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CESAM Call for Projects

Terms & Conditions



Lead Partner

Euroregion Pyrenees

Mediterranean

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1/ CESAM Project

The project and its objective

The project Circular Economy and Sustainable solutions for Agrifood in the Mediterranean (CESAM) brings together nine partners from the European regions of Occitanie (FR), Catalonia (ES) and Balearic Islands (ES) around shared goals for the agrifood sector: promoting Circular Economy and Sustainable solutions. The three regions form a logical area of cooperation with similar objectives and priorities. CESAM project intends to promote innovative solutions of circular economy and sustainability for the three regions, with high potential of development in other European regions. It is composed of four sub investment projects which will be complemented through this call for projects.

The CESAM project and this call for projects seek to promote Sustainable and Circular Economy solutions with a focus on the following four priorities for the Agrifood sector:

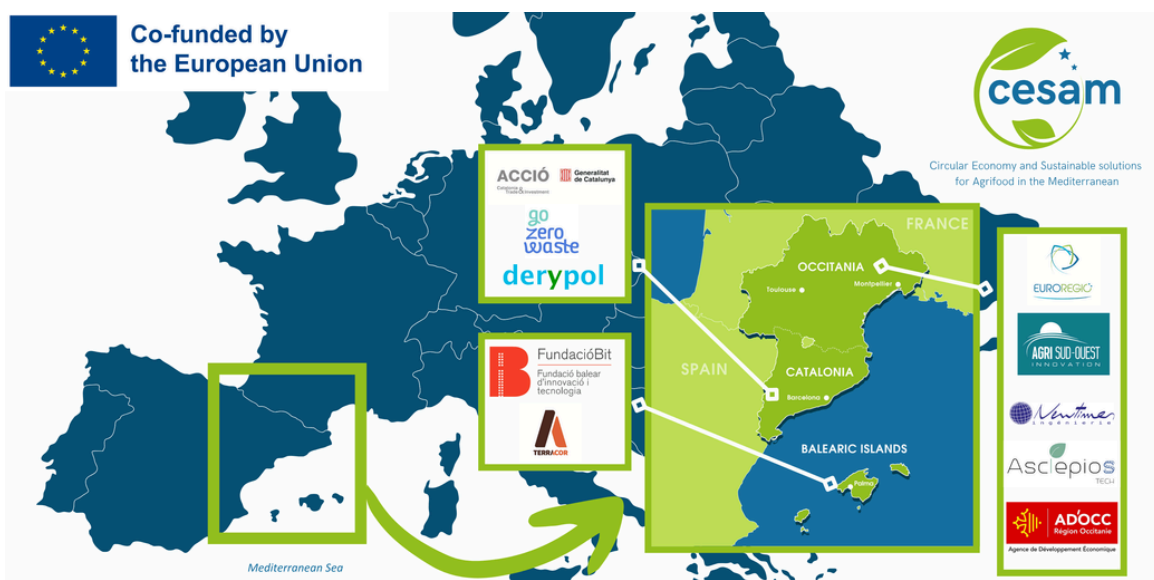
1. Industrial water treatment and recycling / Concerted use of water
2. Packaging: Eco-conception / plastic free, new materials or circular solutions
3. Optimization of processes and circular processes: reduction of waste
4. Valorisation of co-products

The coordinator of the project: Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean

The EGTC Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean (EPM) is the coordinator of both the project and this call for projects. It is a cooperative political body representing the region of Occitanie in France and the Governments of Catalonia and the Balearic Islands in Spain. Its objective is to foster cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. The EPM is a cooperation pole committed to working on the three regions' shared challenges in areas such as Innovation, Higher Education and Research, Environment, Culture and Tourism.

The partners

Of the nine partners, four are institutional partners from the Regional Innovation Ecosystems (regional innovation agencies, clusters and specialized public administration): AGRI SUD-OUEST (FR), AD'OCC (FR), ACCIÓ (CAT), Fundació Bit (BI). The other five are SMEs with specific needs in investment needs to scale-up their innovative solutions: NewTimes (OCC), Asclepios Tech (OCC), Terracor (BI), Derypol (CAT) and Go Zero Waste (CAT).



2/ CESAM priority topics

SMEs that direct their efforts toward the following priorities will benefit from the CESAM Project.

In the frame of the CESAM project and this call for projects, we are looking to support and fund SMEs developing innovative close to market (TRL 6 to 9) solutions, in one or more of the below priority topics within the agri-food industry. The aim is to help scaling up the technologies and bringing them closer to market.



Access to water is increasingly limited: 38% of the EU population was affected by water scarcity in 2019, according to the European Commission (29% of the EU territory). This translates into a €2 to €9 billion cost of droughts per year.

The sustainable reuse of water in Europe has become a priority in the face of the growing challenges posed by climate change and the scarcity of water resources. In line with the European Green Deal and the principles of the Circular Economy, reusing treated water from urban areas and industrial or agricultural industries can help ensure a safe and predictable source of water to maintain human activities as well as preserve freshwater resources for our future generations.

At the same time, investment in water treatment technologies and public awareness play a key role in encouraging the adoption of these sustainable practices, thereby contributing to more resilient management of the continent's water resources.

The first CESAM priority topic focuses on process optimization and quality control with the treatment of industrial wastewater within the agrifood industries and its recycling or reuse.

It also addresses the concerted use of water for a sustainable management of water resources.

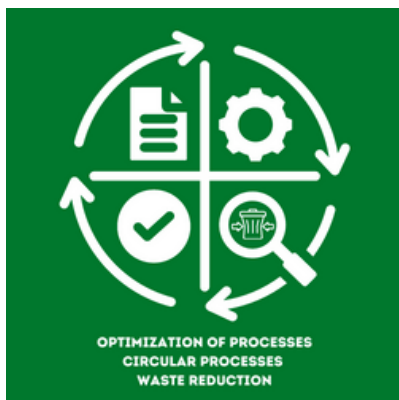


According to the European Parliament, each person living in the EU generated 36.1 kilos of plastic packaging waste on average in 2021, with 16.13 million metric tons of plastic waste produced in the EU in 2021. As a part of the European Green Deal, 55% of plastic packaging waste must be recycled by 2030.

The new rules for more sustainable packaging in the EU include less packaging and restricting certain packaging formats; banning the use of “forever chemicals”; encouraging reuse and refill options for consumers; recyclable packaging; and better waste collection and recycling.

These efforts aim at transforming the packaging value chain to reduce its ecological footprint and meet consumers' growing expectations in terms of sustainability.

The second priority topic focuses on packaging including reducing packaging, the eco-conception of sustainable packaging (biosourced / with new materials) or recycling packaging.



Within the EU, 5 tonnes of waste is produced on average each year and only 38% is recycled. Among these numbers and according to Eurostat, in 2023 over 58 million tonnes of food waste (131 kg/inhabitant) were generated. The European Commission has urged Member States to put in place national programs aimed at preventing food waste and, more crucially, to monitor and report on food waste levels as well as minimize food waste at every stage of the supply chain.

To redesign our food systems and engage on a sustainable and resilient path, the EU promotes a “Farm to fork” strategy that aims at creating a food chain that benefits producers, consumers, the environment, and the climate. The Farm to fork strategy proposes the following recommendations: guaranteeing a neutral or favourable environmental impact along all the processes (food production, transportation, distribution, marketing, and consumption), ensuring that food processes meet strict requirements for quality, safety, and care about the welfare of animals as well as plants, and maintaining sustainable food affordability while redistributing in an equitable way financial returns across the supply chain, boosting fair trade and therefore the EU supply sector’s competitiveness.

This third priority topic focuses on the deployment of new technologies, such as automation, artificial intelligence and advanced sensors, to control and maximise the efficiency of production processes. It is dedicated to Agri-food companies that are investing in energy and resource management systems, as well as waste reduction techniques, to minimise their environmental impact while improving profitability.



According to FAO estimates, between 30% and 40% of all food production is lost before it reaches the market. To reduce food losses throughout all accountable sectors—from growers and processors to intermediaries and consumers—an overview of all systems should be carried out.

Food waste can be used strategically to produce additional industrial uses as a co-product that will help the circular economy and bring in profits. According to the European Commission, a "co-product" is any of two or more products coming from the same unit process or product system.

Rather than being treated as waste, these secondary materials are transformed into new value-added products, such as biofuels, biomaterials, fertilisers or food ingredients. This approach helps to reduce waste, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and stimulate a more sustainable and resilient economy. Industries in the chemical and agricultural sectors, among others, must work together to enable the creation of new products and improve co-product characteristics to boost the circular economy.

Lastly, the fourth CESAM priority topic addresses the valorisation of co-products including the development of circular economy solutions that can be implemented in the agrifood sector. These co-products can be recycled and used in several sectors such as agriculture, food industry, energy, construction, human or animal health, pharma, nutrition or cosmetics.

3/ The call in a nutshell

Budget: 900.000€

Funding rate: 100%

Opening and closing date: The call is open from 19/11/2024, 2pm till 19/02/2025, 5pm

Target group: SMEs from Occitanie (France), Catalonia and Balearic Islands (Spain)

Maximum number of applications per SME: 2

Maximum funding: Maximum amount for each SME cannot be higher than 60.000€ for all applications combined

Applications on the dedicated platform only:
<http://euroregio-epm.wiin.io/fr/applications/cesamaap>

Call lines: This call is composed of two different schemes. You must choose one line per application. The Open Innovation projects lines are O1, O2, O3, O4. The Identified Challenges projects lines range from C1 to C10. See section Participation schemes section

Minimum Technology Readiness Level of the project / solution: Projects must help bring the technology or solution to a higher TRL level and closer to market, starting from minimum TRL6 to TRL9

Projects Implementation period: The start and end date of each project will be specified in the proposal and revised during the grant agreement to be signed with the SME(s) and Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean. Project's implementation cannot be longer than 12 months and should end before 31/05/2026

4/ Budget

The maximum amount committed for this cascade funding scheme is EUR 900 000, of which 70% is funded by the European Union through the Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3) under Grant Agreement No 101115023.

5/ Funding rate

The funding rate for granted SMEs is 100% of the total eligible costs for all the types of lines of this call for projects.

6/ Who can apply

Applicants to this call must be SMEs.

According to the definition of the European Union, an entity must meet the following quantitative criteria to be considered a SME: employ less than 250 people, have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million and/or have an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million (these ceilings apply to the figures for individual firms only. A firm that is part of a larger group may need to include staff headcount/turnover/balance sheet data from that group too).

Applicant SMEs must comply with the EU [SMEs](#) Definition ([FR](#) / [ES](#)).

Please use this [EU SME self-assessment questionnaire](#) to make sure you comply with this definition. Applications from other types of entities will be rejected and will not go through the evaluation process. The Euroregion can ask the applicant for any document proving its SME status during the process of selection and after.



Other type of entities can collaborate within the project but cannot receive direct funding as partner and will be considered as third parties. Other types of entities, such as R&D centres, can participate as service providers / subcontracting.

7/ Geographical scope

Only SMEs established (SME headquarters) in the following regions can apply to receive funding; OR the project is carried out entirely in operating sites located in these eligible Region: OCCITANIA (FRANCE), CATALONIA (SPAIN), BALEARIC ISLANDS (SPAIN).

8/ When to apply

The call for projects will be open from **November 19th 2024 at 14:00 CET to February 19th 2025 at 17:00 CET.**

9/ Where to apply

All the application process will be made through our dedicated platform. A template form is available for information purposes only. Online Application platform: <http://euroregio-epm.wiin.io/fr/applications/cesamaap>

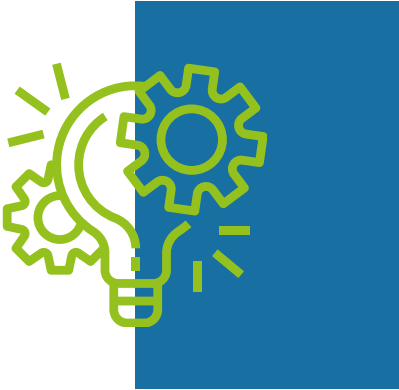
10/ How to apply

- SME applicants must provide the signed declaration of honour using the provided template.
- SME applicants must provide a detailed budget for the action using the provided template.
- SME applicants must choose one of the call lines in Participation schemes.



11/ Participation schemes

This call for project is organised in two different funding schemes: Open Innovation projects and Identified challenges.



Open Innovation Projects

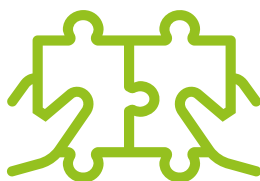
The applicant SMEs must address one of the following topics of the agrifood sector for their Innovation project proposal:

- **O1 Industrial water treatment and recycling / Concerted use of water**
- **O2 Packaging: Eco-conception / plastic free, new materials or circular solutions**
- **O3 Optimisation of processes and circular processes: reduction of waste**
- **O4 Valorisation of co-products**

Projects must answer one of these topics and contribute in scaling up a technology or solution starting from TRL 6 minimum. For TRL definition see [here](#).

Maximum projects amounts:

- For Individual Open Innovation projects, the maximum total budget amount is 30.000€ per SME.
- For Regional Collaborative Open Innovation projects, the maximum total budget amount for the project is 50.000€ to be divided between SMEs as they see fit (minimum 2 SMEs from the same Region).
- For Interregional Collaborative Open Innovation projects, the maximum total budget amount for the project is 70.000€ to be divided between participant SMEs as they see fit (minimum 2 SMEs from two different eligible regions).
- Projects presenting higher amounts than the ones indicated will be asked for a correction during the eligibility check.
- Applications are expected to present the most cost-efficient budget possible
- Funding rate for all projects is 100%



SMEs can use our dedicated matchmaking platform to find potential SME partners to design their collaborative project.

[FIND SMEs](#) →



Identified Challenges

CESAM SME partners (NEWTIMES, GO ZERO WASTE, ASCLEPIOS TECH, DERYPOL and TERRACOR) are looking for complementary SME partners to demonstrate or implement innovative solutions. These challenges have been defined to fit their needs.

- Funding rate for all Challenges is 100%
- For each Challenge, the maximum budget amount presented cannot be higher than indicated. Number of SMEs to be funded cannot be higher than indicated.
- Applications are expected to present the most cost-efficient budget possible
- Only individual SMEs can apply for the Identified Challenges

To view the list of identified challenges, **please refer to the table on the next pages.**



Code	Partner	Challenge	Funded SMEs	Max. Budget	Description
C1	NEWTIMES	Bulk Product 'Metering and Sales' Machines PRODUCER	2	30.000€	<p>Producer of liquid agrifood products (oil, juice, drinks etc.) wishing to experiment this new technology for the distribution of liquid bulk products. Project include tasks such as manufacturing the quantities of packaging necessary for sales points evaluations.</p> <p>See full description of the challenge here</p>
C2	NEWTIMES	Bulk Product 'Metering and Sales' Machines. SELLER	2	10.000€	<p>Sales point wishing to test an automated bulk distribution system for liquid agrifood products (oil, juice, drinks etc.) Project includes providing the necessary space, installing the machines provided, train the staff in operating the machines, promote the solution, making an economic assessment at the end of the project.</p> <p>Objective: validation of the planned economic model.</p> <p>See full description of the challenge here</p>
C3	GO ZERO WASTE	Zero Waste Horeca sector	1	20.000€	<p>A business of the HORECA sector, (e.g large institutional or educational cafeteria) wishing to test an automated sustainable and circular IOT dispenser for bulk for groceries / food in general.</p> <p>Project includes providing the necessary space, installing the machines provided, train the staff in operating the machines, promote the solution, making an economic assessment at the end of the project.</p> <p>See full description of the challenge here</p>
C4	GO ZERO WASTE	Zero Waste supermarket / retail sector	1	20.000€	<p>A business of the retail sector, (e.g supermarkets, bulk stores) wishing to test an automated sustainable and circular IOT dispenser for bulk groceries / food in general.</p> <p>Project includes providing the necessary space, installing the machines provided, train the staff in operating the machines, and promote the solution, making an economic assessment at the end of the project.</p> <p>See full description of the challenge here</p>
C5	ASCLEPIOS TECH	Monitoring of plants growing & berries for qualities measurement after photobiological Boxistick® treatment	1	30.000€	<p>Producer of berries or small fruits to experiment new sustainable solution to reduce lost and waste, the use of chemicals, and preserve naturally the qualities of plants.</p> <p>Carry out pre- and post-harvest conservation trials on an industrial scale with a cooperative or producer of soilless cultivation of small fruits, preferably strawberries, in greenhouses on substrate.</p> <p>See full description of the challenge here</p>

Code	Partner		Funded SMEs	Max. Budget	Description
C6	ASCLEPIOS TECH	Monitoring of plants growing & grape for qualities measurement after photobiological Boxistick® treatment	1	30.000€	<p>Producer of grapes to experiment new sustainable solution to reduce lost and waste, the use of chemicals, and preserve naturally the qualities of plants.</p> <p>Producer or agricultural cooperative of grape to carry out pre- and post-harvest conservation trials on an industrial scale.</p> <p>See full description of the challenge here</p>
C7	DERYPOL	Paradigm Shift in Agrifood WasteWater Treatment	2	15.000€	<p>A WasteWater Treatment Plant from Agrofood Industry (Dairy, Processed Food, Vegetables, Fruit Juice...) to treat the sludge with two different flocculant technologies with the aim to use it as fertilizer in agricultural field. Must have WasteWater Treatment Plant with Physical-Chemical Treatment and Sludge Dewatering.</p> <p>See full description of the challenge here</p>
C8	DERYPOL	Revalorization of WasteWater Sludge into Organo-Mineral Fertilizer	1	30.000€	<p>Find an innovative technology that revalorize the WasteWater treatment sludge as fertilizer -> Provide a technology that can add value to the wastewater treatment sludge as a fertilizer.</p> <p>See full description of the challenge here</p>
C9	TERRACOR	Sustainable Packaging	1	30.000€	<p>SME specialized in sustainable packaging materials and industrial design.</p> <p>We need to develop sustainable, plastic-free packaging that preserves the product in a similar way to plastic and allows the product to be seen by the customer.</p> <p>See full description of the challenge here</p>
C10	TERRACOR	Controlled Irrigation System / Water Efficiency Innovation	1	40.000€	<p>SME specialised in agricultural technology and automation.</p> <p>We need an innovative pilot project where we can obtain a closed and intelligent circuit, setting up sensors for humidity, temperature and soil nutrition. The objective is to obtain n an absolute and objective control of the field, avoiding the waste of water and the excessive use of fertilizers.</p> <p>See full description of the challenge here</p>

12/ Eligibility requirements

- The Beneficiaries must be SMEs according to the EU SMEs definition.
- The SMEs headquarters are located in one of the following three EU regions: OCCITANIA, CATALONIA, BALEARIC ISLANDS; OR the project is carried out entirely in an operating site located in one of these eligible Regions.
- The declaration of honour is complete, signed and uploaded in the platform
- The budget template is complete and the total budget detailed is not higher than the maximum amount authorized for this line in Participation schemes section 11. The template is uploaded in the platform.
- In any case, the total amount of funding requested by each applicant SME cannot exceed 60.000 euros for this call for project. This applies to all SMEs independent of the number of applications and schemes chosen.
- The SME does not apply more than twice in this call for projects. If the SME applies or participates in more than 2 proposals, only the first two proposals submitted in the platform will be considered. The other ones will be discarded.
- All projects must contribute to one or more of CESAM'S four priorities topics. Overall, all projects must contribute positively to the environment protection. No projects that could be harmful to the environment or that are not in line with EU standards and regulations (human rights, environment protection, etc.) will be funded.
- Applications must be written in English only. Applications in other languages will not be eligible.

The Euroregion reserves the right to ask for more information and documents related to the applicants' statuses or proposals at any time during the selection process and after the evaluation.

13/ Eligibility check

Within 15 working days after the closing of the call, an eligibility check will be conducted on the applications. If the applications are not complete, applicants will have a non-extensive period of 10 working days upon reception of the notification to provide the missing documentation or justification. After this period, if shortcomings are not remedied, applications will be considered ineligible. The list of eligible applications will be published on CESAM's website <https://cesam.euroregio.eu> and move on to the evaluation step.

14/ Support for the application and regional contacts

If you wish to answer this call for project, we highly recommend you reach to your regional contacts to:

- get support on your application
- get support in the search for partners
- guide you on the presentation of your proposal

Occitanie

Eva Mametz, European project manager, AgriSudOuest Innovation
eva.mametz@agrisudouest.com

Pascale Mouy, Agro-industries project manager expert, Ad'Occ
pascale.mouy@agence-adocc.com

Catalonia

Julia Miragall, Circular Economy Consultant, ACCIO
jmiragall@gencat.cat

Balearic Islands

Irenes Pradas, Innovation project officer, FundacioBit
ipradas@fundaciobit.org

For any other queries and for the platform-related issues you can reach to the Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean: courrier@euroregio-epm.eu



15/ Evaluation Mechanism

The evaluation process will be implemented based on open and quality-driven competition and excellence of applications with a transparent interregional peer review. The evaluation panel will be responsible for the scientific and technical evaluation. It will be composed of three external experts from each project's region. Each proposal will be evaluated by three experts (one from each region). The evaluation period will take a maximum of two months after the closure of the call for projects. Minimum total threshold is 30 pts.

Identified Challenge

CRITERIA	SUB-CRITERIA	MAX. POINTS
<p>Criterion 1: Quality of Implementation and adequacy with the needs</p> <p>SMEs applying for the experimentation challenges will be evaluated according to their capacity of implementing the solutions as described in the challenges annexes.</p> <p>SMART Objectives: S (Specific): Specific objectives which are directly and clearly related to the developed project. M (Measurable): Objectives which can be monitored to assess the progress in their implementation A (Achievable): Objectives which can be attained, within the scope of the project. Does not exclude ambitious objectives. R (Realistic): Feasible and realistic objectives which are attainable T (Time): Objectives set on a time limit, thereby establishing an implementation deadline per objective</p>		50
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost effectiveness of the action (15 pts) • Feasibility and credibility of the testing action (10 pts) • Engagement of the applicants SMEs in sustainable or circular policies / initiatives or projects (10 pts) • Adequacy of the SMEs applicants according to the defined challenges (15 pts) 		
<p>Criterion 2: Extra points</p> <p>Interregional collaborative projects</p>		5
<p>The project includes other direct or indirect partners from at least one other region of the project with and has a strong interregional aspect (5 pts)</p>		
TOTAL		55

Open Innovation Project

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Max points
Criterion 1: Excellence		
<p>The project's objectives are technically feasible, attainable, focused on innovation for circular economy and sustainability, applicable to the agri-food sector, qualitative and quantitatively described (SMART objectives). They can be monitored to assess the progress in their implementation.</p> <p>SMART Objectives: S (Specific): Specific objectives which are directly and clearly related to the developed project. M (Measurable): Objectives which can be monitored to assess the progress in their implementation. A (Achievable): Objectives which can be attained, within the scope of the project. Does not exclude ambitious objectives. R (Realistic): Feasible and realistic objectives which are attainable. T (Time): Objectives set on a time limit, thereby establishing an implementation deadline per objective.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation degree / disruption of the solution or action proposed (5 pts) Degree of contribution to CESAM's project priorities for CE and sustainability in the agrifood sector (5 pts) The objectives are feasible, attainable, qualitative and quantitatively described, and can be monitored. The project foresees the expected outcomes of the solution and its potential applications, its achievements and improvements foreseen from the developed or improved solution (5 pts) 	15
Criterion 2: Impact		
<p>Economic impact of the developed solution regarding the competitiveness and growth of the participating SME(s). The solution proposed by the project is scalable to other markets and sectors. Impact of the project to circular economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRL adequacy and capacity of the project to scale-up the solution (10 pts) Expected impact mid / long term (10 pts): Contributes to the economic growth of the participating SME(s) (annual turnover of each participating SME). The proposed solution can be applicable to other markets and sectors. The project estimates a significant resource reduction (waste reduction, resource reduction, waste valorised or reused, litres of water reduced or recycled) 	20
Criterion 3: Quality of implementation		
<p>Feasibility and credibility of the action</p>	<p>The quality and effectiveness of the work plan are appropriate: description of activities, timeline, foreseen deadlines, contingency plan, and reports or other deliverables.</p> <p>Adequate description of the risk associated of the proposed project and sound mitigation plan (8 pts)</p>	

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Max points
Cost effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effort assigned to the tasks is appropriate and aligned with the objectives of the project Suitable and well-justified allocation of resources, cost-effective budget (7 pts) 	15
Criterion 3: Extra points		
Interregional collaborative projects	The project includes other partners from at least one other eligible region or specific activities on implementing solutions in other eligible region (5 pts)	5
TOTAL		55

For the following Identified challenges lines, the same evaluation grid as for the Open Innovation Projects scheme is applied. Evaluation experts group will be composed of minimum three experts plus the SME proposing the challenge. CESAM partners may appoint complementary experts to evaluate the proposals if considered necessary.

- C8 Innovation project DERYPOL : revalorize the Wastewater treatment sludge as fertilizer
- C9 Innovation project TERRACOR : Sustainable Packaging
- C10 Innovation project TERRACOR: Controlled Irrigation System / Water Efficiency Innovation



16/ Selection and results

Funds will first cover the Identified Challenges (C1 to C10) lines as long as the proposals reach the minimum quality threshold (30 pts) and up to the maximum number of SMEs pointed out in the participation schemes tables.

The remaining budget will fund the Open Innovation Call with the following mechanism:

- **a minimum of 5 SMEs from each participating region (Occitanie, Catalonia and Balearic Islands) will be funded.**
- **Based on the final ranking, the first 5 SMEs with highest score project from each region will be automatically selected only if their score is above the minimum quality threshold (30 pts). Allocation per region may vary according to the number of proposals received / challenges addressed.**
- **For collaborative projects and Interregional collaborative projects, the partner SMEs are counted in the calculation for the minimum number of funded SME.**
- **For the remaining Funds, the selection will be score based, starting from the top of the ranking list.**

Projects will be selected until the remaining budget is insufficient to fund the next best application.

In case of a draw for the last slot, priority will be given to the project with the highest score in the following criteria starting from the first criteria:

- 1. Interregional collaborative projects (with cross border priority)**
- 2. Innovation degree / disruption of the solution or action proposed**

A reserve list will be drawn in case some top score chosen SMEs do not accept the grant or if they present any breach of the present terms and conditions.

Within a period of 30 days after the eligibility check, the final list of selected SMEs project will be published on the CESAM website : <https://cesam.euroregio.eu>. Selected SMEs will also be informed directly by email.

17/ Inquiries and complains

For enquiries and complaints related to this call for projects, the applicant will have 10 working days from the day the list of selected projects is published and upon reception of the information by email. Applicants must reach to their regional contact point (see Support for the application and regional contacts) explaining with precision the object of the enquiry or complaint. If the enquiry is justified, a Technical Committee will be held within 10 working days by CESAM's institutional partners to examine the complaint on the basis of the information brought forward by the applicant. The Technical Committee will decide if a new evaluation is justified and inform the applicant of the steps to be taken according to each case. If a new evaluation is conducted, the Technical Committee will revise it and proceed to a final decision to be communicated to the applicant.

18/ Grant management

General conditions

➤ All payments will be made in Euros (EUR).

➤ Submission of an application does not constitute an entitlement for funding.

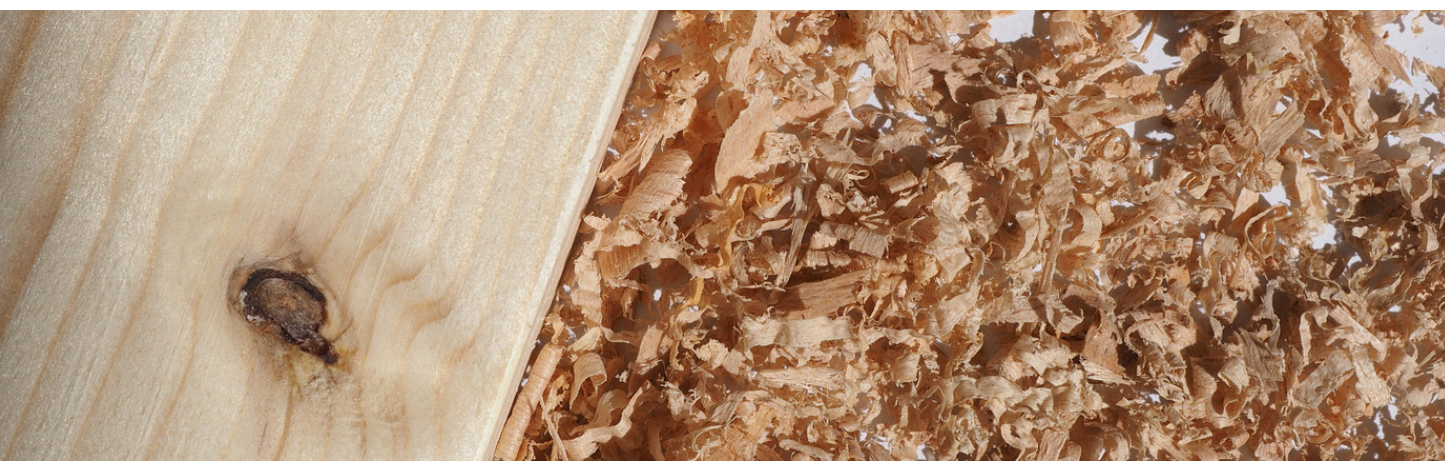
➤ The start and end date of each project will be specified in the proposal and revised during the grant agreement to be signed with the SME(s) and Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean. Project's implementation cannot be longer than 12 months and should end before 31/05/2026.

Monitoring and reporting

➤ A grant agreement will be signed between the awarded SMEs and the Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean, which will set the general conditions of monitoring, obligations and payments forms.

➤ A meeting between the CESAM consortium (granting authority) and the selected SME will be organised shortly after the sending of results in order to define a roadmap (description of action) to be annexed to the grand agreement prior signature).

➤ Interim and final report for justification will be mandatory (template to be provided to awarded SMEs).



Form of payment

Granted projects shall receive the requested financial contribution in the form of a lump sum, which is a simplified option. Lump sum is a fixed amount of funds, which can be used by beneficiaries for diverse purposes related to the achievement of the project objectives. Although SMEs will not need to submit a detailed financial report, they will have to provide an explanation in the application on how the lump sum will be used, including a clear budget proposal (staff costs, external expertise, travel costs, etc.). In addition, the technical reviewers will control the use of the project budget considering the technical advancements.

Payment Instalments

For all selected projects, there will be two instalments:

Pre-financing: 50% advance payment at the start of the project, after the signature of the contract and the validation of a roadmap

Final payment: 50% upon completion of the project's objectives and approval of the final execution report. The final payment will be calculated on the basis of the level of accomplishment of the objectives. Interim and final report for justification is mandatory (template to be provided to awarded SMEs). No financial justification needed.

Eligible costs

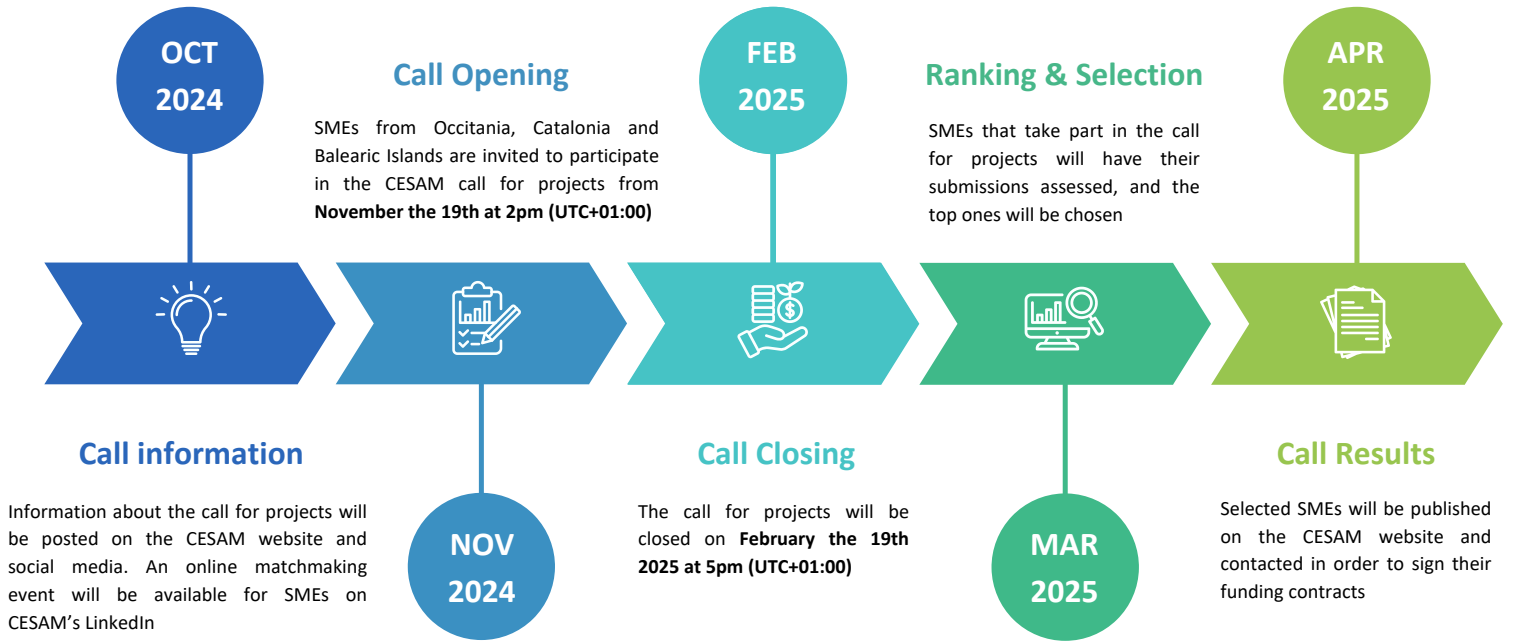
General eligibility conditions:

1. Only expenditures incurred during the period of implementation of the project will be considered eligible.
2. Detailed costs in the submitted budget must be determined in accordance with the usual accounting and management principles and practices of the beneficiary.
3. Costs incurred during the implementation of the project must be used for the sole purpose of achieving the objectives of the project, in a transparent manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Eligible costs include:

1. Direct staff costs: costs hours of the staff of the beneficiary dedicated to actual work under the project.
2. External expertise (subcontracting costs) limited to 60% of the total budget: work carried out by a provider should be limited.
3. Travel costs
4. Other direct costs: consumables; communication material, equipment (only depreciation costs), etc.

19/ Calendar



Call for projects opening date: 19/11/2024
Call for project's deadline: 19/02/2025
Results publication: April 2025



20/ Participant obligations

Participating SMEs must commit to and take all measures to ensure that the following contractual obligations are met:

Conflict of interests

SMEs receiving funding from this call must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the project could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest ('conflict of interests').

They must formally notify CESAM without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

Data protection

Personal data of the applicant SMEs will be collected through the Application form and will be processed by CESAM only for the purpose of participation of the SMEs in the CESAM's call.

Applicants acknowledge that providing their personal data, in the application form, is mandatory to participate in this call for projects.

Applicants allow CESAM to disclose their name, as provided in the corresponding Application form for CESAM's promotional purposes. Applicants allow CESAM to use for promotional purposes the project title, partners' names, and the description of the project. Personal data shall be kept, under the scope of this program, for a period of 10 years, after which they will be erased.

Applicants shall have the right of access to their personal data and the right to rectify any such data. Should they have any queries concerning the processing of their personal data, these shall be addressed to the CESAM coordination courrier@euroregio-epm.eu.

Communication, dissemination, and visibility

Visibility — European flag and funding statement

Unless otherwise agreed with CESAM, communication activities of the SMEs related to the projects (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities or major results implemented under CESAM must acknowledge CESAM and EU support and display the CESAM logo, European flag (emblem) and include the following text:

"This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Programme under grant agreement No 101115023".

When displayed together with another logo, the EU emblem must have appropriate prominence.

Graphic guide to use EU logo is available here: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information-sources/logo-download-center_en

Intellectual Property Rights

Within the scope of the present cascade funding call, agreements will be signed with the selected SMEs which receive financing. In the case of SMEs selected for the cascade funding line of Open Innovation projects, the selected SME(s) will be the owner(s) of the works and results of the project. Unless otherwise agreed or specified in the annexes, for the lines of Identified Challenge projects, the CESAM partner SME and the selected provider SME will co-own the results or works of the project.

The applicants are advised to arrange for internal contracts regarding Intellectual Property Rights, the use and dissemination of the results generated by the individual or collaborating SMEs through the funding obtained via CESAM Cascade Funding Call.

The responsibility of CESAM consortium or the Euroregion cannot be engaged in this topic.

The EU is not participating as a contracting authority in the implementation of the call for proposals.

Keeping records and supporting documents

SMEs receiving funding (in the form of lump sum) must keep records and other supporting documents to prove the proper implementation of the projects according to the proposed work plan. The records and supporting documents must be made available upon request or in the context of checks, reviews, audits or investigations.

Checks, reviews, audits, and investigations

Apart from the follow-up carried out by CESAM during the implementation of the project (meetings, reports, visits), the following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits, and investigations:

- The European Commission
- The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013 and No 2185/96
- 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



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