The Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI) is a public-private partnership, and is part of the EU’s plan to move its economy to a post-petroleum era. It is expected to help make the EU’s economy more resource-efficient and sustainable, while supporting growth and employment. The 7-year programme budget is €3.7 billion, with 25% coming from the EC and 75% from industry.

BBI’s objective is to act as a catalyst to develop sustainable and competitive bio-based industries in Europe, based on advanced biorefineries that source their biomass sustainably, and without competition with food. This will be achieved by demonstrating new technologies to fill the gap in value chains, developing business models integrating all economic actors and setting-up flagship biorefinery plants deploying business models & technologies to keep investment in the EU.

The EU has the industrial, research and renewable resources potential. It is now a matter of deploying it in a sustainable manner to compete in the global bioeconomy race. Doing so will help the EU meet climate change targets, and lead to greener and more environmentally friendly growth. The key is to develop new biorefining technologies to sustainably transform renewable natural resources into bio-based products, materials and fuels.

BBI encourages a sustainable bio-based industry for Europe, thanks to its focus on research and innovation:

- on waste valorisation (from industry, agriculture and municipal areas)
- on the deployment of marginal lands and semi-arid areas
- on the redeployment of 2nd generation biorefineries
- on increasing productivity of industrial multipurpose crops
- on new feedstock supply chains, for example lingo-cellulosic residues from agriculture and forestry residues
- on proteins recovery
- on phosphorous (P) and potassium (K) recovery for fertilizers
- on the reduction of the consumption of fertilizers and on crop yield increase

To achieve those objectives, BBI’s mission is to implement the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda developed by industry in line with their vision for the development of the bio-based economy. If successful, this can bring rewards for many European stakeholders - consumers who get access to new sustainable products based on renewable biological resources; bio-based industries that take technological and sustainability leadership and thereby build long-term competitive advantages; enhanced economic growth and new jobs in rural, coastal and redeployed industrial areas, and new revenue streams for the EU’s agri-food, forestry and marine sectors.

BBI’s programme has many expected impacts, specifically:

- to develop the potential of waste as well as agriculture and forestry residues;
- to diversify and grow farmers’ incomes: up to 40% additional margins with existing residues;
- to replace at least 30% of oil-based chemicals and materials with bio-based and biodegradable ones by 2030;
- to reduce the EU’s dependency with regards to fossil resources and strategic raw materials like protein, phosphorous (P) and potassium (K);
- to create a competitive bio-based infrastructure in Europe, boosting job creation, 80% of which will be in rural and underdeveloped areas;
- to deliver bio-based products that easily available to consumers and that are comparable and/or superior to fossil-based products in terms of performance and environmental benefits
- To bring new bio-based products onto the market that will on average reduce CO2 emissions by at least 50% compared to their fossil alternatives

BBI’s competitive Calls, in combination with other funding and investment guarantees like the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), and new InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators as well as Structural Funds, will support new sources of growth for regions, in particular those where new sources of biomass can be unlocked.

More information: www.bbi-europe.eu