

## Future of Food Press Release

# Open Calls for Challenges and Innovators are now Open!

Boosting the BioeconomyVentures ecosystems

One of the pillars of BioeconomyVentures is to attract and engage with European innovators from the bio-based sector.

How are we going to do this? BioeconomyVentures will launch 2 Open Calls addressing two target audiences:

- Corporates - with needs that could be addressed or solved by bioeconomy innovative solutions. These companies have the opportunity to define their challenges with the BioeconomyVentures team and participate in our Programme, eliciting solutions directly addressing their issues and getting connected with innovators.
- Innovators – including individuals, researchers, start-ups, spin-offs, and SMEs developing solutions in the vast bioeconomy domain, who are looking for support to showcase their developments, access funding and networking opportunities that could take them to market.

Within this framework, BioeconomyVentures will launch two different types of Open Calls, namely, a Call for Challenges followed by a Call for Innovators.

The Calls for Challenges (3 Calls, between April 2022 – October 2023) aim at attracting corporates to give them the opportunity to propose challenges that can be solved via a bioeconomy approach. This call aims to ensure a direct match between corporates and solution providers (bioeconomy start-ups and spin-offs). Challenges will be defined in one-to-one BioeconomyVentures corporate meetings and target to answer the corporate and industry needs.

The Calls for Innovators (3 Calls, between April 2022 – October 2023) in turn seek to attract 200-plus innovators from the bio-based sector (start-ups and spin-offs) to present their solution/product/service concepts aiming to participate in the BioeconomyVentures programme and benefit from its services and connection with corporates and investors.

The preliminary industries' Open call dates for **Corporates** are listed as follows:

### **OC #1 - Future of Food** (1st March until 14th May 2022)

- Agriculture
- Agtech & Foodtech (Alternative Proteins)
- Aquaculture, Fishing & Algae
- Food, Feed, and Ingredients
- Hemp and Cannabis

### **OC #2 – Future of chemicals** (1st August until 31st October 2022)

- Platform and Specialty Bio-based Chemicals
- Bio-based Plastics and Materials
- Bio-based Paints & Industrial Coatings

- Bio-based Fragrances, Cosmetics and Personal & Home Care

### **OC #3 - Future of Industrial Circularity** (1st November 2022 until 31st October 2023)

- Forestry, Pulp and Paper
- Bioenergy & Biofuels
- Wood & Furniture, Building materials & constructions
- Bio-based Textiles and wearing apparel
- Food and Feed from side and waste streams
- Waste Processing & Up/Recycling

Following a Call to Innovators, a team of experts will evaluate the applications received, thereby providing start-ups and spin-offs the opportunity to join the BioeconomyVentures Innovators Programme. Selected innovators will benefit of unique opportunity to boost their knowledge and expertise portfolio with direct access to:

- Hybrid business and investment readiness support
- Networking opportunities and pitching events
- Matchmaking with investors and corporates
- The opportunity to address innovation challenges set by leading corporations
- Visibility and exposure through the BV Ambassador network.

So, what are the steps for applicants?

- 1) **Expression of Interest** - In 1-on-1 meetings, corporations indicate their interest to join the programme
- 2) **Challenge Definition** - Partners work together with Corporates on challenge definition and enlisting these challenges onto the website
- 3) **Innovator Scouting** – collection of Innovator needs, solutions and ideas for later selection and matchmaking with corporates
- 4) **Meet innovators** - Pitching days organised so that Corporates can meet the innovators and get introduced to their ideas
- 5) **Shape Collaboration** - Feedback from corporations on which Innovators they want to further their discussions with to explore potential synergies (in 1-to-1 meetings).
- 6) **Start Synergies** – 1-to-1 meetings geared towards synergy creation are set up and moderated by BV partners

The BioeconomyVentures consortium will promote the publication of Open Calls through a dedicated communication strategy and campaign. Promotional activities with Ambassadors and potential Innovators will be designed to increase public awareness of BioeconomyVentures Open Calls to reach a wider target group.

Do you wish to get involved? Get in contact with our partner [F6S](#) in charge of the managing this activity, sending an email to Catarina Reis “[catarina@f6s.com](mailto:catarina@f6s.com)” or Aleksandar Zobec “[aleksandar@f6s.com](mailto:aleksandar@f6s.com)”.

And finally, join the project [network](#) and subscribe to our [newsletter](#) to receive our updates regarding upcoming Open Calls and latest news!