

BIOEAST Pitching Events 2026

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

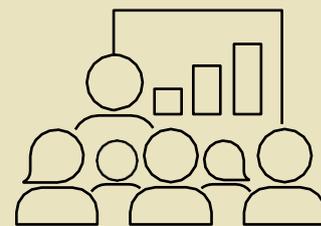
The BIOEAST Pitching Events 2026 give bioeconomy start-ups, companies, researchers and innovators the opportunity to present and defend their business case to local and European investors, potentially unlocking new investment deals. These events offer innovators from the BIOEAST macro-region the opportunity to present their solutions to a panel of investors, as well as to a broader audience of ecosystem stakeholders.

The pitching sessions are designed to support participants in refining their value proposition, strengthening their business case, and increasing their visibility within the European bioeconomy community.

Participants will deliver a short pitch followed by a moderated Q&A session and feedback from the expert panel. The event will conclude with a networking session, providing opportunities to connect with peers, experts and potential partners.

2. SCOPE OF THE CALL

The solution must be relevant to one of the BIOEAST thematic areas: Agroecology and sustainable yields / Biobased materials / Bioenergy & new value-added materials / Bioeconomy education / Food systems / Forest value chain / Freshwater-based bioeconomy. Applicants may include students, researchers, startups, SMEs, scale-ups or corporates. The National BIOEAST HUBs along with IBF will select the most relevant applicants.



3. PRIZES

Win the chance to pitch at the Pitch Perfect Matchmaking and Networking Event in 2026!

Winners of the local pitching events will be eligible for a free ticket to attend the [Pitch Perfect Matchmaking and Networking Event in 2026](#), held at the Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel on November 30 and December 1 on subject to entry rules and procedures of Pitch Perfect 2026. Winners will be selected by the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation. The five pitching event winners will need to apply via the event website, and depending on if they will be admitted as pitchers or as attendees, will be offered by Boost4BioEast. Travel and subsistence costs will be up to the individual pitching event winners to cover their own funds, while the ticket will be covered by IBF.



Funded by
the European Union

Registration for Pitch Perfect 2026 will open on June 1st, 2026 and close on November 23th, 2026 for pitchers. Please note that winners will only be offered a free ticket provided they inform IBF of having applied for said event by November 25, 2026. Boost4BioEast will only provide the code for free registration if they have IBF updated with their application process and procedure. Please note that IBF reserves the right to ask for a refund and compensation of loss in the event of registration done using Boost4BioEast free ticket if the start-up/company does not end up attending the event as the event organisers charge for a no-show.



4. APPLICATION

How to apply

- Applications must be submitted via an online form, available at: [To be created](#)
- Participants are requested to carefully read the questions in the form.
- Only applications submitted via the application form will be accepted.
- Only the information included in the application form will be considered by evaluators.
- Withdrawal of an application shall be done in writing.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting an application will be different for each region so please visit your specific region link on <https://bioeast.eu/> for specific deadlines and logistical updates for your relevant event. Any change or extension of the deadline will be announced in the official BIOEAST Pitching Events webpage.

Only applications submitted before the deadline will be accepted. After the closure, no additions or changes to received applications will be taken into account.

Data protection

Data processing will be carried out based on the free and informed consent of applicants. The rights of applicants will be fully respected in accordance with ethical standards and the applicable EU and national data protection laws. Personal data will be collected only as necessary for the purposes of the BIOEAST Pitching Events, will not be shared with external parties without explicit consent, and will be securely deleted after January 2027.

Intellectual property rights

The intellectual property rights to the solution submitted will stay exclusively with the applicant.

Absence of conflict of interest

A conflict of interest occurs when an applicant and an evaluator are from the same organisation or have any other form of association. Evaluators will need to declare any potential conflict of interests before doing the evaluation. If a conflict of interest is identified, external evaluators will be appointed to ensure a fair and impartial assessment.

Declarations

As part of the application form, applicants will be required to confirm the following declarations:

- I hereby declare that all the above information is correct and accurate.
- The applicant is over 18 years old and empowered to represent and commit to the team or the legal entity according to the relevant law.
- The solution proposed by the applicant is based on original work.
- I agree with data handling in compliance with the GDPR regulation. Data collected will be, securely stored, and used only for the purposes of the BIOEAST Open Innovation Challenge, data will not be shared externally without consent and will be deleted after January 2027.



5. EVALUATION PROCESS



Eligibility assessment

Only eligible applications will proceed to evaluation. The first step in the assessment process is therefore an eligibility check, based on the following criteria:

Eligibility criteria	Description
Country	Applicants must be residents or nationals of BIOEAST countries only: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.
Language	Applications must be submitted in English.
Submission Deadline	Only applications submitted before the official deadline will be accepted. The deadline for applying is ----- at 23:59 CET.
Duplicate submissions	If two applications from the same applicant are found to be very similar, only the most recent version will be evaluated.
Completeness	Only complete applications will be considered eligible.

Application evaluation and winner selection

Eligible applications will be evaluated against the following award criteria:

Award criteria	Description
Novelty	How is the solution/technology innovative and significantly different/better than what is currently being done?
Ambition	Clear description and clear ambition for the company
Market readiness	How close is the technology/solution to industrial deployment?
Sustainability	How does the technology/solution impact sustainability from an economic, social and environmental perspective?
Strategic Awareness	Does the company/start-up anticipate any regulatory obstacles or challenges in the future development of their solution/technology?

The assessment of applications will be carried out by IBF and only relevant pitching applications will be considered for entry at the pitching events in the regions. Please note that there will only be a limited amount of entries at each event.



6. INDICATIVE TIMELINE OF APPLICATION AND EVALUATION PROCESS

“BIOEAST Pitching events” call open:

1st February 2026

Evaluation process:

Spring 2026

7. POINTS OF CONTACT PROCESS

“BIOEAST Pitching events” info at:

<https://bioeast.eu/bioeast-pitching-events/>

Application form:

Questions regarding the application process may be sent to the following address:

gavin.moroney@bioeconomyfoundation.com

