



Circular Bio-Based Business models  
to create high-value Bio-based products  
in integrated value chains

Project type	RIA – Research Innovation Action		
Project number	101135323		
Project start date	01/01/2024	Duration	48 months

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# C4B – CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

**Project:** C4B (Circular Bio-Based Business models to create high-value Bio-based products in integrated value chains), Horizon Europe, GA n. 101135323

**Opening Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

**Deadline for Applications:** 14<sup>th</sup> August 2026

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## 1 CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVE

The **C4B project** (*Circular Bio-Based Business models to create high-value Bio-based products in integrated value chains*) is looking for independent experts to evaluate proposals submitted under the **C4B Open Call for Pilot Projects**. The Open Call aims to select and fund third parties (SMEs, Startups, Research Organisations) to validate Circular Business Models in the bioeconomy sector.

We are establishing a **Pool of Experts** from which we will select evaluators to assess the submitted applications.

## 2 PROFILE OF THE EXPERTS

We are looking for professionals with at least **5 years of experience** in one or more of the following domains and primary sectors.

*Note: During the online application, experts will be asked to select their specific areas of expertise from a predefined list to facilitate the assignment process.*

### 2.1 Area of Expertise

- Forestry
- Agri-food
- Peatlands

### 2.2 Professional Profile Type

#### A. Technical Domain (Bioeconomy & Technology)

- Valorisation of by-products (Agri-food residues, Forestry, Peatlands, etc.)
- Bio-based technologies (Biorefineries, platform chemicals, etc.)

#### B. Business Domain (Innovation & Market)

- Bio-based business models
- Business Plan evaluation and financial sustainability
- Market analysis in the bio-based sector

- Scalability and replication of innovation

## 2.3 Requirements

- Fluency in English (reading and writing).
- Previous experience in evaluating EU or national R&D projects is highly desirable.
- Absence of Conflict of Interest.

## 3 SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Selected experts will be assigned a specific number of proposals to evaluate *remotely* (each proposal will be assigned to three experts). The evaluation process consists of:

1. **Individual Evaluation:** Reading the proposal (approx. 10 pages) and the administrative forms; assign scores and comments.
2. **Consensus:** Agreeing on the final score/comments with two other experts (usually done via email or a brief online meeting, if necessary) and completing an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR).

*Note: guidelines and supporting documents for the evaluation, as well as a ESR template will be provided.*

For additional information regarding the Open Call for Pilot Projects, please refer to: <https://www.c4b-project.eu/c4b-open-call-get-ready-to-apply/>

## 4 TIMELINE

The key dates related to the selection and assignment of experts are outlined below:

PHASES	KEY DATES/PERIODS
<b>Call Opening Date</b>	1 June 2026
<b>Call Closing Date</b>	14 August 2026
<b>Application assessment</b>	By 15 September 2026
<b>Notification of selected experts</b>	By 15 September 2026
<b>Proposals' Evaluation period (experts' assignment)</b>	16 September 2026 – 31 October 2026

Selected experts will be notified by 15 September 2026 at the latest and they must ensure their availability during the proposals' evaluation period running from **16 September 2026 to 31 October 2026**.

## 5 REMUNERATION

Experts will be remunerated based on the standard European Commission rate of **€450.00 for each full working day**.

For the purpose of this assignment, the workload is estimated as follows:

- The complete evaluation (Individual + possible consensus) of **5 proposals** is equivalent to **1 working day**.
- Therefore, the unit cost paid per single proposal evaluated is **€ 90.00**.

*Example: An expert assigned to evaluate 10 proposals will receive a total payment of € 900.00 (equivalent to 2 working days).*

## 6 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Experts must be independent and free from any conflict of interest. They cannot evaluate proposals if they have any professional, personal or financial links with the applicants, or any situation that could affect their impartiality. Applicants will be required to declare in the application form that no conflict of interest exists. Selected experts must also immediately inform the C4B consortium if any potential conflict arises during the evaluation process. In such cases, the expert will be replaced for the concerned proposal.

## 7 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested experts are invited to submit their application exclusively via the **EUSurvey online form** available at the following link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/C4BOpenCallExperts>

**Instructions for the Online Application:** The form will guide candidates through the following steps:

- **Personal Information:** Contact details and affiliation.
- **Expertise Profile:** Candidates must tick the boxes corresponding to their specific profile (Technical/Business) and area of expertise (Agri-food/Forestry/Peatlands).
- **CV:** fill in relevant information, in English, regarding education, job experiences, publications.

**Selection Process:** Applications will be reviewed by the C4B Consortium based on the relevance of the profile and the expertise declared. Selected candidates will be included in the **C4B Expert Pool** and contacted via email to check availability and sign the appointment letter based on the actual number of proposals received.

## 8 SUPPORT

For any questions regarding the call requirements or the submission process, please contact:

- **Email:** [c4bopencall@apre.it](mailto:c4bopencall@apre.it)