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D4.3 – OPEN REPORT: FINANCE FOR COMMERCIALIZATION OF BIO-BASED PRODUCTS AND FOR PROJECTS BECOMING A FLAGSHIP

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Definition
CSA	Coordination and Support Action
RIA	Research and Innovation Action
IA	Innovation Action
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
BRL	Business Readiness Level
RRL	Regulatory Readiness Level
SRL	Social Readiness Level
ESG	Environmental, Social, and Governance
EU	European Union
EIB	European Investment Bank
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
VC	Venture Capital
IPO	Initial Public Offering
M&A	Mergers and Acquisitions
PE	Private Equity
R&D	Research and Development
DD	Due Diligence
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
CAPEX	Capital Expenditure
UNPRI	United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment
NCP	National Contact Point





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Deliverable D4.3 – Finance for Commercialization of Bio-based Products and Projects Becoming Flagship integrates insights from Task 4.3 to present a comprehensive landscape of funding options crucial for advancing bioeconomy innovations across Europe. The report encompasses both public and private funding streams, helping stakeholders identify the most suitable sources of financial support based on their project's maturity level and readiness to scale. A key component of this deliverable is the mapping of national and regional funding programmes by all partners representing a diverse set of European countries. These include EU widening countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia. These mappings, conducted by **ToBeReal**'s partners shown in the below table, highlight how national and regional funds complement EU-level programmes:

Partners	Selected countries for mapping EU and national & regional public funding
1 - PNO ES (Spain)	Europe, Spain, Belgium
2 - ŠGZ / CCIS (Slovenia)	Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary
3 - CLUBE (Greece)	Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria
4 - BFR (Sweden)	Sweden, Latvia
5 - FAB FVG (Italy)	Italy, Poland
6 - B4C (France)	France, Malta
7 - BEC (Slovakia)	Slovakia, Czechia
8 - AINIA (Spain)	Spain, Estonia
9 - EL ILVO (Belgium)	Romania, Lithuania
11 - PNO PT (Portugal)	Portugal
13 - NNFCC (UK)	United Kingdom

On the public side, the analysis explores crucial **European instruments** such as the Horizon Europe Cluster 6, LIFE, EU Missions (Soil; Restore Our Ocean & Waters), and co-funded partnerships including PRIMA, Agroecology, FutureFoodS, and Water4All. Each programme is characterized by specific parameters (grant sizes, co-financing arrangements, TRL benchmarks, and eligibility requirements) offering structured pathways from research to demonstration and market introduction.

The deliverable further accentuates the added value of **national and regional funding programmes**. Countries are rapidly developing bioeconomy strategies and investment platforms, such as Spain's Horizonte 2030, Italy's national bioeconomy coordination, or structural funds targeting rural and coastal innovation, creating fertile ecosystems that support project implementation, provide co-financing, and facilitate trust-based stakeholder networks. These local and regional programmes not only address funding gaps neglected by pan-European schemes, but also foster connectivity with key value chains and clusters in specific territories .

Private investment, whether through corporate venturing or dedicated bioeconomy funds, plays a vital complementary role. After initial de-risking via public grants, private funding brings essential





market expertise, scale-up capital, and strategic investor involvement, which are critical to driving innovative solutions to real-world applications.

The interplay of EU-level grants, national/regional instruments, and private capital offers a dynamic, layered funding architecture. The document emphasizes the importance of aligning projects with appropriate funding instruments at each stage of maturity, forming multi-actor consortia, and leveraging geographical strategies (particularly in underrepresented regions) to enhance competitiveness and impact.

This deliverable positions **ToBeReal** bioeconomy community to design and execute robust financial strategies: initiating with public funding for early research and validation, reinforcing with regional programmes for ecosystem anchorage, and culminating with private investment to power market entry. It sets the stage for bioeconomy innovations to evolve into flagship initiatives.





1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. TOBEREAL PROJECT OVERVIEW

ToBeReal is a strategic 5-year European partnership designed to assist *bioeconomy projects* across diverse bio-based value chains. **ToBeReal** is committed to adopting a comprehensive strategy to empower the bioeconomy sector. It offers specialized expertise and strategic support across four key verticals: Technical, Business & Financial, Regulatory & Legal, and Social Innovation. This initiative targets all EU regions, with a special emphasis on areas where the bioeconomy is less developed, ensuring a broad and inclusive approach.

ToBeReal leverages an extensive experience and expertise of its consortium, including 6 leading bioeconomy clusters, 3 recognised technological centres, and 4 SMEs specialised in areas critical for bioeconomy growth, such as funding, exploitation management, and policy development.

This collective expertise underpins **ToBeReal**'s ambitious goal to foster a multi-actor approach, facilitating engagement among a wide range of stakeholders. By forging connections with related projects and initiatives, **ToBeReal** aims to deepen the understanding of the bioeconomy's challenges and opportunities, raising awareness among policymakers, businesses, sector agencies, and investors alike.

Through this effort, **ToBeReal** seeks to amplify its impact by fostering collaborations across research, innovation, funding sources, and private investments, aiming to elevate competitiveness in the bio-based and bioeconomy sectors.

By strategically aligning these elements, **ToBeReal** compromises to catalyse *bioeconomy projects* at different levels, thereby significantly expanding the scope and influence of EU sustainable bioeconomy ventures.

1.2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this deliverable is to provide a comprehensive analysis of **funding opportunities for bioeconomy projects**, including both **public and private instruments** across Europe, nations and regions specially focus in bioeconomy and related sectors such as soil health, water management, agriculture and food. It is specifically designed to support applicants within the **ToBeReal** initiative, particularly SMEs and start-ups and other innovation actors, by guiding them through the funding landscape to craft robust, strategically aligned proposals.

The specific objectives of this deliverable are:

- **Mapping funding pathways:** Present a structured overview of key **public programmes** (e.g., Horizon Europe, EU Missions, LIFE, PRIMA, Water4All, Agroecology Partnership, FutureFoodS), highlighting their eligibility criteria, TRL focus, collaboration formats, financial





parameters (grant sizes, co-financing rates), and application processes and **private funding streams**.

- **Promoting collaboration:** Emphasize the benefits of collaborative funding, often requiring pan-European consortia, multi-actor engagements, or public-private partnerships that align with the **ToBeReal** model of open innovation.
- **Supporting informed decision-making:** Equip innovators with comparative insights, funding timelines, and critical success factors (such as TRL readiness, consortium requirements, and co-funding obligations) to enhance proposal competitiveness.

By integrating private and public financial instruments, combined with governance, technical, regulatory, and social innovation considerations addressed in other public reports of **ToBeReal**, the deliverable empowers bioeconomy actors to craft funding strategies that de-risk development, foster synergies, and maximize impact, with the ultimate goal of elevating sustainable bio-based projects to flagship status across Europe.

2 PUBLIC EUROPEAN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIOECONOMY PROJECTS

Public funding offers an essential route for bioeconomy innovators to de-risk early-stage and pilot-phase development, especially at lower TRLs. Unlike private financing, EU and national public programmes absorb much of the technical and market entry risks, allowing innovators to validate ideas under real-world conditions. These schemes also promote open innovation, enabling companies, research centres, public institutions and NGOs to collaborate across borders, share knowledge, and synergize efforts within pan-European ecosystems. Projects funded through Horizon Europe, LIFE, EU Missions, and sectoral partnerships like PRIMA, Agroecology, and FutureFoodS not only receive financial support but also gain access to networks, policy frameworks, and capacity-building platforms designed to accelerate systemic transformation.

Such opportunities are ideally suited for projects aligned with the circular bioeconomy where multi-stakeholder and multi-national collaboration multiplies impact and fosters innovation diffusion.

In the following sections, this report maps all the key European Public funding programmes focused on bioeconomy. Table 1 also summarises the elements of the specific calls





Table 1 - Overview of key European public funding programmes for the bioeconomy sector

Programme / Mission	Grant Size	Co-financing Rate	TRL Range	Call Structure & Timeline	Applications
Horizon Europe – Cluster 6	Typically €2-6 M per project	100% eligible costs for RIAs/CSAs; 70% for IAs (100% for non-profits)	RIA: TRL 2-5; IA: TRL 5-7	Annual calls; single-stage and two-stage deadlines; Opens in May and closes in September.	EU's Funding & Tenders Portal
CBE JU (Circular Bio-Based Europe JU)	CSA: ~ 1-3 M RIA: ~ €7 M; IA: ~ €14 M; Flagship: ~ €20 M	RIA/CSA: 100%; IA/Flagship: 70% (100% for non-profits)	RIA: TRL 2-5; IA: TRL 5-7; IA-Flagship: TRL 8	Annual Work Programme under CBE JU; single-stage calls. Opens in April and closed in September.	EU's Funding & Tenders Portal
LIFE Programme	Standard Action Projects: €500 K-€1.5 M; Strategic Integrated/Nature Projects: up to ~€10-12 M	55-60 % standard; up to 75 % for priority biodiversity; up to 95 % for Clean Energy Transition CSAs	Pilot/demonstration – near-market (TRL 5-8)	Annual calls that open in May-June with deadlines in September. Strategic Integrated Projects follow a two-stage process: concept note (early September) and full proposal (following year).	EU's Funding & Tenders Portal
Agroecology Partnership	~ €2 per project	Varies depending on the national or regional funding agency	TRL 3-7	Annual. Two-stage calls co-funded by EU and national agencies; 1 st call in February, 2 nd call in July	Own Submission System .
FutureFoods	Typical national limits apply.	Varies by national funding agency Ranges from 50% to 100%	TRL 3-7	Annual. Two-stage transnational calls: pre-proposal call in January, full proposal in July	Own online submission platform .
PRIMA (section 1 projects)	Section 1 projects (IAs) €4-9 M	70% for profits, 100% for non-profits	TRL 6-8	Annual Work Programme. Single-stage. Opens in April and closes in July	PRIMA online portal .
Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe	€3-12 M per project (single-stage); up to €12 M (Living Labs)	100% eligible costs for RIAs/CSAs; 70% for IAs (100% for non-profits)	RIA: TRL 2-5; IA: TRL 5-7	Annual calls; single-stage and two-stage deadlines; Opens in May and closes in September.	EU's Funding & Tenders Portal
Mission: Restore Our Ocean & Waters	€5-15 M per project	100% eligible costs for RIAs/CSAs; 70% for IAs (100% for non-profits)	RIA: TRL 2-5; IA: TRL 5-7	Annual calls; single-stage and two-stage deadlines; Opens in May and closes in September	EU's Funding & Tenders Portal
Water4All Partnership	€300,000-€500,000 per project (variable by country & agency)	Varies depending on the national or regional funding agency	TRL 4-7	Annual calls; Joint Transnational Calls; pre-proposal call in February, full proposal in April	Water4all website





2.1 HORIZON EUROPE - CLUSTER 6 FOOD, BIOECONOMY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT.

Horizon Europe is the European Union's most ambitious research and innovation programme to date, with a **total budget of approximately €95.5 billion for the period 2021 to 2027**. It builds on the legacy of Horizon 2020 and aims to strengthen the EU's scientific and technological bases while fostering innovation that can generate economic growth, social inclusion, and sustainability. The programme is central to the EU's long-term strategy to address major global challenges, such as climate change, food security, and digital transformation, while enhancing the Union's competitiveness on the world stage.

The architecture of Horizon Europe is structured around **three main pillars**, each targeting a distinct dimension of research and innovation. **Pillar I**, titled “**Excellent Science**”, is designed to reinforce the EU's scientific leadership by supporting frontier research, primarily through the European Research Council (ERC), and nurturing early-career researchers via Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). This pillar also funds world-class research infrastructures. **Pillar II**, “**Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness**”, represents the programme's largest budget component and focuses on solving societal challenges while supporting industrial technologies and fostering European leadership in strategic sectors. The aim of this pillar is to connect research and innovation more closely to EU policy priorities, particularly those related to the Green Deal, and to enhance collaboration between academia, industry, and public institutions. **Pillar III**, known as “**Innovative Europe**”, is intended to stimulate breakthrough innovations and scale up high-potential technologies and businesses. It achieves this through instruments such as the European Innovation Council (EIC), which supports both start-ups and scale-ups, and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), which fosters partnerships between business, education, and research organisations.

Complementing these three pillars are two cross-cutting components. The first is “**Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence**” which seeks to reduce the innovation divide across Europe by enabling countries with lower R&I performance to better participate in EU research activities. The second, “**Reforming and Enhancing the European Research and Innovation System**”, supports initiatives aimed at improving research governance, open science, and knowledge sharing.

Horizon Europe is not only a financial tool but a strategic policy instrument that reflects the EU's vision of a sustainable, inclusive, and innovation-driven future. By supporting collaboration among researchers, businesses, and governments across Member States and beyond, it paves the way for scientific breakthroughs and technological solutions that respond to the needs of society, the economy, and the planet.





Within **Pillar II**, Cluster 6 – *Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment*¹ – plays a pivotal role in aligning research and innovation with the objectives of the European Green Deal and the broader sustainability agenda. It addresses some of the most pressing environmental, societal, and economic challenges facing Europe and the world today. Cluster 6 supports the transition toward sustainable food systems, the preservation and restoration of biodiversity, the responsible use of natural resources, and the advancement of a circular and bio-based economy. It also plays a vital role in fostering climate resilience and ensuring that rural, coastal, and urban communities can adapt to and thrive under changing conditions.

The strategic orientation of Cluster 6 is guided by a policy-driven agenda, deeply rooted in EU priorities such as the **Farm to Fork Strategy**, the **Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**, the **Circular Economy Action Plan**, and the **long-term vision for the EU's rural areas**. It seeks to generate knowledge and innovations that can lead to transformative societal change, with an emphasis on systems thinking, cross-sectoral solutions, and multi-actor engagement.

For the period 2021–2027, Cluster 6 has been allocated a total budget of approximately **€8.95 billion**, making it one of the most significant thematic funding instruments within Horizon Europe. This substantial investment reflects the EU's recognition of the critical role that food systems, ecosystems, and rural economies play in both environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

To structure its intervention logic, Cluster 6 is organized around **seven “Destinations”**, each representing a key priority area for action and investment. These destinations are:

1. **Biodiversity and ecosystem services**, focusing on the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
2. **Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems**, aimed at transforming food production and consumption to support health, inclusiveness, and sustainability.
3. **Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors**, supporting the innovation and scaling of sustainable bio-based value chains, including new materials and industrial applications.
4. **Clean environment and zero pollution**, promoting holistic approaches to air, water, and soil quality, with a strong focus on pollution prevention and remediation.
5. **Land, ocean and water for climate action**, supporting nature-based solutions, sustainable land and water use, and climate adaptation.

¹ Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment. Available [here](#).





6. **Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities**, enabling local communities to harness place-based solutions and improve social cohesion.
7. **Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal**, providing the enabling frameworks, data, and technologies required to steer transitions and monitor progress.

Each destination encompasses a set of annual work programme calls, where interdisciplinary and transnational research consortia can apply for funding through competitive proposals. These calls typically support Research and Innovation Actions (RIA), Innovation Actions (IA), and Coordination and Support Actions (CSA), with projects often ranging from €2 million to €6 million in budget.

By integrating environmental, economic, and social dimensions, Cluster 6 is designed not only to generate technological breakthroughs but also to facilitate systemic change. It connects scientific research with real-world application, supports public and private actors in developing green innovations, and ultimately contributes to the resilience and regeneration of Europe's natural capital.

Summarised In the table below the funding conditions and application information for Horizon Europe "Cluster 6" projects

Grant size	Projects funded under Cluster 6 typically receive between €2 million and €6 million , depending on the type of action (RIA, IA, CSA) and the scope of the topic.
Co-financing rate	100% of eligible costs for Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) and Coordination and Support Actions (CSA). 70% of eligible costs for Innovation Actions (IA), except for non-profit legal entities, which are still eligible for 100% funding .
Target TRL	RIAs typically fund activities at TRL 2–5 . IAs target higher maturity, typically TRL 5–8 , supporting scale-up and pre-commercial deployment. CSAs are not TRL-based, as they fund networking, coordination, and knowledge sharing.
Eligible applicants	Proposals must involve at least three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries . Eligible participants include: • Research institutions and universities • Private companies, including SMEs and start-ups • Public authorities and municipalities • Non-profit organisations and NGOs • Technology platforms and industry association
Call	Cluster 6 topics are published in the Work Programme , typically over 2-year cycles (e.g., 2026–2027). Calls are announced on the Funding & Tenders Portal . Cluster 6 opens in May and closes in September.
Applications	Single-stage calls: one full proposal deadline Two-stage calls: short proposal followed by a full proposal if pre-selected





2.2 CIRCULAR BIO-BASED EUROPE JOINT UNDERTAKING (CBE-JU)

Established in 2021 under Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085, the **Circular Bio-Based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)**² is a landmark public-private partnership co-funded by the European Commission and the Bio-Based Industries Consortium (BIC). As the successor to the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking, CBE JU inherited its mission to accelerate the development of a sustainable, circular bioeconomy across Europe, operating under Horizon Europe until at least 2031.

At its core, CBE JU pursues three interlinked objectives: first, to speed the innovation journey from concept to prototype and demonstration; second, to enable market deployment of bio-based solutions; and third, to guarantee high environmental performance across bio-based industrial systems. With a total budget of around **€2 billion**, the partnership splits contributions equally, €1 billion from the EU and €1 billion from industry (including in-kind contributions and private funding leveraged for investments). The administrative overhead is capped at €47 million over its lifetime .

CBE JU operates a strategic, annual work programme derived from its **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**, launched through thematic calls under Horizon Europe rules. Its calls fund three types of projects:

- **Innovation Actions – Flagship (IA-Flagship):** Large-scale demonstrators (~€20 million each)
- **Innovation Actions (IA):** Medium-scale deployable projects (~€14 million each)
- **Research and Innovation Actions (RIA):** Smaller, preparatory or exploratory research efforts (~€7 million each)

Since inception, CBE JU has backed nearly 192 projects involving over 1,550 partners from 44 countries, with small and medium-sized enterprises constituting 35 % of participants. Its 2024 batch added 30 consortia (416 beneficiaries) to its network.

CBE JU aligns with major EU frameworks, projecting its impact toward the European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, the Circular Economy Action Plan, and the UN Sustainable Development Goal.

Noteworthy themes include a strong **widening participation strategy**, aiming to engage institutions from less represented countries—achieved via targeted networking actions, capacity building events, and adjusted scoring incentives.

² Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE-JU). Available [here](#).





Summarised In the table below the funding conditions and application information for CBE-JU projects

Grant size	• Research and Innovation Actions (RIA): typically around €7 million • Innovation Actions (IA): typically up to €14 million • Flagship Innovation Actions (IA-Flagship): can reach up to €20 million or more for demonstration-scale projects
Co-financing rate	100% of eligible costs for Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) and Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) 70% of eligible costs for Innovation Actions (IA), except for non-profit legal entities, which are still eligible for 100% funding
Target TRL	RIAs typically fund activities at TRL 2–5 IAs target higher maturity, typically TRL 5–8, supporting scale-up and pre-commercial deployment CSAs are not TRL-based, as they fund networking, coordination, and knowledge sharing
Eligible applicants	As per Horizon Europe rules: • At least three independent entities from three different EU Member States or Associated Countries • Industry actors, especially from the bio-based sector, are strongly encouraged • Includes SMEs, large companies, research organisations, universities, public authorities, and non-profits
Special requirements	<u>In-Kind Contributions to Operational Activities (IKOP):</u> The requirement for private co-investment in the form of IKOP. This is how the Bio-Based Industries Consortium (BIC) and participating industrial partners match the public funding provided by the EU. IKOP refers to: Costs incurred by industry participants during the execution of CBE JU-funded projects that are not reimbursed by the grant (i.e., the unfunded part of their eligible expenses)
Call	Annual Work Programme issued by the CBE JU: Open calls for proposals. Calls are also published on the Funding & Tenders Portal. Most topics are single-stage submissions. The CBE JU opens in April and closed in September.
Applications	Single-stage calls: one full proposal deadline. Proposals submitted electronically via the EU's Funding & Tenders Portal

2.3 LIFE PROGRAMME

The LIFE Programme is the EU's main funding instrument for environment and climate action, with a total budget of **€5.4 billion** for the 2021–2027 period. While traditionally focused on conservation and sustainability, LIFE has increasingly supported **bioeconomy-oriented innovation** through its





sub-programmes for **Circular Economy**, **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**, and **Clean Energy Transition**³.

Bioeconomy projects may benefit from several LIFE sub-programmes:

- **Circular Economy and Quality of Life** → Supports **solutions for waste prevention, bio-based product development, and valorisation of organic side streams** (e.g. biowaste, wastewater, by-products).
- **Climate Change Mitigation** → Focuses on reducing GHG emissions through the adoption of **bio-based alternatives to fossil inputs**, such as bioplastics or sustainable biomaterials.
- **Climate Change Adaptation** → Funds nature-based and ecosystem-based solutions that improve **land and resource resilience**, including soil regeneration, agri-ecological transitions and biogenic carbon management.
- **Clean Energy Transition** → While sector-specific, it increasingly funds **demand-side innovation** such as bio-based insulation, building materials and renewable fuels.

Each sub-programme includes different types of projects: **Standard Action Projects (SAPs)**, **Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)** and **Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)**, depending on the scale and policy alignment.

- **Standard Action Projects (SAPs)**: The most common project type. These aim to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods or approaches with a direct environmental or climate benefit. SAPs are suitable for individual organisations or consortia and are relevant for most bioeconomy pilot and demo projects.
- **Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)**: Large-scale projects designed to implement environmental or climate plans, strategies or roadmaps at national, regional or multi-regional level. SIPs must demonstrate how other EU, national or private funds will be mobilised in synergy with LIFE.
- **Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)**: Targeted at biodiversity and nature conservation, these projects support the implementation of EU Nature and Biodiversity strategies. Relevant for land-based bioeconomy models that intersect with protected areas or ecosystem restoration.

The LIFE Programme provides substantial support for near-to-market demonstration projects across environment, biodiversity, circular economy, and clean energy sectors. **It is particularly well-suited for bioeconomy initiatives involving resource recovery, pollution reduction, ecosystem**

³ LIFE PROGRAMME. Available [here](#)





restoration, and circular design, especially under the Circular Economy & Quality of Life sub-programme.

Summarised In the table below the funding conditions and application information for LIFE projects

Grant size	Typical projects are funded between €1 million and €10 million . Integrated Strategic Projects average around €10 million
Co-financing rate	Standard action grants: ~55–60% of eligible costs . Projects for priority species/habitats can reach 75% , and technical assistance projects can go up to 95% .
Target TRL	Demonstration and pilot projects; equipment purchase eligible under durability clauses . TRL usually between TRL 5–8 , though not explicitly stated.
Eligible applicants	Any public or private legal entity established in the EU, associated countries, or selected third countries. Consortia are required. SMEs, large companies, research centres, municipalities, NGOs, regional authorities and consortia.
Call	Annual calls that open in May-June with deadlines in September. Strategic Integrated Projects follow a two-stage process : concept note (early September) and full proposal (following year).
Applications	Submitted via EU's Funding & Tenders Portal ; evaluated on excellence, impact, and implementation quality. Eligible costs include personnel, subcontracting, equipment (subject to durability rules), plus a flat-rate indirect cost of 7%

2.4 AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

The **European Partnership on Agroecology** (officially titled *Accelerating farming systems transition – agroecology living labs and research infrastructures*) aims to deliver practical, inclusive and locally adapted agroecological solutions that improve the sustainability and resilience of European agriculture⁴. Co-funded under Horizon Europe, the partnership supports a coordinated research and innovation agenda for the **scaling up of agroecological practices** across diverse farming systems and territories. Launched on January 1, 2024, and running until 2030, it brings together **72 partners** (public, private, and civil society) across **26 countries**, supported by a **€300 million** budget equally shared between the EU and participating members

Agroecology represents a key transition pathway for the **bioeconomy in primary production**, emphasising ecological processes, reduced external inputs, increased circularity and enhanced biodiversity. The partnership contributes to EU Green Deal goals, the **Farm to Fork Strategy**, and the **Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas**, by supporting systemic innovation that builds **regional bioeconomy ecosystems** and reduces reliance on fossil-based agriculture.

⁴ AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP. Available [here](#).





This initiative aims to reshape farming systems by embedding **agroecological principles** through its core instruments: **Agroecology Living Labs (ALLs)** and **Research Infrastructures (RIs)**. ALLs serve as real-world platforms for co-creation, experimentation, and innovation with farmers, researchers, and stakeholders, facilitating localized but replicable solutions

Summarised In the table below the funding conditions and application information for Agroecology Partnership:

Grant size	The Partnership's calls are co-financed annually with a co-funded mechanism. For example, the first co-funded call launched in February 2024, featuring a two-stage process and backing €37 million across 19 projects , with individual consortia comprising 5-16 partners
Co-financing rate	The co-financing rate for projects funded under the Agroecology Partnership varies depending on the national or regional funding agency participating in the co-funded call. Since it is a partnership model under Horizon Europe , each country contributes its own public funding according to its rules
Target TRL	Projects focus on real-world testing and scaling of agroecological practices, generally aligning with TRL 4–7 , from pilot to demonstration scale.
Eligible beneficiaries and countries	At least 3 eligible partners requesting funding from at least 3 different Members States or Horizon Europe or Associated Countries and from Funders who provide funds to the co-funded call. Associated Partners do not count towards this limit. Partners from a single country shall not exceed 60% of the total number of person months allocated to the project.
Call	Two-step-procedure. As a first step, a pre-proposal has to be submitted (usually in mid-February). If this pre-proposal is successful, the Coordinator receives an invitation to submit a full proposal (usually in July). Only following such an invitation, a full proposal can be submitted.
Applications	Applicants submit their application via the Submission System .

2.5 FUTURE FOODS PARTNERSHIP

FutureFoods is a forthcoming European initiative under Horizon Europe that addresses the **future of nutrition, food systems, and consumer behaviour**.⁵ Established on **19 June 2024**, the FutureFoodS Partnership brings together **86–87 partners** from **29 countries**, including national authorities, universities, research institutes, NGOs, and industry, with a vision to transform Europe's food systems to be sustainable, healthy, resilient, and within planetary boundaries. The partnership operates under Horizon Europe's Cluster 6 and aligns with the Farm to Fork and Food 2030

⁵ FUTURE FOODS PARTNERSHIP. Available [here](#).





strategies, with a planned duration of **10 years (2024–2034)** and an estimated total budget of **€525 million**, comprising approximately **€175 million in EU contributions** and the remainder from national co-funding

The FutureFoods contributes directly to the **transition towards more sustainable diets and resilient food systems**. It fosters innovation in **alternative proteins, bio-based ingredients**, and **digital food solutions**, while tackling challenges related to food waste, climate change, and nutrient circularity. Guided by its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)⁶, the programme is especially relevant for:

- Valorisation of biomass through microbial, algal or precision fermentation.
- Circular solutions in food production and processing.
- Behavioural and regulatory enablers for adoption of bio-based and plant-based products.

Summarised In the table below the funding conditions and application information for FutureFoods projects

Grant size	No fixed EU-wide maximum. Typical national limits apply.
Co-financing rate	Varies by national funding agency Ranges from 50% to 100% depending on: • Country • Type of applicant (e.g., public vs private, SME vs university) • Activity type (research vs innovation)
Target TRL	TRL 3-7 , supporting applied research, development, and demonstration activities
Eligible applicants	Minimum of three independent partners from three different countries participating in the call Eligible entities include: • Universities and research institutions • Public bodies and local authorities • SMEs, large enterprises, and cooperatives • NGOs and civil society groups • Living labs and food system stakeholders
Call	Projects are selected through a two-stage evaluation : pre-proposal (eligibility and scope usually in January), followed by full proposal (scientific quality, impact, implementation, usually in July).
Applications	Applicants submit their application via the online submission platform .

2.6 PRIMA- PARTNERSHIP FOR R&D IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

⁶ Future FoodS SRIA available [here](#).





The **PRIMA Programme** (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) is a long-term European initiative launched under Horizon 2020 and continued through Horizon Europe. It was established in 2018 through Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, bringing together **19 participating countries from both shores of the Mediterranean** (EU Member States and non-EU countries alike) with the goal of fostering collaborative research and innovation that addresses shared regional challenges. PRIMA's strategic focus lies in creating innovative solutions for **sustainable agri-food systems and water resource management across the Mediterranean basin**. By funding transnational, multidisciplinary, and multi-actor projects, PRIMA supports scientific and practical responses to climate change, food insecurity, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss, issues that are particularly acute in this climate-vulnerable region.

The initiative operates under a unique tripartite structure:

- **Section 1**, funded directly through Horizon Europe, supports centrally managed calls with a single set of rules and evaluations. These typically target higher TRLs through Innovation Actions.
- **Section 2**, based on national funding contributions, supports Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs) with co-funding from participating states and more varied administrative requirements.
- **Section 3** encompasses activities selected and funded solely at the national level, allowing more flexible responses to regional priorities.

By supporting cooperation between research institutions, industry, public authorities, and civil society, PRIMA is more than a funding mechanism, it is a strategic platform for regional integration, knowledge transfer, and the co-creation of solutions that can enhance resilience and sustainability across Mediterranean communities.

As an example, the PRIMA 2025 multi-topic call (Section 2) covered three major themes, strongly aligned with bioeconomy challenges:

1. **Water Management in the Nexus**
Topic 2.1.1: Enhancing policy development through water footprint and virtual water concepts.
2. **Farming Systems in the Nexus**
Topic 2.2.1: Upscaling agroecology practices at the farm level across the Mediterranean.
3. **Agro-food Value Chain in the Nexus**
Topic 2.3.1: Accelerating the transition to **plant-based alternative protein products** in Mediterranean diets

These topics are intended to contribute to improved **resilience, sustainability and competitiveness** of Mediterranean bioeconomy systems under climate stress.





The PRIMA programme is open to entities based in **Participating States** including EU Member States and non-EU Mediterranean Partner Countries. Among the countries represented in this deliverable, the following are eligible and active under PRIMA Section 2 calls: **Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Greece, Slovenia and Malta.**

These countries co-fund PRIMA calls and actively support projects aligned with national and regional priorities in **agro-food, circular bioeconomy, and sustainable water management**. Applicants from these countries are encouraged to collaborate in **transnational consortia** with at least one partner from a non-EU Mediterranean country (e.g. Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Turkey, etc.), creating regional synergies and fostering innovation relevant to Mediterranean bioeconomy challenges

Summarised In the table below the funding conditions and application information for PRIMA projects under the section 2 as it is the section targeting higher TRLs.

Grant size	Projects funded under Section 1, primarily Innovation Actions (IA), typically receive grants in the range of €4 million to €9 million per project.
Co-financing rate	• Up to 70% of eligible costs for for-profit entities (in line with Horizon Europe rules). • Up to 100% of eligible costs for non-profit legal entities (e.g., universities, public research institutions, NGOs).
Target TRL	Section 1 focuses on Innovation Actions, with expected TRL 6–8 . Projects are intended to demonstrate system prototypes or solutions in operational environments and promote market replication of innovative technologies.
Eligible applicants	Research organisations, SMEs, universities, public entities and NGOs from PRIMA countries (EU and non-EU Mediterranean)
Consortium	Must include partners from at least three different PRIMA countries, of which at least one must be EU and one non-EU Mediterranean Partner Country
Call	Section 1 calls are managed directly by PRIMA-IS using a single-stage submission process (usually opens in April and closes in July). Evaluation criteria are based on Horizon Europe standards, but funding decisions and contracts are handled at the national level.
Applications	Single-stage; submission via PRIMA online portal .

2.7 EU MISSION IN HORIZON EUROPE

EU MISSION are a strategic innovation of the Horizon Europe programme, designed to tackle pressing societal and environmental challenges through integrated, time-bound initiatives. These Missions combine research, innovation, public policy, and citizen engagement, aiming to deliver measurable results by 2030. They feature dedicated funding, co-creation with stakeholders, and clear governance to ensure real-world change. There are five missions (addressing climate adaptation, cancer, oceans and waters, smart cities, and soil health) each supported by multi-disciplinary consortia and inclusive governance structures. They are characterized by **co-creation with citizens and stakeholders**, clear KPIs, and integration into broader EU policies such as the Green Deal





For **ToBeReal**, two Missions are especially relevant: EU MISION - A Soil deal for Europe and EU Mission-Restore Our Ocean and Waters.

2.7.1 EU Mission - A soil deal for Europe

Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe is one of five ambitious EU Missions set to deliver visible impacts by 2030⁷. Its central vision is to lead the transition towards soil health across Europe through the **creation of a network of 100 Living Labs and Lighthouses**. Soil underpins life on Earth, it is essential to food production, clean water, biodiversity support, climate resilience, cultural heritage, and economic prosperity. Yet more than 60% of EU soils are in poor health, making it a critical vulnerability that demands urgent attention. This Mission supports a comprehensive research and innovation agenda aimed at validating solutions, harmonizing soil monitoring, and fostering citizen and stakeholder awareness through real-world co-creation. At the heart of the initiative are Living Labs, interactive sites where researchers, farmers, city planners, NGOs, and citizens co-design and test sustainable soil management practices. Lighthouses, by contrast, serve as demonstration hubs that showcase proven practices ready for replication. Together, they strive to tackle **eight strategic objectives, including reducing desertification and erosion, conserving soil carbon, halting urban soil sealing, restoring polluted soils, enhancing structure and biodiversity**, reducing the EU's soil footprint,

2.7.2 EU Mission - Restore our ocean and waters

Mission: Restore Our Ocean and Waters represents a Europe-wide effort to secure the health of our marine and freshwater ecosystems through an integrated and systemic approach⁸. With a deadline set to 2030, the mission addresses environmental, social, and economic dimensions by combining research and innovation with **citizen engagement and strategic blue investments**. The mission is anchored around four regional “**Lighthouses**” (Atlantic-Arctic, Baltic-North Sea, Mediterranean, and Danube-Black Sea) that serve as living laboratories for implementing large-scale restoration, pollution elimination, and sustainable blue economy solutions. These Lighthouses exemplify practical innovation on the ground, with community involvement, local governance, and regional coordination. Key pillars of the mission include establishing **Blue Parks** (networks of strictly protected marine areas) and developing a **Digital Twin Ocean**, a digital replica of marine and freshwater systems to support transparent, data-driven decision-making. Citizen awareness and policy change are also essential components, facilitated through public pledges and engagement with local authorities.

The pressing need is clear: healthy waters are vital for biodiversity, climate resilience, sustainable fisheries, clean drinking water, and cultural services, but Europe's aquatic environments are under

⁷ EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe. Available [here](#)

⁸ EU Mission : EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters. Available [here](#).





severe stress. The mission directly supports key Green Deal priorities, including the Biodiversity Strategy, Zero Pollution Action Plan, and climate neutrality commitment. Economic necessity is equally urgent: EU waters are estimated to generate €2.5 trillion annually in goods and services, making their restoration both an environmental and economic imperative.

Summarised In the table below the funding conditions and application information for Mission Soil, Ocean and Water projects

Grant size	Soil: €6–12 M per topic (one-stage); €12 M each for Living Labs Ocean & Waters: €5–15 M per project.
Co-financing rate	100% of eligible costs for Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) and Coordination and Support Actions (CSA). 70% of eligible costs for Innovation Actions (IA), except for non-profit legal entities, which are still eligible for 100% funding .
Target TRL	RIAs typically fund activities at TRL 2–5 . IAs target higher maturity, typically TRL 5–8 , supporting scale-up and pre-commercial deployment. CSAs are not TRL-based, as they fund networking, coordination, and knowledge sharing.
Eligible applicants	Proposals must involve at least three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries . Eligible participants include: • Research institutions and universities • Private companies, including SMEs and start-ups • Public authorities and municipalities • Non-profit organisations and NGOs • Technology platforms and industry association
Call	Mission topics are published in the Work Programme , typically over 2-year cycles (e.g., 2026–2027). Calls are announced on the Funding & Tenders Portal . Mission Programme opens in May and closes in September.
Applications	Single-stage calls: one full proposal deadline Two-stage calls: short proposal followed by a full proposal if pre-selected

2.8 WATER4ALL PARTNERSHIP

The **Water4All Partnership** is a co-funded European initiative aiming to **strengthen water research and innovation** across the EU and associated countries⁹. It supports actions that address water-related challenges in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss, digitalisation and circular

⁹ Water4All Partnership. Available [here](#).





economy. Water4All is especially relevant for **bioeconomy projects** that rely on sustainable water management in agricultural, industrial or regional contexts.

Water4All provides funding opportunities for:

- **Circular bio-based production systems** using reclaimed or non-conventional water sources.
- **Decentralised water treatment** technologies relevant for agri-food and biotech sectors.
- **Nature-based solutions** integrated into bioeconomy value chains (e.g. wetlands, algae ponds, precision irrigation).
- Support to **water-smart regions and Living Labs**, which are essential for bio-based industrial ecosystems.

The partnership is aligned with:

- The **EU Zero Pollution Action Plan**.
- The **Circular Economy Action Plan**.
- The **EU Water Framework Directive**.

Summarised In the table below the funding conditions and application information for Water4All projects.

Grant size	€300,000–€500,000 per project (variable by country & agency)
Co-financing rate	Varies by country and funding agency. National/regional rules apply to cost coverage per partner
Target TRL	Emphasizes applied research through demonstration and pilot phases. Projects commonly span TRL 4-7 , aligning with the partnership's emphasis on solution implementation within Water-Oriented Living Labs.
Eligible applicants	Consortia must include a minimum of 3 partners from at least 3 participating countries . Eligible entities include research institutes, universities, public authorities, NGOs, private companies, and Water Living Labs.
Call	Water4All calls are announced in the Water4all website .
Applications	Two-stage application via Water4All portal : Stage 1 is pre-proposal (usually in February); stage 2 invites full proposals (usually in April). Evaluations are international peer review panels. A “widening option” encourages inclusion of partners from underrepresented countries in full proposals.

3 PUBLIC NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIOECONOMY PROJECTS

The most significant funding opportunities for bioeconomy projects, both at national and regional level, are summarised below for each of the countries under study. As shown, such opportunities may apply either to equipment, installations, sustainability improvements, R&D activities,





commercialisation boost, market opening, etc. Keywords such as ‘bioeconomy’, ‘bio-based’ and ‘sustainability’ were considered along funding opportunities in-depth scan.

For the regional scanning, funding opportunities have been classified according to the NUTS2 level region¹⁰ with 3 different types of bioeconomy regions:

- 0) **No underdeveloped** bioeconomy region
- 1) **Transitions regions** according to CBE Widening Strategy
- 2) **Less developed** regions according to CBE Widening Strategy

3.1 SPAIN

At Spanish level, the National Transparency Register for public grants and aids ([SNPSAP](#)) shows the latest grant calls, whose announcement is published in an official gazette and which have been registered in the *Sistema Nacional de Publicidad de Subvenciones y Ayudas Públicas* (National Register). By clicking on the title (in Spanish or in the co-official language) or on the BDNS code, any bioeconomy-related entity can access the details and documents of the call.

3.1.1 National funding opportunities

Thus, the most significant **national funding bodies** for bioeconomy-related actions are: i) The Ministry of Industry and Tourism (e.g. via PERTEs) ([Portal of the Ministry of Industry and Tourism](#)), ii) the Ministry of Finance ([Inicio: Ministerio de Hacienda](#)), iii) the Ministry of Economic Affairs ([Inicio - Ministerio de Asuntos Económicos y Transformación Digital](#)), iv) the Ministry of Health ([Ministerio de Sanidad](#)), v) the Ministry of Transition ([Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico](#)), vi) the Ministry of Science and Innovation (e.g. via MISIONES or NEOTEC programs) ([CIENCIA - Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades](#)), vii) CDTI ([Home | CDTI](#); for further details, visit the call calendar: [Calendario de convocatorias | CDTI](#)), viii) IDAE ([Home | Idae](#)), and ix) Biodiversity Foundation ([Home - Fundación Biodiversidad](#)).

Among the aforementioned entities, the following calls have been substantially identified based either on intensity or approval success ratios.

¹⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nuts/overview>





Table 2 – CDTI R&D Projects call features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	CDTI R&D Projects
Short description	CDTI R&D Projects are funding grants given for R&D projects developed by companies and aimed at creating and significantly improving production processes, products or services. This kind of grants can be applied to different project modalities: i) single company R&D project, ii) national cooperation R&D project, iii) international technological cooperation R&D project, iv) European technological cooperation R&D projects, v) R&D projects based on technology training for the participation in national and international tenders.
Example of funded projects	SINGLE-PACK (Investigación, Desarrollo e Innovación (I+D+i) de Acesur) SAPAL (Proyecto Sapal - Genia Global Energy) B2BP (B2BP. Descripción del proyecto. - Syspro Automation) 3R2020+ (Ficha-3R2020-ES.pdf)
Funding agency/ body	CDTI
Open call or specific deadline	Open call all year round
Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	R & D projects CDTI
Grant type	Partially refundable (10-33% of the grant may be non-refundable)

Table 3 – Misiones Ciencia e Innovación call features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Applicable to specific topics or 'missions' in each call. Last calls in 2022-2024 included bioeconomy-related missions such as i) ecosystem decontamination, ii) advanced biotechnologies towards a more sustainable agri-food sector, or iii) technology training on a safe and sustainable energy autonomy (hydrogen and other renewable (bio)energies)
Funding title/ name	Misiones Ciencia e Innovación
Short description	This call of grants, aimed at financing R&D projects for companies in cooperation (2-6 entities), meets the socio-economic challenges currently faced by our developed society. The project must frame within any of the missions identified in the call to be financed.
Example of funded projects	BIOCELVEG (proyectobiocelveg.com)





	ZEPPELIN (proyecto ZEPPELIN) ECLIPSE (Eclipse) ECLOSION (Eclosion – H2B2 Electrolysis Technologies)
Funding agency/ body	CDTI (via Next Generation EU funds)
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (June/July)
Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	Misiones Ciencia e Innovación 2024 CDTI
Grant type	No refundable (65-80% of intensity, depending on company's size)

Table 4 – NEOTEC call features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General (technological basis)
Funding title/ name	NEOTEC
Short description	The aim of this grant is supporting the creation and consolidation of companies with a technological basis.
Example of funded projects	DESARROLLO DE INGREDIENTES SOSTENIBLES Y DE ALTO VALOR AÑADIDO A TRAVÉS DE LA REVALORIZACIÓN DE SUBPRODUCTOS ALIMENTARIOS, BASADO EN BIOTECNOLOGÍA E IA (Publicación LinkedIn) VALORIZACIÓN DE RESIDUOS AGROINDUSTRIALES Y GANADEROS MEDIANTE NANOTECNOLOGÍA, CARBONIZACIÓN HIDROTHERMAL Y DIGESTIÓN ANAEROBIA (NEOTEC – SMALLOPS) BIOTWINPRO (NOTICIAS – Bioprocesia)
Funding agency/ body	CDTI
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (April/May)
Target beneficiaries	All companies (small and newly-created)
Link to application	Ayudas Neotec CDTI
Grant type	No refundable (up to 70% of intensity)

Table 5 – TransMisiones call features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Applicable to specific topics or 'missions'. Last calls in 2023-2024 included bioeconomy-related missions such as i) advanced fuels of biological origin or





	produced from captured CO ₂ , ii) circular economy practices based on valorisation or recycling towards renewables energies and energy storage, iii) genetic modifications in vegetal, aquatic or terrestrial species aiming at an improvement in sustainability, resilience and efficiency against climate change, iv) fostering development of the agri-food and livestock sectors through biotechnological tools against climate change.
Funding title/ name	'TransMisiones'
Short description	This call of grants, aimed at financing R&D projects for companies in cooperation (3-8 entities), meets the socio-economic challenges currently faced by our developed society. The project must frame within any of the missions identified in the call to be financed.
Example of funded projects	BioCAs-CCU (BioCAs-CCU, un proyecto para la obtención de nuevos biocombustibles avanzados Mercacei) PROLIVE (PROLIVE - DRIMAY Consultores)
Funding agency/ body	CDTI, AEI and Instituto de Salud Carlos III
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (May/June)
Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	TransMisiones CDTI
Grant type	No refundable (65-80% of intensity, depending on company's size)

Table 6 – Innterconecta call features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes – Applicable to less developed regions (Andalucía, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León, Extremadura, Murcia and Canarias)
Sector (specify sector or general)	Applicable to strategic sectors such as i) productive and sustainable agri-food activities, ii) clean, efficient and safe energy, iii) actions on climate change and efficient use of resources and raw materials (as indicated for the call Innterconecta STEP 2025)
Funding title/ name	Innterconecta (currently, Innterconecta STEP)
Short description	This call of grants aims at boosting technological innovation and cooperation of companies (2-6) from less developed regions through experimental R&D projects on the mentioned sectors.
Example of funded projects	ADVISOR (e81b793d-e064-64a1-2e45-230eb1043118) CHIOTEC (Proyecto CHIOTEC - Almeriplant) INGENIA (Zukán lidera el proyecto INGENIA)
Funding agency/ body	CDTI
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (March/May)
Target beneficiaries	All companies





Link to application	Calendario de convocatorias CDTI
Grant type	No refundable (65-80% of intensity, depending on company's size, for the current call)

Table 7 – LICA call features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes – Applicable to less privileged regions (Andalucía, Castilla La Mancha, Asturias, Extremadura, Galicia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Línea Directa de Expansión (LICA)
Short description	This funding call aims at boosting innovation at certain Spanish regions suffering from economic difficulties or lack of privileges. Thus, grants are given for individual entities for the purchase of new fixed assets of investment lines which ensures either the creation of a new installation or the diversification of activities within an existing installation.
Example of funded projects	Information not available
Funding agency/ body	CDTI (via FEDER)
Open call or specific deadline	Open call all year round
Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	Línea Directa de Expansión CDTI
Grant type	Partially refundable (10-30% of the grant may be non-refundable)

Table 8 – LIC call features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Línea Directa de Innovación (LIC)
Short description	This funding call aims at boosting companies' competitiveness through the inclusion of emerging technologies with low/medium risk and close to market. Applications including either industrial design and product engineering towards improvements, or production methods or novel/improved provision systems (technics, equipment, computer software included) are eligible.
Example of funded projects	Information not available





Funding agency/body	CDTI (via FEDER)
Open call or specific deadline	Open call all year round
Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	Línea Directa de Expansión CDTI
Grant type	Partially refundable (7-10% of the grant may be non-refundable)

Table 9 – CE through capital goods for renewable energies call features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Renewable energies
Funding title/ name	Ayudas a proyectos de Economía Circular de bienes de equipos para energías renovables
Short description	This funding call aims at boosting circular economy projects based on i) recycling installations, ii) reutilisation of installations (2 nd life), iii) innovative systems for wind turbines decommissioning, and iv) innovative eco-designs for renewable energies' equipment.
Example of funded projects	Not available yet
Funding agency/body	Ministry of Transition (via IDAE and PERTE mechanism)
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (to be determined)
Target beneficiaries	All companies within the sector
Link to application	El MITECO lanza la propuesta de bases reguladoras para las ayudas de economía circular para renovables Idae
Grant type	No refundable

Table 10 – Prefeasibility studies on biogas projects and on biomethane for transport purposes call features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Waste management, Renewable Energies
Funding title/ name	<i>Programa de Estudios de prefactibilidad de proyectos de biogás para usos térmicos y/o eléctricos, y de biometano para uso en transporte (2 different modalities)</i>
Short description	This call aims at funding techno-economic assessments (TEA) of biogas projects where its use is intended for heat/power, or biomethane for transport use.





Example of funded projects	Not available yet
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Transition (via IDAE and PERTE mechanism)
Open call or specific deadline	March 2026
Target beneficiaries	All companies within the sector
Link to application	Prefactibilidad BIOGAS Portal Ayudas IDAE
Grant type	No refundable

Table 11 – Features of Biodiversity Foundation calls.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Some are general, others are specific for plastic/clothing sectors.
Funding title/ name	Ayudas al impulso de la economía circular
Short description	The Ministry of Transition, in collaboration with Biodiversity Foundation and through the PERTE mechanism, has launched different grants to boost circularity and sustainability on industrial and company-wide processes, either in general for 2024 (Jornada informativa sobre la convocatoria de subvenciones de Economía Circular 2024), for the plastic sector or the textile, fashion, clothing and footwear, among others. Calls for 2025 are expected and still pending to be confirmed.
Example of funded projects	Not available yet.
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Transition (NextGeneration EU funds)
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (April-September)
Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	Buscador de convocatorias - Fundación Biodiversidad
Grant type	No refundable (15-60% of intensity, depending on company's size and action category)

Table 12 – Features of Regional Incentives call features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Grants are intended for i) processing industries (energy sector excluded) and supporting production services, and ii) tourism accommodations and complementary installations with innovative features.
Funding title/ name	Incentivos regionales





Short description	The aim of the call is to support companies' investment for the construction of new installations and activity expansion. The investment may entail the inclusion of advanced technologies, environmental improvements, or innovations at product/process level. Civil work and equipment may be included in this action.
Example of funded projects	PLASTICENERGY TENERIFE, S.L. PEVESA BIOTECH, S.A. AIR LIQUIDE IBERICA DE GASES, S.L.U. (The information on the specific investment is not available, only the name of the companies granted)
Funding agency/body	Ministry of Finance
Open call or specific deadline	Open call all year round
Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	DGFE:Incentivos regionales
Grant type	No refundable (15-80% of intensity, depending on company's size and the region where the action is intended – see DGFE:Los incentivos regionales en su Comunidad Autónoma)

Table 13 – PORTS 4.0 call features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General (though in the harbour context)
Funding title/name	PORTS 4.0
Short description	The aim of the call is to promote the transformation of the logistics-harbour sector through innovation, thus enabling the creation and consolidation of companies and novel business lines through projects on novel products, processes and services with a special focus on the so-called economy 4.0. Both proof-of-concept, pre-commercial and commercial project ideas are eligible (TRL 1-9). Priority will be given to the following innovation areas: i) environmental sustainability and renewable energies use, ii) logistics efficiency, automatization and robots implementation, iii) digitalisation, and iv) security and protection.
Example of funded projects	CICERO (Garau Ingenieros Proyecto Cicero Mallorca) BIOREMED (BIOREMED - INESCOP. Centro de Innovación y Tecnología) MICROWORLD_PUERTOS (Veintepies :: El Puerto de Tarragona colabora con dos ideas innovadoras que recibirán financiación del fondo Puertos 4.0)
Funding agency/body	Ministry of Transports and Sustainable Mobility
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (January-March)





Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	Bases de la convocatoria - PORTS 4.0
Grant type	No refundable (up to 60-80% of intensity, depending on project's TRL)

3.1.2 Regional funding opportunities

On the other hand, the most significant **regional funding bodies** for bioeconomy-related actions are: i) SEKUENS (for the Autonomous Community of Asturias) ([Inicio - IDEPA](#)), ii) SPRI and EVE (for Basque Country) ([Grupo Spri - Agencia Vasca de Desarrollo Empresarial](#); [Inicio - EVE](#)), iii) ACCIO – GENCAT (for Catalonia) ([ACCIÓ - Agencia para la Competitividad de la Empresa. ACCIÓ - Agencia para la Competitividad de la Empresa](#)), iv) IVACE+I (for the Autonomous Community of Valencia) ([Inicio](#)), v) SODERCAN (for the Community of Cantabria) ([Inicio - SODERCAN](#)), and vi) IGAPE (Community of Galicia) ([Instituto Gallego de Promoción Económica - Igape](#)).

Table 14 – PIDI-CV and PIDCOP-CV calls features.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Community of Valencia (1- Transition region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PIDI-CV; PIDCOP-CV (two different calls)
Short description	Both calls of grants aim at supporting either industrial research or experimental developments (TRLs of 1-7) aligned with the strategic objectives of RIS3-CV , thus covering focal and transversal policies such as i) qualified Mediterranean diet, ii) personalised products and environments, iii) advanced manufacturing and novel industrial systems, and iv) sustainable management of the environment.
Example of funded projects	VALPLAST (Valorización de bioplásticos mediante codigestión anaerobia) POSTHARVESTLIFE (POSTHARVESTLIFE - AINIA) BIOVALSA (Investigación de nuevos mecanismos de valorización de residuos lignocelulósicos típicos de la Comunidad Valenciana para la producción de bioplásticos funcionales)
Funding agency/ body	AVI (currently constituting IVACE+I)
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (February-March)
Target beneficiaries	SMEs (PIDI-CV), All companies (PIDCOP-CV)
Link to application	PIDI-CV -- I+D PYME ; PIDCOP-CV -- I+D EN COOPERACIÓN
Grant type	No refundable;





	PIDI-CV: 35-45% of intensity (depending on company's size) PIDCOP-CV: 40-60% of intensity (depending on company's size)
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Table 15 – INNOVA-CV call features.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Community of Valencia (1- Transition region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	Each call is devoted to companies of specific sectors, according to CNAE 2009: i) InnovaProd for those of section C (divisions 10-33); ii) InnovaProC for those of sections C (divisions 10-33) and H (divisions 49-52); and iii) InnovaTeiC for those of sections C (divisions 26-30), J (CNAE 5821, 5829, 6311, 6312 and divisions 61-62).
Funding title/ name	INNOVA-CV (either in the form of InnovaProD, InnovaProc or InnovaTeiC)
Short description	The three calls of grants, gathered under the frame of INNOVA-CV, aim at supporting either industrial research or experimental developments (TRLs of 1-7) aligned with the strategic objectives of RIS3-CV (92d0766b-97f9-425f-a688-4140c5cb761a). Specifically, InnovaProD is launched for projects on novel product development, InnovaProC for projects on process development or retrofitting based on continuous improvement methodologies or eco-efficiency, and InnovaTeiC for projects on TICs. Nonetheless, the proposals should cover, according to RIS3-CV, focal and transversal policies such as i) qualified Mediterranean diet, ii) personalised products and environments, iii) advanced manufacturing and novel industrial systems, and iv) sustainable management of the environment.
Example of funded projects	Not available yet.
Funding agency/ body	AVI (currently constituting IVACE+I)
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (February-March)
Target beneficiaries	SMEs
Link to application	INNOVA-CV -- INNOVACIÓN DE PYME
Grant type	No refundable (35-45% of intensity depending on company's size)

Table 16 – CIR – Investments on circular economy call features.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Autonomous Community of Asturias (1- Transition region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	CIR – Investment grants for companies to support the transition of the industrial activity towards a circular economy
Short description	The call grant aims at substantially contributing industrial transition towards a circular economy, thus focusing on the promotion of two types of projects: i) those for the valorisation of waste streams and the promotion of industrial symbiosis, and ii) those for the industrial decarbonisation (energy efficiency).





Example of funded projects	Investigación de nuevas briquetas con alto contenido en carbono biogénico para su uso como combustible ecológico en el sector de la fundición metálica Investigación de nuevas tecnologías de proceso de lecho fluido circular (Asturias suma ya 16 centros de I+D+i gracias al apoyo del Principado a los proyectos de Escribano y Zitón - Ciencia Asturias)
Funding agency/body	SEKUENS (former IDEPA)
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (July-September)
Target beneficiaries	SMEs
Link to application	Ayuda SEKUENS - Ayudas a la inversión dirigidas a empresas, para apoyar la transición de la actividad industrial hacia una economía circular - IDEPA
Grant type	No refundable (45-65% of intensity depending on company's size)

Table 17 – PIE – Corporate investments call features.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Autonomous Community of Asturias (1- Transition region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	Industrial sector and services, innovation and novel technological services, laboratories for product testing, packaging, recycling and valorisation of waste, among others.
Funding title/ name	PIE – Investment grants for companies to support the transition of the industrial activity towards a circular economy
Short description	The call grant aims at substantially promoting the corporate investment for specific sectors within Asturias. Civil work, equipments, installations, software apps, industrial property, etc. can be granted.
Example of funded projects	Not available.
Funding agency/body	SEKUENS (former IDEPA)
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (May-July)
Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	Ayuda SEKUENS - Ayudas a Proyectos de Inversión Empresarial (PIE) - IDEPA
Grant type	No refundable (15-35% of intensity depending on company's size)

Table 18 – PID – R&D projects call features.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Autonomous Community of Asturias (1- Transition region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General





Funding title/ name	PID – Investment grants for companies to support the transition of the industrial activity towards a circular economy
Short description	This call of grants aim at supporting R&D projects aligned with the objectives and research lines promoted by the Intelligent Specialization Strategy S3 (fb035341-33c9-0592-85ea-622298a4a1b0). Research subprograms or lines such as i) product and process innovation in the agri-food sector, ii) energy transition or iii) circular and carbon neutral industry are in this call acknowledged. Projects can be focused either on industrial research, experimental development or feasibility studies.
Example of funded projects	MILK4AGRO (Medioambiente - CAPSA FOOD) CONCORDE (Proyectos subvencionados – Arposa60) PROVESEGA (Innovación – El Chico Artesanos Charcuteros)
Funding agency/ body	SEKUENS (former IDEPA)
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (June-July)
Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	Ayuda SEKUENS - Subvenciones dirigidas a la ejecución de proyectos de I+D en el Principado de Asturias (PID) - IDEPA
Grant type	No refundable (25-60% of intensity depending on company's size and project category). Intensity can increase by up to 15% if is categorised under the Circular and Carbon Neutral Industry subprogram

Table 19 – Circular Economy Boost - R&D projects call features.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Autonomous Community of Cantabria (1- Transition region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	'Fomento de la Economía Circular'
Short description	This call of grants aim at supporting R&D projects on circular economy - waste generation reduction, efficiency improvement through the use of regional resources, generation of novel materials.
Example of funded projects	SOSCEM (Información del proyecto) CIRCULAR FLAG RESICEN (SODERCAN aprueba ayudas para 11 proyectos de I+D de economía circular por valor de 393.000 euros - SODERCAN)
Funding agency/ body	SODERCAN
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (February-June)
Target beneficiaries	All companies





Link to application	SODERCAN
Grant type	No refundable (25-70% of intensity depending on company's size and project category).

Table 20 – IGAPE INNOVA call features.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Community of Galicia (1- Transition region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	IG408L – IGAPE INNOVA (*)
Short description	This call of grants aim at boosting the innovation capacity of companies through the sustainability improvement and introduction of novel processes, technologies and products (including circularity design). Projects should be aligned with the Specialization Strategy of Galicia (RIS3).
Example of funded projects	Not available yet.
Funding agency/ body	IGAPE
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (February-March)
Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	Últimas Ayudas
Grant type	No refundable (25-50% of intensity depending on company's size).

(*) Please note that IGAPE INNOVA call covers a wider spectrum than the former call IG288 – IGAPE CIRCULAR ECONOMY grants, however since 2023 these have not been launched anymore ([IG300F - Ayudas a la implantación de soluciones avanzadas para el desarrollo de la economía circular en la Comunidad Autónoma de Galicia, cofinanciadas en el marco del programa operativo Feder Galicia 2014-2020. - Sede Electrónica - Xunta de Galicia](#)).

Table 21 – IGAPE Corporate investment call features.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Community of Galicia (1- Transition region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	IG408A – Grants for projects on corporate investment
Short description	The call grant aims at substantially promoting the corporate investment within Asturias. Civil work, production equipment, machinery, installations, etc. can be granted.
Example of funded projects	Information not available.
Funding agency/ body	IGAPE





Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (February-September)
Target beneficiaries	SMEs
Link to application	IG408A - Ayudas a proyectos de inversión empresarial, cofinanciadas por la Unión Europea en el marco del Programa Galicia Feder 2021-2027 - Sede Electrónica - Xunta de Galicia
Grant type	No refundable (25-35% of intensity depending on company's size).

Table 22 – Hazitek R&D projects call features.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Basque Country (0- No underdeveloped)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Hazitek
Short description	The call grant aims at supporting the development of R&D projects on two different lines: i) industrial research (up to TRL4), and ii) experimental development (up to TRL7), for individual entities or in cooperation. Strategic projects on smart industry, clean energies and customized health are extremely encouraged, though most sectors are eligible if a new attempt onto novel products, processes or services is given.
Example of funded projects	KEYMEAT LENTIPUR CULTFISH (2303958a.pdf)
Funding agency/ body	SPRI
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (January-March)
Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	Hazitek 2025. Apoyo a la I+D Empresarial - Ayudas SPRI
Grant type	No refundable (25-50% of intensity depending on company's size).

Table 23 – Fast Track projects call features.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Basque Country (0- No underdeveloped)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Fast Track Innobideak
Short description	The call grant aims at accelerating innovation project development of SMEs, specially those whose actions align with RIS3 Euskadi (smart industry, clean energies and





	customized health). Four types of project are granted within: i) those for production processes and products at high TRL (7-9), ii) those incorporating novel technologies for production processes and products, iii) those incorporating methodologies on business models, and iv) those for innovation on business models.
Example of funded projects	Information not available
Funding agency/body	SPRI
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (April-May)
Target beneficiaries	SMEs
Link to application	Fast Track Innobideak 2025 - Ayudas SPRI
Grant type	No refundable (up to 50% of intensity).

Table 24 – NUCLIS R&D on Circular Economy call features.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Catalonia (0- No underdeveloped)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/name	NUCLIS R&D on Circular Economy
Short description	The call grant aims at boosting the development of projects both of industrial research and experimental development on circular economy (prevention/reduction of waste, adequate waste handling, and novel technologies for waste treatment/valorization). Projects can be developed individually or in consortium.
Example of funded projects	Information not available
Funding agency/body	ACCIÓ
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline (May-June)
Target beneficiaries	All companies
Link to application	Nuclis de I+D empresarial, ayudas a proyectos de investigación industrial y desarrollo experimental. ACCIÓ - Agencia para la Competitividad de la Empresa
Grant type	No refundable (25-70% of intensity depending on company's size).

3.2 SLOVENIA

Slovenia is actively investing in the bioeconomy to support sustainable growth, innovation, and environmental responsibility. Financial assistance plays a crucial role in enabling bio-based businesses, research institutions, and industry stakeholders to develop and commercialize innovative bio-based products. Slovenia benefits from a combination of national and regional funding



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sources, offering opportunities for businesses and researchers to secure financial support for their bio-based projects.

3.2.1 National Funding Opportunities

At the national level, Slovenia provides various funding mechanisms to foster bioeconomy projects. The **Slovene Enterprise Fund (SEF)** supports start-ups, SMEs, and scale-ups with financial incentives such as grants, loans, and guarantees. The **Slovenian Regional Development Fund (SRDF)** provides financial support for regional development, including loans and subsidies for bio-based projects. Additionally, **SID Bank** and **EIP-AGRI Funding Opportunities** offer financial instruments to promote bio-based industry expansion and agricultural innovation. Slovenia also benefits from **Horizon Europe**, the EU's main research and innovation funding program, which supports bio-based industry projects.

Table 25 – Slovene Enterprise Fund call features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Slovene Enterprise Fund (SEF)
Short description	Provides financial incentives, including grants, seed capital, and venture capital, to support the growth and development of SMEs in Slovenia.
Example of funded projects	Start-up incentives, seed capital for growth, and co-investment funds.
Funding agency/ body	Slovene Enterprise Fund (SEF)
Open call or specific deadline	Varies: check the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, start-ups, scale-ups.
Link to application	https://www.podjetniskisklad.si/en/
Grant type	Grants, loans, guarantees

Table 26 – Slovenian Regional Development Fund features.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Slovenian Regional Development Fund (SRDF)
Short description	Offers loans, guarantees, subsidies, and pre-financing to support regional development, including bio-based projects.
Example of funded projects	Projects in agriculture, rural development, and regional infrastructure.
Funding agency/ body	Slovenian Regional Development Fund (SRDF)





Open call or specific deadline	Continuous application process.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, farmers, cooperatives, municipalities, non-profit organizations.
Link to application	https://www.regionalnisklad.si/
Grant type	Loans, guarantees, subsidies

Table 27 – Slovene Export and Development Bank financial services.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Slovene Export and Development Bank (SID Bank)
Short description	Provides financial services promoting sustainable development and improving competitiveness, including support for bio-based industries.
Example of funded projects	Financing of bioeconomy projects and export-oriented bio-based businesses.
Funding agency/ body	SID Bank
Open call or specific deadline	Varies: check the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large enterprises, and exporters.
Link to application	https://www.sid.si/en
Grant type	Loans, guarantees, insurance

Table 28 – EIP-AGRI Funding Opportunities.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Agriculture, Food, Forestry
Funding title/ name	EIP-AGRI Funding Opportunities
Short description	Supports innovation in agriculture, food, and forestry sectors, including bio-based projects, through various funding mechanisms and calls.
Example of funded projects	Innovative projects in sustainable agriculture and bioeconomy.
Funding agency/ body	European Commission
Open call or specific deadline	Varies: check the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	Farmers, researchers, SMEs, and cooperatives.
Link to application	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/funding-opportunities.html
Grant type	Grants





Table 29 – Horizon Europe Funding Opportunities.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Horizon Europe
Short description	The EU's key funding program for research and innovation addresses global challenges, including bioeconomy and sustainability.
Example of funded projects	Research projects in bio-based industries and sustainable technologies.
Funding agency/ body	European Commission
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines: refer to the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	Researchers, SMEs, large enterprises, and public institutions.
Link to application	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home
Grant type	Grants

3.2.2 Regional Funding Opportunities

Slovenia is eligible for regional funding through EU-supported Interreg programs, which foster cross-border cooperation and regional development. Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria and Interreg V-A Italy-Slovenia focus on cross-border bioeconomy initiatives and sustainable industry projects. Meanwhile, the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme and Alpine Space Programme provide funding for sustainable biomass utilization, bio-based product development, and regional policy integration. These regional programs help establish bioeconomy hubs and foster innovation across Slovenia and neighbouring regions.

The availability of both national and regional funding sources enables Slovenia's bioeconomy sector to expand and innovate. Access to financial support is essential for businesses, research institutions, and public stakeholders looking to scale up their bio-based initiatives and contribute to a circular and sustainable economy.

Table 30 – Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria Funding Opportunities.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Vzhodna Slovenija (SI01)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria
Short description	Cross-border cooperation program supporting projects that enhance the sustainable development of the border regions, including bioeconomy initiatives.
Example of funded projects	Development of cross-border bioeconomy clusters and value chains.





Funding agency/ body	Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines: refer to the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research institutions, and public authorities.
Link to application	https://www.si-at.eu/en2/
Grant type	Grants

Table 31 – Interreg V-A Italy-Slovenia Funding Opportunities.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Zahodna Slovenija (SI02)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg V-A Italy-Slovenia
Short description	Aimed at fostering cross-border cooperation between Italy and Slovenia, supporting projects in innovation, sustainability, and bio-based industries.
Example of funded projects	Joint research projects in bio-based product development.
Funding agency/ body	Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines; refer to official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research institutions, public authorities.
Link to application	https://www.ita-slo.eu/en
Grant type	Grants

Table 32 – Interreg Danube Transnational Programme Funding Opportunities.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Vzhodna Slovenija (SI01)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg Danube Transnational Programme
Short description	Supports the integration of policies in the Danube region, including sustainable use of natural resources and bioeconomy projects.
Example of funded projects	Establishment of bio-based industry networks across the Danube region.
Funding agency/ body	European Commission
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines: refer to the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research institutions, NGOs, and public authorities.
Link to application	https://www.interreg-danube.eu/





Grant type	Grants
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Table 33 – Alpine Space Programme Funding Opportunities.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Zahodna Slovenija (SI02)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Alpine Space Programme
Short description	Transnational cooperation program for the Alpine region, promoting sustainable growth and innovation, including bioeconomy sectors.
Example of funded projects	Projects focusing on sustainable biomass utilization and bio-based product development.
Funding agency/ body	European Commission
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines: refer to the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research institutions, and public authorities.
Link to application	https://www.alpine-space.eu/
Grant type	Grants

3.3 CROATIA

Croatia is actively developing its bioeconomy sector to promote sustainability, innovation, and economic growth. Access to funding is crucial for businesses, researchers, and industry stakeholders looking to commercialize bio-based products and establish flagship bioeconomy projects. The country benefits from a range of national and regional funding opportunities, supported by domestic institutions and European funding programs.

3.3.1 National Funding Opportunities

At the national level, Croatia offers multiple funding mechanisms to support bioeconomy-related initiatives. **HAMAG-BICRO** provides financial support for SMEs and start-ups through grants, loans, and investment programs aimed at fostering technological innovation. The Croatian Science Foundation (**HRZZ**) funds research and development projects, including those in bio-based industries. Additionally, the **EIP-AGRI funding program** promotes innovation in sustainable agriculture and forestry, while the **Blue Bioeconomy Joint Call** supports projects focused on marine-based bioeconomy solutions. **BICRO**, another key funding body, offers financial assistance to enhance technological development and commercialization.



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Table 34 – HAMAG-BICRO Funding Opportunities.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO)
Short description	Provides financial support, guarantees, and investment in innovation and technological development for SMEs.
Example of funded projects	Funding for start-ups in biotechnology and life sciences.
Funding agency/ body	HAMAG-BICRO
Open call or specific deadline	Varies; check official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, start-ups, innovators.
Link to application	https://hamagbicro.hr/
Grant type	Grants, loans, guarantees

Table 35 – Croatian Science Foundation Funding Opportunities.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ)
Short description	Supports scientific research projects, including those in the bioeconomy sector, through funding programs and international cooperation.
Example of funded projects	Collaborative research in bio-based industries.
Funding agency/ body	Croatian Science Foundation
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines; refer to official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	Researchers, scientific institutions.
Link to application	https://hrzz.hr/en/funding-programmes/international-cooperation/
Grant type	Grants

Table 36 – EIP-AGRI Funding Opportunities.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General





Funding title/ name	EIP-AGRI Funding Opportunities
Short description	Supports innovation in agriculture, food, and forestry sectors, including bio-based projects, through various funding mechanisms and calls.
Example of funded projects	Innovative projects in sustainable agriculture and bioeconomy.
Funding agency/ body	European Commission
Open call or specific deadline	Varies; check official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	Farmers, researchers, SMEs, cooperatives.
Link to application	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/funding-opportunities.html
Grant type	Grants

Table 37 – Blue Bioeconomy Joint Call features

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Blue Bioeconomy Joint Call
Short description	Supports projects focusing on the sustainable use of aquatic resources, aiming to create new knowledge-intensive products and services derived from aquatic biomass.
Example of funded projects	Development of bio-based products from marine resources.
Funding agency/ body	JPI Oceans
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines; refer to official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research institutions, industry stakeholders.
Link to application	https://www.jpi-oceans.eu/en/blue-bioeconomy-joint-call
Grant type	Grants

Table 38 – Business Innovation Centre of Croatia Call features

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Blue Bioeconomy
Funding title/ name	Business Innovation Centre of Croatia (BICRO)
Short description	Provides financial support for research and development projects, aiming to enhance technological development and commercialization of research outputs.





Example of funded projects	Funding for SMEs developing new bio-based products.
Funding agency/ body	BICRO
Open call or specific deadline	Varies: check the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research institutions.
Link to application	http://www.hamagbicro.hr/
Grant type	Grants, loans

3.3.2 Regional Funding Opportunities

Croatia benefits from European Union regional funding programs that promote cross-border cooperation and regional development. **BIOBASED - Interreg Italy-Croatia** focuses on advancing the blue bioeconomy by enhancing knowledge transfer and industry collaboration. Additionally, the Interreg **Italy-Croatia CBC Programme** and **Interreg Danube Transnational Programme** support regional bioeconomy projects, fostering sustainable resource management, biomass utilization, and industry networking across Croatia and neighbouring countries.

Table 39 – BIOBASED - Interreg Italy-Croatia Call features

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
Sector (specify sector or general)	Blue Bioeconomy
Funding title/ name	BIOBASED - Interreg Italy-Croatia
Short description	Aims to enhance Italy-Croatia's position in the blue bioeconomy by transferring research knowledge to producers.
Example of funded projects	Development of bio-based products from marine resources.
Funding agency/ body	Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines: refer to the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research institutions, and industry stakeholders.
Link to application	https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/biobased
Grant type	Grants

Table 40 – Interreg Italy-Croatia CBC Programme Call features

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General





Funding title/ name	Interreg Italy-Croatia CBC Programme
Short description	Supports cross-border cooperation projects enhancing sustainable development, including bioeconomy initiatives, between Italy and Croatia.
Example of funded projects	Joint development of bio-based products utilizing marine resources.
Funding agency/ body	Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines: refer to the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research institutions, public authorities.
Link to application	https://www.italy-croatia.eu/
Grant type	Grants

Table 41 – Interreg Danube Transnational Programme Funding Opportunities.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Panonska Hrvatska (HR02)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg Danube Transnational Programme
Short description	Facilitates transnational cooperation projects in the Danube region, focusing on sustainable use of natural resources and bioeconomy development.
Example of funded projects	Establishment of bio-based industry networks across the Danube region.
Funding agency/ body	European Commission
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines: refer to the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research institutions, NGOs, and public authorities.
Link to application	https://www.interreg-danube.eu/
Grant type	Grants

3.4 HUNGARY

Hungary is actively developing its bioeconomy sector by fostering investments in bio-based projects, supporting innovation, and enhancing sustainability. Financial support plays a crucial role in helping bio-based businesses scale up, commercialize their products, and transition into flagship projects. This document provides an overview of funding opportunities available at the national and regional levels, assisting stakeholders in accessing financial resources for their bio-based initiatives.

3.4.1 National Funding Opportunities



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Hungary offers various national funding programs to support research, innovation, and commercialization in the bioeconomy sector. The National Research, Development, and Innovation Fund (**NRDI**) provides grants for bio-based product development, agricultural biotechnology, and sustainable resource management. Similarly, the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (**OTKA**) supports scientific research in bioeconomy-related fields.

For businesses, the Hungarian Development Bank (**MFB**) Financing Programs offer loans and financial instruments to support bio-based industries, including bio-refineries and manufacturing facilities. These funding opportunities, available to research institutions, SMEs, and large enterprises, combine grants and loans, ensuring sustained growth and innovation in Hungary's bioeconomy sector. Stakeholders should check official sources for deadlines and application details.

Table 42 – National Research, Development and Innovation Fund Opportunities.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	National Research, Development and Innovation Fund (NRDI)
Short description	Provides grants and funding programs for research and development projects, including those related to the bioeconomy.
Example of funded projects	Projects related to bio-based product development and agricultural biotechnology.
Funding agency/ body	National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDI)
Open call or specific deadline	Varies: check the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	Research institutions, universities, SMEs, and large enterprises.
Link to application	https://nkfih.gov.hu/english
Grant type	Grants and loans

Table 43 – Hungarian Development Bank (MFB) Financing Programs.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Hungarian Development Bank (MFB) Financing Programs
Short description	Offers favourable loans and financial instruments to support the development of bio-based industries and commercialization projects.
Example of funded projects	Financing of bio-refineries and bio-based manufacturing facilities.
Funding agency/ body	Hungarian Development Bank (MFB)
Open call or specific deadline	Continuous application process.





Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large enterprises, project developers.
Link to application	https://www.mfb.hu/
Grant type	Loans and financial instruments

Table 44 – National Research, Development and Innovation Fund Opportunities.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	National Research, Development and Innovation Fund (NRDI)
Short description	Provides grants and funding programs for research and development projects, including those in the bioeconomy sector.
Example of funded projects	Projects related to bio-based products, agricultural biotechnology, and sustainable resource management.
Funding agency/ body	NRDI
Open call or specific deadline	Varies: refer to the official website for current calls.
Target beneficiaries	Researchers, SMEs, start-ups, innovators.
Link to application	https://nkfih.gov.hu/english
Grant type	Grants

Table 45 – Hungarian Scientific Research Fund Opportunities.

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA)
Short description	Supports scientific research projects across various disciplines, including bioeconomy-related studies.
Example of funded projects	Research in bio-based industries and sustainable technologies.
Funding agency/ body	OTKA
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines; check official website for updates.
Target beneficiaries	Researchers, scientific institutions.
Link to application	https://nkfih.gov.hu/english
Grant type	Grants

3.4.2 Regional Funding Opportunities



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Hungary benefits from European Union regional development programs that support bioeconomy projects. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion by investing in regional bioeconomy hubs and infrastructure. Additionally, the Cohesion Fund provides financial support for environmental and transport-related projects, including initiatives promoting bio-based production and sustainability. These funds play a vital role in helping Hungarian businesses and research institutions implement large-scale bio-based innovations.

The financial landscape for bio-based projects in Hungary offers a combination of national and regional funding sources, enabling businesses, research institutions, and public stakeholders to advance in the field of bioeconomy. Access to these financial resources is essential for scaling up innovations, improving market competitiveness, and fostering a sustainable future.

Table 46 – European Regional Development Funding Opportunities.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	All Hungarian regions
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
Short description	Provides funding to strengthen economic and social cohesion by correcting imbalances between regions and supporting projects including bio-based product commercialization.
Example of funded projects	Development of regional bioeconomy hubs.
Funding agency/ body	European Commission
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines; refer to regional managing authorities.
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large enterprises, and public institutions.
Link to application	https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/erdf_en
Grant type	Grants

Table 47 – Cohesion Fund Funding Opportunities.

Region (NUTS2 classification)	All Hungarian regions
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Cohesion Fund
Short description	Supports environmental and trans-European transport network projects, which can include bio-based initiatives.
Example of funded projects	Infrastructure development for bio-based industries.





Funding agency/body	European Commission
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines; refer to national managing authority.
Target beneficiaries	Public and private sector entities.
Link to application	https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/cohesion-fund/
Grant type	Grants

3.5 GREECE

Greece is strategically advancing its bioeconomy sector as a key driver of sustainable development, economic resilience, and environmental innovation. With its rich biodiversity, strong agricultural base, and emerging bio-based industries, the country is leveraging national and EU funding to accelerate the transition toward a circular and resource-efficient economy. By supporting research, technological advancements, and market-driven bio-based solutions, Greece aims to enhance competitiveness while addressing critical environmental challenges. Greece benefits from a diverse mix of funding programs, including national grants, loans, and EU-backed initiatives, all designed to boost bioeconomy projects and foster innovation in key sectors such as agriculture, biotechnology, renewable energy, and waste management. These funding opportunities ensure that Greece remains at the forefront of sustainable economic growth while strengthening its position within the European and global bioeconomy landscape.

3.5.1 National funding opportunities

At the national level, Greece offers various funding mechanisms to support bioeconomy projects.

- i) The Ministry of Economy and Finance (<https://minfin.gov.gr/en/>): NSRF 2021-2027 (Regional Development Partnership Pact) aligns with EU priorities and Greece's development goals, channelling €26.2 billion (including €20.9 billion from EU support and €5.3 billion from national contributions) it includes Greece 2.0 - National Recovery and Resilience Plan which is a transformative initiative with a total budget of €35.95 billion, including a REPowerEU chapter for energy transition. Its key pillars focus on Green Transition, Digital Transition, Employment-Skills-Social Cohesion, and Private Investment & Economic Transformation, mobilizing over €35 billion by 2026. NSRF 2021-2027 also includes The Programme "Competitiveness" 2021-2027 supports key sectors through €3.9 billion in Public Expenditure and aims to link research & innovation with entrepreneurship under the National Smart Specialization Strategy (NSS). Other significant funding sources include the Just Transition Fund (JTF), which finances the transition of coal-dependent regions like Western Macedonia toward bio-based industries.



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- ii) Ministry of Development and Investments (<https://www.mindev.gov.gr/?lang=en>): new Development Law 4887/2022, introduces for the first time 13 thematic schemes of state aid and provides different types of incentives for private investments in various sectors of business activity.
- iii) Ministry of Rural Development and Food (<https://www.minagric.gr/en/>): Rural Development Programme (Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy).
- iv) Ministry of Environment and Energy (<https://ypen.gov.gr/>) : Green fund, the establishment of the Green Fund (Law 3889/2010) allows a wide distribution of funds (coming from environmental taxes, fees for environmental damage, auctioning of EU ETS allowances etc.) to targeted environmental conservation programmes.

Table 48 - Competitiveness 2021-2027- Microcredit Fund

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Competitiveness 2021-2027 programme
Short description	The “Competitiveness 2021-2027” Programme is an integrated intervention in the productive, competitive, and outward-looking sectors of the economy in their transition to a development model guided by the Knowledge Economy, reflecting to a great extent the Country’s development priorities and in line with the Commission’s new priorities. The Programme is the implementation tool of the National Smart Specialisation Strategy (NSSS), which links research and innovation with entrepreneurship and the strengthening of national and regional advantages. It is also in line with European Union policies for the digital and green transformation of the Greek economy. Integrated support initiatives will be designed to cover the entire range of enterprises’ needs in terms of information, strengthening partnerships, developing new business models and finding technological, human and investment resources. The “Competitiveness 2021-2027” Programme, with a financial envelope of approximately €3.9 billion in Public Expenditure, of which €3.1 billion comes from Community resources of the ERDF and ESF+, sets priorities for strengthening the productive potential of the economy and the relevant human skills. The Programme’s Actions are expected to produce the following results: -Accelerating the transition to high-quality innovative entrepreneurship -Supporting productive investments with emphasis on innovation, technological adaptation, digital transformation and the shift towards environmentally friendly processes and products





	-Growth of the production of internationally marketable products and services -Strengthening of new/startup entrepreneurship with high added value -Upgrading and qualitative modernisation of the tourism product -Supporting the development/adoption of innovations -Business support services and creation of a favourable business environment -Accelerating the country's green and digital transition and technological development
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/body	Ministry of Economy and Finance
Open call or specific deadline	Microcredit Fund (The Microcredit Fund TEPIX III, is a financial instrument of the Portfolio Fund called "Entrepreneurship Fund III" (TEPIX III), the funds of which are co-financed by the European Social Fund+ (ESF+) of the European Union, through the Competitiveness Programme NSRF 2021-2027. The Microcredit Fund TEPIX III is a risk-sharing financial instrument for the provision of investment loans up to 40% of the total financing and special-purpose working capital loans, which is implemented under the Portfolio Fund "Entrepreneurship Fund III" (TEPIX III) . 2 of Law 4308/2014 (A251), as amended by Law 5164/2024, with emphasis on female entrepreneurship, as well as other categories that may be defined in accordance with the provisions of Article 15, Para. 2 of the law. 4701/2020 (Government Gazette A' 128/30.06.2020), which do not have access to traditional bank sources of financing. An important aspect of the Fund is the provision of business education (mentoring) advisory services to microfinance beneficiaries. To achieve this purpose, loans are provided on favourable terms through interest-free financing from the Fund (i.e. at a rate of 60% or 75%, depending on the sub-programme).
Target beneficiaries	Very small enterprises
Link to application	https://21-27.antagonistikotita.gr/tameio-mikropistoseon/
Grant type	loan

Table 49 - Competitiveness 2021-2027- TEPIX III Loan Fund

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/name	Competitiveness 2021-2027 programme
Short description	The "Competitiveness 2021-2027" Programme is an integrated intervention in the productive, competitive, and outward-looking sectors of the economy in their transition to a development model guided by the Knowledge Economy, reflecting to a great extent the Country's development priorities and in line with the Commission's new priorities.





	The Programme is the implementation tool of the National Smart Specialisation Strategy (NSSS), which links research and innovation with entrepreneurship and the strengthening of national and regional advantages. It is also in line with European Union policies for the digital and green transformation of the Greek economy. Integrated support initiatives will be designed to cover the entire range of enterprises' needs in terms of information, strengthening partnerships, developing new business models and finding technological, human and investment resources. The "Competitiveness 2021-2027" Programme, with a financial envelope of approximately €3.9 billion in Public Expenditure, of which €3.1 billion comes from Community resources of the ERDF and ESF+, sets priorities for strengthening the productive potential of the economy and the relevant human skills. The Programme's Actions are expected to produce the following results: -Accelerating the transition to high-quality innovative entrepreneurship -Supporting productive investments with emphasis on innovation, technological adaptation, digital transformation and the shift towards environmentally friendly processes and products -Growth of the production of internationally marketable products and services -Strengthening of new/startup entrepreneurship with high added value -Upgrading and qualitative modernisation of the tourism product -Supporting the development/adoption of innovations -Business support services and creation of a favourable business environment -Accelerating the country's green and digital transition and technological development
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/body	Ministry of Economy and Finance
Open call or specific deadline	TEPIX III Loan Fund (The Fund aims to improve access to finance for all small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and to support and develop their business activity, so as to cover a wide range of their financing needs. Moreover, the programme aims to enhance the productivity of the enterprises, by improving their processes for products & services produced and, by extension, to improve their competitiveness and their position in international markets).
Target beneficiaries	small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
Link to application	https://21-27.antagonistikotita.gr/en/tepix-iii-loan-fund/
Grant type	Loan

Table 50 - Competitiveness 2021-2027- TEPIX III Guarantee Fund

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General





Funding title/ name	Competitiveness 2021-2027 programme
Short description	The “Competitiveness 2021-2027” Programme is an integrated intervention in the productive, competitive, and outward-looking sectors of the economy in their transition to a development model guided by the Knowledge Economy, reflecting to a great extent the Country’s development priorities and in line with the Commission’s new priorities. The Programme is the implementation tool of the National Smart Specialisation Strategy (NSSS), which links research and innovation with entrepreneurship and the strengthening of national and regional advantages. It is also in line with European Union policies for the digital and green transformation of the Greek economy. Integrated support initiatives will be designed to cover the entire range of enterprises’ needs in terms of information, strengthening partnerships, developing new business models and finding technological, human and investment resources. The “Competitiveness 2021-2027” Programme, with a financial envelope of approximately €3.9 billion in Public Expenditure, of which €3.1 billion comes from Community resources of the ERDF and ESF+, sets priorities for strengthening the productive potential of the economy and the relevant human skills. The Programme’s Actions are expected to produce the following results: -Accelerating the transition to high-quality innovative entrepreneurship -Supporting productive investments with emphasis on innovation, technological adaptation, digital transformation and the shift towards environmentally friendly processes and products -Growth of the production of internationally marketable products and services -Strengthening of new/startup entrepreneurship with high added value -Upgrading and qualitative modernisation of the tourism product -Supporting the development/adoption of innovations -Business support services and creation of a favourable business environment -Accelerating the country’s green and digital transition and technological development
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Economy and Finance
Open call or specific deadline	TEPIX III Guarantee Fund (The TEPIX III Guarantee Fund was created to provide guaranteed investment loans, special purpose working capital loans, and special purpose revolving credit working capital loans to SMEs. Additionally, it offers an interest subsidy of 2% for businesses in the Attica and South Aegean regions and 3% for businesses in other regions of the country for the first two (2) years of financing, and finally, the loans are provided with zero guarantee fee)
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, startups
Link to application	https://21-27.antagonistikotita.gr/en/tepix-iii-guarantee-fund/
Grant type	Loan





Table 51 - Just Transition Fund

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes (Western Macedonia, Megalopolis, Aegean islands)
Sector (specify sector or general)	No
Funding title/ name	
Short description	The Just Transition Development Programme 2021-2027 with a total budget of 1,63 billion euros, is co-financed by the Just Transition Fund (JTF) and implemented under the Cohesion Policy. The Programme contributes to the single specific objective of JTF, enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union's 2030 targets for energy and climate and a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement. Priorities and indicative actions: Strengthening and Promoting Entrepreneurship: actions enhancing the competitiveness and digital transformation of existing businesses, linking RTDI to production and promoting start-ups. Energy Transition – Climate Neutrality: actions aiming to improve the energy efficiency of the building stock, affordable clean energy systems and infrastructure, including its storage technologies. Repurposing of land uses – Circular Economy: regeneration and re-use of degraded land and facilities, green infrastructure and technical land repurposing works, strengthening circular economy. Just Labour Transition: upskilling & reskilling actions of workforce, investments in infrastructure for the purposes of education, training and facilitating labour market integration. Small-scale integrated interventions: measures to improve the quality of life of residents and the diversification of local economies. Technical Assistance: it covers the necessary expenditure (supply of goods and services, support of Beneficiaries etc.) to support the achievement of the objectives of the JTD Programme.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Economy and Finance
Open call or specific deadline	January 2020-December 2029
Target beneficiaries	All
Link to application	https://www.sdam.gr/index.php/calls-activate
Grant type	grants





Table 52 - Development Law 4887/2022

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Development Law 4887/2022
Short description	The new Development Law 4887/2022, introduces for the first time 13 thematic schemes of state aid and provides different types of incentives for private investments in various sectors of business activity. In combination with the Regional Aid Map 2022-2027 - in force since 01.01.2022 - which provides increased state-aid percentages for the majority of the country's regions, the new Development Law aims to increase private investments, to support new entrepreneurship, to strengthen less favoured regions of the country and regions included in the Just Transition Plan, and to improve competitiveness in sectors with a high added value. Development Law is one of the main available tools the Ministry of Development and Investments deploys to design and implement the incentives policy in order to achieve an integrated and systematic intervention in all industries and sectors of the economy, with obvious benefits for the economic sector, in regional convergence, as well as in social cohesion, along with other available sources of funding (NSRF 2021-2027, Recovery Fund, etc.). The purpose of enactment of the new Development Law, is to promote the digital and technological transformation of companies, the green transition, the creation of economies of scale, the support of innovative investments, as well as of those which seek the introduction of new technologies of "Industry 4.0", robotics and artificial intelligence. Investments in tourism, processing and agri-food sector are reinforced and also special provisions are included related to the strengthening of the regions of the Just Transition Plan. In particular, 13 topical schemes are established: 1. Digital and technological business transformation 2. Green transition - Environmental Upgrade for businesses 3. New Entrepreneurship, with the primary objective of supporting young entrepreneurs, to help them proceed with the design and implementation of investment initiatives in various economy sectors 4. Just Transition Plan 5. Research and applied innovation 6. Agri-food - primary production and processing of agricultural products - fisheries 7. Processing - Supply chain 8. Business extroversion 9. Enhancement of tourism investments 10. Alternative forms of tourism





	11. Major investments, providing specific treatment for investment projects that significantly affect local economies, as well as the rise of economic sectoral indicators in general 12. European value chains (EVCs) 13. Entrepreneurship 360°. The schemes will be launched through open calls for investors, while in some cases the partnership of jointly competent policy-making institutions, such as e.g. the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Tourism, the Research and Technology sector of the Ministry of Development and Investments will be required. Their implementation will be carried out by the General Directorate of Private Investments of the Ministry of Development and Investments, as well as by the Ministry of Interior (Sector of Macedonia and Thrace) and by the 13 Regional Directorates for specific state-aid schemes. Each scheme will have an annual budget of 150,000,000 euros, which will be distributed by region and by type of incentive (capital incentives and tax exemptions).
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Development and Investments
Open call or specific deadline	January 2022-December 2027
Target beneficiaries	All type of enterprises
Link to application	https://ependyseis.mindev.gov.gr/el/idiotikes/prokirikseis
Grant type	1. Tax exemptions 2. Cash Grants 3. Leasing subsidies 4. Subsidy for employment

Table 53- Leader/CLLD

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes (only agricultural regions)
Sector (specify sector or general)	n.a
Funding title/ name	LEADER /CLLD
Short description	It is a particularly powerful tool for local communities:(a) take firm steps towards more effective forms of economic, sustainable and inclusive growth, in line with the Europe 2020 strategy,(b) to 'innovate' in order to address the socio-economic problems of the rural areas of the country; and(c) to strengthen social cohesion in rural areas.The integrated development strategies are implemented through 50 local programmes





	selected to be implemented in rural areas of the country, mainly at regional unit level, by the Local Action Groups (LAGs), which are local public-private partnerships. The local programmes are structured around three sub-measures: 19.2: 'Private-sector interventions and other provisions for the implementation of local programmes'. 19.3: "Support for the preparation and implementation of interregional and transnational partnerships". 19.4: 'Support for operating costs and promotion'.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	Ministry of Rural Development and Food
Open call or specific deadline	No open call
Target beneficiaries	Beneficiaries may be natural or legal persons, existing or start-up enterprises, as described in detail in the Framework Decision No 13214/30-11-2017 on the implementation of sub-measure 19.2 - private interventions (Government Gazette B 4268) and in the individual approved local programmes
Link to application	https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/metra-paa-pages/leader-clld/
Grant type	grants

3.5.2 Regional funding opportunities

The NSRF, in addition to the sectoral programs, includes 13 multi-sectoral and multi-fund Regional Operational Programs (ROPs). Each of the Greek Regions, all classified as NUTS 2 regions, is the subject of a regional program that includes regional-scale projects and actions, utilizes local advantages, and is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF).

The 13 Regional Operational Programs are:

1. ROP of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
2. ROP of Central Macedonia
3. ROP of Western Macedonia
4. ROP of Epirus
5. ROP of Thessaly
6. ROP of the Ionian Islands
7. ROP of Western Greece
8. ROP of Central Greece
9. ROP of Attica
10. ROP of the Peloponnese
11. ROP of the Northern Aegean
12. ROP of the Southern Aegean



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13. ROP of Crete

Their common objective is to strengthen the capacity of regional and local authorities to implement a comprehensive range of actions aimed at serving the main priorities of the NSRF.

Additionally, the Regions will be granted the management of significant resources from the Cohesion Fund for the Environment, particularly funds directed towards fulfilling the country's and the Regions' obligations concerning wastewater treatment. Furthermore, in all 13 Regions, approximately 30% of the resources from the Rural Development Program will be allocated for regional management from the Sectoral Rural Development Program.

Table 54 - Regional Operational Program of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (less developed)
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
Short description	Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €639.098.846 of which €543.234.017 comes from the European Union contribution and €95.864.829 from National funding. Vision: "The restructuring of the production model of the Region, aiming to transform it into a tourism destination of excellence and a significant industrial hub, leveraging its comparative advantage in the agri-food sector, its rich endogenous potential, its geographical position, and promoting social cohesion through the mobilization of existing and new social collectives." Goals • Expansion of economic activity. • Increase in employment. • Strengthening social cohesion. • Enhancing the attractiveness of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace as a place to live and produce. Indicative Actions • Improving the Competitiveness of the Local Economy • Enhancing the Region's Attractiveness for Businesses and Residents • Improving Transport and Connectivity • Human Capital Development & Social Cohesion
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace – Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	Residents of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace





	National, Regional, and Local Authorities, including local government agencies and development organizations Academic Institutions, Research Centers, and Technological Organizations The 4th Health Region of Macedonia and Thrace and Public Hospitals Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Startups Special groups and vulnerable populations (e.g., migrants, repatriates, residents of mountainous or disadvantaged areas, persons with disabilities, Roma, etc.)
Link to application	www.eydamth.gr
Grant type	Grants

Table 55 - Regional Operational Program of Central Macedonia

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Central Macedonia (less developed)
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of Central Macedonia
Short description	The program aims to support economic growth, enhance employment, and foster social inclusion in Central Macedonia. It aligns with the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable, and inclusive development. Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €1.400.000.000 Vision: Boost economic development and job creation by fostering innovation, enhancing competitiveness, and improving environmental sustainability Goal: - Enhance SME competitiveness and innovation. - Improve regional infrastructure and transport networks. - Promote social inclusion and reduce poverty. - Strengthen climate resilience and environmental protection. Indicative actions - Supporting SME growth and entrepreneurship. - Investing in research, technology, and innovation. - Improving transport and connectivity. - Promoting energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/ body	Region of Central Macedonia – Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	Various calls, depending on the funding priority
Target beneficiaries	Residents of Central Macedonia - SMEs and startups - National, regional, and local authorities - Research institutions and universities - Vulnerable populations (e.g., disabled individuals, immigrants)





Link to application	www.pepkm.gr
Grant type	grants

Table 56 - Regional Operational Program of Epirus

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Epirus (less developed)
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of Epirus
Short description	The program focuses on boosting the regional economy, enhancing social inclusion, improving infrastructure, and promoting environmental sustainability. Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €325,846,893, of which €260,677,513 comes from the European Union contribution and €65,169,380 from National funding Vision: Enhancing the competitiveness of the regional economy, improving quality of life, and promoting sustainable development while preserving the region's natural and cultural wealth. Goal • Strengthening research, technological development, and innovation. • Enhancing SME competitiveness. • Transitioning to a low-carbon economy. • Adapting to climate change and disaster prevention. • Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency. • Improving infrastructure in transport, education, health, and social care. • Fostering social inclusion and combatting poverty Indicative actions • Enhancing research and business collaboration. • Supporting SMEs in technological and business innovation. • Investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency. • Strengthening infrastructure for water management and environmental protection. • Upgrading transport networks and road safety. • Developing digital services for public administration and businesses. • Expanding social inclusion initiatives and healthcare services
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Region of Epirus – Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	Various calls, depending on the type of project
Target beneficiaries	Residents of Epirus • Local, regional, and national authorities • Universities, research centers, and innovation hubs • SMEs and business associations





	Vulnerable social groups (e.g., unemployed, disabled persons, marginalized communities)
Link to application	www.peproe.gr
Grant type	grants

Table 57 - Regional Operational Program of Western Macedonia

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Western Macedonia (less developed and under transition)
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of Western Macedonia
Short description	The Regional Operational Program (ROP) of Western Macedonia under the 2014-2020 programming period aimed to enhance economic growth, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability through various investment priorities. Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €330.7 million, with €264.6 million from the European Union contribution and €66.1 million from National funding Vision: To facilitate the region's transition towards a diversified and sustainable economy by promoting entrepreneurship, enhancing human capital, and leveraging local comparative advantages. Goal - Strengthening economic diversification and competitiveness. - Enhancing employment opportunities. - Supporting the energy transition and environmental sustainability. - Improving social infrastructure and quality of life - Improve regional infrastructure and transport networks. Indicative actions - Infrastructure improvements (transport, energy, waste management). - Support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and innovation. - Workforce training and lifelong learning programs. - Development of social services and health infrastructure
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/ body	Region of Western Macedonia – Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	Varies by action; published through official announcements
Target beneficiaries	Residents of Western Macedonia - National, regional, and local authorities - SMEs and startups - Research institutions and universities - Vulnerable social groups (migrants, disabled individuals, unemployed youth, etc.)
Link to application	www.pepdym.gr
Grant type	grants





Table 58 - Regional Operational Program of Western Greece

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Western Greece (less developed and under transition)
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of Western Greece
Short description	Aimed at enhancing competitiveness, innovation, environmental protection, and improving social infrastructure in the region. Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €490,985,731, of which €392,788,583 is EU contribution and €98,197,148 is National funding. Vision: Self-sustaining, outward-looking, and sustainable reconstruction focused on global identity, human and environmental values. Goal • Enhance business competitiveness • Environmental protection • Infrastructure modernization • Human development and social inclusion Indicative actions • Research and innovation support • Environmental investments • Sustainable transportation and energy efficiency • Human capital development
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/ body	Region of Western Greece – Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing open calls for various sectors
Target beneficiaries	Residents, SMEs, Local Authorities, Educational Institutions, Vulnerable Populations
Link to application	www.dytikiellada.gr
Grant type	grants

Table 59 - Regional Operational Program of Thessaly

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Thessaly (less developed and under transition)
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of Thessaly
Short description	Aims to boost competitiveness, innovation, and environmental sustainability. Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €553,900,000, with EU contribution of €442,720,000 and National funding of €111,180,000.





	Vision: A competitive, sustainable region with strong economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. Goal • Enhance business growth • Improve infrastructure • Foster social cohesion • Human development and social inclusion Indicative actions • Innovation support • Environmental projects • Human capital development
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/ body	Region of Thessaly– Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing open calls for various sectors
Target beneficiaries	Residents, SMEs, Local Authorities, Educational Institutions
Link to application	www.thessalia-espa.gr
Grant type	grants

Table 60 - Regional Operational Program of Sterea Ellada

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Sterea Ellada (less developed and under transition)
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of Sterea Ellada
Short description	Aimed at improving competitiveness, innovation, and infrastructure development. Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €190,052,000, with EU contribution of €152,041,600 and National funding of €38,010,400. Vision: Strengthening economic activity and improving the quality of life through sustainable and competitive growth. Goal • Economic and business growth • Social inclusion • Infrastructure development • Human development and social inclusion Indicative actions • Enhancing competitiveness • Support for innovation • Human capital development
Example of funded projects	





Funding agency/ body	Region of Sterea Ellada – Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing open calls for various sectors
Target beneficiaries	Residents, SMEs, Local Authorities, Educational Institutions, Vulnerable Populations
Link to application	www.stereaellada.gr
Grant type	grants

Table 61 - Regional Operational Program of Peloponnese

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Peloponnese (less developed and under transition)
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of Peloponnese
Short description	Focuses on strengthening competitiveness, infrastructure, and human capital development. Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €800,000,000, with EU contribution of €640,000,000 and National funding of €160,000,000. Vision: A competitive and sustainable region with improved living standards and environmental protection. Goal • Economic development • Social inclusion • Improved infrastructure Indicative actions • Competitiveness support • Innovation investments • Infrastructure development
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/ body	Region of Peloponnese – Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing open calls for various sectors
Target beneficiaries	Residents, SMEs, Local Authorities, Vulnerable Populations
Link to application	www.eydpelop.gr
Grant type	grants

Table 62 - Regional Operational Program of Attika

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Attika (less developed)
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Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of Attika
Short description	Focuses on innovation, sustainability, and enhancing competitiveness. Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €1.2 billion, with EU contribution of €960 million and National funding of €240 million. Vision: Creating a competitive and sustainable region, supporting innovation and environmental sustainability. Goal • Economic development • Social inclusion • Infrastructure enhancement Indicative actions • Support for innovation • Infrastructure projects • Business development
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/ body	Region of Attica – Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing open calls for various sectors
Target beneficiaries	Residents, SMEs, Local Authorities, Vulnerable Populations
Link to application	www.pepattikis.gr
Grant type	grants

Table 63 - Regional Operational Program of Crete

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Crete (less developed and under transition)
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of Crete
Short description	Focused on economic development, sustainability, and improving infrastructure. Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €1 billion, with EU contribution of €800 million and National funding of €200 million. Vision: Developing a competitive and sustainable region, enhancing quality of life and environmental protection. Goal • Economic growth • Social inclusion • Infrastructure development Indicative actions





	• Support for innovation • Sustainability projects • Infrastructure investments
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/ body	Region of Crete – Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing open calls for various sectors
Target beneficiaries	Residents, SMEs, Local Authorities, Vulnerable Populations
Link to application	www.pepkritis.gr
Grant type	grants

Table 64 - Regional Operational Program of Ionian islands

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Ionian islands (less developed and under transition)
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of Ionian islands
Short description	Aimed at economic development, sustainability, and infrastructure improvement. Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €250 million, with EU contribution of €200 million and National funding of €50 million. Vision: Promoting sustainable development, improving competitiveness, and enhancing quality of life. Goal • Economic growth • Infrastructure development • Environmental protection Indicative actions • Business support • Infrastructure projects • Green energy
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/ body	Region of Ionian islands – Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing open calls for various sectors
Target beneficiaries	Residents, SMEs, Local Authorities, Vulnerable Populations
Link to application	https://pepionia.gr/
Grant type	grants





Table 65 - Regional Operational Program of North Aegean

Region (NUTS2 classification)	North Aegean (less developed and under transition)
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of North Aegean
Short description	Aimed at economic development, sustainability, and infrastructure improvement. Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €300 million, with EU contribution of €240 million and National funding of €60 million. Vision Supporting competitiveness and sustainable growth in a unique natural and cultural environment. Goal • Economic growth • Infrastructure development • Social inclusion Indicative actions • Business support • Tourism development • Green energy initiatives
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/ body	Region of North Aegean – Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing open calls for various sectors
Target beneficiaries	Residents, SMEs, Local Authorities, Vulnerable Populations
Link to application	https://www.pepba.gr/
Grant type	grants

Table 66 - Regional Operational Program of South Aegean

Region (NUTS2 classification)	South Aegean (less developed and under transition)
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	ROP of South Aegean
Short description	Focused on enhancing competitiveness, sustainability, and infrastructure. Budget: Total Public Expenditure Budget: €400 million, with EU contribution of €320 million and National funding of €80 million. Vision: Promoting sustainable development, economic growth, and social inclusion in the region. Goal • Economic growth





	• Infrastructure development • Environmental protection Indicative actions • Business support • Infrastructure investments • Tourism development
Example of funded projects	-
Funding agency/ body	Region of South Aegean – Special Management Service
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing open calls for various sectors
Target beneficiaries	Residents, SMEs, Local Authorities, Vulnerable Populations
Link to application	https://pepna.gr/el
Grant type	grants

3.6 CYPRUS

3.6.1 National funding opportunities

At the national level, Cyprus offers a range of funding mechanisms to support bioeconomy projects, with an emphasis on innovation, sustainability, and economic development¹¹. The Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) is a key player in providing financial support to start-ups, SMEs, and research organizations through various grants and funding programs aimed at fostering technological advancements in the bioeconomy sector. These programs include both national and EU-funded opportunities, designed to stimulate innovation, particularly in areas like biotechnology, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture.

The Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan is a pivotal initiative, aligned with the EU's overarching goals, which allocates substantial funding towards green and digital transitions. The plan, with a budget of approximately €1.2 billion, focuses on enhancing public and private investments in sustainability, energy transition, and job creation. Bioeconomy projects are prioritized, particularly those contributing to the sustainable use of natural resources and reducing carbon emissions, in line with the EU's Green Deal objectives.

Another key funding source is the Competitiveness and Innovation Program (2021-2027), which supports Cyprus' efforts in connecting research and innovation with entrepreneurship. With a focus on enhancing competitiveness, this program aims to fund sustainable innovation, particularly in sectors such as bio-based industries, clean technologies, and renewable energy. The program is in

¹¹ CYPRUS National funding opportunities. Available [here](#).





line with Cyprus' National Smart Specialization Strategy (S3), which prioritizes the development of sustainable industries and technologies.

Cyprus also benefits from EU funding mechanisms like the Cohesion Fund (CF), which supports environmental and transport infrastructure investments, including projects aimed at enhancing waste management systems, renewable energy, and sustainable infrastructure—critical components of the bioeconomy. Additionally, the Just Transition Fund (JTF) plays a crucial role in supporting regions transitioning from carbon-intensive industries to bio-based and green economies, providing funding for local projects that promote a sustainable shift in energy and industry practices.

Table 67 - National Grant Schemes

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	
Short description	The National Grant Schemes are designed and approved at national level and are funded solely by national funds. The aim of these projects is the implementation of various state policies and priorities e.g. strengthening employment, promotion of tourism, etc. The implementation and management of these projects is taking place exclusively in Cyprus, under the responsibility of the relevant Ministries/agencies of the broader public sector.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Deputy Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works, Research & Innovation Foundation Programmes
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing open calls for various sectors (5 call are open now)
Target beneficiaries	Depends on the call
Link to application	https://www.fundingprogrammesportal.gov.cy/en/program-major-category/national-grant-schemes/
Grant type	grants

Table 68- Co-Financed Programmes

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General





Funding title/ name	-
Short description	The Co-Financed Programmes are programmes which are co-funded in Cyprus: by specific funds of the EU multi-annual budget allocated to Cyprus (these programs are mainly funded by the European Structural and Investment Funds), by national resources (state budget). The priority areas financed are co-decided between the EU and Cyprus, and the programmes are managed in Cyprus with the right of scrutiny by the European Commission. As a general rule, proposals are submitted for approval to competent bodies of the public or wider public sector of Cyprus, depending on the Programme. It is noted that for the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Programmes, priority areas are co-decided among the countries participating in the Programme, in cooperation with the EU. For each cooperation programme there is a (joint) Managing Authority based in one of the countries participating in the Programme. Calls for proposals are issued by the Programme's Managing Authority.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Program's managing authority
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing open calls for various sectors (5 call are open now)
Target beneficiaries	Depends on the call
Link to application	https://www.fundingprogrammesportal.gov.cy/en/program-major-category/co-financed-programmes/
Grant type	grants

Table 69 - Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan
Short description	With the aim to address the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, promote sustainable development and ensure the resilience of the EU economy, the European Commission introduced in 2020 a temporary funding instrument for the EU recovery and exit from the crisis. This Next Generation EU recovery instrument, with a total budget of €750 billion has been included in the EU Multiannual Financial Framework of the 2021-2027 period. Through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), which constitutes the centerpiece of the Next Generation EU, a total amount of €672.5 billion will be made available in loans and grants to support reforms and investments undertaken by Member States, with the aim to mitigate the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic and make European economies and societies more





	sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions. In order to get access and benefit from the support of the RRF, the Member States have to prepare comprehensive national plans. The Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) was submitted to the European Commission on May 2021 and it's positive assessment was approved by the Council of the EU in July 2021. The Cyprus RRP is structured around six (6) Policy Axes and thirteen (13) Components, all aligned with the Plan's strategic goal and objectives. The key strategic goal of the Cyprus RRP is about «strengthening the economy's resilience and the country's potential for economically, socially and environmentally sustainable long-term growth and welfare» The RRP, with a total budget of €1.2bln, promotes the implementation of 133 investment and reforms, with an implementation period up to 2026, including 35 Grant Schemes addressed mainly to enterprises, as well as to public and private bodies, NGOs and individuals, in thematic areas falling under all 6 RRP policy axes: Public health, civil protection and lessons learned from the pandemic Accelerated transition to a green economy Strengthening the resilience and competitiveness of the economy Towards a digital era Labour market, social protection, education and human capital REPowerEU The Plan aims to effectively address the key challenges identified by the European Commission for the Cyprus economy, in the context of the European Semester, particularly those identified in the Country Reports and the Country-specific recommendations adopted by the Council. It also includes measures to address the challenges and reap the benefits of the green and digital transitions, as well as to contribute to enhancing resilience and long-term growth, job creation, social and territorial cohesion.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	Republic of Cyprus
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing open calls for various sectors (3 call are open now)
Target beneficiaries	Enterprises, public and private bodies
Link to application	https://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environmentnew.nsf/page27_en/page27_en?OpenDocument
Grant type	grants

3.6.2 Regional funding opportunities

There are no regional specific funding opportunities.

3.7 BULGARIA

3.7.1 National funding opportunities



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At the national level, Bulgaria provides several funding options to support bioeconomy initiatives, emphasizing innovation, environmental sustainability, and economic advancement. At the national level, Bulgaria offers various funding mechanisms to support bioeconomy projects, focusing on innovation, sustainability, and economic development. The Bulgarian National Innovation Fund plays a crucial role in providing financial support to start-ups, SMEs, and research institutions through grants aimed at fostering innovation in sectors like biotechnology, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy. This fund supports projects that align with Bulgaria's national goals of transitioning to a more sustainable, green economy. The National Recovery and Resilience Plan for Bulgaria is another significant initiative that aligns with the EU's green and digital transition priorities. With a total budget of approximately €6.3 billion, it focuses on projects related to the green and digital transition, including sustainable bioeconomy initiatives. The plan includes a focus on enhancing public investments in sustainable energy, job creation, and climate resilience. Bioeconomy projects, particularly those promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and reducing carbon emissions, are key components of this plan. The Competitiveness and Innovation Program (2021-2027) is another important funding source, designed to support Bulgaria's efforts to enhance its competitiveness and foster innovation. This program encourages sustainable business practices and the development of green technologies, with a focus on bioeconomy sectors like renewable energy and biotechnologies. It also aligns with Bulgaria's National Smart Specialization Strategy (S3), which prioritizes areas such as clean technologies, sustainable agriculture, and bio-based industries. Bulgaria benefits from the Cohesion Fund (CF), which supports investments in environmental and transport infrastructure. A significant portion of the CF budget is directed toward projects that enhance waste management, renewable energy systems, and other bioeconomy-related infrastructure. This fund contributes to Bulgaria's environmental and sustainability goals, supporting the transition to a more circular economy. The Just Transition Fund (JTF), part of the EU's wider efforts to support regions transitioning from carbon-intensive industries to sustainable and bio-based economies, is also relevant for Bulgaria. The JTF provides funding for projects that help regions and communities move away from coal and other carbon-heavy industries, focusing on green jobs, renewable energy, and sustainable development. The fund supports the transition in Bulgaria's coal-dependent regions, promoting the shift to a green economy through bioeconomy initiatives. Bulgaria's National Research and Innovation Strategy (RIS3) is a vital element in driving bioeconomy projects, particularly those that are research driven. RIS3 guides investment in sustainable technologies and promotes the development of green industries, creating opportunities for collaboration between research institutions, universities, and the private sector. Through RIS3,





Bulgaria supports bioeconomy innovations in sectors such as biotechnology, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture.¹²

Table 70 - Just Transition Fund

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes (Stara Zagora, Kyustendil, Pernik)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Just Transition Fund (JTF)
Short description	As part of the EU's Just Transition Mechanism, the JTF provides grants to regions most affected by the transition to a climate-neutral economy. Bulgaria is set to receive €1.2 billion from the JTF, following the adoption of its Territorial Just Transition Plans. These funds aim to support economic diversification and reskilling initiatives, which can include bioeconomy projects.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	EU commission
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	Regions affected by the transition to a climate-neutral economy
Link to application	https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6756
Grant type	grants

Table 71 - Programme "Environment" 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Environment

¹² References of Bulgaria Funding programmes: <https://www.mi.government.bg/en/general/nacionalen-inovacionen-fond/>; <https://www.minfin.bg/en/55> , https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country/programmes/2014-2020/bg/2014bg16rfop002_en; https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_4267; https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6756; <https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2023%2Fdata%2FpolicyInitiatives%2F99996668>





Funding title/ name	Programme "Environment" 2021-2027
Short description	Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund, this Bulgarian program supports projects related to environmental protection and climate change policies. It offers opportunities for bioeconomy initiatives that align with these objectives.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria
Open call or specific deadline	Not specified
Target beneficiaries	Entities involved in environmental protection and climate change initiatives
Link to application	https://www.eufunds.bg/sites/default/files/uploads/opos/editor/POS%202021-2027_ENG%2010102022.pdf
Grant type	grants

Table 72 - EIB Loans

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Investment Bank (EIB) Loans
Short description	The EIB has provided loans to Bulgaria to co-finance EU-backed projects, focusing on areas like energy efficiency, water management, transport, and research. These loans can support large-scale bioeconomy projects that contribute to sustainable development.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	European Investment Bank
Open call or specific deadline	Not specified
Target beneficiaries	Large-scale projects in energy efficiency, water management, transport, and research
Link to application	https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-508-bulgaria-gets-eur250-million-eib-loan-to-co-finance-eu-backed-projects
Grant type	loans





Table 73 - National Recovery and Resilience Plan

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Innovation, Climate Transition, Nature Protection
Funding title/ name	National Recovery and Resilience Plan
Short description	Funded by the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility, Bulgaria's plan includes pillars focusing on innovation, climate transition, and nature protection. Companies like Nasekomo, an insect-tech scale-up, have been awarded grants under this plan for bioeconomy-related projects.
Example of funded projects	Nasekomo received €2.5M grant
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Innovation and Growth of Bulgaria
Open call or specific deadline	Not specified
Target beneficiaries	Companies focusing on innovation, climate transition, and nature protection
Link to application	https://www.minfin.bg/en/1579
Grant type	grants

Table 74 - Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Employment , social inclusion, public services
Funding title/ name	Operational Programme Human Resources Development
Short description	Bulgaria's Human Resources Development (HRD) operational programme (OP) has two overall goals: boosting employment and reducing social exclusion; and reducing poverty levels. The total ESF investment is over EUR 1 billion, including funding from the Youth Employment Initiative
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	European Social Fund (ESF) and Youth Employment Initiative
Open call or specific deadline	Not specified
Target beneficiaries	Jobseekers, young people
Link to application	https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country/programmes/2014-2020/bg/2014bg05m9op001_en#:~:text=Programme%20description&text=Bulgaria's%20Human%20Resources%20Development%20(HRD,from%20the%20Youth%20Employment%20Initiative





Grant type	grants
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3.7.2 Regional funding opportunities

Regional funding tools in Bulgaria are designed to promote balanced economic growth, reduce regional disparities, and support sustainable development. These instruments provide targeted financial support to less developed and transitioning regions, urban municipalities, and rural areas. They focus on key sectors such as energy efficiency, infrastructure, innovation, and reskilling. Funded by the European Union and national bodies, they combine grants, loans, and guarantees to stimulate local investments. Their goal is to strengthen regional competitiveness and improve quality of life across the country.

Table 75 - Regional Development Programme 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Regional Development Councils are established in the Level 2 planning regions (North West Region, North Central Region, North East Region, South East Region, South Central Region and South West Region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	health infrastructure, industrial zones, sustainable urban mobility, energy efficiency in residential buildings, tourism
Funding title/ name	Regional Development Programme 2021-2027
Short description	The strategic goal of the new Regional Development Programme 2021-2027 coincides with the main goal of the regional development policy in Bulgaria, namely to create vibrant, strong and sustainable regions as a response to unfavorable demographic trends and deepening of inter-regional and intra-regional differences. In order to achieve the set strategic goal, it is necessary to fulfill the following specific goals: • Tackling negative demographic trends and reducing the regional disparities regarding the population • Increasing the economic growth of Bulgarian regions • Promote balanced territorial development through a polycentric network of cities supported by integrated investments These will be achieved through a change in attitudes, views and perspectives towards regional development, which will be implemented through an integrated territorial approach. The focus of this approach is on effectively exploiting the potential of each territory in close dialogue and cooperation between institutions at different levels of government as well as other stakeholders.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
Open call or specific deadline	Not specified
Target beneficiaries	Not specified





Link to application	https://bgregio.eu/wps/portal/operativna-programa-en/home
Grant type	grants

3.8 SWEDEN

In Sweden, there are several sources of funding available in the bioeconomy field. Depending on agricultural or forest sector, different kinds of opportunities are available both nationally and regionally. Also, for the blue bioeconomy, there are identified funding opportunities.

3.8.1 National funding opportunities

In the whole bioeconomy sector in Sweden, the Swedish Energy Agency ([Energimyndigheten](#)), Vinnova ([Vinnova](#)), Formas ([Formas](#)) and BioInnovation ([BioInnovation](#)) is the dominating funding sources for research projects and project development for Startups and SMEs. Moreover, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth ([Tillväxtverket](#)) offers opportunities for funding in the bioeconomy field. In the agricultural sector, the Swedish Board of Agriculture ([Jordbruksverket](#)) and the Swedish farmers' foundation for agricultural research ([Stiftelsen Lantbruksforskning](#)) is two funding sources. Nationally, there are also a number of different foundations that funds mainly research projects and young researchers.

For investments, there are two funding opportunities: the Industrial Transition and the Climate Transition. The Swedish Energy Agency has been commissioned by the government to lead the Industrial Transition, which will support industry by distributing support for innovative initiatives that drive the climate transition. The Industrial Transition is part of the EU initiative Next Generation EU ([Industriklivet](#)). The Climate Transition ([Klimatklivet](#)) started at 2015 and supports investments that reduces the emission of greenhouse gases and is available for companies, organisations, municipalities and regions in Sweden. This is also part of the Next Generation EU and is conducted by The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

Among the funding sources, the three most significant ones are listed in the Tables below.

Table 76 - Swedish Energy Agency.

Country and specific region if applicable	National
Sector (specify sector or general)	Some are general, renewable energy
Funding title/ name	Many different calls
Short description	Many different calls in the energy field that opens continuously during the year.





Example of funded projects	Fossil free aviation in Northern Sweden, Policies for a long-term and sustainable raw material supply of forest biomass, Climate Neutral Skellefteå 2030
Funding agency/ body	Swedish Energy Agency
“Open call or specific deadline”	Specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research organisations, institutes, large companies, sectoral agencies,
Link to application	https://www.energimyndigheten.se/forskning-och-innovation/utlysningar-och-stod/

Table 77 - Klimatklivet.

Country and specific region if applicable	National
Sector (specify sector or general)	Renewable energy
Funding title/ name	Klimatklivet
Short description	Supports investments that reduces the emission of greenhouse gases. Maximum half of the investment cost can be funded.
Example of funded projects	Fröstorp Biogas , Hydrogen filling station , Fast charging stations ,
Funding agency/ body	The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
“Open call or specific deadline”	Usually open two times per year, specific deadlines.
Target beneficiaries	Companies, organisations, municipalities and regions
Link to application	Klimatklivet

Table 78 - Industriklivet.

Country and specific region if applicable	National
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Sector (specify sector or general)	Renewable energy
Funding title/ name	Industriklivet
Short description	Support industry by distributing support for innovative initiatives that drive the climate transition.
Example of funded projects	Bio-CCS, Project AIR,
Funding agency/ body	Swedish Energy Agency
“Open call or specific deadline”	Specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, Large companies, research organisations
Link to application	-

3.8.2 Regional funding opportunities

For regional funding opportunities within Sweden, the main sources of funding are the 21 regions (link to [Region Västerbotten](#)) and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth who are divided according to the NUTS2 regions ([Tillväxtverket](#)). Moreover, there are also different foundation, often with specific guidelines, for example the Kempestiftelserna ([Kempestiftelserna](#)) who only supports researchers in Northern Sweden and focuses on investments.

For regional funding opportunities in cooperation with other countries, there are 12 different Interreg programmes available ([Interreg programmes](#)). The different programmes are covering different regions in the whole country, and Interreg Baltic Sea Region and Interreg Europe are covering the whole country.

Table 79 - The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.

Country and specific region if applicable	Regional funding divided in 8 regions in Sweden according to the NUTS2.
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Tillväxtverket
Short description	Calls for small projects are open all year round, and for larger projects generally two open calls per year. Up to 40% co-financing. The challenges and goals are different in each region.





Example of funded projects	Förnybart 2030 , SiSL ,
Funding agency/ body	The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth
“Open call or specific deadline”	Specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research organisations, institutes, large companies, sectoral agencies,
Link to application	https://eufonder.se/eufonder/hittaeufinansiering/regionalfondern/regionalfondensprogram.6788.html

Table 80 - Interreg Baltic Sea Region.

Country and specific region if applicable	Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Norway
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg Baltic Sea Region
Short description	Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2021-2027 is a source of EU funding. There are four thematic priorities; Innovative societies, Water-smart societies, Climate-neutral societies and Cooperation governance. 80% funding.
Example of funded projects	BioBoosters , Best Ace , Cinurgi , Blue Supply Chains
Funding agency/ body	Interreg
“Open call or specific deadline”	Specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research organisations, institutes, large companies, sectoral agencies,
Link to application	https://interreg-baltic.eu/about/

3.9 LATVIA

In Latvia, there are funding opportunities both nationally and regionally in the bioeconomy field. Latvia is a strong startup country, and there are several possible venture capital funds.

3.9.1 National funding opportunities



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Under the REPowerEU plan, the Recovery and Resilience Facility plan is updated with new measures including the green transition. There are 12 green transition RRF funded project in Latvia and more than 70 in total ([RRF](#)).

The Ministry of Interior is the responsible authority for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2021-2027. The programme focuses on digitisation and climate neutrality.

Table 81 - REPowerEU.

Country and specific region if applicable	National
Sector (specify sector or general)	Renewable energy
Funding title/ name	REPowerEU
Short description	Transformation in the national energy sector by promoting energy communities and renewable energy self-consumption and self-generation. It will also contribute to optimising the use of existing distribution and transmission networks, and to improving the conditions for the uptake of sustainable biomethane.
Example of funded projects	Battery Energy Storage System
Funding agency/ body	No data
“Open call or specific deadline”	No data
Target beneficiaries	No data
Link to application	No

3.9.2 Regional funding opportunities

Latvia is a startup friendly country that is rapidly growing. For startups, there is local venture capital funds available that are listed at [Latvia.eu](#) webpage ([Venture capital](#)).

- Change Ventures – invests up to 2M EUR, cross-industrial focus
- BADIdeas. Fund – invests up to 150K EUR, focus on B2B SaaS & marketplaces
- Draugiem Capital – invests starting from 100K EUR, focus on e-commerce
- FlyCap – offers mezzanine investments of up to 3M EUR, focus on healthcare, B2B, IT & Tech, export-oriented manufacturing
- Imprimatur Capital – invests up to 2M EUR, focus on B2B software & data, digital health, learning & training, robotics/automation



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- ZGI Capital – invests up to 5M EUR, cross-industrial focus

Latvia is also part of eight Interreg programmes ([Interreg](#)). The Baltic Sea Region programme that offers 80% funding opportunities is mentioned in the Table below.

Table 82.- Interreg Baltic Sea Region.

Country and specific region if applicable	Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Norway
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	
Short description	Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2021-2027 is a source of EU funding. There are four thematic priorities; Innovative societies, Water-smart societies, Climate-neutral societies and Cooperation governance. 80% funding.
Example of funded projects	BioBoosters , Best Ace , Cinurgi , CEForestry
Funding agency/ body	Interreg
“Open call or specific deadline”	Specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research organisations, institutes, large companies, sectoral agencies,
Link to application	https://interreg-baltic.eu/about/

3.10 ITALY

3.10.1 National funding opportunities

At the national level, Italy has foreseen a wide range of instruments supporting ecological transition, circular economy and so also bioeconomy-related projects and investments. The main funding body is the national Ministry for Enterprise and Made in Italy (MIMIT). Dedicated relevant financial allocations have been made in the framework of PNRR (NRRF National Resilience and Recovery Fund – NextGenEU) to boost the national digital and ecological transition and meet the ambitious Green Deal objectives. The mission "Green Revolution and Ecological Transition" aims to support a profound change in order to achieve a green, ecological and inclusive transition in Italy, promoting the circular economy, the development of renewable energy sources and more sustainable agriculture.



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The main national funding opportunities are summarized hereafter.

Table 83 - Critical and Emerging Technologies (STEP)

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES, less developed regions (Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Puglia, Sardegna e Sicilia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	STEP
Funding title/ name	Critical and Emerging Technologies (STEP)
Short description	Intervention of the National Research, Innovation and Competitiveness Programme 2021-27 in support of research and development projects, to be carried out in the territories of the less developed regions, consistent with the technological sectors falling within the scope of Regulation (EU) No. 2024/795, establishing a Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) It supports projects regarding industrial research and experimental development aimed at creating new products, processes or services, or significantly improving existing products, processes or services through the development of critical technologies identified by the STEP regulation: a) digital technologies, including those that contribute to the goals and objectives of the strategic programme for the digital decade 2030 and the innovation of deep tech technologies; b) clean and resource-efficient technologies, including net zero emissions technologies as defined in the net zero emissions industry regulation; (c) biotechnology, including for the development of medicinal products included in the Union list of critical medicines, and their components Research and development projects must be carried out in a collaborative framework
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Enterprise and of Made in Italy
Open call or specific deadline	Applications are possible from 14.5.2025
Target beneficiaries	Companies of any size that are engaged in industrial, agro-industrial or craft activities, as well as research centres, can benefit from the subsidies, as long as they have at least two approved financial statements at the time of submitting their application for subsidies. Research organisations, agricultural companies and industrial service companies can co-propose a joint project with the aforementioned subjects.
Link to application	https://fondocrescitasostenibile.mcc.it/mise-fcs/
Grant type	The incentives are granted, within the maximum aid intensities and individual notification thresholds established, respectively, by Article 25 and Article 4 of the GBER regulation, in the following forms, in competition with each other: in the form of subsidised financing, for a nominal percentage equal to 50 per cent of eligible costs and expenses; in the form of a direct contribution to expenses, for a nominal percentage of eligible costs and expenses broken down as follows:





	35 per cent for small enterprises; 30 per cent for medium-sized enterprises; 25 per cent for large enterprises. For research organisations, the benefits are granted exclusively in the form of a direct contribution to expenditure, for a nominal percentage equal to 60 per cent of eligible costs and expenses for industrial research activities and equal to 40 per cent of eligible costs and expenses for experimental development.
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Table 84 - Support for investments in critical technologies (STEP)

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES, less developed regions (Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Puglia, Sardegna e Sicilia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	STEP
Funding title/ name	Mini development contracts <i>Support for investments in critical technologies (STEP)</i>
Short description	The investment plans, through the critical technologies provided for in the STEP Regulation or the development of the related value chain, should be able to promote the security of supply as well as the resilience and productivity of the system. In particular, investment plans should cover the following areas: - digital technologies and deep tech innovation; - clean and resource-efficient technologies, including net-zero emission technologies; - biotechnologies, including medicinal products included in the Union list of critical medicines. The financial dimension of the investments is between a minimum of 5 million euros and a maximum of 20 million euros
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Enterprise and of Made in Italy, management entrusted to Invitalia spa
Open call or specific deadline	Proposals can be submitted until 27.5.2025
Target beneficiaries	Companies of all sizes
Link to application	https://www.invitalia.it/cosa-facciamo/sosteniamo-grandi-investimenti/mini-contratto-di-sviluppo/presenta-la-domanda
Grant type	Incentives are granted in accordance with article 14 of the GBER Regulation and within the limits of the intensity provided for in the Regional State Aid Map. The benefits are, in particular, granted in the form of a non-repayable grant to cover eligible expenses according to the following percentages: a) small enterprises: 55%; b) medium-sized enterprises: 45%; c) large enterprises: 35%.





Table 85 - Development contract - Net Zero

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Development contract - Net Zero
Short description	Net Zero is the incentive that supports the ecological transition of the national production system and net zero emission technologies. It supports industrial development and environmental protection projects - as well as research, development and innovation projects - with eligible costs of at least 20 million euros. It is possible to apply for incentives for: - a new production unit - an increase in production capacity - a conversion of activities - the restructuring of a production unit: a fundamental change or significant improvement Projects can be carried out by one or more companies and must aim to strengthen the production chains related to ecological transition, such as: - batteries - solar panels - wind turbines - heat pumps - electrolysers - devices for carbon capture and storage (CCUS)
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	The measure is promoted by the Ministry of Enterprise and 'Made in Italy' with the <u>Directorial Decree</u> of 14 June 2024 and is managed by Invitalia through the instrument of the development contract.
Open call or specific deadline	Open call
Target beneficiaries	The measure is funded by PNRR. At least 40% of the resources are in the regions of Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Puglia, Sardinia and Sicily
Link to application	https://www.invitalia.it/cosa-facciamo/sosteniamo-grandi-investimenti/contratto-di-sviluppo---net-zero/presenta-la-domanda
Grant type	The incentives are granted in the following forms: - subsidised contribution for equipment - subsidised financing - direct contribution to expenses Large companies that make productive investments in the centre-north of Italy can also receive non-repayable grants equal to at least 15% of the total amount of eligible expenditure.





Table 86 - Competitiveness and resilience of strategic supply chains

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	Strategic national value chains
Funding title/ name	Competitiveness and resilience of strategic supply chains - Development contracts (NRRP / PNRR)
Short description	The measure aims to finance private investments aimed at strengthening the country's main strategic value chains, such as agro-industry, design, fashion and furniture, home systems, metallurgy and steel, mechanical engineering, electronics and optics, automotive, trains, ships, aircraft and aerospace, and chemical and pharmaceutical industries. The facilitating tool identified for the implementation of the intervention is the Development Contract.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Enterprise and of Made in Italy Management is entrusted to Invitalia S.p.A.
Open call or specific deadline	Applications are possible until 10.6.2025
Target beneficiaries	The incentives can be granted to companies of any size operating throughout Italy that intend to implement industrial development programmes including, where appropriate, research, development and innovation projects, as well as development programmes for environmental protection. 40% of the resources are allocated to financing projects to be carried out in the regions of Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Puglia, Sardinia and Sicily. The programmes may be implemented: by several companies operating in the relevant supply chain; by a single company, provided that the development programme has strong elements of integration with the relevant supply chain.
Link to application	https://www.invitalia.it/cosa-facciamo/sosteniamo-grandi-investimenti/contratto-di-sviluppo/sportello-catene-di-approvigionamento-strategiche/presenta-la-domanda
Grant type	The incentives are granted in the form of subsidised loans, interest rate subsidies, contributions towards the cost of equipment and direct contributions to expenses.

Table 87 - GTF Green Transition Fund

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	Green transition
Funding title/ name	GTF Green Transition Fund (Venture capital)



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Short description	The Green Transition Fund – PNRR is a tool designed to stimulate the growth of an innovation ecosystem in the green transition sectors through venture capital investments. The investment is managed by CDP Venture Capital SGR S.p.A., with 250 million euros. The GTF's investment strategy is aimed at the sectors of renewable energy, circular economy, mobility, energy efficiency, waste disposal, energy storage and similar
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	CDP Venture Capital SGR S.p.A
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	The Fund promotes investments in target companies that operate in sectors that respect DNSH criteria and that contribute 100% to climate objectives.
Link to application	https://www.cdpventurecapital.it/cdp-venture-capital/it/fondo_green_transition.page
Grant type	Investment fund

Table 88 - Research and development projects in the field of the circular economy

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	Circular economy
Funding title/ name	Research and development projects in the field of the circular economy
Short description	The intervention of the Fund for Sustainable Growth for research and development projects in the field of the circular economy, activated by the decree of 11 June 2020, supports the research, development and testing of innovative solutions for the efficient and sustainable use of resources, with the aim of promoting the conversion of production activities towards a circular economy model in which the value of products, materials and resources is maintained for as long as possible, and the production of waste is minimised Projects must be aimed at the productive reconversion of economic activities within the circular economy, in one or more of the following lines of intervention: - product and process innovations in the field of efficient use of resources and waste treatment and transformation; - design and prototype experimentation of integrated technological models aimed at strengthening industrial symbiosis pathways; - systems, tools and methodologies for the development of technologies for the supply, rational use and sanitation of water; - innovative technological tools able to increase the lifespan of products and make the production cycle more efficient; - experimentation with new models of intelligent packaging (smart packaging) that also include the use of recycled materials; - systems for the selection of lightweight materials, in order to increase the recovery and recycling of small and lightweight materials.





	Projects must have eligible expenses and costs of no less than 500 thousand euros and no more than 2 million euros.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ministry for Enterprise and Made in Italy. Management entrusted to Invitalia spa
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	Companies of any size that carry out industrial, agro-industrial or artisan activities, or provide services to industry and research centres, which present projects individually or jointly. For joint projects only, public and private research organisations are also eligible as co-proponents.
Link to application	https://www.invitalia.it/cosa-facciamo/rafforziamo-le-imprese/economia-circolare/presenta-la-domanda
Grant type	For companies, subsidised financing from the FRI, for 50% of eligible project expenses and costs. Contributions to expenses, in the following percentages of eligible project expenses and costs: 20% for micro and small enterprises, and for research organisations 15% for medium-sized enterprises; 10% for large enterprises.

Table 89 - Fund for the support of industrial transition

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Fund for the support of industrial transition – NRRP
Short description	The Fund for Supporting Industrial Transition aims to encourage the adaptation of the Italian production system to EU policies on the fight against climate change. The budget is 400 million euros, to be drawn from the resources of Measure M1C2 - Investment 7 of the PNRR (sub-investment 1). Investment programmes must involve only one production unit of the proposing company, and must pursue at least one of the following objectives: greater energy efficiency in the execution of business activities; efficient use of resources, through a reduction in their use including through the reuse, recycling or recovery of raw materials and/or the use of recycled raw materials. Investments must include total eligible expenditure of between 3 million and 20 million euros
Example of funded projects	





Funding agency/ body	Ministry for Enterprise and Made in Italy Management entrusted to Invitalia spa
Open call or specific deadline	Open call from 5.2.2025 until 8.4.2025
Target beneficiaries	The benefits are granted to companies of any size operating throughout the country. 40% of the resources are destined to finance projects to be carried out in the regions of Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Puglia, Sardinia and Sicily. 50% of the resources are reserved for energy-intensive companies (i.e. those included in the list kept by the Fund for Energy and Environmental Services - CSEA, relating to energy-intensive companies pursuant to Article 19, paragraph 2, of Law No. 167 of 20 November 2017).
Link to application	https://www.invitalia.it/cosa-facciamo/sosteniamo-grandi-investimenti/fondo-transizione-industriale/presenta-la-domanda
Grant type	The subsidies are granted in the form of a non-repayable contribution under the conditions and within the maximum aid intensity limits provided for by the GBER Regulation and by section 2.6: Aid for decarbonisation of the 'Temporary Framework'.

Table 90 - Green New Deal

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Green New Deal
Short description	The incentive supports, with financial subsidies, the realisation of research, development and innovation projects within the scope of the ecological and circular transition of the Italian Green New Deal, with particular regard to the objectives of: - decarbonisation of the economy - circular economy - reduction of the use of plastic and replacement of plastic with alternative materials - urban regeneration - sustainable tourism - adaptation and mitigation of risks in the territory deriving from climate change Industrial research and experimental development activities must be aimed at creating new products, processes or services, or at significantly improving existing products, processes or services. Investments for industrialisation, which are only allowed for SMEs, must have a high level of innovation and sustainability. The measure is intended to support projects by companies eligible for subsidised financing from the FRI (Revolving Fund to Support Business and





	Investment in Research), and provides for the granting of contributions to support industrial research, experimental development and, for SMEs, the industrialisation of research and development results. Projects must have eligible expenses and costs of no less than 3 million and no more than 40 million euros.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	MIMIT Ministry of Enterprise and 'Made in Italy (Fund for Sustainable Growth)
Open call or specific deadline	Open call
Target beneficiaries	Companies of any size that carry out industrial, agro-industrial or artisan activities, provide services to industry and research centres, presenting projects individually or jointly.
Link to application	https://fondocrescitasostenibile.mcc.it/mise-fcs/
Grant type	Subsidised financing from the FRI equal to 60% of the project costs, accompanied by bank financing for 20% and in the presence of suitable credit certification. Non-repayable grants, for a maximum percentage of eligible project expenses and costs: equal to 15 per cent as a contribution to expenses, to support industrial research and experimental development activities and for the acquisition of consultancy services related to industrialisation activities; equal to 10 per cent as a contribution to plant and equipment, for the acquisition of fixed assets involved in industrialisation activities.

Table 91 - Italian CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	Rural development
Funding title/ name	Italian CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (PSP)
Short description	The PSP is an ambitious strategy with respect to various objectives of competitiveness, environmental sustainability, territorial balance and food quality, working in close synergy with other policies that are not strictly agricultural but which reinforce its scope and effectiveness: from the PNRR to cohesion policies. For the first time, all the instruments that can be financed through the two main European funds that concern the primary sector, EAGF and EAFRD, are included in a single national programming document, outlining a national strategy for the agricultural, agri-food and forestry sectors. The Plan provides for a total of 173 interventions, between the First and Second Pillars, and financial resources for a total of almost 37 billion euros for the period 2023-2027, with which to address the needs expressed by the territory, aiming at strengthening the competitiveness of the agrifood and forestry system in a sustainable perspective, strengthening the resilience and vitality of rural areas, promoting quality agricultural and forestry work and job





	security, supporting the ability to activate knowledge exchanges, research and innovations and optimising the governance system. Each region can define a Regional Complement for the Rural Development of the 2023-2027 PSP (CSR), which represents the local implementation tool of the national strategy. Regional choices regarding the implementation of rural development, i.e. the interventions to be activated in their territory, come from an analysis that each Region has carried out regarding its needs and priorities, as well as from discussions within the regional partnership Funding options include investments by companies in the primary sector and environmental investments
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Relevant regional bodies
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	Agriculture and forestry companies
Link to application	
Grant type	Direct payments Grants

Italy is also involved in several cross-border and transnational cooperation programmes, that also dedicate funding to thematic priorities linked to green economy, circularity and bioeconomy.

In particular, the following programmes are worth mentioning:

Cross-border: Italy-Austria, Italy-Croatia, Italy-France (Maritime), Italy-Malta, Italy-Slovenia, Italy-Switzerland, France-Italy (ALCOTRA), Greece-Italy, NEXT Italy Tunisia, IPA Italy Albania Montenegro (Southern Adriatic).

Table 92 - Interreg VIA Italy-Austria Programme 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Autonomous Province of Bozen, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, some provinces of Veneto Region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VIA Italy-Austria Programme 2021-2027
Short description	Cross-border cooperation projects aligned with the defined Programme's priorities. The following priorities can be linked to projects in the field of bioeconomy and circular economy: PO1 Innovation and enterprises PO2 Climate change and biodiversity PO3 Community-led local development





Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Managing Authority: Autonomous Province of Bozen
Open call or specific deadline	3 rd call currently open until 1.7.2025
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://interreg.net/it/
Grant type	Grants (ERDF funding)

Table 93 - Interreg VIA Italy-Croatia Programme 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and some provinces of Veneto – Emilia-Romagna – Marche – Abruzzo – Molise and Apulia regions)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VIA Italy-Croatia Programme 2021-2027
Short description	Cross-border cooperation projects aligned with the defined Programme's priorities. The following priorities can be linked to projects in the field of bioeconomy and circular economy: Priority 1. Sustainable growth in the blue economy Priority 2. Green and resilient shared environment Priority 3. Sustainable maritime and multimodal transport
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Managing Authority: Veneto Region
Open call or specific deadline	Next call expected for May 2025
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/italy-croatia
Grant type	Grants (ERDF funding)

Table 94 - Interreg VIA Italy-France (Maritime) Programme 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (some provinces of Liguria, Sardinia and Tuscany regions)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General





Funding title/ name	Interreg VIA Italy-France (Maritime) Programme 2021-2027
Short description	Cross-border cooperation projects aligned with the defined Programme's priorities. The following priorities can be linked to projects in the field of bioeconomy and circular economy: 1. Innovation, competitiveness and sustainable growth This challenge is linked to sustainable growth, the competitiveness of SMEs, the development of skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship in the cross-border area. 2. Territory and environment This challenge is dedicated to climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention and resilience. The programme aims to support the so-called priority cross-border supply chains, which include boating and shipbuilding, innovative and sustainable tourism, 'blue and green' biotechnologies and 'blue and green' renewable energy.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Managing Authority: Tuscany Region
Open call or specific deadline	3 rd call open. 4 th call expected in the second half of 2025 (at the moment)
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://interreg-marittimo.eu/
Grant type	Grants (ERDF funding)

Table 95 - Interreg VIA Italy-Malta Programme 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Sicily region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VIA Italy-Malta Programme 2021-2027
Short description	Cross-border cooperation programme that strengthens collaboration between Sicily and Malta, aiming to foster smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth in the central Mediterranean region. The programme focuses on enhancing research and innovation capacities, promoting environmental protection and climate change adaptation, supporting sustainable tourism and cultural heritage, and improving governance and institutional cooperation.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Managing Authority: Sicily Region





Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://italiamalta.it/
Grant type	Grants (ERDF funding)

Table 96 - Interreg VIA Italy-Slovenia Programme 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Friuli Venezia Giulia region, province of Venice in Veneto region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VIA Italy-Slovenia Programme 2021-2027
Short description	Cross-border cooperation projects aligned with the defined Programme's priorities. The following priorities can be linked to projects in the field of bioeconomy and circular economy: PO 1 - A more competitive and intelligent Europe, through the promotion of innovative and intelligent economic transformation and regional connectivity to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) PO 2 - A resilient, greener, low-carbon Europe, but in transition towards a net-zero carbon economy, by promoting the transition towards clean and fair energy, green and blue investments, the circular economy, climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk management and prevention, and sustainable urban mobility
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	Managing Authority: FVG Region
Open call or specific deadline	TBC
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://www.ita-slo.eu/
Grant type	Grants (ERDF funding)

Table 97 - Interreg VIA Italy-Switzerland Programme 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (the provinces of Lecco, Como, Varese and Sondrio (Lombardy), the provinces of Novara, Vercelli, Biella, Verbano Cusio-Ossola (Piedmont), the autonomous province of Bolzano, the autonomous region of Valle d'Aosta)
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Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VIA Italy-Switzerland Programme 2021-2027
Short description	The main objective of the Interreg VI-A Italy-Switzerland Programme is to encourage investments in the territory within the scope of 4 strategic priorities and the specific Interreg objective: 1. A smarter and more competitive Europe 2. A greener Europe 3. A more connected Europe 4. A more social and inclusive Europe ISO.1. Better governance of cooperation The selected specific objectives (SO) more relevant for bioeconomy are: SO 1.1 (Axis 1) Developing and strengthening research and innovation capacities and introducing advanced technologies SO 2.4 (Axis 2) Adaptation to climate change, disaster risk prevention and increased resilience SO 2.7 (Axis 2) Protection of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, reduction of pollution
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Managing Authority: Lombardy Region
Open call or specific deadline	Call currently open until 10.6.2025
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://www.interreg-italiasvizzera.eu/wps/portal/site/interreg-italia-svizzera
Grant type	Grants

Table 98 - Interreg VIA France-Italy (ALCOTRA) Programme 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta, provinces of Turin and Cuneo for Piedmont region, province of Imperia for Liguria region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VIA France-Italy (ALCOTRA) Programme 2021-2027
Short description	Cross-border cooperation projects aligned with the defined Programme's priorities. The following priorities can be linked to projects in the field of bioeconomy and circular economy: Priority 1. Innovation and research (focused on the ecological transition) Priority 2. Environment (including renewable energies and sustainable mobility) Priority 4. Territorial approach





Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Managing Authority: French Region of AUVERGNE-RHONE-ALPES
Open call or specific deadline	Call for micro projects currently open until 23.4.2025
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://www.interreg-alcotra.eu/it
Grant type	Grants (ERDF funding)

Table 99 - Interreg VIA Greece-Italy Programme 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Apulia Region - Provinces of Foggia, Bari, Brindisi, Lecce, Barletta-Andria-Trani (BAT), Taranto; Basilicata Region - Province of Matera; Calabria Region - Provinces of Catanzaro, Cosenza, Crotone and Reggio Calabria)		
Sector (specify sector or general)	General		
Funding title/ name	Interreg VIA Greece-Italy Programme 2021-2027		
Short description	Interreg VI-A Greece-Italy Programme is a European Territorial Cooperation Programme that aims to help public institutions and local stakeholders to develop cross-border projects and pilot actions to create new policy, products and services, with the final goal to improve the citizens' quality of life. With a budget of EUR 106 million euro, the programme will enhance innovation for a more competitive and smarter Greece-Italy area, focusing on green and digital growth, promoting clean and fair energy transition, investment in circular economy, improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning and enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement macro regional strategies. The following priorities can be linked to projects in the field of bioeconomy and circular economy: Priority 1. Smart and Innovation Priority 2. Green and low carbon		
Example of funded projects			
Funding agency/ body	Managing Authority:	Hellenic Republic	Ministry of Economy and Finance
Open call or specific deadline	Special Secretariat of ERDF and CF Programmes		
Open call or specific deadline	Calls expected in 2025		
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area		
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://www.greece-italy.eu/		





Grant type	Grants (ERDF funding)
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Table 100 - Interreg NEXT Italy-Tunisia Programme 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (provinces of Sicily region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg NEXT Italy-Tunisia Programme 2021-2027
Short description	This cross-border programme strengthens cooperation between the territories of Sicily (9 provinces) and Tunisia (16 governorates), focusing on shared socio-economic and environmental challenges. Key focus areas include promoting competitiveness and sustainable development through research and innovation, supporting green transition and climate resilience, promoting social inclusion by ensuring equitable access to healthcare, and enabling engagement in the tourism and culture sectors. The most relevant priorities are: <u>Objective 1 – Development of SMEs and entrepreneurship</u> 1.1 Strengthening of economic clusters 1.2 Promotion and support of entrepreneurship <u>Objective 2 – Support for training, research, technological development and innovation</u> 2.1 Promotion and support for research and innovation in key sectors <u>Objective 3 – Environmental protection and adaptation to climate change</u> 3.1 Joint actions for the protection of the environment 3.2 Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Managing Authority: Sicily Region
Open call or specific deadline	There are no open calls at the moment
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://www.italietunisie.eu/programme-de-cooperation-interreg-vi-a-next-italie-tunisie/
Grant type	Grants





Table 101 - IPA South Adriatic 2021-2027 Programme

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Apulia Region)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	IPA South Adriatic 2021-2027 Programme
Short description	The Interreg IPA South Adriatic 2021 2027 is a cross-border cooperation Programme co-funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA III), with a total budget of 81.258.768,19 euro (including 17,51% co-financing). The objective is to promote a smarter, greener, more connected, more social and better governed South Adriatic and to intensify cooperation in the area, by implementing joint actions between national and regional institutional and non-profit actors and by fostering smart inclusive and sustainable development. The following priorities can be linked to projects in the field of bioeconomy and circular economy: PA1 Smart - SMEs PA2 Green - Energy
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	Managing Authority: Apulia Region
Open call or specific deadline	No open calls at the moment
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/
Grant type	Grants

Table 102 - IPA Adriatic Ionian (ADRION) Programme

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lombardy, Marche, Molise, Autonomous Province of Bolzano, Autonomous Province of Trento, Apulia, Sicily, Umbria, Veneto)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	IPA Adriatic Ionian (ADRION) Programme 2021-2027
Short description	The IPA ADRION Programme is a European transnational cooperation programme that invests in regional innovation systems, cultural and natural heritage protection, environmental resilience, sustainable transport and capacity building.





	The programme is marked by a strong sustainable approach, where green policy plays a major role with dedicated resources for future funded projects up to 54% of the total allocated resources. The more relevant priorities are: Priority 1 - Supporting a smarter Adriatic-Ionian region Priority 2 - Supporting a smarter Adriatic-Ionian region Priority 3 - Supporting a carbon neutral and better-connected Adriatic-Ionian region
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	Managing Authority: Emilia-Romagna region
Open call or specific deadline	2 nd call expected to be launched in 2025
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://www.interreg-ipa-adrion.eu/
Grant type	Grants

Table 103 - Interreg Alpine Space

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Lombardy, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Autonomous Province of Trento, Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen, Valle d'Aosta, Piedmont, Liguria)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg Alpine Space 2021-2027 Programme
Short description	The Programme act as a driver for stakeholders who are willing to put into practice fresh ideas on climate resilience and green infrastructure, carbon neutrality, innovation and governance. The most relevant priorities are: Priority 1 - Climate resilient and green Alpine region Priority 2 – Carbon neutral and resource sensitive Alpine region Innovation and digitalisation supporting a green Alpine region
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Managing Authority: Land of Salzburg (Austria)
Open call or specific deadline	Call expected to be launched in 2025
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://www.alpine-space.eu/
Grant type	Grants (ERDF funding)





Table 104 - Interreg Central Europe

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Piedmont, Valle d'Aosta, Liguria, Lombardy, Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen, Autonomous Province of Trento, Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg Central Europe 2021-2027 Programme
Short description	The Programme funds cooperation among public institutions, private businesses and civil society organisations from all across central Europe. The most relevant priorities are: Priority 1: Cooperating for a smarter central Europe Priority 2: Cooperating for a greener central Europe
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Managing Authority: City of Vienna, Municipal Department for European Affairs (Austria)
Open call or specific deadline	Strategic capitalisation call to be launched in September 2025
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://www.interreg-central.eu/
Grant type	Grants (ERDF funding)

Table 105 - Interreg Euro-MED

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Abruzzo, Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardy, Marche, Molise, Piedmont, Sardinia, Sicily, Tuscany, Umbria, Valle D'Aosta, Veneto)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg Euro-MED 2021-2027 Programme
Short description	From the numerous funding priorities and specific objectives proposed by the European Commission for 2021-2027, Interreg Euro-MED selected 3 priorities and 5 specific objectives. The most relevant are: Priority 1 – A Smarter Mediterranean Specific objective 1.1: Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies Priority 2 – A Greener Mediterranean





	Specific objective 2.4: Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches Specific objective 2.6: Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy Specific objective 2.7: Enhancing protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure including in urban areas and reducing all forms of pollution
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Managing Authority: Provence Alpes Cote d'Azur Region (France)
Open call or specific deadline	6th and 7th calls foreseen in 2026
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://interreg-euro-med.eu/en/
Grant type	Grants

Table 106 - Interreg NEXT MED

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Liguria, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicilia, Sardegna, Toscana, Lazio)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg NEXT MED 2021-2027 Programme
Short description	Interreg NEXT MED brings together 15 countries towards a smarter, greener, more inclusive, and better governed Mediterranean region. The most relevant priorities are: Priority 1 – A more competitive and smarter Mediterranean by: – Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies – Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments Strategic territorial projects conduct studies, test solutions and transfer results addressing the strategic topics of a specific typology of territories. Priority 2 – A greener, low-carbon and resilient Mediterranean by: – Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions – Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account ecosystem based approaches – Promoting access to water and sustainable water management – Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy
Example of funded projects	





Funding body	Managing Authority: Autonomous Region of Sardinia
Open call or specific deadline	2nd call open until 15.5.2025
Target beneficiaries	Public and private beneficiaries of the territory of the Programme area
Link to application	Link to the Programme's website: https://interreg-euro-med.eu/en/
Grant type	Grants

3.10.2 Regional funding opportunities

Regions and Autonomous Provinces play a key role in providing support to bioeconomy-related projects and investments, in particular through the ERDF Programmes that can include dedicated support for research and development, innovation, industrialization and investment initiatives proposed by companies. Such investments have to be in line with the regional smart specialization strategy and its priority thematic areas and development trajectories. Green transition, circular economy and / or bioeconomy are included among the target sectors to be enhanced in order to boost regional competitive, sustainable and inclusive development.

The management of the Operational Programmes is assigned to the Managing Authorities (MA), who can delegate the execution of specific sections of the Programme to intermediate organisations.

Table 107 - PR FESR Abruzzo 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Abruzzo
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Abruzzo 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for research, innovation, development and technology transfer processes, Support for increasing the competitiveness of local production (SMEs), Support for the creation of new innovative businesses, Waste prevention, recovery and recycling, Circular economy and businesses, Regeneration of urban space
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Abruzzo Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme:





	https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16fpr004/FESR_Abruzzo_Nmet.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 108 - PR FESR/FSE Basilicata 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Basilicata
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR/FSE Basilicata 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Basilicata smart (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs also through productive investments), Basilicata Green (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, smart energy networks and storage systems, transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy), Basilicata territorial systems
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Basilicata Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16fpr004/2021IT16FFPR004_01_03.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 109 - PR FESR Calabria 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Calabria
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Calabria 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for A more competitive and intelligent Calabria (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), A more competitive and intelligent Calabria STEP (contributing to investments related to the critical technologies of the European STEP platform), A resilient and sustainable Calabria (energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, smart energy





	systems, networks and storage plants, adaptation to climate change, transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy) A resilient and sustainable Calabria STEP (supporting investments contributing to STEP objectives)
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Calabria Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16ffpr003/2021IT16FFPR003-2_0.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 110 - PR FESR Campania 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Campania
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Campania 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Research, innovation, digitisation and competitiveness (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), Digital, clean technologies and biotechnologies (investments that contribute to the objectives of the STEP platform), Energy, Environment and Sustainability (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, promoting the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy)
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Campania Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rfpr005/2021IT16RFPR005-2_1.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants





Table 111 - PR FESR Emilia-Romagna 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Emilia-Romagna
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Emilia-Romagna 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Research, innovation, digitisation and competitiveness (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), Sustainability, decarbonisation, biodiversity and resilience (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, promoting the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy), Investments and research for the strategic STEP technologies
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Emilia-Romagna Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rfr006/2021IT16RFPR006-2_0.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 112 - PR FESR FVG 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region (FVG)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR FVG 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Research, innovation, digitisation and competitiveness (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), Sustainability, decarbonisation, biodiversity and resilience (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, promoting the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy)
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region





Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rfpr007/2021IT16RFPR007-2_1.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 113 - PR FESR Lazio 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Lazio
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Lazio 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Research, innovation, digitisation and competitiveness (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), Critical technologies and competences (STEP), Clean and efficient technologies (STEP), Sustainability, decarbonisation, biodiversity and resilience (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, promoting the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy)
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Lazio Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rfpr008/2021IT16RFPR008-3_0.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 114 - PR FESR Liguria 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Liguria
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Liguria 2021-2027





Short description	The Programme includes Support for Development and consolidation of the attractiveness and competitiveness of the Ligurian system, with particular reference to innovation, digitalisation and strengthening of investments (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), Green transformation and transition to a sustainable development model, with particular reference to energy efficiency, renewable energy and circular economies (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, promoting the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy), Sustainable and integrated development of territories
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Liguria Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rfpr009/2021IT16RFPR009-2_0.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 115 - PR FESR Lombardia 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Lombardia
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Lombardia 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for a more competitive and smart Europe (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), a greener Europe (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, promoting the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy), Critical technologies in deep tech and biotechnology (STEP)
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Lombardia Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)





Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rpr010/2021IT16RFPR010-2_0.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 116 - PR FESR Marche 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Marche
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Marche 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Research, innovation, digitisation and competitiveness (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs, also through productive investments), Energy, climate and risks, water resources and biodiversity (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, adaptation to climate change), Promotion of sustainable and integrated development
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Marche Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rpr011/2021IT16RFPR011-2_0.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 117 - PR FESR/FSE Molise 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Molise
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR/FSE Molise 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for A smarter Molise (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs, also through productive investments), A greener Molise (smart energy systems,





	networks and storage plants, adaptation to climate change, transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy)
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Molise Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16ffpr001/2021IT16FFPR001_01_01.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 118 - PR FESR PA Bolzano 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Autonomous Province of Bozen
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR PA Bolzano 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Smart – Promotion of technological change (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies), Green - Combating climate change (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to climate change), Promotion of sustainable and integrated development
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Autonomous Province of Bozen
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rfpr012/2021IT16RFPR012_01_01.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 119 - PR FESR PA Trento 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Autonomous Province of Trento
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Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR PA Trento 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Competitive Trentino (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening the competitiveness of companies, also through productive investments), Sustainable Trentino (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, adaptation to climate change), Promotion of sustainable and integrated development
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Autonomous Province of Trento
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rfpr013/2021IT16RFPR013_01_01.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 120 - PR FESR Piemonte 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Piedmont
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Piemonte 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for R&D&I Competitiveness and digitisation (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), Ecological transition and resilience (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, smart energy networks and storage systems, adaptation to climate change, promoting the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy), Cohesion and sustainable development
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Piedmont Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme:





	https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16fpr014/2021IT16RFPR014-4_0.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 121 - PR FESR/FSE+ Puglia 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Apulia
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR/FSE+ Puglia 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Competitiveness and Innovation (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), STEP platform: critical digital technologies and biotechnologies (investments that contribute to the objectives of the STEP platform), STEP platform: critical clean and resource-efficient technologies, Green economy (energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, smart energy systems, networks and storage plants, adaptation to climate change, transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy), Territorial and urban development
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Apulia Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16fpr002/2021IT16FFPR002-2_0.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 122.- PR FESR Sardegna 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Sardinia
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Sardegna 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Smart competitiveness (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), Green transition (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of





	greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, smart energy networks and storage systems, adaptation to climate change, promoting the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy), Sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Sardinia Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rfr015/2021IT16RFPR015-2_0.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 123 - PR FESR Sicilia 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Sicily
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Sicilia 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for A more competitive and intelligent Sicily (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), Greener Sicily (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, smart energy networks and storage systems, adaptation to climate change, promoting the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy), Towards territorial development strategies in Sicily
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Sicily Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rfr016/2021IT16RFPR016-2_0.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants





Table 124 - PR FESR Toscana 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Tuscany
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Toscana 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Research, innovation, digitisation and competitiveness (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), Ecological transition, resilience and biodiversity (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, adaptation to climate change, promoting the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy), Territorial cohesion and integrated territorial development
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	Tuscany Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rfpr017/2021IT16RFPR017-3_0.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 125 - PR FESR Umbria 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Umbria
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Umbria 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Development of critical technologies in digital, deep tech and biotechnology sectors (support for investments contributing to the STEP platform for strategic technologies for Europe), Development of critical technologies in the field of clean and resource-efficient technologies (support for investments contributing to STEP platform's objectives), A more competitive region: Research and Innovation (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), A more sustainable region: fight against climate change, transition towards a zero emissions and circular economy (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, adaptation to climate change, promoting the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy)





Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	Umbria Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rpr018/2021IT16RFPR018-2_1.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 126 - PR FESR Valle d'Aosta 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Valle d'Aosta
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	PR FESR Valle d'Aosta 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for Research, innovation, digitisation and competitiveness (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), Energy and adaptation to climate change (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, adaptation to climate change)
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	Valle d'Aosta Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational programme: https://opencoesione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rpr019/2021IT16RFPR019_01_01.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

Table 127 - PR FESR Veneto 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Veneto
Sector (specify sector or general)	General





Funding title/ name	PR FESR Veneto 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme includes Support for A smarter and more competitive Europe by promoting an intelligent economic transformation (developing research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, strengthening sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs), A greener, more resilient and low-emissions Europe, in transition towards a carbon neutral economy (promoting energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, adaptation to climate change, promoting the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy), Integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental local development
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Veneto Region
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research centres, local actors (depending on the specific measure)
Link to application	Link to the operational Programme: https://opencoessione.gov.it/media/files/programma-2021it16rpr020/2021IT16RFPR020-2_1.pdf
Grant type	Mainly (but not only) grants

3.11 POLAND

3.11.1 National funding opportunities

Poland counts on a set of relevant funding instruments supporting the twin transition (digital and green), and therefore R&D&I projects and investments in the field of circular economy and bioeconomy. A general framework is established under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, with a key role played by the Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy. The Programme of the European Funds for Modern Economy for 2021-2027 also provides incentives to entrepreneurs, innovation and green transition. EU Modernisation Fund - National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NfEP&WM) funds initiatives enabling the implementation of the EU's energy and climate change objectives up to 2030, supported in a complementary way also by the European Funds for Infrastructure, Climate, Environment 2021-2027 (FEnIKS). Strategic Research and Development Programmes managed by NCBR (National Centre for Research and Development) are also an interesting tool for initiatives with a potential to solve specific technical, scientific or social problems.

An overview of the main national opportunities is summarized hereafter.



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Table 128 - National Recovery and Resilience Plan (KPO)

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	National Recovery and Resilience Plan (KPO)
Short description	The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (KPO) is a development plan that sets out goals related to the recovery and creation of socio-economic resilience of Poland after the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as reforms and investments to implement them. The KPO is in line with the long-term goals of the EU and the recommendations of the EU Council for Poland, which is why it focuses on climate protection and digital transformation. Its strategic goal is to support the construction of lasting competitiveness of the economy and an increase in the standard of living of society in the longer term (resilience), which will be done in particular by accelerating the development of a low-emission, circular economy that responsibly uses environmental resources (green growth), as well as development based on the use of digital solutions (digital growth). KPO has a financial dimension of PLN 268 billion, with 57 investments and 54 reforms. The KPO invests in the development of the economy, innovation, environment, digitalization, education, health. The supported areas are Resilience and competitiveness of the economy, Green energy and reduced energy consumption, Digital transformation, Efficiency, availability and quality of the healthcare system, Green smart mobility, Energy security (REPowerEU), Improving the quality of institutions and conditions for the implementation of the KPO.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Reference body: Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy KPO Coordination Department
Open call or specific deadline	Different funding opportunities
Target beneficiaries	Entrepreneurs, public institutions, other socio-economic entities
Link to application	Reference website: https://www.kpo.gov.pl/
Grant type	

Table 129 - Programme of the European Funds for Modern Economy for 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
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Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Programme of the European Funds for Modern Economy for 2021-2027
Short description	The Programme aims at increasing the potential for research and innovation and the use of advanced technologies; increasing the competitiveness of SMEs; developing skills for smart specialisations, industrial transformation and entrepreneurship; transforming the economy towards Industry 4.0 and green technologies. Support is concentrated on 4 priorities: I - Support for entrepreneurs - providing co-financing in the areas of R&D, implementation of new solutions, R&D infrastructure, internationalisation, competence development, digitalisation, green economy. II - Innovation-friendly environment - supporting projects of strategic importance to the Polish economy, including, among others, the development of public research infrastructure, transfer and commercialisation of technologies developed at universities and institutes, strengthening the potential of business environment institutions such as accelerators, clusters, research institutions, broad support for start-ups and the development of enterprises commencing innovative activity - Innovation Coach. III - Greening of enterprises - support for projects that directly contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the European Green Deal, including climate neutrality, green transformation of the economy and sustainable development. The offer to companies will include a green guarantee fund, a green credit and IPCEI projects. This will be complemented by innovative public procurement of R&D work on technologies and products not yet available on the market, desirable for social and environmental reasons. IV - Technical assistance
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Reference body: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy
Open call or specific deadline	Different funding opportunities
Target beneficiaries	Entrepreneurs, public institutions, other socio-economic entities
Link to application	Reference website: https://www.nowoczesnagospodarka.gov.pl/
Grant type	Grants, co-financing, financial instruments

Table 130 - EU Modernisation Fund - National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
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Sector (specify sector or general)	Energy and climate change
Funding title/ name	EU Modernisation Fund - National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NfEP&WM)
Short description	In order to support the implementation of the EU's energy and climate change objectives up to 2030 in EU countries with a GDP per capita of less than 60% of the EU average (compared to 2013), a new instrument to finance the modernisation of the energy system and the improvement of energy efficiency, the so-called Modernisation Fund (MF), has been created in accordance with Article 10d of Directive (EU) 2018/410 of the European Parliament and of the Council in order to strengthen cost-effective emission reductions and low-emission investments. The mechanism of the Modernisation Fund in Poland was implemented within the framework of the Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Scheme Act. According to the Act, the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NfEP&WM) acts as the national operator of the Modernisation Fund, while the MF funds represent the revenues of the NfEP&WM, which are collected in a special NfEP&WM account. MF funds are used to finance investments under the NfEP&WM's so-called "priority programmes". At present, the priority areas are: - the generation and use of electricity from renewable sources, including renewable hydrogen; - heating and cooling from renewable sources; - the reduction of overall energy use through energy efficiency, including in industry, transport, buildings, agriculture and waste; - energy storage and the modernisation of energy networks, including demand-side management, district heating pipelines, grids for electricity transmission, the increase of interconnections between Member States and infrastructure for zero-emission mobility; - support for low-income households, including in rural and remote areas, to address energy poverty and to modernise their heating systems; - a just transition in carbon-dependent regions in the beneficiary Member States, so as to support the redeployment, reskilling and up-skilling of workers.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	National Research and Development Centre (NCBR)
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	The following beneficiaries can be eligible under MF: - energy producers/generators, - managers of large industrial infrastructure, - large companies generating energy for their own needs/processes, - local government units, - individuals. The final list of beneficiaries will be determined during specific calls for applications.





Link to application	Reference website: https://www.gov.pl/web/modernisation-fund/learn-more
Grant type	MF funds are used to finance investments under the NfEP&WM's so-called "priority programmes". Funding for projects is provided in both repayable and non-repayable forms.

Table 131 - European Funds for Infrastructure, Climate, Environment 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	Infrastructure, Climate, Environment
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Infrastructure, Climate, Environment 2021-2027 (FEnIKS)
Short description	The main objective of the program is to improve the conditions for the development of the country by building technical and social infrastructure in accordance with the assumptions of sustainable development, including: Reducing the emissivity of the economy to a circular environment and economy Building an efficient and resilient transport system with the lowest negative impact on the environment
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ministry for Regional Development
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	A list of potential beneficiaries includes: companies, units of local self-government, entities providing public services as part of the implementation of their own duties of local government units, owners of residential buildings, State budgetary units and public administration, providers of energy services, sector agencies and services, NGOs
Link to application	Reference website: https://www.feniks.gov.pl/strony/dowiedz-sie-wiecej-o-programie/program-feniks/#Formy%20wsparcia
Grant type	grants, financial instruments, instruments combining repayable and grant financing





Table 132 - European Funds for Eastern Poland

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	YES (Eastern Poland - Lublin, Podlaskie, Podkarpackie, Świętokrzyskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Eastern Poland
Short description	The European Funds for Eastern Poland programme offers additional funds (apart from the support provided under regional and other national programmes) to accelerate the development of the Eastern voivodeships. The specific objectives are: - Support for competitiveness and innovation of enterprises - Increasing the attractiveness of cities and improving the quality of life of residents in the era of climate change - Increasing the transport accessibility of Eastern Poland - Socio-economic development through tourism
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy Department of Transregional Programmes
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	micro, small and medium-sized enterprises innovation centres electricity distribution system operators local government units (i.a. regions and selected cities) national parks railway infrastructure administrators: PKP PLK S.A. and PKP S.A. non-governmental organisations
Link to application	Reference website: www.fepw.gov.pl/en
Grant type	Grants

Table 133 - European Funds for Fisheries (EMFRA)

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	Fisheries
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Fisheries (EMFRA)
Short description	The European Funds for Fisheries is a programme that is a continuation of support granted to the fisheries sector in the financial perspective of the European Union (EU) 2014-2020.





	The programme is co-financed by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and the state budget. The Fund is primarily conducive to: - sustainable and low-carbon fishing activities; - the protection of marine biodiversity and marine ecosystems; - supplying European consumers with healthy food of high quality marine origin; - enhancing the socio-economic attractiveness of the fisheries sector and the rejuvenation of the fisheries sector, in particular in the case of small-scale coastal fishing; - the development of sustainable and competitive aquaculture to increase food security; - developing skills and improving working conditions in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors; - the economic and social vitality of coastal communities; innovations within a sustainable blue economy; - protection at sea, through which the seas are safe; - international cooperation that will make the oceans healthy, safe and sustainably managed. Actions grouped in five priorities are planned: - Supporting sustainable fisheries and the recovery and conservation of living aquatic resources - Supporting sustainable aquaculture activities and the processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products that contribute to food security in the Union - Promote a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas and support the development of fishing and aquaculture communities - Strengthen international ocean governance and contribute to the safety and cleanliness of seas and oceans, to protect them, and to manage them sustainably.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	MFIPR is responsible for coordinating the implementation of European funds in Poland
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	entities engaged in maritime fisheries, inland fisheries, fish farming, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, Fishing Local Action Groups, fisheries organisations, aquaculture producer organisations, fish producer organisations, associations, foundation associations and public benefit organisations implementing statutory fisheries activities, the science sector, public administration.
Link to application	Reference website: https://www.rybactwo.gov.pl/
Grant type	





Table 134 - Strategic Research and Development Programmes – New Energy Technologies

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	Energy
Funding title/ name	Strategic Research and Development Programmes – New Energy Technologies
Short description	Strategic research and development programmes are high-budget programmes resulting from the State's science and innovation policy, serving the social and economic development of Poland. The strategic programme consists of projects that solve specific technical, scientific or social problems. Competitions for the implementation of projects are "top-down". The implementation of strategic programs contributes to the consolidation of the best research teams and the integration of scientific and economic communities around issues that are key to the development of the country. The main objective of the program "New Energy Technologies" is to support Poland's climate neutrality by implementing solutions that improve the country's energy security and increase the competitiveness of the Polish economy. As a result, the share of energy from renewable sources in the country's overall energy mix will increase by 20-50% (compared to the 2020 level). Its specific objectives are: I. increasing the potential of the renewable energy industry (including prosumer); II. development of intelligent network (energy) infrastructure; III. reducing energy emissions by increasing the use of biodegradable raw materials and waste products. The national and European strategic objectives in the Programme will be achieved through the implementation of research and development tasks with high innovation potential and a high degree of technological advancement (TRL 8 - 9) in the following 6 technological areas: - T1. Solar energy; - T2. Wind energy on land and at sea; - T3. Technologies for the production and use of hydrogen; - T4. Energy storage and energy and heat micro-networks; - T5. Energy utilization of waste and heat from post-process gases; - T6. Energy use of geothermal heat (geothermal).
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	NCBR (National Centre for Research and Development)
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	Industrial and scientific consortia comprising at least one enterprise and one research unit
Link to application	https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/nowe-technologie-w-zakresie-energii





Grant type	Grants
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Table 135 - BIOSTRATEG

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	Environment, Agriculture and Forestry
Funding title/ name	Strategic Research and Development Programmes – "Environment, Agriculture and Forestry" – BIOSTRATEG
Short description	Strategic research and development programmes are high-budget programmes resulting from the State's science and innovation policy, serving the social and economic development of Poland. The strategic programme consists of projects that solve specific technical, scientific or social problems. Competitions for the implementation of projects are "top-down". The implementation of strategic programs contributes to the consolidation of the best research teams and the integration of scientific and economic communities around issues that are key to the development of the country. The Programme "Environment, Agriculture and Forestry – BIOSTRATEG" includes five strategic problem areas, resulting directly from the National Research Program, consistent with the priority directions of research currently conducted in the European Union and worldwide. These areas are: - Food security and food safety; - Rational management of natural resources with particular emphasis on water management; - Counteracting and adapting to climate change, with particular emphasis on agriculture; - Protection of biodiversity and sustainable development of the agricultural production space; - Forestry and timber industry. The main objective of the Programme is to develop knowledge in the areas of the Programme, leading to the growth of Poland's international position in scientific research and development work in this field, and to transfer innovative solutions developed under the Programme to the socio-economic environment.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	NCBR (National Centre for Research and Development)
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	Research institutions Private companies Consortia





Link to application	https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/biostrateg
Grant type	Grants

Table 136 - TECHMATSTRATEG

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	Materials technologies
Funding title/ name	Strategic Research and Development Programmes – "Modern materials technologies" – TECHMATSTRATEG
Short description	Strategic research and development programmes are high-budget programmes resulting from the State's science and innovation policy, serving the social and economic development of Poland. The strategic programme consists of projects that solve specific technical, scientific or social problems. Competitions for the implementation of projects are "top-down". The implementation of strategic programs contributes to the consolidation of the best research teams and the integration of scientific and economic communities around issues that are key to the development of the country. The Programme "Modern materials technologies – TECHMATSTRATEG" includes five strategic problem areas, resulting directly from the National Research Programme, consistent with the priority directions of research currently conducted in the European Union and worldwide. These areas are: - Technologies of construction materials. - Photonic and nanoelectronic materials technologies. - Technologies of functional materials and materials with designed properties. - Waste-free material technologies and biodegradable engineering materials technologies. - Materials technologies for energy storage and transmission. The main objective of the Programme is to develop knowledge in the areas of the Programme, leading to the growth of Poland's international position in scientific research and development work in this field, and to transfer innovative solutions developed under the Programme to the socio-economic environment.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	NCBR (National Centre for Research and Development)
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	Research institutions Private companies Consortia





Link to application	https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/techmatstrateg
Grant type	Grants, loans, equity investments

Table 137- NEON Programme (NCBR)

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	Refining and petrochemical industry
Funding title/ name	NEON Programme (NCBR)
Short description	The main objective of the NEON Joint Undertaking is to support the research and development activities of the Polish refining and petrochemical industry, and it is implemented through the following specific objectives: Development of innovative technological solutions aimed at achieving the reduction of CO2 emissions and, consequently, emission neutrality; Development of solutions and technologies related to the acquisition and processing of biomass; Development of technologies related to the circular economy; Development of technologies based on artificial intelligence and, consequently, the digitization of processes
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	NCBR (National Centre for Research and Development), PKN ORLEN
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	Research institutions Private companies Consortia of up to 5 entities
Link to application	https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr-en/neon
Grant type	Grant for research and development projects

Table 138 - NUTRITECH Programme (NCBR)

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	NO
Sector (specify sector or general)	Nutrition
Funding title/ name	NUTRITECH Programme (NCBR)





Short description	The main goal of the program is to increase the availability of products and solutions for proper nutrition by 2030 by implementing the results of research and development, taking into account the principles of sustainable development. The specific objectives of the program are: - implementation of developed solutions (pro-health products, nutritional plans, processes, technologies and accompanying services) reducing the risk of chronic non-communicable diseases (including diet-related diseases); - implementation of developed solutions (personalized diet, pro-health products, supporting tool, services) addressed to people suffering from chronic non-communicable diseases. - implementation of the principles of sustainable development through technological solutions in the production and distribution of pro-health food. The focus is on the following areas: T1. Nutrigenomics and biomedicine as a tool supporting the fight against chronic non-communicable diseases (including diet-dependent diseases) - Development of innovative dietary solutions based on biomedical research, including nutrigenomics, personalized medicine and the analysis of nutritional risk factors allowing to reduce the incidence of diet-related diseases; - Reliable and evidence-based tools to develop individual nutritional plans to reduce the incidence of chronic non-communicable diseases; - Technological solutions using the molecular basis of diet-related diseases and their impact on individual nutritional plans, allowing the treatment or alleviation of disease symptoms; - Products using genetically and environmentally determined metabolic differences as a component of individual nutritional plans reducing the frequency of civilization diseases. The thematic scope does not include research on the development and use of dietary supplements. T2. Food in the treatment and prevention of diseases - Modern nutritional solutions, e.g. products, technologies, based on the latest scientific knowledge, in the fight against chronic non-communicable diseases - Innovative and affordable food products, among others, for people who are ill or at risk of diet-related diseases and during convalescence, allowing for treatment or alleviation of disease symptoms - The use of innovative solutions in the field of functional food in supporting the treatment of diseases, e.g. oncological, metabolic, endocrine, gastroenterological. - Solutions to improve health by enriching the diet with bioactive substances with specific pro-health effects present in food products - Modern products based on various compositions of bioactive substances of natural origin, with identified, beneficial biological effects justifying their use in prophylactic and preventive activities, as well as in diet therapy. T3. Technological and economic aspects of proper nutrition. - Back to nature - developing solutions to reduce the amount of food additives and harmful substances in food production and agri-food
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	processing without losing its nutritional and sensory values, as well as maintaining biodiversity and protecting ecosystems Development of innovative products and solutions for proper nutrition using alternative sources of protein Development of innovative technologies for the production of health-promoting, affordable food Circular economy solutions in the production of healthy food Solutions enabling verification of the authenticity of the origin of organic and functional food, e.g. unification and availability of composition, implementation of intelligent food labels, control of food composition in accordance with EU standards Tools that allow you to control the quality of food by analyzing the microbiome both in products and in the processing process and increasing the use of microorganisms in food production. The allocation for the programme is PLN 200 million for years 2022 – 2032.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	NCBR (National Centre for Research and Development)
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	Research institutions Private companies Consortia
Link to application	https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr-en/nutritech
Grant type	The program will be implemented through co-financing of projects including industrial research and development. The expected initial TRL of the project is 3. The minimum value of eligible project costs is PLN 1 million. The maximum value of eligible project costs is PLN 10 million.

3.11.2 Regional funding opportunities

In Poland, the administrative organization is divided into three main levels: national, voivodeship (provincial), and local (municipal and district), each one with its own specific responsibilities and competences. Voivodeships and Marshal's offices play a key role in supporting regional development and the management of ERDF, ESF and JTF funds.

A review of the European Funds Programmes for Polish regions for the 2021-2027 programming period is presented hereafter, with a focus on the priority intervention areas that are more related to bioeconomy, green transition, circular economy and innovation and investments in such fields.





Table 139 - European Funds for Lower Silesia 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Lower Silesia
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Lower Silesia 2021-2027
Short description	The regional programme is funded by three funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Just Transition Fund (FST). It is divided into priorities, including for instance: - European Funds for Entrepreneurial Lower Silesia - European Funds for the Environment in Lower Silesia - European Funds for urban mobility of Lower Silesia - European Funds for the Mobility of Lower Silesia - European Funds for Sustainable Social Development in Lower Silesia - European Funds for the Transformation of Mining Areas in Lower Silesia. The additional funds from the Just Transition Fund (FST) are directly related to the process of economic, social and spatial-environmental transformation, and ultimately to reducing emissions and achieving climate neutrality.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://funduszeudolnoslaskie.pl/
Grant type	Grants and subsidies Financial instruments

Table 140 - European Funds for Kujawy and Pomerania 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Kujawy and Pomerania
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Kujawy and Pomerania 2021-2027





Short description	The most relevant opportunities are described hereafter. European Funds for the growth of innovation and competitiveness of the region – 233 million euros: - The business infrastructure - Digitalization of the region – development of e-services system - Research and innovation potential - Networking (PPO/RIS) - Internationalization of SMEs and promotion of the region's economy - SMEs (financial instruments). European Funds for clean energy and the protection of the region's environment – 440 million euros: - Heating and heating networks - Renewable energy sources (RES) - Energy efficiency of enterprises - Energy efficiency of public and residential buildings - adaptation to urban climate change - support of rescue services - Protection of nature - A small retention - Treatment of wastewater - The management of waste - GOZ in SMEs - Water management for consumption. European Funds for Sustainable Urban Transport – 156 million euros: - The urban mobility. European Funds for the Cohesion and Accessibility of the Region – 235 million euros European Funds to strengthen the endogenous potential of the region – 152 million euros: European Funds to increase the availability of regional infrastructure for residents – 281 million European Funds for Local Development – 55 million euros
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Marshal's Office of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://funduszeue.kujawsko-pomorskie.pl/
Grant type	Grants and subsidies Financial instruments





Table 141 - European Funds for Lublin 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Lublin
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Lublin 2021-2027
Short description	The most relevant opportunities are described hereafter. Research and innovation - 111 627 919 from the ERDF - R&D work, including infrastructure and backing - Networking of enterprises Economic and digital transformation of the region 162010 000 from the ERDF - Incubation services for newly established companies - promotion of offers and promotional services for SMEs - Cluster links - Initial investments of SMEs - The cybersecurity Protection of the environment and climate resources - 234 110 000 EUR from the ERDF - Management of rainwater and meltwater - Consultancy of climate - protection of natural habitats - the sewage management - Disposal of medical and veterinary waste - Municipal waste management - The Circular Economy Efficient energy use - 329 576 296 from the ERDF - Renewable energy sources - Energy efficiency Sustainable urban mobility - 127 035 354 EUR from the ERDF Sustainable transport system - 228 584 811 from the ERDF - Road connections, e.g. to the TEN-T network, border crossings, investment areas - Improving road safety - Construction of the ring roads - The zero-emission rolling stock Territor-balanced development - 230 696 811 - from the ERDF - revitalization of degraded areas - Development of areas with high natural and landscape values - protection, development and promotion of the material and intangible cultural heritage - physical renewal and security of public spaces - Preparation of investment areas





Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Lublin Voivodship Board
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://funduszeue.lubelskie.pl/
Grant type	Grants and subsidies Financial instruments

Table 142 - European Funds for Lubuskie 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Lubuskie
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Lubuskie 2021-2027
Short description	The most relevant opportunities are described hereafter. Priority I: European Funds for the Lubuskie economy (EUR 97 million) Priority II: European Funds for the green development of Lubuskie (185 million euro) Priority III: European funds for urban mobility (65 million euro) Priority VII: European funds for local development (13 million euro) Priority VIII: European funds for local Lubuskie (EUR 93 million)
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Marshal's Office of the Lubuskie Voivodeship. Departments involved in implementation: - Department of Regional Programs - Department of the European Social Fund - Department of Rural Development Programs
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders





Link to application	Reference website: https://funduszeue.lubuskie.pl/
Grant type	grants, conditional subsidy (a new form of investment financing) for financing the implementation of research and development works by the entrepreneur. The possibility of co-financing the implementation by a large entrepreneur and not only by SMEs is also possible. financial instruments

Table 143 - European Funds for Lodz 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Lodz
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Lodz 2021-2027
Short description	The most relevant opportunities are described hereafter. Smarter Europe: Enhancing Research and Innovation: Investments aim to strengthen research and innovation activities, particularly in SMEs, fostering the adoption of advanced technologies. Reaping the Benefits of Digitisation Growth and Competitiveness of SMEs Greener Europe: Energy Efficiency: Projects focused on improving energy efficiency in various sectors. Research and innovation Renewable Energy: Investments in infrastructure to increase the use of renewable energy sources. Climate Change Adaptation: Measures to adapt to climate change impacts. Sustainable Water Management: Initiatives aimed at sustainable water use and management. Circular Economy: Projects promoting recycling and sustainable resource use. Nature Protection and Biodiversity: Actions to protect natural habitats and biodiversity. Sustainable Urban Mobility Just Transition Fund (JTF):





	Transition Support: Focused on regions affected by the transition to a climate-neutral economy, particularly addressing the restructuring of the Bełchatów Power Plant and affiliated lignite mines.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	Marshal's Office of the Lodz Region
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://funduszeue.lodzkie.pl/
Grant type	Grants and financial instruments

Table 144 - European Funds for Małopolska 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Małopolska
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Małopolska 2021-2027
Short description	The program outlines 11 priorities across 5 Policy Objectives, aligning with the EU legislative package and the Just Transition Fund. Under Policy Objective 1 (PO1), efforts are directed toward boosting research and development, innovation, and digitalization in the public sector and SMEs, along with skills development. Policy Objective 2 (PO2) focuses on environmental and climate initiatives, including water management, biodiversity protection, and renewable energy adoption. Policy Objective 3 (PO3) aims to enhance mobility by improving public transport, road safety, and infrastructure for zero-emission vehicles.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	Management Board of the Małopolskie Voivodeship
Open call or specific deadline	Calls





Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://fundusze.malopolska.pl/
Grant type	Grants and financial instruments

Table 145 - European Funds for Mazovia 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Mazovia
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Mazovia 2021-2027
Short description	The most relevant opportunities are described hereafter. Priority I: European Funds for a more competitive and smarter Mazovia (EUR 223.8) Priority II: European Funds for the Green Development of Mazovia (EUR 390.8 million) Priority III: European Funds for the development of urban mobility in Mazovia (245 million euro)
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Management Board of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://funduszeuiedlamazowska.eu/
Grant type	Grants and financial instruments Regional Mazowiecki: up to 85% of the eligible costs of the project. Warsaw Capital: up to 50% of the eligible costs of the project.





Table 146 - European Funds for Opolskie 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Opolskie
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Opolskie 2021-2027
Short description	The Opolskie regional Programme will provide support to several areas: - competitive, innovative and low-carbon economy; - prevention of natural hazards; environmental protection; - cultural and natural heritage; sustainable transport; - labour market; - social integration; - healthcare and education. In the area of innovation, investments will aim at increasing the competitiveness and innovativeness of enterprises. Specifically, the programme will continue investments in digitization, along with support for commercialisation processes and support to increase the level of internationalisation of economic and scientific activity. The European Regional Development Fund will invest in low-carbon economy, air protection and energy efficiency. To prevent environmental threats, EU funds will cover adaptation to climate change. Other investments will aim at reducing the waste of water and the development of blue and green infrastructure. With the goal of transitioning smoothly to a circular economy, support will go to making the municipal waste systems more effective, combined to campaigns to raise environmental awareness. Consistently with the goal of preserving the natural environment, the purchase of low/zero-emission rolling stock, along with the development of the necessary infrastructure, will contribute to the development of more sustainable means of transport.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Management Board of the Opole Voivodeship served by the Marshal's Office of the Opole Voivodeship, Department of European Funds Programming, Department of European Funds Implementation, Department of Finance
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/





Grant type	Grants and financial instruments
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Table 147 - European Funds for Podkarpacie 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Podkarpacie
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Podkarpacie 2021-2027
Short description	The voivodeship has still the third lowest GDP per capita in Poland and is affected by negative demographic trends. The programme's goal is to strengthen the region's economic potential, by fostering the integrated and sustainable development of the Podkarpackie region. Measures will stimulate innovation in the region by further tightening cooperation between business and science. Moreover, small businesses will receive support to create new products and technologies. Under the priority relating to environment the, region plans to continue actions in the field of water and wastewater management as well as biodiversity protection, climate change adaptation projects, supporting advisory systems to foster climate neutrality. To increase energy efficiency, measures will include the refurbishment and isolation of buildings and investing in renewable energy sources. To improve sustainable mobility, the region needs to make urban public transport more accessible and improve the standard of the road and rail network.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Board of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://funduszeue.podkarpackie.pl/
Grant type	Grants and financial instruments





Table 148 - European Funds for Podlaskie 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Podlaskie
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Podlaskie 2021-2027
Short description	Across its 4 priorities, the programme emphasises technology transfer and the implementation of the European Green Deal objectives in research and development activities and in investments for innovation in companies. Within the programme, <i>Priority 1</i>, aims at directly supporting companies, with special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). As an incentive to investment in research and development, entrepreneurs have the ability to apply to a flexible combination of modules that include green and digital transition, R&D business infrastructure, internationalisation and support to skills in enterprises. <i>Priority 2</i> focuses on technology transfer. By combining grant and debt financing, it aims at strengthening business-science links, supporting different methods to implement R&D results, while helping the upscaling of start-ups . Moreover, it will support the digitalisation along with implementation of financial instruments (guarantees and equity). <i>Priority 3</i>, will assist the energy transition of enterprises without innovation component. Under this priority the programme will co-finance Important Projects of Common European Interest. These will include the development of smart energy systems and networks.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Board of the Podlaskie Voivodeship
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/
Grant type	Grants and financial instruments





Table 149 - European Funds for Pomorze 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Pomorze
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Pomorze 2021-2027
Short description	The programme encompasses measures to strengthen productivity, innovation (including the implementation of R&D results) and the adaptability of enterprises. This will entail increasing their expansion and international visibility, encouraging their cooperation with research institutions and the public sector. In the area of environment and climate, the region plans to enhance energy security, transforming the region into a national leader in green energy production and eco-efficient technologies, while preserving landscape assets. To enhance environmental security, measures include enhancing preparedness for extreme events through adaptation to climate change.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Board of the Pomorze Voivodeship
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://funduszeuopomorskie.pl/
Grant type	Grants and financial instruments

Table 150 - European Funds for Pomorze Zachodnie

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Pomorze Zachodnie
Sector (specify sector or general)	General





Funding title/ name	European Funds for Pomorze Zachodnie 2021-2027
Short description	The region's key investment priorities aim, amongst other strategic objectives, to: transform the region and strengthen its economic environment. More specifically, investments will drive the regions entry into industry 4.0, by addressing bottlenecks in the diffusion of innovative technologies and processes, and by improving the position of the regional economy in global value chains; enhance environmental and climate responsibility by improving energy efficiency, developing renewable energy, preserving and protecting ecosystems.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Pomorze Zachodnie Voivodeship
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://funduszeue.wzp.pl/
Grant type	Grants and financial instruments

Table 151 - European Funds for Silesia 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Silesia
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Silesia 2021-2027
Short description	The programme's ambition for Silesia is to facilitate its just transition, making the region's economy modern and competitive. With resources allocated from both the European Regional Development fund and the Just Transition Fund, the programme constitutes the largest allocation among all EU regional programmes and defines 13 key areas of intervention.





	Interventions will increase business activity in research, development, and innovation. The programme plans to support investments in research infrastructure and research implementation. In line with environmental goals, the programme will support actions protecting biodiversity, furthering buildings energy efficiency and investments in renewable energy sources. Under just transition measures, the programme's support will be allocated to the development of centres supporting the creation and transfer of knowledge and technology for a green, smart, digital economy. With the goal of preventing energy poverty, funding will go to the installation of ecological and affordable energy sources, increasing energy savings in public buildings and in the housing sector. To mitigate the effects of industrial activity on the environment, EU funds will support recultivation, regeneration, and restoration of post-industrial areas, with an eye to the removal of the risk of improperly stored waste.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	The Board of the Silesian Voivodeship supported by the Marshal's Office of the Silesian Voivodeship
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://funduszeue.slaskie.pl/
Grant type	Grants and financial instruments

Table 152 - European Funds for Świętokrzyskie 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Świętokrzyskie
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/name	European Funds for Świętokrzyskie 2021-2027
Short description	In the field of innovation the Świętokrzyskie region is still underperforming. Therefore, In line with regional smart specializations, the programme sets up measures to encourage the cooperation between enterprises and research and development facilities.





	In the area of environment and climate, the programme will protect biodiversity and improve the management of drinking and waste-water. Moreover, to develop environmental risk forecasting and warning systems, the programme will favour municipal climate change adaptation projects and support advisory systems fostering climate neutrality. Further interventions are to drive the replacement of conventional energy sources with renewable sources.
Example of funded projects	The Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship Board supported by the Marshal's Office of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship
Funding agency/body	
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://funduszeu.wswietokrzyskie.pl/
Grant type	Grants and financial instruments

Table 153 - European Funds for Warmia and Mazury

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Warmia and Mazury
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/name	European Funds for Warmia and Mazury 2021-2027
Short description	The main objectives of the regional programme for Warmia and Mazury are: - Strengthening economic and social potential of the region, - Fostering integrated, sustainable and smart development of Warmia and Mazury region, - Ensuring high quality of life for all its citizens, The programme will increase business activity through its support for digitalisation of the public sector and small enterprises and its support to research and development infrastructure and entrepreneurship. In the area of environment and climate, the programme will continue investments in renewable energy sources and in improving energy efficiency. The European Regional Development Fund will support building resilience to climate change by improving the





	urban environment and ensuring the supply of clean water. EU funds will also facilitate the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Board of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://funduszeuropejskie.warmia.mazury.pl/
Grant type	Grants and financial instruments

Table 154 - European Funds for Wielkopolska 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Wielkopolska
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	European Funds for Wielkopolska 2021-2027
Short description	The main objectives of the programme are: - strengthening and making effective use of the region's economic and social potentials, - fostering integrated, sustainable and smart development of the Wielkopolska voivodeship, aimed at high quality of life and security of its inhabitants including the just transition in the Konin subregion. The programme will increase business activity in research and development. This will entail implementation and innovation through support for R&D infrastructure as well as the creation of regional and supra-regional research agendas. In the area of environment and climate, a key feature will be the development of environmental forecasting and warning systems. In the same line, urban areas will benefit from advisory systems to achieve climate neutrality. The programme also includes measures to encourage the uptake of renewable energy sources, with interventions to advise public entities, enterprises and citizens.





	Regarding mobility, the programme will support building infrastructure for charging/refuelling zero-emission vehicles. The Territorial Just Transition Plan will cover the Konin subregion. The JTF will assist companies withdrawing from traditional industries by means of a comprehensive support for businesses, addressing infrastructure and complementary training. To support the transition to the circular economy, the programme fosters resources and material-efficient production and logistics processes, increases in product repurposing, upcycling, material recycling and resource efficiency. Investments also aim to reduce energy consumption in production processes as well as water, heat and cold. In order to preserve and restore former functions of natural and landscape assets of brownfield sites, including post-mining areas, the scope of the intervention will include their rehabilitation, remediation, restoration and decontamination. Investments related to ensuring access to stable, green and affordable energy sources will be supported, as well as investments improving energy standards in public buildings and housing.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	The Board of the Wielkopolska Region, supported by the Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznań
Open call or specific deadline	Calls
Target beneficiaries	Companies, private and public actors and stakeholders
Link to application	Reference website: https://wrpo.wielkopolskie.pl/dowiedz-sie-wiecej-o-programie/fundusze-europejskie-dla-Wielkopolski-2021-2027
Grant type	Grants and financial instruments

3.12 FRANCE

3.12.1 National funding opportunities

France has a rather strong bioeconomy strategy materialized by the programme “France 2030 Plan” which is a major national investment strategy with €54 billion allocated across key innovation sectors, including the bioeconomy (e.g., bio-based chemicals, sustainable agriculture, and bioenergy). National funding opportunities for the bioeconomy sector come primarily from government ministries and national research and innovation agencies namely **ANR** (National Research Agency), **ADEME** (Agency for Ecological Transition), **BPI** (Banque Publique d’Investissement), **PIA** (Programme d’Investissements d’Avenir). Although we observe a decline of fundings for a few years, there still exists a number of programmes dedicated to support bioeconomy projects in particular industrialisation projects. A review of existing programmes is presented hereafter.



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Table 155 - Innovation Grant - French Tech Axis

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No, national
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Innovation Grant - French Tech Axis
Short description	The Innovation grant allows you to partially finance the internal and external R&D expenses related to your innovation project.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	BPI
Open call or specific deadline	
Target beneficiaries	SME
Link to application	Subvention Innovation - Axe French Tech
Grant type	This aid can cover up to 50% of eligible expenses and, depending on the category of the company, up to 70%. The aid is paid in two instalments: the first at the signing of the contract and after any suspensive clauses have been lifted, the balance at the end of the work after providing Bpifrance with an end-of-programme report and a summary statement of the expenditure paid

Table 156 - i-lab

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No, national
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	i-lab
Short description	Part of the France 2030 plan and which is operated by Bpifrance, aims to detect projects for the creation of innovative technology companies and to support the best of them through financial aid and appropriate support.
Example of funded projects	palmar-s-i-lab-2023-28598.pdf
Funding agency/ body	BPI, France 2030
Open call or specific deadline	Next call opens in 2026
Target beneficiaries	Any person who has created his or her company less than two years ago or who plans to create an innovative technology company on French territory, regardless of his or her nationality, status or professional situation, may participate in this competition, provided that he or she meets the legal and regulatory conditions required for the creation of a company.





Link to application	Concours d'innovation i-Lab Bpifrance
Grant type	Eligible expenses, amounting to a maximum of €1 million, are personnel, operating or equipment expenses (depreciable value of the equipment over the duration of the financial support) directly related to the research and development program of the company created: design and definition of projects, intellectual property, market studies, feasibility studies, search for partners, experimentation, development of new or improved products, processes, services, production and development of prototypes, models or pilots, consulting, training and support services. The funding takes the form of a subsidy of a maximum amount of €600K.

Table 157 - i-nov

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No, national
Sector (specify sector or general)	The project must fall within one of the 4 themes detailed in the specifications. • Digital; • Health; • Transport, mobility, sustainable cities and buildings; • Energy, resources and natural environments.
Funding title/ name	i-nov
Short description	This competition of excellence is dedicated to innovative single-partner projects led by startups and SMEs and leading to the accelerated emergence of leading companies in their field. It makes possible to co-finance research, development and innovation projects with total costs of between €1 million and €5 million, and a duration of between 12 and 36 months.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	BPI, France 2030
Open call or specific deadline	TBD
Target beneficiaries	SME and start-ups
Link to application	Appel à projets : Concours d'innovation - i-Nov
Grant type	The maximum intervention rates are 45% for small enterprises and 35% for medium-sized enterprises. The financing provided under the Innovation Competition will be in the form of State aid, consisting of 60% subsidies and 40% recoverable advances.





Table 158 - DECARB IND

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No, national
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	DECARB IND
Short description	This scheme aims to support industrial decarbonisation projects that reduce the emissions of the industrial site by at least 1,000 tCO₂/year. The DECARB IND 25 call for projects aims to reduce GHG emissions from industrial sites according to 4 themes: • Energy efficiency • Modification of the energy mix, • Modification of the material mix, • Carbon capture, upgrading and storage.
Example of funded projects	https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/documents/20230406_Laureats_France%202030%20Decarbo.pdf
Funding agency/ body	France 2030
Open call or specific deadline	May 15 th 2025
Target beneficiaries	Private companies
Link to application	Décarbonation de l'industrie - DECARB IND 25 Agir pour la transition écologique
Grant type	Grants from 30-60% of eligible costs, from 3 to 30 M€

Table 159 - Green Fund - Industrial Territories in Ecological Transition

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No, national
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Green Fund - Industrial Territories in Ecological Transition
Short description	This call makes possible the development of structuring industrial investment projects with significant positive impacts (territorial, ecological and socio-economic), which contribute to supporting the industrialisation of strategic value chains for the ecological transition.
Example of funded projects	250402_cp_r_territoires_industrie_laureats_2024_fonds_transition_ecologique.pdf
Funding agency/ body	ADEME, Agir





Open call or specific deadline	December 31 st 2025
Target beneficiaries	Project owners of industrial development projects: principally, private companies; on a secondary basis, and in particular for specific targeted skills, groups of employers with legal personality, associations or training establishments (training organisation, CFA, university, high school, etc.).
Link to application	Fonds vert - Territoires d'industrie en transition écologique Agir pour la transition écologique
Grant type	Grants of 80% of eligible costs and min 400k€

Table 160 - Eco-design of clothing textiles - TEXHABI

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No, national
Sector (specify sector or general)	Textile
Funding title/ name	Eco-design of clothing textiles - TEXHABI
Short description	- Axis 1 - First steps in eco-design: aiming for an increase in autonomy for start-up SMEs to engage in their first eco-design actions. Companies choose improvement measures from recognizing eco-design levers and drawing an eco-design roadmap. - Axis 2 - Eco-design diagnosis: supporting the broadening and deepening of the field of eco-design actions through personalised diagnostic studies, for all levels of eco-design maturity. Companies are exploring eco-design avenues specific to their processes and value chains. - Axis 3 - Implementation of the identified eco-design levers: by continuing to support companies through project studies, in order to study and test the implementation of eco-design levers. Companies are preparing to market their eco-designed products.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	ADEME, Agir
Open call or specific deadline	June 30 th 2025
Target beneficiaries	Persons placing clothing on the market concerned by the environmental labelling regulations. Suppliers/manufacturers of clothing products. The call for proposals is open to all sizes of companies (SMEs, ETIs, large groups) and all levels of maturity in eco-design.
Link to application	Écoconception textile d'habillement - TEXHABI Agir pour la transition écologique
Grant type	- Axis 1: Maximum aid of €5,000 - Axis 2: Maximum aid base of €50,000





- Axis 3: Maximum aid base of €100,000

Table 161 - LabCom 2025

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No, national
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	LabCom 2025: Joint laboratories between public research organisations – SMEs, ETIs and start-ups
Short description	The purpose of this program is to encourage academic research actors to create structured partnerships through the co-construction of "Common Laboratories" between an SME or a mid-cap and a research organization's laboratory.
Example of funded projects	Le Laboratoire Commun « MYEL » lauréat de l'appel à projet Labcom de l'ANR Université d'Artois
Funding agency/ body	ANR
Open call or specific deadline	September 22 nd 2025
Target beneficiaries	SME, ETI, start-ups, universities
Link to application	LabCom 2025 : Laboratoires communs organismes de recherche publics – PME, ETI et Start up ANR
Grant type	

Table 162 - Circular Economy Fund - ORMAT 2025

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No, national
Sector (specify sector or general)	Materials
Funding title/ name	Circular Economy Fund - ORMAT 2025 (Objective Recycling MATERIALS)
Short description	ORMAT wishes to support research and investment projects that promote the sobriety of raw materials, the resilience and the decarbonization of industry in France through recycling. These can be the over-sorting of waste, the production of Recycling Raw Materials (RPMs) or the incorporation of PRMs. 6 main "materials" themes: • Plastics • Textiles • Metals and batteries • Wood





	- Paper and cardboard - Glass and mineral materials 2 axes in terms of types of projects: - Axis 1: diagnostics, studies, performance tests and experiments. - Axis 2: investments (creation, increase in capacity or incorporation rate, quality improvement, performance improvement).
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	ADEME
Open call or specific deadline	October 6th 2025
Target beneficiaries	Private companies
Link to application	Fonds Économie Circulaire - ORMAT 2025 (Objectif Recyclage MATières) Agir pour la transition écologique
Grant type	Axis 1: €50k and €100k Axis 2: aid capped at €0.8 to €2.5 million depending on the theme and the type of entity

Table 163 - Ecodesign studies of products and services

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No, national
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Ecodesign studies of products and services
Short description	Aid to support eco-design, sustainable production and EU Ecolabel projects. Support studies around: - the diagnostic stage, the first structuring step in a company's commitment to improving the environmental performance of its products; - the next stage of implementation, which concretizes the transition to the implementation of actions and the marketing of products or services with lower impacts.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	ADEME
Open call or specific deadline	December 31 st 2025
Target beneficiaries	Private companies
Link to application	Études d'écoconception des produits et des services Agir pour la transition écologique





Grant type	Grants up to 80% of eligible costs depending on the company type
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3.12.2 Regional funding opportunities

For several regions of France, it has been detected funding opportunities in the bioeconomy sector, in particular in Normandy, Grand Est, Ile-de-France, Nouvelle Aquitaine and Hauts-de-France. Other regions don't have any public funding opportunities in the field. It is noteworthy that some funding programmes such as "i-demo" are available in various regions, and the target sector is dependent on the strategy of the region. For i-demo, a recapitulative table is shown below and a separate table for specific regions targeting bioeconomy sectors presents further details.

Table 164 - i-demo

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Bretagne, Centre-Val de Loire, Corse, Grand Est, Hauts de France, Ile-de-France, Normandie, Occitanie, Pays de la Loire, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
Sector (specify sector or general)	Depending on the regions
Funding title/ name	i-demo
Short description	The French State and Regions have decided to join forces to support the development of innovation in the territories through the regionalised France 2030 / PIA4 programme. The objective is to invest in accelerating collaborative projects in experimental development, industrial research and innovation with high added value and a perspective to bring them to market. The programme aims to strengthen a partnership-based and sustainable industrial network between small, medium and large companies and, above all, economic benefits for SMEs.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	BPI, France 2030
Open call or specific deadline	28th of April 2025 28th of October 2025
Target beneficiaries	Academics, private companies
Link to application	
Grant type	Projects must comply with an eligible expenditure base of between €1 million and €4 million and up to 60% fundings.

Table 165 - Just Transition Fund (FTJ)

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Normandy, Hauts-de-France, Grand Est, Pays de la loire, Auvergne Rhones Alpes, Provence Alpes Côte d'azur.
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Sector (specify sector or general)	Decarbonation of industry
Funding title/ name	Just Transition Fund (FTJ)
Short description	The objectives of the programme are to decarbonize industries that consume the most fossil fuels and emit the most greenhouse gases, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions in industrial processes, particularly in the chemical, coking and refining, and glass industries, propose economic diversification in the areas most affected by the climate transition and modernize the local economy in these areas.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	ANR
Open call or specific deadline	Submission of proposals on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted (2023-2027)
Target beneficiaries	Companies located in eligible regions, SMEs, micro-enterprises, associations, and local authorities in certain cases, eligibility of mid-sized companies in some cases
Link to application	https://www.normandie.fr/investissements-dans-les-pme-pour-une-transition-juste-ftj
Grant type	Grant with rate 30-40%, max 70% Minimum €200,000 in aid

Table 166 - i-demo Normandy

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Normandy
Sector (specify sector or general)	Preserving and sustainably transforming agricultural, marine, and forestry resources and production systems; achieving cross-sectoral collaboration with digital technology
Funding title/ name	i-demo
Short description	The objective is to support ambitious experimental development and industrial innovation projects led by SMEs and mid-cap companies in conjunction with academic research, with the aim of industrial manufacturing and marketing of innovative products, services and/or processes with high added value and strong growth potential (employment, turnover). Projects may also aim for diversification or innovative development of industrial processes.
Example of funded projects	SMARTIB Axel'One
Funding agency/ body	BPI, France 2030,
Open call or specific deadline	28 th of April 2025 28 th of October 2025
Target beneficiaries	Academics, private companies
Link to application	https://innov-avenir.normandie.fr/projets-d-avenir-i-demo/
Grant type	Grant (25-60%)





Table 167 - i-demo Hauts de France

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Hauts de France
Sector (specify sector or general)	Sustainable production of resources, health through nutrition, application of the bioeconomy in strategic regional sectors (food, chemistry-materials, energy, etc. including biomimicry).
Funding title/ name	i-demo
Short description	The objective is to support ambitious experimental development and industrial innovation projects led by SMEs and mid-cap companies in conjunction with academic research, with the aim of industrial manufacturing and marketing of innovative products, services and/or processes with high added value and strong growth potential (employment, turnover). Projects may also aim for diversification or innovative development of industrial processes.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	BPI, France 2030
Open call or specific deadline	28th of April 2025 28th of October 2025
Target beneficiaries	Academics, private companies
Link to application	https://innov-avenir.normandie.fr/projets-d-avenir-i-demo/
Grant type	Grant (25-60%)

Grand Est

Table 168 - Support for investments in the agri-food industries Grand Est

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Grand Est
Sector (specify sector or general)	Food
Funding title/ name	Support for investments in the agri-food industries
Short description	The funding targets projects that: - Concerns human food; - Aims to modernize or transform the company's production model: - modernization of production tools; - integration of new technologies or production methods: automation, robotics, digital equipment, etc.; - digitization of the value chain (ERP, etc.); - optimization of resources: energy, water, raw materials, waste, etc.;



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	Concerns investments related to the processing or packaging process and storage.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Grand Est
Open call or specific deadline	Open all year long
Target beneficiaries	Private companies (SME, large corporates, etc.) that must: - generate more than 50% of its annual revenues in BtoB; - process and package agricultural products (1st processing) or agri-food products (2nd processing), except coffee, chocolate and tea.
Link to application	Grand Est Agroalimentaire - GrandEst
Grant Type	10 to 40% funding up to 800 000 €

Table 169 - Support for research and development and innovation projects of large companies Grand Est

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Grand Est
Sector (specify sector or general)	Food
Funding title/ name	Support for research and development and innovation projects of large companies
Short description	The funding targets the following projects : - The development of an individual structuring R&I project, - The creation of an R&D centre, - The reinforcement, modernisation or upgrading of an existing industrial site in the Grand Est, - Independently of its stage of maturity, from industrial research to prototype
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Grand Est
Open call or specific deadline	Open all year long
Target beneficiaries	A large company established in the Grand Est region or likely to set up there
Link to application	Aide aux projets de recherche et développement et d'innovation des grandes entreprises - GrandEst
Grant Type	25 to 50% funding of eligible R&I costs and up to 250 000 €





Table 170 - i-demo for Bio-based molecules and materials Grand Est

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Grand Est
Sector (specify sector or general)	Bio-based molecules and materials
Funding title/ name	i-demo
Short description	Aims to develop industrial companies and services in promising markets, creating value and competitiveness for the French economy and contributing to transitions through collaboration with research. Priority areas: • Technologies and equipment for the transition; • Recycling and functionalization of materials for industry and construction; • Medical biotechnology; • Digital for health; • Medical devices; • Bio-based molecules and materials; • Sustainable and intelligent management of natural resources; • Performance of energy systems.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	BPI, Grand Est, France 2030
Open call or specific deadline	28th of April 2025 28th of October 2025
Target beneficiaries	Consortium of at least two industrial or service partners, including an SME or a mid-cap, and a research partner, located in the same region or in separate regions. Only companies can lead the projects and consortia do not exceed five partners.
Link to application	Projets d'Avenir I-Démo – France 2030 – Grand Est
Grant type	Grants from 0,5 M to 2 M €

Table 171 - Support for research and development and innovation projects of large companies Grand Est

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Grand Est
Sector (specify sector or general)	Biobased materials
Funding title/ name	Support for research and development and innovation projects of large companies
Short description	This call for projects does not aim to finance the work or the use of materials directly, but to support the characterization of materials and construction processes and to facilitate their recognition by insurance companies.





	The objectives are to: • Support regional construction stakeholders by providing financial support for the services necessary for the evaluation and characterization of the performance of construction materials and processes with a low carbon footprint; • Reduce the carbon footprint of buildings; • Remove the obstacles relating to the ten-year guarantee and increase the credibility of low-carbon footprint products and processes; • Develop the local economy and short circuits.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	ADEME
Open call or specific deadline	From 2022 and until funds are empty
Target beneficiaries	Private companies
Link to application	<u>Appel à Projet - Soutien à la reconnaissance des matériaux biosourcés et bas carbone pour le bâtiment climaxion</u>
Grant type	Grants financing 70% of eligible costs

Nouvelle Aquitaine

Table 172 - Innovation Springboard Service/ Innovation Axis Diagnosis Nouvelle Aquitaine

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Nouvelle Aquitaine
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Innovation Springboard Service/ Innovation Axis Diagnosis
Short description	The call aims to support innovative projects, led in particular by start-ups / SMEs. These projects must, in conjunction with the Regional Economic Development, Innovation and Internationalisation Scheme (SRDEII), create value in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Nouvelle Aquitaine, Bpi
Open call or specific deadline	Open all year long
Target beneficiaries	SME, start-up located in Nouvelle-Aquitaine and demonstrating sufficient financial capacity to ensure the financing of the proposed project
Link to application	<u>Prestation Tremplin Innovation – Tremplin Innovation – Nouvelle-Aquitaine</u>
Grant type	€7,800 to finance innovative subcontracted feasibility studies





Table 173 - Funding title/ name Innovation Springboard Service/ Innovation Axis Diagnosis

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Nouvelle Aquitaine
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Innovation Springboard Service/ Innovation Axis Diagnosis
Short description	The call aims to support innovative projects, led in particular by start-ups / SMEs. These projects must, in conjunction with the Regional Economic Development, Innovation and Internationalisation Scheme (SRDEII), create value in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Nouvelle Aquitaine, Bpi
Open call or specific deadline	Open all year long
Target beneficiaries	SME, start-up located in Nouvelle-Aquitaine and demonstrating sufficient financial capacity to ensure the financing of the proposed project
Link to application	Prestation Tremplin Innovation – Tremplin Innovation – Nouvelle-Aquitaine
Grant type	€7,800 to finance innovative subcontracted feasibility studies

Table 174 - Nature and Transition Nouvelle Aquitaine

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Nouvelle Aquitaine
Sector (specify sector or general)	Biodiversity
Funding title/ name	Nature and Transition
Short description	The call for projects aims support initiatives and actions whose main objective is the preservation and/or restoration of biodiversity. The proposed actions must have a direct impact on biodiversity (contribution of substantial and measurable added value, a gain in biodiversity).
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Nouvelle Aquitaine
Open call or specific deadline	June 15 th 2025
Target beneficiaries	Public and private entities
Link to application	Appel à projets régional "Nature et Transitions" 2025 - Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine - SO Coopération
Grant type	Grants up to 50k€





Ile de France

Table 175 - Support for companies in the forestry and wood sector Ile de France

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Ile de France
Sector (specify sector or general)	Wood and forestry
Funding title/ name	Support for companies in the forestry and wood sector
Short description	As part of Act 2 of its strategy for forests and wood, the Region is committed to a sector that is essential to the ecological transition of the Île-de-France. The projects supported concern structuring investments for the modernization, development and creation of companies in the forest-wood sector.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ile de France
Open call or specific deadline	May 31 st 2025
Target beneficiaries	SME, start-up located in Ile de France
Link to application	SOUTIEN AUX ENTREPRISES FRANCILIENNES DE LA FILIERE FORÊT-BOIS Région Île-de-France
Grant type	Up to 500k€ with financing of 50% of eligible costs

Table 176 - Support for innovative projects in the forest and the use of biobased materials Ile de France

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, Ile de France
Sector (specify sector or general)	Biobased materials
Funding title/ name	Support for innovative projects in the forest and the use of biobased materials
Short description	As part of Act 2 of its strategy for forests and wood, the Region is expanding its support for innovative projects for a sector that is essential to the ecological transition of the Île-de-France region. Projects must meet at least one of the following objectives: - Promote the adaptation of forests to climate change, - Develop the use of wood and other bio-based products in the rehabilitation of buildings, - Promote French wood products, in particular hardwood and/or wood from the Paris region, and other bio-sourced materials in the construction, development and energy sectors,



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	Support integrated and territorial approaches for optimised cascading uses of wood and other bio-based materials.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	Ile de France
Open call or specific deadline	May 31 st 2025
Target beneficiaries	SME, start-up located in Ile de France
Link to application	SOUTIEN AUX PROJETS INNOVANTS POUR LES FORÊTS FRANCILIENNES ET L'USAGE DES BIOSOURCÉS Région Île-de-France
Grant type	Up to 100k€ with financing of 50% of eligible costs

3.13 MALTA

3.13.1 National funding opportunities

The number of calls for projects in Malta is limited and often not restricted to bioeconomy sectors, they include other themes such as marine technology and health.

Table 177 - PRIMA Section 2 Call 2025 (European Call)

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Water Management, Farming Systems & Agro-Food Value Chain
Funding title/ name	PRIMA Section 2 Call 2025 (European Call)
Short description	PRIMA Participating States fund transnational R&I projects addressing the scope and objectives of the PRIMA Section 2 multi-topic call tackling the following topics: - Thematic Area 1: Water Management in the Nexus Topic 2.1.1 (RIA) Enhancing Policy Development through Impact-Driven Water Footprint and Virtual Water Concepts in the Mediterranean Region - Thematic Area 2: Farming Systems in the Nexus Topic 2.2.1 (RIA) Upscaling Agroecology Practices at the Farm Level in the Mediterranean - Thematic Area 3: Agro-food Value Chain in the Nexus Topic 2.3.1 (RIA) Towards a Plant-Based Alternative Protein products Transition in the Mediterranean Region
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	
Open call or specific deadline	8 July 2025





Target beneficiaries	Malta-based Researchers
Link to application	https://prima-med.org/
Grant type	Up to € 500 000

Table 178 - 5th Xjenza Malta-TÜBİTAK 2025 Joint Call for R&I Proposals

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	This call will focus on two distinct pillars: - Pillar 1: PRIMA Thematic Areas - Management of Water - Farming System - Agro-Food Value Chain - Pillar 2: Shared National Priority areas: - Smart Manufacturing - Health - Aviation - Cross-Cutting Theme: Digital Technologies Digital Technologies is a cross-cutting theme, relevant across both pillars.
Funding title/ name	5th Xjenza Malta-TÜBİTAK 2025 Joint Call for R&I Proposals
Short description	Xjenza Malta, in collaboration with the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), has launched the 5th Xjenza Malta-TÜBİTAK 2025 Joint Call for R&I Proposals. This initiative aims to foster cooperation in science, technology, and innovation between Malta and Turkey by supporting researchers and innovators in strengthening their scientific expertise and networks.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	
Open call or specific deadline	20th June 2025, 23:59 PM CET
Target beneficiaries	Applicants must be a Malta-based entity with an operating base in Malta, in accordance with the Xjenza Malta-TÜBİTAK guidelines.
Link to application	Up to € 100 000
Grant type	https://xjenzamalta.mt/2025/04/04/xjenza-malta-tubitak-2025-joint-call-for-ri-proposals/

Table 179 - Access2 Partnerships (A2P) programme 2025

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
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Sector (specify sector or general)	health (such as pandemic preparedness, rare diseases, and personalised medicine), climate, energy and mobility, digital technologies, food and bioeconomy, natural resources, and environment
Funding title/ name	Access2 Partnerships (A2P) programme 2025
Short description	The Access2 Partnerships (A2P) programme 2025 is an initiative launched by Xjenza Malta to enable Malta-based researchers and innovators to participate in transnational research and innovation (R&I) projects under the Horizon Europe Partnerships, even when Malta is not an official funding partner.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	
Open call or specific deadline	Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Target beneficiaries	Malta-based Researchers
Link to application	https://xjenzamalta.mt/2025/03/24/access2-partnerships-a2p-scheme-2025/
Grant type	Up to € 100 000

Table 180 - Technology Development Programme LITE (TDP LITE) 2025

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Aviation and Aerospace - Future Digital Technology - Health and Well-being - Marine and Maritime Technology - Smart Manufacturing -Sustainable Use of Resources
Funding title/ name	Technology Development Programme LITE (TDP LITE) 2025
Short description	The TDP Lite is a national funding programme aimed at providing support for the development of innovative projects proposed by public entities or industry players. The programme is designed to provide Maltese innovators with an expedited route to develop and demonstrate their novel technologies.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	
Open call or specific deadline	Friday 23 May 2025 at 11:59 p.m
Target beneficiaries	Public entities or industry players
Link to application	https://xjenzamalta.mt/2025/03/07/technology-development-programme-lite-tdp-lite-2025/
Grant type	up to €200,000





Table 181 - M-ERA.NET Joint Call 2025

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Sustainable Materials for Energy Applications - Innovative Surfaces, Coatings, and Interfaces - Advanced Composites and Lightweight Materials - Functional Materials - Materials Addressing Environmental Challenges - Next Generation Materials for Electronics
Funding title/ name	M-ERA.NET Joint Call 2025
Short description	M-ERA.NET is a European-funded initiative that supports research and innovation in materials science and battery technologies, with particular emphasis on clean energy technologies, future batteries, circular economy, and the integration of digital technologies.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	
Open call or specific deadline	The Pre-Proposal Deadline is 13 May 2025, 12:00 noon, Brussels time. The Full-Proposal Deadline is 19 November 2025, 12:00 noon, Brussels time
Target beneficiaries	Malta-based entity, including private and public organisations, Research & Knowledge Dissemination Organisations (RKDOs), and other, with an operating base in Malta
Link to application	https://www.m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2025
Grant type	up to € 300,000

Table 182 - Xjenza Malta-CNR Joint Call

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Marine and Maritime - Digital Technologies – Health - Sustainable Use of Resources - Smart Manufacturing - Aerospace, Aviation, and Space - Cultural Heritage
Funding title/ name	Xjenza Malta-CNR Joint Call
Short description	Xjenza Malta and the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) have launched the 2025 Joint Call for Research Proposals under the SPIRE Programme. This initiative aims to strengthen research collaborations between Malta-based and CNR researchers by providing seed grants for small-scale projects that pave the way for larger future research efforts.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	
Open call or specific deadline	29th May 2025





Target beneficiaries	A consortium comprising at least : one eligible Malta-based entity AND one CNR researcher
Link to application	https://xjenzamalta.mt/2025/03/10/xjenza-malta-consiglio-nazionale-delle-ricerche-cnr-2025-joint-call-for-research-proposals/
Grant type	Up to €12,000

3.13.2 Regional funding opportunities

It has not been detected any funding opportunities available at a regional level, all opportunities in Malta related to bioeconomy seem to be national.

3.14 SLOVAKIA

Slovakia belongs among those Eastern European countries that do not have dedicated national bioeconomy strategy that would be backed by financial resources to implement the target measures. However, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic is currently developing a Roadmap for Circular Bioeconomy, which defines 6 areas with high potential for bioeconomy development in Slovakia. At the same time, there are some direct and concrete solutions to support bioeconomy projects at national as well as regional level.

3.14.1 National funding opportunities

At national level, one of the key national funding bodies is the **Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization** through **Operational programme Slovakia**. This programme replaced 6 operational programmes from the previous period and is operated via calls launched by different Slovak ministries (e.g. Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy, etc.). The Ministry of Investments is also the national authority for the implementation of **Interreg Danube Region Programme** and **Interreg Central Europe**, both providing financial resources to green development, cooperation and higher competitiveness of SMEs. Moreover, the **Ministry of Environment** provides grants and loans through the **Environmental Fund** and its **Modernization Fund**. Another funding body is the **Ministry of Agriculture** through the **Strategic Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy**. Finally, the **Government Office** is implementing the **Recovery and Resilience Plan** and **REPowerEU** component, which is a response to economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russian invasion to Ukraine. It is mainly focused on supporting the green economy and energy sector (renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, etc.).

Acquiring funding is a challenge shared by many Eastern European countries. Slovakia generally struggles with involving private sector, and spreading knowledge on how different funding streams can be used to promote bioeconomy solutions. Dedicated support of all stakeholders dealing with R&D, innovation, development of entrepreneurship with special attention to SMEs, including the access to finance and venture capital have to be in the top areas of interest by policy makers.





Table 183 - Environmental fund - grants

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Environment, sustainable development
Funding title/ name	Environmental Fund – grants
Short description	The Environmental Fund was established by law with the aim of implementing state support for environmental care based on the principles of sustainable development. It provides financial resources to applicants in the form of grants and loans to support projects within the framework of activities aimed at achieving the goals of state environmental policy at national, regional and local level. The following areas are supported by the Fund via grants (relevant for the bioeconomy goals): - Air protection - Water protection and use - Waste management and development of circular economy - Environmental education, training and awareness-raising - R&D on improving the status of environment - Increasing the energy efficiency of public buildings - Green education fund (waste management, circular economy, climate change, nature protection) - Village renewal (quality of environment in rural areas, environmental education, green infrastructure)
Example of funded projects	Projects with environmental focus
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Calls open throughout the year
Target beneficiaries	Municipalities, self-governing regions, third sector organizations
Link to application	https://envirofond.sk/aktualne-vyzva-a-specifikacie/
Grant type	Grants





Table 184 - Environmental fund - loans

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Environment, sustainable development
Funding title/ name	Environmental Fund – loans
Short description	Another form of support from the Environmental Fund is through loans. The following areas are supported by the Fund (partially relevant for the bioeconomy goals): - Water protection - Increasing the energy efficiency of buildings and infrastructure - Waste management and development of circular economy
Example of funded projects	Projects with environmental focus
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Open call
Target beneficiaries	Municipalities, self-governing regions
Link to application	https://envirofond.sk/uvery/
Grant type	Loans

Table 185 - Modernization fund

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Environment, sustainable development
Funding title/ name	Modernization Fund – part of Environmental Fund
Short description	Modernization Fund is a support mechanism set up by the EU within the framework of the European Emissions Trading System. It is an important instrument in the field of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and it is primarily intended to support investments and modernization of energy systems and to improve energy efficiency. The support is focused on a reduction of greenhouse gas emission, phasing out of fossil fuels, improved energy efficiency, as well as just transition to green production in carbon-dependent regions. The following areas are supported:





	- Production of energy from renewable energy sources - Heating industry - Increasing the energy efficiency of existing public buildings
Example of funded projects	Projects with environmental focus
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Calls open throughout the year
Target beneficiaries	State administration entities, heat and power producers, municipalities, self-governing regions
Link to application	https://envirofond.sk/modernizacny-fond-2/
Grant type	Grants

Table 186 - Programme Slovakia 2021 - 2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Programme Slovakia 2021 - 2027
Short description	For the period 2021 – 2027, Slovakia adopted single operational programme (instead of previous 6), with one managing authority. It allocated significant resources in support of green transition, renewable energy sources, environment and nature protection. Priorities of the programme relevant for bioeconomy goals: - Greener Slovakia - More competitive and smarter Slovakia
Example of funded projects	Using renewable energy sources in companies, strategic R&D based on partnerships, innovations, sustainable urban mobility, ecological public transport, etc.
Funding agency/ body	EU and state budget
Open call or specific deadline	Various calls open throughout the year with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	Different types of organizations depending on the specific call





Link to application	https://eurofondy.gov.sk/vyzvy/vyzvy-programu-slovensko/
Grant type	Grants

Table 187 - CAP Strategic Plan

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Agriculture, Food, Forestry
Funding title/ name	CAP Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027
Short description	CAP Strategic Plan responds to the main challenge of Slovak agriculture, which is to ensure the production of healthy and high-quality food at reasonable prices. CAP SP places emphasis on animal welfare and protection of natural resources, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to climate change and improving biodiversity. These and other improvements require the application of the latest technologies and innovative approaches at all levels of the food chain. Among the supported sectors are those that bring the highest added value for the Slovak countryside, environment and society. The measures include (non-exhaustive list): support to short supply chains, investments in irrigation and water retention measures, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, establishment of EIP-AGRI operational groups, AKIS, etc.
Example of funded projects	https://www.apa.sk/ziadosti-o-projektove-podpory
Funding agency/ body	EAFRD, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Calls open throughout the year
Target beneficiaries	Farmers, food producers, foresters
Link to application	https://www.apa.sk/projektove-podpory-aktualne
Grant type	Grants, financial instruments, direct payments





Table 188 - The Recovery and Resilience Plan

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Recovery and Resilience Plan
Short description	The Recovery and Resilience Plan is a joint response of EU countries to the severe economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Its main goal is to support reforms and investments that will allow Slovakia to catch up with the EU average standard of living. The main supported areas include: - Green economy - Better health - R&D and innovation - Quality education - Efficient public administration and digitalization
Example of funded projects	https://www.planobnovy.sk/realizacia/mapa-projektov/
Funding agency/ body	Government Office
Open call or specific deadline	Calls open throughout the year
Target beneficiaries	Self-governing regions, companies, academic sector, R&D, non-profit sector, civil society
Link to application	https://www.planobnovy.sk/realizacia/vyzvy/
Grant type	Grants

Table 189 - REPowerEU

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Renewable energy sources, energy efficiency of buildings, sustainable mobility, development of green skills





Funding title/ name	REPowerEU
Short description	REPowerEU is a new green chapter of the Recovery and Resilience Plan. Thanks to REPowerEU, Slovakia received additional funds for new green reforms and investments. The aim of this European initiative is to reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels and fight against climate crisis through measures in the field of energy savings, diversification of energy supplies and acceleration of the introduction of renewable energy sources in both, industry and households, including electricity production.
Example of funded projects	https://www.planobnovy.sk/realizacia/mapa-projektov/
Funding agency/ body	Government Office, various Slovak ministries
Open call or specific deadline	Calls open throughout the year
Target beneficiaries	Various types of potential beneficiaries
Link to application	https://www.planobnovy.sk/realizacia/vyzvy/
Grant type	Grants

Table 190 - Interreg Danube Region Programme

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No – all Slovak regions are covered. The programme covers 14 countries (in some countries only selected regions are eligible)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg Danube Region Programme
Short description	The Interreg Danube Region Programme is a transnational funding programme, co-funded by the EU, which helps advance competitiveness and sustainable development of the programme's area through innovation, green transition, social inclusion and better regional governance. The priorities with highest relevance for bioeconomy include: - A more competitive and smarter Danube Region - A greener, low-carbon Danube Region
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://interreg-danube.eu/projects





	- Aquatic plastic: Initiating bottom-up management solutions to reduce plastic waste in the Danube Basin - Danube Indeet: Integrated and decentralized concept rethinking energy and transport systems based on renewable energy in the Danube region - MicroDrink: Capacity building for management and governance of microplastics in drinking water resources of Danube Region
Funding agency/ body	ERDF Managing Authority/Join Secretariat: Ministry of Public Administration and Regional Development, Hungary
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	The programme is generally open to all types of beneficiaries with legal personality
Link to application	https://interreg-danube.eu/calls-for-proposals
Grant type	Grants – depending on the type of beneficiary, project can be supported up to 92% of the budget, with the maximum amount of support from the ERDF being 80%

Table 191 - Interreg Central Europe

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No – all Slovak regions are covered. The programme covers 9 EU Member States
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg Central Europe
Short description	Interreg Central Europe is a European Union funding programme for cohesive regional development. It funds cooperation among public institutions, private businesses and civil society organisations from all across central Europe. The priorities with highest relevance for bioeconomy include: - Cooperating for a smarter central Europe - Cooperating for a greener central Europe
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://www.interreg-central.eu/project-gateway/ - BIOECO-UP: Circular bioeconomy market uptake and policy support in central Europe - CE4CE: Greening public transport - Carbon Farming CE: Boosting carbon farming in central Europe - CIREVALC: Preventing food waste through circularity
Funding agency/ body	ERDF





	Managing Authority: The City of Vienna
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	The programme is generally open to all types of beneficiaries with legal personality
Link to application	https://www.interreg-central.eu/calls-for-proposals/
Grant type	Grants – depending on the type of beneficiary, project can be supported up to 92% of the budget, with the maximum amount of support from the ERDF being 80%

3.14.2 Regional funding opportunities

At regional level, the support to bioeconomy is provided mainly through **cross-border Interreg programmes**. These are financed from **EFRD** and the managing authority in Slovakia is the **Ministry of Investments**. Different Slovak regions are eligible in 5 such programmes: Interreg VI-A Slovakia – Austria, Slovakia – Czechia, Poland – Slovakia, Hungary – Slovakia and NEXT Hungary - Slovakia – Romania – Ukraine. These programmes foster cross-border cooperation and regional development in the areas of green economy, environment, competitive and smart border regions.

At the same time, Programme Slovakia supports the selected regions in their transformation towards climate neutrality and shift from their dependence on fossil fuels through **Just Transition Fund**. Other opportunities are provided through **Integrated Territorial Development** and implementation of integrated territorial strategies in all 8 Slovak regions at NUTS3 level.

Table 192 - Cross-border cooperation – Interreg Slovakia - Austria

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Bratislava Region (SK010), Trnava Region (SK021)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VI-A Slovakia – Austria 2021 - 2027
Short description	Interreg is one of the key instruments of the EU to support cross-border cooperation through project funding. The aim is to address common challenges and to find solutions in identified areas. Interreg VI-A Slovakia – Austria provides support in 4 investment priorities, of which 2 are relevant for bioeconomy: - A more competitive and smarter SK-AT border region - A greener SK-AT border region





Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://projects.sk-at.eu/
Funding agency/body	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic – ERDF
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	The programme is generally open to all types of beneficiaries with legal personality
Link to application	https://www.sk-at.eu/category/vyzvy/
Grant type	Grants – depending on the type of beneficiary, project can be supported up to 92% of the budget, with the maximum amount of support from the ERDF being 80%

Table 193 - Cross-border cooperation – Interreg Slovakia - Czechia

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Trenčín Region (SK022), Trnava Region (SK021), Žilina Region (SK031)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VI-A Slovakia – Czechia 2021 - 2027
Short description	Interreg is one of the key instruments of the EU to support cross-border cooperation through project funding. The aim is to address common challenges and to find solutions in identified areas. Interreg VI-A Slovakia – Czechia provides support in 5 investment priorities, of which 2 are relevant for bioeconomy: - Environment - Education
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://www.sk-cz.eu/download/zoznam-operacii/ - Environmentally efficient construction as a tool for climate change mitigation in the cross-border region - Together against the consequences of climate change - Low-carbon and SMART municipalities – the future of the Czecho-Slovak border regions - ClimateAdaptForest
Funding agency/body	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic - ERDF
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines





Target beneficiaries	The programme is generally open to all types of beneficiaries with legal personality
Link to application	https://www.sk-cz.eu/category/vyzvynapredkladaniezonfp/
Grant type	Grants – depending on the type of beneficiary, project can be supported up to 92% of the budget, with the maximum amount of support from the ERDF being 80%

Table 194 - Cross-border cooperation – Interreg Poland – Slovakia

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Žilina Region (SK031), Prešov Region (SK041)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VI-A Poland - Slovakia 2021 - 2027
Short description	Interreg is one of the key instruments of the EU to support cross-border cooperation through project funding. The aim is to address common challenges and to find solutions in identified areas. Interreg VI-A Poland - Slovakia provides support in 4 priority areas, of which 1 is relevant for bioeconomy: - Nature-friendly and safe border region
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://plsk.eu/sk/nase-projekty/projekty-2021-2027/
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic - ERDF
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	The programme is generally open to all types of beneficiaries with legal personality
Link to application	https://plsk.eu/sk/vyzvy/
Grant type	Grants – depending on the type of beneficiary, project can be supported up to 92% of the budget, with the maximum amount of support from the ERDF being 80%





Table 195 - Cross-border cooperation – Interreg Hungary – Slovakia

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Bratislava Region (SK010), Trnava Region (SK021), Nitra Region (SK023), Banská Bystrica Region (SK032), Košice Region (SK042)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VI-A Hungary - Slovakia 2021 - 2027
Short description	Interreg is one of the key instruments of the EU to support cross-border cooperation through project funding. The aim is to address common challenges and to find solutions in identified areas. Interreg VI-A Hungary - Slovakia provides support in 3 priority areas, of which 1 is relevant for bioeconomy: - Green cooperations
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://www.skhu.eu/funded-projects
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic - ERDF
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	The programme is generally open to all types of beneficiaries with legal personality
Link to application	https://www.skhu.eu/call-for-proposals
Grant type	Grants – depending on the type of beneficiary, project can be supported up to 92% of the budget, with the maximum amount of support from the ERDF being 80%

Table 196 - ENI Cross-border Cooperation Programme

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Košice Region (SK042), Prešov Region (SK041)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VI-A NEXT Hungary - Slovakia – Romania – Ukraine 2021 - 2027
Short description	The Interreg VI-A NEXT Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Programme is implemented under the Cohesion Policy within the 2021-2027 European Union financial framework under the Neighbourhood, Development and International





	Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). 83 million EUR will be allocated for project ideas to be implemented in cooperation with partners from Member states and from Ukraine. The priority area relevant for bioeconomy: - A resilient and green border region
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://next.huskroua-cbc.eu/projects/
Funding agency/body	EC is the donor of the EU contribution (Cohesion Policy, NDICI) Managing authority is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary National authority is the Ministry of Investments, Regional development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	The programme is generally open to all types of beneficiaries with legal personality
Link to application	https://next.huskroua-cbc.eu/calls/
Grant type	Grants

Table 197 - Just Transition Fund – Programme Slovakia 2021 - 2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Nitra Region (SK023), Banská Bystrica Region (SK032), Košice Region (SK042)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/name	Just Transition Fund
Short description	In line with the EU climate objectives of achieving a net domestic reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 and of achieving climate neutrality for the EU in an efficient and fair manner by 2050, a Just Transition Mechanism has been proposed as part of the European Green Deal. It focuses on those regions and sectors that are most affected by the transformation due to their dependence on fossil fuels. In Slovakia, there are 3 such regions: Horná Nitra, Košice and Banská Bystrica. The fund has 3 pillars: - Just transition fund implemented within shared governance - Special scheme under the Programme InvestEU - Loan instrument for the public sector in cooperation with EIB group for the mobilization of further investments in the relevant regions





Example of funded projects	Not available
Funding agency/body	Programme Slovakia, Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Open call
Target beneficiaries	SMEs; large enterprises (under specific conditions)
Link to application	https://mirri.gov.sk/sekcie/program-slovensko-2021-2027/fond-spravodlivej-transformacie/zber-projektovych-zamerov/
Grant type	Grants

Table 198 - Integrated territorial development – Programme Slovakia 2021 - 2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Implemented at NUTS3 level – in each of 8 Slovak regions
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/name	Integrated Territorial Development – Programme Slovakia
Short description	In the coming period, Slovakia will face demographic, economic, social and environmental challenges. The Vision and Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030, fulfilling the role of the National Strategy for Regional Development responds to these challenges. One of the tools for achieving regional policy objectives is the implementation of the European Cohesion Policy. In this programming period, regions have easier access to financing part of their territorial development needs through the use of integrated territorial approach to the implementation of EU funds according to the principles of the Territorial Agenda for the EU. The main purpose of integrated territorial development is to ensure the implementation of investments within several defined priorities. In Slovakia, 8 integrated territorial strategies are adopted and being implemented at NUTS3 level. The supported priorities include: - Science, research, innovations - Energy efficiency and decarbonization - Modern regions
Example of funded projects	Cross-sectoral innovation partnerships; Water retention measures for adaptation to climate change and flood protection; Collection and separation of municipal waste





Funding agency/body	ERDF
Open call or specific deadline	Open call
Target beneficiaries	Integrated territorial investments are defined through integrated territorial investment project plans prepared in cooperation of regional and local governments and partners.
Link to application	https://eurofondy.gov.sk/program-slovensko/integrovaný-uzemný-rozvoj/
Grant type	Grant

3.15 CZECHIA

Key challenge for sustainable bioeconomy development in Czechia is the lack of government priority for bioeconomy development and coordination of ministerial action in this area despite their awareness of the bioeconomy and its gains. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic prepared a strategic document “Concept of bioeconomy in the Czech Republic from the perspective of the Ministry of Agriculture”, which defines 5 main target sectors for bioeconomy: ecosystems and their services; rural social sector; industry and economic sector; food sector; science and research.

3.15.1 National funding opportunities

In the Czech Republic, the bioeconomy is supported through various national-level programs and instruments administered by different governmental bodies. The main responsible institutions include: **Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports**. The **State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic** grants subsidies to applicants from a large number of subsidy programmes (OP Environment, National Programme Environment, New Green Savings Programme, Modernisation Fund, etc.). Other opportunities are provided by the **National Recovery Plan, OP Technologies and Applications for Competitiveness** and **CAP Strategic Plan**. Cooperation for smarter and greener Central Europe is supported by the **Interreg Central Europe Programme**.

Table 199 - Operational programme Environment

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Environment
Funding title/ name	Operational Programme Environment





Short description	It is the basic subsidy programme in the field of environmental protection. The programme provides support in six specific objectives: - Energy efficiency - Renewable energy sources - Adaptation to climate change - Water supply and sewerage - Circular economy - Nature and pollution
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://opzp.cz/uspesne-projekty/
Funding agency/ body	ERDF, Ministry of Environment
Open call or specific deadline	Calls open throughout the year – corresponding to specific objectives
Target beneficiaries	Municipalities, organizations, state and local governments, research and scientific institutes, educational establishments, legal and physical entities and non-profit organisations.
Link to application	https://opzp.cz/nabidka-dotaci/
Grant type	Grants – up to 95% of the total eligible costs of the project (exceptionally also 100% for selected measures)

Table 200 - National programme Environment

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Environmental protection, sustainable use of natural resources
Funding title/ name	National Programme Environment
Short description	The Programme aims to provide long-term and effective protection of the environment in the Czech Republic, to support efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, to correct the negative impacts of human activities on the environment, to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate changes and to provide efficient prevention through environmental education of citizens. It provides support to projects that cannot be funded from the Operational Programme Environment, the New Savings Programme and other grant and subsidy programmes. It supports 8 priority areas: - Water - Air - Wastes, old burdens, environmental risks





	- Nature and landscape - Environment in cities and municipalities - Environmental protection - Innovative and demonstration projects - Energy savings
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://www.narodniprogramzp.cz/uspesne-projekty/
Funding agency/ body	State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Calls open throughout the year
Target beneficiaries	This Programme is designed for a wide range of entities, including public and private legal persons as well as individuals.
Link to application	https://www.narodniprogramzp.cz/habidka-dotaci/
Grant type	Grants

Table 201- New Green Savings Programme

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Energy
Funding title/ name	New Green Savings Programme
Short description	The New Green Savings Programme administered by the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic is focused on energy savings in family houses and apartment buildings. The main objective of the programme is to improve the state of the environment by reducing the production of pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions (in particular CO2 emissions).
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://novazelenausporam.cz/uspesne-projekty/
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Environment, administered by the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic





Open call or specific deadline	Applications are received by the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic before, during or after the completion of the project continuously till 30 June, or until the allocation is depleted.
Target beneficiaries	Owners or builders of family houses and apartment buildings, both individuals and legal entities.
Link to application	https://novazelenausporam.cz/jak-na-to/
Grant type	Grants – depending on the energy savings, beneficiaries can save up to 50% of the total eligible expenses (up to 60% if combined with “boiler subsidies” for lower income households).

Table 202 - Modernization Fund

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Energy
Funding title/ name	Modernization Fund
Short description	Modernisation Fund offers the EU Member States billions in investment for the development of low-carbon technologies, modernisation of energy systems, and improvement of energy efficiency. The Modernisation Fund primarily draws funds from the monetisation of 2% of the total number of emission allowances in the EU ETS system for the period 2021-2030. It focuses on the following priority areas: - Generation and use of energy from renewable energy sources - Energy efficiency - Facilities for the accumulation and distribution of energy
Example of funded projects	Not available
Funding agency/ body	State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Environment
Open call or specific deadline	Calls open throughout the year
Target beneficiaries	State administration entities, heat and power producers, municipalities, regions
Link to application	https://www.sfzp.cz/en/about-the-modernisation-fund/





Grant type	Grants
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Table 203 - National Recovery Plan

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	National Recovery Plan
Short description	The National Recovery Plan is a strategic document on the basis of which the Czech Republic requests a financial contribution from the European Recovery and Resilience Instrument for the implementation of measures and reforms aimed at helping to recover from the consequences of the pandemic and supporting investments in the ecological and digital transformation of the Czech economy. It has 7 pillars: - Digital transformation - Physical infrastructure and green transition - Education and labor market - Institutions and regulation and business support in response to COVID-19 - R&D and innovation - Population health and resilience - REPowerEU
Example of funded projects	Not found
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Environment – implementing selected activities
Open call or specific deadline	Calls open throughout the year
Target beneficiaries	Regions, companies, academic sector, R&D, non-profit sector, civil society
Link to application	https://planobnovy.gov.cz/vyhlasene-vyzvy/
Grant type	Grants





Table 204 - REPowerEU

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Energy, sustainable mobility, development of green skills
Funding title/ name	REPowerEU
Short description	REPowerEU is a specific component of the National Recovery Plan. Under REPowerEU, the Czech Republic will receive additional funding to strengthen energy security and to assist with the energy transition. The measures will also accelerate decarbonization and contribute to reducing energy costs for Czech households, companies and the public sector. Main components: - Infrastructure for renewable energy sources and electrification system - Support to decentralization and digitalization of energy sector - Comprehensive reform of consultancy regarding the renovation wave in the Czech Republic - Adaptation of schools – support of green skills and sustainability at universities - Decarbonization of road transport - Electrification of railway transport - Simplification of environmental permitting procedures and definition of areas for the development of renewable energy sources
Example of funded projects	Not found
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Calls open throughout the year
Target beneficiaries	Various types of potential beneficiaries
Link to application	https://planobnovy.gov.cz/vyhlasene-vyzvy/
Grant type	Grants





Table 205 - Operational programme Technologies and Applications for Competitiveness

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Operational programme Technologies and Applications for Competitiveness
Short description	The aim of the programme is to increase the added value and productivity of SMEs, support the development of new innovative companies and key skills, and facilitate a smart transition to a sustainable and digital economy. The supported priorities, relevant for bioeconomy include: - R&D, innovation and digitalization - Low-carbon economy - Efficient management of resources
Example of funded projects	Not found
Funding agency/ body	Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Calls open throughout the year
Target beneficiaries	The programme is primarily focused on supporting SMEs. In some cases, it also supports large enterprises, e.g. in the area of energy savings, energy and digital infrastructure, or R&D.
Link to application	https://optak.gov.cz/priority-a-aktivita/a-5/
Grant type	Grants

Table 206 - Strategic Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Agriculture, Food, Forestry
Funding title/ name	CAP Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027





Short description	CAP Strategic Plan is an instrument for supporting the agricultural sector and rural areas. CAP Strategic Plan reflects the needs of the agricultural, food and forestry sectors, the needs of rural development and improving the quality of the environment. It includes 92 interventions.
Example of funded projects	Not found
Funding agency/body	Ministry of Agriculture
Open call or specific deadline	Calls open throughout the year
Target beneficiaries	Farmers, food producers, foresters
Link to application	https://mze.gov.cz/public/portal/mze/dotace/szp-pro-obdobi-2021-2027/harmonogram-vyzev
Grant type	Grants

Table 207 - Interreg Central Europe

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No – all Czech regions are covered. The programme covers 9 EU Member States
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg Central Europe
Short description	Interreg Central Europe is a European Union funding programme for cohesive regional development. It funds cooperation among public institutions, private businesses and civil society organisations from all across central Europe. The priorities with highest relevance for bioeconomy include: - Cooperating for a smarter central Europe - Cooperating for a greener central Europe
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://www.interreg-central.eu/project-gateway/ - BIOECO-UP: Circular bioeconomy market uptake and policy support in central Europe - CE4CE: Greening public transport - Carbon Farming CE: Boosting carbon farming in central Europe - CIREVALC: Preventing food waste through circularity
Funding agency/body	ERDF Managing Authority: The City of Vienna





	National authority: Ministry of Regional Development
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	The programme is generally open to all types of beneficiaries with legal personality
Link to application	https://www.interreg-central.eu/calls-for-proposals/
Grant type	Grants – the ERDF co-financing rate for the Czech beneficiaries is 80% of eligible expenditures

3.15.2 Regional funding opportunities

At regional level, the support to bioeconomy-related projects is provided mainly through **cross-border cooperation programme Interreg**. Five cross-border programmes are available for individual Czech regions. Moreover, **Just Transition Fund** provides financial resources to projects addressing the impacts of the coal phase-out in three most affected Czech regions.

Table 208 - Cross-border cooperation - Interreg Slovakia - Czechia

Region (NUTS2 classification)	South Moravian region (CZ064), Zlín region (CZ072), Moravian-Silesian Region (CZ080)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VI-A Slovakia – Czechia 2021 - 2027
Short description	Interreg is one of the key instruments of the EU to support cross-border cooperation through project funding. The aim is to address common challenges and to find solutions in identified areas. Interreg VI-A Slovakia – Czechia provides support in 5 investment priorities, of which 2 are relevant for bioeconomy: - Environment - Education
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://www.sk-cz.eu/download/zoznam-operacii/ - Environmentally efficient construction as a tool for climate change mitigation in the cross-border region - Together against the consequences of climate change - Low-carbon and SMART municipalities – the future of the Czech-Slovak border regions - ClimateAdaptForest
Funding agency/ body	Managing authority: Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic





	National authority: Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	The programme is generally open to all types of beneficiaries with legal personality
Link to application	https://www.sk-cz.eu/vyzvy1/
Grant type	Grants

Table 209 - Cross-border cooperation - Interreg Czechia - Poland

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Liberec region (CZ051), Královéhradecký region (CZ052), Pardubice region (CZ053), Olomouc region (CZ071), Moravia-Silesia Region (CZ080)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VI-A Czechia - Poland 2021 - 2027
Short description	Interreg is one of the key instruments of the EU to support cross-border cooperation through project funding. The aim is to address common challenges and to find solutions in identified areas. Interreg VI-A Czechia – Poland provides support in 5 priorities, of which 2 are relevant for bioeconomy: - Integrated rescue system and environment - Entrepreneurship
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://www.cz-pl.eu/schvalene-projekty - The importance, change and practical protection of peatlands - Wastewater without borders – the problem of micro-pollution - Research on the aquatic ecosystem in Kladno
Funding agency/ body	Managing authority: Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	Different types of beneficiaries
Link to application	https://www.cz-pl.eu/vyzvy
Grant type	Grants





Table 210 - Cross-border cooperation - Interreg Austria - Czechia

Region (NUTS2 classification)	South Bohemian Region (CZ031), Vysočina Region (CZ063), South Moravian Region (CZ064)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VI-A Austria - Czechia 2021 - 2027
Short description	Interreg is one of the key instruments of the EU to support cross-border cooperation through project funding. The aim is to address common challenges and to find solutions in identified areas. Interreg VI-A Austria - Czechia provides support in 4 priorities, of which 2 are relevant for bioeconomy: - Research and innovation - Climate and environment
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://interreg.at-cz.eu/cz/katalog-projektu/2021-2027 - PHOS4PLANT – From waste to resource – Recycling sewage sludge ash into phosphate-rich plant fertilizer - DeKLARed ADAPTRegions – Climate adapted regions - Plants4cooling – The cooling effect of plants and the application of innovative tools for climate change adaptation
Funding agency/ body	Managing authority: Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	Different types of beneficiaries
Link to application	https://interreg.at-cz.eu/cz/terminy
Grant type	Grants

Table 211 - Cross-border cooperation - Interreg Bavaria - Czechia

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Karlovarský Region (CZ041), Plzeň Region (CZ032), South Bohemian Region (CZ031)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VI-A Bavaria - Czechia 2021 - 2027
Short description	Interreg is one of the key instruments of the EU to support cross-border cooperation through project funding. The aim is to address common challenges and to find solutions in identified areas.





	Interreg VI-A Bavaria – Czechia provides support in 5 priorities, of which 2 are relevant for bioeconomy: - Research and knowledge transfer - Adaptation to climate change and environmental protection
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://www.by-cz.eu/cs/projekty/projekty-2021-2027/
Funding agency/body	Managing authority: Bavarian State Ministry for Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy National authority: Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	Different types of beneficiaries
Link to application	https://www.by-cz.eu/cs/podpora-z-programu/podavani-zadosti/
Grant type	Grants

Table 212 - Cross-border cooperation - Interreg Saxony - Czechia

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Karlovarský Region (CZ041), Ústecký Region (CZ042), Liberec Region (CZ051)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg VI-A Saxony - Czechia 2021 - 2027
Short description	Interreg is one of the key instruments of the EU to support cross-border cooperation through project funding. The aim is to address common challenges and to find solutions in identified areas. Interreg VI-A Saxony – Czechia provides support in 4 priorities, of which 2 are relevant for bioeconomy: - Innovation and competitiveness - Climate change and sustainability
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://www.sn-cz2027.eu/cz/projekty - SUPPORT4SME – Cross-border support for the involvement of SMEs in the research of materials of the future - AKWA - Impacts of climate change on transboundary water bodies of the Czech-Saxon border - Climate change without borders
Funding agency/body	Managing authority: Saxon State Ministry for Regional Development National authority: Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic





Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	Different types of beneficiaries
Link to application	https://www.sn-cz2027.eu/cz/terminy
Grant type	Grants

Table 213 - Operational programme Just Transition

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Karlovarský Region (CZ041), Moravian-Silesian Region (CZ080), Ústí nad Labem Region (CZ042)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Operational programme Just Transition
Short description	This is a new programme for the period 2021 – 2027 focused on addressing the impacts of the coal phase-out in the most affected regions (so-called coal regions). The main aim of the support is to ensure sufficient jobs for workers leaving the coal industry and to improve the environment. The supported areas include: - Clean energy - Digital innovation - People and skills - Circular economy - Territory restoration - R&D - Entrepreneurship
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://opst.cz/o-programu/schvalene-projekty/
Funding agency/ body	Managing authority: Ministry of Environment
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	Different types of beneficiaries
Link to application	https://opst.cz/nabidka-dotaci/
Grant type	Grants





3.16 ESTONIA

3.16.1 National funding opportunities

In **Estonia**, the bioeconomy is supported through various national-level programmes and instruments administered by several governmental bodies. The main responsible institutions include: **Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture**, **Ministry of Climate**, **Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications**, and the **Ministry of Education and Research**. Key funding is facilitated through the **Estonian Business and Innovation Agency (EAS)** and **Enterprise Estonia**, which offer grants for applied research, circular economy innovation, and large-scale industrial investment. Other opportunities are provided via the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan**, **Rural Development Programme (under the CAP Strategic Plan)**, and the **Applied Research Programme**. Cooperation for a smarter and greener Baltic Sea Region is also supported by the **Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme**, through initiatives like **BioBoosters**, which promote innovation in the bioeconomy and circular economy sectors.

In **Estonia**, the bioeconomy initiatives are supported by various programmes and instruments at the national level, which are administered by several governmental bodies. The main responsible institutions are **Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture** (which is a primary driver of policy and programmes, especially those related to rural development and primary production sectors, and leads efforts to increase the efficient and sustainable use of bioresources in agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, and the food industry), **Ministry of Climate** (involved particularly in aligning bioeconomy strategies with climate policy and green transition), **Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications** (which oversees the industrial, technological, and economic dimensions of the bioeconomy), **Ministry of the Environment** (which plays a key role in forestry, biodiversity preservation, circular economy, and ensuring that bioeconomy development is aligned with environmental protection and sustainability objectives) and **Ministry of Education and Research** (which is responsible for the research, development, innovation, and education aspects of the bioeconomy). Key funding is facilitated by the **Estonian Research Council (ERC)**, which provides funding for research and development, including bioeconomy-related projects, and coordinating participation in EU research initiatives, the **BIOEAST initiative**, which is coordinated by the Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture and supports knowledge-based circular bioeconomies and fostering cooperation amongst stakeholders, the **Estonian University of Life Sciences and the Centre of Bioeconomy**, which is a major research and knowledge hub fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, supporting innovation, and providing expertise for both policy and industry development in the bioeconomy sector, and the **Estonian Circular Bioeconomy Hub**, which supports interdisciplinary research, stakeholder engagement, and the development of innovative bioeconomy solutions. Other opportunities at national-level programmes and instruments are provided through the **Circular Bioeconomy Roadmap**, **RITA funding scheme**, **National Recovery and Resilience Plan**, **Rural Development Programme** (administered by the Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture and ended in 2022), **Applied Research Programme** (administered by Enterprise Estonia), and **specific sectoral strategies** in agriculture and fisheries, forestry, energy





sector, and research, development, innovation, and entrepreneurship areas. Cooperation for a smarter and greener Baltic Sea Region is also supported by the **Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme** through initiatives such as **BioBoosters**, which promotes innovation in the bio-economy and circular economy.

Table 214 - Applied Research Programme (Estonian Business and Innovation Agency)

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General (including bioeconomy and circular economy)
Funding title/ name	Applied Research Programme
Short description	Supports the development of innovative products, technologies, and services by co-funding applied research activities.
Example of funded projects	BiotaTec OÜ received 1.94 million to upscale bioleaching technology for e-waste valorisation and converting it into nanometallic particles.
Funding agency/ body	Estonian Business and Innovation Agency (EIS)
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines; e.g., next round from 21 January 2025 to 21 March 2025
Target beneficiaries	Estonian-registered companies conducting applied research
Link to application	Programme for applied research - EIS
Grant type	Co-financing grant (20-75% self-financing required)

Table 215 - Large-Scale Investment Grant

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General, including bio-based industries
Funding title/ name	Large-Scale Investment Grant
Short description	Provides substantial support for companies making significant investments to enhance competitiveness and export capacity.
Example of funded projects	Not specified.
Funding agency/ body	Enterprise Estonia
Open call or specific deadline	The application round is open until the 11th of August 2025. The deadline for requesting preliminary consultation is the 11th of July.
Target beneficiaries	Companies investing at least €100 million and creating a minimum of 30 new jobs
Link to application	Large-scale investment grant — Invest in Estonia
Grant type	Co-financing grant (minimum 85% self-financing).





Table 216 - Grant for Circular Economy-based Production and Consumption Models

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, the budget for the round is €2 million, of which at least €800,000 allocated to projects outside Tallinn and Tartu regions
Sector (specify sector or general)	Circular economy, industrial symbiosis and bioeconomy
Funding title/ name	Grant for Circular Economy-based Production and Consumption Models
Short description	Aims to transition businesses from linear to circular models by supporting new production and consumption approaches
Example of funded projects	Not specified
Funding agency/ body	Enterprise Estonia
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines, details to be confirmed
Target beneficiaries	Estonian companies implementing circular economy principles
Link to application	Circular economy based production and consumption models Keskkonnainvesteeringute keskus
Grant type	Co-financing grant (at least 30% self-financing)

Table 217 - BioBoosters Hackathon Programme

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No; open to Baltic Sea Region countries, including Estonia
Sector (specify sector or general)	Bioeconomy and circular economy
Funding title/ name	BioBoosters Hackathon Programme
Short description	Facilitates innovation in the bioeconomy sector through hackathons that connect businesses with solution providers
Example of funded projects	Organised 9 hackathons with 64 teams, initiating 11 R&D and business cooperations
Funding agency/ body	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing; specific hackathon dates announced periodically
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, start-ups, and research groups in the bioeconomy sector
Link to application	BioBoosters - Interreg Baltic Sea Region
Grant type	Non-monetary support through innovation facilitation





Table 218 - European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund – Estonia 2021-2027

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Blue Economy
Funding title/ name	European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund – Estonia
Short description	The EMFAF supports Estonia's fisheries and aquaculture sectors by promoting sustainable practices, enhancing competitiveness, and fostering innovation. The programme aims to ensure the sustainable use of aquatic resources and contribute to the resilience of coastal communities.
Example of funded projects	Not specified
Funding agency/ body	Estonian Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture
Open call or specific deadline	Open calls are managed through the Funding & Tenders Portal; not specified
Target beneficiaries	Fisheries and aquaculture enterprises, producer organisations, coastal communities, and other stakeholders in the blue economy sector
Link to application	European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) EU Funding & Tenders Portal
Grant type	Co-financing grants; the specific co-financing rate depends on the nature of the project and applicant.

Table 219 - Circular Economy Pilot Projects

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes, targeted at local municipalities and public sector bodies across Estonia
Sector (specify sector or general)	Circular Economy
Funding title/ name	Circular Economy Pilot Projects
Short description	Supports the development and implementation of innovative circular economy solutions at the local level
Example of funded projects	Not specified
Funding agency/ body	Environmental Investment Centre
Open call or specific deadline	In preparation. Specific deadlines; e.g., the IV open call was funded under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021
Target beneficiaries	Local municipalities, associations of local municipalities, and public authorities
Link to application	Circular economy pilot projects Keskkonnainvesteeringute keskus
Grant type	Co-financing grant (up to 85% of eligible costs)





Table 220 - Co-financing programme

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General (including bioeconomy)
Funding title/ name	Co-financing programme
Short description	Provides co-financing for projects that receive core funding from external sources such as LIFE, Interreg, Innovation Fund, or Horizon.
Example of funded projects	Not specified
Funding agency/ body	Environmental Investment Centre
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing
Target beneficiaries	All legal persons, self-employed persons, and institutions
Link to application	Co-financing programme Keskkonnainvesteeringute keskus
Grant type	Co-financing grant

Table 221 - Nutikas Programme

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Smart specialisation growth areas (including bioeconomy)
Funding title/ name	Applied Research in Smart Specialisation Growth Areas: Nutikas
Short description	Supports collaboration between R&D institutions and companies to increase research intensity in the Estonian economy.
Example of funded projects	Not specified.
Funding agency/ body	Enterprise Estonia
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing
Target beneficiaries	Companies and R&D institutions
Link to application	Funding opportunities — Estonian Academy of Arts
Grant type	Co-financing grant (amount per project ranges from €20,000 to €3 million)

Table 222 - Development Voucher

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General, including bioeconomy
Funding title/ name	Development Voucher





Short description	Supports preliminary research activities to assess the potential of development ideas
Example of funded projects	Not specified
Funding agency/ body	Enterprise Estonia
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing
Target beneficiaries	Entrepreneurs
Link to application	Funding opportunities — Estonian Academy of Arts
Grant type	Grant (maximum €35,000; up to 70% of eligible costs)

Table 223 - Innovation Voucher

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General, including bioeconomy
Funding title/ name	Innovation Voucher
Short description	Enables SMEs to collaborate with research institutions to develop innovative solutions.
Example of funded projects	Not specified.
Funding agency/ body	Enterprise Estonia
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing
Target beneficiaries	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
Link to application	Funding opportunities — Estonian Academy of Arts
Grant type	Grant (maximum €7,500; up to 80% of eligible costs)

Table 224 - eRural Resilience Project

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Bioeconomy and digitalisation
Funding title/ name	eRural Resilience
Short description	Aims to support the digitalisation of bioeconomy enterprises in rural areas by developing and implementing support systems for e-bio businesses.
Example of funded projects	Development of digital tools and support systems for rural bioeconomy enterprises
Funding agency/ body	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme





Open call or specific deadline	Project-based; current project runs from November 2023 to October 2026
Target beneficiaries	Rural bioeconomy enterprises, local governments, and support organisations
Link to application	eRural resilience - Interreg Baltic Sea Region
Grant type	Project funding

Table 225 - European Regional Development Fund - Estonia

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General – Infrastructure, R&D, business development
Funding title/ name	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – Estonia
Short description	ERDF supports investments in infrastructure, research and development, and business development to promote economic growth and cohesion in Estonia.
Example of funded projects	Not specified.
Funding agency/ body	State Shared Service Centre (Riigi Tugiteenuste Keskus, RTK)
Open call or specific deadline	Ongoing, open until 31 December 2027
Target beneficiaries	Public institutions, private companies, and other stakeholders
Link to application	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) - Estonia
Grant type	Co-financing grant

3.16.2 Regional funding opportunities

In Estonia, the coordination of bioeconomy initiatives at the regional level is primarily facilitated through a collaborative network of local governments, regional development centres, research institutions, and business support organisations. **Municipalities and local governments** play an important role in initiating, planning, and implementing regional bioeconomy projects. They work closely with local businesses, communities, and development centres to identify opportunities and develop circular bioeconomy solutions tailored to the specific resources and needs of their regions.

Regional development centres act as important facilitators in supporting local entrepreneurs and local businesses. They assist in accessing funding, building partnerships, and implementing innovation projects related to the bioeconomy sector. **Universities and Research institutions** such as **Tallinn University** (notably through its KEKO cluster), the **Estonian University of Life Sciences**, and the **University of Tartu** provide essential research, technical expertise, and innovation support for regional bioeconomy initiatives, often partnering with local governments and businesses. **Tallinn University** has also developed methodologies for creating regional circular





bioeconomy roadmaps, which guide municipalities and stakeholders in planning and executing strategies that align with national priorities and the broader Estonia 2035 vision.

Business and innovation support organizations, such as the **Tartu Science Park Foundation**, are instrumental in fostering regional bioeconomy development by nurturing innovation, providing support to SMEs, and facilitating participation in international networks and projects. EU-funded programmes, notably **Interreg and Cross-Border Cooperation initiatives**, represent a substantial source of funding and knowledge exchange for regional bioeconomy projects in Estonia. These programmes facilitate cross-border collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and the implementation of innovative solutions in areas such as sustainable food production, bio-based materials, and circular economy practices. Finally, regions are encouraged to develop their own roadmaps (known as **Regional Circular Bioeconomy Roadmaps**) based on the national Circular Bioeconomy Roadmap, aligning local initiatives with broader strategic goals, such as Estonia 2035 and climate neutrality by 2050. These roadmaps are developed through cooperation between municipalities, businesses, communities, and research institutions.

Table 226 - PREMIERE seed-funding initiative

Region (NUTS2 classification)	EE00 – Eesti (Estonia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	Bioeconomy, agriculture, and rural development
Funding title/ name	PREMIERE seed-funding initiative
Short description	Provides seed funding to practice-oriented organisations for projects aligned with Horizon Europe's Cluster 6 destinations
Example of funded projects	Not specified
Funding agency/ body	MTÜ Kodukant Läänemaa
Open call or specific deadline	Open from 1 December 2024 to 31 January 2025; extended deadline to 14 February 2025
Target beneficiaries	Practice-oriented organisations such as farmers' organisations, agri-food SMEs, and NGOs
Link to application	PREMIERE Seed-Funding Initiative – MTÜ Kodukant Läänemaa
Grant type	Seed funding

Table 227 - Interreg VI-A Estonia-Latvia Programme

Region (NUTS2 classification)	EE00 – Eesti (Estonia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General – Cross-border cooperation, SMEs, environment, public services
Funding title/ name	Interreg VI-A Estonia-Latvia Programme





Short description	This programme supports cross-border initiatives between Estonia and Latvia, focusing on enhancing cooperation, sustainable business growth, and environmental resilience. Specifically focused on specific border regions within Estonia, excluding parts of Central and Western Estonia.
Example of funded projects	Not specified
Funding agency/body	Interreg Estonia-Latvia Joint Secretariat
Open call or specific deadline	3 rd Call open from 2 September to 5 December 2024
Target beneficiaries	Public institutions, SMEs, NGOs, and other stakeholders in Estonia and Latvia
Link to application	Apply for funding: 3rd call now open for Estonia-Latvia cross-border projects! ESTLAT Documents, templates and other materials ESTLAT
Grant type	Co-financing grant (up to 80% of eligible costs)

Table 228 - Central Baltic Programme 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	EE00 – Eesti (Estonia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General – employment, public services, SMEs
Funding title/name	Central Baltic Programme 2021-2027
Short description	This programme fosters cross-border cooperation among regions in Estonia, Finland, Latvia, and Sweden, aiming to improve employment opportunities and public services. Specifically focused on certain regions of Estonia that are geographically or economically integrated into the Central Baltic area.
Example of funded projects	Not specified
Funding agency/body	Central Baltic Programme Joint Secretariat
Open call or specific deadline	4 th Call open from 9 January to 31 October 2024
Target beneficiaries	Public institutions, NGOs, SMEs, and other stakeholders in participating regions
Link to application	Fourth round of calls for project proposals in 2024 - Central Baltic
Grant type	Co-financing grant (up to 80% of eligible costs)

Table 229 - Development support for Entrepreneurship in South-East Estonia

Region (NUTS2 classification)	EE00 – Eesti (Estonia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General – entrepreneurship and innovation





Funding title/ name	Development support for Entrepreneurship in South-East Estonia
Short description	Aims to enhance regional competitiveness by supporting entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation in South-East Estonia.
Example of funded projects	Not specified.
Funding agency/ body	State Shared Service Centre (RTK)
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines; last start date 8 April 2024
Target beneficiaries	Entrepreneurs and businesses in South-East Estonia
Link to application	Kagu-Eesti ettevõtluse arengutoetuse andmine (2021-2027) Riigi Tugiteenuste keskus
Grant type	The maximum share of support from eligible costs is 60%, and the applicant's co-financing must be at least 40%.

Table 230 - County development strategy implementation support measure (2024-2027)

Region (NUTS2 classification)	EE00 – Eesti (Estonia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General – regional development
Funding title/ name	County Development Strategy Implementation Support Measure
Short description	Supports the implementation of county development strategies to enhance regional competitiveness and ensure balanced development across Estonia.
Example of funded projects	Not specified.
Funding agency/ body	Environmental Investment Centre (KIK)
Open call or specific deadline	Open until 1 January 2028
Target beneficiaries	County governments and associated organisations
Link to application	Maakonna arengustrateegia elluviimise toetusmeede 2024-2027 Riigi Tugiteenuste keskus
Grant type	Co-financing grant (up to 85% of eligible costs)

Table 231 - LEADER Programme 2023-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	EE00 – Eesti (Estonia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General – Rural Development
Funding title/ name	LEADER Programme 2023-2027
Short description	Supports community-led local development initiatives in rural areas, fostering local entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable development.





Example of funded projects	Not specified.
Funding agency/ body	Estonian Rural Network via Local Action Groups (LAGs)
Open call or specific deadline	Varies by LAG, typically annual calls
Target beneficiaries	Local communities, NGOs, SMEs, and public institutions in rural areas
Link to application	Estonian Rural Network The European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)
Grant type	Co-financing grant

Table 232 - LEADER Programme 2023-2027 Põhja-Harju Koostöökogu

Region (NUTS2 classification)	EE00 – Eesti (Estonia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General – Rural Development
Funding title/ name	LEADER Programme 2023-2027
Short description	Supports community-led local development initiatives in the North Harju region, focusing on enhancing local entrepreneurship, improving living environments, and fostering social cohesion.
Example of funded projects	Not specified.
Funding agency/ body	LAG - Põhja-Harju Koostöökogu
Open call or specific deadline	Varies, typically annual calls
Target beneficiaries	Local communities, NGOs, SMEs, and public institutions in the North Harju region
Link to application	PHKK – Põhja-Harju Koostöökogu
Grant type	Co-financing grant

Table 233 - LEADER Programme 2023-2027 Kodukant Läänemaa

Region (NUTS2 classification)	EE00 – Eesti (Estonia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General – Rural Development
Funding title/ name	LEADER Programme 2023-2027
Short description	Aims to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality in the Läänemaa region by supporting local initiatives, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development projects.
Example of funded projects	Not specified.
Funding agency/ body	LAG - Kodukant Läänemaa





Open call or specific deadline	Varies, typically annual calls
Target beneficiaries	Local communities, NGOs, SMEs, and public institutions in the Läänemaa region
Link to application	MTÜ Kodukant Läänemaa – Külaelu edendamine
Grant type	Co-financing grant

Table 234 - LEADER Programme 2023-2027 Võrumaa Partnerluskogu

Region (NUTS2 classification)	EE00 – Eesti (Estonia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General – Rural Development
Funding title/ name	LEADER Programme 2023-2027
Short description	Supports the development of rural areas in Võru County by funding projects that promote entrepreneurship, improve community services, and enhance the living environment.
Example of funded projects	Not specified.
Funding agency/ body	LAG - Võrumaa Partnerluskogu
Open call or specific deadline	Varies, typically annual calls
Target beneficiaries	Local communities, NGOs, SMEs, and public institutions in Võru County
Link to application	Võrumaa Partnerluskogu - LEADER piirkondlik tegevusgrupp
Grant type	Co-financing grant

Table 235 - LEADER Programme 2023-2027 Kirderanniku Koostöökogu

Region (NUTS2 classification)	EE00 – Eesti (Estonia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General – Rural Development
Funding title/ name	LEADER Programme 2023-2027
Short description	Focuses on revitalizing the North-East coastal areas by supporting projects that enhance local entrepreneurship, community development, and environmental sustainability.
Example of funded projects	Not specified.
Funding agency/ body	LAG - Kirderanniku Koostöökogu
Open call or specific deadline	Varies, typically annual calls
Target beneficiaries	Local communities, NGOs, SMEs, and public institutions in the North-East coastal region





Link to application	Kirderannik – Kirderanniku Koostöökogu
Grant type	Co-financing grant

Table 236 - LEADER Programme 2023-2027 Mulgimaa Arenduskoda

Region (NUTS2 classification)	EE00 – Eesti (Estonia)
Sector (specify sector or general)	General – Rural Development
Funding title/ name	LEADER Programme 2023-2027
Short description	Aims to support sustainable rural development in the Mulgimaa region by funding initiatives that promote economic growth, cultural heritage, and community well-being.
Example of funded projects	Not specified.
Funding agency/ body	LAG - Mulgimaa Arenduskoda
Open call or specific deadline	Varies, typically annual calls
Target beneficiaries	Local communities, NGOs, SMEs, and public institutions in the Mulgimaa region
Link to application	Mulgimaa
Grant type	Co-financing grant

3.17 ROMANIA

In Romania, both national and regional programmes provide support for the commercialisation of bio-based innovations. National schemes such as the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)**, **PNCDI IV** and **POCIDIF** offer funding for R&D, pilot actions and digital transition with relevance to the bioeconomy. These instruments target biotechnology, waste valorisation and sustainable agro-industrial systems. Regionally, significant opportunities are available in **Sud-Vest Oltenia**, **Centru** and **Sud-Muntenia** through the Just Transition Fund, which promotes investment in clean technologies and new industrial models. Additional regional calls also exist in **Nord-Est** and **Nord-Vest** to strengthen innovation ecosystems and support SMEs with bio-based business models.

3.17.1 National funding opportunities

Table 237 - Interreg Danube

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
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Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Interreg Danube Region Programme
Short description	The Interreg Danube Region Programme is a transnational funding programme, co-funded by the EU, which helps advance competitiveness and sustainable development of the programme's area through innovation, green transition, social inclusion and better regional governance. The priorities with highest relevance for bioeconomy include: - A more competitive and smarter Danube Region - A greener, low-carbon Danube Region
Example of funded projects	Catalogue of projects: https://interreg-danube.eu/projects - Aquatic plastic: Initiating bottom-up management solutions to reduce plastic waste in the Danube Basin - Danube Indeed: Integrated and decentralized concept rethinking energy and transport systems based on renewable energy in the Danube region - MicroDrink: Capacity building for management and governance of microplastics in drinking water resources of Danube Region
Funding agency/ body	ERDF Managing Authority/Join Secretariat: Ministry of Public Administration and Regional Development, Hungary
Open call or specific deadline	Calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	The programme is generally open to all types of beneficiaries with legal personality
Link to application	https://interreg-danube.eu/calls-for-proposals
Grant type	Grants – depending on the type of beneficiary, project can be supported up to 92% of the budget, with the maximum amount of support from the ERDF being 80%

Table 238 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Food processing, the development of the livestock sector, improved irrigation, generational renewal of the farming sector
Funding title/ name	European Funded projects
Short description	AFIR manages European funds to support investments in agriculture, processing, and rural infrastructure, aiming to modernize agricultural practices, improve rural infrastructure, and support young farmers.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and managed by AFIR (Rural Investments Financing Agency).





Open call or specific deadline	Juli 2025
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, farmers, public or private credit or financial institutions, in each case, duly authorised to carry out lending activities according to the applicable legislation which shall be in all cases established and/or operating in Romania.
Link to application	https://www.afir.ro/
Grant type	Call

Table 239 - Metrofood- RO

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	METROFOOD-RO is specific to the agri-food sector, focusing on areas such as food quality, safety, authenticity, traceability, and nutrition.
Funding title/ name	METROFOOD-RO
Short description	Aims to develop food technologies, agri-techniques and novel foods, integrating Romania into the European research infrastructure
Example of funded projects	METROFOOD-RO Evolve: A project launched to modernize Romania's national research infrastructure, integrating it into the European METROFOOD-RI network to advance knowledge in food quality and safety.
Funding agency/ body	The projects are financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the national budget of Romania, managed through contracts with institutions like the National Institute of Research and Development for Food Bioresources (IBA Bucharest)
Open call or specific deadline	specific calls with defined deadlines.
Target beneficiaries	Research
Link to application	Metrofood-ro
Grant type	METROFOOD-RO projects are funded through non-repayable grants, covering both eligible and non-eligible costs, including co-financing from national and European sources.

Table 240 - Next Generation EU

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Various sectors including bioeconomy
Funding title/ name	Next Generation EU





Short description	This funding program aims to support recovery and resilience in EU member states, including Romania. It focuses on green and digital transitions, economic recovery, and social resilience
Example of funded projects	Infrastructure projects, digital transformation initiatives, green energy projects.
Funding agency/ body	European Union, managed by the Romanian Government
Open call or specific deadline	Various calls with specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	Public and private entities, SMEs, research institutions
Link to application	https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/eu-borrower-investor-relations/nextgenerationeu_en
Grant type	Grants and loans

Table 241 - South-East Online Call for Bioeconomy Innovators

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Biobased solutions based on the principles of circularity and sustainable production or use of biomass
Funding title/ name	South-East Online Call for Bioeconomy Innovators
Short description	You need to state that your idea is in the field of bioeconomy , it is feasible by using existing or promising technologies, and it is applicable in rural areas
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	European Union
Open call or specific deadline	Closed in 2024
Target beneficiaries	innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, start-ups, students, practitioners and citizens
Link to application	https://biorural.eu/category/news/open-call/
Grant type	

Table 242 - IMM Invest programme

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	While the main IMM Invest program is open to various sectors, there are specific subprograms targeting particular industries:





	• AGRO IMM INVEST: For agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, and the food sector. • CONSTRUCT PLUS: For the construction sector, focusing on energy efficiency and green energy investments. • IMM PROD PLUS: Supports manufacturing and production sectors. • INNOVATION PLUS: Aimed at businesses with an innovation component • RURAL PLUS: Supports enterprises in rural areas.
Funding title/ name	IMM Invest
Short description	The IMM Invest Romania program is a governmental support scheme designed to facilitate access to financing for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small enterprises with medium market capitalization. It provides state guarantees for loans intended for investments or working capital, aiming to bolster economic growth and resilience.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/ body	National Credit Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (FNGCIMM)
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline: in 2022, the AGRO IMM INVEST subprogram had a registration deadline of June 30, 2022.
Target beneficiaries	The primary beneficiaries are micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small enterprises with medium market capitalization. Specific subprograms may have additional eligibility criteria based on industry or project type.
Link to application	IMMINVEST Acasă
Grant type	The program offers state-guaranteed loans with favorable terms, including: • State guarantees covering up to 90% of the loan amount. • Interest subsidies for a specified period (e.g., 8 months of 0% interest). • No early repayment fees. • For certain subprograms like AGRO IMM INVEST, a non-reimbursable grant component of up to 10% of the loan amount is available, subject to specific conditions and ceilings.

Table 243 - State Aid Scheme for Advanced Biofuels Production

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	The scheme specifically targets the biofuels sector, focusing on investments in new production capacities for advanced biofuels.
Funding title/ name	State Aid Scheme for Advanced Biofuels Production. These biofuels are derived from non-food crops or waste, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimize impact on agriculture.





Short description	The scheme, with a total budget of €500 million, aims to support the establishment of advanced biofuel production facilities in Romania. It provides direct grants covering up to 45% of total investment costs, with maximum amounts of €45 million per bioethanol plant and €91.25 million per SAF/HVO plant. The initiative seeks to enhance domestic biofuel production, reduce imports, and contribute to the EU's climate and energy targets.
Example of funded projects	
Funding agency/body	European Union's Modernization Fund and the Ministry of Energy.
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadline, call scheduled to open spring 2025
Target beneficiaries	Eligible applicants include public or private entities such as micro-enterprises, small, medium, and large enterprises, including newly established companies. Applicants must be legally registered for tax purposes in Romania at the time of submitting the financing application.
Link to application	
Grant type	direct grants , covering up to 45% of the total investment costs, with specified maximum amounts per type of biofuel plant

Table 244 - Innovation Fund

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Energy
Funding title/ name	Innovation Fund
Short description	This fund supports the development and deployment of innovative low-carbon technologies. It aims to create financial incentives for investing in next-generation technologies needed for the EU's low-carbon transition
Example of funded projects	Projects related to hydrogen production, electric vehicle battery manufacturing, and general decarbonization
Funding agency/body	European Commission, with assistance from the European Executive Agency for Climate, Infrastructure and Environment and the European Investment Bank
Open call or specific deadline	Various calls
Target beneficiaries	Research centers, public and private entities, SMEs.
Link to application	https://oportunitati-ue.gov.ro/en/program/fondul-pentru-inovare/
Grant type	Lump sum grants, fixed-premium tender

3.17.2 Regional funding opportunities



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Table 245 - AgroTransilvania Cluster funds

Region (NUTS2 classification)	North-West Region (Maramureș, Bistrița-Năsăud, Sălaj, Satu Mare, Cluj, and Bihor)
Sector (specify sector or general)	Bioeconomy and agro-industrial sectors
Funding title/ name	Various funding opportunities, including Horizon program projects
Short description	The AgroTransilvania Cluster provides funding for research, development, and innovation projects in the agro-industrial field. This includes access to high-end research infrastructure, support for international partnerships, and training for employees in the agri-food industry
Example of funded projects	-Cold-Pressed Oils – Tradition from the Heart of Transylvania: A project focused on producing traditional cold-pressed oils -Transylvanian Dairy Products – From Producer to Consumer: A project aimed at supporting local dairy producers -Angus House: Promoting cooperation through the development of a short supply chain in the Bucharest-Ilfov Region 1
Funding agency/ body	AgroTransilvania Cluster, with support from European programs such as Horizon
Open call or specific deadline	The cluster disseminates information about open calls and specific deadlines for grant applications
Target beneficiaries	Companies and organizations in the agro-industrial sector, researchers, and employees in the agri-food industry value chain
Link to application	AgroTransilvania Cluster agrocluster.ro
Grant type	Various types of grants, including research and development grants, innovation grants and training grants

Table 246 - North-West Regional Programme 2021-2027

Region (NUTS2 classification)	the counties of Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Maramureș, Satu Mare, and Sălaj.
Sector (specify sector or general)	The program is not limited to a single sector; it encompasses multiple priorities aimed at comprehensive regional development
Funding title/ name	North-West Regional Programme 2021-2027
Short description	The North-West Regional Programme 2021-2027 aims to stimulate innovation, promote sustainable economic growth, and improve living standards by leveraging the region's unique resources and potential. The program has a total allocation of approximately €1.437 billion , with EU funding of €1.194 billion and national co-financing of €242.67 million .





Example of funded projects	* Bihor County Road Infrastructure Development: Construction of 37.64 km of new roads and rehabilitation of 36.1 km of existing county roads to improve regional connectivity and support tourism. * Educational Infrastructure Enhancements: Investments aimed at modernizing educational facilities to ensure equitable access to quality education across the region. * Sustainable Urban Mobility Initiatives: Development of multimodal transport solutions to enhance urban mobility and reduce carbon emissions.
Funding agency/body	North-West Regional Development Agency (ADR North-West)
Open call or specific deadline	The program operates through open calls for projects, with specific deadlines announced periodically. As of May 2022 , the first financing contract was signed, indicating the program's active status.
Target beneficiaries	* Public Authorities and Institutions: Local and regional government entities responsible for public services and infrastructure. * Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs): Businesses aiming to innovate and expand their digital capabilities. * Educational and Research Institutions: Schools, universities, and research centers seeking to enhance educational outcomes and research capabilities. * Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): Organizations focused on social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and cultural development.
Link to application	Programul Regional NV - Regio Nord-Vest
Grant type	The program provides non-repayable grants , with funding rates and co-financing requirements varying based on the specific call and project type. For example, the road infrastructure project in Bihor County received funding under the program, highlighting its role in enhancing regional infrastructure.

3.18 LITHUANIA

3.18.1 National funding opportunities

In Lithuania, there are not many (current) funding opportunities directly mentioning bioeconomy. One where bioeconomy was the sole beneficiary of the call was from the ministry of agriculture, unfortunately, that call has already ended.

Table 247 - Investments in Bioeconomy Businesses

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Agricultural
Funding title/name	"Investments in Bioeconomy Businesses"



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Short description	Support under the intervention measure is granted to the processing of agricultural products where their chemical and physical composition are changed into high value-added products, thus contributing to waste-free activities on farms and the production of innovative products from biomass.
Example of funded projects	/
Funding agency/ body	National paying agency under the ministry of agriculture
Open call or specific deadline	1/10/2024 – 29/11/2024
Target beneficiaries	farmers
Link to application	https://nma.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/del-paramos-bioekonomikos-verslui-vystyti-nuo-spalio-1-d/ Inovaciju Agentura
Grant type	Grant

The Innovation agency Lithuania does several calls each year to support startups and business in Lithuania. Those calls are often about deep-tech topics, often they are not directly linked to bioeconomy. Below you can see an example of those type of calls, this one is linked to life science where bioeconomy projects could find a fit.

Table 248 - Life Sciences Baltics Startup Pitch Battle 2025

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Life sciences
Funding title/ name	Life Sciences Baltics Startup Pitch Battle 2025
Short description	This call invites startups to pitch their innovative solutions in the life sciences sector.
Example of funded projects	/
Funding agency/ body	Innovation agency Lithuania
Open call or specific deadline	01/09/2025
Target beneficiaries	Startups, businesses
Link to application	Inovaciju Agentura
Grant type	Calls

3.18.2 Regional funding opportunities

In Lithuania, no regional funding opportunities were detected.



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3.19 PORTUGAL

3.19.1 National funding opportunities

At Portuguese level, the national support to the bioeconomy sector stems from a mix of fiscal incentives and direct grants. These instruments are aimed at promoting research and development (R&D), sustainable innovation, energy efficiency, and the regional competitiveness of industrial actors. Among the most relevant mechanisms are SIFIDE (tax benefits for R&D), SITCE (supporting the energy transition and decarbonization), and SICE (productivity-enhancing investments in low-density and other regions). These programmes are coordinated under Portugal 2030, with specific calls launched through COMPETE2030 and regional programmes.

Table 249 - SIFIDE – R&D Tax Incentive Scheme

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General (R&D across all sectors)
Funding title/ name	SIFIDE – Sistema de Incentivos Fiscais à I&D Empresarial
Short description	SIFIDE offers a tax incentive that allows companies to deduct up to 82.5% of eligible R&D expenditures from their corporate income tax.
Example of funded projects	Not specified
Funding agency/ body	Agência Nacional de Inovação (ANI)
Open call or specific deadline	Annual submission – by the end of the 5th month after fiscal year end
Target beneficiaries	Public and private entities engaging in R&D
Link to application	https://www.ani.pt/pt/financiamento/sifide/
Grant type	Tax incentive (non-refundable)

Table 250 - SITCE – Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	Energy, Industry, Manufacturing, R&D
Funding title/ name	SITCE - Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization
Short description	Supports investments in low-carbon equipment, decarbonization technologies, energy efficiency, and green innovation for SMEs and other entities, up to 100% financing.
Example of funded projects	Not specified
Funding agency/ body	COMPETE2030





Open call or specific deadline	From 01/03/2025 to 30/07/2025
Target beneficiaries	ENESII, SMEs, Non-SMEs, public and non-profit entities
Link to application	https://www.compete2020.gov.pt/noticias/detalhe/72621-MOSIPO-NL403-13072023
Grant type	Grant (non-refundable, up to 100%)

Table 251 - SICE – Productive Innovation (Low-Density Territories)

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes – Alentejo, Centro, Algarve, Norte
Sector (specify sector or general)	Industry, Technology, Advanced Manufacturing
Funding title/ name	SICE - Sistema de Incentivos à Competitividade Empresarial (Low-Density Territories)
Short description	Supports new or expanded industrial production capacity, technological upgrading, and diversification in low-density regions.
Example of funded projects	Not specified
Funding agency/ body	COMPETE2030
Open call or specific deadline	From 01/04/2025 to 30/04/2026
Target beneficiaries	Businesses of all sizes
Link to application	https://www.compete2020.gov.pt/avisos/detalhe/C2030_SICE-MPr_2023_02
Grant type	Grant (non-refundable, co-financing)

Table 252 - SICE – Productive Innovation (Other Territories)

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No (applies to all but low-density areas)
Sector (specify sector or general)	Industry, Technology, Advanced Manufacturing
Funding title/ name	SICE - Sistema de Incentivos à Competitividade Empresarial (Other Territories)
Short description	Encourages investments in digital transformation, new manufacturing processes, and industrial expansion in non-low-density regions.
Example of funded projects	WoodShape 4.0
Funding agency/ body	COMPETE2030
Open call or specific deadline	From 01/04/2025 to 30/04/2026





Target beneficiaries	Businesses of all sizes
Link to application	https://www.compete2020.gov.pt/aviso/detalhe/C2030_SICE-MPr_2023_01
Grant type	Grant (non-refundable, co-financing)

3.19.2 Regional funding opportunities

While framed as regional programmes, the funding instruments available through the different **Regional Coordination and Development Commissions (CCDRs)** are in fact national funds allocated regionally under the umbrella of Portugal 2030 (PT2030). These programmes aim to ensure territorial cohesion and balanced development by addressing the specific economic and innovation needs of each region:

1. **NORTE 2030** – Northern Portugal
Managed by: CCDR-N (Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte)
<https://norte2030.pt>
2. **CENTRO 2030** – Central Portugal
Managed by: CCDR-C (Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Centro)
<https://centro2030.pt>
3. **LISBOA 2030** – Lisbon Metropolitan Area
Managed by: CCDR-LVT (Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Lisboa e Vale do Tejo)
<https://lisboa.portugal2030.pt/o-lisboa-2030/>
4. **ALENTEJO 2030** – Alentejo region
Managed by: CCDR-A (Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Alentejo)
<https://alentejo.portugal2030.pt>
5. **ALGARVE 2030** – Algarve region
Managed by: CCDR Algarve (Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Algarve)
<https://algarve2030.pt>
6. **AÇORES 2030** – Azores
Managed by: Government of the Azores
<https://acores.portugal2030.pt/o-acores-2030/>
7. **MADEIRA 2030** – Madeira
Managed by: Government of Madeira
<https://madeira.portugal2030.pt/o-madeira-2030/>

The regional operational programmes (**NORTE 2030**, **CENTRO 2030**, **LISBOA 2030**, **ALENTEJO 2030**, and **ALGARVE 2030**) cover mainland Portugal and are managed by the respective CCDRs. Additionally, the **AÇORES 2030** and **MADEIRA 2030** programmes target the autonomous regions. These programmes channel EU and national funds to support activities such as R&D, business innovation, decarbonization, smart specialization, and capacity building in line with regional development strategies.





Although tailored to regional priorities, these programmes follow national strategic goals and are complementary to COMPETE 2030, which operates at a cross-regional level. Regional calls may also intersect with other national instruments like SIFIDE, SITCE, and SICE, reinforcing synergies across Portugal's innovation and sustainability policy landscape.

3.20 UNITED KINGDOM

The UK offers a wide range of funding opportunities for researchers, businesses and organizations across various sectors.

The main funding body is [UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\)](#): a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). UKRI brings together the seven disciplinary Research Councils, Research England (which supports research and knowledge exchange at higher education institutions in England), and Innovate UK. The mission of Innovate UK is to help companies to grow through the development and commercialisation of new products, processes and services. Innovate UK also works with

UKRI funding is listed via its [funding finder](#) which has up to date information on fellowships, grants and loans. Innovate UK also has a [funding portal](#) which is industry focussed.

Innovate UK collaborates extensively with UK government departments and public sector bodies to drive innovation, align funding, policy, and expertise to address sector-specific challenges and accelerate commercialisation of new technologies. It collaborates with other departments through joint funding initiatives and commercial support. Key partnerships relating to the bioeconomy include: **Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT)**, **Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)**, **Department for Transport (DfT)**, **Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)** and the **Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA)**. In addition, UKRI works closely with the **Department for Business and Trade (DBT)** on attracting foreign direct investment and retaining R&D as well as **Department for International Trade (DIT)** to validate international partnerships and support trade missions.

Businesses (sole entrepreneur, pre-seed, early stage, growth stage, scaling up, large business) can access business support, funding scoping and networking from [Innovate UK Business Connect](#). They predominantly offer support for UK businesses and those seeking to establish in the UK.

There are also 41 [Growth Hubs](#) based across the UK which provide businesses with tailored support as well as access to funded and commercial support offered locally and nationally, collaboration, and networking.

Identification of funding schemes can be challenging as the lifespan can be short. Examples are listed below.

3.20.1 National funding opportunities



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Table 253 - sLOLA - strategic Longer and Larger grants

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	strategic Longer and Larger (sLoLa) grants
Short description	Funding to undertake large team-based fundamental bioscience research projects which push the frontiers of knowledge. Projects should: - have the potential to lead to major breakthroughs in our fundamental understanding of living systems - demonstrate the need for longer and larger scale funding - demonstrate a fully integrated team science approach - significantly enhance the capability and capacity of UK biosciences
Example of funded projects	Bioscience based research fulfilling the remit of BBSRC.
Funding agency/ body	<u>Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)</u>
Open call or specific deadline	Deadline TBC: periodically announced
Target beneficiaries	Academics working on larger projects
Link to application	Pre-announcement: 2025 to 2026 strategic Longer and Larger (sLoLa) grants – UKRI
Grant type	Grant

Table 254 - Innovate UK Smart Grants

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	Innovate UK SMART grants (currently on hold)
Short description	UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £25 million for game changing and commercially viable research and development (R&D) innovations that can significantly impact the UK economy. This funding is from Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation. You must be or involve at least one grant claiming micro, small or medium-sized enterprise .
Example of funded projects	Model allows for research organisation and RTOs to partner with businesses of a range of sizes. Some schemes mandate inclusion of an SME.
Funding agency/ body	Innovate UK
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines regularly throughout the year: currently on hold





Target beneficiaries	Universities, RTOs, business Note that applicants must be or involve at least one grant claiming micro, small or medium-sized enterprise
Link to application	Innovate UK Smart Grants: November 2024 – UKRI
Grant type	grant

Table 255 - KTP – Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	Knowledge Transfer Partnerships
Short description	Three way partnership between a research institution, business, and the appointee. UK registered academic institutions, research and technology organisations or Catapults can apply for a share of up to £9 million to fund innovation projects with businesses or not for profits. Key features of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) are that: they are open to businesses or not-for-profit organisations, research organisations and graduates to work on an innovation project partnerships can last between 12 and 36 months funding is provided to support the total cost of the project – businesses provide around one-third to half of the project costs depending on their size.
Example of funded projects	Can be based on practical opportunities or management options depending on the call.
Funding agency/ body	Innovate UK
Open call or specific deadline	4 deadlines per year: announced on a yearly basis
Target beneficiaries	UK registered business, eligible public sector organisation, charity or charitable business with two or more full time employees
Link to application	Knowledge Transfer Partnership – UKRI
Grant type	Grant

Table 256 - Innovate UK – Innovation Loans

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	No
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	Innovate UK innovation loans - future economy
Short description	UK registered businesses can apply for loans for innovative projects with strong commercial potential to significantly improve the UK economy. These are often thematic.
Example of funded projects	Competition overview - Innovate UK innovation loans future economy: Round 20 - Innovation Funding Service





	Focussed on 'Future economy' area which includes net zero
Funding agency/ body	Innovate UK
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines
Target beneficiaries	business
Link to application	Released here: Innovation competitions - Innovation Funding Service
Grant type	loan

Table 257 - Innovate UK - Launchpads

Region limitation Yes/No (if yes, specify)	Yes
Sector (specify sector or general)	general
Funding title/ name	Launchpads
Short description	Innovate UK's Launchpad programme is aimed at supporting clusters of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and the most innovative businesses to progress their ideas toward commercialisation, contributing to local economic growth. Each Launchpad has been developed in collaboration with local civic leadership, to strengthen innovation in targeted clusters across the UK. Funded by Innovate UK, Launchpads align with the UK government's goals outlined in the Levelling Up White Paper . Each Launchpad cluster benefits from various forms of support such as funding for research and development, opportunities for networking and collaboration, and access to innovation specialists including Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs).
Example of funded projects	Innovate UK has opened eleven Launchpads. In 2022 two pilots were opened for Liverpool City Region and Teesside, through which £15 million of funding was provided. In 2023 a further eight Launchpads were rolled out to support clusters across the UK, into which an initial £16 million of funding has been offered to support over 100 new projects. During 2024, further investment of up to £44 million will be made available across these eight clusters. Most recently, an additional Launchpad of up to £5 million was announced in Spring Budget 2024 for mid and north Wales. Examples include: - Biobased Manufacturing in Scotland; - Net Zero Industry in SW Wales; - AgriTech and Foodtech in Eastern England.
Funding agency/ body	Innovate UK
Open call or specific deadline	Specific deadlines – see Innovate UK funding page for details
Target beneficiaries	SMEs
Link to application	See Innovate UK funding page
Grant type	grant

3.20.2 Regional funding opportunities



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The Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre ([IBioIC](#)) – based in Scotland – supports academics and businesses based in Scotland.

Specific funding for underdeveloped regions is periodically available. The respective Growth Hubs and Innovate UK Business Connect (listed in the introduction to this section) are a key point of contact for this type of funding.

3.21 BELGIUM

In Belgium, public support for the commercialisation of innovation and bio-based solutions is managed **exclusively at the regional level**, in line with the country's federal governance system. Each of the three regions—**Flanders**, **Wallonia**, and **Brussels-Capital**—operates its own funding schemes, agencies and strategic priorities.

In **Flanders**, the agency **VLAIO** funds R&D, transformative innovation and green strategies, while **PMV** and **BAN Vlaanderen** provide equity-based support for high-growth ventures. Academic collaboration is encouraged through instruments like industrial PhD positions and grants from FWO.

In **Wallonia**, public support includes **enterprise feasibility grants**, **loan guarantees** via **SOWALFIN**, and investment capital through **SRIW**, supporting the scaling of sustainable and bio-based technologies. Advisory services and access to EU funding are facilitated by **NCP Wallonie**.

The BioBase4SME report (2018) highlights Belgium as a strategic hub for bioeconomy development in Europe, with specialisation in **bio-based materials**, **bioenergy**, **industrial biotechnology** and **bioplastics**. The country hosts leading infrastructures such as the **Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant**, a key open-access facility for process scale-up. Regional clusters like **Catalisti** (Flanders) and **GreenWin** (Wallonia) further strengthen the bioeconomy ecosystem by aligning funding with smart specialisation priorities.

There are **no national competitive funding programmes** in Belgium for commercialisation; federal-level support is limited to fiscal incentives and coordination of participation in EU-level programmes

3.21.1 Regional funding opportunities

Table 258 - VLAIO – Innovation Support

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Flanders
Sector (specify sector or general)	General (industry, green tech, R&D)
Funding title/ name	VLAIO – Innovation Support
Short description	Support for innovation and growth, industrial R&D, green technologies, and transformative projects.





Example of funded projects	Innovative SME collaborations, green transition pilots
Funding agency/ body	Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship (VLAIO)
Open call or specific deadline	Open call
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, large companies, research organisations
Link to application	https://www.vlaio.be/
Grant type	Grant

Table 259 - Enterprise Feasibility Grants

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Walloon Region
Sector (specify sector or general)	General (early-stage business)
Funding title/ name	Enterprise Feasibility Grants
Short description	Support for assessing the feasibility of entrepreneurial and innovation projects
Example of funded projects	Business model studies, tech readiness assessments
Funding agency/ body	Walloon Region
Open call or specific deadline	Defined calls
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, entrepreneurs
Link to application	https://www.1890.be/
Grant type	Lump sum / Grant

Table 260 - SOWALFIN co-funding

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Walloon Region
Sector (specify sector or general)	General (SME support)
Funding title/ name	SOWALFIN
Short description	Facilitates access to finance through guarantees and co-financing instruments.
Example of funded projects	Circular SMEs accessing credit
Funding agency/ body	SOWALFIN
Open call or specific deadline	Open
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, micro-enterprises
Link to application	https://www.sowalfin.be/
Grant type	Guarantee / Co-financing





Table 261 - SRIW loan

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Walloon Region
Sector (specify sector or general)	Industrial, biotech, cleantech
Funding title/ name	SRIW
Short description	Investment in industrial innovation and business growth through equity and loans.
Example of funded projects	Bioeconomy flagships, manufacturing scale-ups
Funding agency/ body	SRIW
Open call or specific deadline	Open
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, midcaps, scale-ups
Link to application	https://www.sriw.be/
Grant type	Equity / Loan

Table 262 - NCP Wallonie

Region (NUTS2 classification)	Walloon Region
Sector (specify sector or general)	General
Funding title/ name	NCP Wallonie
Short description	Advice and training to help organisations access national and EU funding
Example of funded projects	Support for Horizon Europe proposals
Funding agency/ body	NCP Wallonie
Open call or specific deadline	Open
Target beneficiaries	SMEs, research institutions
Link to application	https://www.ncpwallonie.be/
Grant type	Advisory / Training





4 PRIVATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIOECONOMY PROJECTS

Private capital plays an increasingly vital role in scaling innovative bioeconomy ventures and bridging the gap between early-stage development and full commercialisation. While public funding continues to be a cornerstone for R&D and pilot-stage projects, private investment is essential to accelerate market uptake, de-risk technological solutions, and drive growth across diverse bio-based value chains.

This section explores the landscape of private financing for the bioeconomy in Europe and beyond, identifying dedicated investors, mapping strategic funds, and analysing key criteria used by private financiers when evaluating bioeconomy businesses. It also highlights investment trends, perceived risks, and emerging financial instruments – such as venture capital, private equity, and blended finance – that support companies transitioning towards circular and sustainable models.

The chapter is structured in two parts: first, a mapping of investors that are exclusively or predominantly active in the bioeconomy and circular economy; and second, a synthesis of insights gathered through investor interviews, detailing how these actors assess opportunities, integrate sustainability and ESG goals, and collaborate with public funding programmes to de-risk investments.

By offering this dual perspective, the aim is to empower SMEs, start-ups, and project developers with actionable intelligence to better align with investor expectations and improve access to capital in a rapidly evolving financial ecosystem.

4.1 MAPPING OF PRIVATE INVESTORS

This subsection presents a structured overview of private investors actively supporting the bioeconomy and circular bioeconomy sectors. It focuses on venture capital funds, corporate venture arms, impact investors, and specialised finance institutions that demonstrate a clear strategic commitment to sustainable bio-based solutions across technology readiness levels.

The mapping covers a diverse array of investor profiles, from those exclusively dedicated to bioeconomy sectors, such as renewable materials, biofuels, and bio-based chemicals, to those investing more broadly in circular economy innovations. It includes information on ticket size, investment stage, geographic scope, sectoral focus, and links to public-private partnerships where relevant. Furthermore, the Table 263 summarizes this information.



D4.3 – Open report: Finance for commercialization of bio-based products and for projects becoming flagship



Table 263 - Overview of Private Investors Active in the European Bioeconomy: Investment Profiles and Exit Strategy Preferences

No.	Investor Name	Ticket Size (€)	Stage Focus	Geographic Focus	Exit Strategy Preferences*
1	European Circular Bioeconomy Fund	2.5 – 10 million	Growth-stage	Europe	M&A, IPO
2	Capricorn Partners	0.3 – 1 million	Early-stage	Northwestern Europe	M&A, Secondary Sale
3	Business Angels Netwerk Vlaanderen	25,000 – 1 million	Seed, Early-stage	Belgium (Flanders)	M&A, Private Sale
4	Flemish investment company	Up to 20 million	Seed to Growth	Belgium (Flanders)	M&A, IPO, PE Buyout
5	Sofinnova Partners	1 – 8 million	SeedNo, Early, Series A	Pan-European	IPO, Trade Sale
6	Emerald Technology Ventures	0.5 – 5 million	Early to Growth	Europe	M&A, IPO
7	Ireland Strategic Investment Fund	Not specified	Varies	Ireland	Long-term development, M&A
8	Seventure Partners	0.5 – 20 million	Early to Growth	EU	IPO, Trade Sale
9	Pymwyc	Not specified	Growth-stage	Europe	M&A, Long-term impact holding
10	LIBERSET	6 – 15 million	Growth-stage	Europe	Strategic sale, IPO, PE Buyout
11	IDIA Capital Investissement	Not specified	Growth, Expansion	France	M&A, PE Buyout
12	Astanor Ventures	5 – 15 million	Seed to Growth	Europe	M&A, IPO
13	Blue Horizon	Not specified	Early to Growth	Global	M&A, Strategic Exit
14	Yield Lab Europe	Not specified	Seed to Series A	Europe	M&A, Follow-on rounds
15	Circularity Capital	15 – 40 million	Growth-stage	Europe	Strategic Sale, PE Buyout
16	ETF Partners	Not specified	Early to Growth	Europe, UK	IPO, M&A
17	Faber Blue Pioneers I	Not specified	Pre-seed to Series A	Portugal + EU	M&A, Follow-on funding
18	Indico Blue Fund	Not specified	Early-stage	Portugal + EU	M&A, Strategic Exit
19	Repsol Corporate Venturing	0.5 – 3 million	Early, Series A	Europe	M&A, Strategic Integration with Repsol

*M&A: Mergers and Acquisitions; IPO: Initial Public Offering; PE: Private Equity



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This inventory is intended as a practical tool for bioeconomy project developers and SMEs to identify aligned investors and funding opportunities. It also helps policy makers and ecosystem facilitators to understand the financial actors currently shaping the investment landscape, supporting the scale-up of sustainable technologies and closing financing gaps across Europe.

4.1.1 *European Circular Bioeconomy Fund (Germany, Luxembourg)*



European Circular Bioeconomy Fund (ECBF) is the first venture fund exclusively dedicated to investing in growth-stage companies in the European bioeconomy, including the circular bioeconomy within sectors like agri-food, forestry, industrial biotech, bio-based chemicals and materials, packaging, personal & home care, construction, and textiles. This venture fund typically invests in with innovative technologies, products, processes, or business models derived from renewable resources. The initial investment ranges from €2.5 million to €10 million per project, particularly for growth-stage companies at TRL 6-9.

Website: <https://www.ecbf.vc/>

4.1.2 *Capricorn Partners (Belgium)*



Capricorn Partners is an independent European venture capital firm based in Leuven, Belgium, established in 1993. The firm specializes in investing in innovative companies that leverage technology as a competitive advantage, with a strong emphasis on sustainability and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) criteria. The Capricorn Partners manages several funds, including the Capricorn Industrial Biotech Fund, targeting early-stage ventures utilizing biotechnology for sustainable products. The initial investment ranges from €300,000 to €1 million, particularly for pre-seed and seed stages.

Website: <https://capricorn.be/en>

4.1.3 *Business Angels Network Vlaanderen (Belgium)*



BAN Vlaanderen is a non-profit organization established in 1998, serving as a pivotal platform connecting entrepreneurs with private investors, known as business angels, in Flanders, Belgium. With over 27 years of experience, BAN Vlaanderen has facilitated numerous investments, emphasizing not just capital infusion but also mentorship and strategic guidance. The organization is supported by the Flemish government and collaborates with various partners to bolster the entrepreneurial ecosystem. It welcomes projects from diverse industries. However, it excludes investments in retail, hospitality, and real estate development sectors. BAN Vlaanderen focuses on early-stage ventures, including seed capital, start-up capital, and growth financing with a ticket size from €5,000 to €1 million.

Website: <https://ban.be/>



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4.1.4 Flemish investment company (Belgium)



Participatiemaatschappij Vlaanderen (PMV) is a Flemish investment company established in 2004, dedicated to shaping the economic future of Flanders. PMV offers tailored financial solutions, including venture capital, loans, and guarantees, to support promising companies from their inception through growth and internationalization. The company's mission is to build a sustainable Flemish economy by partnering with ambitious companies and projects committed to social impact and financial return. It focuses on sectors such as Life Sciences & Care, Cleantech & Industrials, Energy, Infrastructure, ICT and Digitalization. PMV finances promising companies from the very start, up to and including growth and internationalization. They provide venture capital at both early stages and to more mature companies, always in co-financing with the market. Ticket size ranges from limited ticket to large capital tickets. Specifically, PMV offers equity investments up to €20 million.

Website: <https://www.pmv.eu>

4.1.5 Sofinnova Partners (France)



Founded in 1972, Sofinnova Partners is a leading European venture capital firm specializing in life sciences, with a focus on healthcare and sustainability. Headquartered in Paris, with additional offices in London and Milan, the firm has supported the growth of over 500 companies over its 50-year history. Sofinnova Partners focuses on seed and Series A stages, often acting as a lead or co-lead investor. Its ticket size ranges from €1 million to €8 million.

Website: <https://sofinnovapartners.com/>

4.1.6 Emerald Technology Ventures (Switzerland)



Established in 2000 and headquartered in Zurich, Emerald Technology Ventures is a pioneering venture capital firm specializing in sustainable industrial innovation, for example in Water and wastewater, food and agriculture. With a global presence, including offices in Toronto and Singapore, Emerald manages over €1 billion in assets and has invested in more than 90 portfolio companies. Emerald invests in early to expansion-stage companies that have demonstrated technological viability and initial market traction but may not yet be profitable. Its ticket size ranges from €1 million to €10 million.

Website: <https://emerald.vc/>

4.1.7 Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (Ireland)



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Gníomhaireacht Bainistíochta an Chisteáin Náisiúnta
National Treasury Management Agency

Ciste Infheistíochta Straitéisí d'Éirinn
Ireland Strategic Investment Fund

The Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) is a sovereign development fund managed and controlled by the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA).

Established in 2014, ISIF has a statutory mandate to invest on a commercial basis in a manner designed to support economic activity and employment in Ireland. ISIF invests in four two bioeconomy relate sectors: Climate and Food and Agriculture. ISIF invests across various stages of company development, including early-stage, growth-stage and infrastructure and large-scale projects. ISIF's investment sizes vary depending on the nature and requirements of each project

Website: <https://isif.ie/>

4.1.8 Seventure Partners (France)



Established in 1997 and based in Paris, Seventure Partners is a European venture capital firm investing in life sciences and digital technologies, with a strong focus on health, nutrition, microbiome, foodtech, and sustainable agriculture. The firm invests from seed to growth stages, typically with ticket sizes between €0.5 million and €10 million per round, and up to €20 million in total per company.

Website: <https://www.seventure.fr/>

4.1.9 Pymwymic (Netherlands)



Founded in Amsterdam, Pymwymic (Put Your Money Where Your Meaning Is Community) is an impact investing cooperative focused on sustainable food systems and planetary health. It supports early to growth-stage

European companies working on regenerative agriculture, alternative proteins, and food innovation. Typical ticket sizes range from €750,000 to €5 million.

Website: <https://pymwymic.com/>

4.1.10 LIBERSET (Luxembourg and France)



LIBERSET is a transatlantic growth equity firm backed by family offices and conglomerates, investing in sectors like sustainable food, clean technologies, and urban infrastructure. They typically invest €6 million to €15 million per company, focusing on growth-stage opportunities.

Website: <https://liberset.com/>

4.1.11 IDIA Capital Investissement (France)



A subsidiary of Crédit Agricole, IDIA Capital Investissement manages €2.9 billion, investing in French and European SMEs and mid-caps across sectors such as agri-food, health, and



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construction. Their investment tickets range from €1 million to €35 million, targeting growth and transmission stages.

Website: <https://www.ca-idia.com/en/>

4.1.12 Astanor Ventures (Belgium):

ASTANOR Founded in 2017 and based in Brussels, Astanor Ventures is a venture capital firm investing in early-stage, mission-driven companies within the agri-food sector. The firm focuses on regenerative agriculture, bioeconomy, and climate-positive solutions. Astanor typically invests from seed to Series C stages, with ticket sizes ranging from \$10 million to \$50 million. The firm has a strong presence in Europe and North America, supporting companies that aim to transform the global food system sustainably.

Website: <https://www.astanor.com/>

4.1.13 Blue Horizon (Switzerland)

 Founded in 2016 and based in Zurich, Blue Horizon is a venture capital firm focused on transforming the global food system. It invests in companies developing alternative proteins, sustainable agriculture, food waste reduction, and packaging innovations. Blue Horizon supports startups from seed to growth stages, with ticket sizes ranging from €300,000 to €25 million. Its portfolio spans Europe and the US, with a strong emphasis on measurable environmental impact.

Website: <https://www.bluehorizon.com/>

4.1.14 Yield Lab Europe (Ireland)

 Established in 2016 and headquartered in Dublin, Yield Lab Europe is a venture capital firm specializing in early-stage investments within the AgriFoodTech sector. The firm focuses on startups that aim to revolutionize agriculture and food systems to sustainably feed the world. Yield Lab Europe provides venture capital funding ranging from €100,000 to €3 million per company, targeting pre-seed to Series A stages. Key investment sectors include genetics, crop protection, animal welfare, precision farming, bioenergy, biomaterials, innovative food and beverages, and novel farming systems. Beyond capital, Yield Lab Europe offers access to a global network of experts, corporates, and investors to support companies in scaling and commercializing internationally. Website:

Website: <https://www.yieldlab.ie/>



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4.1.15 Circularity Capital (UK)



Established in 2015 and headquartered in Edinburgh, Circularity Capital is a specialist private equity firm dedicated to investing in European growth-stage SMEs that enable the circular economy. The firm targets sectors such as sustainable packaging, foodtech, rental and subscription services, and resource efficiency technologies. Typical investment tickets range from £1 million to £5 million, focusing on companies that have demonstrated market traction and are poised for expansion. Circularity Capital combines financial expertise with deep knowledge of circular business models to support its portfolio companies in scaling their impact and profitability.

Website: <https://www.circularitycapital.com/>

4.1.16 ETF Partners (UK)



Founded in 2006 and based in London, ETF Partners (Environmental Technologies Fund) is a venture capital firm investing in sustainable innovation and digital technologies with positive environmental impact. It focuses on growth-stage companies across Europe, particularly in sectors such as smart mobility, energy efficiency, green software, and ethical cybersecurity. Typical ticket sizes range from €2 million to €10 million, starting from Series A.

Website: <https://etfpartners.capital/>

4.1.17 Faber Blue Pionners (Portugal)



Established in 2021 and based in Lisbon, Faber Blue Pioneers I is a €32 million venture capital fund managed by Faber Capital SCR, SA. The fund focuses on early-stage investments (pre-seed to early Series A) in deep-tech startups that contribute to ocean sustainability and climate action. Key sectors include blue biotechnology, sustainable food and feed, ocean health, decarbonization, and ocean intelligence. Typical investment tickets range from €100,000 to €1.5 million. The fund primarily targets startups in Portugal and Southern Europe, aiming to build a portfolio of 20–25 companies aligned with UN SDGs 13 and 14.

Website: <https://www.faber.vc>

4.1.18 Indico Blue Fund (Portugal)



Established in 2021 and based in Lisbon, the Indico Blue Fund is a €50 million venture capital and growth equity fund managed by Indico Capital Partners. It focuses on investing in early-stage and growth-stage startups and SMEs within the Blue Economy sector, particularly those operating in Portugal. The fund targets sectors such as sustainable aquaculture and fisheries, blue biotechnology, digital ocean technologies, waste and circular economy, green shipping, and ocean renewable energy.



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Investment tickets range from €100,000 to €5 million per company. The fund aims to support companies that contribute positively towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 14: Life Below Water.

Website: <https://www.indicocapital.com>

4.1.19 Repsol Corporate Venturing (Spain)



Established as the investment arm of the Spanish energy company Repsol, Repsol Corporate Venturing focuses on identifying and supporting innovative startups that align with the company's decarbonisation and energy transition goals. It invests in technologies related to renewable fuels, circular economy, mobility, and enabling digital solutions. The fund targets early to Series A stages, with investment tickets ranging from €0.5 million to €3 million, typically from Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4 onwards. Repsol also offers strong technical collaboration through its R&D centre and strategic support via its commercial and industrial networks.

Website: <https://www.repsol.com/es/innovacion/corporate-venturing/index.cshtml>

4.2 WHAT INVESTORS WANT AND HOW THE EU SUPPORT IT

Private investors play a pivotal role in scaling up bioeconomy ventures, particularly those navigating the challenging transition from laboratory innovation to industrial deployment. Through interviews and a review of current practices, it is clear that investors in this space adopt a comprehensive evaluation strategy, combining technical, financial, and sustainability criteria when assessing opportunities. According to the "Report Bioeconomy Financing in Europe Analysis" made by the project ShapingBio project¹³, the investment funds contribute to about 70 % of financing rounds, with corporate investors and angels making up smaller shares. Interestingly, even though 75% of investment amounts originate from non-EU (mostly US) investors, EU-based investors dominate in number of deals, accounting for nearly 69 % of them. Moreover, these EU funds are especially active in early-stage rounds within strong and lead innovation ecosystems, while mature companies often attract more international capital.

One of the most critical aspects investors look for is market potential. SMEs and start-ups must demonstrate not only a disruptive or innovative technology but also a clear pathway to scale and commercialization. This means showing tangible evidence of market demand, a credible go-to-market strategy, and readiness for scale-up, typically aligned with technology readiness levels (TRLs) between 6 and 9. Technologies still in earlier phases of development are generally considered too risky without prior de-risking through public grants or pilot validation. Sector-wise,

¹³ D2.4 Report Bioeconomy Financing in Europe Analysis (December 2024). Available [here](#).





bioeconomy startups in food systems and renewable biofuels lead in investment rounds, highlighting their attractiveness to private investors¹³.

Sustainability is no longer treated as a peripheral issue. Investors integrate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria into their core investment decision-making frameworks. ESG assessments now go beyond simple checklists, requiring measurable KPIs tied to emissions, resource use, employee diversity, and governance structures. Some funds conduct in-depth ESG due diligence using bespoke internal tools that generate ratings and identify areas for improvement, which are then embedded in post-investment action plans and shareholder agreements. Leading investors also consolidate ESG performance at the portfolio level, publishing annual impact metrics and using ESG as a value-creation lever rather than a compliance necessity.

Public funding programmes, particularly those under Horizon Europe and other EU-level initiatives (see section 2), are widely viewed as essential for de-risking bioeconomy investments. These grants support early-stage R&D, pilot demonstrations, and scale-up activities that would otherwise be too risky for private capital alone. Co-investment models, where public and private funds align on milestones and risk-sharing, are becoming increasingly common. However, investors note that the bureaucratic complexity of accessing public funding can be a deterrent for startups unless they have prior experience or support.

A further decisive factor for investors is the quality and completeness of the founding team. Ventures that combine technical excellence with regulatory and commercial expertise stand out. In sectors like bio-based materials, renewable fuels, or agricultural inputs, experience in managing regulatory pathways, feedstock logistics, and manufacturing partnerships is crucial. Business readiness level (BRL), including the ability to manage cash flow, engage with customers, and articulate a realistic growth plan, often determines whether a company advances in due diligence.

Risk assessment plays a key role in investor screening. Red flags that commonly prevent investment include unvalidated technologies, over-optimistic financial projections, regulatory uncertainty, and insufficient market differentiation. Investors are also cautious of ventures lacking intellectual property protection, experienced leadership, or a clear understanding of competitive dynamics.

Beyond capital, leading funds are deeply involved in their portfolio companies. They often provide strategic guidance, technical mentoring, access to industrial assets, and introductions to supply chain partners or future investors. This hands-on support helps ventures mature faster and align with both financial and sustainability milestones. In some cases, technical staff from investor organizations even sit on company boards or join technical committees to guide innovation pathways.

Overall, what emerges is a picture of investors who are selective but supportive. They seek ventures that are grounded in technical excellence, aligned with market needs, and committed to measurable sustainability outcomes. Public funding plays a catalytic role in reducing risk, but success ultimately depends on a startup's ability to integrate ESG principles, scale its operations, and build strategic relationships with investors who bring more than money to the table.





EU projects such as **Bioeconomy Ventures**¹⁴, **Shaping Bio**¹⁵ and **COPILLOT** (Pilots4U powered by COPILLOT)¹⁶, among others, have made it a core objective to connect investors with bioeconomy-related innovations. These initiatives not only help map and match private financing opportunities but also create platforms, such as demo days, pitch events, and matchmaking services, designed to bridge the gap between early-stage innovators and strategic or financial investors. By actively involving venture capital firms, corporate investors, and business angels, these projects contribute to de-risking investments, improving investor readiness, and catalysing public–private co-investment in bio-based sectors across Europe.

*This case summary is based on insights provided by Repsol Corporate Venturing through a structured interview conducted within the framework of the **ToBeReal** project. The information reflects Repsol's own investment strategy and perspectives as of the date of the interview (April 2024)*

Repsol Corporate Venturing (RCV) is a €50 million strategic investment fund embedded within Repsol's broader decarbonisation and innovation strategy. It targets start-ups from early-stage to Series A, particularly those operating in pre-commercial phases from TRL 4 to ideally TRL 6. Ticket sizes typically range between €0.5 and €3 million, and investments are made with the dual aim of supporting disruptive technology development and meeting Repsol's industrial transformation objectives.

RCV's investment focus is structured around four key verticals: Industrial Transformation, Advanced Mobility, Renewables, and Enabling Technologies. Within the Industrial Transformation vertical, RCV places strong emphasis on circular economy technologies and renewable fuels derived from waste.

ESG integration is a core element of RCV's due diligence and investment strategy. The fund uses a proprietary ESG tool that assesses companies based on sector-specific Sustainable Development Objectives, as well as environmental, social, and governance criteria. The tool generates category-specific scores and an overall rating out of 100, which informs shareholder agreements and post-investment improvement actions. RCV has also joined the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI) and will begin ESG performance reporting in 2025.

Beyond financing, RCV offers comprehensive support through access to Repsol's Technology Lab, where more than 230 scientists contribute technical validation and collaboration. This allows portfolio companies to remain closely aligned with market and operational requirements. Strategic mentoring, governance participation (e.g., board and technical committees), and integration with Repsol's commercial and industrial networks further reinforce their support model.

RCV identifies several key risks in bioeconomy investments, including regulatory uncertainty, slow market adoption, high CAPEX, and long payback periods. It mitigates these by conducting robust

¹⁴ Bioeconomy Ventures (Grant Agreement: No 101023260): <https://www.bioeconomyventures.eu/>

¹⁵ Shaping Bio (Grant Agreement: No 101060252): <https://www.shapingbio.eu/>

¹⁶ COPILLOT (Grant Agreement: No 101157279): <https://copilot-project.eu/>





due diligence across legal, financial, technological, and compliance domains, and by balancing riskier industrial investments with earlier-returning digital innovations.

Public funding instruments such as Horizon Europe grants are seen as essential enablers for early-stage de-risking, though Repsol acknowledges that such schemes can be burdensome for SMEs. RCV sees strong value in public–private co-funding models that share risk while accelerating scale-up.

Exit strategies considered include M&A, IPOs, private equity buyouts, and secondary sales. Repsol sees strategic acquisitions or integration as the most common routes, particularly when aligned with its core business units.

Overall, Repsol Corporate Venturing exemplifies how corporate investors can provide capital, technical validation, ESG rigour, and market pathways to bioeconomy innovators, helping bridge the gap from promising technology to commercial deployment.

5 OTHER INNOVATIVE FINANCING MECHANISMS

5.1 CCRI CIRCULAR INVESTMENT – ENABLING FINANCE FOR THE CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY

The **Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI)**¹⁷ is a flagship European Commission initiative that accelerates the circular and bioeconomy transition by improving investment readiness at the local and regional level. It supports public and private actors through technical assistance, investment preparation, and matchmaking services.

As part of the CCRI, several project mechanisms, such as **CircularInvest**¹⁸, **Definite-CCRI**¹⁹, and **BioBoost**, offer tailored project development assistance (PDA), helping local bioeconomy initiatives develop viable, bankable investment proposals. For example, BioBoost in Catalonia mobilised €30 million in funding for circular bio-based projects, including livestock waste valorisation²⁰. Tools such as the Definite-CCRI **Circularity Tool**²¹ provide structured guidance on business, technical, and investment readiness, enabling local actors to align with investor expectations. These efforts are embedded within the **Circular Investment Readiness Network (CIRN)**²², a cross-European community of municipalities, SMEs, investors, and circular economy experts. CIRN offers capacity-building through interactive sessions, investor pitch training, and resource sharing, empowering local projects to refine their business models and de-risk their proposals. Through this network, CCRI

¹⁷ Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI): <https://circular-cities-and-regions.ec.europa.eu/>

¹⁸ CircularInvest: <https://www.circularinvest.eu/>

¹⁹ Definite CCRI: <https://definite-ccri.eu/>

²⁰ BioBoost: <https://bioboost.cat/>

²¹ Definite CCRI Circularity Tool: <https://tool.definite-ccri.eu/>

²² Circular Investment Readiness Network (CIRN): <https://circularinvestmentreadiness.eu/>





fosters collaboration, improves financing literacy, and builds a stronger pipeline of circular and bioeconomy projects capable of attracting both public and private capital. Ultimately, CCRI bridges the gap between innovation and finance by supporting project readiness, facilitating public–private alignment, and enabling more circular bioeconomy initiatives to reach market scale.

These projects, together with **ToBeReal** support bioeconomy actors to boost the maturity of their innovations.

5.2 FINANCING THE BIOECONOMY: THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB)

The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** plays a central role in championing the growth and scale-up of Europe's bioeconomy by deploying a multifaceted financing toolkit: significant loans, equity investments, guarantees, and advisory services. In 2024, the EIB Group signed approximately **€89 billion** in new financing, with a record **57 % dedicated to climate action and environmental sustainability**, amounting to **€50.7 billion**²³. Its commitment to the European Green Deal is further reflected in a pledge to mobilize **€1 trillion in climate-related investments by 2030**. Within this green financing, the EIB earmarked **€3 billion** in December 2024 specifically for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and the bioeconomy, aimed at SMEs, new-generation farmers (including women-led operations), and rural green projects, with the ambition of mobilizing approximately **€8.4 billion** through co-financing with partner institutions²⁴. This package underscores efforts to support climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forestry, innovation, and risk mitigation (e.g., insurance for extreme weather events).

Direct project loans are complemented by targeted support for innovation. Beyond loans, the EIB is a key equity investor in the bioeconomy. It serves as the anchor investor for the **European Circular Bioeconomy Fund (ECBF, see above)**, committing **€100 million** in growth-stage equity to companies developing TRL 6–7 technologies across sectors such as bio-based chemicals, packaging, agro-nutrients, and agricultural films . Further support is provided via platforms like **fi-compass**²⁵ and the **InvestEU Advisory Hub**²⁶, which deliver blended financing, guarantees, and advisory services to help regional authorities and developers structure bankable projects.

Lastly, the EIB reinforces these financing activities with strategic advisory instruments. Surveys conducted by fi-compass in 2023 highlighted an unmet €62 billion demand for agricultural finance, which the EIB aims to address through tailored advisory and credit solutions .

EBC financing instruments for circular projects are summarised in the following table:

²³ EIB Group 2024_Key Figures Summary. Available [here](#).

²⁴ EIB Group Allocates 3 Billion Euros to Support Farmers and the Bioeconomy in Europe (13th December 2024). Available [here](#).

²⁵ Fi-compass: <https://www.fi-compass.eu/>

²⁶ InvestEU Advisory hub: https://investeu.europa.eu/investeu-programme/investeu-advisory-hub_en





Table 264 - EIB Financing Instruments and Key Features

Instruments	Key Features	Applicability
Direct Financing		
Investment loans (Public/private sector)	• Direct loan for a specific investment project or programme • All investment components identified/appraised upfront	• Project/programme cost > €50 million (some flexibility) • Max EIB loan: up to 50% of investment cost
Framework loans (Public/(private) sector)	• Direct loan for a 3–5 year multi-component investment programme • Multi-sector projects meeting defined criteria, not identified at time of signing • Project information/appraisal according to project size at time of allocation	• Wide sector and project type applicability • CAPEX and RDI costs • Multi-country operations possible
Project finance (Private sector)	• Non-recourse financing for projects with strong certainty on future cash flows • Often targets new production capacity with long-term off-take contracts	• CAPEX and RDI costs
Venture debt (Private sector)	• Quasi-equity type financing for innovative/early-stage project/counterparty • Return targets may include cash/compound interest (PIK), warrants, profit participation	• Project/programme cost > €30 million (some flexibility) • Max EIB loan: up to 50% of investment cost • CAPEX and RDI costs
Indirect Financing		
Multi-beneficiary Intermediated Loans (MBILs) and guarantees (Public/private sector)	• Intermediated financing via commercial bank or National Promotional Bank (NPB) that on-lends EIB funds at reduced rates to SMEs, mid-caps, and municipalities • EIB monitors on-lending	• Eligible sectors/project types agreed case-by-case • Possibility to define thematic windows (e.g., circular economy)

6 CONCLUSIONS

This deliverable map several opportunities, spanning private investors, EU public programmes, sectoral partnerships, and mission-driven initiatives, that underpin successful scaling of bio-based solutions.

On the public side, instruments such as Horizon Europe, LIFE, PRIMA, Water4All, Agroecology Partnership, FutureFoodS, and the EU Missions highlight how innovators can leverage grant funding at **EU level**, de-risk their activities, and gain access to pan-European ecosystems. Each programme offers tailored entry points depending on project maturity, whether targeting TRL 2-5 (exploratory research) or TRL 5-8 (demonstration and deployment), with distinct features in grant size, co-financing, and collaborative frameworks. Complementing these are **national and regional funding sources**, which are crucial for grounding innovation in local contexts. These local programmes often act as key enablers, providing co-financing, technical assistance, and market-readiness support that integrate seamlessly with EU initiatives.

The **private funding landscape**, encompassing corporate venturing and sustainable investment vehicles, complements public support by offering follow-on funding, strategic partnerships, and





insights into market-driven innovation. This dual-framework ensures that innovators benefit not only from financial backing but also from access to markets, technical expertise, and mentorship.

Looking ahead, the **ToBeReal** initiative is ideally positioned to support projects that engage both public and private channels, aligning innovation pathways with policy objectives and investor expectations. Ultimately, the synergy of public de-risking mechanisms and private market focus will create a fertile environment for scalable, impactful, and sustainable bioeconomy projects, turning flagship ideas into real-world solutions for Europe's green transition.

