



Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

Call for proposals

Life Clean Energy Transition

(LIFE-2022-CET)

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** in the field of Clean Energy Transition under the **Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)**.

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

- Regulation 2018/1046 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))
- the basic act (LIFE Regulation [2021/783](#)¹).

The call is launched in accordance with the 2021-2024 Multiannual Work Programme² and will be managed by the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('Agency').

The call covers the following **topics**:

- **LIFE-2022-CET-LOCAL:** Technical support to clean energy transition plans and strategies in municipalities and regions
- **LIFE-2022-CET-POLICY:** Towards an effective implementation of key legislation in the field of sustainable energy
- **LIFE-2022-CET-COMPLIANCE:** New ecodesign and energy labelling compliance support facility for suppliers and retailers
- **LIFE-2022-CET-EE1st:** Making the “Energy efficiency first” principle more operational
- **LIFE-2022-CET-DEEPRENO:** Towards a zero-emission building stock: strengthening the enabling framework for deep renovation
- **LIFE-2022-CET-BUILDPERFORM:** Energy performance and Smart Readiness of buildings – making the instruments work
- **LIFE-2022-CET-BUSINESS:** Supporting the clean energy transition of the business sector
- **LIFE-2022-CET-BUILDSKILLS:** BUILD UP Skills – Strategies and training interventions enabling a decarbonised building stock
- **LIFE-2022-CET-DH:** Integration of low-grade renewable energy or waste heat in high temperature district heating
- **LIFE-2022-CET-HEATPUMPS:** Accelerating deployment and affordability of heat pumps through collective purchase actions and procurement
- **LIFE-2022-CET-MAINSTREAM:** Mainstreaming sustainable energy investments in the financial sector
- **LIFE-2022-CET-FINROUND:** National Finance Roundtables for sustainable energy investments

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) (OJ L 172, 17.5.2021, p. 53).

² Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)4997 final of 9 July 2021 on the financing of the LIFE Programme and the adoption of the work programme for the years 2021 to 2024.

- **LIFE-2022-CET-INNOFIN:** Innovative financing schemes for sustainable energy investments
- **LIFE-2022-CET-HOMERENO:** Integrated Home Renovation Services
- **LIFE-2022-CET-RENOPUB:** Setting up facilitation structures to accelerate the renovation wave in the public sector
- **LIFE-2022-CET-PDA:** Project Development Assistance for sustainable energy investments
- **LIFE-2022-CET-ENERPOV:** Addressing building related interventions in vulnerable districts
- **LIFE-2022-CET-ENERCOM:** Developing support mechanisms for energy communities

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)
 - 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 visit the [LIFE database](#) to consult the list of projects funded previously. For the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme, projects funded previously (under the Horizon 2020 programme) can be found on the [CORDIS website](#).

1. Background

What is the LIFE Programme?

The LIFE Programme is the EU Programme for Environment and Climate Action.

As such, it is one of the key contributors to the European Green Deal³ which aims to:

- transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use and
- protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment and climate related risks and impacts.

The LIFE Programme will contribute to these priorities through its four sub-programmes in particular by:

- boosting and integrating the implementation of the EU's policy objectives for halting and reversing loss of wildlife habitats and species across all sectors
- supporting the transition to a circular economy and protecting and improving the quality of EU's natural resources, including air, soil and water among others
- supporting implementation of the 2030 energy and climate policy framework, the EU's climate neutrality objective by 2050, and the new EU strategy on adaptation to climate change and
- building capacity, stimulating investments and supporting implementation of policies focused on energy efficiency and small-scale renewables.

The LIFE Programme is structured in two fields and four sub-programmes (described in more detail below):

Environment:

- sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity
- sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Climate Action:

- sub-programme Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- sub-programme Clean Energy Transition.

Nature and Biodiversity

The specific objectives of the sub-programme 'Nature and Biodiversity' are the following:

³ 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).

- to develop, demonstrate, promote and stimulate scale up of innovative techniques, methods and approaches (including nature-based solutions and ecosystem approach) for reaching the objectives of the EU legislation and policy on nature and biodiversity, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practices, including through the support of the Natura 2000
- to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of EU legislation and policy on nature and biodiversity, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society, also taking into due consideration the possible contributions provided by citizen science
- to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful solutions/approaches for implementing EU legislation and policy on nature and biodiversity, by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

Circular Economy and Quality of Life

The specific objectives of the sub-programme 'Circular Economy and Quality of Life' are:

- to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the EU legislation and policy on environment, and to contribute to the knowledge base and, where relevant, to the application of best practices
- to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the EU legislation and policy on environment, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society
- to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions for implementing the EU legislation and policy on environment, by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

This sub-programme aims at facilitating the transition toward a sustainable, circular, toxic-free, energy-efficient and climate-resilient economy and at protecting, restoring and improving the quality of the environment.

It will contribute to the EU priorities by:

- reducing resource consumption and facilitating the transition toward a sustainable, circular, toxic-free, energy-efficient and climate-resilient economy
- developing circular systems, in line with the new Circular Economy Action Plan and reflecting its focus on sustainable products, material and energy intensive sectors and circular business models for value retention
- bringing down waste generation in line with the Waste Framework Directive [2019/1004](#)⁴ and the reduction of hazardous waste in view of the EU's commitment under the [Basel Convention](#)⁵.

⁴ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1004 of 7 June 2019 laying down rules for the calculation, verification and reporting of data on waste in accordance with Directive 2008/98/EC (OJ L 163, 20.6.2019, p. 66).

⁵ Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal

- improving waste management with respect to collection and storage of waste, recovery options and end-of-life disposal, including in islands where waste management has to face specific challenges
- reducing emissions of pollutants to air and ensuring clean air for EU citizens in line with the EU legislation and the objectives of the Zero Pollution Action Plan
- achieving and maintaining a good status of the EU water bodies
- ensuring clean surface water and ground-water, in sufficient quantities for human and other species, including by increasing efficiency of water use
- reducing production, use and emissions of hazardous chemicals as well as reducing the exposure of humans and the environment to those chemicals
- promoting the development, commercialisation and uptake of safe and sustainable-by-design substances, materials and products
- diminishing exposure to harmful noise levels
- protecting the quality of EU soil, preventing soil degradation through sustainable practices of soil and land management, remediating from soil pollution and enhancing the capacity to improve water quality through reduced nitrate leakage and to reduce emissions through carbon storage.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The specific objectives of the sub-programme 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation' are:

- to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the EU legislation and policy on climate action and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practice
- to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the EU legislation and policy on climate action, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society
- to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions for implementing the EU legislation and policy on climate action by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

This sub-programme will contribute to the transformation of the EU into a climate-neutral and -resilient society, by supporting the implementation of the EU's climate policy and preparing the EU for the climate action challenges in the coming years and decades.

Clean Energy Transition

The specific objectives of the sub-programme 'Clean Energy Transition' are the following:

- to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the EU legislation and policy on the transition to sustainable renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practice
- to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the EU legislation and policy on the transition to sustainable renewable energy or increased energy efficiency, including by improving governance at all levels,

in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society

- to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions for implementing the EU legislation on the transition to renewable energy or increased energy efficiency by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

This sub-programme aims at facilitating the transition toward an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy by funding coordination and support actions across Europe. These actions, of high EU added-value, aim at breaking market barriers that hamper the socio-economic transition to sustainable energy, typically engaging multiple small and medium-size stakeholders, multiple actors including local and regional public authorities and non-profit organisations, and involving consumers.

The sub-programme will contribute to the implementation of the energy-related actions of the Green Deal, including the 'Renovation wave' initiative for the building sector, and will give due consideration to territories not connected to the European grids such as the EU outermost regions. It will contribute to the Just Transition objectives by accompanying the territories and the groups of citizens negatively affected by the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy, by building capacity of actors and fostering clean energy investments, mainly in energy efficiency and locally available, sustainable, renewable energy sources. Activities related to biofuels will not be included.

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

Type of action

The topics under this call for proposals concern LIFE Other Action Grants (OAGs) Coordination and Support Actions (CSA).

Other Action Grants (OAGs) include:

- Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) for projects focusing on the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency by breaking market barriers, through activities including capacity building, dissemination of information and knowledge, and awareness raising; they may include directly awarded grants to bodies designated by Member States
- A Small Grant Facility on Biodiversity (BEST). Small grants (max 100 000 EUR) for projects in the EU Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable use of ecosystem services, including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Projects developed in the framework of the EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), which contribute to the objectives and implementation of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan
- Pilot projects in the framework of the 'New European Bauhaus' to identify and address some key challenges helping Europe's transformation into the first climate-neutral continent in view of having better spaces in which form not only follows function, such as in the historical Bauhaus movement, but also contributes to preserve the resources of the planet

- Action grants benefitting the organisations mentioned in Annex I of the LIFE Regulation
- Additional projects responding to the EU legislative and policy priorities determined following a consultation with Member States (PLP)
- Other specific projects to identified beneficiaries (Article 195 EU Financial Regulation).

Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition

LIFE-2022-CET-LOCAL: Technical support to clean energy transition plans and strategies in municipalities and regions

Objectives

The topic aims to provide local and regional authorities with the necessary capacity to deliver and implement plans and strategies for the clean energy transition. To successfully support the achievement of European energy and climate targets, transition plans and strategies need to be institutionalised, cross-sectoral and tailored to the level of innovation, ambition and specific geographic context of the involved authorities.

Local and regional authorities are a decisive lever for the EU to achieve its 2030 climate and energy targets as set out in the European Climate Law and the relevant 'Fit for 55'⁶ legislative revisions, as well as the carbon neutrality objective by 2050. Policy-makers and administrations at all sub-national levels need to commit to and effectively plan and implement the clean energy transition in their territories at an unprecedented level of ambition and pace with a long-term carbon-neutral horizon. Local and regional authorities also have a very relevant role to play in the framework of the REPowerEU plan⁷ to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports, as the case for a rapid clean energy transition across EU Member States has never been stronger and clearer.

However, in some cases local and regional authorities lack capacities to develop and implement such plans and strategies, including small municipalities, rural and isolated areas and carbon-intensive regions that are lagging behind in the clean energy transition, and have the potential to have a high impact in reducing their fossil fuels consumptions. Many municipalities still need support to design medium and long-term transition plans and strategies, such as Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans – SECAPs – or similar. Furthermore, existing plans and strategies need to be aligned to the updated European energy and climate targets and, in turn, deliver more ambitious actions in the short, medium and long term. Therefore, development and reinforcement of skills within local and regional authorities are needed, for instance through training programmes for policy-makers and public officers, which could be tailored to their specific needs; through development of long-lasting knowledge structures; or through replication and rollout of best practices and information tools, etc.

⁶ Communication from the Commission of 14.7.2021 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'Fit for 55': delivering the EU's 2030 Climate Target on the way to climate neutrality, [COM\(2021\)550 final](#)

⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#)

Another challenge commonly faced by local and regional authorities is the holistic energy planning required to deliver the clean energy transition. A successful and fair clean energy transition requires an integrated approach in planning and implementing the appropriate measures, supported by robust and long-lasting coordination structures and appropriate resources. These elements would lead to mainstreaming the carbon neutrality goal within all relevant sectors (energy production and consumption, buildings, district heating, mobility and transport, land-use, waste, water, health, etc.), mutually reinforcing sectoral policies and improving the efficiency of the planning processes. Moreover, enabling the participation of public and private stakeholders, including citizens and/or communities, would be critical to consolidate a sustained political commitment beyond electoral cycles.

Clean energy transition plans and strategies should reflect high levels of ambition (tailored to the specific geographical, societal or political context) and/or consider the application of innovative elements through local pilots, for instance transition management, carbon budgets, decentralisation of energy production, or green procurement practices. Moreover, they should be fully in line with the energy efficiency first principle; the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs); the EU Green Deal and its initiatives such as the Renovation Wave; the transposition of the 'Fit for 55' legislative revisions into national laws – in particular the Recast of the Energy Efficiency Directive, which calls for municipalities to set up local heating and cooling plans⁸; the national Long-Term Renovation Strategies; the European Climate Pact; the Covenant of Mayors; the National Recovery and Resilience Plans and the Regional and National Programmes under the Cohesion Policy Funds; the Horizon Europe mission on climate-neutral and smart cities; the REPowerEU plan to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports, and any other relevant elements of the EU and national climate and energy policy frameworks, in order to contribute to the 2030 and 2050 EU energy and climate targets.

Scope

Proposals should address one or both of the following areas of work:

- Actions should provide support to regional and local authorities and build their capacities to deliver, implement and monitor ambitious short and medium-term clean energy plans and strategies for 2030 – with a potential to pave the way for the 2050 carbon neutrality goal - in coherence with EU and national energy and climate targets and frameworks. Actions should focus at implementing the right mix of activities that will build/increase the technical, legal and social skills among local and regional authorities.
- Actions should aim at institutionalising holistic, integrated and collaborative energy planning in local and regional authorities, seeking approaches that facilitate the integration of clean energy, and thus reduce fossil fuels consumption, with other relevant sectors, supported by relevant coordination structures. The aim is to professionalise and accelerate the planning and implementation processes, and support higher ambition, while enabling and increasing the participation and engagement of all the relevant public and private stakeholders.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately.

⁸ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy efficiency, [COM\(2021\) 558 final](#).

Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact

Proposals should result in providing capacity to local and regional authorities for delivering and implementing plans and strategies for the clean energy transition.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number of policies/plans/strategies established through the action.
- Number of policy-makers/public officers with improved capacity/skills.
- Number of institutionalised collaborations/exchanges within and beyond public authorities, including peers, private stakeholders and/or civil society.
- Number of public and private stakeholders engaged.
- Secured political commitment and resources.
- Primary energy savings and renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year) to be delivered by clean energy transition plans/strategies developed through the action.
- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

These impacts should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

LIFE-2022-CET-POLICY: Towards an effective implementation of key legislation in the field of sustainable energy

Objectives

Under the 'Fit for 55' Package to implement the European Green Deal, the Commission proposed a whole set of new measures to revise the main pieces of climate and energy legislation, notably the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Renewable Energy Directive and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The revisions will make the policy framework for sustainable energy more stringent and ambitious. While the legislative framework offers a good amount of flexibility to Member States to design the policy measures according to their needs and framework conditions, accurate monitoring, projecting and evaluation are essential elements of implementation. Importantly, the legislation is strongly interrelated and needs to be implemented and reported in an integrated, consistent way.

With these challenges in mind, the topic aims to support the implementation of the main pieces of legislation in the field of sustainable energy, notably of the Energy Efficiency Directive (Scope A), the Renewable Energy Directive (Scope B) and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Scope C).

Under the call 2022, proposals are invited for Scope C, i.e. proposals for actions to support the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive⁹.

- Note that policy support actions in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy are also part of other vertical topics.¹⁰

Scope

Actions under this topic are expected to address one or several of the following areas of work:

- Promote and enable exchange of insights and sharing of best practices within and across Member States.
- Provide support, technical advice and tools for contextualisation and specification of requirements, in general and according to the national and regional context.
- Scope, assess and model the impact of implementation options to comply with EU legislative requirements, thereby contributing to the design of more effective policies.
- Support the monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation.
- Develop and apply methodologies to more accurately measure, calculate and account for contributions made under the specific policy measures and programmes.
- Develop and support integrated methodologies for areas and sectors that are addressed by different policies and pieces of legislation, notably approaches for integrated collection of data, calculation/accounting, verification, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- Monitor and model energy and non-energy impacts of integrated solutions; gather data for the energy and buildings sector.

Scope C - Support for the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

Actions under Scope C are expected to address core provisions and aspects of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, in particular those that are subject to major changes or that have been newly introduced under the 'Fit for 55' recast.

These are for example provisions related to Minimum Energy Performance standards, National Building Renovation plans, Renovation passports, zero-emission buildings and infrastructure for sustainable mobility.

⁹ [Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings \(europa.eu\)](#), amended by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency \(europa.eu\)](#)

¹⁰

- For actions addressing the Energy efficiency first principle, please refer to call topic LIFE-2022-CET-EE1st.
- For actions addressing energy audits, please refer to call topic LIFE-2022-CET-BUSINESS
- For actions supporting the integration of renewable energy or waste heat in high temperature district heating, please refer to call topic LIFE-2022-CET-DH
- For actions developing support mechanisms for energy communities please refer to topic LIFE-2022-CET-ENERCOM

Note that actions to support the design and implementation of specific policies in the field of buildings are also part of other vertical topics.¹¹

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 2 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact

For scope C

Proposals should result in:

- Improved collaboration of implementing bodies within and across Member States.
- Increased understanding and knowledge in public administrations in charge of implementing European energy legislation.
- More effective implementation of provisions, including better planning, design and evaluation of policy measures.
- More consistent implementation of legal provisions across energy legislation, energy policy and energy sectors.
- Use of appropriate tools and methods that facilitate availability and access to data; improved quality of data and better monitoring.
- Use of more accurate calculation and Measurement & Verification methodologies, including for cross-sector use of energy.
- Improved quality of reporting.
- Improved understanding of potentials and market barriers.
- More effective planning, for example of Heating and Cooling networks.
- Improved understanding and measurement of the impacts and non-energy benefits, also in view of the circular economy.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Primary energy savings/Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

These impacts should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

¹¹

- For actions strengthening the enabling framework for deep renovation, please refer to topic LIFE-2022-CET-DEEPRENO
- For actions supporting the implementation of Energy Performance Certificates, please refer to topic LIFE-2022-CET-BUILDPERFORM
- For actions supporting the implementation of the Smart Readiness Indicator, please refer also to topic LIFE-2022-CET-BUILDPERFORM
- For actions supporting the implementation of provisions related to heat pumps, please refer to topic LIFE-2022-CET-HEATPUMPS

LIFE-2022-CET-COMPLIANCE: New ecodesign and energy labelling compliance support facility for suppliers and retailers

Objectives

Ecodesign and energy labelling for energy-related products enjoy widespread support by suppliers, retailers, consumers and citizens, but non-compliance with the requirements is a significant and growing concern (e.g. over 70% of products failing to meet the information requirements). Lack of awareness, knowledge or detailed understanding of the legislative provisions by economic operators is one of the likely main reasons, rather than bad will. The objective of this action is to increase visibility to operators of (existing) resources available to help them comply through increased outreach and proactive involvement by relevant stakeholders (as specified below).

Scope

To address this, the proposed action(s) should establish a facility combining both reactive and proactive assistance to economic operators through targeted and timely information to increase their awareness, knowledge and understanding of the concerned Regulations. The precise nature of the action is very much left up to the project proposals to define, though attention should be also given to reaching small and medium size suppliers and retailers (e.g., those not engaged in trade associations and/or located in remote areas), for example on regulatory changes concerning new or rescaled energy labels. Actions should cover at least the following and have both a reactive and proactive nature:

- Raise the capacity of manufacturers and, in particular, retailers on future rescaled, new labels or other important topics through targeted and timely communication and training campaigns, taking into account and, when possible, building upon the experience of previous, related H2020 projects.
- Use or adapt existing technical guidance and promotional material or create new ones as appropriate. The facility should not invent or take responsibility for interpretations or other guidance, but rather help users find what exists (and refer to the competent national authorities, including market surveillance authorities or the Commission on questions where no answers or guidance exists).
- Disseminate knowledge about available guidance/resources through the appropriate channels (websites, emails, webinars, participation in conferences, sectoral trade fairs, mailings, industry associations, specialised networks etc.), including on EPREL, with a view to raising retailers' awareness on its existence and stimulating their potential role as multipliers.
- Set-up a help-line service to address enquiries from economic operators (which are often too specific to be dealt with effectively by the Commission's Europe Direct service). Questions for which no authoritative or clear answers exist yet may simply be acknowledged as such and "escalated" to the authorities.

To ensure adequacy of the information provided, beneficiaries will proactively liaise with the Commission or the competent national authorities, including national market surveillance authorities, where appropriate.

All relevant stakeholders (e.g. European and national level organisations) necessary for the successful implementation of the action should be involved, including at least:

- European organisations representing relevant economic operators in different sectors (e.g. associations of suppliers, associations of retailers), with a minimum of 5 partners covering together through their membership at least 2/3 of the EU Member States.
- European organisations representing relevant actors in the public or non-profit sector, with a minimum of 2 partners representing consumer, environmental NGO or Market Surveillance Authorities' organisations, covering together through their membership at least 2/3 of the EU Member States.

Access to (networks of) experts with technical knowledge on the concerned products, regulations and standards as well as the wider legal framework will be necessary. The facility would need to be sufficiently resourced to provide swift follow-up to operators using the help-line service. Expertise in communication and outreach are also needed.

The proposed actions are invited to build on experiences and lessons learned in other relevant projects and programmes.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 2.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Proposals may be submitted by a single applicant or by applicants from a single eligible country.

Expected impact

Proposals should result in increased understanding of and compliance with EU ecodesign and energy labelling legislation by economic operators.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number of economic operators engaged and informed by actions aiming at improving their understanding of new legislative acts (e.g. new or rescaled labels), at least 5 000 per million Euro of EU funding.
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy renovation triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

These impacts should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

LIFE-2022-CET-EE1st: Making the "Energy efficiency first" principle more operational

Objectives

'Energy efficiency first' (EE1st) has been a guiding principle in European climate and energy policies for many years. It means taking utmost account of cost-efficient energy efficiency measures in shaping energy policy and making relevant investment decisions. The principle is defined in the Governance Regulation, which inter alia

requires EU countries to consider it in their National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs). However, it is often overlooked in existing planning and investment programmes.

Following the publication of the Commission's Recommendation and Guidelines on EE1st¹², robust methodologies are needed to support and monitor the operational application of EE1st in energy and non-energy policy, planning and investment decisions and to measure well the impacts on energy consumption and energy efficiency.

Scope

Building on recent and ongoing Horizon 2020 energy efficiency research projects¹³ in the related field, action should address one or several of the following areas of work:

- Develop cost-benefit methodologies applying a system approach and taking into account the wider benefits of energy efficiency solutions from a societal perspective, providing tools and policy recommendations to assess energy efficiency solutions in the energy and non-energy sectors in line with EE1st.
- Support the development of frameworks and methodologies to further operationalise the principle at all levels and the integration of these frameworks across governmental levels.
- Support the monitoring of and reporting on the application of EE1st at the national, regional and local levels and assess the impacts of planning, policy and investment decisions on energy consumption and energy efficiency in line with and complementary to the reporting requirements as for example established in the governance regulation.
- Support the transfer of best practices where energy efficiency measures and projects are given priority over additional supply side measures at the national and local levels through pilot projects.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact

Proposals should result in the application of the "energy efficiency first-principle" in line with the European Commission Recommendation and Guidelines and lead to:

- New or updated methodologies for cost benefit assessments of energy efficiency solutions in energy and non-energy policy, planning and investment decisions.
- Updated procedures to apply EE1st and pilots applying best practices.
- New or updated monitoring schemes to report on the implementation of EE1st at the national, regional or local levels.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

¹² Commission Recommendation on Energy Efficiency First: from principles to practice. Guidelines and examples for its implementation in decision-making in the energy sector and beyond, [C\(2021\) 7014 final](#).

¹³ Notably: H2020 ENEFIRST, H2020 MICAT, H2020 EERAdata, H2020 Odyssee Mure.

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

These impacts should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models and enhancement of the related professional skills on the market

LIFE-2022-CET-DEEPRENO: Towards a zero-emission building stock: strengthening the enabling framework for deep renovation

Objectives

The building sector is responsible for more than one third of the EU's energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. The Renovation Wave Strategy¹⁴ has set the goal of at least doubling the annual energy renovation rate of buildings by 2030 and to increase the level of energy savings delivered by building renovations, in particular by fostering deep renovation. The proposal for a recast EPBD¹⁵ provides legal definitions of 'deep renovation' and 'staged deep renovation' as the long-term target for building renovations, allowing to reach the objective of a zero-emission building stock by 2050.

Deep renovation, in particular in worst performing buildings, has a relevant role to play in the framework of the REPowerEU plan¹⁶ to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports, by drastically reducing energy demand, in particular for heating purposes. Deep renovation can also be the opportunity to switch to efficient renewable-based heating and cooling systems.

This topic aims to increase the level of energy performance reached after building renovation and the number of 'deep renovations'. This requires addressing the obstacles to deep renovation, which are present at different levels.

When deep renovation cannot be implemented in one step, staged deep renovation is an option which should be promoted through public policies. It implies that the measures implemented comply with a long-term deep renovation strategy for the building, thus avoiding lock-in effects. Renovation passports are essential to support staged deep renovation and the proposal for an EPBD recast sets up a framework for their introduction by Member States. Their roll-out needs to be supported in close link with energy performance certificates and one-stop-shops for building renovation.

¹⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions, A Renovation Wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives, [COM\(2020\) 662 final](#)

¹⁵ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the energy performance of buildings (recast), [COM\(2021\) 802 final](#)

¹⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#)

The legal framework (including but not limited to deep renovation) can also be an obstacle for energy renovation projects. This may be linked for instance to legal status and decision-making rules in co-ownerships, permitting rules and procedures for external insulation, tenant-landlord split incentive, etc. Whereas some solutions have been implemented in different regions and Member States, there is still a need to support public authorities in upgrading legal frameworks for building renovation so as to allow an increase in the renovation rate and the level of energy savings achieved.

Many public funding programmes for building renovation are not designed to promote (staged) deep renovation, and deliver mostly low or average energy savings. The allocation of public funds needs to be assessed and improved in order to focus on the long-term objective of a zero-emission building stock in 2050, in particular aspects related to the eligible measures and the involvement of private finance in order to maximise the use of public funds. There is a need for benchmarking and expert support at national, regional and local levels.

Deep renovation requires coordinating all trades involved in a renovation project. Depending on local market structures (general contractors vs individual craftspeople), the lack of coordination may lead to higher costs, higher burden for the building owner and suboptimal energy performance, thus generating counter-examples for deep renovation. Small and medium-sized enterprises need support to develop joint offers with other trades.

Scope

Proposals should increase the uptake of deep renovation, by addressing one of the following areas; addressing several areas does not necessarily increase the relevance of the proposal.

Regardless of the area(s) chosen, proposals should be well tailored to the action context in terms of building segment(s) and typology(ies), climatic zone(s), and legal, administrative, economic, market related or social conditions, and well aligned with the national and/or local initiatives in place or under development. Proposals should also involve the key stakeholders relevant to the activities and demonstrate the endorsement of the approaches proposed.

1. Building renovation passports:

Proposals should facilitate the introduction of renovation passports for buildings, providing a clear roadmap for staged renovation, helping owners and investors plan the best timing and scope for the interventions. Proposals should ensure staged renovation approaches and solutions are reliable, cost-competitive and affordable, with minimised users' disturbance. Non-energy related aspects such as healthy indoor conditions, comfort or fire and seismic safety aspects should also be considered. Proposals should coordinate with existing support and funding schemes, one-stop-shops for renovation, and consider industrialised renovation approaches where possible and relevant.

Proposals should align with the EU and national frameworks for the introduction of renovation passports. The interrelation of the renovation passports with the revision of energy performance certificates in line with the proposed EPBD recast should be addressed.

2. Adapting legal, administrative and funding frameworks for deep renovation:

Proposals should promote evolutions in order to remove barriers to building energy renovation. This could include for example, but not limited to: adapting legal and regulatory frameworks; adapting administrative procedures; adapting procurement

rules, adapting existing support schemes, funding frameworks, including energy efficiency obligations (recast EED¹⁷), in order to deliver the 2030 and 2050 targets on building renovation.

Proposals should clearly identify the specific barriers and the territories (local, regional or national levels) which will be addressed. The relevant public authorities should be involved in the project activities in order to ensure implementation of the proposed changes. Proposals should analyse and support authorities in estimating the effectiveness of the frameworks and changes to be introduced, in terms of potential for energy savings and other impacts.

Actions should focus on deep renovation, but when relevant should also address energy renovation in general.

3. Improved coordination of market actors to deliver deep renovation:

Proposals should address barriers to deep renovation linked to the lack of coordination between the different actors involved in the supply side of renovation works, targeting in particular SMEs and individual craftspeople. Actions should promote the establishment of partnerships and consortia able to deliver business models and long-lasting collaboration models between companies / craftspeople which enable deep renovations, including the switch to efficient renewable-based heating and cooling, by reducing risks and transaction costs for companies. This could include, for example but not limited to, standardising contractual liabilities in case of low quality work, training different trades to deliver joint quotes and projects, ensuring a more robust information sharing between companies, showcasing integrated offers for deep renovations to potential customers, etc. Proposals should ensure uptake of the results in the targeted regional or national markets, for example through the involvement of professional organisations.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1.75 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact

Proposals should result in increased rollout of building renovation passports supporting staged deep renovations; improvements in the legal, policy and funding frameworks for building deep energy renovations; improved and/or new collaborations, partnerships and consortia across different trades and professional groups to deliver high quality deep renovations, including the switch to efficient renewable-based heating and cooling.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Increased renovation rate and number of deep renovations in the territories addressed.
- Number of buildings equipped with a renovation passport.
- Number of public authorities adapting their legal, policy and funding frameworks and associated population.
- Number of private companies benefiting from improved coordination for deep renovation projects.

¹⁷ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy efficiency (recast), [COM\(2021\) 558 final](#)

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy renovation triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

LIFE-2022-CET-BUILDPERFORM: Energy performance and Smart Readiness of buildings – making the instruments work

Objectives

Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) are a core element of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. They create transparency about a building's energy performance and identify potentials for cost-effective energetic improvements. They are also an important source for data determining the energy performance of the building stock.

Despite the relevance of EPCs as an instrument to valorise energy performance, their implementation shows considerable gaps and deficits. For example, the coverage of EPCs is relatively low; they are often not adequately advertised. The methodologies for the calculation and rating of EPCs are to a large extent not harmonised; also, the formation and training and quality control of energy advisers/ auditors does not follow agreed standards. Moreover, many aspects that impact a building's performance are not properly reflected in current EPCs. All these aspects affect the reliability of and the trust into EPCs. At the same time, research has shown that new technologies can considerably contribute to more accurate and up-to-date energy performance by relying on actual building data.

Under the European Green Deal, the policy framework for buildings is set out to become more stringent. The European Commission has proposed to improve the quality and information content of EPCs and make them more coherent across the Member States, for example by introducing a harmonised scale and template for EPCs, shortening their validity for the worst performing buildings from 10 to 5 years. As regards the Smart Readiness Indicator, the Commission proposed to make it mandatory for non-residential buildings with larger heating systems.¹⁸

The effective design and implementation of the individual instruments are essential. In addition and in order to exploit synergies, it is, however, also important that the different tools are synchronised and better aligned, resulting in more consistency as well as in a reduction of transaction costs.

Against this background, this topic aims to call for actions that a) support effective policy design and implementation of Energy Performance Certificates and the Smart Readiness Indicator and improve synergies across assessment and disclosure instruments for buildings, and b) foster the market up-take of these instruments through appropriate methodologies, tools and processes involving key stakeholders.

¹⁸ Buildings with an effective rated of the heating/ventilation system output of over 290 kW.

Scope

Proposals are expected to focus on one of the two scopes below. The scope addressed should be specified in the proposal's introduction. In case a proposal addresses elements of both scopes, this should be justified.

Scope A - Supporting Member States and their implementing bodies

Actions are expected to support Member States and their implementing bodies in the implementation of the Energy Performance Certificates and of the Smart Readiness Indicator as established in Directive 2010/31/EU, in related delegated Acts¹⁹ and in the up-coming re-cast of the Directive. This includes all stages of the policy design, implementation and evaluation.

More specifically, actions are expected to provide support and technical advice for one or more of the following aspects:

- the contextualisation of the requirements according to the national context, including the conceptualisation and design of features that are particularly relevant for the national specificities and that make the instruments more effective, meaningful and user-friendly.
- the assessment of policy design options and their impacts.
- the ex-ante testing of approaches and moderation of key stakeholders to ensure that the policy design is fit for the market.
- improving the methodologies to collect, aggregate and analyse data, also in view of setting-up appropriate national databases, including their use by financial institutions to contribute to de-risk financing on energy efficiency and building renovations.
- the integration of EPCs with the Smart Readiness Indicator, e.g. in view of
 - the integration of the energy performance assessment methodologies.
 - the combination and visualisation of data to best match the needs of the users.
- the methodological coordination of EPCs with other disclosure and planning tools, notably Renovation Passports and Digital Logbooks, to achieve more coherence.
- For EPCs specifically,
 - developing the methodologies for the re-scaling of the EPCs including the identification, mapping and classification of worst-performing buildings.
 - refining and up-dating the methodologies to calculate EPCs, also in view of a more harmonised approach and on the basis of actual consumption.
 - the setting up of central tools and platforms that allow for a more interactive and dynamic use of EPCs and of the data that is included in EPCs and other disclosure instruments.
- For the SRI specifically,

¹⁹ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) [2020/2155](#) of 14 October 2020 supplementing Directive (EU) 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing an optional common European Union scheme for rating the smart readiness of buildings and Regulations 2020/2155, and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2020/2156](#) of 14 October 2020 detailing the technical modalities for the effective implementation of an optional common Union scheme for rating the smart readiness of buildings

- o the identification of implementation paths and good practices and the sharing of experiences with Member States that have already started implementing the Smart Readiness Indicator.

Scope B - Supporting the market up-take of Energy Performance Certificates and of the Smart Readiness Indicator

Actions are expected to improve the market up-take of Energy Performance Certificates and the Smart Readiness Indicator and to foster the implementation synergies across the different disclosure and assessment instruments.

The actions should for example:

- Develop, test and promote approaches that integrate the implementation procedures of EPCs and other instruments, notably the SRI, for example as regards the collection and use of buildings information and as regards the certification and quality check across the schemes.
- Improve the qualification and training and auditors, notably in view of developing and testing common training schemes for EPC / SRI auditors.
- Improve the synergies and links between inspections and audits carried out for EPCs, also in view of making the instruments more cost-efficient.
- Contribute to valorising EPCs and the Smart Readiness Indicator and make them more salient in investment decisions; in this, demonstrate the market value of Energy Performance Certificates and the Smart Readiness of buildings and strengthen the link of these instruments with real estate valuation and with access to financing.
- Support the market up-take of EPCs and the Smart Readiness Indicator through initiatives that enhance the visibility of and trust in the instruments.
- Involve and engage key building actors, such as housing associations, real-estate sector, public authorities to promote the effective implementation of EPCs and the roll-out of the SRI.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 2 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact

Proposals should result in:

- More effective and more ambitious implementation of the provisions related to Energy Performance Certificates and the Smart Readiness Indicator, also in view of an enhanced policy framework.
- More effective, meaningful and user-friendly design of the instruments and better user acceptance.
- Higher degree of coherence across the different disclosure tools established for the visualisation of a building's current and programmed energy performance and its degree of smartness.
- Higher degree of coherence across Member States, e.g. with regard to policy design and calculation and data collection methods.
- Use of more consistent methodologies and tools, for example for data collection and calculation, both for the individual instrument and across instruments; improved monitoring.

- Better quality, transparency and cost-effectiveness of the assessment procedures carried out for the Energy Performance Certificate and Smart Readiness Indicator; better use of synergies across instruments.
- More comprehensive and faster up-take of Energy Performance Certificates and of the SRI in the market, including stronger consideration of the EPCs and the SRI in the valorisation of buildings and buildings portfolios.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

These impacts should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

LIFE-2022-CET-BUSINESS: Supporting the clean energy transition of the business sector

Objectives

Accelerating the transition of EU companies towards a sustainable growth model is one of the ambitious objectives of the European Green Deal, as they face various barriers that deter energy efficiency measures. In 2019, the industry and services sectors made up almost 40% of the total EU-27 final energy consumption (respectively accounting for 25.6% and 13.7%). Moreover, in line with the REPowerEU plan²⁰ to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports, facilitating the clean energy transition of EU companies through a larger uptake of energy audits and collaborative approaches has the potential to sensibly reduce EU fuels imports.

In the last years, energy audits proved to be a valid instrument to tackle the information gap that is one of the main barriers to implement energy efficiency measures in companies. To this end, Article 8 of the Energy Efficiency Directive²¹ played a key role in promoting energy audits in the Member States. However, as highlighted in a recent study²² published by CINEA, the actual energy savings achieved by companies following an energy audit still remain limited. Additional barriers to overcome may include limited finance, human resources and expertise. One of the enabling factors that can play a positive role in the uptake of energy audits recommendations is the facilitation of structured support services tailored to the specificities of companies. In fact, depending on the market sector, energy intensity,

²⁰ Communication from the Commission of 8.3.2022 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#).

²¹ Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018, [EUR-Lex - 32018L2002 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

²² <https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-10/1%20EASME%20CINEA%2041%20Final%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

size and/or territory, they may require different support to be able to implement efficiency measures and, where relevant, move to renewable energy sources. International and European standards on energy audits and competences of energy auditors can also play a positive role in ensuring that energy audits are of high quality and that their recommendations can be conveyed as a strategic proposition to management.

Furthermore, as highlighted also in the New Industrial Strategy, the achievement of climate-neutrality by 2050 will require a full mobilisation and deeper cooperation among all players operating across the different value chains. Exposure to energy prices, increased global competition as well as potential transition risks linked to changing regulation, market demand and buyers/suppliers procurement criteria are increasing pressure on EU companies. In order to increase resilience, competitiveness and market attractiveness, companies should increasingly operate in sustainable value chains both at local, national and European level.

The overall objective of this topic is to boost the market uptake of cost-effective energy efficiency measures and where relevant renewables and heat pumps among EU companies by means of implementing energy audits suggested measures OR through the engagement into sustainable value chain business models.

Scope

Proposals should address **one** of the two scopes below. The scope addressed should be clearly specified in the proposal's introduction.

Scope A: Foster a favourable energy audits ecosystem

This scope sets out to foster the energy audits ecosystem in order to support the implementation by companies of cost-effective measures recommended by energy audits.

Proposals should have a clear focus on one of the following issues:

- Uptake of energy audits recommendations. Proposals should deliver integrated support services tailored to each participating company (e.g. energy scan and/or detailed energy audit where not available, non-energy benefits quantification, investment concept development, access to public/private finance, technical advisory, follow-up) in order to implement short, medium or long-term recommended measures as identified in the energy audit. At local level, where relevant, proposals should also envisage operational support to groups of companies (e.g. project aggregation and development, relevant sector/local benchmarks, joint procurement activities, contact with ESCOs and private investors).
- High-quality energy audits. In line with the proposed provisions of the recast EED, proposals should support the improvement of the national and European frameworks for energy audits. This includes minimum criteria reflecting best practices, taking into account non-energy benefits and supporting investment decisions, but also certification and/or equivalent qualification schemes for energy auditors as well as suitable training programmes based on a robust skills gap analysis at country level. Control mechanisms and monitoring/follow-up systems for the quality of audits as well as centralisation and harmonisation of data from the audits should also be considered, like for instance the creation of energy audits databases at national, regional or local level. Activities should

involve national organisations in charge of energy audits (e.g. energy agencies), professional and accreditation bodies, and other relevant stakeholders. In addition to the design of recommendations, proposals are encouraged to start implementation within the action's duration.

In addition to tackling one of the above issues, proposals could also address the enhancement of corporate energy culture to facilitate the uptake of energy audits recommendations and subsequent measures. Activities should trigger a behaviour change at corporate level by presenting the business relevance of implementing concrete measures such as sustainable procurement criteria, green management and intrapreneurship, internal bottom-up green initiatives, energy management systems with clear energy performance improvement.

Scope B: Unlock the energy efficiency and renewable potential at value chain level

Proposals under this scope should foster the market uptake of energy efficiency measures including, wherever relevant, the use of renewables and the deployment of heat pumps at the value chain level.

Proposals are expected to carry out activities aiming at triggering interest, awareness, knowledge and know-how (e.g. through the organization of roundtables at sector or territorial level) on the multiple benefits achievable from collaborative approaches between large and small companies operating in the same value chain (e.g. operational/transaction costs reduction, mitigation of energy-related risks, easier access to finance, stronger value proposition).

Furthermore, applicants are requested to identify, investigate and validate economically viable business models (based on the concrete interaction of participating companies) proving the relevance of a value chain approach in terms of value creation for each involved actor (e.g. buyers/suppliers/final users) as well as in addressing the untapped potential of energy efficiency and renewables at each step of the process (upstream to downstream).

The proposed activities are to be focused on engaging companies operating in the same value chain; the involvement of additional relevant stakeholders (e.g. industrial organisations, multipliers, financial players, ESCOs, public authorities) should be envisaged to maximise the spillover effect of value chain approaches at local, national and European level. Proposals should demonstrate a high degree of replicability and include a clear action plan to communicate experiences, critical success factors and results towards relevant value chain's actors and stakeholders across the EU.

Additionally, benchmarking mechanisms and monitoring systems, focusing on the energy use at value chain level, could be developed to support the formulation of policy/regulatory recommendations aiming at speeding up the clean energy transition of the business sector towards the EU's 2030 and 2050 climate and energy objectives.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact

Proposals should result in an increased uptake of cost-effective energy efficiency measures and renewables within the industry and services sectors.

Only for scope A: Proposals should result in an improved effectiveness and notably cost-effectiveness of energy audits in delivering investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, thanks to increased uptake of energy audits recommended measures and, as relevant, higher quality energy audits, harmonised certification and accreditation schemes for auditors, improved monitoring of energy audits. Proposals should contribute to a better implementation of Art. 8 of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Energy audits measures implemented by companies and related energy efficiency investments.
- Companies benefitting from direct support.
- Company staff with improved skills/knowledge.
- Contribution to a better implementation of Art. 8 of the EED.
- National frameworks improved.

Only for scope B: Proposals should demonstrate the relevance of value chain approaches to increase sustainability, resilience and competitiveness among companies; demonstrate the economic viability of collaborative approaches to greening value chains; make available to market actors data evidence on value chain energy use; propose benchmarks and standards as well as regulatory and policy improvements.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number of market stakeholders with improved skills/ knowledge/ awareness/ know-how on the role of sustainable value chains in promoting the clean energy transition of the business sector.
- Number of companies and value chains involved in the exploration of energy collaborations.

For both scope A and B: Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

LIFE-2022-CET-BUILDSKILLS: BUILD UP Skills – Strategies and training interventions enabling a decarbonised building stock

Objectives

Launched in 2011, the BUILD UP Skills initiative²³ is supporting the upskilling of building professionals across Europe, to deliver building renovations offering high energy performance as well as new Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings (nZEBs). This effort needs to be sustained through the development of strategies and the rollout of ambitious training and qualification interventions aligned with the EU Green Deal, the EU's 2030 climate objectives as well as the EU's long-term strategy of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

The first objective (Scope A) is to support the revitalisation of the National Platforms created in the first phase of the BUILD UP Skills initiative (2011-2012, 'Pillar I')²⁴, gathering all key national stakeholders. Since the first platforms were established ten years ago, projects should aim at expanding their scope by involving new stakeholders. The rebooted National Platforms should update the Status Quo Analyses and National Roadmaps to reflect the new realities of the building sector. This should be done by addressing the necessary skills development activities related to e.g. digital technologies, smart buildings including e-mobility, resource efficiency, circularity, integration of renewable energy technologies, heating and cooling, industrialised deep renovation, Life Cycle Carbon Assessments, etc., while taking into account the wider EU recovery context.

The second objective (Scope B) is to increase the number of skilled building professionals at all levels of the building design, operation and maintenance value chain. There is a need to increase efforts in upskilling and reskilling professionals on the critical skills needed for, e.g. the successful uptake of (nearly) Zero Energy Buildings, the upscaling of ambitious renovation interventions, the roll-out of efficient renewable-based heating and cooling, in particular heat pumps, the phasing-out of fossil fuels-based boilers as signalled in the framework of the REPowerEU plan²⁵ to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports, while achieving a holistic vision of the decarbonisation of the building stock. This calls for the upgrading of existing training and qualification schemes or the development of new ones.

Scope

Proposals should address **one** of the two scopes below. The scope addressed should be clearly specified in the proposal's introduction.

Scope A: Rebooting the BUILD UP Skills National Platforms and Roadmaps

With a view to ensure sufficient traction at national level, Scope A is expected to be addressed through applications covering a single eligible country. One action per country is expected (exceptions possible). Proposals under scope A may be submitted by a single applicant.

While prior involvement in BUILD UP Skills funded projects is not a requirement, applicants should demonstrate a good knowledge of the initiative as well as the ability to mobilise relevant stakeholders and target groups.

²³ <https://www.buildup.eu/en/skills>

²⁴ <https://www.buildup.eu/en/skills/bus-projects>

²⁵ Communication from the Commission of 8.3.2022 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#)

Proposals submitted under this topic should be supportive of the work done within the European Construction Blueprint²⁶, which focuses on vocational education and training primarily for 'blue-collar' professionals (targeting a level up to 5 in the European Qualification Framework). In case an application under this topic focuses on one of the countries covered by the Blueprint initiative²⁷, applicants should demonstrate complementarity and added-value of the proposed activities with those being developed under the Blueprint.

The focus of this topic is on all relevant skills needed to enable the Clean Energy Transition, in particular the EU Renovation Wave, the mainstreaming of nZEBs, and the inclusion of resource efficiency considerations. The initial BUILD UP Skills Status Quo Analysis and Roadmaps focussed on on-site workers and craftspeople ('blue-collar' professionals). These documents need to be updated as regards 'blue-collar' professionals and upgraded with new content mapping the skills needs for 'white-collar' professions (e.g. architects, designers, engineers, building managers, product manufacturers, etc.), thus reflecting the reality and needs of the entire building value chain.

Proposals should be comprehensive in terms of the professions addressed, covering level 1-8 in the European Qualification Framework.

The proposed activities should align with the "Pact for Skills in Construction by the EU sectoral Social Partners, EFBWW and FIEC in cooperation with EBC"²⁸ as part of the European Skills Agenda.

Proposals should address the need for reskilling workers and professionals previously or currently active in fossil fuel related sectors and regions.

Proposals are expected to consider measures to make the renovation and construction sectors more attractive for women.

The updated National Status Quo Analysis must be delivered within the first 9 months of activity of the rebooted National Platform. Each Status Quo Analysis should compile all the necessary information on the current situation of the national building sector regarding continuing education and training, energy performance and contribution to the EU's 2030 targets as well as existing barriers and gaps, thus providing a sound basis for an informed discussion among the stakeholders.

The updated National Roadmap should explain how to overcome barriers and identified skills gaps in the various professions in such a way that the EU's 2030 targets in the building sector can be met. Each National Roadmap should notably provide: a set of priority measures related to the various professions to meet the defined targets; an action plan for the identified measures until 2030; an identification of actors and resources needed to drive the implementation; measures to monitor the progress of the proposed activities.

To ensure long-term sustainability, projects should seek formal endorsement of the updated Roadmap by relevant national stakeholders, including public authorities, and promote these results widely.

Projects are expected to carry out at least the following activities, as far as they are not already addressed through the European Construction Blueprint for the country covered in the application:

²⁶ <https://constructionblueprint.eu>

²⁷ Spain, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia, Poland.

²⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1534&langId=en>

- Relaunching of the National Platform, through dedicated communication channels and regular meetings.
- Market research and data collection (Status Quo Analysis).
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of the first National Roadmap implementation.
- Targeted interviews with relevant national stakeholders and target groups.
- Participatory workshops with relevant national stakeholders and target groups.
- Updating of the National Roadmap, including measures to 2030 and policy recommendations; endorsement by relevant national stakeholders.
- Promotion and communication of the results.
- Active participation in European exchange activities.

Applications addressing a country represented in the European Construction Blueprint should also focus on further expanding the activities developed in this frame and supporting their long-term implementation, while also covering the areas, skills and professions not being tackled by the Blueprint.

The expected project duration is 18 months, to ensure that results are available sufficiently early to support the next phases of BUILD UP Skills.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 0.4 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Scope B: Upskilling and reskilling interventions enabling a decarbonised building stock

Proposals should develop new and/or upgrade existing training and qualifications for all types of professionals involved in the building value chain ('blue collars' and/or 'white collars'), addressing one or several of the following focus areas:

- Skills for delivering building deep renovation, including through modular and industrialised solutions.
- Skills for new and existing nearly Zero Energy Buildings (nZEBs) and bridging the gap towards Zero Emission Buildings (ZEBs).
- Skills for integration of renewable energy and efficient heating and cooling technologies, including in particular heat pumps roll-out; skills for installers to deliver heating and cooling upgrades as part of renovation projects.
- Skills related to whole life carbon (via the assessment of Global Warming Potential), circular construction and resource efficiency, and leveraging the Level(s) framework.
- Digital skills supporting greater energy performance of buildings, in particular through an enhanced use of Building Information Modelling.
- Skills for upgrading the smartness of buildings for greater energy performance (based on the Smart Readiness Indicator), looking in particular at sensors, building controls and building management systems.

Activities should also include the training of trainers, as well as the development of mechanisms ensuring the recognition of trained professionals.

All professional profiles involved in the building value chain, at all educational levels (European Qualification Framework levels 1-8) can be validly addressed. Proposals do not need to address all profiles and educational levels but should clearly justify the choice of the profile(s) and educational level(s) targeted.

The main focus of proposals should be on continuous vocational education and training (or professional training) of professionals, i.e. after their initial, compulsory

education and training or after they have entered working life. This can include the retraining of professionals from other sectors with skills transferable to construction. Proposals may however address other parts of education and training (e.g. initial education and training, higher education), provided this is justified based on needs detected in the countries targeted.

Proposed activities should contribute to an increased understanding between different trades and professional groups, by promoting a vision of the building as a system.

Proposals should develop attractive and up-to-date training programmes and demonstrate how low-skilled workers could be motivated to take up training for upskilling. In this perspective, applicants should aim to bring together employers, trade unions as well as education & training providers in order to work on feedback mechanisms ensuring that training programmes and curricula are labour market-relevant and proactively integrate emerging skills.

Proposals should address the need for reskilling workers and professionals previously or currently active in fossil fuel related sectors and regions.

Proposals are expected to consider measures to make the renovation and construction sectors more attractive for women and young talents.

While proposals should foresee a pilot phase for the new or upgraded schemes developed, the actual, long-term, running of training and qualification schemes is not covered by this topic. Thus, a key element of the proposed activities should be a strategy ensuring that the schemes will be sustained after the end of the project, linking to available sources of funding at national and EU level.²⁹

The proposed activities should align with the Pact for Skills in construction by the EU sectoral Social Partners, EFBWW and FIEC in cooperation with EBC³⁰ as part of the European Skills Agenda, as well as with the European Blueprint for sectoral cooperation in construction.³¹

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

With a view to increase mutual learning between countries, applications by a single applicant or applications covering a single eligible country are not considered appropriate under scope B. Therefore, the Commission considers relevant that consortia gather a minimum of 3 applicants from 3 different eligible countries.

Expected impact

Scope A

Proposals should result in a robust set of measures to upskill building professionals towards the EU's 2030 targets, endorsed by relevant national stakeholders.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

²⁹ E.g. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

³⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1534&langId=en>

³¹ <http://constructionblueprint.eu>

- Upgraded National Platform involving key national stakeholders.
- Quality of the updated National Status Quo Analysis, identifying current and future skills needs, gaps, barriers and opportunities.
- Quality of the measures presented in the updated National Roadmap reflecting the new needs and realities of the national building sector by 2030.
- Number of people directly engaged through the project activities.
- Number of relevant national stakeholders endorsing the updated Roadmap.
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy renovation triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Scope B

Proposals should result in an increased uptake of sustainable energy skills in the building value chain.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number of professionals with increased qualifications and at which level of the European Qualification Framework (EQF).
- Number of requalified professionals and at which level of the EQF.
- Number of trained professionals.
- Number of trained trainers.
- Number of training/qualification schemes developed or upgraded.
- Improved market recognition of skilled professionals in the building sector.
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy renovation triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

LIFE-2022-CET-DH: Integration of low-grade renewable energy or waste heat in high temperature district heating

Objectives

The whole transformation of the heating and cooling sector plays an essential role in the climate transition, and it is necessary to support the further application of efficient and renewable technologies to make the sector fit to meet this challenge. The "Fit for 55"³² package proposes revisions of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and the

³² Communication from the Commission of 14.7.2021 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'Fit for 55': delivering the EU's 2030 Climate Target on the way to climate neutrality, [COM\(2021\)550 final](#).

Renewable Energy Directive (RED) with specific targets to increase the use of renewable energy and waste heat in district heating systems.

Guidance, recommendations and replication models to support municipalities and operators in the modernisation of district heating systems have been developed and tested at the national and local levels. However, despite significant energy efficiency improvements, a large share of existing district heating and cooling systems still overly rely on fossil fuels. The need to reduce fossil fuels consumptions for heating purposes, including in centralised district heating and cooling systems, is clearly singled out in the framework of the REPowerEU plan³³ to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports.

To advance towards carbon neutrality, district heating operators/owners need to prepare investment plans allowing the existing systems to fulfil the proposed criteria for 'efficient district heating and cooling', as defined in article 24 of the proposal for a revised EED. This will require the integration of low-grade heat sources or waste heat (as defined in Article 2 (9) of the proposal for a revised RED).

To that end, district heating operators/owners need to identify local renewable energy and waste heat sources and to coordinate with local stakeholders in order to contract supply. Investments are needed to integrate low-grade heat sources into the existing network and, where needed, to upgrade it as well as potentially adapt infrastructure on the demand side. This is particularly challenging for existing district heating systems operating at high-temperatures, notably considering the limited human and technical capacities of district heating operators/owners. Therefore, technical support is needed to develop investment plans.

Scope

Proposals should work with operators/owners of high temperature district heating systems and provide them with the required technical support for the preparation of investment plans to fulfil the proposed criteria for 'efficient district heating and cooling' as defined in the proposal for the revised directive on energy efficiency. Activities may include among others, identification of available renewable energy and waste heat sources, contracting with owners, pre-feasibility studies, financial engineering, etc.

The investment plans to be produced should allow the targeted district heating system to fulfil the criteria for "efficient district heating and cooling" within in a timeline of 10 years. The focus should be on low-grade renewable energy or waste heat (as defined in Article 2 (9) of the proposal for a revised RED). The investment plans should include the detailed identification of the investments, their timing, the internal and external resources required, the public and private funding sources and potential involvement of the private sector, in particular for the first tranches of investments.

Proposals should explain how they will select the district heating systems which will receive technical support, the content of the support to be provided and how the

³³ Communication from the Commission of 8.3.2022 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#).

consortium will deliver this support on the ground. The district heating systems supported should be located in a territory covered by a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (or similar).

Activities should support district heating operators/owners in at least 3 eligible countries; proposals should clearly identify the targeted countries (possibly regions) and explain how they intend to cover the variety of situations in each targeted area.

Additionally, proposals should:

- Support the engagement and commitment of key stakeholders (internal and external) in order to ensure that the investment plans are implemented after the end of the project.
- Build the capacity of the targeted district heating operators/owners to implement the investment plans: design, procurement and operation to secure the highest application and utilisation of low-grade renewable or waste heat sources.
- Identify regulatory barriers and promote solutions (e.g. new regulations, tariffs, funding programmes) in order to facilitate the integration of low-grade renewable energy or waste heat in high temperature DHC systems at national and EU levels.
- Promote replication by other district heating operators/owners.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact

Proposals should result in increased capacity of DHC owners/operators to implement the investments necessary for the integration of low-grade renewable energy or waste heat in high temperature district heating. Investments are not expected to be implemented during the project, but DHC owners/ operators could start to implement the investment plans, e.g. through procuring the necessary engineering studies and works. Proposals should also result in the demonstration of the technical and financial feasibility and replicability of the transition to the 'efficient district heating and cooling' criteria of high-temperature district heating systems; and in an improved regulatory framework for district heating and cooling allowing fulfilment of the EED criteria.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number of district heating systems equipped with an investment plan allowing them to fulfil the proposed criteria for 'efficient district heating and cooling'.
- Number of market stakeholders with increased capacity to implement the investment plans for the integration of low-grade heat sources or waste heat.
- Number of local and regional authorities integrating the outcomes of the project in their energy planning.
- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).

- Amount of energy generated from low grade heat sources triggered by the project (in GWh/year).

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

LIFE-2022-CET-HEATPUMPS: Accelerating deployment and affordability of heat pumps through collective purchase actions and procurement

Objectives

Electrification is expected to play a central role in buildings, in particular through the rollout of heat pumps for space heating, cooling and domestic hot water production. In the residential sector, the share of electricity in heating demand should grow to 40% by 2030 and to 50-70% by 2050. Heat pumps are one of the key technologies to meet this demand, contributing to the EU's 2030 and 2050 climate and energy targets. Although these technologies and the quality of installations have been improving, the upscaling of existing and the development of new supply chains are not rapid enough to prevent bottlenecks and ensure competitive pricing throughout the supply chain. As part of the REPowerEU plan³⁴ to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports, the European Commission has called for doubling the EU's yearly pace of deployment of heat pumps and reaching 10 million heat pumps installed in the next five years across EU Member States.

In order to achieve these objectives, various barriers to the deployment and installation of heat pumps need to be tackled, such as:

- high upfront costs and perceived complexity of design and installation;
- lack of awareness on the available technologies and confidence in the quality of installations; lack of awareness on how targeted changes in existing buildings and their heat distribution systems may often enable efficient heat pump deployment even without or prior to large scale renovations;
- distress purchase decisions (i.e. repairing or replacing an existing heating system following breakdown);
- technical barriers, such as physical space for setting up the new equipment (outdoor and indoor unit, buffer tank and DHW accumulator, etc.); the potential need to increase the electrical power of the building (modification of the electrical installation); the potential need to increase building insulation and/or to adapt the emitter system.

Scope

The proposed actions should set up and/or support collective purchase and procurement actions aiming at reducing significantly the product and/or installation prices by creating large-scale demand for well-specified (ranges of) heat pump products. The focus of the proposed actions should be at least on space (and water)

³⁴ Communication from the Commission of 8.3.2022 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#).

heating for households; however, this does not preclude targeting non-residential buildings in addition. Synergies of heat pumps with self-consumption installations (PV) and hybrid renewable heating and cooling systems could also be promoted.

The proposed actions should cover the following:

- Coordinate calls for interest on the purchase and installation of heat pumps, and undertake negotiations with related economic operators (e.g. manufacturers, installer associations, energy companies or other potential service providers, including of optional financing elements). Operation related aspects, such as longer guarantee periods and post purchase maintenance or other customer services for products bought under these schemes, could be included in concluded agreements. Solutions including full or partial financing of upfront investment could also be considered.
- Ensure simplification of the offer/demand (e.g. by basing such schemes on a limited number of products and capacities, satisfying essential criteria to increase volumes of specific production series and deliver quality installations); ensure building suitability and readiness (e.g. thermal insulation, heat distribution system) for heat pump installation prior to any purchase, and proper building heating needs and heat pump size evaluation (various methods can be used possibly in combination such as, short term temperature measurements, building and energy system simulation tools, assessment by qualified technicians).
- Support the preparation (e.g. organisational, technical, access to financial support) and execution of such projects. Moreover, identify, simplify access to and seek synergies with relevant national, regional or local financing opportunities (e.g. loans, subsidies, tax incentives).
- Undertake other initiatives along the value chain (e.g. ensuring quality installation procedures, training on offered products and promotion of related certification schemes, further developing innovative propositions/ services e.g. heating as a service) that would lead to lowering the installation price.
- Engage in promotional and awareness raising activities, including on related installation training schemes, targeting specific consumer groups and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. SMEs, young people).

All relevant stakeholders necessary for the successful implementation of the action should be involved, including relevant public and/or private entities (e.g. public authorities, consumer organisations, private companies, housing associations, large building owners); if not directly involved, their support should be demonstrated in the proposal. The purchased heat pumps should be installed by installers with relevant training and certification. Organisations should demonstrate independence from commercial technology providers and justify their capacity to select best value for money. For public procurement actors, green/ circular public procurement criteria (including under the Energy Efficiency Directive) should be taken into account.

The proposed actions are invited to build on experiences and lessons learned in other relevant projects and programmes³⁵.

³⁵ This should include e.g. LIFE projects, the implementation of Air Quality Plans and the implementation of Operational Programmes under ESIF, H2020 projects, Intelligent Energy Europe projects, and other relevant national, local, or regional initiatives.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 2 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact

Proposals should result in an increased deployment of heat pumps through collective purchase and procurement actions, and demonstrate the effectiveness and replicability of the proposed actions for accelerating the deployment and affordability of heat pumps.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number of installations triggered by the action, including a performance guarantee for the end user.
- Number of collective purchase and/or procurement actions setup and/or supported by the action (local, regional or national; public or private; residential or non-residential).
- Number of actors with increased skills (public authorities, installers, consumers and other relevant actors).
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy renovation triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

Attracting private finance for sustainable energy

LIFE-2022-CET-MAINSTREAM: Mainstreaming sustainable energy investments in the financial sector

Objectives

The topic aims to make investments in energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy sources more attractive to private investors.

Significant investments need to be mobilised to achieve the ambition set by the European Green Deal³⁶ and the objective to reduce EU dependence on fossil fuels imports set out in the REPowerEU plan³⁷. While significant public sector expenditure is allocated to leverage private finance for sustainable energy (e.g. through the InvestEU facility), many private investors still lack sufficient incentives and tools to

³⁶ 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 of 11.12.2019 [COM\(2019\) 640 final](#)

³⁷ Communication from the Commission of 8.3.2022 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#)

overcome the perceived complexity and risks associated with this kind of projects. Sustainable energy investments, understood in this topic as investments in energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy sources, need further de-risking and mainstreaming into the strategic and operational approaches of market actors, in particular private financial institutions.

The EU's sustainable finance strategy³⁸ aims to embed sustainability into investment processes. A proper implementation of the associated policies, in particular the EU taxonomy regulation³⁹, the proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive⁴⁰, the Banking Package 2021⁴¹, the EU green bond standard⁴² and labels for retail investment products, requires market actors to change their practices. Sustainable energy interventions are often part of a broader investment, hence they are not always identified as sustainable assets, which reduces their visibility for investors.

In this context, adequate tools and methodologies are needed to attract private finance to sustainable energy investments, in particular in the energy efficiency segment. Some of these exist already and need to be fine-tuned and expanded. There is also a need to encourage investment alignment with and overachievement of the regulatory requirements and policies on sustainable finance, both on the supply and demand side of finance. Such alignment could in turn foster a massive upscale of retail investment in sustainable energy and via securitisation of sustainable energy assets access to the secondary market.

Scope

Proposals should address one or several of the following areas of work, with a focus on sustainable energy investments (i.e. energy efficiency and/or small-scale renewables):

- Improving risk and sustainability assessment in the methods and tools of private investors by integrating the specificities of sustainable energy, including multiple benefits of energy efficiency. The focus can be at project level (e.g. creditworthiness analysis, quality standards, benchmarking data) or at portfolio level (e.g. internal ratings-based approaches, climate stress-testing, analysis of sustainable energy aspects of investment strategies, etc.).
- Labelling and certification schemes including methodologies and tools for benchmarking, tagging, monitoring of investment performance, and disclosure of investment data with a link to the EU sustainable finance legislation.
- Improving availability and interoperability for financial institutions of data collected e.g. from energy performance certificates, energy audits, smart meters, as well as energy and financial performance data of investment,

38 https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance/overview-sustainable-finance_en#action-plan

39 Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088, [Regulation \(EU\) 2020/852](#)

40 Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2013/34/EU, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Regulation (EU) No 537/2014, as regards corporate sustainability reporting of 21.04.2021, [COM\(2021\) 189 final](#)

41 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5401

42 https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance/eu-green-bond-standard_en

connected wherever possible to the De-risking Energy Efficiency Platform (DEEP)⁴³.

- Development, evolution and/or distribution of financial products, including insurance, supporting the securitisation of sustainable energy assets with a particular focus on energy efficiency.
- Targeted support to sustainable energy finance related activities of regulatory bodies and supervisory authorities, in particular related to revised risk ratings and requirements for energy efficient assets.
- Accelerating implementation or overachievement of EU sustainable finance requirements and policies by private investors and/or companies, including support to project developers in order to better meet expectations of private investors (e.g. development of closer connections between technical standards and accounting and disclosure reporting).
- Develop standards to increase the volume of energy efficiency and sustainable energy investments in financial institutions assets and lending portfolio, in line with the EU's sustainable finance strategy and the EU Taxonomy Regulation.
- Capacity building at all levels of the private finance value chain, in the form of exchanges of best practices, development of training programmes and/or evolution and/or rollout of existing training programmes.

The proposed actions should credibly engage with the relevant stakeholders in the private finance value chain, including institutional investors, but also retail banking branches, brokers, fund managers, investment advisers, insurers, etc., in order to ensure adoption of the results by market players. Proposals should demonstrate support of the targeted stakeholder groups and how they will be involved throughout the project.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact

Proposals should result, depending on the scope of the activities, in enhanced capacity and appetite of private financial institutions to invest in energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy sources; adoption of new approaches, tools, labels and certification schemes; enhanced access to data related to financial and energy performance; evolutions in the regulatory and supervisory frameworks; easier identification of the alignment of sustainable energy investments to the criteria of the EU taxonomy of sustainable activities.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number of private finance stakeholders integrating the results of the project and related investment portfolios.
- Number of private finance stakeholders benefitting from enhanced capacity.

⁴³ <https://deep.eefiq.eu/>

- Number of financial regulatory bodies and supervisory authorities benefitting from support on sustainable energy policies.
- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

LIFE-2022-CET-FINROUND: National Finance Roundtables for sustainable energy investments

Objectives

Access to private finance for energy efficiency and integrated renewables remains a challenge in view of the climate and energy targets proposed by the European Commission for 2030 and the long-term climate neutral objective by 2050 proposed in the framework of the European Green Deal⁴⁴. Significant investments need to be mobilised to achieve those objectives, as well as the acceleration of the clean energy transition to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuel imports as set out in the REPowerEU plan⁴⁵.

One obstacle to the use of private finance for energy efficiency and integrated renewables is the lack of common understanding of the topic between government, public sector, private sector and financial sector, as recognised by the Renovation Wave Communication.

The topic aims to establish national roundtables to improve dialogue, co-operation and awareness between key public and private stakeholders and build capacity in order to develop large-scale investment programmes that mobilise private finance for investments in energy efficiency and integrated renewables.

The Smart Finance for Smart Buildings initiative⁴⁶ had proposed a comprehensive approach based on the more effective use of public funds, aggregation and project development assistance, and de-risking. The Commission is organising conferences and national roundtables in EU Member States through the Sustainable Energy Investment Forums⁴⁷ initiative since 2016, in order to roll-out this initiative across Europe.

⁴⁴ 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 of 11.12.2019 [COM\(2019\) 640 final](#)

⁴⁵ Communication from the Commission of 8.3.2022 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#)

⁴⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank Clean Energy for All Europeans of 30.11.2016, [COM\(2016\) 860 final](#) ANNEX 1 Accelerating clean energy in buildings

⁴⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/energy-efficiency/financing/capacity-building-and-technical-assistance_en#sustainable-energy-investment-forums

Scope

Proposals should set-up national roundtables focused on energy efficiency investments and small-scale integrated renewables, as permanent multilateral discussion forums gathering the relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to government, local and regional authorities, financial sector, Energy Service Companies (ESCOs), homeowners, industry sector, construction sector and Small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector, consumers and citizens associations. The focus of the national roundtables should include energy renovation of existing private and/or public buildings, as well as district heating, investments in SMEs and the tertiary sector. Proposals can target regional levels in addition to the national level if relevant.

The national roundtables should act as a forum where all stakeholders can provide input into the policy making process. They should include regular thematic working groups with the relevant stakeholders, focused on specific issues. They should (among others) analyse the possibility to upscale existing best practices from the national and European level, develop strategies, roadmaps and action plans, propose improvements in the national policy frameworks and measures, and follow their implementation, develop jointly template documents and contracts leading to a better functioning of the market. Where relevant, proposals could include a component on citizen engagement to reinforce the case for sustainable energy investments.

Proposals involving only one country are eligible. In that case, they should include a small share of activities to exchange with similar roundtables across Europe; those exchanges will be coordinated by the Commission services. Proposals should build on the activities of the EU Sustainable Energy Investment Forums initiative. In case a dialogue initiative on sustainable energy financing is already in place in a targeted Member State, the proposal shall justify clearly complementarity and additionality.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 0.7 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Proposals may be submitted by a single applicant or by applicants from a single eligible country.

Expected impact

Proposals should result in permanent national (and regional if relevant) multilateral discussion forums addressing energy efficiency investments and energy renovations topics, actively engaging key stakeholders in particular from the finance sector. This should result in improved national policies allowing an increase in building energy renovation, in particular through the involvement of private finance.

Proposals should also quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number of national (and regional if relevant) policy documents resulting from the roundtables.
- Number of key stakeholders involved in the roundtables, in particular from the financial sector.
- Number of meetings of the national (and regional if relevant) roundtables including thematic working groups organised.
- Investments in sustainable energy renovation triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).

- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

LIFE-2022-CET-INNOFIN: Innovative financing schemes for sustainable energy investments

Objectives

The topic aims to set up innovative financing schemes for investments in sustainable energy in the form of energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy sources.

In view of the ambitious EU climate and energy policy, including dedicated targets for the years 2030 and 2050, significantly enhanced investments will be needed. This is also clearly reflected in the European Green Deal Investment Plan⁴⁸, which aims at mobilising at least EUR 1 trillion of sustainable investments over the course of 10 years for Europe to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This requires significant investment from both the public and the private sector. Public finance needs to lead the way, private actors need to provide the scale.

In this context, also the level of sustainable energy and, in particular, energy efficiency investments needs to be ramped up significantly. This requires the mobilisation of both public and private funding sources, with a specific emphasis on progressively maximising the leverage ratio of private to public finance. This is in line with the Smart Finance for Smart Buildings initiative⁴⁹, which aims at using public funds more effectively, the “Renovation Wave” envisaged by the European Green Deal⁵⁰ to address the essential need to substantially enhance building energy efficiency, and the REPowerEU plan⁵¹ to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuel imports.

In order to create the conditions for adequate supply of private finance for sustainable energy investments and enhanced engagement of private investors, there is a need to set up and roll out innovative financing schemes at regional or national level, which can be expanded and/or replicated at scale. These schemes have to be adapted to the specificities of sustainable energy investments and, in particular, to the particularities of energy efficiency investment profiles⁵², and to be aligned with or go beyond the

⁴⁸ 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 Sustainable Europe Investment Plan European Green Deal Investment Plan of 14.01.2020 [COM\(2020\) 21 final](#)

⁴⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank Clean Energy for All Europeans of 30.11.2016, [COM\(2016\) 860 final](#) ANNEX 1 Accelerating clean energy in buildings.

⁵⁰ 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 of 11.12.2019 [COM\(2019\) 640 final](#)

⁵¹ Communication from the Commission of 8.3.2022 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#)

⁵² The Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group (EEFIG) (https://ec.europa.eu/eefig/index_en) analyses drivers and barriers for energy efficiency investments in buildings and industry, including adequate financing instruments.

relevant EU Sustainable Finance policy and legislation⁵³ and specifically the related EU Taxonomy⁵⁴.

Scope

Proposals should address the set-up of innovative financing schemes leveraging private finance for sustainable energy investments, with a dedicated and clear focus on energy efficiency. The financial solution should be operational by the end of the action, whereas the related investments may be implemented after project completion. Therefore, proposals should foresee necessary testing and exploitation activities during the action.

The financing schemes can involve various types of organisations and ownership structures, as well as diverse financing structures, including, but not limited to:

- Models applying different financing instruments such as tailored grants, equity, debt, mezzanine financing, refinancing mechanisms, guarantees or other de-risking instruments (including specialised risk-sharing facilities, insurances, etc.).
- Specific finance models for the energy retrofit of buildings in line with the “Renovation Wave”, addressing property or rental markets and, in particular, public buildings (including social housing) and deep energy renovation. This includes e.g. tailored financial solutions based on energy service/performance contracting, addressing relevant accounting and refinancing issues, or various on-bill and on-tax-financing schemes.
- Schemes targeting the secondary market, including specialised securitization vehicles and green bond schemes.
- Local investment structures, including citizen financing (e.g. crowdfunding) for energy efficiency and other forms focusing on the role of prosumers or applying complementary local “currencies” at community scale to reinforce short circuits and local supply chains, including smart contracts.
- Tailored financing solutions integrating existing market-based instruments relevant for energy efficiency (e.g. carbon finance instruments, including those under the European Emissions Trading System; CO₂/energy taxes; tradable certificate schemes and energy efficiency obligations e.g. under Art. 7 of EED⁵⁵; etc.) and/or an adequate monetization of multiple benefits of energy efficiency; or
- Dedicated schemes based on brokers, as well as aggregators or clearing houses (at regional or national level), which facilitate matching of demand and supply of energy efficiency finance, blending of different public and/or private funding sources, and/or project development.

Proposals should take into account all the following elements:

- Address the establishment of innovative, operational financing schemes for sustainable energy investments. In this context, they can draw on and/or

⁵³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance/overview-sustainable-finance_en.

⁵⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance/eu-taxonomy-sustainable-activities_en.

⁵⁵ Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018, [EUR-Lex - 32018L2002 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2012/27/oj)

upscale other innovative financing schemes for sustainable energy investments which have demonstrated to be effective;⁵⁶

- Address the provision of finance as well as the structuring of demand, in particular at regional and national level;
- Define the target region(s) and sector(s) (e.g. buildings, energy-intensive industries, insurance sector etc.);
- Clarify how the proposed scheme is tailored and innovative for the targeted region(s) and market segment(s);
- Justify how the proposed scheme complements and is additional to already available funding;
- Clearly demonstrate the market potential, as well as business case and financial viability of the proposed scheme (including e.g. investment sizes targeted, transaction and management costs, expected energy/cost savings and other returns, etc.);
- Plan replication and/or rollout of the scheme envisaged (e.g. at national/regional level); and
- Ensure and explain alignment with the relevant EU Sustainable Finance policy and legislation and, in particular, the related EU Taxonomy, or clarify how they go beyond.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact

Proposals should:

- Deliver adequately tailored innovative financing schemes that are operational and ready to finance sustainable energy and, in particular, energy efficiency investments.
- Contribute to the wide-spread implementation of the relevant EU Sustainable Finance policy and legislation and, in particular, the related EU Taxonomy, and the achievement of the underlying objectives.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Reduction of greenhouse gases emissions (in tCO₂-eq/year).

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

⁵⁶ Such schemes may originate outside or inside the European Union, including, for example, those developed and implemented under project development assistance (PDA) facilities under the Horizon 2020 (H2020) and Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programmes (including H2020/MLEI PDA or ELENA-EIB). In this context, projects may also apply standardisation tools and processes designed with a view to reducing transaction costs and enhancing investor confidence, like e.g. such developed by various H2020 or IEE projects or the EEFIG Underwriting Toolkit.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

Supporting the development of local and regional investment projects

LIFE-2022-CET-HOMERENO: Integrated Home Renovation Services

Objectives

Building refurbishment can be particularly cumbersome in private housing and there are many barriers discouraging homeowners from taking the investment decision. Notably, the market offer for building renovation in the private residential sector is fragmented, composed of a myriad of micro and small companies, and mostly uncoordinated.

Based on good practices and successful models across the EU and in line with the "Renovation Wave" initiative of the European Green Deal⁵⁷, there is pressing need and value in coordinating actions and make home renovation as simple as possible for homeowners. When it comes to building refurbishment, the REPowerEU plan⁵⁸ to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports has clearly identified the need to increase the number of home renovations across the EU and to better integrate the switch to efficient renewable-based heating and cooling as an integral part of home renovations.

This topic aims at: a) supporting directly the creation or replication of innovative local or regional "integrated home renovation services" and b) supporting the skilled practitioners actively involved in the implementation of such integrated services, through the creation of an EU community of practice.

Scope

Proposals are expected to address **only one** of the two scopes below. The scope addressed should be clearly specified in the proposal's introduction.

Scope A: Creation or replication of "integrated home renovation services"

Projects funded under this topic scope A should create or replicate innovative local or regional "integrated home renovation services".

Projects addressing scope A are expected to tackle, but are not limited to, the following aspects:

1/ Improve market conditions and develop integrated home renovation services offers to:

- Reduce complexity, simplify decision making for homeowners to stimulate demand for building renovation and energy performance improvements.

⁵⁷ 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 of 11.12.2019 [COM\(2019\) 640 final](#)

⁵⁸ Communication from the Commission of 8.3.2022 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#).

- Create, coordinate and/or optimise the services required along building energy performance investment processes.
- Connect all relevant actors in the value chain (e.g. construction companies, architects, engineers, urban planners, financiers, etc.).
- Streamline access to various support measures, especially where there is support for specific target groups (e.g. energy poor households).
- Improve awareness and trust towards such integrated services, through clear accountability, quality assurance and dedicated consumer protection policies.

2/ Develop a self-sustained business model:

- Integration of services can be developed through dedicated operators (new public or public/private entity or mandated private operators) and/or through an improved co-ordination between existing local actors.
- The prospect of economically viable business models is expected, targeting self-sustainability in the medium to long term, i.e. ultimately running without subsidies to cover running costs.

3/ Provide methods and support:

- Build expertise and organisational innovations needed for project development.
- Reduce costs and time on-site through standardised approaches (e.g. optimised business processes, standardised contractual arrangements, branding of the proposed services etc.).
- Ensure cost effectiveness and price transparency of services provided to homeowners.
- Support the streamlining of standards and practices into consistent and transparent processes investors can rely on, and overall improve financing conditions.

4/ Communicate results:

- Mainstream innovative technical and organisational solutions, adapted to local contexts.
- Help improve legal and regulatory environments.
- Demonstrate a high degree of replicability and include a clear action plan to communicate experiences and results towards potential replicators across the EU.

Actions should clearly focus on the energy performance improvement of existing single or multi-family buildings in the private residential sector. Actions in "complex buildings" (e.g. coexistence of owner-occupied and rented housing; coexistence of private and social housing; coexistence of housing and business premises, typically on the ground floor) can be considered, and specific approaches to deal with subsets of the residential sector are welcome, as long as the main focus is on private non-professional decision makers.

The developed services should cover the whole "customer journey" from technical and social diagnosis, technical offer, obtaining permits, finding qualified professionals, contracting of works, structuring and provision of finance (e.g. loans), facilitating access to available subsidies or other support schemes, to the monitoring of works and quality assurance.

The meaning of the word "integrated" is twofold:

- The approach should combine various services in a packaged offer to homeowners, in order to create confidence and simplify their renovation process, and better integrate the switch to efficient renewable-based heating and cooling in renovation projects.
- The approach should also be well integrated in its context, making best use of what is locally available, notably in terms of public support schemes and local market players, and contribute to develop partnerships between local authorities and the relevant market players, in the construction, heating and cooling, and wider energy sectors.

Proposals should foresee to cooperate with the emerging community of integrated home renovation services, notably those funded by H2020 and LIFE CET for analysis, exchange and communication efforts associated to cross-cutting elements.

Proposals under scope A may be submitted by a single applicant from a single eligible country.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Scope B: EU community of "Integrated Home Renovation Services" practitioners

Projects funded under this topic scope B should build bridges between existing and emerging local/regional initiatives through the development of an EU community of skilled practitioners, actively involved in the local/regional implementation of "integrated home renovation services".

By fostering international collaboration and incremental innovation among "integrated home renovation services" providers, projects funded under scope B should pool efforts, generate economies of scale and encourage convergence towards best practices. Projects should build up collective knowledge, consolidate findings, debate and present coordinated proposals to policy makers, increase market recognition and strengthen trust of end-users. This community should also support capacity building and contribute to the development of partnerships between key actors at relevant territorial levels.

Building on best practices, this community of practice should support collective productions, incremental innovations and joint efforts to promote "integrated home renovation services". It should facilitate dialogue and insight sharing, fostering the emergence of a common culture among participants and beyond. Particular efforts and results are expected on, but not limited to:

- **Strategic positioning and business model:** assessing local market gaps, attractive offer development to homeowners (in terms of quality and price of services), possible sources of revenue, associated business models, most appropriate combinations of public and private interventions, potential and conditions for dissemination across Europe, etc.
- **Methodologies and tools:** how to streamline and optimise the processes to deliver "integrated home renovation services"? Which tools exist and which ones could be developed? Etc.

- **Skills and training needs:** which new skills or new professions are needed for the implementation and effective operation of "integrated home renovation services"? Conversely, how to motivate and secure career opportunities for skilled professionals in that field? Etc.
- **Partnerships with market actors:** what types of partnerships could be developed? How to secure partners' commitment to deliver quality and competitive services? Etc.
- **Quality assurance and consumer protection policies:** what quality guarantees could be offered to homeowners? How to ensure consumer protection? How should disputes be handled? Etc.

This community of practice should consolidate findings from the various experiences across Europe. It should foster dialogue within the community and beyond on cross-cutting issues.

It should support the development of coordinated proposals to policy makers and actively contribute to regulatory and legislative processes at local, national and European levels, in particular by highlighting concrete situations and difficulties faced when implementing "integrated home renovation services", practical challenges and best practices.

Guidance and support should be provided to emerging initiatives, in order to ease the multiplication of local initiatives, and facilitate cross-border replication of best practices.

Proposals should include capacity building activities at national level, focused on the design and implementation of integrated home renovation services. Capacity building approaches may include training of national trainers and/or targeting relevant players such as local and regional authorities, energy agencies and other players involved in the development of renovation programmes.

This community should include effective communication actions to showcase the most relevant integrated packages for home renovation, in particular those most efficient in triggering deep renovation (possibly in a staged approach) and facilitating the switch to efficient renewable-based heating and cooling.

While being specifically focused on "integrated home renovation services" aspects, proposals shall demonstrate knowledge of relevant wider initiatives (e.g. Sustainable Energy Investment Forums, ManagEnergy, BUILD UP Skills, the Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills in the Construction sector) and leverage on their results.

Proposals submitted by a single applicant or proposals covering a single eligible country are not considered appropriate under scope B. The community of practice to be established must be transnational and actively involve a variety of representatives of the most relevant implementations of "integrated home renovation services" throughout Europe, reflecting the diversity of situations and approaches across Europe. Therefore, the Commission considers relevant that consortia gather a minimum of 3 applicants from 3 different eligible countries.

The Commission intends to select one single proposal under scope B. The Commission considers that a proposal requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 2.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting another amount.

Regarding the indicative budget between scope A and B, please refer to the call document section 3 on the Available budget.

Expected impact

Scope A: Creation or replication of "integrated home renovation services"

Proposals submitted under scope A should result in:

- Integrated Home Renovation Services implemented, operational and tested at the end of the action, although upscale may happen after project completion.
- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro, during the action (pilot phase) and within the first 5 years of operation of the services).
- Strong and trustworthy partnerships with local actors (e.g. SMEs, architects, engineers, ESCOs, financial institutions, energy agencies, NGOs).
- Implementation of economically viable business models, ultimately running without the need for public subsidies to cover running costs.
- Availability of adequate financing offers to support investment in home energy performance improvement.
- Increased awareness and trust of end-users through clear accountability, quality assurance and dedicated consumer protection mechanisms.
- Data and guidance made publically available in order to facilitate replication of the approach by other market actors. Evidence that the value of the services offered is recognised by the market.

Proposals submitted under scope A should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Primary energy savings/Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Reduction of greenhouse gases emissions (in tCO₂eq/year) and/or air pollutants.

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Scope B: EU community of "Integrated Home Renovation Services" practitioners

Proposals submitted under scope B should result in:

- Establishment of a European community of practice gathering relevant stakeholders, deeply rooted in their ecosystem and actively involved in ongoing local implementation of "integrated home renovation services".
- Data and guidance made publically available in order to facilitate the uptake of "integrated home renovation services" across Europe. Evidence that the value of such integrated services is recognised by the market.

Proposals submitted under scope B should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number, diversity and quality of stakeholders actively involved in the community. This could include, but not be limited to, public authorities, consultants, architects

associations, craftsmen associations, homeowners associations, citizens associations, universities, training centres, financial institutions, etc.

- Number, nature and quality of planned collective outputs, distributed between the main categories outlined in the scope section above. In particular, guidance and support proposed to emerging initiatives.
- Number and nature of planned contributions to legislative and regulatory processes at local, national and European levels.
- Number and nature of national capacity building programmes put in place.
- Number, nature and target audience of communication materials.
- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Primary energy savings/renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Reduction of greenhouse gases emissions (in tCO₂eq/year) and/or air pollutants.

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

LIFE-2022-CET-RENOPUB: Setting up facilitation structures to accelerate the renovation wave in the public sector

Objectives

The public sector plays a key role in delivering the energy transition, with a unique mandate over their public assets and a unique convening power on actors across the value chain. The European Green Deal's Renovation Wave⁵⁹ aims to double the renovation rate of buildings by 2030, which requires also massive investment into the public building stock. Moreover, Member States have to set out measures in their long-term renovation strategies in order to ensure a highly energy efficient and decarbonised national building stock and in order to facilitate the cost-effective transformation of existing buildings into zero-energy buildings⁶⁰. In line with the REPowerEU plan⁶¹ to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports, the public sector is called to play a key role in reducing its energy consumptions through building renovations.

Currently, a substantial barrier to increased renovation rates in the public sector is to create and sustain long-term the financial and technical capacity amongst public

⁵⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions, A Renovation Wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives, [COM\(2020\) 662 final](#)

⁵⁹ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the energy performance of buildings (recast), [COM\(2021\) 802 final](#)

⁶⁰ [Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings \(europa.eu\)](#), amended by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁶¹ Communication from the Commission of 8.3.2022 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#).

authorities to develop projects. In particular, small and medium-sized municipalities often do not have sufficient resources to dedicate staff towards developing a project pipeline.

The challenge remains to upscale ambitious energy renovations of public buildings to demonstrate the exemplary role of the public authorities in decarbonising their assets and leading the way towards the European clean energy transition.

Hence, facilitation structures (e.g. one-stop-shops or similar) are needed at regional and national levels that can support a larger number of public project promoters in designing and delivering ambitious renovation projects in the public sector at scale and capitalising on existing solutions.

The experience from the technical assistance facilities (ELENA, H2020 PDA, eee-f) has shown that a range of competences are needed in public project promoters to bring sustainable energy projects alive, namely expertise in technical aspects (energy audits, project design), financial engineering (Energy Performance Contracts, blending different finance sources) and legal aspects (bundling, pooling, procurement, applying Energy Performance Contracts).

Scope

Proposals should establish and operate regional/national facilitation structures, for example one-stop-shops, to accelerate the renovation wave in the public sector (e.g. office buildings, social housing, schools, leisure facilities etc.) covering a larger territory and offering a comprehensive, all-inclusive service from technical, financial to legal advice, procurement and quality assurance of works.

The proposal needs to demonstrate clearly how the facilitation structures will be established in terms of governance, mandate, geographical coverage and sustainability.

Proposals need to describe the comprehensive service package that will be offered to public authorities which should include:

- Demonstrating how they will achieve long-term sustainability of the facilitation structure by obtaining stakeholder support and becoming financially self-sustaining.
- Approaches to reduce complexity and simplify decision making for public authorities to stimulate demand for building renovation and energy performance improvements.
- Approaches to proactively identify and mobilise public buildings for comprehensive energy refurbishments.
- Promoting the uptake of cost-effective deep renovation of buildings with highly ambitious energy savings in line with the Europe's decarbonisation target.
- Legal assistance to facilitate and prioritise the aggregation of building renovation projects (belonging to one or several public entities) with the aim to upscale overall renovation and attract private investors.
- Development of efficient procurement processes ensuring that renovations are delivered at pace, enabling the bundling/upscaling of renovation projects and ensuring high quality of renovation works (including ambitious energy savings).
- Financial engineering support to facilitate the use of financial instruments and market-based instruments such as Energy Performance Contracts, refinancing models, Green/White Certificates, energy efficiency obligation schemes and, to increase blended finance of public and private sources and uptake of EU funding sources such as InvestEU, Recovery and Resilient Facility and

European Structural and Investment Funds including REACT-EU and Just Transition Mechanism.

- Approaches to engage with relevant actors in the value chain e.g. construction companies, architects, engineers, urban planners, financiers, etc.
- Approaches to improve awareness and trust towards such facilitation structures through clear accountability, cost and service transparency and quality assurance.

Proposals should build on the vast experiences and solutions developed by over 150 ELENA and PDA/MLEI projects amongst other relevant experiences.

Proposals should support public authorities in finding alignment of their proposed investment with the guidance provided in the EU Sustainable Finance policy and legislation, in particular alignment with the EU taxonomy criteria, or going beyond the minimum requirements set out therein.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of a range of EUR 1 million to EUR 1.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Proposals may be submitted by a single applicant or by applicants from a single eligible country.

Expected impact

Proposals should result in long-term facilitation structures which are tested, implemented and operational at the end of the action, i.e. delivering renovation projects.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number of buildings with increased energy performance (e.g. ZEB levels) owned by public authorities in the specific areas/territories targeted with the facilitation structures.
- Number of public authorities supported through the services of the facilitation structures.
- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Additional amount of funding support (EU and/or private sources) leveraged into the territory thanks to facilitation services.
- Number of jobs directly and indirectly created.

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

LIFE-2022-CET-PDA: Project Development Assistance for sustainable energy investments

Objectives

Project Development Assistance (PDA) offers technical assistance to public and private project developers to deliver energy efficiency and renewable energy investments of ambition and scale.

The topic aims to support project developers across Europe to develop replicable solutions that are mobilising private capital, blending public with private financing, setting up long-term and scalable financial instruments and at the same time overcoming legal and structural barriers whilst delivering a highly ambitious sustainable energy project pipeline. Projects are expected to demonstrate an innovative approach, for example in aggregating and structuring investment projects, advancing market boundaries or changing organisational and regulatory structures.

PDA projects contribute significantly to the European Green Deal's Renovation Wave⁶² and will help pave the way for a decarbonised and clean energy system. In the next years, PDA projects are expected also to significantly contribute to accelerating the clean energy transition, as pointed out in the REPowerEU plan⁶³ to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports. A range of very innovative solutions with regard to the financing and mobilisation of investments were demonstrated in past Horizon 2020 PDA projects, which helped to shift market boundaries and demonstrate practical application of inspiring solutions. For example, a forfeiting fund using private investments which is scalable across Europe has been set up to foster deep retrofitting of hard-to-treat multi-family buildings⁶⁴. Another example is the development of a revolving loan fund combining European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding, low interest-loans and Third Party Financing through Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) to deeply refurbish hospitals in the region⁶⁵. Many of these projects also implemented one-stop-shops to support public authorities in the preparation of investments on public buildings, street lighting, and other public assets. The Renovation Wave strategy highlights the importance of replicating this approach across Europe in order to accelerate investments in public buildings.

Scope

Proposals are expected to address **only one** of the two scopes below. The scope addressed should be clearly specified in the proposal's introduction.

Scope A: Project Development Assistance

Project Development Assistance (PDA) will be provided to public and private project promoters such as public authorities or their groupings, public/private infrastructure operators and bodies, energy agencies, energy service companies, retail chains, large property owners and services/industry. The action will support project promoters in

⁶² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions, A Renovation Wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives, [COM\(2020\) 662 final](#)

⁶³ Communication from the Commission of 8.3.2022 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#)

⁶⁴ <https://sharex.lv/>

⁶⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/1.2_marte_cinzia_colangelo_final.pdf

building technical, economic and legal expertise needed for successful project development and implementation. Projects should lead to the launch of tangible sustainable energy investments within the project duration, and adequate proof of such investments has to be provided, e.g. signed Energy Performance Contracts (EPC) or construction contracts.

Proposals should demonstrate a clear showcase dimension in delivering replicable solutions for accelerating sustainable energy investments across Europe, as regards:

- The development of scalable financing schemes with a particular focus on leveraging enhanced levels of private investment such as EPC, blended funds, financial instruments or innovative on-bill and on-tax payment schemes; and/or
- The organisational innovation for the mobilisation of the investment programmes such as setting up project development units, large-scale bundling and pooling of (mixed) assets, with a geographical focus at district, city or a wider level.
- Proposals should aim for high ambition levels of energy savings and decarbonisation, such as deep renovation, NZEB standards, positive energy buildings or districts and/or highly energy efficient infrastructure.

Proposals could target sectors including:

- Existing residential buildings including large social housing operators.
- Existing non-residential buildings of public or commercial owners.
- Building-integrated renewables and other small scale renewables.
- Existing public infrastructure such as district heating/cooling networks, water/wastewater services.
- Clean and energy efficient urban transport infrastructure and low emission mobility solutions including conversion of urban areas for soft mobility or non-motorised transport.
- Industry and services, including SMEs.
- Renewable energy generation led by energy communities and other citizen led initiatives.

Proposals under scope A may be submitted by a single applicant or by applicants from a single eligible country.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of a range of EUR 0.5 million to EUR 1.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Scope B – Community of practitioners of one-stop-shops for public assets

Proposals should support the development of an EU community for the practitioners actively involved in the local/regional implementation of one-stop-shops for the energy efficient renovation of public assets, in order to pool efforts, generate economies of scale and encourage convergence towards best practices. The target group for this community is primarily the actors involved in public asset renovation projects funded under Horizon 2020 PDA and ELENA, as well as potentially other programmes.

Building on existing initiatives, the community should support collective productions, incremental innovations and joint efforts to promote one-stop-shops, with a focus on promoting ambitious programmes delivering deep energy renovations and other relevant energy efficiency improvements in public assets, and/or involving the use of private finance e.g. through energy performance contracting or public-private

partnerships. It should facilitate dialogue and insight sharing, fostering the emergence of a common culture among participants and beyond, both at national and European levels.

Particular efforts and results are expected on, but not limited to:

- Strategic positioning: assessing the needs and identifying the different possible models to deliver support for public authorities, including possible sources of funding, link to national funding programmes, cooperation with private sector, etc.
- Methodologies and tools: how to streamline and optimise the processes to support public asset owners, e.g. procurement processes, aggregation of buildings / building owners? Etc.
- Skills and training needs: which skills or new professionals are needed for the implementation and effective operation of one-stop-shops? Conversely, how to motivate and secure career opportunities for skilled professionals in that field? Etc.
- Partnerships with market actors: what types of partnerships could be developed (e.g. with the construction sector, architects and engineers, ESCOs, banks, investors)? How to secure partners' commitment to deliver quality and competitive services? How to support the development of a strong ESCO sector for energy performance contracting? Etc.

This community of practice should consolidate findings from the various experiences across Europe and propose guidance and support to emerging initiatives. It should support the development of coordinated proposals to policy makers and actively contribute to regulatory and legislative processes at national and European levels, in particular by highlighting concrete situations and difficulties faced when implementing one-stop-shops, as well as best practice solutions.

Furthermore, proposals should deliver a large-scale capacity building programme for regional / national public entities in order to support the replication and roll-out of one-stop-shops for public assets. The capacity building programme should be adapted and rolled out at national level; activities should include a training of trainers at national level and engagement with the relevant national networks to ensure a good coverage and long-term sustainability. Capacity building should target, among others, local and regional authority officials, energy agencies and consultants involved in the development of energy renovation programmes. It should include a mix of classroom training and practical mentoring.

Proposals submitted by a single applicant or proposals covering a single eligible country are not considered appropriate under scope B. The community of practice to be established must be transnational and actively involve a variety of representatives of the most relevant implementations throughout Europe, reflecting the diversity of situations and approaches across Europe. Therefore, the Commission considers relevant that consortia gather a minimum of 3 applicants from 3 different eligible countries. The Commission intends to select one single proposal under scope B.

The Commission considers that a proposal requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 2 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting another amount.

Regarding the indicative budget between scope A and B, please refer to the call document section 3 on the Available budget.

Expected impact

Scope A:

Proposals should result in the launch of an energy efficiency and/or renewable investment programmes as well as the delivery of scalable financing solutions for sustainable energy investment projects with a particular emphasis on private sector funds, and, hence, ensure a significant leverage effect.

Every million EUR of EU support should trigger at least EUR 15 million of investments in sustainable energy in form of work or investment contracts signed. In case projects address exclusively investments in residential buildings, the triggered investments should be at least EUR 10 million for every million EUR of EU support.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro of investments).
- Primary energy savings/renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year)
- Reduction of GHG emissions triggered by the project (in t CO₂eq/year).
- Increased skills and capacity in project aggregators to deliver further sustainable energy investment (For example number of staff with increased skills, number of organisations that increased capacity to deliver investments and/or organisational structures, which are put in place.
- Jobs created through the sustainable energy investments.
- Where relevant, improved health-related indicators such as improved indoor air quality or physical activity.

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Scope B:

Proposals should deliver a community of practitioners of one-stop-shops for public assets, which enhances the practices of existing one-stop-shops, builds large-scale capacity for public authorities to design and implement one-stop-shops, and support the evolution of legal, policy and funding frameworks to enable the roll-out of one-stop-shops.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number of stakeholders actively involved in the community (split by category, e.g. one-stop-shops, public authorities, consultants, architects associations, construction sector federations, financial institutions, etc.).
- Number of planned collective outputs (split by topics and nature).
- Number and nature of planned contributions to legislative and regulatory processes at local, national and European levels.
- Number of national capacity building programmes put in place.
- Number of public authorities with increased capacity to deliver one-stop-shops.
- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).

- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition

LIFE-2022-CET-ENERPOV: Addressing building related interventions in vulnerable districts

Objectives

The topic aims to alleviate energy poverty by addressing the poor energy efficiency of dwellings, as a key risk factor causing energy poverty (the other two being low incomes and high energy expenditure). Buildings are still responsible for 40% of Europe's total energy consumption, and too many Europeans struggle to afford the energy bills for their poorly insulated dwellings with polluting heating/cooling systems.

In accordance with the Clean Energy for All Europeans package, Member States, through their National Energy and Climate Plans and Long-Term Renovation Strategies (LTRS), must identify dwellings of people at risk of energy poverty and develop effective strategies for renovating these as a matter of priority. The Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) (EED), as amended by Directive 2018/2002/EU⁶⁶, requires Member States to take into account the need to reduce energy poverty in the context of their energy efficiency obligations. In addition, the revised EPBD⁶⁷ requires Member States to target the least efficient building stock first ("worst first" principle), and address split-incentive dilemmas and market failures as part of the national LTRS. At the same time, the European Green Deal⁶⁸ sets out to ensure an energy transition that is socially just and inclusive, with the Renovation Wave⁶⁹ as its centrepiece. This is also supported by e.g. the Commission Recommendation on Energy Poverty⁷⁰.

In addition to tackling high bills and energy use, this topic aims to address the many negative impacts low quality building stock have on residents, including poorer health and lower levels of social inclusion. Common barriers to household uptake of renovation measures include the related high upfront costs, lack of information and

⁶⁶ Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018, [EUR-Lex - 32018L2002 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁶⁷ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the energy performance of buildings (recast), [COM\(2021\) 802 final](#)

⁶⁸ 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 of 11.12.2019 [COM\(2019\) 640 final](#)

⁶⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions, A Renovation Wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives, [COM\(2020\) 662 final](#)

⁷⁰ [Commission Recommendation \(EU\) 2020/1563 of 14 October 2020 on energy poverty](#)

trust, uncertainty about benefits of the measures, split incentives, and discomfort caused by renovation works, including the potential need to relocate.

Scope

Proposed actions should facilitate the market uptake of renovation approaches for the large-scale rollout of building-related interventions for vulnerable districts, clusters of buildings, or groups of such buildings managed by e.g. common building management entities, social/public housing organisations, or private owners of a large housing stock, in line with the Renovation Wave and the Commission Recommendation on Energy Poverty. Activities should demonstrate the effectiveness and replicability of the proposed approaches for the energy renovation of vulnerable districts.

Proposals should clearly identify the type of housing targeted: private or public rental housing, individual or multifamily buildings, owner-occupied or mixed tenure, etc. In case of rental properties, actions should help ensure that tenants' total costs of occupancy are maintained after renovation works in order to avoid district gentrification.

The approaches should be one or more of the following:

- Supporting the renovation of private multi-apartment buildings, with a special focus on reinforcing and adapting the governance and decision-making structures of building management and homeowners associations, tackling related regulatory framework barriers (e.g. property and/or rental laws), and setting up and coordinating relevant support services.
- Developing and implementing roadmaps⁷¹ for the energy renovation of a vulnerable district or group(s) of buildings with vulnerable residents, involving all stakeholders in the elaboration and implementation of the investment plan. Such roadmaps should prevent lock-in effects. Low cost measures can only form a small, complementary part of the roadmaps.
- Rolling out holistic, industrialised deep renovation solutions, including also approaches based on pre-fabricated modules for the renovation of vulnerable districts.

Building renovations should involve proven solutions and should deliver significant energy savings, in particular targeting the building envelope, and bring the building to a good or very good level of energy performance by national standards; they should aim to include renewable heating/cooling and/or electricity, where appropriate.

In order to maximise energy savings, occupant behaviour and buy-in should be considered from early stages of the process and all actions should be coupled with accompanying measures to adapt residents' post-intervention energy use behaviour, through e.g. community engagement campaigns, advice, or trainings. Due to the specific needs of the target groups, longer-term relocations of occupants should be avoided.

The proposed actions should take into account the multiple benefits from renovation for different vulnerable target groups, such as improved health, comfort, air quality, better social inclusion etc.

⁷¹ Roadmaps should be understood in this context as holistic and evidence-based renovation strategies for a specific geographic district or cohesive group of buildings. The roadmaps should cover all relevant stakeholders and aspects, including for example analysis of the building stock, stakeholder involvement, technical solutions, mobilisation of funding, and monitoring mechanisms.

The proposed actions should build on existing initiatives⁷² and involve local authorities and intermediaries such as tenants/homeowners/housing associations, social and societal actors, or renewable energy communities or citizen energy communities, as relevant.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1.75 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact

Proposals should result in reduction of energy poverty for the energy-poor households due to building energy renovations; increased capacity and preparedness of local and national stakeholders to deliver such renovations in the future; development of successful approaches for the energy renovation of vulnerable districts, which can be replicated in other regions or Member States.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number of dwellings renovated.
- Number of roadmaps developed.
- Number of energy poor consumers impacted.
- Multiple benefits of building energy renovations, such as improved physical and mental health, comfort and indoor environment, better indoor air quality, improved social inclusion, reduced public health expenditure.
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime. Impacts under this topic are expected to be demonstrated for energy poor households specifically.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

LIFE-2022-CET-ENERCOM: Developing support mechanisms for energy communities

Objectives

This topic aims to support actions that foster the collaboration between local and regional authorities and energy communities and/or actions that develop integrated services to facilitate the emergence and growth of community energy projects.

Energy communities can help citizens and local authorities invest in renewables and energy efficiency. Community-owned projects can allow citizens to finance sustainable energy investments that deliver local economic benefits, social cohesion, and other priorities such as improving the energy efficiency of housing or reducing energy poverty. The participation of citizens in renewable energy projects may also facilitate social acceptance at the local level. The role of energy communities in the EU energy

⁷² For example, the EU Energy Poverty Advisory Hub, the EU Covenant of Mayors, EU Building Stock Observatory, the Affordable Housing Initiative, and relevant EU-funded projects

systems is expected as well to grow in line with the REPowerEU plan⁷³ to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports.

An increasing number of local authorities wish to make sure that more citizens and local communities benefit from the energy transition and play an active role in it. In fact, local government is uniquely well-placed to support, partner and invest, and to provide a positive planning and policy environment to help drive community energy.

Designing adequate public interventions at the local level is key but there is no one-size-fits-all solution to trigger the creation of energy communities locally. The level of public participation and the type of actions required vary significantly depending on the specific context of each city and town. Building on initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors, there is also a need to strengthen the technical and financial capacities of local actors to support citizen-led initiatives in the field of energy (particularly in Member States with low levels of community energy activity).

Taking sustainable energy projects off the ground can be complex due to the regulatory and policy context (e.g. changing national support schemes for renewables, burdensome licensing, heavy administrative procedures, difficulties in coordinating project implementation in atomised markets, etc.). For relatively small and citizen-led actors like energy communities, there are some additional practical challenges such as lack of information, limited access to finance, difficulties in aggregating small interventions, difficulties in managing the public participation and engagement, and establishing effective governance and decision-making structures. These hurdles prevent energy communities around Europe from developing their potential. An effective way of tackling this complexity, is supplying integrated services to help energy communities develop sustainable energy projects.

Scope

Proposals are expected to address **one of the two** scopes below. The scope addressed should be clearly specified in the proposal's introduction.

Scope A - Local authorities collaborating with citizen-led-initiatives

Under this scope, proposals should foster the collaboration between local and regional authorities (including energy agencies) and energy communities. This could be done in many ways, but all proposals should include at least three of the actions below:

- Participation in and/or set up of municipal energy initiatives and energy communities including diverse and hybrid forms of collective ownership with participation from municipal authorities and citizens aimed at supporting the achievement of local and regional energy policy objectives.
- Support to the emergence of citizen energy initiatives that empower local actors to collectively address energy transition targets through use of public resources, funds and capacity. The role of local and regional authorities could include helping community projects access citizen finance and bank loans (e.g. through guarantees, seed funding for revolving funds, technical support for the early stages of project development) and facilitating procurement of locally generated renewable energy from community energy projects.
- Creation of a supportive local policy framework for the development of community energy projects (e.g. through community participation or investment quotas, more streamlined and simplified environmental permit procedures) and facilitation of a

⁷³ Communication from the Commission of 8.3.2022 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#)

dialogue among different actors involved in community projects (e.g. community members, relevant economic players, national regulators, the local authority and other societal, environmental or energy actors in the area). Where necessary, projects may also develop legal templates that enable the participation of municipal authorities in their potential different roles, acknowledging the regulatory differences that apply to these actors as members, as sponsors or as facilitators in the different Member States.

- Training and capacity building on community energy development (for local and regional authority officials, local communities and other relevant local actors) and promotion of citizen participation in energy communities.

Scope B - Developing integrated services to support community energy

Under this scope, proposals should support actions that improve market conditions and develop integrated services aimed at reducing complexity, simplifying decision making and stimulating the creation of community energy projects. These services may be implemented by public or private actors in close coordination with local and/or regional authorities in targeted territories. The integrated services designed should lead to local community energy investment pipelines and could cover:

- Capacity building and facilitating access of local energy communities and cooperatives to information and guidance about setting up, financing and operating community projects (e.g. licencing, public procurement of community energy, business models, legal aspects).
- Connecting different actors in the value chain (e.g. technology providers, financiers, public actors in charge of licensing, aggregators).
- Aggregation of small sustainable energy projects including (where relevant) support for energy commercialisation and participation in flexibility markets.
- Development of financial tools to facilitate the emergence of community energy projects and their access to citizen finance and bank loans (e.g. through guarantees, seed funding for revolving funds, technical support for the early stages of project development).

For scopes A and B (where relevant):

Proposals should justify how selected pilots fit either the definition of “renewable energy community” according to the revised Renewable Energy Directive ((EU) 2018/2001)⁷⁴ and/or the definition of “citizen energy community” according to the Directive on common rules for the internal electricity market ((EU) 2019/944)⁷⁵.

Proposals could cover any area related to sustainable energy (renewable energy generation, transmission, distribution, citizen-led renovation, energy efficiency, e-mobility, district heating, etc.). Project proponents may choose to focus on one or more areas.

Proposed activities can also promote (if they wish to) inter-consumers and/or inter-communities trading/sharing of sustainable energy virtual-net-metering, (collective) energy storage solutions, or peer to peer trading.

Proposals should demonstrate the support of the stakeholders which are necessary to ensure the success of the action (in particular, local or regional authorities).

⁷⁴ [Directive \(EU\) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources](#)

⁷⁵ [Directive \(EU\) 2019/944 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity and amending Directive 2012/27/EU](#)

Proposals should explain how their activities complement national enabling frameworks for energy communities (where relevant) and build on the work of the European Energy Communities Repository and the Rural Energy Communities Advisory Hub.

Activities should make use of existing initiatives, networks and platforms as relevant (e.g. Covenant of Mayors, Smart Cities Marketplace).

The development of tools and platforms is not expected to be the core activity of proposals.

Proposals should demonstrate a high degree of replicability and include a clear action plan to communicate experiences and results towards potential replicators across the EU.

Proposals replicating existing innovative organisational solutions should justify their choice and show how they will adapt solutions to their local context.

Projects should provide policy feedback to improve public policies, legal and regulatory environments in the field of community energy across Europe including the transposition of relevant directives.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact

Proposals should result in the emergence and growth of energy communities in different areas related to energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

Proposals should quantify their impacts using the indicators listed below, where relevant, as well as other project-specific performance indicators:

- Number of citizen-led initiatives supported or created as a result of the project.
- Number of citizens taking part in energy communities as a result of the project.
- Number of actors with increased skills in the area of community energy (local and regional authority officials or other relevant actors).
- Number of local and regional authorities committed to replicate best practice experiences.
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy renovation triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Number of operational integrated service hubs at the end of the project, although investment and upscale may happen after project completion (scope B).
- Development of local community energy investment pipelines (in million Euro of investments within the first 5 years) (scope B).

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime.

Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

3. Available budget

The indicative available call budget is **EUR 98 000 000**.

Specific budget information per topic can be found in the table below.

Topic	Topic budget
LIFE-2022-CET-LOCAL	EUR 7 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-POLICY	EUR 2 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-COMPLIANCE	EUR 2 500 000
LIFE-2022-CET-EE1st	EUR 3 500 000
LIFE-2022-CET-DEEPRENO	EUR 6 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-BUILDPERFORM	EUR 7 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-BUSINESS	EUR 6 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-BUILDSKILLS	EUR 6 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-DH	EUR 6 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-HEATPUMPS	EUR 6 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-MAINSTREAM	EUR 3 500 000
LIFE-2022-CET-FINROUND	EUR 4 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-INNOFIN	EUR 4 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-HOMERENO	Scope A: EUR 5 500 000
	Scope B: EUR 2 500 000
LIFE-2022-CET-RENO PUB	EUR 6 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-PDA	Scope A: EUR 6 000 000
	Scope B: EUR 2 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-ENERPOV	EUR 6 000 000
LIFE-2022-CET-ENERCOM	EUR 6 500 000

We reserve the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the call priorities, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines(indicative)	
Call opening:	17 May 2022
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>16 November 2022 – 17:00:00 CET</u> (Brussels)
Information on evaluation results:	April 2023
GA signature:	August 2023

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).

⚠ Please note that not using the correct template may lead to the inadmissibility of your proposal. Furthermore, to ensure a proper evaluation of your project the appropriate sections of the template must be filled in; for this call, all sections must be completed.

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*).

⚠ In order to ensure a proper evaluation of your project, please click on the “?” sign appearing in each screen and carefully check the instructions to correctly fill the different sections.

- 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*)
- Part C (*to be filled in directly online*) containing additional project data
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*templates available to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*):
 - detailed budget table (*mandatory excel template available in the Submission System*)
 - participant information including previous projects, if any (*mandatory template available in the Submission System*)

- for topic LIFE-2022-CET-PDA: table of investments (*mandatory template available in the Submission System*)

- **optional annexes:** letters of support


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. In case of discrepancies, the amounts in the online summarised budget table will prevail.

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover you 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, etc.). Before signing the grant, 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 **65 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You 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:
 - listed EEA countries and countries associated to the LIFE 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](#))⁷⁶
- the coordinator must be established in an eligible country.

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*).

⁷⁶ Applicants from countries which requested to be associated to the LIFE Programme may participate in this call for proposals. However, no grant agreement will be signed if the related association agreement is not entered into force by the finalisation of the evaluation process. The assessment of each proposal will be done in line with the provisions of the relevant association agreement.

Specific cases

Exceptional funding — Entities from other countries (not listed above) are exceptionally eligible, if the granting authority considers their participation essential for the implementation of the action (*see work programme*).

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 persons⁷⁷.

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

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'⁷⁸. ⚠ Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

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).

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)*⁷⁹ and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#)⁸⁰). 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).

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

Consortium composition

For topics **LIFE-2022-CET-LOCAL, LIFE-2022-CET-POLICY, LIFE-2022-CET-EE1st, LIFE-2022-CET-DEEPRENO, LIFE-2022-CET-BUILDPERFORM, LIFE-2022-CET-BUSINESS, LIFE-2022-CET-DH, LIFE-2022-CET-HEATPUMPS, LIFE-2022-CET-MAINSTREAM, LIFE-2022-CET-INNOFIN, LIFE-2022-CET-ENERPOV and LIFE-2022-CET-ENERCOM**: proposals must be submitted by **at least 3 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from 3 different eligible countries.

⁷⁷ See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

⁷⁸ For the definitions, see Articles 187(2) and 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

⁷⁹ 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](#).

⁸⁰ 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).

For topics [LIFE-2022-CET-COMPLIANCE](#), [LIFE-2022-CET-BUILDSKILLS](#), [LIFE-2022-CET-FINROUND](#), [LIFE-2022-CET-HOMERENO](#), [LIFE-2022-CET-RENOPUB](#) and [LIFE-2022-CET-PDA](#): proposals must be submitted by **at least one applicant** from an eligible country;

Eligible activities

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

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

Activities outside the eligible countries must be necessary to achieve the EU environmental and climate objectives and ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried within the eligible countries (e.g. actions aimed at the conservation of migratory birds in wintering areas, actions implemented on a trans boundary river, or projects aimed to address environmental problems that cannot be solved successfully or efficiently unless actions are carried out also in non-eligible countries).

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 coordinators except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the project requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

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

If we consider that your financial capacity 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.

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

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 'Resources' 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 show their capacity via the following:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- description of the consortium participants (and previous projects, if any)

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

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 participate⁸¹:

- 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 misconduct⁸² (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)

⁸¹ See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

⁸² Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

- 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 EU Regulation [2988/95](#) (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)
- 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 that⁸³:

- 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 outside 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 (for each topic) against the operational capacity and award criteria (*see sections 7 and 9*) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score (within a topic or budget envelope) a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order, the *ex aequo* proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Impact'. If these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Relevance', then 'Quality', then 'Resources'.

All proposals 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 the reserve list or rejected. Proposals that are below the budget threshold (i.e. passed, but not ranked high enough to receive funding) will be awarded a **Seal of Excellence**.⁸⁴

⁸³ See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

⁸⁴ Seal of Excellence is a certification awarded to candidates that apply for LIFE funding and are assessed to meet the relevant evaluation criteria as defined in the call text, but cannot be funded due to lack of budget. The projects which have been awarded the Seal of Excellence could be supported by the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund+ or the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, under the same conditions as they would have been financed under the LIFE programme. It is only awarded to those applicants who agree to share the data about their proposal

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 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.

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 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. Relevance (0-20 points)

- Relevance of the contribution to one or several of the specific objectives of the LIFE Programme and the targeted sub-programme
- Extent to which the proposal is in line with the description included in the call for proposals, including, where relevant, its specific priorities
- Concept and methodology: soundness of the overall intervention logic
- Extent to which the proposal offers co-benefits and promotes synergies with other policy areas relevant for achieving environment and climate policy objectives

2. Impact (0-20 points)

- Ambition and credibility of impacts expected during and/or after the project due to the activities, including ensuring that no substantial harm is done to the other specific objectives of the LIFE Programme
- Sustainability of the project results after the end of the project
- Quality of the measures for the exploitation of project results
- Potential for the project results to be replicated in the same or other sectors or places, or to be up-scaled by public or private actors or through mobilising larger investments or financial resources (catalytic potential).

3. Quality (0-20 points)

- Clarity, relevance and feasibility of the work plan
- Identification and mobilisation of the relevant stakeholders
- Appropriate geographic focus of the activities
- Quality of the plan to monitor and report impacts
- Appropriateness and quality of the measures to communicate and disseminate the project and its results to different target groups

(basic information on the proposal, the call and the applicant) with other alternative funding bodies, which may decide to fund the project.

4. Resources (0-20 points)

- Composition of the project team - in terms of expertise, skills and responsibilities and appropriateness of the management structure
- Appropriateness of the budget and resources and their consistency with the work plan
- Transparency of the budget, i.e. the cost items should be sufficiently described
- Extent to which the project environmental impact is considered and mitigated, including through the use of green procurement. The use of recognised methods for the calculation of the project environmental footprint (e.g. PEF or OEF methods or similar ones such as PEFCRs/OEFSRs) or environmental management systems (e.g. EMAS) would be an asset
- Value for money of the proposal

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score	Weighting
Relevance	10	20	1
Impact	10	20	1.5
Quality	10	20	1
Resources	10	20	1
Overall weighted (pass) scores	55	90	N/A

Maximum points (full proposals): 90 points.

Individual thresholds per criterion (full proposals): 10/20 (before weighting).

Overall threshold (full proposals): 55 points (after weighting).

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 you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your 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. Retroactive application can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

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): *see section 3 above*. 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 your project (NOT the *budgeted* costs). For unit costs and flat-rates, you can charge the amounts calculated as explained in the Grant Agreement (*see art 6 and Annex 2 and 2a*).


The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement (**95%**).

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, we will deduct it from the final grant amount (*see art 22.3*).

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*).

 When filling in the summarised budget table (directly online in Application Form Part A), please click on the “?” sign appearing in each screen and carefully check the instructions to correctly fill the different sections.


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
 - A.5 Volunteers
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
 - C.1 Travel and subsistence
 - C.2 Equipment
 - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- E. Indirect costs

Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:

- personnel costs:

- SME owner/natural person unit cost⁸⁵: Yes
- volunteers unit cost⁸⁶: Yes (without indirect costs)
- travel and subsistence unit cost⁸⁷: No (only actual costs)
- equipment costs: depreciation
- other cost categories:
 - costs for financial support to third parties: not allowed
 - land purchase costs: not applicable
- indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories (land purchase), if any)
- VAT: non-deductible VAT is eligible (but please note that since 2013 VAT paid by beneficiaries that are public bodies acting as public authority 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 in principle not eligible unless duly justified by the project objectives
 - common information and dissemination activities: foresee resources to increase synergies between, and the visibility of LIFE and EU supported actions (for example 1 travel/year, 5 days)
 - other ineligible costs:
 - land purchase costs are not eligible
 - large infrastructure costs are not eligible
 - indirect costs for volunteers are not eligible

 **Volunteers costs** — Volunteers costs are not a classic cost category. There are no costs because volunteers work for free, but they may nonetheless be added to the budget in the form of a prefixed unit cost (per volunteer) and thus allow you to benefit from the volunteers' work for the grant (by increasing the amount of reimbursement up to 100% of the normal costs, i.e. cost categories other than volunteers). More information is available in the [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6.2.A.5](#).

Reporting and payment arrangements

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

⁸⁵ Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 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(2020)7715).

⁸⁶ Commission [Decision](#) of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646).

⁸⁷ Commission [Decision](#) of 12 January 2021 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(2021)35).


After grant signature, you will normally receive a **prefinancing** to start working on the project (float of normally **30%** of the maximum grant amount; exceptionally less or no prefinancing). The prefinancing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/financial guarantee (if required)— whichever is the latest.

There will be one or more **additional prefinancing payments** linked to a prefinancing report.

In addition, for longer or more complex projects, you may be expected to submit one or more progress reports not linked to payments.

Payment of the balance: At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) 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 your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (*see art 22*).

Please also note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done and the costs declared. The Grant Agreement contains additional record-keeping rules (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 20*).

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 your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

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

Prefinancing guarantees are formally NOT linked to individual consortium members, which means that you are free to organise how to provide the guarantee amount (*by one or several beneficiaries, for the overall amount or several guarantees for partial amounts, by the beneficiary concerned or by another beneficiary, etc*). It is however important that the requested amount is covered and that the guarantee(s) are sent to us in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, 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.

Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24*).

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

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: Yes
- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes
- special logos: Yes

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

- durability: No
- 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 we may 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 you have an EU Login account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you 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 your proposal in 4 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
- Part C containing additional project data. To be filled in directly online.
- 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, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your 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 you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):


- [Online Manual](#)
- FAQs on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions)
- [LIFE Info Days](#)

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

Contact

Only in case you did not find an answer in the above links, you may contact:

- for individual questions on the Portal Submission System: [IT Helpdesk](#)
- for non-IT related questions: CINEA-LIFE-CET@ec.europa.eu.

 Please send your questions at the latest 7 days before the submission deadline (see *section 4*) AND 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. We will use it 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). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.

- **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 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.

- **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](#).