



Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

Call for proposals

CEF 2 Energy - Projects of Common Interest and Projects of Mutual Interest

CEF-E-2026-PCI-PMI

(CEF-E-2026-PCI-PMI-WORKS and CEF-E-2026-PCI-PMI-STUDIES)

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EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.B – Sustainable networks and investments
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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

0. Introduction	3
1. Background.....	5
2. Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities that can be funded — Expected impact	6
Objectives (expected outcome)	6
Themes and priorities (scope)	7
Activities that can be funded (scope).....	7
Expected impact (expected results)	9
3. Available budget	10
4. Timetable and deadlines	10
5. Admissibility and documents	10
6. Eligibility.....	13
Eligible participants (eligible countries).....	13
Consortium composition	14
Eligible activities.....	14
Geographic location (target countries).....	14
7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion.....	15
Financial capacity	15
Operational capacity	15
Exclusion.....	16
8. Evaluation and award procedure.....	17
9. Award criteria.....	18
10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements.....	19
Starting date and project duration	19
Milestones and deliverables.....	20
Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount.....	20
Budget categories and cost eligibility rules.....	20
Prefinancing guarantees	22
Liability regime for recoveries	23
Provisions concerning the project implementation.....	23
Other specificities	23
Non-compliance and breach of contract	23
11. How to submit an application.....	24
12. Help	25
13. Important	26

O. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU action grants in the field of Energy under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2024/2509 ([EU Financial Regulation](#)¹)
- the basic act (CEF Regulation [2021/1153](#)²).

The call is launched in accordance with the 2021-2027 Work Programme³ and will be managed by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('Agency').

The call covers the following topics:

- CEF-E-2026-PCI-PMI-WORKS
- CEF-E-2026-PCI-PMI-STUDIES

NOTE: The **term 'project' used in this application form and other documents is synonymous to the term 'action' used in the CEF Regulation 2021/1153.**

Each project application under the call must address only one of these topics. Applicants wishing to apply for more than one topic, must submit a separate proposal under each topic.

We invite you to read the call documentation carefully, and in particular this Call Document, the [Model Grant Agreement](#), the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement.

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call Document](#) outlines the:
 - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
 - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
 - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
 - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
 - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

² Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility (OJ L 249, 14.7.2021, p. 38).

³ Commission Implementing Decision C(2025) 6127 final of 12.9.2025 amending the Commission Implementing Decision C(2024)482 on the financing of the energy of the energy sector under the Connecting Europe Facility and the adoption of the multiannual work programme for the period 2021-2027.

- award criteria (section 9)
- legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
- how to submit an application (section 11)
- the [Online Manual](#) outlines the:
 - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal (**'Portal'**)
 - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#) contains:
 - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

You are also encouraged to consult the [list of projects](#) previously funded under CEF.

1. Background

Adequate, well-integrated and reliable energy networks are a prerequisite for a secure, sustainable and competitive internal energy market. They are a key element of the REPowerEU plan⁴ to increase the resilience of the EU wide energy system and security of energy supply. They play a key enabling role in the transition to a climate neutral economy fostered by the European Green Deal⁵. They are recognised as an indispensable element of the Competitiveness Compass for Europe⁶ and the Clean Industrial Deal⁷, which call for more investment in grids to accompany the progress towards a net zero energy system and leverage the benefits of its Single Energy Market. Cross-border energy networks enable further market integration, which ensures that households and industrial customers have a wider direct access to low-cost energy, in line with the objective of the [Affordable Energy Action Plan](#)⁸. This, however, can be realised only by strengthening our energy infrastructure. It is therefore imperative to take decisive actions to resolve structural issues in EU energy infrastructure planning and implementation to successfully deliver a genuine Energy Union that enables energy

⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: REPowerEU Plan, [COM/2022/230 final](#).

⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: The European Green Deal, [COM/2019/640 final](#).

⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A Competitiveness Compass for the EU, [COM/2025/30 final](#).

⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: The Clean Industrial Deal: A joint roadmap for competitiveness and decarbonisation, [COM/2025/85 final](#).

⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Action Plan for Affordable Energy - Unlocking the true value of our Energy Union to secure affordable, efficient and clean energy for all Europeans, [COM/2025/79 final](#).

independence, strengthens our competitiveness, drives decarbonization, and fosters our energy security, as set out in the [European Grids Package](#)⁹.

The aim of the Connecting Europe Facility Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 is to accelerate investment in the field of trans-European networks and to leverage funding from public and private sources. While the bulk of the investment needed in the energy sector should be delivered by the market and its costs recovered through tariffs, EU financing may be needed for specific projects with wider regional and European benefits which are unable to attract sufficient market-based financing.

As laid down in the TEN-E Regulation¹⁰, last amended by Commission Delegated act ([Second Union list of Projects of Common Interest \(PCIs\) and Projects of Mutual Interest \(PMIs\)](#)), Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) are key infrastructure projects aimed at completing the European internal energy market and help the EU to achieve its energy and climate objectives: delivering affordable, secure and sustainable energy for all Europeans while pursuing a climate-neutral economy by 2050. Projects of Mutual Interest (PMIs) are key cross-border energy infrastructure projects between the EU and non-EU countries, which contribute to the energy and climate policy objectives of the Union.

PCIs and PMIs must contribute to at least one of the 11 strategic geographical energy infrastructure priority corridors, identified in the fields of electricity, offshore grids, hydrogen and electrolysers, and the three Union-wide energy infrastructure priority areas for smart electricity grids, smart gas grids and carbon dioxide networks, and a framework for the identification, planning and implementation of PMIs developed by the Union together with third countries in the fields of electricity, hydrogen and carbon dioxide networks. PCIs and PMIs must feature overall benefits outweighing their costs and meet general and specific criteria in relation to their cross-border impact, sustainability, market integration, security of supply, competition, and contribution to the decarbonisation of the energy sector.

According to Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 of the European Parliament and of the Council, establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, on the basis of the Multiannual Work Programme 2021-2027 C(2025)6127 adopted on 12 September 2025, a call for proposals is launched to support PCIs and PMIs as defined in the TEN-E Regulation 2022/869.

2. Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities that can be funded — Expected impact

Objectives (expected outcome)

Both, studies and works, topics under this call aim to enable PCIs and PMIs to be implemented within the framework of the deployment of trans-European networks in the energy sector. In particular, the call shall contribute to supporting energy infrastructure PCIs and PMIs that have significant socio-economic benefits and ensure greater solidarity among Member States, but which do not receive adequate financing from the market.

⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: European Grids Package, [COM/2025/1005 final](#)

¹⁰ Regulation (EU) 2022/869 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, amending Regulations (EC) No 715/2009, (EU) 2019/942 and (EU) 2019/943 and Directives 2009/73/EC and (EU) 2019/944, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 347/2013.

Projects supported by this call pursue the goals and objectives of the European Green Deal, as well as the Paris Agreement and the 2030 climate and energy targets and long-term decarbonisation objectives. Therefore, financial assistance provided under this call for proposals should maximise its added value towards decarbonisation of the energy sector. The European Grids Package¹¹ underlines the critical importance of energy infrastructure in the energy transition.

The objective of studies and works is to support and contribute to the implementation of PCIs and PMIs.

Themes and priorities (scope)

Both topics under this call will support the implementation of PCIs and PMIs within the framework of the deployment of trans-European networks in the energy sector.

In accordance with Article 20(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1153, particular consideration shall be given to PCIs and related actions aimed at further integrating the internal market for energy, ending energy isolation and eliminating electricity interconnection bottlenecks with emphasis on those projects contributing to the achievement of the interconnection target of at least 15% by 2030 and projects contributing to synchronisation of electricity systems with the EU networks. In line with article 3 (2) (b) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1153, this call for proposal puts priority on technologies and PCIs contributing to the decarbonisation of the economy. In addition, the priorities of the TEN-E Regulation shall be considered, such as the need to reflect the expected increase in the consumption of biogas, renewable and low-carbon hydrogen and synthetic gaseous fuels (recitals 13 and 15 to 17), as well as the need to stepping up investment in offshore electricity grids with the aim of reaching at least 300 GW of offshore wind generation (recitals 22 and 23). It is considered that the EU added value of an action related to a PCI or a PMI is demonstrated by the PCI / PMI status itself.

Activities that can be funded (scope)

CEF-E-2026-PCI-PMI-STUDIES

This topic refers to projects for studies contributing to the preparation of the implementation of a PCI or a PMI. Studies in the meaning of CEF Energy include activities needed to prepare project implementation, such as preparatory, mapping, feasibility, evaluation, testing and validation studies, including in the form of software, and any other technical support measure, including prior action to define and develop a project and decide on its financing, site / route identification and preparation of the financial package.

Only projects contributing to PCIs and PMIs as identified in the [Second Union list of PCIs and PMIs](#) shall be eligible for support through EU financial aid in the form of grants.

Pursuant to Article 18 of the TEN-E Regulation, PCIs or PMIs falling under the energy infrastructure categories set out in Article 24 and Annex II of the TEN-E Regulation are eligible for EU financial assistance in the form of grants for studies. Please note that failure to comply with the eligibility criteria indicated above will lead to the rejection of the application.

CEF-E-2026-PCI-PMI-WORKS

This topic refers to projects for works contributing to the implementation of a PCI or a PMI. Works in the meaning of CEF-Energy include the purchase, supply and deployment of components, systems and services including software, the development, construction

¹¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: European Grids Package, [COM/2025/1005 final](#)

and installation activities relating to the eligible infrastructure items of a given PCI or PMI, the acceptance of installations and the launching of a project.

In particular, specific provisions apply in relation to, inter alia, the existence of significant positive externalities, a cross-border cost allocation decision, and the **project's inability to** be financed by the market or through the regulatory framework. Specific co-funding rates may also apply according to the level of demonstrated positive externalities of the action.

Only projects contributing to PCIs and PMIs as identified in the [Second Union list of PCIs and PMIs](#) shall be eligible for support through EU financial aid in the form of grants.

Pursuant to Article 18(2) and (3) of the TEN-E Regulation, PCIs/PMIs falling under the categories set out in Article 24 (derogation for gas interconnections in Cyprus and Malta) and in Annex II, point (1)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (f) (electricity projects, except smart electricity grids and electricity storage projects that are not regulated) and point (3) (hydrogen projects), are also eligible for Union financial assistance in the form of grants for works if they fulfil all of the following criteria:

- (a) the project specific cost-benefit analysis drawn up pursuant to Article 16(4), point (a), of the TEN-E Regulation provides evidence concerning the existence of significant positive externalities, such as security of supply, system flexibility, solidarity or innovation;
- (b) the project has received a cross-border cost allocation decision¹² pursuant to Article 16 of the TEN-E Regulation or, as regards projects of common interest falling under the energy infrastructure category set out in point (3) of Annex II (hydrogen projects), where they do not fall under the competence of national regulatory authorities and therefore they do not receive a cross-border cost allocation decision, the project aims to provide services across borders, brings technological innovation and ensures the safety of cross-border grid operation;
- (c) the project cannot be financed by the market or through the regulatory framework in accordance with the business plan and other assessments, in particular those carried out by possible investors, creditors or the national regulatory authority, taking into account any decision on incentives and reasons referred to in Article 17(2) of the TEN-E Regulation when assessing the project's need for Union financial assistance.

Pursuant to Article 18(4) of the TEN-E Regulation, PCIs/PMIs falling under the energy infrastructure categories set out in Annex II, point (1)(e) (smart electricity grids) and points (2) (smart gas grids) and (5) (carbon dioxide projects), are also eligible for Union financial assistance in the form of grants for works, where the concerned project promoters, in an evaluation carried out by the relevant national authority or, where applicable, the national regulatory authority, can clearly demonstrate significant positive externalities generated by the projects, such as security of supply, system flexibility, solidarity or innovation, and provide clear evidence of their lack of commercial viability, in accordance with the cost-benefit analysis, the business plan and assessments carried out, in particular by possible investors or creditors or, where applicable, a national regulatory authority. Electricity storage projects that are not

¹² Electricity storage projects falling under the category set out in point (1)(c) of Annex II that are regulated and financed through the national tariff systems need to provide a cross-border cost allocation (CBCA) decision in line with Article 16 and Article 18(2)(b). Electricity storage projects that are not regulated need to meet, by analogy, the requirements of Article 18(4), as it is not possible for them to request a CBCA decision.

regulated need to meet, by analogy, the requirements of Article 18(4), as it should not be possible for them to request a CBCA decision.

For projects of common interest falling under Article 24 of the TEN-E Regulation (Cyprus and Malta derogation), in addition to the specific criteria set out in Article 19 for Union financial assistance, the interconnections referred in paragraph 1 of the Article shall be designed in view of ensuring access to future energy markets, including hydrogen, shall not lead to a prolongation of the lifetime of natural gas assets and shall ensure the interoperability of neighbouring networks across borders. Any eligibility for Union financial assistance under Article 18 shall end on 31 December 2027. Any request for Union financial assistance for works shall clearly demonstrate the aim to convert the asset into a dedicated hydrogen asset by 2036 if market conditions allow, by means of a roadmap with a precise timeline. The derogation set out in paragraph 1 of the Article shall apply until Cyprus or Malta, respectively, is directly interconnected to the trans-European gas network or until 31 December 2029, whichever is the earlier.

The contents of the supporting documents and whether the proposed project demonstrates evidence concerning the existence of significant positive externalities, namely security of supply, solidarity, system flexibility, or innovation; provides services across borders, brings technological innovation and ensures the safety of cross-border grid operation, or is commercially not viable, will be assessed during the evaluation under the applicable award criteria.

The proposals requesting grants for works which fail to provide the relevant supporting documents or that provide supporting documents that are not legally valid at the time of their submission or which fail to comply with any of the eligibility criteria indicated above may not be eligible.

CEF-E-2026-PCI-PMI-STUDIES and CEF-E-2026-PCI-PMI-WORKS

Under both topics, only projects in conformity with EU law and which are in line with the relevant EU policies shall be financed, in particular those relating to competition, protection of the environment, state aid and public procurement.

Consideration will be given to the implementation of relevant EU energy market rules including Directive 2019/944; Directive 2024/1788; Regulation 2019/943; and Regulation 2024/1789 for the Member States involved, as relevant to the completion of the proposed project.

Expected impact (expected results)

As indicated in section 1 the Multi-annual Work Programme, it is expected that the financial assistance contributes to the further development and implementation of PCIs and PMIs helping to achieve the broader TEN-E policy objectives and the CEF energy policy objectives of:

- further integration of an efficient and competitive internal energy market,
- interoperability of networks across borders and sectors,
- facilitating decarbonisation of the economy, promoting energy efficiency and ensuring security of supply.

In accordance with Recital 5 of the CEF Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 and in line with the Multi-annual Work Programme, this call for proposals aims at financing projects contributing to the goals and objectives of the European Green Deal, as well as the Paris Agreement and the 2030 climate and energy targets and the EU's mid-term and long-term objectives in terms of decarbonisation.

3. Available budget

The available indicative call budget is EUR 600 000 000.00.

We reserve the right not to award all available funds, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
Call opening:	30 April 2026
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>30 September 2026 – 17:00:00 CET</u> <u>(Brussels)</u>
Evaluation:	September 2026 - January 2027
Information on evaluation results:	January - February 2027 (at the latest)
GA preparation and signature:	January/February - July 2027 (at the latest)

5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the call deadline (*see timetable section 4*).

Proposals must be submitted electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be complete and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)
- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded*)
- Mandatory annexes and supporting documents¹³ (*templates to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*):

¹³ In the event of a proposal resubmission, all documents and declarations in the application must match the intended project. There should not be any references to the previously submitted proposal. In particular, the declarations and the TEN-E compliance form must remain valid for the resubmitted proposal. In the event of any changes of project scope or legislative changes in the concerned countries that would impact the previous declarations, applicants must obtain new environmental declarations for their environmental compliance file and submit a new TEN-E compliance form.

- Detailed budget table per WP (*template available in the Submission System*)
- CVs of core project team: not applicable
- Annual activity reports (see section 7 for applicability)
- Timetable/Gantt chart
- Agreement by the concerned Member States (Letter of support)
- Environmental compliance file
- List of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (see section 7 for applicability)
- TEN-E compliance form

Applicable for works proposals (pursuant to Article 18 of TEN-E Regulation):

1) For PCIs and PMIs falling under the categories set out in Article 24 and in point (1)(a), (b), (c)¹⁴, (d) and (f) of Annex II and point (3) of Annex II of the TEN-E Regulation:

- Full PCI/PMI project specific Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA): up-to-date CBA consistent with ENTSOG/ENTSO-E methodology¹⁵ and pursuant to Article 16(4), point (a) and Article 18(2) of the TEN-E Regulation;
- Project specific legally valid¹⁶ cross-border cost allocation (CBCA) decision pursuant to Article 16 of the TEN-E Regulation. Applicants should consider as appropriate the CBCA guidance that is already available when it is adopted, for instance the ACER Recommendation No 02/2023 of 22 June 2023 on good practices for the treatment of the investment requests, including Cross Border Cost Allocation requests for PCIs¹⁷. As regards hydrogen projects, where they do not fall under the competence of national regulatory authorities and therefore they do not receive a CBCA decision, applicants should submit a confirmation by the relevant National Regulatory Authority (NRA) that, as of January 1, 2025, hydrogen is not regulated in their respective jurisdiction (if a project involves more than one Member State, the confirmation of the one NRA where hydrogen is not regulated is sufficient).
- Business plan and other assessments showing that the project cannot be financed by the market or through the regulatory framework (the business

¹⁴ Electricity storage projects falling under the category set out in point (1)(c) of Annex II that are regulated and financed through the national tariff systems need to provide a CBCA decision in line with Article 16. Electricity storage projects falling under the category set out in point (1)(c) of Annex II of the TEN-E Regulation that are not regulated need to meet, by analogy, the requirements of Article 18(4), listed below under point 2), as it should not be possible for them to request a CBCA decision. For electricity storage projects falling under the category set out in point (1)(c) of Annex II of the TEN Regulation, see below under 2.

¹⁵ The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) and Gas (ENTSO-G).

¹⁶ The cross-border cost allocation (CBCA) must be fully compliant with the requirements of Article 16 of the TEN-E Regulation and must be still in force (i.e. not expired, cancelled or with ongoing appeals) and display evidence of consultation with other concerned Transmission System Operators and National Regulatory Authorities.

¹⁷ https://acer.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Recommendations/ACER_Recommendation_02-2023_CBCA.pdf

plan could be complemented with a separate financial spreadsheet template provided).

2) For PCIs and PMIs falling under the categories set out in point (1)(e) and points (2) and (5) of Annex II of the TEN-E Regulation and for electricity storage projects falling under the category set out in point (1)(c) of Annex II of the TEN-E Regulation that are not regulated:

- Full PCI/PMI project specific Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA);
- An evaluation carried out by the relevant national authority or, where applicable, the national regulatory authority by which the project promoter can clearly demonstrate significant positive externalities, such as security of supply, system flexibility, solidarity or innovation, generated by the projects and provide clear evidence of their lack of commercial viability, in accordance with the cost-benefit analysis, the business plan and assessments carried out;
- Business plan and other assessments carried out and clear evidence of lack of commercial viability (the business plan could be complemented with a separate financial spreadsheet template provided)

The following content should be provided in the **authority's evaluation**:

- a) **An assessment of the project promoters' CBA;**
- b) A quantified analysis on the impact on tariffs for each Member State for smart electricity and smart gas grids projects; a quantified analysis on the extent to which the project can be financed from future user tariffs for carbon dioxide network projects;
- c) The analysis of other possible financing solutions (e.g. EIB) and the justification for the existence of a funding gap.

Please note that the amounts entered into the summarised budget table (filled in directly online) must correspond to the amounts calculated in the detailed budget table (filled in Excel). In case of discrepancies, the amounts in the online summarised budget table will prevail.

At proposal submission, coordinating applicants will have to confirm that they have the mandate to act for all applicants. Moreover, applicants will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that the participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion criteria, etc.). Before signing the grant agreement, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be readable, accessible and printable.

Proposals are limited to maximum 120 pages (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

Applicants may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).

 For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

6. Eligibility

Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - non-EU countries associated to the CEF Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature ([list of participating countries](#))

Legal entities established in a third country which is not associated to the CEF shall exceptionally be eligible to receive Union financial support under the CEF where this is indispensable for the achievement of the objectives of a given PCI or PMI.

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) before submitting the proposal and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc. (*see section 13*).

Specific cases

Exceptional funding — Entities from other countries (not listed above) are exceptionally eligible for projects of mutual interest and projects of common interest in the field of transport, energy and digital and for cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy, if the granting authority considers their participation essential for the implementation of the action.

Natural persons — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e. sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

International organisations — International organisations are eligible. The rules on eligible countries do not apply to them.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons¹⁸.

EU bodies — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT be part of the consortium.

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations (*see above*) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature (with retroactive effect, if provided in the agreement).

¹⁸ See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities (*e.g. entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)¹⁹ and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#)²⁰*). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

EU conditionality measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to measures adopted on the basis of EU Regulation 2020/2092²¹. Such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc). Currently such measures are in place for Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain (see [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/2506](#), as of 16 December 2022).

i For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

Consortium composition

– n/a

Eligible activities

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

Projects should take into account the results of projects supported by other EU funding programmes. The complementarities must be described in the project proposals (Part B of the Application Form).

Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities (*such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc*).

Projects must also respect EU values and European Commission policy regarding reputational matters (*e.g. activities involving capacity building, policy support, awareness raising, communication, dissemination, etc*).

Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries (*see above*).

¹⁹ Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

²⁰ Commission guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#) on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

²¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget (OJ L 325, 20.12.2022, p. 94).

7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Financial capacity

Applicants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (*e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc*). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- transmission system operators certified under Articles 52 or 53 of Directive 2019/944, or Articles 71 or 72 of Directive 2024/1788.
- if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that the financial capacity of an applicant is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
 - an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
 - prefinancing paid in instalments
 - (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)
- or
- propose no prefinancing
 - request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

It should be noted that, further to the exceptions for applicants to demonstrate the financial capacity provided in section 7, the need to demonstrate financial capacity does not apply to transmission system operators certified following the procedures laid down in Articles 52 or 53 of Directive 2019/944 (EU), or Articles 71 or 72 of Directive 2024/1788 and Joint Undertakings established in the EU which qualify as public bodies.

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with **the 'Quality' award criterion, on the basis** of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to demonstrate their capacity via the following information:

- description of the consortium participants
- **applicants' activity reports of last year**
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (*template available in Part B*).

Public bodies, Member State organisations, transmission system operators certified under Directives 2019/944 (EU) or 2024/1788 and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an EU exclusion decision or in one of the following exclusion situations that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate²²:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for **the applicant's** debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with **unlimited liability for the applicant's debts**)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct²³ (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making

²² See Articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

²³ 'Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)

- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that²⁴:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

8. Evaluation and award procedure


The proposals will have to follow the standard submission and evaluation procedure (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An evaluation committee (assisted by independent external experts) will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria (3 phases: individual evaluation, consensus phase and panel review) and then ranked according to their scores (*see sections 7 and 9*).

For proposals with the same score a priority order will be determined according to the following approach:

1. Score obtained under the 'Priority and urgency of the action' criterion
2. Score obtained under the 'Maturity' criterion
3. Score obtained under the 'Catalytic effect of Union assistance' criterion
4. Score obtained under the 'Impact' criterion
5. Score obtained under the 'Quality' criterion.

All applicants will be informed about the evaluation result (evaluation result letter). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on a reserve list or rejected.

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.*

Grant agreement preparation will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant agreement.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a complaint (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please

²⁴ See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

9. Award criteria

The award criteria for this call are as follows:

- 1) **Priority and urgency of the action** (5 points): evaluating correspondence of the proposal with the sectoral policy targets, objectives and priorities, notably its contribution to and alignment with achieving the EU 2030 climate and energy targets in view of reaching the climate neutrality objective by 2050 as set out in the European Green Deal, market integration, and where applicable assessing the possible synergies with other sectors

NB: in case of a PMI, under this criterion it will be assessed whether the application demonstrates that the inclusion of a third country entity is indispensable to achieve the objectives of the PMI.

- 2) **Maturity** (5 points): assessing the maturity of the action in the project development. The criterion will measure, among others, the readiness/ability of the project to start by the proposed start date and to be completed by the proposed end date, the status of the contracting procedures and of the necessary permits.
- 3) **Quality** (5 points): evaluating the soundness of the implementation plan proposed, both from the technical and financial point of view, the architecture and design approach, the organisational structures put in place (or foreseen) for the implementation, the risk analysis, the control procedures and quality management.
- 4) **Impact** (5 points): assessing, when applicable, the economic, social and environmental impact, including the climate impact, and relevant externalities such as security of supply, system flexibility, solidarity or innovation. In addition, assessing the need to overcome financial obstacles such as those generated by insufficient commercial viability, high upfront **costs or the lack of market finance, as well as the proposal's cross-border dimension.**

NB: The significant positive externalities in line with Article 18, paragraphs (2)(a) and (4) of the TEN-E Regulation may be demonstrated for the entire PCI/PMI, which may suffice in order to reach the minimum passing score of 3. Explanations and assessments demonstrating significant positive externalities in line with Article 18, paragraphs (2)(a) and (4), of the TEN-E Regulation for the project subject to the proposal (the action) are welcome.

For hydrogen PCIs and PMIs that do not fall under the competence of national regulatory authorities and therefore do not receive a cross-border cost allocation decision, under the Impact criterion, the project shall meet the criterion to aim to provide services across borders, to bring technological innovation and to ensure the safety of cross-border grid operation.

- 5) **Catalytic effect of Union assistance** (5 points): evaluating the financial gap, the capacity to mobilise differentiated investments sources, the capacity to trigger important overall investments with limited EU support

and when appropriate the extent to which externalities justify the CEF financial assistance. It shall assess the catalytic effect of the EU financial assistance and determine whenever possible the actual co-funding rate to be granted. For PCI or PMI proposals for grants for works, the evaluation of the financial gap should take into account the cross-border cost allocation decision and, if applicable, regulatory incentives.

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Priority and urgency of the action	3	5
Maturity	3	5
Quality	3	5
Impact	3	5
Catalytic effect of Union assistance	3	5
Overall (pass) scores	15	25

Maximum points: 25 points.

Individual thresholds per criterion: 3/5, 3/5, 3/5, 3/5 and 3/5 points.

Overall threshold: 15 points.

Proposals that pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding – within the limits of the available budget (i.e. up to the budget ceiling). Other proposals will be rejected.

10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If the proposal passes the evaluation, the project applicants will be invited for grant agreement preparation, where they will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for the grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 1*). Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

The end date set in the Grant Agreement will not be later than 31.12.2032. During implementation of the projects, if duly justified, extensions may be granted through an amendment to the Grant Agreement.

Milestones and deliverables

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (*maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc*) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5*).

Project budget (maximum grant amount): projects of any budget are admitted. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The grant will be a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (actual costs, with unit cost and flat-rate elements). This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were *actually* incurred for the project (NOT the *budgeted* costs). For unit costs and flat-rates, the amounts are calculated as explained in the Grant Agreement (*see art 6 and Annex 2 and 2a*).

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rates fixed in the Grant Agreement (maximum 50% for the costs of studies and works).


Applicants can apply for a higher project funding rate of up to 75% if the project provides a high degree or regional or EU wide security of supply, strengthens the solidarity of the EU or comprises highly innovative solutions as defined in the [TEN-E Regulation](#).

Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). For-profit organisations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, it will be deducted from the final grant amount (see Article 22.3.4).

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance with the Grant Agreement (*e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc*).

Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2*).

 Please be aware that project management costs (including related tasks, such as consortium-internal progress meetings, project reporting, etc.) should not exceed 10% of total costs for the project. Costs exceeding this limit will be rejected during grant agreement preparation.

Budget categories for this call:

- A. Personnel costs
 - A.1 Employees
 - A.2 Natural persons under direct contract
 - A.3 Seconded persons
 - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
 - C.1 Travel and subsistence
 - C.2 Equipment

- C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories
 - D.1 Financial support to third parties: No
 - D.3 Synergetic elements
 - D.4 Works in outermost regions: No
- E. Indirect costs: No

Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:


- personnel costs:
 - average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices): Yes
 - SME owner/natural person unit cost²⁵ : Yes
- subcontracting costs:


country restrictions for subcontracting costs: Yes, subcontracted work must be performed in the eligible countries or target countries

- travel and subsistence unit cost²⁶: No (only actual costs)
- equipment costs: full cost
- other cost categories:
 - costs for financial support to third parties: not allowed
 - studies: No
 - synergetic elements: Yes
 - works in outermost regions: No
 - land purchases: No
- indirect cost flat-rate: 0% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: VAT is NOT eligible
- other:
 - in-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. they cannot be declared as cost
 - project websites: communication costs for presenting the project on the participants' **websites or social media accounts** are eligible; costs for *separate* project websites are not eligible
 - eligible cost country restrictions: Yes, subcontracted work must be performed in the eligible countries or target countries
 - other ineligible costs: Yes, costs related to purchase of land

²⁵ Commission [Decision](#) of 30 July 2024 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2024) 5328).

²⁶ Commission [Decision](#) of 31 July 2024 authorising the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs under an action or work programme under the 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework (C(2024) 5405).

 Please be aware that in case of significant changes to the circumstances that have an impact on the project budget, you may be asked to request an amendment to reduce the maximum grant amount. If you do not comply with this request, we may have to terminate the grant and reduce it from our side (*see art 32*).

 Similarly, you may be asked to request an amendment to reduce the maximum grant amount, if your project encounters major delays during the project implementation. If you do not comply with this request, we may have to terminate the grant (*see art 32*).

Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22*).


After grant agreement signature, beneficiaries will normally receive a prefinancing payment to start working on the project. The amount will be established based on the grant type or estimated project duration at the time of grant signature and will vary between 25% and 50%. The prefinancing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/financial guarantee (if required) — whichever is the latest.

There may be one or more interim payments (with detailed cost reporting).

In addition, applicants may be expected to submit one or more progress reports not linked to payments.

Payment of the balance: At the end of the project, the final grant amount will be calculated. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, the coordinator will be asked to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

 Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if one of the consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by the Commission — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (*see art 22*).

Please also note that beneficiaries are responsible for keeping records on all the work done and the costs declared.

Prefinancing guarantees

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4*). The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal or lower than the prefinancing for the grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If the applicant is established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in their country, this will be assessed and may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security.

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are normally requested from the coordinator, for the consortium. They must be provided during grant preparation, in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with our services, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement (*art 23*).

Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet point 4.4 and art 22*).

For beneficiaries, it is one of the following:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*
 - unconditional joint and several liability — *each beneficiary up to the maximum grant amount for the action*
- or
- individual financial responsibility — *each beneficiary only for their own debts*.

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

Provisions concerning the project implementation

Security rules: see [Model Grant Agreement](#) (*art 13 and Annex 5*)

IPR rules: see [Model Grant Agreement](#) (*art 16 and Annex 5*):

- rights of use on results: Yes

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: see [Model Grant Agreement](#) (*art 17 and Annex 5*):

- communication and dissemination plan: No
- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes
- special logos: No

Specific rules for carrying out the action: see [Model Grant Agreement](#) (*art 18 and Annex 5*):

- Member State information: Yes
- specific rules for digital infrastructure projects: No
- specific rules for ATM common projects: No
- durability: Yes
- specific rules for blending operations: No

Other specificities

n/a

Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures to take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).

 For more information, see [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

11. How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a 2-step process:

a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once the applicant has an EU Login account, they can [register their organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When registration is finalised, the applicant will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) submit the proposal

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit the proposal in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online.
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file.
- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The proposal must keep to the page limits (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the right category in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted before the call deadline (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, the applicant will receive a confirmation e-mail (with date and time of the application). If the applicant does not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means the proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

12. Help

As far as possible, *please try to find the answers to any questions yourself*, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)
- Topic Q&A on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions)
- call information on the [CINEA website](#).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since it will be used to publish call updates.

Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: CINEA-CEF-ENERGY-CALLS@ec.europa.eu. **Please note that questions submitted after 18.09.2026 will not be answered.**

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

13. Important



IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait** until the end — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute technical problems. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- Consult the Portal Topic page regularly. It will be used to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System — By submitting the application, all participants accept to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- Registration — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- Consortium roles — When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as beneficiaries or affiliated entities; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. Associated partners and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding).

- Coordinator — In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- Affiliated entities — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- Associated partners — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- Consortium agreement — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Balanced project budget** — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- **No-profit rule** — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- **No double funding** — There is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances declared to two different EU actions.
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **Combination with EU operating grants** — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (*see [AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)*).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded a funding for them).

Organisations may participate in several proposals.

BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw one of them (or it will be rejected).

- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this Call Document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be rejected. This applies also to applicants: All applicants **need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced** or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, *see section 12*).

- Transparency — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- Data protection — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).