



OPEN CALL 2026 WEBINAR

Opportunities for financial support

26 March



Funded by
the European Union



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About GRAPPA

GRAPPA empowers European agri-food SMEs by driving systemic innovation, resilience, and sustainability in food production and processing. **By fostering the valorisation of agri-food biomass and side-streams into circular ingredients, products, and technologies**, GRAPPA helps SMEs become greener, more digital, and resilient.

FROM WASTE



TO WORTH

Objectives:

- Innovation projects implementation through FSTP
- Identifying innovation opportunities and define collective intelligence
- Capacity building: reinforcing competences, skills and knowledge of SMEs' and clusters' staff in agri-food sector
- Networking SMEs and value chain stakeholders
- Boost the access to global value chains
- Knowledge sharing and innovation diffusion
- Systemic innovation

The GRAPPA Consortium

6 clusters, 5 countries all powered by a metacluster

+3,000 companies represented
Innovation driven

Belgium

FF FLANDERS' FOOD

wagralim APPETITE FOR INNOVATION

France

InnovAlliance
Natural solutions at the heart of your development

Spain

clúster alimentario de galicia

food+i CLUSTER

Greece

atecluster THE FOOD INITIATIVE



GRAPPA is funded by the European Union Single Market Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101235085.



Main activities

FSTP Innovation Calls

Two open calls for collaborative SME innovation projects with funding up to €60,000

EFBB Summit

European Food Biomass & Bioeconomy Summit featuring Pitch & Connect sessions

Skills Hub and resources

Free training resources on biomass valorisation, digital twins, regulations, and more

Trainings, Innovation Acceleration Sessions and Regional Networks

System innovation and TRL training sessions for clusters, SMEs and network building



Key numbers



Open call specifications

The Open Call will have one launch date and two cut-off dates

- Launch of the Open Call: **March 26, 2026**
 - First Cut-off date: **May 26, 2026 - 17:00 CET**
 - Second Cut-off date: **October 20, 2026 - 17:00 CET**
- The Innovation Open Call **total budget is €2.020.000** distributed over approximately 35 SMEs.
 - Reserved budget for cut-off 1: €1.380.000
 - Reserved budget for cut-off 2: €640.000



Scope of the call

- **GRAPPA's Innovation Open Call** will support financially SMEs to implement innovative projects enhancing the valorisation of agri-food biomass, thus enhancing the competitiveness of the European agri-food sector while supporting the green transition, and more specifically, the valorisation of agri-food biomass and side-streams. The call aims to stimulate the utilisation of digital tools and technologies, where relevant, favouring the twin transition of the agri-food industry.
- **Financial Support to Third Parties** (FSTP) scheme that will focus on innovation acceleration, launching a dedicated Innovation Call to support projects that address concrete sectorial challenges, starting from **TRL 6 or higher**.
- A System Innovation Readiness Level Tool (**SIRL**)³ assesses an organization's capability to develop, support, and scale innovations by evaluating people, processes, and technology. These tools, such as the ILVOs SIRL (Belgium) Framework (<https://sirl.app/>), identify strengths and weaknesses to create roadmaps for moving ideas from conception to market, often focusing on dimensions like technology, customer, team, and business model maturity.



Who can participate

- Any SME according to the EU definition
- A member of any country under EU region- Applicants can be SMEs registered at any EU country.
 - Applicants can be SMEs registered at EU Member States and countries associated to the [Single Market Programme](#)
- SMEs active in or providing services to the EU agri-food value chain



Target groups

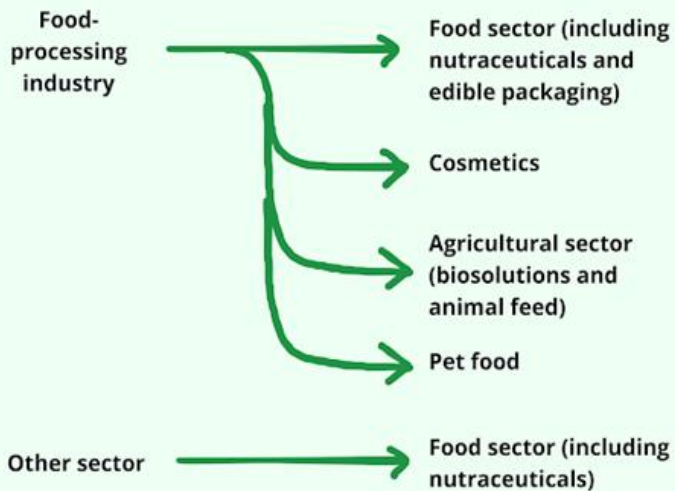
For projects focusing on the development, adoption, and commercialisation of innovative upcycled ingredients food and non-food applications, products, business processes, and technologies (including digital) that maximise the valorisation of agri-food biomass and side-streams.

1. SMEs in the **agri-food production and/or processing** sector;
2. SMEs in **other sectors** (ex. cosmetics, nutraceuticals, etc) **that valorise biomass/by-products/side-streams from the agri-food sector**;
3. SMEs in **other sectors** (ex. cosmetics, nutraceuticals, etc) that **valorise their own biomass/by-products/side-streams for the agri-food sector**;
4. SMEs **offering solutions and/or technology** for the valorisation of biomass/by-products/side-streams from the agri-food sector (development and application of new technologies or processes).

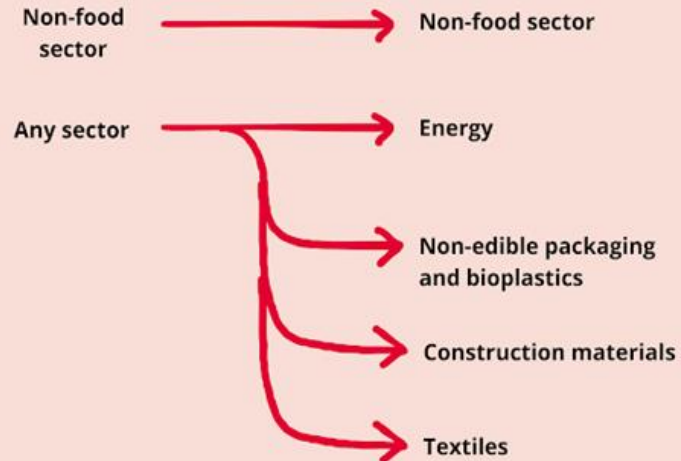


Eligible valorisation

ELIGIBLE VALORISATION



NON-ELIGIBLE VALORISATION



Eligible valorisation



- Extraction of dietary fiber from fruit by-products for applications in the food industry

Examples



- Extraction of polyphenols and antioxidants from wine by-products for applications in nutraceuticals, cosmetics, functional beverages, etc.



- Functional ingredients from brewer spent grains



Non-Eligibles



Examples



- Biostimulants developed from agricultural by-products
- Non-edible bioplastics developed from brewer spent grains
- Agri-food by-products for compost



Evaluation criteria

Evaluation criteria	
Technical excellence / feasibility / viability	Innovativeness / added value / TRL
	Feasibility
Impact	Sustainability
	Scalability / replicability
Capacity / team expertise	Team
	Risk assessment
Budget	Justification / timetable / allocation



Application Procedure

HOW TO APPLY

1. Go to: <https://i4be.eu/grappa/>
2. Download the **Call for Proposals** with all the info
3. Download the **Applicant's Proposal Form**
4. Fill the Applicant's Proposal Form where you should describe technically and financially the proposed innovation project. Sign the **Declaration of Honour (DoH)**. At the time of submission, both sections must be filled in appropriately, signed and stamped by the entity's legal representative and together converted into one (1) single pdf file that needs to be uploaded in the online form
5. Back to <https://i4be.eu/grappa/> Click on **Apply Now** and fill the form and upload the Applicant's Proposal Form in PDF.



Applicant's Proposal Form

Section 1: Applicant's proposal form

General information

1. Technical excellence, feasibility and viability

- Project description
- Innovativeness of the scope
- Added Value of proposed solution
- TRL Level
- Feasibility of Concept
- Project workplan
- Innovativeness from an environmental perspective



Applicant's Proposal Form 2/4

Section 1: Applicant's proposal form

2. Impact and sustainability

- Environmental impact
- Economic impact
- Social and ecosystem impact
- Scalability and replicability

3. Capacity and team expertise

- Partners' profile
- Team expertise and quality
- Risk assessment



Applicant's Proposal Form 3/4

Section 1: Applicant's proposal form

4. Budget

Cost Item per Project Partner	Task	Brief Explanation of the Cost	Funding Requested per Cost Item
PP1 - Personnel			
PP1 - External Expertise (Subcontracting)			
PP1 - Travel Costs			
PP1 - Equipment			
PP1- Other Goods and Services: (Consumables, etc)			
Total PP1			
GRAPPA Contribution (max. 60k/per SME)			
Private Financing (min.15% of total budget)			



Applicant's Proposal Form 4/4

Section 2: Declaration of Honour

Declaration of Honour on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest

Annex 1: Application's General Instructions

Annex 2: Budget Clarifications

The Application Form exists out of 2 sections: the Applicant's Proposal Form and the Declaration of Honor. Both sections need to be signed and stamped and converted into one (1) PDF file.

Annex 1 and Annex 2 on this document should be deleted before converting in PDF file



Time line **Cut-off 1**



Time line **Cut-off 2**



Conditions

- Single or collaborative SME projects
- Project must lead to the implementation of either a new process, a new product, or a new service or a combination of them
- TRL of at least 6
- Project duration: max. 12 months
- Projects must participate in a pitch presentation at the GRAPPA summit during the European Food Biomass and Bioeconomy Summit in June 2027
- Applications must be written in English



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Conditions

- For Single SME projects, the maximum lump-sum grant per project (1 SME) is **€60.000**.
- For collaborative projects, the maximum lump-sum grant per project (2-3 SMEs) is **€90.000**.
- Funding rate: **100%, Lump Sum**
- Budget must be matched by **at least 15% private financial contribution** (debt or own financial resources), with proof required.
- Eligible costs: staff costs (max. 80% of total project budget), external expertise (max. 30% to RTOs), Travel costs, equipment (depreciation cost), other goods and services
- SME/consortia can apply one (1) project per cut-off date
- SME/consortia can apply for cut-off 1 and cut-off 2
- The maximum amount to be granted per SME shall not exceed €60.000 in total (combined cut-off 1 and cut-off 2)



Scoring mechanism

Section	Maximum score	Threshold
Technical excellence / feasibility / viability	50 points	35,0
Impact and sustainability	25 points	17,5
Capacity / team expertise	10 points	7,0
Budget	15 points	10,5
Total score	100 points	70,0



Payment schedule

Payment will be realized in 2 instalments

- **pre-financing: 50%** of the requested lump sum will be transferred to the SME within 30 days following the signature of the sub-grant agreement, and for Cut-off 1 no later than 30 September 2026.
- **final payment: 50%** of the requested lump sum will be transferred to the SME within 30 days following the completion of the assessment of the final report and the submission of all required supporting documents and deliverables.



Expected deliverables

Each project must describe their deliverables in the proposal (SMART)

Mandatory Deliverables

- Mid-term report
- Final report
- Systemic Innovation Readiness Level assessment (start - mid - end)
- Pitch at GRAPPA Symposium June 2027
- Material for official communication purpose





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GRAPPA in-depth insights on biomass revalorisation, internationalisation and SME opportunities

[+ Suscribirse](#)

Get inspired: <https://i4be.eu/skills-hub-2/>



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Together transforming agri-food biomass
into opportunities

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