

**CircInWater**

Supporting European SMEs to bring water-smart solutions to market

# CircInWater Internationalisation lump sum Guide for applicants



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# SECTION 1. OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONALISATION LUMP SUM

This document summarises the key elements regarding the open call of the CirclnWater Internationalisation lump sum scheme (Table 1):

*Table 1. Internationalisation lump sum summary.*

<b>Number of SMEs</b>	20 - 25, until the budget is exhausted
<b>Total budget</b>	€42 732
<b>Target of the Grant</b>	SME
<b>Call</b>	Open call , with two application rounds
<b>Round I</b>	Round I from 22 <sup>nd</sup> of May 2024 until 22 <sup>nd</sup> of July 2024 or until €20 000 of the total budget is exhausted.
<b>Round II</b>	Round II from 18 <sup>th</sup> of September 2024 – 12 <sup>th</sup> of February 2025 or until the entire budget is exhausted, whatever comes first.
<b>Grant per lump sum</b>	Maximum of €2 000 /project  Applicants can benefit from the grant for maximum of 2 distinct applications and one application per call round.
<b>Period per project</b>	Round I: Maximum 4 months Round II: Maximum 3 months

## 1.1 What is CirclnWater?

CirclnWater, the Water-Smart Eurocluster project funded by the EU, develops and implements support measures, including cascade funding, for companies addressing the lack of water-smart solutions to promote the digital, green, and resilient transitions (triple transitions) of the European industrial ecosystems. CirclnWater focusses on supporting European SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) to develop and implement water-smart solutions for the agri-food and energy-intensive industries (EII) (mining, pulp and paper, steel, and chemical industry).

For that purpose, CirclnWater provides financial support to the **SMEs** for innovation, knowledge, and internationalisation activities focused on boosting and facilitating the triple transitions in this area through three lump sum schemes. The CirclnWater lump sum schemes aim to offer flexibility to SMEs to cover their needs towards these transitions, depending on the maturity level of their technology or their knowledge and

internationalisation demands. An SME can get a maximum grant from the CirclnWater project of €60 000, considering all the lump sum schemes.

## 1.2 CirclnWater Internationalisation lump sum

The Internationalisation lump sum **supports the development and growth of European SMEs** offering water-smart solutions by **facilitating internationalisation possibilities like visiting trade fairs, possible partners/clients or joining missions and meet-the-buyer events in North America (Canada & USA)** (see Section 2.2 Eligible activities & costs).

**Between 20 and 25 SMEs** will be selected and granted with a financial support of a **maximum of €2 000/application** to cover up to 100% of the eligible costs related to the travel and accommodation costs, registration fees and exhibition stands.

The applicants can benefit from the Internationalisation lump sum grant for maximum of 2 distinct applications and one application per call round. The total budget reserved in CirclnWater for the Internationalisation Lump Sum is €42 732.

## 1.3 Other CirclnWater lump sum schemes.

CirclnWater offers three different lump sum schemes (See Tables 4, 5 and 6 in Annex B). In addition to the Internationalisation lump sum, European SMEs could apply to:

- The Innovation lump sum: support SMEs in developing new products, services, or methods, addressing the water challenges in the agri-food and energy-intensive industries. The call for CirclnWater Innovation lump sum was closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2023.
- The Knowledge lump sum: support SMEs by facilitating access to external training or consultancy services on strategic issues such as Market development & business strategy, Concept creation & development or Internationalisation. The call for the CirclnWater Knowledge lump sum was closed on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

The key elements and requirements for the Innovation lump sum scheme and the Knowledge lump sum scheme are available in separate Guide for Applicants. The '*ANNEX B. Summary of CirclnWater lump sum schemes*' includes summary tables with the main information about the three CirclnWater lump sum schemes.

## 1.4 Overall process

The Internationalisation lump sum scheme is structured into 3 steps:

## Step 1: Application

The internationalisation lump sum consists of two application rounds.

- The first round will be open from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2024 at 12:00 CET until 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2024 at 17:00 CET or until €20 000 of the total budget is exhausted, whatever comes first. This round is targeted to [WEFTEC New Orleans](#).

*More information: see section 3*

- The second round will be open from the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 at 12:00 CET until total budget exhaustion or until 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 at 17:00 CET , whatever comes first.

*More information: see section 3*

## Step 2: Evaluation & Financial Agreement signature

Applications will be evaluated continuously and selected on the basis of “first come first served”, i.e., applications will be evaluated in the order in which they are received. Applicants will be noticed of the evaluation result within a maximum period of **2 weeks after the submission**. A Financial Agreement will be signed between the selected applicant & CirclnWater partnership **2 weeks maximum after the results notification**.

*More information: see sections 4 & 5*

## Step 3: Project implementation & reporting

As soon as the Financial Agreement is signed, the beneficiary will be authorised to implement the Internationalisation lump sum within a maximum period of 4 months for Round I and 3 months for Round II. A Final Report of the project will have to be sent maximum 2 weeks after the end of the period. Once the Final Report is approved, the beneficiary will receive the financial support.

*More information: see section 5&6*

### Key dates Application Round I

- **22/05/2024:** Opening of the call
- **22/07/2024:** Latest date for the closure of the call (in case €20 000 budget is not already exhausted)
- **05/08/2024:** Latest results communicated
- **19/08/2024:** Latest date for financial agreement signature
- **07/10/2024 – 09/10/2024:** WEFTEC
- **23/10/2024:** Latest date for sending reporting

### Key dates Application Round II

- **18/09/2024:** Opening of the call
- **12/02/2025:** Latest date for the closure of the call (in case of call budget not already exhausted)
- **26/02/2025:** Latest results communicated
- **12/03/2025:** Latest date for financial agreement signature
- **12/06/2025:** End of internationalisation activity (the latest)
- **26/06/2025:** Latest date for sending reporting

## SECTION 2. FUNDING CONDITIONS

### 2.1 Financial provision

A lump sum is a fixed amount of money that beneficiaries can use to visit trade fairs, possible partners or joining missions and meet-the-buyer events in North America (Canada & USA). The granting of a lump sum does not foresee the delivery of detailed financial reporting.

The applicants can apply for **a grant of a maximum of €2 000 per application** covering up to 100% of the eligible costs and can benefit from the Internationalisation lump sum grant for maximum of 2 distinct applications and one application per call round. The total budget reserved in CirclnWater for the Internationalisation lump sum is €42 732.

The payment will be made directly to the beneficiary as a lump sum after the approval of the Final Report (see section 6).

Applicants are entitled to apply and benefit from more than one CirclnWater lump sum schemes (Innovation Lump Sum + Knowledge Lump Sum + Internationalization Lump Sum. An extended overview can be found in Annex B), reaching a total **max. funding of €60 000 per SME**, provided that the CirclnWater projects are executed in line with the CirclnWater lump sum schemes guidelines.

Furthermore, it should also be considered:

- All payments will be made in euros.
- Submission of an application does not constitute an entitlement for funding.
- CirclnWater will not be responsible for paying any costs applied for and incurred by the beneficiaries in case of non-compliance with the terms and conditions of this funding scheme.
- The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations during the action or afterwards:
  - European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)
  - The European Commission

- The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013 22 and No 2185/9623
- The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939
- The European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.
- If requested by these bodies, the beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data, including in electronic format). To this end, the beneficiary concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least for 5 years after the payment (or 3 for grants of not more than €60 000) and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

## 2.2 Eligible activities & costs

The Internationalisation Lump Sum scheme is meant for an **individual SME** that is offering water-smart solutions, especially for the agrifood & energy-intensive industries, and that is willing to boost its development or growth via internationalisation activities towards North America (Canada & USA).

The internationalisation activities are eligible if they are related to at least one of the categories below:

### **Eligible activities and costs Application Round I** (the list is exhaustive)

- Travel and accommodation for attending WEFTEC New Orleans 2024
- Registration for WEFTEC New Orleans 2024
- Exhibition stand at WEFTEC New Orleans 2024

The eligible costs for Internationalisation lump sum Application round I are the fees related to:

- Travel and accommodation costs
- Registration fees
- Exhibition stands



### **Eligible activities and costs Application Round II** (the list is exhaustive)

- Travel and accommodation to meet-the-buyer events in North America (Canada and/or USA)
- Travel and accommodation to international fairs/events focussed on agrifood & energy-intensive industries in North America (Canada and/or USA)
- Registration for meet-the-buyer or international fairs/events focussed on agrifood & energy-intensive industries in North America (Canada and/or USA)
- Exhibition stand at international fairs/events focussed on agrifood & energy-intensive industries in North America (Canada and/or USA)
- Travel and accommodation for visiting possible clients in North America (Canada and/or USA)

The eligible costs for Internationalisation lump sum Application round II are the fees related to:

- Travel and accommodation costs
- Registration fees
- Exhibition stands

Only costs generated within the 4 months for Round I and 3 months for Round II following the Financial Agreement signature will be eligible.

## **SECTION 3. APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **3.1 Who can apply?**

The Internationalisation lump sum is for **European SMEs** (see section 4.1 - Eligibility check/criteria) who are providing water-smart solutions addressing challenges in the agri-food or energy-intensive industries (see Annex A).

### **3.2 Timing**

The Internationalisation lump sum call will open in 2 different rounds:

Application Round 1: on the **22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2024 (12:00 CET) until €20 000 of the total budget is exhausted and before the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 at 17:00 CET.**

Application Round 2: on the **18th of September 2024 (12:00 CET) until funds are exhausted and before 12th of February 2025 at 17:00 CET.**

Only proposals submitted before the closure of the call will be evaluated. No additions or changes to received proposals can be made after submission.



The evaluation of applications will be done within a maximum period **of two weeks after the submission** (See Figure 2). Applications will be evaluated on a first come first served basis, i.e., applications will be evaluated in the order in which they are received. Applicants will be notified by email, and the results of the CirclnWater Internationalisation lump sum will be updated regularly on the ECCP CirclnWater website and the [CirclnWater submission platform](#).

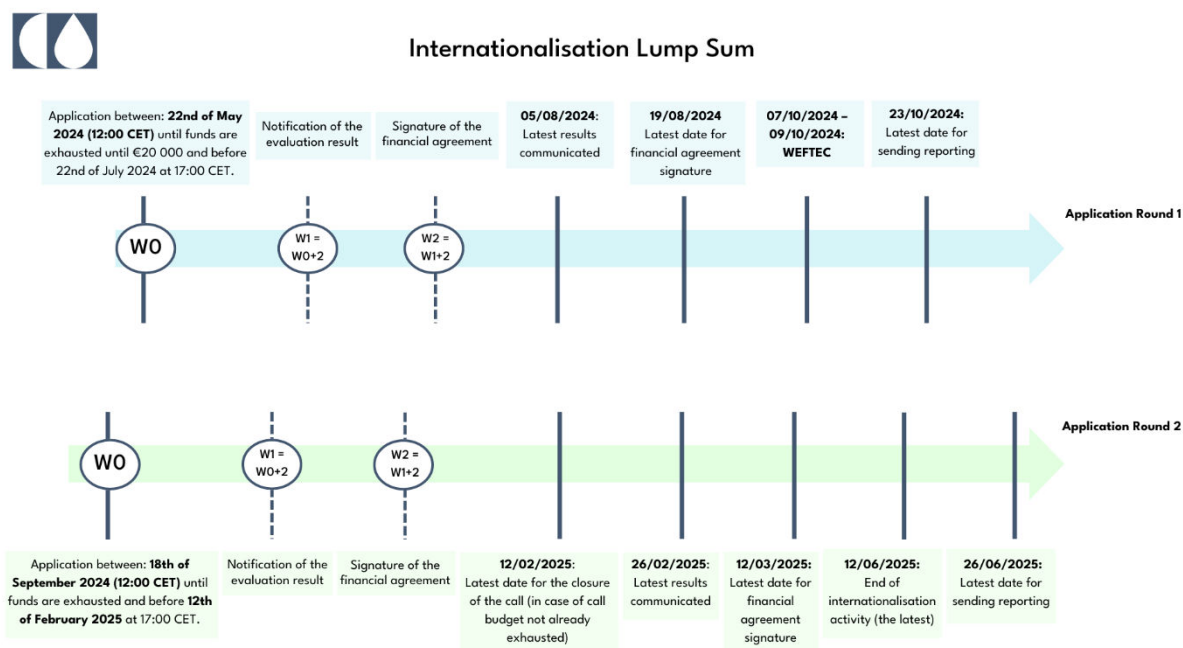


Figure 1. Timing of the Internationalisation lump sum application

### 3.3 How to apply?

Proposals must be submitted online using the Application Form available on the [CirclnWater submission platform](#) (See the document 'CirclnWater submission platform guide').

A draft proposal can be edited and updated as often as needed before submitting and until the budget exhaustion or the call deadline, whatever comes first. Please note that **any further modification of the proposal will not be possible once you click on submit**. Evaluators will only consider the information included in the application form.

The information provided in the application must be actual, true, and complete to allow the proposal assessment. English is the official language of the CirclnWater Open Call. Thus, all proposals must be in English. Only proposals with all the fields completed in the application form can be submitted.

### 3.3.1 Application Form structure

The Application Form includes the following sections, which are all mandatory to be filled in:

#### **Section 1. Administrative and legal information**

- 1.1 Applicant information
- 1.2 Applicant eligibility check

#### **Section 2. About your company**

- 2.1 Nature of your business
- 2.2 Prevalent business sector
- 2.3 Company profile
- 2.4 Description of your internationalisation strategy

#### **Section 3. Description of the internationalisation activity**

- 3.1 Type of activity
- 3.2 Description of the activity
- 3.3 Event information

#### **Section 4. Implementation & budget**

- 4.1 Timing of the internationalisation activity execution
- 4.2 Budget

#### **Section 5. Declarations**

- 5.1 Online Declaration of honour
- 5.2 Application submission

Please, note that **it is mandatory to include** an estimated budget overview of how the budget will be spent in relation to the total costs (hotel costs, cost flight ticket, etc.) in the '*Attachments*' section of your application.

Applicants must apply by completing and submitting an online application form via the [CircInWater submission platform](#). **Application forms received in any other way will not be considered.**

## SECTION 4. EVALUATION PROCESS

### 4.1 Eligibility check/criteria

The eligibility check will be done based on a checklist and information provided in the [CircInWater submission platform](#):

## **Eligible participants**

To be eligible, the applicants must:

- be an SME according to the [SME definition of the EU](#);
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
  - non-EU countries:
    - listed EEA countries and countries associated to the COSME part of the Single Market Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature ([list of participating countries](#));
- be a member of a cluster organisation registered on the [European Cluster Collaboration Platform \(ECCP\)](#);
- not request more than €60 000 within CirclnWater lump sum schemes (innovation, knowledge, internationalisation)<sup>1</sup>.

## **Duration**

The Internationalisation lump sum will be implemented within a **maximum period of 4 months for Round I and 3 months for Round II** after the signature of the Financial Agreement and will be completed no later than **12/06/2025 for Round II**.

Only those proposals fulfilling all eligibility criteria and completing all mandatory fields in the application form will be considered eligible. However, the **proposal must be considered eligible to continue and finalise the submission** process in the platform.

## **4.2 Evaluation**

### **4.2.1 Evaluation process**

Each application will be reviewed by 1 evaluator and the project coordinator from the CirclnWater partnership. To avoid any conflict of interest, partners will **not** evaluate applications coming from their own countries.

The evaluation of the applications will be done within a maximum period of 2 weeks after the submission. Applications will be evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis, i.e., applications will be evaluated in the order in which they are received. If selected, the beneficiary will have a maximum of 2 weeks to sign the Financial Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants are entitled to apply and benefit from more than one CirclnWater lump sum scheme, reaching a total max. funding of € 60.000 per SME.

## 4.2.2 Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on three main evaluation criteria:

1. Link with CirclnWater scope and targeted sectors
2. Alignment between the SME's internationalisation strategy and the proposed activity
3. Clear overview of the budget being spent and timeline in regard to the internationalisation activity

Evaluation scores (pass or fail) will be awarded according to the three main evaluation criteria. Table 2 gathers the description and thresholds for each evaluation criterion.

Table 2. Evaluation criteria

EVALUATION CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	THRES HOLD
<b>Link with CirclnWater scope and targeted sectors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relevance with CirclnWater scope (supporting SMEs offering water-smart solutions)</li><li>• Link with CirclnWater targeted sectors clearly described and relevant</li></ul>	Pass
<b>Alignment between the SMEs internationalisation strategy and the proposed activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Internationalisation strategy clearly described</li><li>• Clear connection with North America</li><li>• Activity clearly described</li></ul>	Pass
<b>Clear overview of the budget being spent and timeline in regard to the internationalisation activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cost-effectiveness(best value for money)</li><li>• Clear budget overview for the internationalisation and what is spent by the lump sum</li></ul>	Pass

## 4.3 Funding decision

Proposals with a **Pass** for each criterion will be recommended for funding (until the exhaustion of the budget).

The applicant will be notified directly by email if his/her proposal is awarded or not within a maximum period of 2 weeks after the submission. The result notification will include the overall result and a general comment. In case the proposal is not selected, the applicant

will not be able to improve and resubmit his/her proposal. However, it is possible for an applicant to submit another different application.

## 4.4 Redress procedure

A request for redress can only be based on objective, clear, and well-documented evidence of the reasons for the complaint. It must clearly identify the application and be submitted by someone legally authorised to represent the applicant **within five working days** of receiving notice of your evaluation results to the following email address: [info@circinwater.eu](mailto:info@circinwater.eu). A redress committee, including representatives from CircInWater partnership members, will review the case and recommend an appropriate course of action. Its role is to ensure a coherent legal interpretation of requests and equal treatment of applicants.

The redress procedure is concerned only with the evaluation process, and the scientific or technical judgement of the qualified experts is not in doubt.

Only one request for redress per application will be considered. All requests for redress will be treated in confidence.

## SECTION 5. FINANCIAL AGREEMENT SIGNATURE AND GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR BENEFICIARIES

### 5.1 Financial Agreement signature

Once notified, the selected SME will have 2 weeks to sign a Financial Agreement with CircInWater partnership (**and by 19/08/2024 (Round I) or 12/03/2025 (Round II) at the latest**).

The selected project can start the day right after the Financial Agreement signature and must end within 4 months for Round I and 3 months for Round II of the Financial Agreement signature and no later than the 12/06/2025 (Round II). In all cases, the Financial Agreement must be signed before the beginning of the projects.

### 5.2. Payment arrangements

The selected organisations will receive **100% of the financial support only after the Final Report approval**, according to the reporting procedure explained in Section 6.

## 5.3 Confidentiality

The CirclnWater partnership will be authorised to publish the following information:

- The name of the beneficiary SME and website.
- The geographic location of the activities carried out and of the beneficiary headquarters.
- Total funding support provided by CirclnWater.
- Nature of the internationalisation activity by the beneficiary.

## SECTION 6. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING

During the project implementation, the beneficiary will be able to interact with the CirclnWater partnership in case of any questions.

Within 2 weeks upon the end of the Internationalisation project and no later than 23/10/2024 for Round I and 26/06/2025 for Round II, the beneficiary must complete a Final Report of their project, including:

1. Proof of attendance, including a picture at the venue and, for example, the boarding pass
2. One-page Final Report on the activities undertaken.
3. Summary for publication describing your project.
4. Company logo and a picture that represents your project/company.

## SECTION 7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 7.1 Data protection and management

The Application Form for Internationalisation lump sum requests the minimum information needed to deliver the evaluation procedures and application management. Additional information, such as bank account details or data about the lump sum recipient's representative, will only be requested to the beneficiaries SMEs. The company and personal data requested must be submitted through the [CirclnWater submission platform](#) (GOOD Grants), whose design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with the European legislation: The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR)<sup>2</sup>. This information will also be managed by the CirclnWater partnership according to the European legislation rules.

By submitting their proposal, the applicants must accept the use of data for the purpose of evaluation and application management.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>

## 7.2 CirclnWater partners and contact information

For any queries about the CirclnWater project, see the contact information in Table 3:

Table 3. Contact information.

 <p><b>ZINNAE- Cluster for the efficient use of water</b></p> <p>Contact person: Marisa Fernández</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:mfernandez@zinnae.org">mfernandez@zinnae.org</a></p>	 <p><b>Water Cluster Finland</b></p> <p>Contact person: Pirkko Taskinen</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:pirkko.taskinen@lavango.fi">pirkko.taskinen@lavango.fi</a></p>
 <p><b>Water Alliance</b></p> <p>Contact person: Rixt Sinnema</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:r.sinnema@wateralliance.nl">r.sinnema@wateralliance.nl</a></p>	 <p><b>Innovation centre of the Olomouc Region</b></p> <p>Contact person: Jakub Vylíčil</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:vylicil@inovaceok.cz">vylicil@inovaceok.cz</a></p>
 <p><b>Aquanova</b></p> <p>Contact person: Emilie Scheers</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:Emilie.scheers@poledream.org">Emilie.scheers@poledream.org</a></p>	 <p><b>CREA Hydro&amp;Energy</b></p> <p>Contact person: Břetislav Skácel</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:bret@creacz.com">bret@creacz.com</a></p>
 <p><b>Blue Economy Mikkeli</b></p> <p>Contact person: Saija Tillgren</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:saija.tillgren@mikseimikkeli.fi">saija.tillgren@mikseimikkeli.fi</a></p>	 <p><b>General CirclnWater contact point</b></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@circlnwater.eu">info@circlnwater.eu</a></p>



## ANNEX A. DESCRIPTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS AND CHALLENGES

The two industrial ecosystems targeted represent an important share of European water consumption, a large share of the European economic value added, and more than 17 million workers. Together, they raise numerous challenges concerning water management, calling for varied innovative water-smart solutions.

### A.1 Agri-food sector



Figure 2.- Agri-food ecosystem. © Norma Nardi 2020.

Agriculture land plays an important role in land use patterns across the EU. Due to accelerating population growth, urbanisation, and climate change, competition for water resources is expected to increase, with a particular impact on agriculture. Agriculture is the biggest water-consuming sector accounting for an estimated 72% of global freshwater withdrawals<sup>34</sup>.

Furthermore, the food and drink industry is a key element of the European economy, generating €1.2 trillion in turnover with a value-added of €246 billion – making it the largest manufacturing sector in Europe and a major contributor to the European economy. Similarly to agriculture, water is an essential input for the food and drink industry and accounts for approximately 1.8% of Europe's total water use. This intensive water use results in large volumes of wastewater discharges that must be treated before discharging on the rivers.

<sup>3</sup> OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook (Edition 2022).

<sup>4</sup> FAO, "AQUASTAT - Sistema mundial de información de la FAO sobre el agua en la agricultura,"

CirclnWater project aims to support those SMEs promoting the development and implementation of water-smart solutions that address the water-related challenges in the whole agri-food ecosystem and value chain (Figure 4). For example, this can be water challenges in greenhouses to challenges in a brewery or a meat processing factory.



Figure 3. Agri-food value chain.

## A.2 Energy-intensive industries

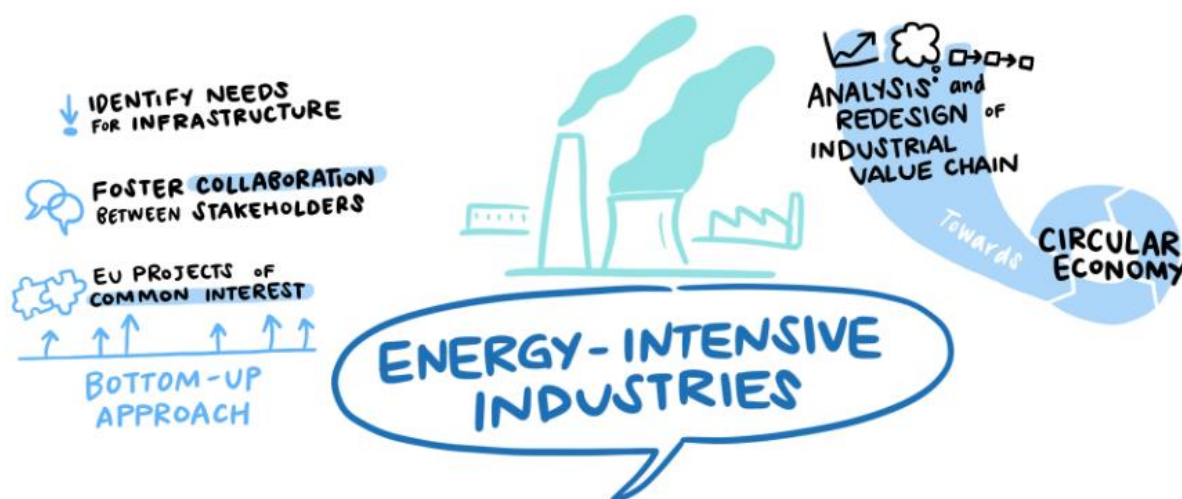


Figure 4. Energy-intensive industries ecosystem. © Norma Nardi 2020.

The Energy-intensive industries (EII) have in common that they supply intermediate products to each other and many downstream sectors of the economy, being closely integrated with energy providers and the waste and recycling industries. In particular, the EII ecosystem includes the chemicals, steel, pulp and paper, plastics, mining, extraction and quarrying, refineries, cement, wood, rubber, nonferrous metals, ferroalloys, industrial gases, glass and ceramics industries. All these sectors require high energy and carbon intensity and represent the starting point of many value chains, providing raw, processed and intermediate materials.

According to the European Commission Industrial strategy, the industry must reduce its own carbon footprints to contribute to the carbon-neutral economy goal and simultaneously accelerate the transition by providing affordable, clean technology solutions.

Therefore, water stakeholders need to develop and implement innovative and smart water solutions to address the challenges encountered by the EII in terms of their efficient and sustainable use of water in their industrial processes.

CirclnWater is especially targeting these four energy-intensive sectors: Mining, Pulp and Paper, Steel, and Chemical Industry.

Furthermore, **other energy-intensive sectors** (plastics, extraction and quarrying, refineries, cement, wood, rubber, nonferrous metals, ferroalloys, industrial gases, glass and ceramics industries) could be eligible if the action is duly justified.

## ANNEX B. SUMMARY OF CIRCINWATER LUMP SUM SCHEMES

*Note: An SME can get a maximum grant from the CirclnWater project of €60 000, considering all the lump sum schemes: Innovation, Knowledge, and Internationalisation.*

### B.1 CirclnWater Innovation lump sum scheme

Table 4. Innovation lump sum summary

<b>Lump sum objective</b>	To support cross-sectoral collaboration and development of new products to tackle industrial challenges
<b>Activities to be supported</b>	Activities to scale up, test and implement close-to-market water-smart solutions
<b>Maturity level</b>	TRL 5-9
<b>Target beneficiaries</b>	Individual or collaborative, up to 3 SMEs that are members of a cluster organisation registered on the ECCP
<b>Total EU funding available for the Open Call</b>	€850 000
<b>The maximum amount to be granted per beneficiary</b>	€60 000
<b>Payment schedule</b>	Two payments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% with the Grant Agreement (GA) Signature</li> <li>• 50% end of the funded project after reception of the Final Report</li> </ul>
<b>Participation rules</b>	Applicants can participate in several Innovation projects as a Partner, but an SME can coordinate only one project.
<b>Open Call publication date</b>	29-03-23 at 12:00 (Brussels time)
<b>Open Call deadline</b>	31-05-23 at 17:00 (Brussels time)
<b>Expected duration of the projects</b>	Up to 12 months
<b>Submission process</b>	Online
<b>Thematic strands</b>	1 call divided into 2 thematic strands: Agri-food and energy-intensive industry
<b>Links/ platforms where this open call will be published:</b>	<a href="#">Funding and Tenders Portal</a> <a href="#">ECCP CirclnWater website</a> <a href="#">CirclnWater submission platform</a> <a href="#">Enterprise European Network</a>

## B.2 CirclnWater Knowledge lump sum scheme

Table 5. Knowledge lump sum summary.

<b>Lump sum objective</b>	Training/support to boost resilience, green or digital transition
<b>Activities to be supported</b>	External support/consultancy services on strategic issues that will accelerate the SMEs' triple transitions
<b>Target beneficiaries</b>	Individual SMEs that are members of a cluster organisation registered on the ECCP
<b>Total EU funding available for the Open Call</b>	€160 000
<b>The maximum amount to be granted per beneficiary</b>	between 2000-4000€/application
<b>Payment schedule</b>	1 payment (100%) <b>once Final Report</b> approval after action implementation.
<b>Participation rules</b>	SMEs can be beneficiaries of a maximum of 2 Knowledge lump sum schemes
<b>Open Call publication date</b>	07-06-23
<b>Open Call deadline</b>	Until the exhaustion of budget and 2 <sup>nd</sup> of October 2024 the latest. The call was closed on January 2024.
<b>Expected duration of the projects</b>	Up to 6 months after FA signature and not later than 4 <sup>th</sup> of June of 2025
<b>Submission process</b>	Online
<b>Links/ platforms where this open call will be published:</b>	<a href="#">Funding and Tenders Portal</a> <a href="#">ECCP CirclnWater website</a> <a href="#">CirclnWater submission platform</a> <a href="#">Enterprise European Network</a>

## B.3 CirclnWater Internationalisation lump sum scheme

Table 6. Internationalisation lump sum summary.

<b>Lump sum objective</b>	To support the internationalisation of SMEs towards third markets
<b>Activities to be supported</b>	Travel and accommodation (for Meet the buyer events and international trade fairs/events)
<b>Target beneficiaries</b>	Individual SMEs that are members of a cluster organisation registered on the ECCP
<b>Total EU funding available for the Open Call</b>	€42 732
<b>The maximum amount to be granted per beneficiary</b>	€2 000
<b>Payment schedule</b>	1 payment (100%) <b>once Final Report</b> approval after action implementation. <b>Final Report</b> submission after action implementation is <b>mandatory</b> .
<b>Participation rules</b>	SMEs can be beneficiaries of a maximum of 2 International lump sum schemes
<b>Open Call publication date</b>	Application round I: 22/05/2024 Application round II: 18/09/2024
<b>Open Call deadline</b>	Application round I: 22/07/2024 (in case of €20 000 call budget is not already exhausted)  Application round II: 12/02/2025 (in case of call budget not already exhausted)
<b>Expected duration of the projects</b>	Round I: Up to 4 months after FA signature Round II: Up to 3 months after FA signature
<b>Submission process</b>	Online
<b>Links/ platforms where this open call will be published:</b>	<a href="#">Funding and Tenders Portal</a> <a href="#">ECCP CirclnWater website</a> <a href="#">CirclnWater submission platform</a> <a href="#">Enterprise European Network</a>



# CirclnWater



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