



APPLICANT WEBINAR

Open Call — FSTP

€50,000 grants for bio-circular
innovation in agri-food

WEBINAR FOR APPLICANTS

How to apply, what we look for, how you are evaluated.

€50K

per project

12

projects funded

100%

funded — no co-financing



Deadline: 31 July 2026, 17:00 CEST

Submit on F6s — submissions close automatically

What we will cover

01

About AGRI-BIOCIRCULAR-HUB

Who we are and what the project does

03

Who can apply

Eligibility, SMEs, consortia, TRL

05

What you get beyond the money

Adviser, mentoring, study visit, pitch event

07

How to apply on F6s — step by step

From guidelines to submission

02

The Open Call in numbers

€50,000 grants, 12 projects, 3 countries

04

The 7 challenges

Pick the challenge that fits your innovation

06

How applications are evaluated

Criteria, scoring, what makes a strong proposal

08

Timeline & Q&A

Key dates and your questions




ABOUT THE PROJECT

A Horizon Europe excellence hub

AGRI-BIOCIRCULAR-HUB is a Horizon Europe project connecting research, business, and public institutions across five countries to foster innovation, build capacity, and enable sustainable transformation in the agrifood sector, with a strong focus on widening countries and emerging ecosystems.

The Open Call (FSTP — Financial Support for Third Parties) is our cascade funding mechanism: it puts public money directly in the hands of SMEs and startups developing real bio-circular solutions.

CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES

-  **Poland** Eligible — 4 projects
-  **Latvia** Eligible — 4 projects
-  **Ukraine** Eligible — 4 projects
-  **Spain** Consortium partner — frontrunner ecosystem
-  **Belgium** Consortium partner — open innovation lead

KEY FACTS

The Open Call at a glance

€50,000

Grant amount

Lump sum, 100% funded — no co-financing required

12

Projects funded

4 in Poland, 4 in Latvia, 4 in Ukraine

12 mo.

Project duration

Starts ~December 2026, runs through ~November 2027

TRL 4+

Minimum maturity

Technology validated in lab — not basic research

1 or 2

Entities per application

Apply solo or as a consortium of max 2 SMEs / startups

EN

Language

Applications must be submitted in English

ELIGIBILITY

The AGRI-BIOCIRCULAR-HUB Open Call aims to fund innovative projects that will contribute to the development of existing or emerging bio-circular value chains, based on new products, solutions and services for testing and optimisation of products and production processes, or the exploration of new processing

Who can apply?

You CAN apply if...

- SME or startup legally registered in Poland, Latvia, or Ukraine
- Fewer than 250 employees and turnover \leq €50M (EU SME definition)
- Your solution is at TRL 4 or above
- Single entity OR a consortium of max 2 SMEs / startups
- Legally incorporated at the moment of application
- Thematic priorities, financial amount, duration fit
- submitted timely








You CANNOT apply if...

- Registered outside Poland, Latvia, or Ukraine
- 250+ employees or you exceed EU SME turnover thresholds
- Your solution is below TRL 4 (still in basic research)
- Your consortium has more than 2 entities
- You are not yet legally registered as a company
- not thematic fit, financial amount and duration do not match
- not timely submitted

 **One application per challenge. You may apply to several challenges, but only the highest-ranked proposal per entity will be funded.**

THEMATIC SCOPE

The 7 challenges

<p>1</p>  <p>Circular nutrients & fertiliser independence Recover and reuse nutrients from organic streams.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Soil health & peat-free growing media Improve soil quality; replace peat in horticulture.</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Low-emission manure & residue valorisation Turn manure and residues into value while cutting GHG.</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Water-smart farming & runoff reduction Water efficiency on-farm; reduce nutrient runoff.</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>Bio-based farm inputs & end-of-life solutions Bio-based alternatives, biodegradable packaging/films.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Data-driven IPM & input reduction Digital tools for IPM and lower pesticide/fertiliser use.</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Practices integrating bio-circular principles On-farm systems that embed circularity end-to-end.</p>	

The funded activity must be hands-on (pilot, test, validate, optimise) — not purely analytical work.

What you get



€50,000 grant

Lump sum: 40% upfront, 30% mid-point, 30% on completion.



Dedicated adviser

Named adviser from the consortium throughout 12 months.



Monthly workshops

Online sessions on tech, branding, market, investment.



Pan-European network

Connections across PL, LV, UA, ES, BE — academia & industry.



Expert mentoring

Network of technical, business, and market mentors.



Study visit

In-person visit to a consortium partner facility.



Final pitch event

In-person presentation to stakeholders and investors.



Full IP ownership

You keep all intellectual property. No strings attached.

MONEY MATTERS

Budget rules and eligible costs

WHAT THE GRANT COVERS

- Personnel (project management, R&D, testing, piloting, capacity building)
- Travel related to the project
- Equipment and consumables specific to the project
- Communication, dissemination, and exploitation activities
- IPR (e.g. patent filing) and regulatory compliance, if relevant
- Indirect costs at a flat 7% of personnel + other direct costs

100%

of project costs covered

No co-financing required

7%

indirect cost rate

Flat rate on personnel + other direct costs

20%

max. subcontracting

Of total project budget (i.e. up to €10,000)

3

lump-sum instalments

40% start / 30% mid-point / 30% completion

HOW PROPOSALS ARE SCORED

Evaluation criteria

25%

Excellence

Clear objectives, innovative approach, strong team, technological and business expertise.

25%

Impact & Ambition

Value-chain change, scalability, long-lasting impact, contribution to AGRI-BIOCIRCULAR-HUB cases.

25%

Implementation

Realistic work plan, timing, M&E, balanced team, gender representation.

25%

Budget & Value for Money

Efficient resource allocation, clear link between costs and results.

+3 pts

Bonus points

GHG reduction potential · Farmer income resilience · Urgent societal challenges · Strong exploitation potential

What makes a strong proposal



Be specific about your innovation

State what is new, who else does something similar, and where you sit on TRL today vs. at project end.



Make the value-chain link explicit

Who is the buyer, the user, the partner? Tie your project to a real bio-circular value chain in PL / LV / UA.



Show a balanced, capable team

Technical, business, and operational roles. Gender balance counts. Name your team and their relevant track record.



Show concrete, hands-on activities

Pilots, validation in operational conditions, prototypes, optimisation runs - not desk research.



Demonstrate impact you can measure

GHG reduction, water saved, yield gain, cost per hectare, replication potential - give numbers.



Justify every euro

Personnel days, equipment, travel - link each cost line to a specific activity and deliverable.

STEP BY STEP

How to apply on F6s

1

Read the guidelines



Download the Open Call Guidelines for Applicants (PDF).

2

Check eligibility



Use the checklist in Section 3 of the guidelines.

3

Choose your challenge



Pick the one of seven that best fits your innovation.

4

Prepare your proposal



Use the official template — max 15 pages, submitted as PDF.

5

Submit on F6s



Complete the online form and upload your PDF before 31 July.

6

Receive confirmation



An automatic email confirmation.

Apply on F6s: f6s.com/open-call-for-funding-agri-biocircular/apply · Guidelines at agri-biocircular-hub.eu/open-call/

What you need to prepare

AT APPLICATION

Submit by 31 July 2026 via F6s

- Completed proposal (Word template → upload as PDF, max 15 pages)
- Summary, objectives, budget, work plan, team CVs (in the template)
- Ethics & security checklist (in the template)
- F6s online application form fields completed

AT CONTRACTING (IF SELECTED)

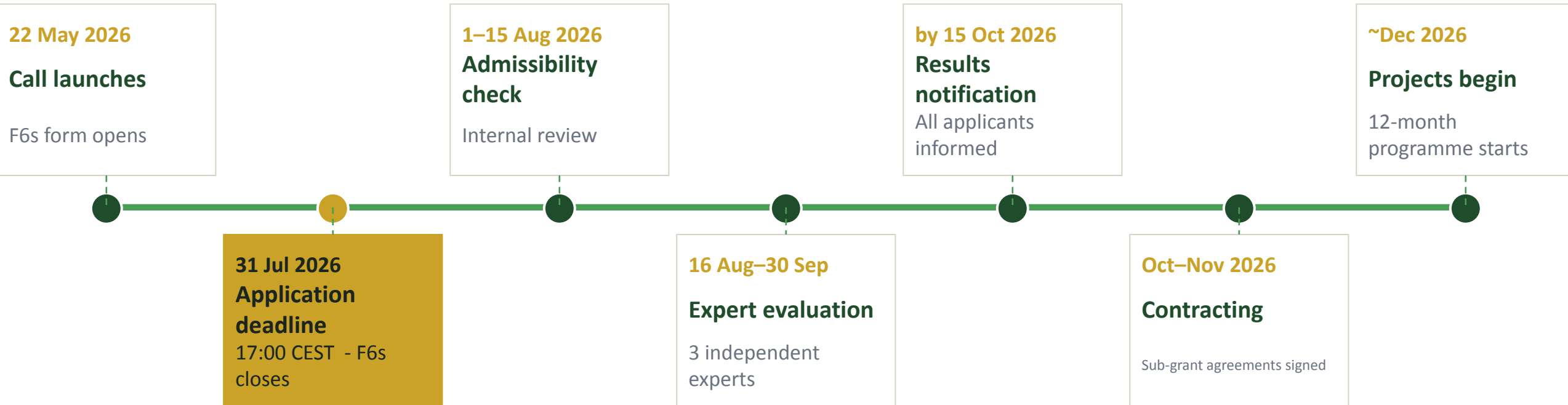
Provided by the consortium when you are selected

- Declaration of Honour (DoH) - one per applicant
- Consortium DoH - if you applied as a consortium of two
- Proof of Legal Existence (registration extract, VAT)
- Proof of SME Status (PIC or signed SME Declaration)
- Proof of Bank Account Information
- KYC documents for legal representatives

Tip: only the proposal and F6s form matter at submission. Contracting documents come later - but start gathering them now.

CALL TIMELINE

From launch to project start



Dates after the deadline are indicative and may shift. The 31 July 2026 deadline is fixed.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The awarded sub-granted projects will participate and benefit from the AGRI-BIOCIRCULAR-HUB Programme.

Support provided

- **Financial:** In the form of a lump sum, to deliver the work plan proposed in the applications.
 - **Technical:** guidance and assistance to implement the solutions.
 - **Business:** business guidance and support services in the form of mentoring, coaching, and networking opportunities.
-
- ★ a mandatory **study visit** to one of the consortia partner's facilities
 - ★ **in person workshop**

Applicants should ensure that their proposed budgets adequately cover all costs associated with participation in this study visit

12-month implementation period

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Questions & how to reach us



Your questions now

Use the chat to send your questions. We will answer as many as we can in the time we have. Questions we do not get to will be answered in writing and published as updated FAQs on the Open Call page.

Please note: we cannot pre-assess proposals or confirm eligibility informally.

CONTACTS

Reach the Open Call Helpdesk



Helpdesk e-mail

agri-biocircular-hub-fstp@commercializationreactor.com

Replies within 3 working days



Open Call page

agri-biocircular-hub.eu/open-call/

Guidelines PDF, FAQ, Privacy Notice, Documents



Submission platform

f6s.com/open-call-for-funding-agri-biocircular/apply

Single entry point for all applications

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

Quick checklist

- ✓ Eligible country and SME status confirmed
- ✓ TRL of your solution at 4 or above
- ✓ Challenge selected (just one per application)
- ✓ Proposal completed in English, ≤ 15 pages, PDF
- ✓ Budget justified, ≤ €50,000 total, indirect at 7%
- ✓ Submitted on F6s well before 31 July, 17:00 CEST

READY TO TAKE YOUR INNOVATION

to the European level?

Applications open until
31 July 2026, 17:00 CEST.

 **Apply now on F6s**

f6s.com/open-call-for-funding-agri-biocircular/apply

Thank you — and good luck.

FREQUENTLY ASKED

What people ask most

Do I need co-financing?

No. The €50,000 covers 100% of your project costs.

Can a consortium apply?

Yes — up to two SMEs / startups from eligible countries. One acts as lead applicant.

Can the same company submit several applications?

Yes — one per challenge. But only one application per entity can be funded (the highest-ranked).

Can I correct or resubmit?

Yes, before the deadline. Contact the helpdesk at least 2 working days before 31 July.

Can a Ukrainian company apply?

Yes. Ukraine is one of the three eligible countries, regardless of EU status.

What does TRL 4 mean in practice?

Your technology has been validated in a lab. Beyond proof of concept, not yet in real-world use.

What if my application is rejected at eligibility?

You will be notified earlier — in August 2026 — with a justification.

Who evaluates the proposals?

Three independent experts, selected for their thematic expertise, with no conflict of interest.