries ¹
	A-2. Organise a dedicated widening workshop with SRG members and Cluster 6 NCPs from the widening countries	Receive direct feedback from widening countries on country-specific bottlenecks related to participation in the CBE JU calls and identify opportunities for actions	Workshop back-to-back the CBE JU Info Day	All widening countries ¹
B – Fostering stakeholder engagement and collaboration	B-1. Encourage the organisation of onsite national info days for CBE JU calls in widening countries	Promote CBE JU call to relevant national stakeholders, in particular large industries and SMEs in widening countries	National info days	Poland, Hungary, Portugal
				Widening countries, based on SRG engagement
	B-2. Promote the organisation of meetings and onsite visits (e.g., with industries) back-to-back with national info days		Meetings back-to-back with national info days	Poland, Portugal
	B-3. Mobilise SRG representatives from Southern European widening countries and exchange practices	Promote information and understanding of the CBE JU programme with representatives from Southern Europe and discuss mobilisation of their national stakeholders in CBE JU activities	Dedicated meeting	Southern European widening countries

¹ Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

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	B-4. Set up a SRG task force on widening participation in CBE JU programme	Engage SRG representatives in the widening strategy in a structured and long-lasting way	SRG dedicated task force	All interested countries (widening & non widening)
	B-5. Bilateral dialogues with targeted SRG members from widening countries	Step up the engagement of states' representatives from widening countries and increase their involvement in CBE JU activities and country-specific understanding	Ad-hoc bilateral meetings	All widening countries
	B-6. Organise dedicated workshops and webinars with (industry) associations and identified stakeholders in targeted widening countries and regions	Increase industrial engagement in widening countries and regions less represented in CBE JU programme	Workshop and webinars	Poland, Romania + up to 2 more widening countries (TBD)
				Up to 5 widening countries
B-7. Establish a link to the existing BIC Regional Platform, so that interested industries can link up with relevant regions		Webinars, access to use platform	All widening countries	
C - Developing capacity building and raising awareness	C-1. Organise dedicated training sessions on CBE JU for Cluster 6 NCPs	Raise awareness about CBE JU programme and its specific features among NCPs	Cluster 6 NCP training	All MSs and ACs
				All MSs and ACs
	C-2. Sharing information and experience on most common mistakes of CBE JU applications	Increase ability of NCP to advice applicants from widening (and non-widening) countries	Info sharing at NCPs dedicated training on CBE JU	All MSs and ACs
C-3. Organise dedicated training sessions on CBE JU for the WIDERA NCPs	Raise awareness about CBE JU programme and its specific features among NCPs	WIDERA NCP training	All widening countries	

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	C-4. Cross-country initiatives to exchange best practices between stakeholders from widening and non-widening countries	Support exchanges between different entities from member states to enhance networking and capacity of entities from widening countries	Workshop back-to-back with CBE JU info day or SRG meeting	Widening and non-widening
	C-5. Ad-hoc dissemination material on the benefits of participation in CBE JU calls and detailed guide on how to submit a proposal	Increase interest in CBE JU calls and build applicants' capacity	Dedicated factsheets and dissemination material	All widening countries
	C-6. Ad-hoc communication on the benefits of linking with and becoming a BIC member	Spur greater interaction of BIC with potential members from widening countries to ensure they see the value added of becoming a BIC member	"Open Days" and/ or launch of "expression of interest" to join BIC WGs	All widening countries
D – Supporting the implementation of the widening strategy at programming level	D-1. Dedicated CSA topic on widening at regional level included in AWP2024	Support the implementation of the widening strategy at regional level through the engagement of relevant national and regional R&I clusters and industrial associations. Provide information on novel value chains to biomass owners (in national language). Support connections among actors within local innovation ecosystem (e.g., research-governance and industry-governance).	Call for proposals in AWP 2024	Widening countries and non-widening countries with less develop regions and regions under transition
E - Promoting synergies	E-1. Include CBE JU funded projects in the list of projects eligible for the hop-on facility	Increase the participation of widening countries in CBE JU projects	CBE website, HE Funding & Tender Portal	All widening countries
	E-2. Organise exploratory meetings to identify potential collaboration	Identify synergies with relevant networks active in widening countries (e.g. BIOEAST, CCRI, EEN, COST Actions, ERRIN,	Meeting with relevant networks and	All widening countries

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		PRIMA)	clusters	
F - Knowledge management	F-1. Assess data produced by EC funded projects of relevance for the scope of the CBE JU widening participation strategy (Annex IIIa)	Gather data that can be used as cross-reference to understand which kind of attempts has been made in previous initiatives and what are outstanding needs	Desk research	All widening countries
	F-2. Analyse and map opportunities for bio-based industries in targeted widening countries	Identify opportunities for bio-based industrial activities	Country reports	Poland, Romania + up to 5 more widening countries (TBD)
	F-3. Extract useful information from the SRG reporting exercise concluded in March 2023	Identify concrete opportunities for cooperation & synergies with widening countries	SRG report	All widening countries

ANNEX 1 – IDENTIFIED BOTTLENECKS

Type of bottleneck	Bottlenecks
Lack of clear political focus on circular bioeconomy	Low understanding of bioeconomy by the relevant internal stakeholders and policy makers
	No critical mass of stakeholders interested in circular bioeconomy and/or in these calls (industry not well known or not identified/classified as bio-based industry)
	Fragmented national R&D support system for the bioeconomy sector and poor cooperation among public and private actors
	Lack of resources at national level to support activities related to bioeconomy, including promotion of CBE JU info day, preparation of national info days, training for applicants or support in the preparation of proposals, etc.
Lack of knowledge / resources / skills from applicants for applying to international calls	Lack of economic and human resources to be dedicated for applying to international programmes
	Entities find it easier/more secure and attractive to apply to national funding schemes or e.g. structural funds as they have more chances for success
	Industries are reluctant to apply to EU programmes as they don't see the benefits
Complexity of CBE JU / EU calls	Complicated administrative rules
	Difficulty to provide own contributions to the projects (when the funding is not 100%)
	Too low success rate of CBE JU programme
	Difficulty to understand the CBE JU programme
Lack of networking and capacity building	Limited opportunities and resources for networking with relevant international actors because of geographical distance
	Lack of international networking experience and links by industry and SMEs
	No contacts with experienced coordinators in other EU Countries and limited number of potential coordinators from widening countries
	Lack of national initiatives aimed at supporting the entry into international programmes
	Difficulty to find partners and to be found as partner
	No clear interest/strategy from BIC to onboard members from widening countries
	Difficulty to get in touch with BIC
	Cooperation between research/ academia and industry is not always straightforward