



# EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.D - Natural resources, climate, sustainable blue economy and clean energy  
D.1 – LIFE Energy + LIFE Climate

## Call LIFE-2025-CET Frequently Asked Questions

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### Table of contents

Frequently Asked Questions applicable to all topics .....	1
Topic-related Frequently Asked Questions .....	4
LIFE-2025-CET-BETTERRENO .....	4
LIFE-2025-CET-BUILDSKILLS .....	4
LIFE-2025-CET-DHC .....	7
LIFE-2025-CET-ENERCOM .....	10
LIFE-2025-CET-ENERPOV .....	10
LIFE-2025-CET-EUCF .....	11
LIFE-2025-CET-INDUSTRY .....	11
LIFE-2025-CET-LOCAL .....	12
LIFE-2025-CET-OSS .....	13
LIFE-2025-CET-PDA .....	13
LIFE-2025-CET-POLICY .....	16
LIFE-2025-CET-PRIVAFIN .....	16

### Frequently Asked Questions applicable to all topics

#### **Under call LIFE-2025-CET, are infrastructure and equipment costs eligible?**

Infrastructure costs are not eligible under LIFE CET.

As regards equipment costs, some limited equipment costs may be considered eligible for funding if the proposal justifies that these are indispensable for the sole purpose of the action. This could

for example be the case for monitoring and testing equipment. The eligibility of equipment costs is subject to depreciation during the lifetime of the project.

**What is the co-funding rate?**

The action's eligible costs will be reimbursed up to the maximum funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement i.e. 95%. **Under LIFE-CET it is not necessary to justify the funding of the remaining 5%.**

**Is it possible to subcontract some of the project activities to an organisation based in a country that is not automatically eligible for funding?**

Irrespective of the location of a subcontractor, as per Article 6.2.B of the LIFE grant agreement, subcontracting costs are eligible provided that they are, *inter alia*, "awarded using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests" (see also the [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#)). Specific subcontractors should not be identified at proposal stage.

**Are costs related to intellectual property rights (IPR) eligible?**

Costs related to IPR are in principle eligible, as long as they are reasonable and justified by the needs of the project. The relevance of these costs for a specific proposal will be assessed by the evaluators.

**Is it possible to provide additional information about the proposal through hyperlinks in the application or as part of the annexes, for example to substantiate some assumptions?**

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the call document mentions a limit of 65 pages for the application (part B). Therefore, the core information related to the proposal should be presented within those 65 pages and not through hyperlinks or within the annexes. This is also because evaluators have a limited amount of time to evaluate each proposal (hence the 65-page limit).

There are mandatory annexes (Detailed Budget Table and Participant Information in all cases, as well as the Table of Investments for the PDA topic) and one optional annex to upload the Letters of Support. Any additional information contained therein (e.g. details of the impact calculation, details about the pilots etc.) will be disregarded by the evaluators.

**In case a proposal builds upon another project, is it possible to continue using the website that was developed under this project?**

In accordance with section 10 of the LIFE-2025-CET call document, costs for separate project websites are in principle not eligible unless duly justified by the project objectives. That is the case for new as well as for existing websites. On the other hand, communication costs for presenting the project on the participants' websites or social media accounts are eligible. In case a proposal is selected for funding, the eligibility of costs for a dedicated website will be further assessed by the Agency at the time of the grant agreement preparation.

### **Where can I find more information about previous LIFE CET projects?**

More information on projects supported under different LIFE CET calls can be found in the [LIFE database](#). Also, on the [Funding & Tenders portal](#) information can be found by selecting "2021-2027" under "Programming period" and "Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)" under "Filter by programme". The projects stemming from the CET calls can be identified by selecting topics containing "CET" in the topic reference. Note that it is also possible to search using keyword(s).

### **Can organisations from countries that are not participating in the LIFE programme obtain financing?**

The list of eligible countries to the LIFE programme can be found [here](#). This means that an organisation based in a country not participating in the LIFE programme can participate as associated partner in a LIFE CET project at its own costs. This organisation could participate in the project as a partner with funding only if the participation of this organisation is considered **essential** for the implementation of the action. These cases are extremely rare and could be, for example, when the organisation has specific knowledge or skills that no other organisation in any country eligible under the LIFE programme has.

The exceptional character can only be determined at evaluation stage. If the proposal is favourably evaluated and if the entity is considered essential for the proposed action, exceptional funding can be granted to an organisation from a non-eligible country. It is possible for the proposal to be evaluated favourably but without the essential character of the entity. In that case, the organisation will have to decide whether or not to participate without EU funding.

As far as subcontracting is concerned, applicable procurement rules have to be complied with. Moreover, only limited parts of the action may be subcontracted — unless otherwise allowed in the call conditions. Limited parts means that subcontracting remains proportionate both in terms of share of subcontracted action tasks, as well as in terms of share in the eligible cost. The acceptable limit is assessed by the granting authority based on the nature of the action, which may vary between Programmes and calls.

### **Could an entity coordinating an application under the call LIFE-2025-CET get support from an organization that is not part of the consortium ("third party"), i.e. to provide administrative support?**

Under the LIFE grant agreement conditions applicable to LIFE CET, this is indeed possible. Depending if the coordinating entity plans to hire a company or directly contract a natural person, the related cost could fall under one of the following cost categories: 'C3. Purchase costs – Other goods, works and services' or 'A2. Natural persons under direct contract'. Please refer to the [Annotated Grant Agreement](#) (in particular pages 61-64 and pages 82-102) for details about these costs categories. Costs under the cost category C3 are only eligible if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are bought using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided

these ensure purchases with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12 of the Grant Agreement).

In case the administrative support is supplied through a company (i.e. cost category C3), the tasks given to the supplier cannot include specific coordination tasks of the Coordinator listed under Article 7 of the LIFE grant agreement, as these tasks cannot be delegated or subcontracted to any other beneficiary or third party (including affiliated entities). These tasks notably relate to e.g. the monitoring of the action’s implementation, ensuring all communications between the consortium and the granting authority, and distributing the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries (see also the [Annotated Grant Agreement](#), pages 151-152).

## Topic-related Frequently Asked Questions

LIFE-2025-CET-BETTERRENO	
	<p><b>Are the costs of renovating a building eligible for funding?</b></p> <p>Proposals should address mainly non-technological barriers and not aim for genuine technology development, nor should they include costs for actual construction and materials. Technological solutions are considered enablers but should not be at the centre of the action in this topic.</p> <p>Hence, the eligible costs for actions under this topic are not expected to directly finance renovation activities.</p>
	<p><b>Is this topic oriented to residential buildings only?</b></p> <p>The topic is not prescriptive in terms of the building sector or segment to address. Proposals could address multiple types of buildings, including residential, non-residential, public, private, or could focus on addressing only one type of building.</p>
	<p><b>Can a proposal address more than one scope?</b></p> <p>The topic text invites applicants to focus on one scope, as in general, the type of approach, activities and actors to involve would differ depending on the scope for proposals to be well targeted.</p> <p>If applicants decide to address more than one Scope, this is possible, but needs to be well justified. Proposals should explain which is their main focus, and any additional aspects addressed should be relevant and well justified, in coherence with the overall concept addressed and with the actors involved in the consortium. Applicants are discouraged to enlarge the scope of the proposal artificially.</p>
	<p><b>Are equipment costs eligible?</b></p> <p>Some limited equipment costs may be considered eligible for funding if the proposal justifies that these are indispensable for the core purpose of the action. This could for example be the case for monitoring and testing equipment. The eligibility of equipment costs is subject to depreciation during the lifetime of the project.</p>
LIFE-2025-CET-BUILDSKILLS	
	<p><b>When will the reports submitted by Member States under Article 28(6) of the Energy Efficiency Directive become publicly accessible?</b></p>

	<p>The submitted reports will be published within the third quarter of 2025 on the policy reporting platform of the European Commission. Given the deadline of the call LIFE-2025-CET, proposals submitted under the topic LIFE-2025-CET-BUILDSKILLS are not expected to provide detailed considerations about these reports. Successful proposals selected for funding will, on the other hand, be expected to consider the content of these reports as part of their activities.</p>
	<p><b>Is it possible to involve only one country in the proposal?</b></p> <p>Yes. Proposals may be submitted by a single applicant or by applicants from a single eligible country, although proposals may involve applicants from more than 1 country.</p> <p>The same eligibility condition applies to topics LIFE-2025-CET-BUILDSKILLS, LIFE-2025-CET-PDA and LIFE-2025-CET-PRIVAFIN.</p>
	<p><b>Is there a maximum project duration?</b></p> <p>There is as such no maximum project duration indicated in the topic text. For a proposal asking the EU contribution indicated in the topic (up to EUR 1.5 million), and given the range of activities required, a duration of around 30-36 months would be considered appropriate.</p>
	<p><b>Under Scope A, should proposals aim at a nation-wide implementation of all the measures foreseen in the national roadmap, or it is possible to focus on specific measures and regions?</b></p> <p>Proposals can decide to focus on implementing a sub-set of measures from the national roadmap and action plan; the number of measures should be appropriate to the project's duration and requested budget and the rationale for the selected measures should be clearly highlighted in the proposal.</p> <p>While the platform should have a national reach and include all relevant stakeholders, it could be justified to roll out some of the measures of the national roadmap only in certain regions. This should be clearly justified in the proposal.</p>
	<p><b>Under Scope A and B, how open is the design of the large-scale national communication and awareness raising campaign? Should the campaign represent a substantial part of the proposed activities?</b></p> <p>In addition to the requirements highlighted in the topic, the national roadmap must be used to justify the focus of the campaign on specific gaps and professions wherever possible. The proposal must justify the relevance and efficiency of the specific campaign activities to address those gaps and engage the relevant professionals. It is expected that the campaign will represent a substantial part of the proposed activities, indicatively at least 30% of project resources.</p>
	<p><b>Under Scope A and B, how should the specific performance indicators for the communication and awareness raising campaign listed in the topic text be understood?</b></p> <p>The topic lists a number of indicators that may be used to track the success of the campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>gross reach:</b> the total number of contacts generated throughout the campaign (i.e. the total number of times the target audience was exposed to all campaign products, including multiple exposures to the same</li> </ul>

	<p>individual). It represents the overall reach of the campaign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>net reach:</b> the percentage of the target audience that has been reached by the campaign at least once, after removing duplicated contacts.</li> <li>• <b>recall:</b> the number of people who can remember or correctly identify at least one specific campaign message or the associated brand after being exposed to the campaign.</li> <li>• <b>increased knowledge:</b> the percentage of the audience reached declaring that they have increased their knowledge of the campaign's topic, as a result of the exposure to the campaign.</li> <li>• <b>percentage of audience who took action as a result of the campaign:</b> the percentage of the target audience reached declaring to have taken action as a result of campaign exposure.</li> </ul> <p>This list is indicative and other indicators may be put forward in the application; the choice of indicators and the methods to track impacts should be clearly specified.</p>
	<p><b>For Scope A and B, are applications expected to involve communication professionals to design and run the campaign as well as data specialists to carry out the status quo analysis (for Scope B)?</b></p>
	<p>In order to ensure maximum quality and impact, it is important that applications demonstrate sufficient expertise in those fields, either through the presence of specific consortium members or through purchase of services.</p>
	<p><b>Will priority be given to proposals from eligible countries already having an established platform and roadmap?</b></p>
	<p>No, proposals from all countries eligible under the LIFE programme are welcome and the topic includes a Scope B on (Re)establishing national skills platforms specifically intended for countries without a recently updated national platform and roadmap. Proposals under this Scope B are invited to build upon the <a href="#">national roadmap supported under Intelligent Energy Europe</a> in the targeted country.</p>
	<p><b>Is Scope A of the topic exclusively intended to support organisations having developed a national platform under the LIFE CET calls of 2021 and 2022, or can other entities also submit an application, for example to expand or add new functionalities to the existing platforms?</b></p>
	<p>The focus of the topic in Call LIFE-2025-CET (Scope A) is on providing support to existing platforms funded under the calls of 2021 and 2022, notably through the implementation of the national skills roadmaps developed by these previous projects, as well as the design of a large-scale national communication and awareness raising campaign. Any organisation from an eligible country may apply under scope A, including organisations that were not previously involved in the platform's development and the drafting of the roadmap. However, the topic clearly requires proposals to continue to operate the national platform, which might be difficult to ensure without the support of the previous project. As stated in the topic description, <i>"only one platform will eventually be supported in a given country."</i> Against this background, it is advisable for applicants that were not previously involved in the platform's development to contact the responsible</p>

	<p>organisations and explore opportunities for a joint submission. To do so, applicants are invited to consult the following link, listing the relevant projects: <a href="https://build-up.ec.europa.eu/en/skills/skills-projects?f%5B0%5D=programme%3Alifecet2030">https://build-up.ec.europa.eu/en/skills/skills-projects?f%5B0%5D=programme%3Alifecet2030</a>. By clicking on “project and results”, the applicant will be redirected to the Funding &amp; Tenders Portal section showing the list of organisations involved. They can be contacted through the “Contact organisation” button.</p>
LIFE-2025-CET-DHC	
	<b>What is the definition of ‘waste heat’?</b>
	<p>Article 2(9) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast) defines waste heat as unavoidable heat generated as by-product in industrial or power generation installations, or in the tertiary sector, which would be dissipated unused in air or water without access to a DHC network, where a cogeneration process has been used or will be used or where cogeneration is not feasible.</p>
	<b>What is meant by ‘district heating’?</b>
	<p>According to Article 2(19) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast), ‘district heating’ or ‘district cooling’ means the distribution of thermal energy in the form of steam, hot water or chilled liquids, from central or decentralised sources of production through a network to multiple buildings or sites, for the use of space or process heating or cooling.</p> <p>The consumption must be off site, i.e. by a different economic entity (in particular without legal or capital link to the owners or operators of district heating and cooling), and more than one customer and more than one building or site should be connected to a network.</p>
	<b>Should investment plans be implemented before the end of a project?</b>
	<p>Consortia should prepare investment plans before the end of a project and consortia should fully demonstrate and ensure that plans are ready to be implemented. DHC owners/operators can start to implement the investment plans, e.g. procuring the necessary engineering studies and works, however all investments are not expected to be implemented during the project.</p>
	<b>Does a proposal have to address all different activities listed in the topic description?</b>
	<p>In all cases, a proposal should appropriately address the topic objectives. It will be up to proposers to demonstrate how the suggested activities will contribute to the topic challenges and expected impacts.</p>
	<b>Are equipment costs eligible under the DHC topic?</b>
	<p>Under that topic, the equipment costs are not eligible. LIFE CET does not finance the equipment costs but service and activities that can trigger investments. The topic does not finance the infrastructure costs themselves but services or activities that can trigger investments in the field of the topic.</p>
	<b>What are the criteria for "efficient district heating and cooling" system?</b>

	<p>An ‘efficient district heating and cooling’ system means a district heating or cooling system meeting the criteria laid down in Article 26 of DIRECTIVE (EU) 2023/1791 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 13 September 2023 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast).</p>
	<p><b>Should DH systems already be selected and described in the proposal?</b></p> <p>Following the text of the topic, consortia should convince evaluators that the planned activities are based on solid foundations and not on assumptions without a robust basis. It will be up to proposers to demonstrate the interest/commitment of district heating operators. The planned action should be implemented and should reach expected impacts defined in the topic text.</p> <p>Please bear in mind that some city authorities, owners or operators are already benefitting from project support for developing their investment plans. New proposals should not duplicate (part of) the work of existing projects.</p> <p>More information on ongoing projects can be found in the <a href="#">LIFE database</a>. The DHC projects that already received funding under the LIFE CET programme are the following:</p> <p><a href="#">LIFE22-CET-HeatMineDH</a> (101120948)  <a href="#">LIFE22-CET-SET HEAT</a> (#101119793)  <a href="#">LIFE22-CET-SUPPORT DHC</a> (#101119914)  <a href="#">LIFE22-CET-Low2HighDH</a> (#101120865)  <a href="#">LIFE23-CET-DHC SwEEtch</a> (#101167575)  <a href="#">LIFE23-CET-GREEN HEAT LIFE</a> (#101167568)  <a href="#">LIFE23-CET-ENABLE DHC</a> (#101167576)</p>
	<p><b>Is it necessary to include DHC utilities or operators in the project consortium as full partners or should they be rather included only as external observers using the results of the investment plans?</b></p> <p>The text of the topic LIFE-2025-CET-DHC does not necessarily require that operators/ owners of existing district heating systems should be part of the consortium. However, in line with the topic text, proposals should demonstrate in a clear and convincing way the interest/ commitment of operators/ owners who are the target of the support and explain the content of the support to be provided and how the consortium will deliver this support on the ground.</p>
	<p><b>Are neighbourhood retrofits of residential areas served by district heating eligible as subjects of investment plans? These retrofits are critical for achieving efficient district heating.</b></p> <p>Following the text of the topic, the focus should be on providing the required technical support for the preparation of investment plans for the fuel switch of existing district heating systems to fulfil the criteria for ‘efficient district heating and cooling’ or new district heating and cooling networks provided that plans are based on renewable energy or waste heat, and with particular attention to existing buildings. The consortium should explain and justify the approach in the proposal text. Also, if necessary, proposals should engage and involve required stakeholders, work closely with the potential customers and provide an adequate risk assessment.</p>

	<b>Can an investment plan target a district heating system that physically exists, but that currently is not utilised but that could be revitalised for instance by harnessing locally available geothermal energy?</b>
	The focus should be on identifying concrete ways to integrate renewable energy or waste heat to fulfil the criteria for ‘efficient district heating and cooling’. It will be up to proposers to demonstrate how the suggested solutions will contribute to the topic challenge and expected impact.
	<b>Is heat from the incineration of municipal waste regarded as waste heat?</b>
	In general, Article 2(9) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast) excludes the incineration of municipal waste from waste heat sources. However, a small portion of the heat generated during the incineration process, which is dissipated unused in air or water, may be regarded as waste heat.
	<b>How should project partners demonstrate the impact of the supplied investment plans and guidance on the transition towards “efficient district heating and cooling” networks and on integration of renewable energy and waste heat?</b>
	As specified in the topic text, proposals must “quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic, when they are relevant for the proposed activities”, e.g. the number of endorsed investment plans for existing or new district heating and/or cooling systems, allowing them to fulfil the criteria for “efficient district heating and cooling” defined in the Energy Efficiency Directive. Furthermore, proposals should also quantify their impacts related to the common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme. Also, applicants can propose their own indicators. These impacts should be quantified for both the end of the project and for five years after its conclusion. Independent evaluators will assess the relevance, ambition and the credibility of the proposed figures against the proposed activities and the expected impacts set out in the topic text.
	<b>Is it considered non-compliance, and can it lead to consequences if the developed investment plans are not implemented within 5 years after the project end?</b>
	Consortia should prepare investment plans before the end of a project and should fully demonstrate and ensure that plans are ready to be implemented. DHC owners/operators can start to implement the investment plans, e.g. procuring the necessary engineering studies and works. However, not all investments are expected to be implemented during the project. At the evaluation stage, independent external evaluators will assess the extent to which the planned activities will credibly ensure that the investment plans are implemented so as to enable the targeted district heating system to fulfil the criteria for “efficient district heating and cooling” as specified in the Energy Efficiency Directive Recast within a timeline of 10 years.
	<b>Should the programme-level indicators include the potential savings/energy amount of the follower DHCs as well?</b>

	Yes, as long as applicants quantify a number of follower cases (DH companies) for which the transfer of knowledge will be provided. Independent evaluators will assess the relevance, ambition and credibility of the proposed figures against the proposed activities.
LIFE-2025-CET-ENERCOM	
LIFE-2025-CET-ENERPOV	
	<b>Are equipment or renovation costs eligible?</b>
	No, under the call for proposals LIFE-2025-CET, infrastructure and equipment costs are not eligible. The LIFE CET programme does not finance the technologies themselves but the process and the set up of services or activities which trigger energy efficient or renewable energy investments. In exceptional cases, some limited equipment or low-cost devices may be considered eligible for funding if the proposal justifies that it is indispensable for the sole purpose of the action (e.g. monitoring devices).
	<b>Under Scope A, second bullet point, can the policy support also be at sub-national level?</b>
	The main focus of this bullet point is on the EED implementation at national level. However, some limited analysis and/or support at regional level may also be considered in clearly justified cases, depending on the size and institutional arrangements within the country. It is up to the applicants to convince experts through the submitted proposal why support to implement the EED (recast) provisions on energy poverty at the sub-national level would be more effective to empower and protect energy poor households.
	<b>Under Scope A, first bullet point, could an energy poverty observatory be established by private entities or foundations? Could such observatories also be established at regional level?</b>
	A national energy poverty observatory can be set up by both public and/or private bodies or entities. It is expected that an observatory represents all relevant stakeholder groups, including the national (and regional and/or local, where relevant) authorities. Such representation is expected to ensure the legitimacy of an observatory as a central point of information contributing to, for example, monitoring and data collection, supporting relevant professionals, enhancing understanding of energy poverty and helping to define an appropriate (national) strategy. It is mainly expected that any observatories would be set up at the national level. However, regional level observatories may also be considered in clearly justified cases, depending on e.g. the size and institutional arrangements within the country. It is up to the applicants to convince experts through the submitted proposal why a regional level observatory would be more relevant.
	<b>Under Scope B on support to renovation of residential multi-apartment buildings, are projects expected to undertake renovations as part of the proposed action?</b>
	No, actual renovation works do not need to form part of the proposed activities.

	Actual renovations should result from the proposed action, but it is not expected that the renovation of multi-apartment buildings would take place during the lifetime of the proposed action, if this is not realistic. Much would depend on the starting point of the proposed activities. However, proposed actions are expected to undertake concrete steps that could credibly lead to the expected impacts, including building renovations, supported by adequate evidence.
LIFE-2025-CET-EUCF	
LIFE-2025-CET-INDUSTRY	
	<b>Under Scope B, what should proposals provide for the pipeline of investments?</b>
	<p>The industrial energy cooperation approaches, to be developed within the timeframe of the project, should result in the launch of concrete investments. Proposals should provide an estimation of the investment pipelines that the project expects to deliver, including well substantiated assumptions regarding the companies and the investment costs and energy savings.</p> <p>Proposals are not expected to implement the investments during the time of the project. However, one or several deliverables should be included to document the prospective investment pipeline resulting from the project.</p> <p>It is expected that the pipeline of investments should be endorsed by the relevant stakeholders, which means the public and/or private organizations that will benefit from or support the implementation of the planned investments.</p>
	<b>Under Scope B, how many companies and regional/local industrial area/clusters should be targeted by the proposal?</b>
	<p>The topic is not prescriptive on the number of companies and industrial clusters/areas to be targeted by the proposal. Proposals should demonstrate how the choice of targeted companies and industrial clusters/areas will clearly lead to the validation of the proposed industrial energy cooperation approach. The geographical scope of the targeted companies and industrial areas/clusters should be in line with the proposed industrial energy cooperation approach (e.g. sharing of energy infrastructure, services etc.) with the aim to maximize its impacts.</p>
	<b>Under Scope A, can proposals address more than one technology and/or more than one sector?</b>
	<p>Yes, proposals can address one or more technologies to be integrated in a specific sector/industrial process. Proposals can also decide to co-design streamlined, standardised solutions targeting a specific energy process that is relevant for more than one sector.</p> <p>However, this should be well justified (in terms of e.g. technology integration, impacts, effectiveness, etc.) and supported through an active engagement of relevant actors (e.g. umbrella organisations representing both the technology providers and the industrial end-users) depending on the technologies and sectors targeted. Please note proposals will not necessarily lead to a higher score in the evaluation for addressing more than one technology and/or sector.</p>
	<b>Under Scope A, are industrial heat pumps relevant as a technology to deploy?</b>

	<p>Yes, however, please note that 2 proposals have been selected under topic LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS last year, with a focus on integrating industrial heat pumps in the food - pulp and paper - chemicals sectors. New proposals should not duplicate existing projects.</p> <p>More details about these two selected proposals will be available soon in the EU Funding &amp; Tenders Portal. More specifically, you can check at the bottom of this page: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS</a></p>
	<b>Do the participating companies need to be beneficiaries of the consortium?</b>
	No, proposals have no obligation to include companies as beneficiaries in the consortium. However, since their participation and engagement is crucial for both Scopes, proposals should demonstrate how this will be ensured. Letters of Intent from companies or entities that represent their interests can be included in the proposal.
	<b>Under Scope B, shall the “deployment of energy related infrastructure”, as foreseen under the list of expected impact, be actually rolled out during the timeframe of the project.</b>
	No. Applicants are not expected to fully implement relevant energy related infrastructure (e.g. renewable energy generation, energy storage, district heating and/or cooling networks) within the timeframe of the project. It is sufficient to develop the business model, have them included in an investment plan and ideally having the commissioning phase starting within the 5 years after the project duration. Please note the equipment and infrastructure costs are not deemed to be eligible under this call.
	<b>Are projects fostering the uptake of green hydrogen eligible?</b>
	Yes. However, demonstration of technology is not eligible under the scope of this topic.
<b>LIFE-2025-CET-LOCAL</b>	
	<b>Do applicants need to address all the expected impacts listed?</b>
	Proposals should address only those impact indicators mentioned in the Call that are relevant considering the scope, objectives and expected outputs of the proposed action.
	<b>Do applicants need to address all the points under the 'Scope' section?</b>
	Proposals should address only one of the areas of work mentioned under the 'Scope' section. This needs to be clearly indicated in the proposal.
	<b>Do local and regional authorities need to be beneficiaries of the consortium?</b>
	There is no obligation to include local and regional authorities as beneficiaries; however, public authorities need to be strongly engaged in the proposed activities.
	<b>What is an ambitious capacity building programme?</b>
	Capacity building programmes for implementation of CET plans and actions, do not only need to be ambitious, but also extensive and in-depth, with lasting effects and tailored. Ambition will be assessed in terms of number of trained participants, volume and depth of the training offer. Moreover, specific topic-

	<p>related indicators can be used to measure the ambition: Number of policymakers/public officers with improved capacity/skills and Average number of training hours per participant for capacity building programmes. Project-specific indicators can be also proposed as relevant.</p>
	<p><b>What is meant by the term "relevant structures"?</b></p> <p>Relevant structures should facilitate the implementation of clean energy transition plans and actions in an integrated and cross-sectoral way. They should also facilitate dialogue with other governance levels and key stakeholders. These structures could be new or existing. The format and implementation of these structures are context specific, as long as their aims are aligned with what is required in the topic text.</p>
LIFE-2025-CET-OSS	
	<p><b>Is it possible to involve only one country in the proposal?</b></p> <p>Yes. Proposals may be submitted by a single applicant or by applicants from a single eligible country, although proposals may involve applicants from more than 1 country.</p> <p>The same eligibility condition applies to topics LIFE-2025-CET-BUILDSKILLS, LIFE-2025-CET-PDA and LIFE-2025-CET-PRIVAFIN.</p>
LIFE-2025-CET-PDA	
	<p><b>Can the funding be combined with other sources of EU funding?</b></p> <p>Projects selected under the topic Project Development Assistance (PDA) may receive a funding rate of 95% and their specific activities should not be (double) funded by any other (EU) funding programme. However, PDA projects may mobilise EU funding for the actual investments, which they are expected to launch before the end of the action, e.g. using European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) or a loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB).</p>
	<p><b>Is it possible to involve only one country in the proposal?</b></p> <p>Yes. Proposals may be submitted by a single applicant or by applicants from a single eligible country, although proposals may involve applicants from more than 1 country.</p> <p>The same eligibility condition applies to topics LIFE-2025-CET-BUILDSKILLS, LIFE-2025-CET-OSS and LIFE-2025-CET-PRIVAFIN.</p>
	<p><b>How is Project Development Assistance related to the European Local Energy Assistance Facility (ELENA)?</b></p> <p>Project Development Assistance (PDA) activities implemented under call LIFE-2025-CET are complementary to the European Local Energy Assistance Facility (ELENA) implemented by the European Investment Bank (EIB). Whilst PDA typically supports public and private project promoters to launch project portfolios with an investment volume between EUR 7.5 million and EUR 50 million, the EIB-ELENA facility usually supports larger-scale investments above EUR 30 million.</p>
	<p><b>Can a proposal be submitted if parts of the investment programme/projects already exist?</b></p>

	<p>A proposal could still be submitted for the remaining parts of the investment programme/project. The existing investments should be clearly highlighted to avoid double funding. Proposers should describe in the application form the (local) strategic framework and previous/ongoing relevant investment projects upon which the proposal will build. Overall, it should be demonstrated how the investments to be launched are attributable to the PDA support or, in other words, how PDA supports/enables the investment launch.</p>
	<p><b>What is the actual outcome expected from Project Development Assistance (PDA) projects and which specific evidence is required?</b></p>
	<p>Projects are expected to result in the actual launch of a sustainable energy investment programme, as well as the delivery of an innovative organisational (facilitation) approach and/or financing solution with a particular emphasis on private sector funds. Proposals need to demonstrate that every million EUR of EU support will result in at least EUR 15 million of investments in sustainable energy (at least EUR 10 million for exclusive investments in residential buildings). These investments have to be launched during the project duration. Tangible evidence in the form of signed work or investment contracts, or a similar convincing proof, will need to be provided in this regard. It needs to be planned and indicated in the proposal, and submitted during the project duration.</p> <p>Moreover, PDA projects should also contribute to increased skills and capacity to deliver further sustainable energy investments.</p>
	<p><b>What is the purpose of Project Development Assistance (PDA)?</b></p>
	<p>The purpose of the Project Development Assistance (PDA) topic is to help public and private project promoters to convert sustainable energy project ideas into actual investments (launched during the project duration) by offering technical assistance during the various stages of the investment journey (as required in the specific project context). This can cover activities like project bundling, technical studies, energy audits, assessing financing options, legal advice, tendering procedure preparation, outreach and engagement etc. In this sense, PDA provides and builds technical, economic and legal skills and expertise for project developers needed for the successful project development and implementation.</p>
	<p><b>How can 'innovation' be delivered within Project Development Assistance activities?</b></p>
	<p>PDA projects should be showcases and deliver innovative approaches with a view to accelerating sustainable energy investments across Europe. This can involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Organizational innovation regarding the mobilisation and/or structuring of the investment programme: e.g. set-up of dedicated facilitation structures, project development units (PDUs), one-stop-shops (OSSs), aggregation and bundling/pooling approaches (regarding small(er) investments and/or diverse assets to create large(er)-scale investment programmes to enhance bankability/investability) or efficient procurement procedures for large-scale portfolios of (mixed) assets</li> <li>* Financial engineering with a particular focus on leveraging private investment (including blending public with private financing or improved combination of existing funds). Examples could include investment approaches,</li> </ul>

which are different from 'traditional' ones in the sector/region targeted, like Energy Performance Contracting (EPC), dedicated financial instruments, innovative on-bill and on-tax payment schemes, community-based financing schemes etc.

In any case, 'innovativeness' is determined in relation to the specific situation in the sector and/or region addressed by the project and proposals should clarify the particular context in this regard.

**What level of detail on the investments to be launched should be provided in the proposal?**

The initially envisaged sustainable energy investment pipeline to be launched during the project duration has to be identified in the application (in the mandatory annex 'Table of Investments' specific to this topic, which can be downloaded on the Funding & Tenders Portal). The investment volume targeted in this context also needs to consistently reflect the envisaged leverage. Depending on the nature of the sustainable energy investment programme to be financed, tasks for establishing a full level of detail on the future investment(s) may be included in the application.

The investments to be launched during the project duration should only refer to sustainable energy investments, i.e. investments which are directly related to or required for energy savings and/or renewable energy generation (and the indicated amount of the investments to be launched should include VAT only for entities which cannot reclaim it). Other (investment) costs should not be included in the proposed 'sustainable energy investment costs' to be considered for the achievement of the leverage factor of 1:15 (1:10 in case of exclusive investments in residential buildings). For example, in case of a building refurbishment, sustainable energy investment costs could include changing windows or painting the façade after insulation. However, costs for painting the hallways or changing the bathtubs would not be eligible.

**What does the Project Development Assistance (PDA) topic pay for in practice?**

There is no comprehensive list of eligible activities; however, only activities which are required to launch the investments will be considered relevant.

"PDA pays for brains, not for bricks". Actual hardware investments, basic research or technology development are not covered. Costs for the supervision of works may under certain circumstances be covered, if they are fully justified by the specific context of a proposal.

From previous experiences, the eligible costs for PDA can include e.g. staff efforts, subcontracting of specialist expertise (for example regarding legal, financial and technical matters), travel and subsistence and other costs such as publications. In practice, PDA will pay for those activities necessary to prepare and mobilise the investment programme and its financing, such as feasibility studies, stakeholder and community mobilisation, preparation for tendering procedures or setting up a specific financing scheme/financial engineering approach, including bundling of sustainable energy investment projects into bankable packages. In addition, costs for developing an action plan to communicate experiences and results towards potential replicators across the EU are eligible.

	<p><b>Are investments into new buildings/new assets eligible?</b></p> <p>In general, Project Development Assistance (PDA) supports (renovation) measures regarding existing assets. However, in particular as part of a larger renovation project, certain 'new investments' may be eligible, for example the extension of existing district heating/cooling networks (provided that the extended networks are fully based on low-temperature renewable energy or waste heat), or also renewable energy generation integrated in a larger-scale building retrofitting programme. Moreover, renewable energy production by energy communities and other citizen-led initiatives or justified measures in the industry sector are eligible, if they clearly advance beyond business-as-usual approaches. In addition, justified investment activities in the mobility sector are eligible.</p>
	<p><b>Are investments into renewable energy eligible?</b></p> <p>In general, Project Development Assistance (PDA) supports (energy efficiency) measures regarding existing assets. However, in particular as part of a larger renovation project or support to DHC modernisation, related renewable energy investments are in principle eligible. Moreover, renewable energy production by energy communities and other citizen-led initiatives or justified renewable energy measures in industry are eligible, if they clearly advance beyond business-as-usual approaches.</p>
LIFE-2025-CET-POLICY	
LIFE-2025-CET-PRIVAFIN	
	<p><b>Is it possible to involve only one country in the proposal?</b></p> <p>Yes. Proposals may be submitted by a single applicant or by applicants from a single eligible country, although proposals may involve applicants from more than 1 country.</p> <p>The same eligibility condition applies to topics LIFE-2025-CET-BUILDSKILLS, LIFE-2025-CET-OSS and LIFE-2025-CET-PDA.</p>
	<p><b>Does the financing scheme need to be established in several countries?</b></p> <p>No. The financing scheme should be established in at least 1 eligible country under the LIFE programme, in order to ensure the development of a sound and robust investment pipeline.</p> <p>Note that proposals are expected to plan replication and/or rollout of the scheme envisaged beyond the region(s) targeted for the establishment, including the analysis of legal and market conditions for replication. Region(s) refer to sub-national territories.</p>
	<p><b>Is it necessary to deliver investments by the end of the project?</b></p> <p>No. What is requested is that the innovative financing schemes are operational by the end of the project and ready to finance investments. Therefore, investments may be implemented after the end of the action. However, in order to ensure that the financing scheme is operational and ready to finance investments at the end of the project, it may be relevant to process some investment during the project, leading to financing decisions.</p>

	<b>What is expected in terms of project pipeline?</b>
	<p>Proposals are expected to ensure the availability of demand in the form of a project pipeline complying with the requirements of the scheme, in particular at regional and national level. This is to avoid that a financing scheme is developed for which there is not sufficient demand.</p> <p>Assuming that there will be a sufficient demand may not be judged credible without a detailed analysis of the potential pipeline of projects (project owners, types of investments, market quantification) and a clear strategy to engage with that project pipeline.</p> <p>Note that proposals are not expected to develop the project pipeline themselves; they can rely on existing pipelines, including those developed by programmes and initiatives at the regional and national level.</p>
	<b>Should the targeted investments be only financed through private funds?</b>
	<p>No. The innovative financing schemes to be developed should focus on leveraging additional private funding sources. However, depending on the sector and country, public support programmes may be available to finance the same types of investments as those targeted by the proposal. Proposals should identify those public programmes and demonstrate how they complement them or even cooperate with them.</p>
	<b>Is it necessary to detail the innovative financing scheme(s) addressed already in the proposal?</b>
	<p>Please read carefully the elements listed in the description of the topic that proposals should take into account.</p> <p>Based on past experiences with similar calls addressing innovative financing schemes, proposals should in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include a sufficiently clear, concrete and mature concept with regard to the financial solution(s) to be developed, the sectors/investment types targeted etc.;</li> <li>- Demonstrate that they actually respond to real market needs and can be expected to have a corresponding concrete (market) impact;</li> <li>- Show the economic and financial viability of the solution(s) envisaged in a traceable way and contain an adequate (at least preliminary) market and barrier analysis; and</li> </ul> <p>Address market acceptance in a suitable way, for instance clarifying whether key stakeholders and, in particular, financial sector actors are already involved, or with which engagement strategy this shall be achieved effectively.</p>
	<b>Can the innovative financing scheme(s) proposed address solely renewable energy investments?</b>
	<p>No. In view of the ambitious EU climate and energy policy, including dedicated targets for the years 2030 and 2050, significantly enhanced investments in sustainable energy will be required. In this context, in particular the level of energy efficiency investments, which have specific profiles, needs to be ramped up significantly. Therefore, the innovative financing schemes for investments in sustainable energy can also cover small-scale renewable energy sources, but need to demonstrate a dedicated and clear focus on energy efficiency.</p>

	<p><b>When addressing the expected impacts related to the number of private finance stakeholders, does it matter which kind of stakeholders are involved?</b></p>
	<p>Yes. The proposal should identify not only the number of private finance stakeholders reached, but also describe what type of financial institutions (banks, asset managers, asset owners, etc.) are targeted, and, when relevant, give an estimate of their volume of investment and/or capital under management.</p> <p>It is not necessary to justify impacts on indicators listed in the topic description which are not relevant for the project, but proposals are expected to provide more specific impact indicators related to the context of the proposal. The impacts proposed should be quantified and justified in detail, both for the project time and afterwards.</p>
	<p><b>Where can I find examples of previous or ongoing projects addressing the topic?</b></p>
	<p>A number of successful projects, funded under similar topics of the predecessor programme Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency, were presented at the info day and presentations can be found on the LIFE web page dedicated to the PRIVAFIN topic (<a href="https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/crowding-private-finance-0_en">https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/crowding-private-finance-0_en</a>).</p> <p>Proposals funded under the predecessor topics LIFE-2021-CET-INNOFIN, LIFE-2021-CET-MAINSTREAM, LIFE-2022-CET-INNOFIN, LIFE-2022-CET-MAINSTREAM, LIFE-2023-CET-PRIVAFIN, LIFE-2024-CET-PRIVAFIN can be found in the projects section of the <a href="#">funding and tenders portal</a> once the grant agreements have been signed.</p> <p>However, previous topics were not exactly the same as this year. Proposals should seek to best answer the current call for proposals while building on previous projects.</p>
	<p><b>Does my proposal have to deliver results on all the impact indicators listed?</b></p>
	<p>No. The topic provides a list of impact indicators that will be used to evaluate the impact criterion, but depending on the content of each specific proposal, some of the indicators may not be relevant.</p> <p>It is not necessary to justify impacts on indicators listed in the topic description which are not relevant for the project, but proposals are expected to provide more specific impact indicators related to the context of the proposal. The impacts proposed should be quantified and justified in detail, both for the project time and afterwards.</p>