

“INNOVATION EXPRESS CALL 2024” for Circular Bioeconomy Value Chains!

Circular bioeconomy value chains development becomes more prevailing but is more challenging to support due to their cross-regional nature.

Within the EU-project “INNOBIOVC” the “**INNOVATION EXPRESS CALL 2024 (IEC24)**” - a synchronized call that facilitates the development of cross-regional circular bioeconomy value chains - is implemented.

What does SYNCHRONIZING of existing regional funding programmes under the IEC24 mean?

- Regions participate in the IEC24 with their own, existing regional funding programmes.
- The IEC24 offers the following advantages:
 - **No new funding programmes have to be established.**
 - **No new legal frameworks have to be developed.**
 - **No cross-regional transfer of funds.**
 - **Participating regions remain in full control of their administrative procedures, financial management of the call as well as the decision-making process.**
 - **Funding and eligibility rules apply according to the regional funding programme of the applicant’s regions.**

INNOBIOVC project partners embed

- the **Value Chain Generator (VCG)**, a hands-on tool that helps to find partners along circular bioeconomy value chains and
- the new developed **Sustainability Assessment Tool (SAT)** which allows regions and companies to measure social, economic and ecological sustainability gains into the **Innovation Express Call Scheme (IECS)** - a widely acknowledged solution to facilitate cross-border cooperation by synchronizing existing regional funding schemes.

Innovation Express Call 2024 allows partners to

- **find out about funding opportunities,**
- **match with best partners,**
- **measure sustainability gains of circular products and services.**

That way INNOBIOVC helps companies to jointly develop new circular products and business models.



INNOBIOVC

What is INNOVATION EXPRESS CALL 2024 (IEC24)?

- IEC24 is a joint call for proposals for cross-border circular bioeconomy projects funded by synchronizing **existing regional/national funding programmes**.
- The call design builds upon positive experiences & lessons learned of several previous Innovation Express Calls, like in 2021, in which regions like Salzburg (AT), Brandenburg (DE), Baden-Württemberg (DE) and Canton of Fribourg (CH) participated. Such calls resulted in new RDI partnerships between partners that had not previously collaborated before.
- IEC24 focuses on cross-regional circular bioeconomy value chains, key resources and sectors in **agriculture, food and beverages, chemistry, polymers, and energy**.
- Interested regions participate with their own, existing funding programmes.
- There is no need to modify any administrative procedures of existing regional funding schemes.
- The call is open from march to the end of July 2024.

The IEC24 coordination office

- is operated in co-operation between Business Upper Austria (PP) and WFG Heilbronn (PL) within the INNOBIOVC project and serves as a central point of contact for questions and communication.
- promotes the IEC24, informs interested applicants and manages the IEC24 website www.IEC24.info.
- supports participating regions in the application and implementation of IEC24.
- arranges coordination meetings (if required) between the respective programme managers.
- organises several (virtual) events to present the call, network potential applicants and support project development. (dates: see www.IEC24.info)
- Contact: Iris Reingruber/Business Upper Austria, iris.reingruber@biz-up.at

IEC24 partner are REGIONS which

- plan to implement their own funding scheme supporting innovation and research and development in the field of circular bioeconomy.
- are interested in getting engaged in cross-regional partnerships with their own (regional) funds, without cross-regional transfer of funds.
- Are eager to boost local circular products and business by applying innovative new ways: the Value Chain Generator (VCG), the Sustainability Assessment Tool (SAT) and the Innovation Express Call Scheme (IECS).

[INNOBIOVC project partners](#) are happy to answer your questions!

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