



INNO4CFIs

Regenerative Carbon Farming

INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program - Guidelines for Applicants

OPEN CALL 4

Validate groundbreaking technologies and accelerate your path to
commercialization

12/01/2026

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Glossary and Abbreviations

CEST	Central Europe Summer Time
CFIs	Carbon Farming Initiatives
CRCS	Circular Economy and Regulatory Compliance Standards
ESR	Evaluation Summary Report
IMUH	Interregional Market Uptake Hub
INNO4CFIs	Acronym for Project's name "Nature-Based Business Model and Emerging INNOvations to enhance Carbon Farming Initiatives (CFIs) while preserving Biodiversity, Water Security and Soil Health"
OC	Open Call
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
TRL	Technology Readiness Level



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Open Call in a nutshell

The **INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program: Empowering Carbon Farming & Climate Pioneers** is calling on innovative **European Green tech SMEs and startups** to foster their market uptake and validate their technologies! This Acceleration Program offers **equity-free support** up to 40 promising solutions/initiatives demonstrating strong market potential and a minimum technological readiness level (TRL of 6).

Participants will benefit from a 3-month tailored Acceleration Program designed to refine their market and technology validation strategies, advance their solutions (up to TRL 9), boost investment readiness, and provide curated connections to investors, suppliers, and potential clients — along with insights from diverse geographic markets across Europe.

A cornerstone of this journey is the opportunity to participate in the **Interregional Market Uptake Hub (IMUH)**, a pan-European network and platform that connects solution seekers with technology providers. Within this dynamic environment, GreenTech solutions with a minimum TRL of 6 can join the platform and follow the pathway that best fits their stage of development. Those aiming to advance and refine their technologies can access the Acceleration Program, which supports them in strengthening their market readiness. Solutions that have already reached higher TRLs, instead, find a dedicated showcase that enhances their visibility and makes it easier for solution seekers to identify mature, ready-to-deploy innovations. Alongside this, a rich ecosystem of metrics and insights offers clear, data-driven perspectives on GreenTech performance and carbon farming, guiding users in understanding trends and making informed decisions. As participants explore the platform, a smart and intuitive matchmaking system connects them with potential partners, clients, and investors, transforming discovery into collaboration. Completing the experience, the Voluntary Carbon Credit Marketplace opens the door to transparent carbon credit exchanges, supporting organizations committed to climate action. Together, these elements make IMUH not just a platform, but a catalyst for growth, connection, and sustainable impact across Europe. Plus, the participants in the INNO4CFIs Acceleration may have the opportunity to integrate the **Carbon Farm Technology Platform**, which is being developed in the INNO4CFIs.

INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program is now accepting applications, through its fourth Open Call process, providing a unique opportunity for up to 15 eligible SMEs and startups to join this transformative journey. Each participant should commit for at least 15 hours throughout the INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program.

All GreenTech solutions will be considered for the INNO4CFIs Acceleration. However, in this Open Call, preference will be given to innovative, carbon farming-related green tech solutions that address environmental challenges and drive sustainable transformation, with strong **climate impact**. These include technologies and solutions for regenerative agriculture, climate-smart use of biomass, and circular, nature-based systems, supportive digital tools for MRV or stakeholder collaboration as well as carbon or impact finance schemes that are provided by SMEs or startups based in Europe. An extensive list of the type of targeted solutions is provided in Annex 1.

Applications must be submitted in the INNO4CFIs page under **F6S platform**, with the **deadline for submission set on March 12th, 2025.**

1. Introduction

This document provides a full set of information regarding the fourth Open Call for project **INNO4CFIs** - Nature-Based Business Model and Emerging INNOvations to enhance Carbon Farming Initiatives (CFIs) while preserving Biodiversity, Water Security and Soil Health.

2. INNO4CFIs - Project overview

The **Project INNO4CFIs** co-funded by the European Union's Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3) is committed to promote disruptive solutions in carbon farming, land management and decarbonization leading to highly effective environmental, economic and social impact. During 36 months (September 2023 - August 2026), a network of 20 partners representing the innovation ecosystem of 13 different regions from 8 European countries (IT, GR, ES, BE, NL, IE, DE, FR), are joining forces to make this a reality.

This project has a dual objective:

- Promoting an **innovative Carbon Farm Technology Platform** as an outcome of the integration of several different technologies to increase CO₂ uptake, while promoting crucial environmental co-benefits such as sustainable freshwater production, dryland and soil restoration and biodiversity. The Platform is a bundle of partners' technologies and services that is customizable according to the specific needs in order to support agroforestry initiatives in different contexts. It consists of specific technologies such as solar desalination and bioremediation, as well as data provision services to collect and tokenize CO₂ sequestration and other environmental data and co-benefits.
- Supporting and showcasing highly innovative carbon farming technologies (with a minimum of TRL6) promoted by European SMEs and startups in the **Interregional Market Uptake Hub (IMUH)**. Through intelligent matchmaking, an interactive technology showcase, and performance metrics, the Hub connects stakeholders with market-ready solutions and promotes their visibility. Designed as an inclusive ecosystem, it accelerates the adoption of regenerative and sustainable practices, reduces territorial disparities, and fosters a fair green transition across Europe.

The **INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program** is a key activity of the IMUH and aims to drive the development and scaling of green technology ventures. Participants will benefit from access to business acceleration resources, tailored mentoring, and networking opportunities to boost their capacity for market entry and growth.

2.1. Open Call Objectives

INNO4CFIs seeks up to 40 SMEs and startups to participate in an INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program: Empowering Carbon Farming & Climate Pioneers to ensure that SMEs and startups across different regions have the opportunity to enhance their capabilities and contribute to a more sustainable and innovative European business landscape.

The objective of this Open Call is to select the fourth (and last) cohort of up to 15 SMEs and startups to participate in the INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program, following specific criteria and a transparent process.

Besides participating in the INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program, the selected companies will also be given the opportunity to:

1. Showcase the company and its tech solution in the IMUH community.
2. Validate the technology developed along with the solutions seeker present in the IMUH.

3. Integrate the solution in the Carbon Farm Technology Platform, if possible and deemed feasible by the technical partners of the project.
4. Gain visibility through dedicated social media campaigns and newsletters' features on the INNO4CFIs communication channels.

2.2. INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program: Empowering Carbon Farming & Green Tech

The Program is designed to support carbon farming startups and SMEs with working prototypes, focusing on advancing their innovations towards investment & market readiness. It employs a challenge-driven approach, offering a structured 3-month Acceleration Program, with tailored entrepreneurial support and curated networking opportunities.

Thanks to the INNO4CFIs expert consortium partners and their local/ global ecosystems, Impact Hub Athens fosters connections and supports participating startups and SMEs by providing access to the European ecosystem of innovators, corporates, research and technology organizations (RTOs), universities, startups, scaleups, and SMEs. This enables them to grow their ventures, refine their technologies, acquire customers, and attract additional investors.

Therefore, the goal is to **help SMEs and startups advance their technologies from TRL 6 (or above) to TRL 9** using expert guidance and ensuring compliance with Circular Economy and Regulatory Compliance Standards (CRCS) and the European Carbon Removal Certification Framework, while simultaneously increasing their visibility, fostering community collaborations, and preparing them for future investment opportunities.

By participating in INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program, companies will also:

- Gain a competitive edge through **tailored support and stakeholder engagement**.
- Ensure market readiness with a strong focus on **community and market needs, compliance, and scalability**.
- Build connections with a powerful network of **investors, policymakers, and industry leaders**.
- Unlock funding opportunities through a state of the art investment readiness process that prepares and connects the startups with different investors, venture capitalists, financial institutions, government programs, and industry partners.

2.2.1. Outline of the Program

After an initial diagnostic process, each participating SME and startup will receive at least **15 hours** of tailored online support, **for 3 months**. All participants will go through **three specialized modules, which will combine** workshops and one-on-one mentoring sessions, plus one extra module that will be decided after the diagnostic session. The three mandatory modules will be:

Module	Description
1 Scaling Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Engineering Strategy & Sustainability: • Defining a clear value proposition and unique selling points (USPs) • Designing sustainable business models for long-term growth • Understanding environmental, social, and governance (ESG) integration • Identifying and leveraging market trends to sustain competitive advantage • Building effective marketing strategies and go-to-market plans

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer segmentation, profiling, and personalized engagement
2 Investment Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Management & Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essentials of financial planning, budgeting, and forecasting • Understanding funding sources, grant opportunities, and investor criteria • Cost structure analysis and revenue model optimization • Preparation of investment package (eg. financial planning, business model and pitching docs)
3 Technological advancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRL advancement (up to TRL9) • Emphasis on community-led innovation and demand-driven scaling • Best practices for validating carbon farming solutions • Regulatory Compliance

Additionally, to the 3 above-mentioned modules and according to the needs of each participating venture, they will be able to also focus on these areas:

- Operations & Global Expansion, focusing on:
 - Designing operational workflows and value chains
 - Supply chain management and sourcing strategies
 - Identifying expansion opportunities and market entry strategies
 - Navigating the challenges of scaling operations internationally
- Leadership, Compliance, and Risk Management, focusing on:
 - Building strong leadership skills and managing high-performing teams
 - Understanding regulatory compliance and legal frameworks
 - Risk assessment, mitigation strategies, and contingency planning
 - Enhancing corporate governance and ethical decision-making

Program Highlights

To support the success of the participating SMEs and startups, the Program provides a set of key activities, events, and milestones that take place monthly:

1. Diagnostics & Customization
 - Diagnostic assessments and tailored plans for startups.
 - Workshops on circular economy, carbon farming, and compliance with European policies.
2. Technology Validation & Knowledge Transfer
 - Emphasis on community-led innovation and demand-driven scaling.
 - Best practices for validating carbon farming solutions.
3. Pilot Projects & Real-World Integration
 - Digital consultations with experts on adapting technologies to the local needs of different regions and energy communities, together with co-designing with the energy communities and other stakeholders.
4. Scaling & Sustainability
 - Finalizing business models with scalability and long-term viability in focus.
 - Meetup events, showcasing startups to investors and stakeholders.

The program will culminate in an online Demo Day where SMEs and startups will showcase their solutions to potential investors and stakeholders, demonstrating their readiness for investment, scaling and long-term sustainability.

Please note that the program will be conducted entirely in English, and candidates are expected to speak the language with confidence.

2.2.2. Timeline for the Acceleration Program

The foreseen timeline for the Program is the following:

<i>Application and selection (check section 5.3.6)</i>	30/01/2026 - 12/03/2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onboarding into the program Diagnostic sessions 	April 2026
Modules & Inspirational talks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Engineering Module Financial Management & Funding Sales:Marketing & Customer Relationships Optional modules & networking events 	April-June 2026
Closing Ceremony - Demo Day	June/July 2026

The program is powered by a diverse network of seasoned mentors and industry-leading experts, drawn not only from the consortium partners but also from their extensive networks. The experts engaged bring years of experience in green technology, business & investment strategy, and scaling startups. Participants will have access to one-on-one mentoring sessions tailored to their unique needs, alongside group workshops led by specialists in areas such as financial planning, regulatory compliance, and global market expansion. These experts, drawn from top organizations and research institutions across Europe, are committed to providing actionable insights, personalized guidance, and connections to help startups achieve their full potential and make a lasting impact.

3. General Information

3.1. Terms and definitions

This section describes the relevant terms that are used in the open call documentation. Unless otherwise stated, the definition of a term is the one stated in this section.

Term	Definition
Applicant	Organisation that intends to submit or has submitted an application to the funding programme.
Participant	Organisation that applied for the program, has been accepted to participate and has signed or is in the process of signing a Participation Agreement.
Application phase	Period when applicants can apply for the Acceleration Program. The open call has a fixed deadline that is automatically enforced.
Evaluation Phase	Period when the consortium evaluates and ranks the applications. At the end of the phase, all applicants are notified of the results of the evaluation.

3.2. Means of submission, Language and Documents format

- **INNO4CFIs Open Call page on the F6S platform** will be the entry point for the submission of all applications to this Open Call. Any application submitted through other channels will be automatically rejected.
- **English is the only official language for submitting to this Open Call.** Submissions done in any language will not be eligible nor evaluated.
- All the documents submitted by the applicants should be in **PDF format**, unless stated otherwise. These must be submitted without restrictions for printing.

4. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this Open Call, applicants must comply with all the following criteria:

- **Application submitted in English and through F6S Platform** (<https://www.f6s.com/ino4cfis-acceleration-program-oc4/apply>).
- **Applicants must fit the following type of applicant:**
 - a. Legally established SMEs¹ or startups²;
 - b. Developing Green Technology solutions (priority will be given to Carbon-Farming related solutions - Annex1).
- **Applicant has its registered office in any EU member-state.**
- **Applicants present solutions that are in TRL 6 or above**, at the moment of submitting the application:
 - Prototype Development: A functional prototype built with key components.
 - Relevant Environment Testing: Testing in conditions similar to real-world use.
 - Subsystem Integration: Validating the interaction of critical subsystems.
 - Performance Validation: Confirming the technology meets performance goals.
 - Risk Assessment: Identifying and addressing potential risks.
 - Documentation: Thorough recording of test plans and results.
- **Applicants submit only one application, describing one solution** (if multiple applications are submitted by the same company, only the later one will be considered).

4.1. Other conditions

Each applicant must confirm:

- It is not under liquidation or is not an enterprise under difficulty according to the [European Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18](#).
- It has not declared bankrupt or initiated bankruptcy procedures.
- It has no convictions for fraudulent behaviour, other financial irregularities, and unethical or illegal business practices.
- Applicants must not have any actual and/or potential conflict of interest with the INNO4CFIs selection process and during the project implementation. All cases of conflict of interest will be assessed case by case (EU Merger Regulation - EC No 139/2004).

¹ According to the EU definition: https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-fundamentals/sme-definition_en

² Since there is no binding European definition of a 'startup' across all member states, for the purposes of this Open Call, a startup is defined as a company that is younger than ten years, offers an innovative product, service, or business model, and has the intention to scale up by increasing its number of employees, turnover, or market reach.

5. Open Call: from Application to selection

The submission of applications to the INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program will follow the steps listed in this section. **The open call launches on 30 January 2026 and the deadline for submission of applications is on 12 March 2026 (17:00, Brussels time).**

5.1. Open Call publication and documentation

The open call is supported by the following documentation, which can be found at (<https://inno4cfis.eu/open-calls>). Applicants are encouraged to consult all relevant files before proceeding with the submission:

- **Guidelines for Applicants**, the present document.
- **Application form**, available at F6S platform (Apply via: <https://www.f6s.com/inno4cfis-acceleration-program-oc4/apply>).
- **Priority Carbon Farming-related technologies (Annex 1)**
- **Participation Agreement (Annex 2)**, to be signed only by successful applicants.

5.2. How to Apply successfully

For a successfully completed application, please follow the steps below:

- **Register in F6S Platform:** Applicants are required to register on the [F6S platform](#) to submit their application. They need to create a profile to be able to access the Open Call dedicated. Please follow the instructions provided directly on the F6S platform. This will be the central interface for managing the applications.
- **Get familiar with the documentation:** Applicants are encouraged to consult all relevant files found at (<https://inno4cfis.eu/open-calls>), before proceeding with the application.
- **Fill in all necessary information:** Be specific and concise. Questions in the online forms have character limits. Please examine the Guidelines and visit the INNO4CFIs project website for more information. Remember that all requested information and documents must be attached in English.
- **Submit when ready:** It is strongly recommended that applicants submit their application ahead of the deadline. If the applicant discovers an error in the application, and the call is still running, the applicant may request to re-open and re-submit the application. If multiple submissions are found, only the latest submitted application will be considered.

5.3. Evaluation and selection

5.3.1. Step 1: Eligibility verification

Each application's eligibility will be verified by INNO4CFIs. Please refer to Chapter 4, for detailed information on eligibility criteria.

After processing all applications, INNO4CFIs will classify as ineligible the ones not complying with all eligibility criteria. The respective applicants will be notified by email about their ineligibility, within 4 weeks after the closing date.

Only the eligible applications will be evaluated in the next stage of the process.

5.3.2. Step 2: Evaluation

All applicants passing the eligibility check will pass to the next evaluation step. The evaluation will be conducted remotely by an **internal committee, composed by members of INNO4CFIs consortium partners**.

The committee will review each application and prepare an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) where they will score and comment on the following evaluation criteria:

- **Criterion C1 | Motivation & Program Relevance** (Threshold 2 | Score 1-5): Applicants explain their motivation and commitment to join the Acceleration Program and their ambition to contribute to both the Program and the Project.
- **Criterion C2 | Team Skills & Expertise** (Threshold 2 | Score 1-5): Applicants showcase their capacity, skills and knowledge, team composition (recommended at least 2 founders), technical and business-oriented co-founders, confirming they have the resources and expertise to participate in the Program.
- **Criterion C3 | Innovation and Technological Excellence** (Threshold 2 | Score 1-5): Applicants showcase their solution, explaining how innovative and novel it is, its technical viability and detailing its readiness level (TRL 6+).
- **Criterion C4 | Business and Financial Viability** (Threshold 2 | Score 1-5): Applicants demonstrate a robust business & financial model and the plan to address the sustainability and replicability of the proposed solution.
- **Criterion C5 | Geographical priorities** (Yes/No): Priority will be given to applicants officially registered one in one of the following regions:
 - **Italy:** Lazio (IT14), Lombardia (ITC4), Toscana (IT11)
 - **Netherlands:** Zuid-Holland (NL33)
 - **Ireland:** Eastern and Midland (IE06)
 - **Belgium:** Région de Bruxelles-Capitale/Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest (BE10), Prov. Liège (BE33)
 - **Spain:** Castilla y León (ES41), Comunitat Valenciana (ES52)
 - **Greece:** Attiki (EL30)
 - **Germany:** Stuttgart (DE11), Berlin (DE30)
 - **France:** Midi-Pyrénées (FR62).
 - Any of the **Less Development regions** (as listed in the Annex 1 of [EC decision 2021/1130](#))
- **Criterion C6 | Carbon Farming technologies** (Yes/No): Priority will be given to applicants with a green technology or innovative solution connected to carbon farming, as outlined in Annex 1.

Score definition regarding evaluation process varies as follows:

Score 1 Poor	The proposal addresses the criterion in an inadequate manner or there are significant
Score 2 Fair	The proposal addresses the criterion broadly, but there are still several weaknesses.
Score 3 Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but improvements are necessary.
Score 4 Very Good	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but some improvements are still possible.
Score 5 Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The application score is calculated based on the average of the scores provided by the evaluators to C1, C2, C3 and C4. The threshold for each criterion is two (2), therefore any application with at least one criterion with a score less than two is automatically rejected.

If all scores are above the threshold (i.e, if application is not rejected), **additional 3 points will be given to applicants:**

- From the regions listed in Criteria 5; and/or
- With carbon-farming related green tech solutions, as detailed in Annex 1 - Criteria 6.

The overall score of the application will include these extra points, if applications meet the respective criteria (C5=YES; C6=YES).

Each evaluator will record their individual assessment of each proposal using an Individual Evaluation Report (ISR). A single Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) will be prepared by the Evaluation Panel, representing opinions and scores on which the evaluators agree.

5.3.3. Step 3: Interviews and request for documentation

Individual interviews with the applicants may be conducted if the Evaluation Committee finds unclear information or feels the need to clarify a specific question. They will be settled on a date that is convenient for the applicant and evaluators.

After these interviews, specific evaluation scores for C1, C2, C3 and C4 may change.

In addition, extra documentation may be requested by the OC Management Team during the Evaluation Phase.

5.3.4. Step 4: Ranking of the applications and selection

At the end of the evaluation process all applications will be ranked by the INNO4CFIs consortium based on their scores and included in a single list. The criteria for the ranking of the applications will be semi-automatic following the rules below:

- Rule 1: Applications will be ranked based on their overall score (average total scores of C1, C2, C3, and C4 plus extra 3 to 6 points if C5=YES / C6=YES).
- Rule 2: In the case that Rule 1 produces applications with the same ranking position, priority will be given to applications that have higher cumulative score in criteria: C1 + C4
- Rule 3: In the case that Rule 2 still produces applications with the same ranking position, priority will be given to applications that have higher scores in criteria C3.
- Rule 4: In the case that Rule 3 still produces applications with the same ranking position, priority will be given to applications that have higher scores in criteria C2.

After applying these tie-break rules, if there are still proposals in the same position, priority will be given to those with a woman in a decision-making position.

All eligible applicants will receive evaluation results within four weeks from the open call deadline, including the score of their application and confirmation of selection to participate in the INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program.

All applicants will receive an acceptance or rejection letter together with an anonymized version of their ESR, including scores and rationale.

5.3.4.1. Redress process

An applicant may submit a request for redress if they believe the results of the eligibility checks were incorrectly applied or if there was a shortcoming in the application of the INNO4CFIs Open Call rules. Requests for redress must:

- Be received within three (3) working days from reception of the rejection letter considering the application as non-eligible or the ESR information letter.
- Clearly indicate the subject of the complaint and provide a detailed description with supporting arguments and evidence.
- Be sent by the applicant's legal representative that has also submitted the application.

All requests for redress will be treated in confidence and must be sent to inno4cfis.opencalls@f6s.com.

5.3.5. Step 5: Signing the Participation Agreement

The selected applicants will be invited to sign a Participation Agreement, according to the template included in the documentation kit and listed as Annex 2, confirming their interest and time investment to participate in the First Cohort of the INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program.

5.3.6. Expected timeline from application to selection

Submission of Applications	30/01/2026 - 12/03/2026
Eligibility Check - Evaluation - Ranking - Selection (includes interviews, if needed)	12/03/2026 - 27/03/2026
Announcement of selected SMEs and startups	27/03/2026 - 31/03/2026
Signing the Participation Agreement	

6. Ethical Issues

INNO4CFIs complies with the fundamental ethical issues particularly those outlined in the "European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity".

If the applicant confirms the existence of potential ethical issues, they must contact the INNO4CFIs Helpdesk for guidance, as required.

Applications that fail to properly address ethical issues or inadequately deal with privacy aspects will be rejected.

7. Data protection

In order to process and evaluate applications, and manage project implementation, the INNO4CFIs consortium will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data.

F6S Network Ireland Limited, will act as Data Controller for data submitted through the F6S platform for these purposes. Please see our privacy policy [here](#).

A Data Protection Officer (DPO) has been appointed by F6S generally, to ensure compliance with data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and that personal data is collected, processed, and stored in a secure manner.

The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure compliance. Please refer to <https://www.f6s.com/privacy-policy> to review the F6S platform's privacy policy and data security policy.

Apart from the F6S platform, data will also be stored in the F6S Google Drive, and in the project repository on Google Drive managed by the project coordinator E. Amaldi Foundation (FEA).

Note that the INNO4CFIs consortium must retain generated data until five years after the balance of the INNO4CFIs project is paid or longer if there are ongoing procedures (such as audits, investigations or litigation). In this case, the data must be kept until their conclusion.

8. Confidentiality obligations

The confidentiality obligations are as follows:

- Selected applicants are required to maintain confidential any project data, documents, invoices and other materials (in any form) during the implementation of the activities and for 5 years after project completion.
- This confidentiality period can be extended by agreement with the EC and the INNO4CFIs consortium.
- Information shared during the project, whether written or spoken, is only considered confidential if the INNO4CFIs agrees and confirms it in writing within 15 days.
- Confidential information must only be used for project implementation, unless otherwise agreed upon.
- Any information shared during the application stage will be treated as confidential.

9. Contact information

The INNO4CFIs consortium will provide information to the applicants primarily via F6S Discussion Forum for OC4 of INNO4CFIs Acceleration Program (<https://www.f6s.com/inno4cfis-acceleration-program-oc4/discuss>), so that all information (questions and answers) will be accessible to all potential applicants. No binding information will be provided via any other means (e.g., telephone or email).

- Apply via F6S Platform: (<https://www.f6s.com/inno4cfis-acceleration-program-oc4/apply>)
- More info about INNO4CFIs at: <https://inno4cfis.eu/>
- F6S support team (for platform issues during the application): support@f6s.com
- To redress the process: inno4cfis.opencalls@f6s.com.

Annex 1 – Priority Carbon Farming-related technologies

There exists a wide spectrum of green technologies and innovative solutions which are connected in one way or the other to the concept of carbon farming by sequestering CO₂ through climate-smart land use – and which match nicely with the scope of the INNOCFEis Acceleration Program. The list below provides an overview on the type of solutions which are prioritized in the current Open Call:

1. Regenerative Agriculture

- a. Minimal-Invasive and Regenerative Techniques: No-till, strip-till, multi-cropping, cover cropping, silvopasture, managed grazing with GPS and sensor integration for landscape carbon management.
- b. Biostimulants, Soil Health & Regeneration: Biochar, compost, microbial inoculants (mycorrhizae, rhizobia), and seed coatings for improving soil carbon, health, fertility, and crop resilience.
- c. Crop Innovations: Climate-resilient, drought- and salt-tolerant varieties (via traditional breeding or gene editing), perennial grains/crops for marginal lands (e.g. Miscanthus, Kernza, Switchgrass).
- d. Landscape & Multistakeholder Collaboration: Participatory watershed restoration, peatland and wetland management, agroforestry corridors, and WEFE nexus (Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystem) schemes linking farm-level practices with regional carbon programs, community engagement, and science–policy platforms for shared landscape regeneration.

2. Biomass Conversion & Valorization, BECCS

- a. Thermochemical Carbonization: Pyrolysis, hydrothermal carbonization (HTC), torrefaction, and related processes converting dry or wet biomass into biochar or hydrochar, syngas, and bio-oil. Includes slow, fast, and catalytic pyrolysis, HTC of biowaste and sludge, and integrated bioenergy systems enabling long-term carbon retention and renewable heat or power generation.
- b. Biorefineries & Bio-based Materials: Integrated systems producing advanced biofuels, green chemicals, bioplastics, and biomaterials through biochemical and thermochemical pathways. Encompasses lignocellulosic ethanol, algae-based refineries, fermentation and gas fermentation, and conversion of agricultural residues into hempcrete, biocomposites, or bioresins within circular, low-carbon manufacturing chains.
- c. Bioenergy & Carbon Capture: Gasification, advanced combustion, anaerobic digestion, and biomethane upgrading with biogenic CO₂ capture. Covers combined heat and power generation, biomass gas-turbine and steam-cycle integration, biohydrogen production from gasification, and carbon-negative energy systems connecting biochemical and thermochemical routes with modern carbon recovery and storage solutions.
- d. Circular Agro-Waste Use: Valorization of agricultural residues through industrial symbiosis and bio-circular flows. Includes upcycling straw, husks, and stalks into compost, packaging, bio-based panels, or insulation; supplying fibers and feedstocks to biorefineries and pyrolysis systems that close carbon and nutrient loops across agri-food and rural industries.

3. AI-based and Precision Farming

- a. Climate-smart Robotics & Precision Farming: Automation, robotics, sensors for seeding, weeding, planting, harvesting and crop management.
- b. AI-Based Farm Planning & Analytics: Predictive analytics and decision support, AI-powered crop simulation, regenerative design, resource optimization, tree–crop pairings, carbon and biodiversity monitoring.

4. Urban Green Infrastructure

- a. Climate-smart Green infrastructure: Tiny forests, rooftop farms, vertical greenery on building facades, and other schemes which help reduce urban heat, improve air quality, and act as biogenic carbon sinks

5. Agrivoltaics

- a. Dual-Use Agrivoltaic Systems: Co-location of photovoltaic panels with crops or livestock using elevated, vertical, or tracking structures that produce electricity while enhancing soil moisture, moderating temperature, and supporting grazing, pollinators, or shade-tolerant crops.
- b. Renewable-Integrated Farming Systems: Complementary setups combining agriculture with solar irrigation, wind micro-turbines, geothermal heating or cooling, and on-farm microgrids – each supporting local energy generation, optimized irrigation, energy storage, and climate control for resilient production.

6. Seawater Agriculture, Water Harvesting, and Blue Carbon

- a. Water Harvesting & Smart Irrigation: AI-driven smart irrigation (drip, fog nets, soil sensors), harvesting (rainwater, greywater), and on-farm desalination for climate adaptation.
- b. Seawater Agriculture: Using halophytic crops and innovative cultivation methods for salt-affected or marginal lands, aiding blue carbon sequestration.
- c. Coastal Blue Carbon: Seagrass meadow restoration and conservation, coastal saltmarsh protection and rewetting, and enhancement of seaweed and macroalgae habitats as long-term marine carbon sinks .

7. Mineral Carbon Capture

- a. Enhanced Weathering: Application of finely ground silicate minerals (e.g. basalt, olivine) to accelerate CO₂ mineralization in soils, forming stable carbonates while improving soil structure, pH, and nutrient availability.
- b. Soil Mineralization (using industrial by-products): Use of alkaline materials such as steel slag, cement dust, or fly ash to capture CO₂ through mineral carbonation, enhance soil carbon stocks, and support restoration of degraded or marginal lands.

8. Monitoring, Reporting, Verification

- a. Data Measurement and Management: Field sensors, drone imaging, satellite mapping, IoT soil and greenhouse gas monitors, portable spectrometry – integrated multi-source data fusion for automated, transparent crediting and compliance.
- b. Smart MRV Platforms & Apps: Blockchain-based and digital platforms for project and registry management, combining mobile/web apps with digital dashboards, automated documentation, and real-time certification.
- c. Carbon Accounting and Life Cycle Assessment: Carbon calculators, life cycle assessment (LCA) platforms, supply chain tracking, digital verification, blockchain for emission data and traceability, AI-enabled analytics, farm-to-fork transparency, scope 3 emission mapping, automated reporting.

9. Finance & Carbon Markets

- a. Carbon & Nature Finance: Integrated financial models aligning carbon markets with biodiversity and ecosystem restoration. Includes high-integrity carbon crediting, biodiversity and water credits, blended finance for nature-based solutions, and tokenized environmental assets enabling transparent, multi-benefit impact investment.
- b. Digital & Impact Finance: Fintech innovations using blockchain, digital wallets, and smart contracts for automated transactions, impact-linked payments, and traceable crediting systems.
- c. Crowdfunding & Market Platforms: Decentralized investment and marketplace models for financing carbon farming solutions – connecting land stewards, investors, and consumers through digital platforms that trade carbon credits, nature credits, ecosystem services, and climate-positive products.

Annex 2 – Participation Agreement (template)

Participation Agreement - *TEMPLATE*

Activity Reference (s)	T8.3 & T8.4
Name of project	Acceleration Program, supported by the project: "Nature-Based Business Model and Emerging INNOvations to enhance Carbon Farming Initiatives (CFIs) while preserving Biodiversity, Water Security and Soil Health" (INNO4CFIs) (https://inno4cfis.eu/)"
Year of the data reported	
Name of the Start-Up supported	
If Agreement is not in English, provide English summary <i>Ensure you cover services provided</i>	

Supporting Evidence:

Signed Agreement (attached) that complies with the evidence requirements.

**INNO4CFIs Participation Agreement
(hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement")**

**Concluded pursuant to the Greek Civil Code, as amended
(hereinafter referred to as the "Civil Code"),**

between

Name of the company:
ID NO.:
Registered office:
Represented by
Website:
(hereinafter referred to as "Organizer")

and

Name of the company:
ID NO.:
Registered office:
Represented by
Website:
(hereinafter referred to as "Participant")

(The Organizer and the Participant together hereinafter referred to as the "Parties" and each individually as a "Party").

1. INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

1.1. Participant hereby commits to participate in the Acceleration Program (the "Program"), which will run from April to June 2026.

1.2. The Program offers tailored mentoring, strategic guidance, and networking opportunities to enhance the Participant's business development and sustainability impact.

2. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTICIPANT

2.1. The Participant agrees to the following during the term of the Program:

2.1.1. Proactively communicate with his/her mentor with whom he/she will be connected during the Program;

2.1.2. Proactively engage with the experts with whom he/she will be connected during the Program;

2.1.3. Prepare thoroughly for each meeting with the mentor; this means always completing the tasks agreed with the mentor in the previous meeting before the next meeting with the mentor;

2.1.4. Attend the final meeting with the mentor as well as with the representatives of the Program;

2.1.5. Attend scheduled workshops and other training events organized by the Program (e.g. mastermind groups, community events);

2.1.6. To provide the Organizer with all necessary assistance to fulfill the conditions of participation in the Program and this Agreement.

2.2. The Participant further agrees to conscientiously, properly and timely perform the tasks assigned during the Program and to regularly communicate (report) his/her progress to the Organizer's organizational team.

2.3. In connection with his/her participation in the Program, the Participant further agrees to provide the Organizer with his/her consent to the use of photographs from the events organised under the Program for marketing purposes; the Participant also agrees to provide this consent to all members of the Participant's team. The participant agrees to incorporate to the ventures digital means the logos of Impact Hub Athens as well as the one of the Organizer until the end of 2026.

2.4. The Participant is obliged to act with professional care during the Program and to comply with applicable laws and regulations.

2.5. The Participant shall notify the Organizer without undue delay of any circumstances that may affect his/her participation in the Program and/or the proper performance of his/her obligations under this Agreement.

2.6. The Participant declares that he/she has all the necessary qualifications, knowledge, and abilities to participate in the Program under this Agreement. The Participant further declares that the startup fulfills all the eligibility criteria as outlined in the Open Call Guidelines for Applicants, including meeting the applicant type requirements specified in section 4.1, presenting solutions within the appropriate TRL range as described in section 4.1, and being based in an eligible region as indicated in section 4.2. The Participant undertakes to ensure that the goodwill of the Organizer is not harmed by his/her participation in the Program.

2.7 Participants are expected to engage actively and professionally throughout the duration of the Acceleration Program. This includes: Timely participation, such as being punctual for scheduled sessions and calls, responding to emails and scheduling requests (including Doodle polls) within a reasonable timeframe, and generally respecting agreed timelines. Active involvement on the IMUH platform, including participation in discussions, activities, and other program-related interactions as reasonably required. Program feedback and testimonial: As part of the program's completion, participants agree to provide one testimonial, including a short video testimonial, which may be used by the Program Organizers for communication and social media purposes. These expectations are intended to ensure a productive, collaborative, and valuable experience for all participants.

3. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE ORGANISER

3.1. The Organizer agrees to provide the Participant with access to up to five (5) experts for the duration of the Program, with each expert devoting one (1) hour of consultation to the Participant's team throughout the Program.

3.2. The Organiser also agrees to provide the Participant with (i) comprehensive support from the Organiser's organizational team, (ii) recommended study and/or other professional background or materials on the Participant's business plan, (iii) the opportunity to consult and utilize the extensive expertise of the Organiser and its professional advisors (e.g. mentors or experts) on the Participant's business plan as part of the Program.

3.3. The Organiser declares that it has all the necessary knowledge and skills to properly conduct the Program under this Agreement. The Organiser undertakes to exercise the utmost discretion in its activities and to ensure that the reputation of the Participant is not damaged.

4. CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

4.1. The Parties acknowledge that during the Program, confidential and proprietary information may be disclosed, including but not limited to:

- Business plans, strategies, pricing, financial data.
- Proprietary technologies, methodologies, and intellectual property.
- Investor relations, funding strategies.
- Personal and professional information of experts, mentors, or investors.
- Any program-related documents, frameworks, presentations, or reports.

4.2. The Organizer shall ensure that any and all external parties, including without limitation business coaches, mentors, consultants, or other third parties, who may receive, access, or otherwise be exposed to the Participant's Confidential Information in the course of or in connection with the Program, have executed a written confidentiality and/or non-disclosure agreement in form and substance satisfactory to the Participant, obligating such parties to maintain the confidentiality of such information and to use it solely for the purposes of the Program.

4.3 All such information shall be deemed **Confidential Information**, unless:

- It becomes publicly known through no fault of the Receiving Party;
- It is lawfully obtained from a third party not bound by confidentiality obligations;
- It is independently developed without reference to the Confidential Information.

4.4. Obligations of the Participant:

The Participant (Receiving Party) agrees to:

- a. Use the Confidential Information solely for the purposes of the Program;
- b. Keep all such information strictly confidential and restrict access only to authorized team members or legal representatives who need to know;
- c. Ensure any such persons are also bound by confidentiality obligations;
- d. Notify the Organizer immediately in the event of unauthorized access or disclosure.

4.5. Upon completion of the Program or upon request, the Participant shall return or destroy all Confidential Information, unless retention is required by law.

4.6. This confidentiality obligation shall remain in force for **three (3) years** after the end of the Program, with no expiry for trade secrets or proprietary materials considered essential by the Disclosing Party.

4.7. This section does not grant any rights, licenses, or ownership over the disclosed Confidential Information.

5. DURATION AND TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT

5.1. This Agreement is entered into for a definite term for the duration of the Program [July 2026].

5.2. The Organizer may terminate this Agreement with immediate effect in the event of a material breach by the Participant. In particular, the following shall be deemed to be material breach to this Agreement:

5.2.1. Breach of any of the Participant's obligations and/or any of the Participant's obligations under this Agreement (in particular the obligations specified in Article 2 of this Agreement);

5.3. In the event of withdrawal and/or other termination of this Agreement by either Party, the obligation shall terminate on the date of termination of this Agreement and the Parties shall retain all mutual performance to date. Section 2004(1). CivilCode shall not apply.

6. FINAL PROVISIONS

6.1. Communication between the Parties within the framework or the performance of this Agreement shall be carried out through contact persons. The Organizer's contact person is **Mika Panagiotopoulou**, tel.: +30 2103210146, email: mika.panagiotopoulou@impacthub.net

6.2. This Agreement shall enter into force and effect upon its signing date by both Parties.

6.3. The Parties shall keep each other informed of all facts which are or may be relevant to the proper performance of this Agreement. This Agreement, as well as the rights and obligations arising under or in connection with this Agreement shall be governed by Greek law. If a ground of invalidity applies only to a provision of this Agreement, only that provision shall be invalid unless its nature or content, or the circumstances in which it was agreed, show that it cannot be separated from the rest of the Agreement.

6.2. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement and supersedes all prior understandings of the Parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

6.3. This Agreement may be amended only by written agreement of the Parties hereto, except that amendment of this Agreement in a less restrictive form shall not be permitted.

6.4. This Agreement is executed in two (2) counterparts, of which each Party shall receive one (1) copy.

In [city, country] - [date]

In [city, country] - [date]

Full Name & Signature

(Organiser)
On Behalf of Impact Hub Athens

(Participant)

