



*Interregional innovation investments for
biofertilizers and circular bioeconomy solutions
for a sustainable agriculture*

Call: I3-2023-INV1

Action: I3-PJG

Grant Agreement No. 101161143

Deliverable 3.2

**Capacity building and awareness raising campaign on
the open call**

[November – 2025]



Project ID	101161143
Project title	I3-4-BIOFERTILIZERS: Interregional innovation investments for biofertilizers and circular bioeconomy solutions for a sustainable agriculture
Deliverable title	Capacity building and awareness raising campaign on the open call
Deliverable number	D 3.2
Deliverable version	1.2
Date of delivery	3/11/2025
Reviewed by	UVIC-UCC
Dissemination level	PU - Public
Partner responsible	VGv

Version	Date	Contributors	Description
1.1	30/09/2025	Thomas Defferier, Luisa Bouzoubaa, Léa Minier, Clémence Monot (VGv)	1 st draft
1.2	3/11/2025	Thomas Defferier, Luisa Bouzoubaa, Léa Minier, Clémence Monot (VGv); Laura Mejias (UVIC)	Corrections from PO's comments

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
List of figures	4
List of tables	Error! No s'ha definit el marcador.
1. Introduction	5
2. Communication	6
3. Organization of the EU INFODAY – 9 September 2025	6
2.1. Objectives	6
2.2. Program	7
2.3. Realization	7
4. Organization of national events	9
3.1. Objectives and organization	9
3.2. Realization	10
5. Organization of the Q&A Session	10
6. Conclusion	10
7. Annexes	12
7.1. Graphic communication elements	12
7.2. Communication in LinkedIn	13
7.3. Q&A report	14

List of figures

Figure 1 : Number of registrations per country / regions	8
Figure 2 : Number of registrations per type of structure	8
Figure 3 : Typology of participants	9
Figure 4 : Reporting of Local Infodays.....	10
Figure 5 : Announcement of the opening of the call.....	12
Figure 6 : Program of the EU INFODAY	12
Figure 7 : Example of Local Infodays - Presentation during French Infoday.....	13
Figure 8 : Report on Linkedin communication by I3 partners about FSTP and Infodays.....	14

1. Introduction

Financial Support for Third Parties (FSTP), also known as “Cascade funding”, is a pivotal mechanism introduced by the European Commission to facilitate access to public funding for startups and SMEs. This innovative approach simplifies administrative processes, allowing these entities to swiftly develop and adopt digital innovations.

In the context of the I3-4-BIOFERTILIZERS project, FSTP funding plays a crucial role in promoting interregional innovation and investment in biofertilizers and circular bioeconomy solutions. By targeting assistance to at least 30 SMEs and startups, **this initiative addresses prevailing market and technical challenges in the field, providing not only financial support, but also technical, business and innovation advisory services.** This strategic funding mechanism is essential for fostering a sustainable agriculture sector by enhancing the competitiveness of regional ecosystems and bridging gaps between developed and less developed regions.

The consortium, with the lead of VGV, was committed to organizing a preparatory capacity building and awareness campaign for raising awareness about the call among potential participants. This awareness campaign was planned in the format of at least 2 open workshops and 1 brokerage event targeting SMEs and stakeholders across Europe, in the targeted regions.

However, the "brokerage event" format eventually evolved into a more classic webinar format, as it was difficult to foresee an online B2B phase concerning elements as confidential as a future project submission given the topics addressed by the call and the locations limitation. This matchmaking phase was rather carried out on the fly by the consortium partners under cover of confidentiality, based on feedback from the webinar. The presentation of the IC during the local INFODAYS (see below) was also planned to give potential project leaders on strand 1 (regarding the challenges proposed by the IC) the opportunity to contact them and forge links. Facilitation of exchanges between winning and non-winning SMEs will be foreseen in the next two years of the project as part of the follow up and presentation of the winning companies and other capacity building and results-focused events.

The consortium organized three types of workshops during the promotion phase of the FSTP:

- An INFODAY, in English, bringing together all the partners and potential candidates at the European level on September 9, 2025
- Local INFODAYS, organized by each of the partners (research institutes and clusters), in partnership with the companies involved in the Investment cases, to present the FSTP at local scales, during the months of September and October 2025.
- A Q&A session set up a few weeks before the call for projects closure, to answer remaining questions of potential candidates

2. Communication

The call was published on the 1st of September on the I3-4-BIOFERTILIZERS website and then on all partners' websites, as well as Linked In pages.

All INFODAY sessions were or will be communicated (as the opening of the call was delayed, several actions are still ongoing at the date of the submission of the deliverable) via the different networks of the I3-4-BIOFERTILIZERS project, as well as by each of the project partners, to have a real relay with local ecosystems. For instance, most of the public communication is done on LinkedIn (on the I3-4-BIOFERTILIZERS or partners pages). A resume table of the communications made on LinkedIn is available in Annex 7.2. Further information on the communication plan will be available in the global communication report of the project.

The partners also relied on their regional ecosystems to strengthen this communication plan. For the clusters, targeted mailings to their members most concerned by the theme were carried out. Other actions with regional innovation ecosystems, institutions and public partners have been carried out. The companies also relayed these different communication points to their partners.

This communication was accompanied by communication elements sent to all the partners for a greater and homogeneous impact (PowerPoint, formatted program, screen background for the webinar, ...). VGV, with the help of CLUSTER, UVIC and BGT, created PowerPoint for the EU Infoday resuming all information about the I3-4-BIOFERTILIZERS project and FSTP. All partners were then responsible for the translation and the creation of the ppt for Local Infodays.

The replay of each webinar as well as the presentation materials are published on the project's website (with an announcement by a LinkedIn Post) and sent to all webinar registered people: <https://i3-4-biofertilizers.eu/info-days/>

3. Organization of the EU INFODAY – 9 September 2025

2.1. Objectives

The objective of this Infoday was to present and promote the I3-4-BIOFERTILIZERS open call to the ecosystem (SMEs, Clusters, and other entities that can disseminate the opportunity in Europe) as well as the first results of the projects. In addition to the presentation of the FSTP, a general presentation of I3-4-BIOFERTILIZERS project was carried out. It provided more background information and context for the audience.

It was expected that this session would be mainly top-down, to present the call for projects as close as possible to its launching date (September 1st 2025) and detail its different characteristics, in order to allow initiation of project set-up among the participants, or at least

to arouse curiosity and favor contacts with the different partners of the consortium (notably the ICs for the scope 1 of the FSTP).

The registration links for the webinar were created and managed by VGV. A questionnaire accompanying this link made it possible to characterize the profile of the participants on different aspects (country / region, structure typology, participant's profession).

2.2. Program

The Infoday was scheduled the 9th of September 2025, between 2 PM and 3:30 PM CET.

The webinar program was as follow:

- **14h – 14h05: Introduction** – *Vegepolys Valley, Thomas DEFFERIER, Innovation manager*
- **14h05 – 14h20: Project presentation and open call objectives** – *I3-4-Biofertilizers Coordinator BETA Technological Center, Laura Mejias Torrent, PostDoc researcher*
- **14h20 – 15h10: Presentation of the open call: scope 1 and scope 2, Eligibility conditions and funding** – *Agrifood Clust-ER, Maria Elisa Zuppiroli, Project Officer and BGT Consulting Group, Sonia Romano, Innovation manager*
- **15h10 – 15h30: Question and answers** – *Vegepolys Valley, Thomas DEFFERIER*

2.3. Realization

The number of registrations at the event reached 98 people, without counting the project partners. The total number of participants was at the end of 77 people, including 22 partners I3-4-BIOFERTILIZERS and 55 external to the project (the conversion rate between subscribers and participants was therefore 56%, which is very acceptable for this type of event, without counting the people who consulted the replay – 26 views on the 26th of September).

Participants came from all the countries of origin of the consortium members, with a predominance of French, Spanish, Italian and Greek; however, it should also be noted that people from other countries registered (Slovenia, Cyprus, Bulgaria, even beyond Europe, in Lebanon, Ivory Coast, Argentina or India). Among the countries of the consortium, a great diversity of regions was represented, with 21 different regions in total. The regions of Catalonia, Pays de la Loire, Emilia-Romagna, AURA, Bretagne or even Central Macedonia and Azores were among the most represented (figure 1).

Country	Region	Number of registrations
France	Pays de la Loire	11
	AURA	6
	Bretagne	6
	Centre Val de Loire	3
	Ile de France	4
Spain	Catalonia	12
	Balearic Islands	3
	Madrid	3
	Euskadi	2
	Extremadura	1



	Galicia	2
Hungary	Central Transdanubia	1
Greece	Attica	3
	Central Macedonia	5
	Western Macedonia	2
Italy	Emilia Romagna	9
	Piedmont	1
	Abruzzo - Lazio	1
	Lombardy and Marche	1
Portugal	Coimbra	1
	Azores	4
Other		16

Figure 1 : Number of registrations per country / regions

The participants were mostly from SMEs (41) or start-ups (21). However, other categories of structures were also represented (research organizations, public bodies, clusters, ...) (figure 2).

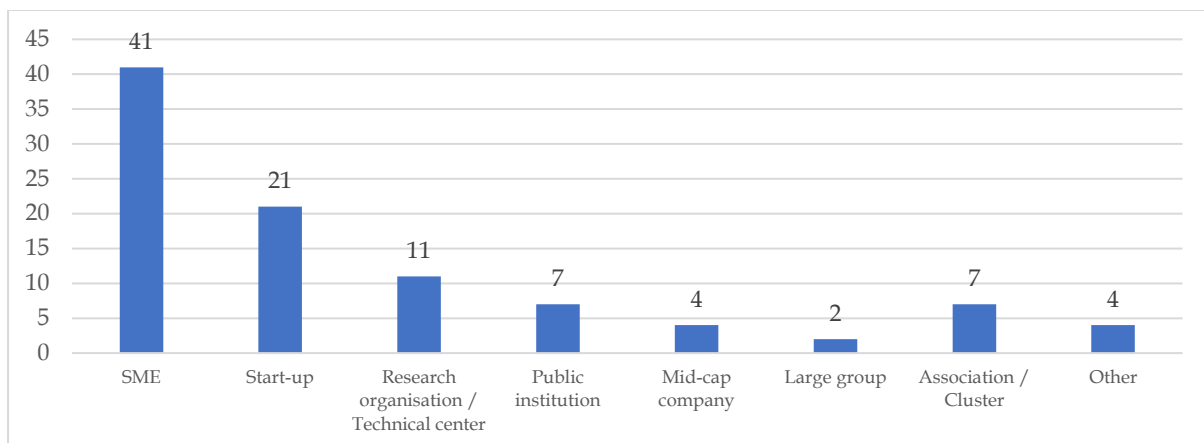


Figure 2 : Number of registrations per type of structure

And finally, regarding the profiles of the participants, a large majority came from R&D services (73%), or industrial services, logistics, or even marketing/commerce. The profiles were varied and hybrid, with many participants indicating having multiple skills (R&D and regulatory for example).

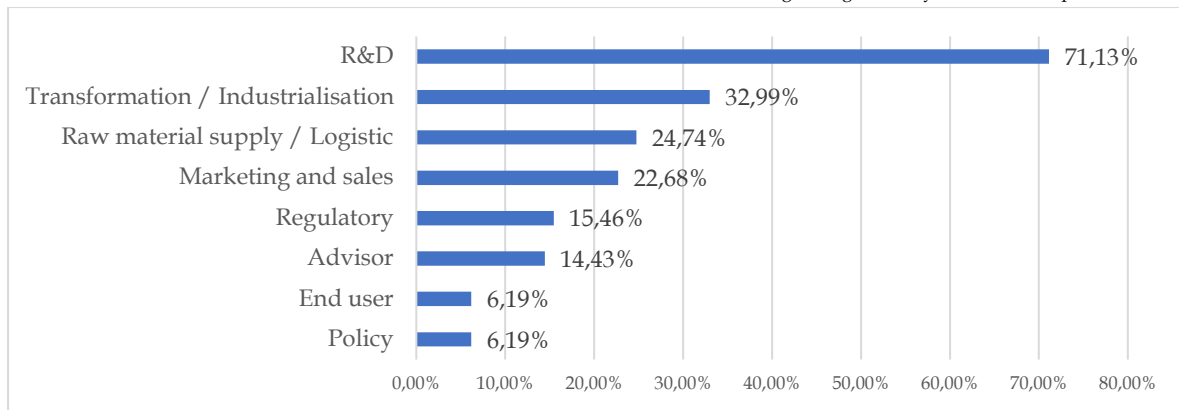


Figure 3 : Typology of participants

The replay of the webinar as well as the presentation material have been published on the project's website (with an announcement by a LinkedIn Post) and sent to all webinar registered participants: <https://i3-4-biofertilizers.eu/info-days/>

4. Organization of national events

3.1. Objectives and organization

The organization of events with a regional / national scope complemented the European INFODAY. These events were locally organized by the I3-4-BIO partners and allowed more direct communication with regional and national stakeholders.

During these sessions, greater emphasis on the Investment Cases were provided to the participants: a focus on the different challenges proposed by them within scope 1 was included in the different agendas (a detailed presentation of all the ICs and associated challenges was not possible during the European INFODAY). Also, those regional events were the adequate channels to provide complementary information to the regional ecosystems in their native language.

At least one webinar was organized by country (or more if the opportunity arose). These events were coordinated by local clusters and universities in consultation and partnership with ICs. Each country was responsible for the communication and management of the webinar, with the sole constraint of identifying the various indicators inherent in the organization of the webinar (presented below). The questions collected during the different sessions were also gathered (Annex 7.4.) to generate the main FAQ document for the open call. The document will be published on the project website.

A common format was applied for the local webinars, structured around four parts:

1. Presentation of the project and its context
2. Presentation of the call for projects
3. Presentation of the ICs and their challenges within the framework of scope 1
4. Other related topics and Q&A

3.2. Realization

On the day of the submission of this deliverable, 4 webinars were conducted: the French (coupled with Belgium), the Spanish, the Italian and that of the Azores. The Greek and Hungarian webinar are scheduled for early October. To date, 83 registrations have been recorded, for 55 participants. It should be noted that during these info days held in local languages and with a smaller number of participants, a higher number of questions and exchanges took place than during the EU Infoday.

Country	Organisators	Speakers	Date	Number of Subscriptions	Number of participations
France / Belgium	VEGEPOLYS VALLEY CYBELE AGROCARE VERAGROW	Thomas DEFFERIER Arnaud VALVELIEVRE Théo SAINT-MARTIN	19/09/2025	56	31
Spain	UVIC-UCC	Laura Mejias Cèlia Guixé	19/09/2025	15	15
Azores	VPGRA	Carmen Gaudêncio, João Gregório Fábio Vieira	17/09/2025	12	9
Italy	Clust-ER Agrifood AGRIENERGIA	Marco FOSCHINI Giulia BALDI Maria Elisa ZUPPIROLI Federico DE NARDO	12/09/2025		
Greece	ELGO	Dimitris Fotakis Nikoleta Eleftheriadou	29/09/2025		
Hungary	CTRIA	Gabriella Baráth Gábor Szöllősi	30/09/2025		

Figure 4 : Reporting of Local Infodays

5. Organization of the Q&A Session

In order to complete the Capacity building and awareness campaign, a final webinar will be organized at the end of October/ beginning of next November, in order to clarify some formalized points in the Q&A document and to identify the latest questions asked by potential candidates. This session will maximize the chances of obtaining relevant applications, oriented towards the objectives of the FSTP, and meeting well the different eligibility and selection criteria.

The date of this webinar has not yet been set (it will be validated in early October). The webinar will be organized by VGV, with the help of CLUSTER, BGT and UVIC. The webinar will be in English and open at the European level.

6. Conclusion

To date, the Capacity building and awareness campaign has made it possible to organize 5 events in the form of webinars, with a total of 181 registered and 110 participants, from a diverse community in terms of European regions or job typologies, but rather oriented towards SMEs, which is very positive given the objectives and the call and the project in



general. There are also 57 replays views on YouTube for now, and several webinars are still to be organized.

It should also be noted that additional preparatory communication actions took place before the opening of the call (during regional communications and webinars on EU related projects or the theme of algae ie. in France this summer, or in Portugal in June). These events are registered in the communication actions table of the project. This dynamic will be extended until the call for projects is closed to maximize the chances of reaching all communities affected by this FSTP.

It is also planned to continue the effort to impact a large diversity of actors through various methods whether on LinkedIn (already 300 reactions, 18 comments and 18 republications on the call only), through the different websites of partners or the project, and targeted mailings.

At the end of September, a certain number of SME players have already expressed their willingness to apply for this FSTP, and 1 application has already been received.

7. Annexes

7.1. Graphic communication elements



Figure 5 : Announcement of the opening of the call



Figure 6 : Program of the EU INFODAY



Programme du webinaire

- **10h30 - 10h35 : Introduction** – *Vegepolys Valley*, Thomas DEFFERIER, Chargé de mission Innovation Santé du Végétal
- **10h35- 10h50 : Présentation du projet I3-4-BIOFERTILIZERS** – Thomas DEFFERIER
- **10h50 - 11h10 : Présentation de l'appel à projet** – Thomas DEFFERIER
- **11h10 - 11h25 : Présentation de VERAGROW et de ses challenges (volet 1)** – Théo SAINT-MARTIN, directeur général / co-fondateur VERAGROW
- **11h25 - 11h40 : Présentation de CYBELE AGROCARE et de son challenge (volet 2)** – Arnaud VALDELIEVRE, CEO de CYBELE AGROCARE
- **11h40-12h : Questions / Réponses**





Merci de garder votre camera et micro
coupés durant les interventions



Utilisez l'onglet Conversation
pour vos questions



Un replay sera disponible



Co-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 Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Figure 7 : Example of Local Infodays - Presentation during French Infoday

7.2. Communication on LinkedIn

I3 Partner	Month	Reactions	Comments	Republications	Subject	Link
VGv	September 2025	12		2	French Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vegepolysvalley_innovation-vaegaeztal-biofertilisants-activity-7368190900558036992-Bydj?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxXIhw
UVIC	September 2025	10		2	Catalan Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/betalc_sessi%3%B3-informativa-i3-4-biofertilizers-activity-7373249401714180096-Fcfa?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxXIhw
UVIC	September 2025	15		4	Catalan Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/betalc_sessi%3%B3-informativa-i3-4-biofertilizers-activity-7371101403458572288-pOly?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxXIhw
UVIC	September 2025	12		2	EU Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/betalc_the-open-call-of-i3-4-biofertilizers-will-activity-737087967548391424-xlh?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxXIhw
UVIC	September 2025	13		3	EU Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/betalc_the-open-call-of-i3-4-biofertilizers-will-activity-7368764799335198720-QUYL?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxXIhw
I3 page	September 2025	10	1		French Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/i3-4-biofertilizers_i3-4-biofertilizers-financial-support-to-activity-7376612562349505660-yPo7?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxXIhw
I3 page	September 2025	11			Italian Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/i3-4-biofertilizers_i3-4-biofertilizers-financial-support-to-activity-7374715123099123712-biO?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxXIhw
I3 page	September 2025	16	1	1	EU Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/i3-4-biofertilizers_i3-4-biofertilizers-financial-support-to-activity-7374006910368280576-



						rg_1?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
I3 page	September 2025	25	1	6	EU Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/13-4-biofertilizers-13-3instrument-circulareconomy-activity-736858705236013315-R9EP?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
I3 page	September 2025	32		17	Opening of the call	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/13-4-biofertilizers-13-3instrument-circulareconomy-activity-736822304845450627-MEje?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
I3 page	July 2025	35	3	14	EU Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/13-4-biofertilizers-mark-your-calendar-1stp-info-day-090225-activity-735190100257423601-dmpO?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
UVIC	August 2025	11	3		EU Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/betac_the-open-call-of-13-4-biofertilizers-will-activity-736669524731289600-1Mn?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
CLUSTER	September 2025	6	1	1	Italian Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/agrifood-cluster-13-3instrument-circulareconomy-activity-7371422189591445504-tqJf?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
CLUSTER	September 2025	11	1		EU Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/13-4-biofertilizers-13-3instrument-circulareconomy-activity-7370697449499328512-Wno?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
CLUSTER	September 2025	6			Opening of the call	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/agrifood-cluster-13-3instrument-circulareconomy-activity-7369247867472986114-dw-e?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
FEMAC	September 2025	8	1		Catalan Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/c3%BAster-femac-ets-una-pime-ostart-up-que-desenvolupa-biofertilizants-activity-7373291181534648320-7sPO?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
CYBELE	September 2025	47	5	3	EU Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cybele-agrocare-13instrument-biofertilizers-nitrogen-activity-736925117278586512-jmS0?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
BGT	September 2025	4	1	2	French Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/bgt-consulting-group-webinaire-de-pr%C3%A9sentation-dun-appel-%C3%A0-projet-activity-7374343932513710080-gCyh?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
BGT	September 2025	4		1	Opening of the call	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/13-4-biofertilizers-13-3instrument-circulareconomy-activity-7368545760071671809-l4ve?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
CTRIA	September 2025			1	Hungarian Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ctria_biofertilizers-13-kaemrforgaersogazdasaerg-activity-7376871586429210624-k6X7?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
CTRIA	September 2025	2			Hungarian Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ctria_biofertilizers-13-kaemrforgaersogazdasaerg-activity-7376208519198437376-Hwwb?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
CTRIA	September 2025	2		4	EU Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ctria-13-3instrument-circulareconomy-activity-7370720754256130048-5EZd?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
CTRIA	September 2025				Opening of the call	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ctria-13-3instrument-circulareconomy-activity-7370210964765491201-8B5z?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
CTRIA	August 2025			1	EU Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ctria-13-3instrument-bioeconomy-activity-7366063037695782912-pDNh?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
ZYMOFIX	September 2025	6		1	EU Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/zymofix-13-3instrument-circulareconomy-activity-7371099778639740928-YhEq?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw
ZYMOFIX	August 2025	2		1	EU Infoday	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/zymofix-13-3instrument-circulareconomy-activity-7361301738465173552-95KF?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAABaBc_0BuZ4sgL2O9-em90kGnYgBC4GxX1Hw

Figure 8 : Report on LinkedIn communication by I3 partners about FSTP and Infodays

7.3. Q&A report

EU INFODAY

Question 1: does the innovative initiative support also farm companies?

Answer made by the organizers: Yes, as soon as it's a PME according to EU standards, and that the farm company support innovative BF project.

Question 2: Hello, thank you very much for this information, can association apply?

Answer made by the organizers: It depends if the association is considered as a PME or not, but usually not. If the project leader has doubts, he can refer to the SME self-assessment status of the EU commission website: https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-strategy-and-sme-friendly-business-conditions/sme-test_en

Question 3: The eligibility regions are the ones listed in point 3 of the call text? if they are not listed there, they are not eligible, correct? That means the location of the applicant (SME or Start up), right?

Answer made by the organizers: all project leaders and partners must be in the eligible regions (as declared in the Open Call, page 13, Section 'Geographical Requirements').



France INFODAY

Question: You mention start-ups and SMEs; would VSEs also be eligible?

Answer made by the organizers: Yes of course.

Question: Hello, can the projects (and investments) be initiated before validation by the Consortium?

Answer made by the organizers: No, you should just declare in the form actions that will be realized after the contractualization (beginning of March)

Question: The grant amount is 60000€ for a SME, but, in total, VERAGROW challenges' total amount is above 90k€. What about this situation?

Answer made by the organizers: You should answer only one challenge of VERAGROW, not all of them – explaining why you will be under 60k€ budget as each challenge is under this amount. Also, one SME can address only one challenge, not multiples.

Question: If the SME is in France but the R&D is done outside the EU, can it be eligible?

Answer made by the organizers: No, the R&D should be in eligible regions (so in EU). But you can do R&D for products or other aspects of your chain of value that we'll be commercialized, sourced, formulated, ... in countries outside EU. But the project must be realized and should have impacts in the eligible regions.

Question: How should the interregional dimension be integrated into the project?

Answer made by the organizers: You can justify it in several ways: by creating a consortium between two and more SME from different eligible regions, by subcontracting or working in different eligible regions than yours, by working or subcontracting in other eligible regions than yours, or by justifying existing and justified connections with these other regions (collaborations, supply or distribution chains, ...). This is not a critical point for your project, but we'll give you extra points if you have some collaborative / extra-regional aspects. And if you don't have it right now, one goal of the I34BF project will also be to link you with laureates from these other regions and create strong connections until the end of the project.

Question: The subject of biochar is mentioned in the call's brochure, is it well covered?

Answer made by the organizers: Yes, you can propose projects about biochar.

Question: Are there other IC to which French SMEs can respond? (other regions of the consortium)

Answer made by the organizers: Yes, IC#3 (Italy) has also proposed challenges on which every SME from the eligible regions can apply.

Question: Can we choose subcontractors located outside the eligible regions?

Answer made by the organizers: Yes, there is no limitation for subcontractors. However, applicants should remember that one criterion of evaluation is about "interregional collaboration", meaning that project with subcontractors inside eligible regions would have better rates on this specific aspect.

Spain INFODAY

Question 1: Regarding strand 2: Is it correct that two activities cannot be combined? Only one activity can be selected.

Answer made by the organizers: Only one scope can be selected in Strand 2 (either Scale-up production, Formulation, Evaluation of product or of services). However, we accept that there's little flexibility on this point: for example, we can particularly hear that an SME that develops a new formulant needs to evaluate it in the same project. Most of the work and budget should be allocated to the scope selected.

Question 2: What type of evidence is required to justify the initial and final TRLs of a product (Line 2)?

Answer made by the organizers: No specific evidence is required. In the project proposal, you should explain the starting point and the final target in terms of TRLs. During the project evaluation, it will be checked that the planned activities correspond to the TRLs requested.



Question 3: For the products used in biofertilizer production, do they need to be sourced within the region, or is it sufficient that the SME applying for the grant is located within the region?

Answer made by the organizers: The only requirement for eligibility is that the SME is established in one of the eligible regions. It is not possible to control that all materials used in the project come from these regions. However, projects are valued positively if they involve short supply chains, circular economic principles, etc.

Question 4: Regarding the budget, the maximum grant and limitations (e.g., subcontracting) are clear for each item. The question is whether the budget should be limited to the grant amount, or if it is expected that the company will also contribute its own funds?

Answer made by the organizers: The company is not expected to invest additional funding beyond the requested grant. The evaluation will focus on the proposal as submitted and the financing requested.

Italy INFODAY

Question 1: For strand 1, so the region of investment is the one in which the project must take place and not necessarily the region of implementation of the specific SME?

Answer made by the organizers: For Strand 1, there are different possibilities, it is necessary to check the different opportunities in the Table from page 7 of the Call text. In some cases, the region of implementation is clearly defined, in other cases 'Any of the eligible regions' is requested.

Question 2: There are Farm company ('aziende agricole') that have agriculture Biogas plants? Are they eligible SME?

Answer made by the organizers: If they have the status as SMEs and if their application is aligned with the Call priorities, they can apply. Please recall that the SME self-assessment document is a compulsory document, part of the application. On page 13 of the Call text (Section 3. Eligibility Criteria- SME Classification), there is the link to be used for the SME self-assessment.

Azores INFODAY

Question 1: Is it possible to submit more than one application?

Answer made by the organizers: You should submit only one.

Question 2: What language should we use to submit?

Answer made by the organizers: In English.

Question 3: What are the characteristics of the interim and final report? Will they need to be very detailed in their scientific approach?

Answer made by the organizers: We think that it will be a brief technical report. However, you should read the Third-Party Funding Scheme Call Text and Guidelines. In any case, if you have specific questions, you can contact the Consortium by email "info@i3-4-biofertilizers.eu"

Question 4: What language should we use to submit?

Answer made by the organizers: In English.

Question 5: How many SME can apply together? The limit amount will be 120 000 €?

Answer made by the organizers: We think that 2 or more are possible. The limit amount will always be the 120.000 €. We will check if there are limits on the number of SME in one application.

Question 6: For the maximum funding of 120,000, which entities are eligible to form the consortium? Only SMEs/startups? Or others?

Answer made by the organizers: The leader must be a SME/ Startup. For instance, a leader can subcontract other types of partners.



Question 7: Soil fertility is not an abstract term. Stimulants, as mentioned, can be used to enhance this characteristic. Stimulants can also be used for soil decontamination. Is this aspect eligible for this application?

Answer made by the organizers: The leader must be a SME/ Startup. For instance, a leader can subcontract other types of partners.