Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

CBE JU 2025 call specific requirements

Programme Officer

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Bio-based Industries Consortium

Co-funded by the European Union

2025 call specific requirements

- aim at ensuring that all funded projects will
  - ✓ use sustainably sourced feedstock within SRIA scope
  - ✓ achieve high standards of environmental sustainability and protection
  - ✓ ensure technoeconomic feasibility and good business opportunities
  - ✓ include the participation of all relevant actors
  - ✓ consider the inclusion of digital technologies, cross-disciplinary aspects & Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)
- find them in a separate section (2.2.3.1)
- apply to all topics, according to their type of action

2025 call-specific requirements summary

Specific CBE JU requirement	Type of action	Where to include it in Part B
Feedstock sourcing	RIA and IA, incl. Flag	Question (Y/N)
Feedstock environmental sustainability	RIA and IA, incl. Flag	Question (Y/N)
Description of the feedstock	RIA and IA, incl. Flag	1.2 Methodology
Ex-ante assessment of environmental performance	RIA and IA, incl. Flag	1.2 Methodology
Ex-post assessment of environmental performance	RIA and IA, incl. Flag	3.1 Workplan
Multi-actor approach	IA, incl. Flag *RIA & CSA* (*if specified in the topic)	1.2 Methodology
Economic aspects	RIA and IA, incl. Flag	2.2. Measures… & Annex
Digital technologies	RIA and IA, incl. Flag	1.2 Methodology
Cross-disciplinary aspects and SSH	All ToAs	1.2 Methodology

Feedstock sourcing (eligibility condition)

➢All RIAs and IAs, including Flagships

The consortium shall confirm in Part B, via a structured question (Y/N), that:

- If the bio-based feedstock is processed in EU/EEA/EFTA countries, the bio-based feedstock comes from such countries or from neighbouring Associated Countries;

- If the bio-based feedstock is processed in an Associated Country, the bio-based feedstock comes from the same country or from neighbouring EU/EEA/EFTA countries, or neighbouring Associated Countries.

For limited samples of bio-based feedstock for the purpose of testing processes or technologies this eligibility condition does not apply.

Feedstock environmental sustainability

➢All RIAs and IAs, including Flagships

Proposals should include information on **how the feedstock is produced** and confirm in Part B, via a structured question (Y/N), that the bio-based feedstock complies with a series of requirements regarding:

a) Climate change mitigation

b) Biodiversity protection

c) Pollution prevention

d) Water resources protection

Description of the feedstock

➢ All RIAs and IAs, including Flagships

Describe the feedstock in Part B, 1.2. Methodology and ensure it is in the scope of SRIA. In addition, the feedstock should come from short supply chains as much as possible

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

IAs, including Flagships should clarify in the proposal the amount of biomass needed and assess any potential interference with the food supply chains (see more details in AWP 2025 section on description of the feedstock)

Ex-ante assessment of environmental performance

➢ All RIAs and IAs, including Flagships

- An identification of the **environmental critical issues**
- An ex-ante estimation of the **environmental sustainability performance**, including contribution to **climate neutrality, resource efficiency, zero pollution and circularity** of the proposed biomass logistics, processes/products, compared to benchmark(s) selected by the consortium
- If applicable, a preliminary assessment of the **carbon removal potential**.

Ex-post assessment of environmental performance

➢RIAs

Include a task to use the early-stage data to assess the potential improvements of the **environmental performances of biomass logistics, processes and/or products** developed in the project, as well as a **preliminary assessment of their social impacts**

➢IAs, incl. Flagships

Include a dedicated work package or task to assess ex-post **the environmental impacts and circularity of the products and/or processes developed**, including biomass logistics, using life-cycle-sustainability assessment (**LCSA**) methodologies

Multi-actor approach

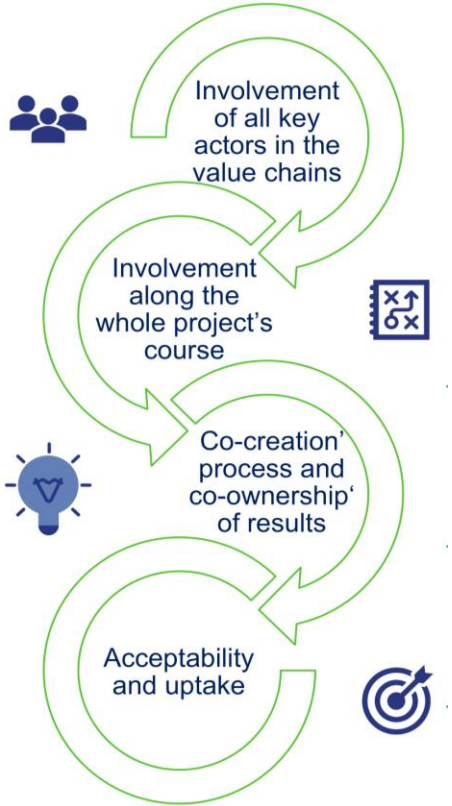
Ensures adequate involvement of all **key actors in the value chains** relevant for the topic and the objective of the proposed project

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

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

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

Multi-actor approach



- ✓ **Relevant actors** are clearly **identified** (e.g. depending on the topic, primary producers, processing industry, end-users, brand owners, etc.).
- ✓ **Sufficient representation of relevant actors** consortium or/and with other forms of engagement.
- ✓ **Needs/ problems/challenges/opportunities** of key actors (from biomass supply to end-users) are considered from concept idea to implementation.
- ✓ **High-quality knowledge exchange activities, tools or/and mechanisms** enable co-creation and co-ownership of results (e.g., participative workshops, advisory bodies, platforms, etc.) are planned.
- ✓ **Dissemination and exploitation channels/ actions** addressing to the targeted actors are used.

Multi-actor approach in practice

"Project XXX will develop an **Advisory Board of Farmers** including regional authorities, food manufacturers, farmers, biorefinery owners, investors etc."

"In order to ensure a good engagement of the key stakeholders, **project partners cover the whole value chain from the field to the table** (farmers, technology providers, manufacturers, environmental assessment experts, end users)."

"**6 interregional workshops** will be held during the project to connect with actors from other regions not directly involved in the project."

"Project XXX consortium will integrate both primary producers and owners / providers of side streams **directly and through biomass suppliers in contact with project partners**."

Economic aspects

RIA

Qualitative business case

encompassing the relevant technical, economic, market, social, environmental and regulatory criteria

IA

Quantified business case

including the relevant technical, economic, market, social, environmental and regulatory aspects

Business model

and an estimate of appropriate economic indicators

IA – Flagship

Business plan as an Annex

&

Executive summary of business plan, incl. underlying business case and business model in Part B

Economic aspects

Business case
Justification for investment in a project leading to a profitable business, based on pursuing an opportunity or solving a problem. *Does it make technical and commercial sense to invest in this project/technology? Are the resources and capabilities available to make this project/technology successful?*

Business model
Description of the way in which a commercial activity generates revenues and value for its customers and involved stakeholders. It is a strategic plan that describes how a company will offer a product to the market and drive sales.

Business plan
Detailed description of how the business will be developed. It should include: executive summary, company strategy, management structure, product development strategy, market and customer landscape, competitive landscape, marketing strategy, production strategy, risk analysis, financial plan, milestone plan

✓ **See full definitions and elements to include in the AWP 2025 call specific requirements section!**

Digital technologies

Apply them provided that they are instrumental to achieving the project's outcomes and scope

➢ **RIAs and IAs, including Flagships,** should consider the applications of digital technologies (e.g. AI, blockchain, Machine Learning, IoT, 6G etc), among the following areas:

- Process design & modelling (including bioinformatics)
- Process monitoring, control and optimisation
- Tracking and tracing
- Data analytics and data management.

➢ **IAs, including Flagships,** should consider also:

- (Real-time) process monitoring, control and optimisation (including environmental performance).
- Predictive maintenance and plant engineering.

Cross-disciplinary aspects and involvement of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

➢ All types of actions

- Foster cross-disciplinarity and consider the social, economic, behavioural, institutional, historical and/or cultural dimensions.
- Integrate contributions from the SSH at various stages of the project.
- Involve the required participants and disciplines.
- Consider public awareness raising, social engagement and social impact aspects

Recommendations for your proposal

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

Thank you for your attention!

Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

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