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Financial support for third parties

Guideline for applicants

Funded by the European Union under grant agreement 101182442

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1. Introduction

The EMBEDDED project is a European initiative funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe programme (HORIZON-CL6-2024-CIRCBIO-02). Its overarching objective is to demonstrate, over a 36-month period, innovative and sustainable business models that transform waste from traditional European agri-food industries into high-value products such as biochar and construction boards. These solutions contribute to long-term carbon sequestration while fostering short, resilient, and local value chains.

A key instrument within the project is the FSTP (Financial Support to Third Parties). FSTP is a funding mechanism that allows EU-funded projects to allocate part of their budget to external organisations—such as SMEs, startups, research centres or other stakeholders—through open calls. This approach expands participation beyond the core consortium and enables real-world testing, validation, and replication of project innovations in diverse contexts across Europe.

This document introduces the **first Open Call (Call 1) of the EMBEDDED project** under the FSTP scheme, which focuses on validating the project's Key Value Proposition (KVP) through real case study trials. Selected entities will receive financial support alongside technical assistance from the EMBEDDED consortium, allowing them to implement and assess the project's solutions within their own operational environments.

The EMBEDDED FSTP programme is structured in **two sequential calls**, each with a distinct focus that reflects the project's progressive approach:

- **EMBEDED Call 1**– Focused on validating the product's KVP through real case study trials in operational settings.
- **EMBEDED Call 2** – Oriented towards **market adoption and business case development**, advancing the local transformation of underutilised agri-food by-products and supporting the uptake of EMBEDDED solutions at a commercial scale.

This two-calls approach ensures a logical progression from technical validation in real scenarios to broader market deployment and replication.

Through these Open Calls, the EMBEDDED project aims to maximise its impact by engaging external stakeholders in the valorisation of agricultural and forestry residues, including both mainstream by-products (e.g. olive pomace, olive stones, grape marc) and underutilised materials (e.g. cork bark residues, grass press-cake, grape stems). By supporting these activities, the project contributes to the development of a circular bioeconomy and promotes sustainable, regionally anchored value chains across Europe.

In summary, the FSTP mechanism is a critical tool for scaling the EMBEDED project's innovations with a total funding allocation of 750,000 EUR. This initiative aims to empower key stakeholders, fostering collaboration and accelerating the transfer of sustainable technologies and business models from demonstration to real-world application and market uptake.

Summary table

	Call 1	Call 2
Eligible applicants	Natural persons (typically small primary producers), for-profit organisations, cooperatives and municipalities	
Activities to be funded	Use of DEMO plants and EMBEDED products, field trials, the design of new products based on the available catalogues of EMBEDED, the design of cork-waste items aligned with the aims of the New Bauhaus (sustainability, beauty, and inclusivity) and the elaboration of feasibility studies for a pyrolysis plant.	
Topics to be funded	<p>New product development based on EMBEDED's bio-based materials/ingredients.</p> <p>Validation studies of bio-based EMBEDED products in different applications.</p> <p>Cork-waste innovations aligned with the New European Bauhaus Initiative.</p> <p>Use of DEMO plants or integration of EMBEDED products into field trials.</p>	<p>New product development based on EMBEDED's bio-based materials/ingredients.</p> <p>Validation studies of bio-based products in different applications.</p> <p>Cork-waste innovations aligned with the New European Bauhaus Initiative.</p> <p>Use of DEMO plants and integration of EMBEDED products into field trials.</p> <p>Feasibility studies for designing pyrolysis plants adapted to regional needs.</p> <p>Surveys and stakeholder engagement to assess feedstock potential and technology adoption.</p>
Duration of funded project's activities	9 months	
Maximum budget per project	50,000 EUR	
Allocated Budget	300,000 EUR	450,000 EUR
Number of proposals to be selected	Minimum of 6	Minimum of 9
Milestones/payments for selected applicants	Agreement signature within one month after projects evaluation. Payments: 50% disbursed upon agreement signature and 50% after completion	



Within the framework of the EMBEDDED Open Call, a **sub-project** refers to the specific set of activities proposed and implemented by an external beneficiary under the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) scheme. Each subproject constitutes a self-contained implementation of EMBEDDED methodologies and technologies, carried out in a real operational environment and aimed at validating, demonstrating, or advancing the project's solutions in line with the objectives of the call.

A **sub-grantee** is the legal entity or individual selected through the Open Call to implement the sub-project. Sub-grantees may include natural persons (e.g. primary producers), SMEs, industrial actors, municipalities, public bodies or cooperatives that meet the eligibility criteria defined in the call. The subgrantee remains fully responsible for the execution of the sub-project, including technical implementation, reporting and compliance with all contractual and funding requirements.

The funds provided to the Sub-grant Agreement originate from the funds of the European Project EMBEDDED which is funded by the European Commission under Grant Agreement Number 101182442, and remain therefore, property of the EU until the balance is paid, whose management rights have been transferred to the project partners of EMBEDDED. This relation between the Sub-grantees and the European Commission through the EMBEDDED project carries a set of obligations to the Sub-grantees with the European Commission.

2. EMBEDDED project

Exploiting Modular Biochar and board production plants to locally transform waste from traditional agrifood, feed and forestry industries into bio-materials with rEgional DEmand.

The EMBEDDED project aims to demonstrate alternative business models by transforming waste from Europe traditional agrifood industries into biochar and construction boards, with a long-term carbon sink effect and short resilient value chains. EMBEDDED will achieve the route to a climate-neutral bioeconomy by demonstration how modular technologies can unlock the value of overlooked agricultural and forestry residues following these objectives:

1. Design and commissioning of 3 modular plants for the local production/obtention of bio-materials and bioactive compounds.

2. On-site demonstration of the pyrolysis plant for the valorisation of 50 tons of waste in 2 campaigns.
3. Demonstration and optimisation of the regional production of sustainable non-wood boards made from cork waste.
4. Certification, registration and/or validation of 4 bio-materials, 2 biofertilizers and 8 prototypes.
5. Consolidation of business cases for portable pyrolysis plant and cork board production and their environmental impact.
6. Clustering with stakeholders and governmental bodies.

EMBEDED strengthens the role of primary producers, aiming to transform more than 50 tonnes of biomass into biochar, biofertilisers and other climate-positive materials.

For more information about the EMBEDED project:

- [Exploiting Modular Biochar and board production plants to locally transform waste from traditional agrifood, feed and forestry industries into bio-materials with rEgional DEmand. | EMBEDED | Project | Fact Sheet | HORIZON | CORDIS | European Commission](#)
- www.embedded.eu

3. Objectives of this call (EMBEDED Call 1)

The aim of this financial support for third parties is to enhance the engagement of primary producers, sectoral clusters, municipalities and local cooperatives, as well as key for-profit stakeholders who can benefit from EMBEDED's bioeconomy solutions.

The main objectives of the EMBEDED calls are:

- 1. Boosting Adoption of Bio-Based Solutions:** Encourage the uptake of EMBEDED bio-based products by key stakeholders.
- 2. Market Validation & Business Model Development:** Support field trials, feasibility studies, and product validation for EMBEDED solutions.

3. **Utilization of Underused Feedstock:** Identify new underutilized feedstocks and enhance their economic potential with involvement of key actors for deployment.
4. **Sectoral Replication:** Expand the application of EMBEDED technologies across different industries and markets.
5. **Strengthening Regional Bioeconomy Networks:** Foster collaborations between stakeholders to ensure sustainable business models INCLUDING MoU encouraging private investment.

EMBEDED Call 1 focuses on validating the product's Key Value Proposition (KVP) through real case study trials in operational settings. To achieve the objectives, Call 1 will fund the following topics:

- **New product development** based on EMBEDED's bio-based materials/ingredients.
- **Validation studies** of EMBEDED products in different applications (e.g., biofertilizers, biochar, phytochemicals, functional food/feed ingredients).
- **Cork-waste innovations** aligned with the New European Bauhaus Initiative (use of natural-origin construction materials, especially those with aesthetic value, more info at https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/about-initiative_en).
- Use of **DEMO plants** or integration of EMBEDED products into **field trials**.

4. Open call. Application process

4.1 Eligibility and admissibility

This Open Call (Call 1) is a single-stage process, and it is mandatory that all proposals comply with the following general conditions to be considered valid submissions and be evaluated.

4.1.1 Eligibility criteria

- Proposals must be submitted before the deadline specified in the call.
- Proposals must be complete and aligned with EMBEDED's objectives.
- Compliance with EU regulations and ethical guidelines.

- Adherence to the FSTP funding and reporting requirements.

During the evaluation process, the criteria outlined above will be verified, and any proposal that fails to meet them will be excluded.

4.1.2 Eligible countries

Natural persons and legal entities based in the EU Member States and countries associated to the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation are eligible to apply.

- i. Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine are not eligible to participate in any capacity.
- ii. Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16 December 2022, no legal commitments can be entered into with Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain
- iii. Legal entities established in China are not eligible to participate in any capacity (art 22.6).

4.1.3 Eligible entities

The funds can be requested by:

- Natural persons (primary producers)
- For-profit organizations (SMEs or industrial actors)
- Municipalities, public bodies & cooperatives.

4.1.4 Eligibility of cost and budget

- Eligible direct cost
 - Purchase of goods (goods necessary to complete the sub-project, e.g., supply of feedstocks, transport of materials / portable plant, bio-based materials related to the EMBEDDED project for comparative purposes)
 - Agricultural/forestry land use
 - Travel costs
 - External services (e.g., analysis, prototyping, surveys)
 - Administrative costs (e.g., permits, insurance)
 - Personnel costs

- Eligible indirect costs

Indirect costs are costs that cannot be identified as specific costs directly linked to the sub-project but are necessary to run, manage and administrate



the beneficiary's organization. They are limited to a flat rate of 15% of the total eligible direct costs for the action.

The total financial support per sub-project is up to a maximum of 50,000 EUR with a minimum of 5,000 EUR. The requested amount must represent 100% of the eligible costs. This includes direct costs as well as indirect costs (up to 15% of the total eligible costs).

Each beneficiary can receive funding for a maximum of 2 sub-projects from the EMBEDED Open Calls with a maximum 1 sub-project per open call and beneficiary.

4.1.5 Admissibility criteria

- Any document requested to the applicants in any of the phases (e.g. submission, eligibility check) must be submitted electronically in .pdf format without restrictions for printing.
- The provided Technical Proposal template (Annex I) must be used when preparing the proposal and should not exceed the limit of 10 pages. All tables, figures, references, and any other element pertaining to the proposal must be included as an integral part of the proposal and are thus counted against this page limit. Excess pages will not be considered during the evaluation of the proposal.
- English is the official language for the Open Call. The proposal must be written in this language and proposals submitted in any other language will not be evaluated. This means all requested contributions (documents of the OC kit) must be submitted in English to be eligible. In the case of official documents as a proof of the legal existence of the applicant, they can be submitted in original language, however if it is deemed essential to facilitate the eligibility check, applicants may be requested to provide additional documentation (*i.e.*, a translation of the relevant sections of the official document into English—this does not have to be a formal, certified translation) in a timely manner.
- Budgets must be in EURO.
- The Technical Proposal template and all other relevant application documents (*e.g.*, Declaration of Honour and Bank details template) are available on the EMBEDED website (<https://embeded.eu/>). The proposal should be sent via the applications portal. Any proposal submitted through other channels will be automatically rejected.

4.2 Timeline

The call will be published on the Funding & Tenders Portal, as well as EMBEDED's website. The implementation timeline of the EMBEDED Call 1 is structured into clearly defined phases, ensuring a transparent, efficient, and compliant process from submission through evaluation, clarification, selection and final grant agreement execution.

- **Call 1 opening date:** 25/05/2026 – 16:00 CET (Brussels time)
- **Call 1 closing date:** 29/06/2026 – 16:00 CET (Brussels time)
- **Clarification request window:** 30/06/2026 – 31 /07/2026
- **Evaluation and resolution:** 30/06/2026 – 30/08/2026
- **Provisional publication of the selected sub-projects:** 30/08/2026
- **Timeline for submitting appeals:** 01/09/2026 – 10/09/2026
- **Final publication of the selected sub-projects:** 17/09/2026
- **Signing of the agreement after the sub-project evaluation:** 18/09/2026 – 30/09/2026
- **Sub-project implementation:** 01/10/2026 – 30/06/2027
- **Sub-project end:** 30/06/2027
- **Deadline for Final Sub-project reporting:** 30/09/2027
- **Duration:** 9 months

EMBEDED will publish the outcome of the calls without delay, including a description of sub-projects, the date of the award, the duration and the legal name and country.

4.3 Publication of updates

All official updates, clarifications, and new information related to the EMBEDED Open Call will be published as soon as they become available in the dedicated Open Call section of the EMBEDED project website (<https://embeded.eu/>). Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult the website on a regular basis in order to stay informed of any modifications, additional guidance, or new documents that may be issued throughout the call lifecycle. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure they are aware of the most up-to-date information published on the website.



4.4 Submission system

Proposals must be submitted exclusively through the official application portal available on the EMBEDED project website: <https://embeded.eu/>

Submissions via any other channel will not be accepted.

4.5 Required documents

Each proposal must include the following documents and forms, submitted through the Open Call section in the EMBEDED website using the official templates provided. At the time of submission, Applicants must submit the following documents:

- **Technical Proposal:** A PDF document describing the proposed sub-project, prepared using the “Technical Proposal” Template (Annex I).
- **Declaration of Honour.** The document must be filled in appropriately, signed by a partner’s legal representative and stamped (with the institution’s stamp if applicable).
- **For entities:** A copy of the official registration document (or equivalent proof of legal existence) of the applicant organisation, used to verify eligibility. The document must be filled in appropriately, signed by the entity’s legal representatives and stamped (with the applicant’s stamp if applicable).
- **For applicants who are natural persons acting as primary producers** (e.g., farmers). Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are actively engaged in primary production activities. For the purpose of this call, *primary production* refers to activities related to the production of agricultural products, including farming, cultivation, or other comparable primary sector activities. Natural persons must provide documentary evidence confirming their status as a primary producer. Acceptable supporting documentation may include, but is not limited to:
 - Proof of registration as a self-employed agricultural worker or farmer under the relevant national system (e.g., registration as a self-employed professional in the agricultural sector);
 - Official registration in a national or regional agricultural or farmers’ registry
- **Bank account information.** The payments will be made directly from the EMBEDED coordinator.

Clarification and additional documentation after submission deadline

After the submission deadline, proposals are considered final and no substantial modifications will be permitted. However, during the evaluation and selection process, the granting authority may, where necessary, request clarifications or additional documentation from applicants in order to support a fair and complete assessment of eligibility, compliance or technical aspects of the proposal. Such requests will be strictly limited to information that does not alter the substance of the proposal and will be used solely for clarification purposes.

Important notice:

As a general rule, all documents that require stamps and signatures must be signed by a legal representative. In the case of parties coming from a country where the use of stamps is not mandatory, it is required to provide relevant justification documents in English. E-signatures are also acceptable and in this case the existence of stamps is not required.

Although there is no requirement for letters of support/intent, parties can make a reference in their proposal.

4.6 Data protection

Personal data from individuals (such as name, last name, address, country of residence, phone number, email address) and organisations details will be gathered via the Open Call. No sensitive personal data will be collected (e.g. health status, race, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinions, religious or philosophical conviction, receipt of social support, victims of violence, criminal records and sexual life).

The EMBEDED consortium ensures that the data collected, processed and published will be treated in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).



5 Funding

5.1 Financial conditions

Financial support will be provided as a **lump sum** with a fixed ceiling. The lump sum is not based on actual incurred costs. It will be paid in two instalments:

- 50% pre-financing at the start of the sub-project
- 50% upon successful completion of the activities defined in the action plan and all the reporting requirements have been fulfilled.

5.2 Subcontracting

Beneficiaries may subcontract specific and defined technical tasks to research institutions, universities or small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) only where the required expertise is not available in-house. Any subcontracted activity must be directly linked to the objectives of the proposed action and explicitly described in the approved sub-project implementation. Subcontracting is strictly limited to technical support functions.

During evaluation and prior to contract signature, the FSTP committee will perform a consistency check between the applicant's core capacity and the proposed subcontracted tasks. Any subcontracting arrangement that appears to transfer essential sub-project execution to ineligible or non-eligible entities, or that undermines the eligibility of the applicant, will result in exclusion from the selection process.

6 Requirements

6.1 Technical requirements

The proposals must comply with the following technical requirements to ensure that funded sub-projects contribute meaningfully to the objectives of the EMBEDDED project:

- **Innovation:** Each proposal must demonstrate a clear element of innovation. This may include the development of new products or applications related to EMBEDDED products (including piloting, demonstration, validation, assessment of technical or economic performance)

- The proposed sub-project must fall within one of the four thematic topics defined in the Open Call. These topics are described in detail in Section 6.2 of this document. Applicants must explicitly indicate the topic under which their proposal is submitted and demonstrate how their sub-project directly addresses the objectives and scope of that topic.
- Technical Feasibility and Maturity: Applicants should demonstrate that the proposed solution is technically feasible within the duration and resources of the sub-project.
- Documentation and Reproducibility: Proposals should include a plan for documenting the developed technologies, experimental procedures and validation results.
- Focus on scalability and long-term market potential.

6.2 Targeted topics

The first Open Call (EMBEDED Call 1) for financial support of third parties will focus on the following topics:

- **New product development** based on EMBEDED's bio-based materials/ingredients.
- **Validation studies** of EMBEDED products in different applications (e.g., biofertilizers, biochar, phytochemicals, functional food/feed ingredients).
- **Cork-waste innovations** aligned with the New European Bauhaus Initiative (use of natural-origin construction materials, especially those with aesthetic value, more info at https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/about-initiative_en).
- Use of **DEMO plants** or integration of EMBEDED products into **field trials**.

The proposals **should choose only one of these topics**. At least one sub-project per topic that passes the requirement criteria, and the threshold score, will be financed. After one sub-project has been selected for each of the topic, the remaining budget will be allocated to the remaining proposals based on their score.

6.3 In-kind Products and Technologies Available to Open Call

Beneficiaries

To support the implementation and technical development of the selected sub-projects, the EMBEDED consortium may make available a set of in-kind products and technologies by consortium partners. These resources are intended to facilitate experimentation, validation, prototyping and demonstration activities within the scope of the funded sub-projects. Access to these resources can help sub-projects accelerate development, validate their solutions in realistic environments and strengthen the technical outcomes of their work.

The list of available in-kind products and technologies is provided below:

- EMBEDED technologies:
 - 2 weeks of use of pyrolysis plant
- EMBEDED products:
 - 1000 litres of Biochar from olive stone
 - 20 bioboards

More detailed information regarding the in-kind products and technologies, including their technical specifications, is available in the Open Call section of the EMBEDED project website (<https://embeded.eu/cascade-funding>).

These resources may be made available without licensing or usage fees for the sub-project. All the products will be allocated in descending order of evaluation score until the available stock is fully exhausted. Applicants should note that any operational costs associated with the use of these resources must be covered by the sub-project. This may include, for example, shipping or logistics costs, installation or integration costs, operational expenses, consumables, or access-related service costs associated with the use of specific infrastructures or facilities. If the sub-project is unable or unwilling to cover these related costs, the EMBEDED project will not provide access to the in-kind products or technologies.

Additional conditions for specific in-kind resources

For the pyrolysis plant, a fixed access period of two (2) weeks is foreseen. This period includes transportation, installation, and setup, and is considered the optimal duration for sub-projects to achieve meaningful results; therefore, no extensions or reductions to this timeframe will be permitted.

Access to the pyrolysis plant will be granted to the highest-ranked sub-project requesting its use, provided that the proposal meets the minimum evaluation

threshold required for funding. Only one (1) sub-project will be granted access to the pyrolysis plant under Open Call 1.

Regarding the allocation of biochar, a total of up to 1,000 litres is available. The material will be supplied in either 50-litre bags or 500-litre big bags, subject to availability. Each selected sub-project may request a maximum of 500 litres of biochar.

6.4 Reporting requirements

Funding recipients must submit both a final report demonstrating use of the granted funding, verifiable implementation activities and outcomes achieved. The European Commission (EC) reserves the right to inspect original receipts or request them later.

Additional reporting may be required during or after the sub-project to meet (EC) requirements or support sub-project promotion. This may include:

- Ethics and quality management procedures
- Communication and dissemination activities
- Final report on the KPIs achieved to monitor the impact of the results including information of promotional materials or success stories with a minimum of one (1) video and five (5) pictures.

Important notice:

In terms of financial monitoring of the sub-projects' implementation, no financial justification is required by the sub-project, however the grantee shall keep the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies – of all documents relating to the Contract for at least five (≥ 5) years after final payment. These shall be made available to the EC when requested during any audit under the Grant Agreement.

6.5 Call expected outcome

- At least one (≥ 1) new product development based on EMBEDED's bio-based materials/ingredients.

- At least one (≥ 1) validation study of EMBEDED products in different applications.
- At least one (≥ 1) Cork-waste innovations.
- At least one (≥ 1) Use of DEMO plants or integration of EMBEDED products into field trials.
- Improved innovation capacity of local actors in rural European regions, achieved through the active involvement of local and regional actors, such as primary producers, cooperatives, start-ups, SMEs, NGOs, public/private organisations, and other stakeholders in the co-development of EMBEDED solutions.
- Learning stories and best practices derived from Open Call activities, offering technical, organisational and decision-support guidance that can be used by actors across EU Member States to inform policy development, investment decisions and further bioeconomy interventions.

7 Responsibilities of beneficiaries

Selected entities are indirect beneficiaries of EC funding and must use the funding appropriately, complying with all Horizon Europe obligations as described in the annotated grant agreement ([aga_en.pdf](#)) and its below articles:

- Avoiding conflict of interest (see Article 12)
- Confidentiality and security obligations (see Article 13)
- Ethics (see Article 14)
- Give visibility to the EU funding, as appropriate (see Article 17.2)
- Respect specific rules for the action implementation (see Article 18)
- Information obligations (see Article 19)
- Record-keeping (see Article 20)

The obligations that are applicable to the beneficiaries include (but are not limited to):

7.1 Conflict of interest

The Sub-grantees must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Sub-grant Agreement could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest (“conflict of

interests"). At the same time, Applicants cannot be affiliated with EMBEDED consortium partners, nor can they be employees of the EMBEDED consortium partners. All potential conflicts of interest will be assessed carefully.

The Sub-grantees must formally notify the EMBEDED consortium without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The EMBEDED consortium may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

If a Sub-grantee breaches any of its obligations, the Sub-grant Agreement may be automatically terminated. Moreover, if the Sub-grant Agreement is terminated due to a breach made by a Sub-grantee, the EMBEDED consortium reserves the right to suspend further payments to the Sub-grantee and claim the full refund of all payments made to the Sub-grantee up to date.

7.2 Ethics & confidentiality

Prior to granting financial support, EMBEDED will require Applicants to identify and explain any ethical issues that may arise during the sub-project implementation as part of their technical proposals. A dedicated chapter in the proposal template will require from the Applicants to describe how they will comply with European Union ethical rules/principles and outline how ethics principles will be integrated into the sub-project, addressing aspects such as participant involvement, informed consent, privacy protection, data management, and any other relevant ethical considerations. All sub-projects should follow an "ethics by design"-way of working, whereby ethical and legal principles, on the basis of GDPR, competition law compliance, absence of data bias are implemented since the beginning of the design process.

Once a sub-project is selected for FSTP funding, regular monitoring and reporting will be conducted to ensure ongoing adherence to ethics principles. This monitoring mechanism contributes to the overall integrity and ethical excellence of the EMBEDED project and reinforces its commitment to ethical research and innovation. During the implementation of the sub-project and for at least five (≥ 5) years after the final payment of the sub-project, the beneficiaries must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as confidential at subcontract signing time.

If additional information is identified as confidential during the sub-project execution or through verbal communication, it must be accepted by the EMBEDED

Coordinator and confirmed in writing within 15 days of its disclosure. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may only use confidential information to implement the Sub-grant Agreement. The OC beneficiaries may disclose confidential information to the EMBEDED consortium and to the selected reviewers, who will be bound by a specific Non-Disclosure Agreement.

Applicants must confirm that all proposed services, including the means of their delivery and upkeep, have been reviewed to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation on data protection, privacy, and fundamental rights.

7.3 Promoting the action and giving visibility to the EU funding

The Sub-grantees must promote the sub-projects, the EMBEDED project and its results, by providing the description of their sub-project upon request from the EMBEDED Consortium and highlighting the financial support of the EC. The Sub-Grantee commits to disseminating information about the sub-project through its website and social media channels, to the extent possible and in accordance with its available capacities.

Unless the European Commission or the EMBEDED Coordinator requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major results funded by the grant must:

- acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement:
 - For communication activities: *“This sub-project has received funding from the project EMBEDED (Grant Agreement number: 101182442) through its Open Call, funded by the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme”.*
 - For infrastructure, equipment and major results: *“This [infrastructure][equipment][insert type of result] is part of a sub-project that has received funding from the project EMBEDED (Grant Agreement number: 101182442) through its Open Call, funded by the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme.”*
- display the EMBEDED logo

• include the standard disclaimer: *“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them”.*

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g., of beneficiaries), the European emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos. This obligation to use the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions which do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or of any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Sub-grantee is exempted from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem. Further detailed information on the EU emblem can be found on the European Commission’s web page.

Any publicity made by the Sub-grantee with respect to the sub-project, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, must specify that it reflects only the author’s views and that the EC or EMBEDED consortium are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

The EC and the EMBEDED consortium shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- the name of the Sub-grantee,
- contact address of the Sub-grantee,
- the general purpose of the sub-project,
- the amount of the financial contribution foreseen for the sub-project; after the final payment, and the amount of the financial contribution actually received,
- the geographic location of the activities carried out,
- the list of dissemination activities and/or of patent (applications) related to foreground,
- the details/references and the abstracts of scientific publications related to foreground and, if funded within the sub-project, the published version or the final manuscript accepted for publication,
- the publishable reports submitted to EMBEDED,
- any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC and EMBEDED in the framework of the sub-project.

The Sub-grantee shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the EC and EMBEDED does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly substantiated request by the Sub-grantee representative, the EMBEDED consortium, if such permission is provided by the EC, may agree to forego such

publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the beneficiary's security, academic or commercial interests.

7.4 Financial audit and controls

The European Commission (EC) will monitor that EMBEDED partners and the Sub-grantees comply with the conditions for financial support to third parties set out in Annex A of the EMBEDED Grant Agreement and may take any action foreseen by the grant agreement in case of noncompliance vis à vis the beneficiary concerned.

Moreover, the EC may at any time during the implementation of the EMBEDED project and up to five (≤ 5) years after final payments, arrange for financial audits to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF), and the European Public Prosecutor's office (EPPO), on the Subgrantee. Such audits will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

Such audits may cover financial, systemic and other aspects (such as accounting and management principles) relating to the proper execution of the grant agreement. They shall be carried out on a confidential basis.

Beneficiaries shall ensure full access to relevant information, documents, and sites required for such controls, including the right to audit payments received. In accordance with Article 9.4 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement, any refusal by a recipient to provide such access may result in the rejection of the related costs.

Without prejudice to the rights of the granting authority, EMBEDED project shall retain the right to recover, in whole or in part, any amounts unduly paid to FSTP recipients in cases of breach of obligations, misrepresentation, fraud, or failure to comply with the conditions attached to the support. Such recovery rights shall apply irrespective of the lump-sum nature of the financial support.

The Sub-grantee shall make available directly to the EC all detailed information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorised by it, with a view to verifying that the grant agreement is properly managed and performed in accordance with its provisions and that costs have been charged in compliance with it. This information and data must be precise, complete and effective.

The Sub-grantee shall keep all sub-project deliverables and the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies – of all

documents relating to the sub-project contract for up to five (≤ 5) years from the end of the project (or three (3) for grants of not more than €60,000.00). These shall be made available to the EC when requested during any audit under the grant agreement.

In order to carry out these audits, the Sub-grantee shall ensure that the EC's services and any external body(ies) authorised by it have on-the-spot access at all reasonable times, notably to the sub-project applicant offices, to its computer data, to its accounting data and to all the information needed to carry out those audits, including information on individual salaries of persons involved in the sub-project. For on-the-spot visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available. Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete, and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings a draft audit report will be drawn up and it will be formally sent to the Sub-grantee concerned, which may make observations thereon within 30 days of receiving the notification to make observations. The Commission may decide not to consider observations conveyed or documents sent after that deadline. The final audit report shall be sent to the sub-grantee concerned within two months of expiry of the aforesaid deadline.

Based on the conclusions of the audit, the EC shall take all appropriate measures which it considers necessary, including the issuing of recovery orders regarding all or part of the payments made by it and the application of any applicable sanction.

The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the EC, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits, without prejudice to its own rules.

In addition, the EC may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Sub-grant Agreement (English).

7.5 Sub-project communication

The Sub-grantee representative should:

- Provide any notices in writing to the EMBEDED Open Call manager and EMBEDED coordinator.
- Notify the EMBEDED Open Call manager immediately of any change of persons or contact details. The address list shall be accessible to all concerned.



- Notify the EMBEDDED Open Call manager about the dissemination activities that the Open Call beneficiary will organise.

Please note that until the start of the sub-project implementation phase, all communication surrounding the Open Call will be made exclusively through the Open Call section in the EMBEDDED website.

7.6 Originality of the sub-granted projects

It is required that applications submitted are based on original works by the Applicants and that their foreseen developments are free from third party rights. EMBEDDED consortium is not obliged to verify the authenticity of the ownership of the foreseen products/services. Any issues delivered from third party claims that arise as a result of the sub-granted projects are on the sole responsibility of the applicant.

7.7 IPR ownership of the sub-granted projects

Each Sub-grantee shall retain ownership of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) attached to the results it generates during the development process, as well as any other results that do not constitute IPRs. Each Sub-grantee is individually responsible for the management and protection of its own IPRs and shall bear any associated costs.

The Sub-grantees funded within the EMBEDDED project will be the unique owners of the technologies created within the framework of their sub-granted projects. Parts of their works will be requested to be public for EMBEDDED dissemination purposes.

7.8 Liability

The EMBEDDED consortium and the European Commission cannot be held liable for any acts or omissions of the applicant in relation to the selected sub-granted project implemented by the Sub-grantee. The EMBEDDED consortium shall not be liable for any defaults of any products, processes or services created in the sub-granted project. Including, for instance, anomalies in the functioning or performance thereof. In case any damage is caused to a third party by the Sub-grantee, the Sub-grantee will assume full responsibility for the damage caused. In no way will the EMBEDDED consortium be responsible for any damages caused by the Sub-grantee. Sub-

grantees shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that their acts within the framework of their sub-granted projects do not infringe third parties' rights.

7.9 Do No Significant Harm

Sub-grantees must always respect the “Do No Significant Harm Principle”. This means that the sub-project’s methodology should be designed in a manner which does not significantly harm any of the six environmental objectives of the EU Taxonomy Regulation. EU Taxonomy is a science-based classification system for determining whether an (economic) activity can be considered environmentally sustainable. It establishes six environmental objectives (as listed in Article 9 of the EU Taxonomy):

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources
- The transition to a circular economy
- Pollution prevention and control
- The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems

While Article 17 specifies what can constitute a ‘significant harm’ for these objectives. Thus, the regulation provides that no measure should lead to significant harm to any of the six (6) environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation.

8 Evaluation

The evaluation of proposals will be carried out by internal experts from the EMBEDDED consortium. Each proposal will be evaluated by at least two internal experts who have no direct connections or conflicts of interest with the applicants. Evaluators will sign a declaration of confidentiality. The form used for evaluation also carries a declaration of freedom of conflict of interest. The EMBEDDED consortium, represented by the FSTP Committee, ensures that the process is fair and aligned with the principles set out in the European Commission’s rules on proposal submission and evaluation.

8.1. First step: Admissibility and Eligibility Check

An initial eligibility verification will be conducted to filter out and discard non-eligible proposals by the FSTP committee. **Proposals must meet all admissibility and eligibility criteria outlined in Section 4.1.**

8.2. Second step: proposal evaluation

The eligible proposals will move on to the evaluation phase. The internal experts will evaluate the proposals by assigning a score from 0 to 5 to each of the criteria listed below as explained in the following table.

Score	Definition
0	Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor. The proposal addresses the criterion in an inadequate manner or there are significant weaknesses.
2	Fair. The proposal addresses the criterion broadly, but there are still several weaknesses.
3	Good. Proposal addresses the criterion, but a number of shortcomings are present, improvements are necessary.
4	Very good. Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present, some improvements are still possible.
5	Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The evaluation of proposals will be carried out on the basis of the following criteria:

- Impact on market adoption,
- Feasibility & scalability
- Alignment with EMBEDDED objectives.
- Geographical & sectoral impact
- Gender balance & inclusivity

To be considered for funding, proposals must meet both a minimum qualitative threshold and demonstrate sufficient overall performance. Applicants must achieve a **minimum score of 3 out of 5** in each of the following critical criteria:

- Impact on market adoption,
- Feasibility & scalability
- Alignment with EMBEDED objectives.

Proposals failing to reach this threshold in one or more of these three core areas will not be eligible for funding, regardless of their overall weighted score. Only proposals that pass all individual threshold requirements and demonstrate a strong, balanced performance across all criteria will be considered for funding under the EMBEDED Open Call.

The final evaluation score will be calculated using the weighted contributions of each criterion, reflecting their relative importance in the overall assessment:

Main criteria	Weight
Impact on market adoption	30%
Feasibility & scalability	30%
Alignment with EMBEDED objectives	20%
Geographical & sectoral impact	10%
Gender balance & inclusivity	10%

For each criterion, the individual score awarded by the evaluators will be multiplied by the corresponding weighting factor. Weighted scores will then be aggregated to obtain the final overall score of the proposal.

Maximum possible contribution per criterion (when score = 5)

- Impact on market adoption: 1.5 points
- Feasibility & scalability: 1.5 points
- Alignment with EMBEDED objectives: 1.0 point
- Geographical & sectoral impact: 0.5 points
- Gender balance & inclusivity: 0.5 points

When applying the respective weighting factors to each criterion and aggregating the results, the maximum possible score a proposal can achieve (corresponds to a

situation in which the highest score of 5 is awarded in all evaluation criteria) is 5.0 points.

The subsequent explanation details the criteria that have been defined to guide the evaluation process:

Impact on market adoption: Sub-projects will be assessed on their ability to accelerate market penetration of EMBEDED's bioeconomy solutions. Applicants should provide evidence of their capacity to expand market reach, particularly through well-resourced strategies that drive customer adoption and industry awareness. Proposals demonstrating large-scale outreach, commercialization efforts and customer engagement will be viewed favourably.

Feasibility & scalability: This criterion assesses the technical and operational feasibility of the proposed activities, as well as their potential for scaling beyond the initial implementation. Sub-projects must demonstrate a well-defined execution plan, resource allocation and risk management strategy. For topic "*Validation studies of EMBEDED products in different applications (e.g., biofertilizers, biochar, phytochemicals, functional food/feed ingredients)*" preference will be given to organisations that have access to a diverse network of primary producers and the capacity to deploy substantial resources, ensuring that EMBEDED's technologies and funding benefit a broad spectrum of primary producers. Additionally, sub-projects that secure a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the continued use of the product will be viewed more favourably, as this reflects a strong commitment to long-term adoption and impact.

Alignment with EMBEDED objectives: Applicants should describe how their sub-project goals are clearly aligned with EMBEDED's mission of advancing sustainability and promoting bio-based solutions, utilizing EMBEDED technologies or products. Proposals should outline a well-defined strategy for achieving measurable impact, supported by strong financial planning that enables ambitious and transformative activities. Special consideration will be given to sub-projects that enhance customer engagement, particularly in sectors such as sustainable agriculture, soil restoration, carbon sequestration, wildfire prevention, and climate resilience.

Geographical & sectoral impact: Preference is given to sub-projects that address regional disparities or target underrepresented areas. Preference will be given to applicants operating in regions with limited access to bioeconomy initiatives, particularly rural areas. Proposals should highlight their geographical relevance and

demonstrate how the initiative will have a positive economic or environmental impact on rural or marginalized areas.

Gender balance & inclusivity: Gender Equality in Business Ownership. To promote inclusivity and gender balance, the selection process will aim to ensure an equal number of female-owned businesses receive support. Applications from women-led enterprises or those with strong gender equity initiatives will be encouraged.

8.3 Third step: ranking of proposals and selection

At the end of the evaluation process, based on the average scores given by the external experts, the total score will be calculated as the weighted average of the scores for the different criteria, under the following conditions:

- In case there is a discrepancy of 3 points in one or more criteria between the two evaluators, the FSTP Committee will organize a consensus meeting with both evaluators. The purpose of this meeting is to present their findings and exchange opinions. The evaluators may revise their scores only for the criterion that triggered the consensus meeting.
- If two or more proposals obtain the same final score, a consensus meeting will be held to decide which ones will be selected for funding between the two evaluators and the FSTP Committee.
- All submitted proposals must clearly indicate and be assigned to one of the four predefined target topics of the EMBEDDED Call 1. Eligibility and evaluation will be conducted separately within each topic, ensuring a balanced portfolio of supported actions across the thematic areas. Following completion of the evaluation process, proposals will be ranked independently within each topic based on their final weighted scores. The ranking will be established in descending order, from the highest to the lowest scoring proposal. In case of a tie, priority will be given to the proposal with the highest score in:
 - Impact on Market adoption
 - Feasibility and scalability

If necessary, the FSTP Committee will take a final decision based on strategic considerations and portfolio balance across topics

- Funding allocation will follow a topic-based selection approach. Within each topic, at least one proposal with the highest ranking will be selected for funding, provided that at least one proposal in that topic has successfully met

all applicable eligibility requirements and the minimum scoring thresholds defined in the call.

- After the initial selection of the highest-scoring proposal in each topic, the remaining eligible proposals will be ranked in descending order of their final scores, independently of topic, and will be funded sequentially until the total available budget for Call 1 (EUR 350,000) has been fully allocated.
- For sub-projects requesting in-kind products or access to specific technologies (e.g. the pyrolysis plant), allocation will follow the ranking of proposals in descending order of evaluation score. These resources will be assigned sequentially until the available stock or capacity is fully exhausted. In cases where a sub-project achieves a score above the minimum evaluation threshold, but the requested in-kind product or technology is no longer available, the sub-project will not be awarded funding under this call.

8.4 Procedure for appeals

Applicants who believe that the evaluation process of their proposal involved procedural or factual errors, or that the principles of transparency and equal treatment were not respected, may submit an appeal. This appeal must be sent in writing to the official contact address of the call within a maximum of 10 calendar days from the day after the evaluation results are notified.

The request for review must be properly justified and focus on possible deficiencies in the procedure followed; appeals solely questioning the technical or scientific judgment of the expert evaluators will not be accepted. The FSTP Committee of EMBEDED will examine each appeal independently to ensure the integrity of the process and will communicate a final decision to the applicant.

9 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who can apply to the EMBEDED Open Call?

The Open Call is open to legally established entities such as natural persons (primary producers), for-profit organizations (SMEs or industrial actors), municipalities, public bodies & cooperatives able to contribute to the development, validation or application of EMBEDED bio-based materials or technologies. Applicants must comply with the eligibility criteria described in these Guidelines.



2. Can individuals apply to the Open Call?

Applications under this Open Call are restricted to natural persons acting as primary producers (e.g., farmers). Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are **actively engaged in primary production activities**. For the purpose of this call, *primary production* refers to activities related to the production of agricultural products, including farming, cultivation, or other comparable primary sector activities.

To be considered eligible, applicants must provide **documentary evidence confirming their status as a primary producer**. Acceptable supporting documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- Proof of registration as a self-employed agricultural worker or farmer under the relevant national system (e.g., registration as a self-employed professional in the agricultural sector);
- Official registration in a national or regional agricultural or farmers' registry.

The documentation must be valid at the time of application and may be requested again during the eligibility check or grant preparation phase.

Applicants who cannot demonstrate their status as primary producers will not be considered eligible under this Open Call.

3. Can organisations from any country apply?

Applicants should normally be established in countries eligible for participation in programmes funded under Horizon Europe. Additional eligibility requirements may apply as specified in the Open Call documentation.

4. Can multiple organisations submit a joint proposal?

Proposals are expected to be submitted by a single applicant organisation. However, the applicant may involve additional collaborators or subcontractors where relevant, provided that the applicant remains the sole beneficiary and responsible entity.

5. Can an organisation submit more than one proposal?

Yes, organisations may submit up to two proposals. However, the same proposal cannot be submitted multiple times in different target topics.

6. Can a proposal address more than one targeted topic?

No. Each proposal must select **only one** of the targeted topics defined in Section 6.2. Applications addressing multiple topics simultaneously may be considered ineligible.

7. What topics are supported in this Open Call?

Proposals must address one of the following areas:

- Development of new products based on EMBEDED bio-based materials or ingredients.
- Validation studies of EMBEDED products in different applications (e.g., biofertilizers, biochar, phytochemicals, functional food or feed ingredients).
- Innovations based on cork waste aligned with the New European Bauhaus Initiative, particularly natural-origin construction materials with aesthetic value.
- Use of DEMO plants or integration of EMBEDED products in field trials.

8. How many sub-projects will be funded?

The minimum number of sub-projects to be funded is 6 with at least one sub-project per topic, if there is a sub-project per topic that meets the evaluation requirements. After this condition is satisfied, the remaining available budget will be allocated to the highest-scoring proposals regardless of topic.

9. What costs are eligible for funding?

Eligible costs include materials, consumables, testing activities and other expenses directly related to the implementation of the proposed sub-project. The final list of eligible costs is defined in Section 4.1.4 of the Application Guidelines.

10. Can a sub-project receive other public funding for the same activities?

No. Activities funded through this Open Call must not receive double funding from other European, national or regional programmes. Applicants must confirm this through the Declaration of Honour.

11. What is the expected duration of funded sub-projects?

The expected sub-project duration will be 9 months. Applicants should ensure that their proposed activities can be completed within the indicated timeframe. Beneficiaries must submit a final report within a maximum period of three months after the completion of the sub-project.

12. What reporting obligations will selected applicants have?

Beneficiaries must submit a final report demonstrating the implementation of activities and the results achieved. Additional reporting may be requested to comply with European Commission requirements. Final report must be submitted within a maximum period of three months after the completion of the sub-project.

13. What type of information may be requested in reports?

Reporting may include:

- Data management practices
- Ethics and quality assurance procedures
- Communication and dissemination activities
- Information for sub-project promotion (e.g., success stories or videos)
- Statistics on personnel involved
- Monitoring of KPIs and sub-project impact

14. Can the European Commission verify sub-project expenditures?

Yes. As the funding originates from the European Commission, the Commission may request supporting documentation or inspect original financial records related to the sub-project.

15. What obligations do selected applicants have as funding recipients?

Selected entities become **indirect beneficiaries of European funding** and must comply with the obligations defined in the sub-grant agreement and relevant programme rules under Horizon Europe.

16. Where can applicants ask additional questions about the Open Call?

Applicants can submit questions through the contact channel indicated on the Open Call Section via the EMBEDDED project website.



17. How is the funding provided under the EMBEDED Open Call?

Funding is provided under a **lump sum model**, in line with Horizon Europe simplified cost options. The total awarded amount is fixed in advance and is not based on the reimbursement of actual incurred costs. Payments are disbursed in two instalments: 50% is paid upon signature of the agreement (pre-financing) and the remaining 50% is released after successful completion of the activities and approval of the final report.

18. Are personnel costs eligible under this Open Call?

Yes, personnel costs are eligible under this funding scheme.





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the European Union

Template for applicants

Technical proposal



embeded

Financial support for third parties



All text shown in red is for explanation purposes only and must be removed before submitting the completed application.

The length of the Technical Proposal should not exceed the limit of 10 pages. All tables, figures, references and any other element pertaining to the proposal must be included as an integral part of the proposal and are thus counted against this page limit. Excess pages will not be considered during the evaluation of the proposal.

Once the Technical application is completed it must be submitted as one (1) .pdf file.

Acronym	
Title	
Target topic (choose one)	<input type="checkbox"/> New product development based on EMBEDDED's bio-based materials/ingredients. <input type="checkbox"/> Validation studies of EMBEDDED products in different applications (e.g., biofertilizers, biochar, phytochemicals, functional food/feed ingredients). <input type="checkbox"/> Cork-waste innovations aligned with the New European Bauhaus Initiative (use of natural-origin construction materials, especially those with aesthetic value). <input type="checkbox"/> Use of DEMO plants or integration of EMBEDDED products into field trials .
Country of applicant	
Applicant legal full name	
Applicant address	
Person of contact (Full name)	
Telephone number	



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Email	
Project site location	

1. Summary of the sub-project proposal
Maximum 2000 characters

2. Concept and innovation
Maximum 3500 characters

3. Impact on market adoption
Maximum 3500 characters

4. Feasibility & scalability, including sub-project implementation and methodology.



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Maximum 5500 characters

5. Alignment with EMBEDDED objectives.
Maximum 3500 characters

6. Geographical & sectoral impact
Maximum 1500 characters

7. Gender balance & inclusivity
Maximum 1000 characters

8. Ethics
<i>Identify and explain any ethical issues that may arise during the sub-project implementation as part of their project proposals. Describe how they will comply with European Union ethical rules/principles and outline how ethics principles will be integrated into the sub-project, addressing aspects such as participant involvement, informed consent, privacy protection, data management, and any other relevant ethical considerations:</i>



Maximum 2000 characters



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9. Project Budget (Maximum 3 pages)

Applicants must provide a concise and well-justified sub-project budget, clearly linking requested resources to the proposed activities. Both technical and financial evaluations will consider whether costs are reasonable, necessary and directly related to the sub-project tasks.

For each cost category, provide:

- *Cost breakdown.*
- *Description and relevance to the sub-project activities.*
- *Link to tasks or work plan.*
- *For the external services category, include a brief description of the technical scope*

Eligible cost categories for this Open Call are:

- *Purchase of goods (goods necessary to complete the sub-project, e.g., supply of feedstocks, transport of materials / portable plant, bio-based materials related to EMBEDED project for comparative purposes)*
- *Agricultural/forestry land use*
- *Travel costs*
- *External services (e.g., analysis, prototyping, surveys)*
- *Administrative costs (e.g., permits, insurance)*
- *Personnel costs*

Applicants must ensure that all costs are traceable, transparent and proportionate to the expected outcomes. All expenses must comply with the financial control, reporting, and audit requirements of Horizon Europe cascade funding.

9.1 Use of In-kind products or technologies

Applicants must clearly indicate whether their sub-project intends to use any in-kind products or access project-supported technologies (e.g. pyrolysis plant, biochar).

The allocation of in-kind resources is not guaranteed and will follow the ranking of proposals, as described in the evaluation and selection procedure. Only proposals that explicitly request in-kind resources in this section will be considered for their allocation.



If the requested in-kind resources are unavailable at the time of allocation, the sub-project will not be funded.

If applicable, please complete the table below and ensure consistency with the technical description of the proposal. In the last column, clearly reference the specific cost items included in the Budget Breakdown (Section 9.2) that are directly related to the use of the requested in-kind resources (e.g. travel costs, equipment installation, consumables, subcontracting, access fees). Ensure that these referenced costs are fully detailed in the Budget Breakdown section.

In-kind resource	Requested (yes/no)	Quantity requested	Related costs – Reference to budget breakdown (please follow the SPECS documents for each resource)
Biochar EMBEDDED101	Yes/No	Maximum 500 litres	
Bioboards	Yes/No	Maximum 20 boards	
Pyrolysis plant	Yes/No	2 weeks of use	

9.2 Budget breakdown

Add additional rows if necessary.

Cost Category	Cost breakdown	Description and relevance	Link to tasks / work plan
[insert category]	• Item 1: € ____	Brief explanation of why this cost is necessary and how it supports sub-project activities.	Identify the specific task(s) or work-plan component(s) this cost enables.

Table to be completed for External services category. *Remove table if there are not external services costs, each external service must have a brief description of the technical scope. Add additional rows if necessary.*

Cost Category	Cost breakdown	Description and relevance	Link to tasks / work plan
External services	• Item 1: € ____	Brief explanation of why this cost is necessary and	Identify the specific task(s) or work-plan

		how it supports sub-project activities.	component(s) this cost enables.
Technical Scope: Item 1. Short description of the technical work to be performed.			
External services	Item 1: € ____	Brief explanation of why this cost is necessary and how it supports sub-project activities.	Identify the specific task(s) or work-plan component(s) this cost enables.
Technical Scope: Item 1. Short description of the technical work to be performed.			
External services	Item 1: € ____	Brief explanation of why this cost is necessary and how it supports sub-project activities.	Identify the specific task(s) or work-plan component(s) this cost enables.
Technical Scope: Item 1. Short description of the technical work to be performed.			

9.3 Summary of costs

Cost Category	Total cost
Purchase of goods	€
Agricultural or forestry land use	€
Travel costs	€
External services	€
Administrative costs	€
Budget without indirect costs	<i>Sum of all previous cost categories.</i> €
Indirect cost	<i>Indirect costs are calculated as 15% of the total direct costs, meaning they represent 0.15 multiplied by the sum of all previous cost categories.</i> €
TOTAL BUDGET	<i>Sum of all cost categories and indirect costs.</i> €

