



# **Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)**

**Call for proposals**

**LIFE Clean Energy Transition  
(LIFE-2024-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](#)<sup>1</sup>).

The call is launched in accordance with the 2021-2024 Multiannual Work Programme<sup>2</sup> and will be managed by the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('Agency').

The call covers the following **topics**:

- **LIFE-2024-CET-LOCAL:** Clean energy transition plans and strategies in municipalities and regions
- **LIFE-2024-CET-POLICY:** Towards an effective implementation of key legislation in the field of sustainable energy
- **LIFE-2024-CET-PRODUCTS:** Real world energy consumption of energy-related products
- **LIFE-2024-CET-BETTERRENO:** Energy Performance of Buildings - Making renovation faster, deeper, smarter, service- and data-driven
- **LIFE-2024-CET-BUSINESS:** Supporting the clean energy transition of European businesses
- **LIFE-2024-CET-BUILDSKILLS:** BUILD UP Skills – Upskilling and reskilling interventions for building decarbonisation
- **LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS:** Supporting the roll-out of high-quality heat pump installations
- **LIFE-2024-CET-DHC:** Supporting district heating and cooling
- **LIFE-2024-CET-PRIVAFIN:** Crowding in private finance
- **LIFE-2024-CET-OSS:** One-Stop-Shops - Integrated services for clean energy transition in buildings and businesses
- **LIFE-2024-CET-RENOPUB:** Facilitation structures for the renovation of public buildings
- **LIFE-2024-CET-PDA:** Project Development Assistance for sustainable energy investments

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 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-2024-CET-ENERPOV:** Alleviating household energy poverty in Europe
- **LIFE-2024-CET-ENERCOM:** Developing support mechanisms for Energy Communities
- **LIFE-2024-CET-SAP:** LIFE Clean Energy Transition – Standard Action Project

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 Deal<sup>3</sup> 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:

- 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

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<sup>3</sup> 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).

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](#)<sup>4</sup> and the reduction of hazardous waste in view of the EU's commitment under the [Basel Convention](#)<sup>5</sup>.
- 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

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<sup>4</sup> 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).

<sup>5</sup> Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal



- 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) and LIFE Standard Action Projects (SAPs).

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).

SAPs represent the 'traditional LIFE projects' aimed to:

- develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches

'Innovative techniques, methods and approaches' means solutions which are new when compared to the state of the art at Member State and sector level and which are implemented at an operational scale and under conditions that allow the achievement of the impacts set out in the award criterion 'Impact' first paragraph (*see below*).

- contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practice

'Best practice' means solutions, techniques, methods and approaches which are appropriate, cost-effective and state of the art (at Member State and sector level), and which are implemented at an operational scale and under conditions that allow the achievement of the impacts set out in the award criterion 'Impact' first paragraph (*see below*).

- support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the EU legislation and policy, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society.
- catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy related solutions for implementing the EU legislation and policy by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

SAPs are a flexible tool available to entities from all sectors (public, non-governmental and private).

They can be close-to-market (i.e. aim not only at delivering improved environmental solutions, but also at making sure such solutions are widely taken up by society in general and, more particularly, by the economy through an explicit market-oriented approach). In this case, applicants will be required to highlight specific market-related information in their Application Forms (*e.g. planned production capacity, reference market, economic feasibility etc.*).

Applications for SAPs are typically expected under the sub-programme 'Circular Economy and Quality of Life', 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation' and 'Clean Energy Transition'.

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

### ***Capacity building in public authorities***

#### **LIFE-2024-CET-LOCAL — Clean energy transition plans and strategies in municipalities and regions**

##### **Objectives**

The topic aims to provide local and regional authorities with the necessary capacity, integrated approaches and organisational structures to deliver and implement plans and strategies for the clean energy transition (CET).

Local and regional authorities (LRAs) are a decisive lever for achieving the EU Green Deal objectives in the short, medium and long-term, such as the 2030 climate and energy targets as set out in the European Climate Law and the relevant 'Fit for 55'<sup>6</sup> legislative revisions – in particular the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Directives.

LRAs also have a very relevant role to play in phasing out EU dependence on fossil fuel imports, within the framework of the REPowerEU Plan<sup>10</sup>, and are well-placed to contribute to specific initiatives such as the preparation and implementation of National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and their updates; the development of local heating and cooling plans in municipalities and the leading role of the public sector on energy efficiency; the Renovation Wave<sup>11</sup> and mobilisation of investment in clean energy; the Just Transition Mechanism<sup>12</sup>; the speed-up of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) permitting processes<sup>14</sup> and the implementation of the EU solar strategy<sup>15</sup>, among others.

Many municipalities and other public bodies have already set ambitious clean energy transition targets, for instance through Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans<sup>16</sup> (SECAPs) or similar, and there is now a clear need to deliver on these plans/strategies and implement sustainable energy actions in the short, medium and longer term at an unprecedented level of ambition and pace, in order to comply with the EU's energy and climate targets.

Therefore, it is critical that LRAs develop and reinforce their capacities and skills to deliver and implement CET plans and strategies. This is particularly needed for small and medium municipalities, rural and isolated areas, and carbon-intensive regions – which might also benefit from previous successful experience and know-how of frontrunners on similar challenges.

Delivering the energy transition in a holistic manner requires LRAs to put in place an integrated approach to implement sustainable energy actions, ensuring a strong political commitment, the allocation of clear responsibilities and the identification of appropriate resources and financing opportunities. This could be supported by robust and long-lasting organisational structures, with the aim of mainstreaming the carbon neutrality goal within all relevant sectors (energy production and consumption, buildings, district heating and cooling, mobility and transport, land-use, waste, water, health, etc.), mutually reinforcing sectoral policies and accelerating on the implementation. These new or existing structures could include, for instance, multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral teams within the LRAs and should facilitate timely and relevant dialogue and collaboration with other governance levels and key stakeholders.

Actions should consider potential synergies and cooperation with complementary EU initiatives addressing the role of LRAs in the clean energy transition, notably the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Clean Energy for EU Islands Initiative<sup>17</sup>, the Horizon Europe Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission<sup>18</sup>, ManagEnergy<sup>19</sup>, BUILD UP Skills<sup>20</sup>, and other potentially relevant initiatives. Existing technical assistance and private financing support initiatives such as the European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) Facility<sup>21</sup>, LIFE CET Project Development Assistance (PDA), Smart Cities Marketplace<sup>22</sup>, the EU City Facility<sup>23</sup> should also be taken into account in view of accessing dedicated support for financing the implementation of sustainable energy actions foreseen under the local and regional CET plans.

### Scope

Actions should provide technical support to a significant number of LRAs, depending on the targeted context, and build their capacities to deliver and implement ambitious short and medium-term CET plans and strategies for 2030 – with a potential to pave the way for the 2050 carbon neutrality goal – in coherence with the EU energy and climate targets and relevant policies and initiatives.

The focus should be on delivering the right mix of activities that will build/increase lasting technical, legal, financial, administrative and social innovation skills among LRAs with a clear aim to initiate the implementation of sustainable energy actions with an integrated approach in their constituencies.

Proposals should address one or more of the following bullet points, provided the proposed activities are relevant and coherent. Addressing more than one point does not necessarily increase the relevance of the proposal.

- Deliver extensive and in-depth capacity building programmes for policy-makers and public officers on the implementation of CET plans and actions. Capacity building programmes should be of scale, ambitious in terms of number of trained participants and volume and depth of the training offer, with lasting effects and tailored to specific needs and national languages, as appropriate.
- Develop and pilot blueprints and integrated approaches that help municipalities develop and streamline actionable heating and cooling plans which align with the carbon neutrality goal and other sectoral policies. Bundle efforts at regional or other appropriate levels to provide support services for municipalities on this theme. Facilitate dialogue with relevant stakeholders, citizens and various governance levels including national authorities.
- Establish and/or enhance organisational structures to mainstream the carbon neutrality goal and coordinate the implementation and monitoring of integrated clean energy transition plans and facilitate effective exchanges among different governance levels and active engagement of public and private stakeholders, including citizens and/or communities.

Proposals must be submitted by **at least 3 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) **from 3 different eligible countries**.

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 present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific impacts. This

demonstration should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions, and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts.

Proposals submitted under this topic should demonstrate how they will contribute to providing capacity, skills and appropriate structures to local and regional authorities for delivering and implementing plans and strategies for the clean energy transition. Proposals should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic, when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

The indicators for this topic include:

- Number of clean energy transition actions implemented (or initiated) by the end of the action.
- Financial resources dedicated or earmarked for the implementation of CET plans/strategies and specific CET actions.
- Number of policies/plans/strategies established through the action.
- Number of policymakers/public officers with improved capacity/skills.
- Average number of training hours per participant for capacity building programmes.
- Number of organisational structures created/reinforced.
- Number of institutionalised dialogues/cooperations within and beyond public authorities, including peers, private stakeholders and/or civil society.
- Number of public and private stakeholders engaged.
- Demonstration of secured political commitment and necessary resources.

Proposals should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

#### Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

### ***Supporting the enabling provisions of EU legislation and support to EU policy making***

#### **LIFE-2024-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 and the REPowerEU Plan, 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 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, including through the updates and implementation of the National Energy and Climate Plans, and their biannual integrated progress reports.

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 2024, proposals are invited for the Scopes A, B and C, i.e. proposals for actions to support Member States in the implementation of:

- the Energy Efficiency Directive (Scope A).
- the Renewable Energy Directive (Scope B).
- the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Scope C).

Proposals are expected to focus on **one** of the 3 scopes established below. The scope addressed should be specified in the proposal's introduction. In case a proposal addresses elements of more than one scope, the added-value of a cross-cutting approach should be adequately explained.

### *Scope*

Actions under this topic are expected to:

- Promote and enable exchange of insights and sharing of best practices within/ 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 A: Support for the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive**

Actions under Scope A are expected to address core provisions and aspects of the Energy Efficiency Directive<sup>6</sup>, in particular those that are reinforced or newly introduced with the recast, notably:

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<sup>6</sup> [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 \(recast\).](#)

- the Energy Efficiency First Principle, supporting Member States in the operational implementation of the provisions and helping develop related assessment methodologies, tools and benchmarks, including for the application of the principle in planning and investment decisions in energy networks, as well as in planning and investment decisions at regional and local level or in projects below the thresholds as set out in the Energy Efficiency Directive.
  - the Energy Efficiency targets, including new methods to collect and integrate different sources of data, to forecast trends and to evaluate policies and measures.
  - the role of the public sector in delivering the specific targets established for the public sector, e.g. by supporting Member States in developing strategies, mapping public buildings and gathering and calculating data from public bodies.
  - the Energy Savings Obligations and Energy Efficiency Obligation Schemes, supporting Member States in the design and implementation of the schemes and in the calculation of contributions and evaluation of measures.
  - Contractual Rights of consumers in the area of heating and cooling, supporting Member States and regulatory bodies in putting in place provisions and standards matching the requirements and information needs of consumers and complementing the implementation of the respective articles.
  - Energy Services, supporting Member States in putting in place standard contracts and quality control schemes, moreover platforms/databases that facilitate access to qualified and certified energy services providers.
  - Comprehensive Assessments for Heating and Cooling, supporting Member States in collecting the necessary data and carrying out the assessment of national heating and cooling potentials as well as for putting in place policies to ensure that, in line with Article 25 of the Energy Efficiency Directive, potentials identified are being realised.
- *For Policy Support actions addressing energy audits and energy management systems, please refer to call topic LIFE-2024-CET-BUSINESS.*
  - *For Policy Support to public authorities for the implementation of the energy poverty related provisions of the EED, please refer to call topic LIFE-2024-CET-ENERPOV.*
  - *For Policy Support actions addressing private finance for sustainable energy, please refer to call topic LIFE-2024-CET-PRIVAFIN.*
  - *For actions addressing technical support and capacity building towards renewable-based and efficient district heating and cooling systems, please refer to topic LIFE-2024-CET-DHC.*

## **Scope B: Support for the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive**

Actions under Scope B are expected to address core provisions and aspects of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED), in particular those introduced or reinforced under the Fit for 55 Package and REPowerEU Plan through the amending Directive (EU) 2023/2413<sup>7</sup>.

Specifically, proposals should support public authorities in charge of the transposition and implementation of the Directive by addressing only one of the areas below:

1. Provisions related to the permit-granting process. Proposals should support the joint development of new tools, sharing of best practices, and training programmes

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<sup>7</sup> [Directive \(EU\) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending Directive \(EU\) 2018/2001, Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources](#)



for speeding up and streamlining permitting procedures through an EU community of practitioners in RES permitting consisting of the contact points established under Art. 16 of the RED and other permit-granting authorities, including at regional and local level.

2. Provisions related to the development of plans designating renewables acceleration areas for one or more broad types of renewable energy sources, e.g. a) wind; b) solar thermal; c) solar photovoltaic; d) geothermal energy; e) ambient energy; f) tide, wave and other ocean energy; g) biogas, including effective environmental impact mitigation measures.
3. Provisions related to the development of enabling frameworks to promote and facilitate the development of renewables self-consumption, including for jointly acting renewables self-consumers. Proposals should support and target national or regional authorities in the update, monitoring and /or evaluation of the implementation of national/regional/local frameworks implementing the above provisions. In particular, proposals should address the practical implementation of energy sharing by renewable self-consumers in the same building or multi-apartment block or within a wider geographical location (without necessarily the need to form an energy community) and measures to promote it in cooperation with all relevant actors.

- *For actions addressing technical support and capacity building for the transition towards renewable-based and efficient district heating and cooling systems, please refer to topic LIFE-2024-CET-DHC.*
- *For actions supporting the roll-out of heat pumps, please refer to topic LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS.*

### **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 (EPBD)<sup>8</sup>, in particular those that are subject to major changes introduced under the Recast of the EPBD.

Actions should address in particular aspects in one of the three main focus areas as established below, even if not limited to these:

1. Actions to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of instruments designed to improve the energy performance of buildings through a higher number of and deeper renovations, notably:
  - as regards Minimum Energy Performance Standards, support for developing the standards at Member State level and for developing the necessary monitoring tools; support for developing an enabling framework including technical assistance and financial measures that accompanies the introduction of Minimum Energy Performance Standards as part of the national Building Renovation Plans.
  - as regards Minimum Energy Performance Requirements and towards Zero-Emission Buildings, support for the up-dating of calculations and cost-optimality methodologies including up-dating of the software.

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<sup>8</sup> [Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings.](#)

2. Actions to support the transition to a climate-neutral building stock, notably:

- as regards Zero Emission Buildings (ZEB), support for Member States to define benchmarks and refine and implement the concept against the national context, for instance by identifying criteria, thresholds and other parameters and framework conditions relevant for the definition and implementation of ZEB-standards at national level for new and existing buildings.
- as regards the Global Warming Potential of buildings, support for the setting up and implementation of the life-cycle Global Warming Potential (GWP) calculations with a view to setting up a European framework for whole life carbon reduction, notably by building on existing initiatives at national level and seeking to replicate most effective practices, and by helping integrate the calculations in the national policy frameworks and fostering the cross-policy exchanges.

3. Actions to support an optimal roll-out of buildings data and information tools, notably:

- as regards information tools, support for the re-scaling of EPCs including for the identification of the worst-performing buildings; refining and up-dating the methodologies to calculate the energy performance classes and to provide other mandatory and voluntary indicators to be included in EPCs; integration and methodological coordination of EPCs with the Smart Readiness Indicator (SRI) and with other disclosure and planning tools like Building Renovation passports.
- as regards buildings data, improvement of the methodologies to collect, aggregate and report data; support for national authorities for questions of data governance; support for the design and definition of functionalities for national databases as established in the proposal for a revision of the EPBD, including methodologies to collect and integrate data from different sources, such as EPCs, inspections, building renovation passports, SRI and calculated or metered energy consumption; moreover, support to national authorities in ensuring an effective transfer of the information from the national database to the EU Building Stock Observatory (BSO); support to national authorities for ensuring consistency between buildings data from the EU BSO and official data at national level.

- *For actions supporting specifically the market up-take of Energy Performance Certificates and the Building Renovation passport, please refer to topic LIFE-2024-CET-BETTERRENO.*
- *For actions supporting specifically the accessibility of buildings data to building owners, operators and third parties and the harmonisation of data models and standards, please refer to topic LIFE-2024-CET-BETTERRENO.*
- *For actions providing support to the EU BSO beyond the scope of national authorities' contributions, please refer to topic LIFE-2024-CET-BETTERRENO.*
- *For actions supporting the implementation of provisions related to heat pumps, please refer to topic LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS.*

For all Scopes, proposals must be submitted **by at least 3 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) **from 3 different eligible countries**.

For all Scopes, 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 impacts

Proposals should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities, and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific impacts. This demonstration should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions, and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts.

Proposals submitted under this topic should demonstrate how they will contribute to:

- Increased understanding and knowledge in public administrations in charge of implementing European energy legislation; improved collaboration of implementing bodies within and across Member States.
- 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 (M&V) methodologies, including for cross-sector use of energy; improved quality of reporting; improved understanding and measurement of the impacts and non-energy benefits, also in view of the circular economy.
- Improved understanding of potentials and market barriers.

Proposals should quantify their results and impacts using the two sets of indicators provided for the topic (below), when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

The indicators for this topic include:

- Number of public authorities with increased capacities and better access to information and data.
- Number of public authorities and stakeholders using tools, resources, information and data established and provided by the activity.
- Number of policy measures, implementing acts and related documents improved by the activity.
- Number of monitoring and reporting tools and documents improved by the activity.
- Number of references in policy-relevant documents, such as impact assessments, guidance documents etc.

Proposals should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

### Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

## **LIFE-2024-CET-PRODUCTS — Real world energy consumption of energy-related products**

### **Objectives**

Harmonised standards are not always representative of actual energy consumption in real-life conditions. Evaluating the impacts of EU Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations following these standards can lead to overestimations, as pointed out in the 2020 European Court of Auditors ecodesign and energy labelling audit<sup>9</sup>.

To address this, the topic aims to improve understanding of the actual impacts of EU Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations and facilitate the implementation of related test methods that reflect better product use in real life, in terms of energy consumption and, when appropriate, pollutant emissions. In addition, actual energy consumption data would inform on the one hand future reviews of ecodesign and energy labelling rules, while providing added value for preparatory studies. On the other hand, it would also contribute to improving the ecodesign impact accounting model<sup>10</sup> utilised for reporting the impacts of these rules.

### **Scope**

Proposals should set-up and implement in-situ measurement campaigns to capture the actual energy consumption, or energy efficiency where relevant, in EU households and to better understand the determinants of energy use for the selected products. Data collected should be statistically analysed and policy recommendations formulated on the related EU ecodesign and energy labelling rules. Proposals should build on relevant studies, including on the recommendations from the recent JRC technical report<sup>11</sup>.

The following aspects should be taken into account for the measurement campaigns:

- **Product selection:** while multi-product monitoring would be preferable, an appropriate balance should be sought between the number of samples, geographical focus and the range of products selected. Priority should be placed on products which are simple to measure and relevant for policymaking, including displays, household refrigerators and cooking appliances, considering also their expected overall energy consumption;
- **Sample and geographic focus:** a representative sample and a good geographical spread among EU Member States (ideally representing over 70% of EU households) should be ensured; depending on the products selected, different climatic zones, socio-economic, cultural, and other aspects should be considered;
- **Duration:** should be decided based on relevant criteria, including the intrusive character of testing from the household's perspective, the effect of seasonality on products considered, cost/benefit, the possibility to rotate monitoring among households etc.;

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<sup>9</sup> Special Report No 01/2020: EU action on Ecodesign and Energy Labelling: important contribution to greater energy efficiency reduced by significant delays and non-compliance. <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications?did=52828>

<sup>10</sup> Ecodesign impact accounting annual report 2021 <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/392bc471-76ae-11ed-9887-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

<sup>11</sup> Castellazzi L., Dupret M., Bertoldi P., Methods to capture actual energy savings due to the implementation of minimum energy performance standards (MEPSs) under the EU Ecodesign, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2023 <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC130994>.

- **Determinants** influencing energy use of the selected products should be investigated (e.g. thermostat settings of a refrigerator, functions aiming to optimise consumption) and other relevant data should be collected, such as the model identifier, energy class and corresponding product information (e.g. information sheet, technical documentation), as applicable. Consideration could also be given to registering user patterns/ significant user interactions and observations in a logbook (e.g. refrigerator door-openings).

Particular attention should be paid to ensuring a sufficient household engagement and retention, including to factors that could influence this, such as the type of products selected (e.g. plug-in domestic appliances compared to other products requiring expert installation), data protection issues etc.

Proposals should involve a consortium with multidisciplinary expertise and resources, including on technical aspects (e.g. installing equipment, with remote accessibility, and capacity to tackle on-site issues, such as malfunctions), household engagement, statistical evaluation. Monitoring instruments of adequate precision should be installed, but the use of existing and embedded meters would be also possible, if their precision is known or can be established.

Relevant stakeholders necessary for the successful implementation of the action should be involved, including consumer organisations at the European or national level. Access to experts with technical knowledge on the concerned products, regulations and standards as well as the wider legal framework will be necessary.

Proposals must be submitted **by at least 3 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) **from 3 different eligible countries**.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting an EU contribution 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.

The Commission intends to select one single proposal under this topic.

### Expected impacts

Proposals submitted under this topic should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities, and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific impacts. This demonstration should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions, and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts.

Specifically, proposals submitted under this topic should demonstrate how they will contribute to understanding better the actual impacts of EU Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations.

Proposals should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

The indicators for this topic include:

- Total amount of energy represented by the monitored product categories and the corresponding CO<sub>2</sub>-eq amount.

- Improved information on actual energy consumption available for a range of selected EU household products (e.g. including product type, geographical, measurement precision and sampling rate, where relevant).
- Identifying better the determinants of the energy consumption for the selected products.
- Identifying options for changes (e.g. requirements, measurement and calculation methods) in ecodesign and energy labelling legislation and related harmonised standards, as applicable.

Proposals should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

#### 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**

### ***Supporting the Renovation Wave and the energy transition in buildings***

#### **LIFE-2024-CET-BETTERRENO — Energy Performance of Buildings - Making renovation faster, deeper, smarter, service- and data-driven**

#### Objectives

This topic contributes to the goals of the EU Renovation Wave strategy<sup>12</sup> and aims to help implement current and future buildings policies, notably in view of the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), but considering as well aspects of the New European Bauhaus initiative<sup>13</sup>.

This topic addresses several areas that are key for the achievement of the ambitious EU targets for the decarbonisation of buildings. It aims to develop and deploy approaches that bring actors, markets, frameworks and innovative solutions together to increase the attractiveness of building performance up-grades and to reduce the administrative, logistic and financial burden that still goes along with (deep) retrofitting of buildings. The topic also aims to address the need for quality data to make verification and financing more robust and to help deploy services that valorise building energy efficiency and smartness. Proposals should, where appropriate, explore synergies, while linking to, building on, complementing or promoting the market uptake of results from projects funded under other EU programmes, notably Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe.

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<sup>12</sup> Communication [A Renovation Wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives, COM\(2020\) 662 final](#).

<sup>13</sup> [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/about-initiative\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/about-initiative_en)

Proposals are expected to focus on one of the two scopes (A or B) established below. In their introduction, proposals should clearly identify one scope against which the proposal shall be evaluated. In case a proposal addresses elements of more than one scope, this should be duly justified.

### Scope

#### **Scope A: Facilitating large-scale deep renovation**

Actions under Scope A should stimulate volume and demand of deep renovation, by aggregating demand and deploying business models for district level deep renovation projects, by rolling out tools such as building renovation passports or by improving coordination of small and medium actors in the supply chain.

The topic welcomes action in all markets regardless of their readiness or maturity, and in particular in less mature markets.

Proposals should explain and adapt the proposed activities to the context in which they will be acting.

Applicants are referred to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive which provides legal definitions for concepts such as “deep renovation”, “staged deep renovation” or “zero emissions building”. Besides energy efficiency upgrades and the switch to sustainable energy sources, proposals should consider Indoor Environmental Quality<sup>14</sup> (IEQ) and comfort aspects.

Proposals should address at least one of the following areas/aspects:

1. Remove market barriers and stimulate the development of business models for the implementation of large-scale deep renovation projects, e.g. at district or neighbourhood level. Proposals should make the whole renovation process easier and more attractive for all those involved, from construction stakeholders and investors to building owners and occupants. Proposals should facilitate demand mobilisation and aggregation and the links between supply and demand, e.g. interaction between building owners, managers and suppliers. Proposals should not focus on technology and/or material development, but on rolling-out market-ready technology and packages and targeting building segments or typologies that would allow for a fast and large-scale deployment. Proposals can also address standardisation of building renovation solutions and circularity-related aspects where relevant. Proposals can address the roll out of materials and solutions that improve energy efficiency and wellbeing in buildings, including industrialised prefabrication and modular solutions or other solutions, considering also circular and bio-based materials. Proposals should seek to reduce construction costs, time on site for renovations, to reduce material use and the impact of potential supply-side disruptions, to improve carbon footprint and whole life cycle emissions, and to increase circularity. On top of technical solutions, business models, financing solutions, performance guarantees, design and procurement processes should be taken into account.
2. Roll out renovation passports for buildings. This is a tool introduced by the recast of the EPBD, to equip building owners planning a staged renovation of their buildings. Renovation passports provide a clear strategy for staged renovation with

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<sup>14</sup> Indoor Environmental Quality including Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), thermal comfort, lighting and acoustics comfort.

the objective to transform the building into a zero-emission building by 2050, helping owners and investors plan the best timing and scope for the interventions, and linking to finance and funding schemes. As indicated in the revised EPBD, Member States will have to introduce a scheme of renovation passports, in order to give their citizens access to the use of this tool. Therefore, proposals should follow the evolutions in the territories where they will be working and align with the EU and national frameworks where available. The interrelation of this tool with other building related instruments should be considered, i.e. energy performance certificates and digital building logbooks. Proposals should also coordinate with existing support and funding schemes and one-stop-shops or renovation support services for homeowners in their area of action.

3. Remove barriers linked to the lack of coordination between the different actors and trades involved in the supply side of renovation works (in particular SMEs and individual craftspeople), and the capacity needed in the sector to deliver the “Renovation Wave” objectives. Actions should incentivise collaboration and result in the establishment of partnerships and consortia able to deliver business models and long-lasting collaboration models between MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) which effectively reach the building and homeowners and enable deep renovations with guarantees (including the switch to efficient renewable-based heating and cooling), reducing risks and transaction costs for companies. This could include standardising contractual aspects, e.g. liabilities in case of low quality work, putting together different trades and/or training them to deliver joint quotes and work together on projects for deep renovation, ensuring a more robust information sharing between companies, showcasing integrated offers for deep renovations to potential customers, etc. These activities could be linked to the services provided by one stop shops for renovation, marketplaces, or other facilitation structures. Proposals should also integrate aspects related to quality and guarantees, giving confidence to present and future customers, including for example potential linkage of performance guarantees to payments and procedures for post-completion evaluation of works to integrate lessons learnt. Proposals should ensure uptake of the results in the targeted local, regional and/or national markets, and for the sub-sector of the building stock tackled, for example through the involvement of professional organisations/associations and/or other relevant stakeholders.

### **Scope B: Buildings energy data and services**

Actions are expected to improve the availability, quality and accuracy of buildings data and the access to these for multiple usages and parties including financial institutions and data aggregators; they are moreover expected to explore and foster the use of data for the development and financing of services that enhance the energy performance of buildings and the efficiency of the system. Actions may also develop and deploy approaches for use of better data to improve the reliability and consistency of key instruments, such as Energy Performance Certificates.

Technological, including innovative, solutions may be employed as enablers but must not be at the centre of the action.

Actions should address for example one or more of the following areas/aspects:

- Develop methodologies that make the collection and structuring of data more robust and contribute to the systematic integration and use of conventional and metered data including, where relevant, big data. This includes innovative methods and tools to measure and/or estimate and/or calculate energy performance and energy savings, facilitate financing of energy renovation and roll-out of energy



services. This could also address non-energy benefits, notably health, wellbeing and productivity through the improvement of Indoor Environmental Quality.

- As established in the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), help improve the access of building owners, tenants and building managers to buildings data; help improve access of third parties, notably financial institutions, and service providers such as Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) and aggregators, to buildings data, e.g. by supporting evolutions of national regulations related to energy data access.
  - Develop, implement and roll-out approaches that use metered data and integrated data collection/processing for Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) towards a) improving the accuracy and reliability of EPCs and/or b) enhancing the market uptake of EPCs; this includes for example actions that help link the rating of EPCs and the improvement of the rating to the value of a building in view of potential investments; c) factoring in new aspects to be reflected in EPCs, such as Indoor Environmental Quality and related elements.
  - Promote and support the use of innovative technologies and digital tools for inspections, notably following constructions and renovations.
  - Support the coordination across initiatives and projects in the area of buildings, buildings policies and buildings data, including promoting the collaboration and communication towards projects and activities for which building policies and data are an essential element.
  - Support the establishment, and manage the operation of, an agile market-based community of data providers for the EU Building Stock Observatory, seeking to involve all relevant sectors and (private and public) players; define and implement an effective set-up to perform extensive and long-lasting data collection from the community, in cooperation with the EU BSO, in view of maximising the continuous expansion of the EU BSO database.
  - Integrate tools and platforms that would contribute to the coordination and harmonisation of data models, methodologies and standards for the energy performance of buildings.
  - Develop services that make use of actual energy consumption data, metered savings and measured flexibility provided by active buildings, building on and contributing to the Smart Readiness Indicator (SRI) testing and implementation in EU Member States, and explore the contribution of active buildings to the efficiency and stability of the energy system, in particular from large tertiary buildings.
- *For actions specifically providing support for national authorities in contributing to the EU BSO, please refer to topic LIFE-2024-CET-POLICY.*

For all Scopes, proposals must be submitted by **at least 3 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) **from 3 different eligible countries**.

For all Scopes, 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 impacts

Proposals submitted under this topic should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities, and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific impacts (depending on the scope). This demonstration should include a

detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions, and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts.

### **For Scope A:**

Proposals submitted under Scope A should demonstrate how they will contribute to the following impacts, depending on the area addressed:

- Development of business models for the implementation of large-scale deep renovation projects allowing to reduce costs and time-on-site.
- Roll out of renovation passports for buildings.
- Improved coordination between the different actors and trades involved in the supply side of renovation works (in particular SMEs and individual craftspeople).
- Effective and replicable solutions leading to increased rates of renovation.

Proposals should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for Scope A, when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

The indicators for Scope A include:

- Increased renovation rates.
- Increased deep renovation rates.
- Number of deep renovations with reduced costs.
- Number of buildings equipped with a renovation passport.
- Number of companies benefiting from improved coordination for deep renovation projects.

### **For Scope B:**

Proposals submitted under Scope B should demonstrate how they will contribute to the following impacts:

- Improved availability, quality and accuracy of buildings data.
- Improved access to and use of buildings performance data by financial institutions, service providers and building owners/operators, e.g. to deploy innovative financing schemes and/ or dedicated financial products.
- Improved reliability and consistency of Energy Performance Certificates; increased up-take of EPCs in the market, including stronger consideration in the valorisation of buildings and building portfolios.
- Better quality and cost-effectiveness of inspections and of the assessment procedures carried out for the Energy Performance Certificate.
- Up-take of improved methodologies to measure and monetise primary benefits and co-benefits of innovative services, such as environmental and health externalities.

Proposals should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic, when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

The indicators for Scope B include:

- Number of methodologies and interoperable data models taken up by stakeholders, including market and public/ policy-relevant stakeholders.

- Number of references evidencing the use of improved buildings data by market and public/policy-relevant stakeholders.
- Number of third parties, including financial institutions and energy service companies, benefitting from access to building performance data.
- Number of more accurate and reliable Energy Performance Certificate-schemes and assessment procedures/ tools tested and/or deployed.
- Number of references evidencing the use of more accurate and reliable Energy Performance Certificates by public and/or market stakeholders, including financial institutions.
- Number of stakeholders, notably public, using and feeding into platforms designed to host and integrate data models and standards in the area of energy performance of buildings.
- Number of innovative inspection procedures and tools developed, tested and/or deployed.
- Number of consumers (residential, commercial, public) offering or benefitting from new and smart service offers.

Proposals under Scopes A and B should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

#### Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

### **Supporting the energy transition in industry and tertiary sectors**

#### **LIFE-2024-CET-BUSINESS — Supporting the clean energy transition of European businesses**

#### Objectives

Engaging businesses in the clean energy transition and reducing their domestic footprint is central for the European Green Deal and to deliver on the Fit-for-55 package and the REPowerEU Plan to phase-out EU dependence on Russian fossil fuel imports. It is also important for the Green Deal Industrial Plan<sup>15</sup> and the overall competitiveness of the EU economy. Energy policy instruments such as the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)<sup>16</sup> and the Renewable Energy Directive (RED)<sup>17</sup> recognise the role that businesses, especially small and medium-sized, can have at local and national level in accelerating the transition.

As highlighted in the Green Deal Industrial Plan, the achievement of climate-neutrality by 2050 will require a full mobilisation and deeper cooperation among all players

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<sup>15</sup> EC Communication of 01 February 2023 [A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age](#), COM(2023) 62 final

<sup>16</sup> [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 \(recast\)](#);

<sup>17</sup> [Directive \(EU\) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources](#).

operating across the different value chains of Europe's net-zero industry. 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. New business models and support schemes are needed to be able to achieve strategic EU objectives of energy efficiency and renewable energy production. The REPowerEU Plan strengthens the need to act fast.

Energy management systems and energy audits are instruments that the European Commission is encouraging Member States to roll out in the framework of the recast of the EED. Recommendations of high-quality energy audits can both generate energy savings in the short period and contribute to the competitiveness of the EU economy by optimising energy use for industrial, manufacturing and commercial purposes. Energy audit recommendations can also increase the self-generation and self-consumption of renewable energy e.g. with solar panels and heat pumps, amongst companies. Enabling factors such as physical proximity and value chain relations can also encourage businesses to engage in energy related collaborations and invest in energy efficiency or renewable energy.

The overall objective of this topic is to support the clean energy transition and decarbonisation of businesses by strengthening national ecosystems for energy management systems and energy audits as well as by fostering collaborative approaches between companies operating either in the same value chain or in physical proximity. Synergies with relevant EU projects<sup>18</sup> and initiatives such as the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) are encouraged.

### *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 more than one scope, this should be justified.

#### **Scope A: Green Leap Forward for businesses**

Under the EED recast, energy management systems will become a default obligation for the energy-intensive enterprises, including SMEs, that exceed 85TJ of average annual energy consumption over the past 3 years. Otherwise, they will be subject to an energy audit if their average annual energy consumption exceeds 10TJ over the past three years. The implementation of energy audit recommendations is not mandatory, however they shall result in a concrete and feasible Action Plan, provided by the enterprise and transmitted to the management of the enterprise.

Applicants under this scope shall strengthen collaboration between Member States on energy audits and energy management systems, with a view to facilitating a harmonised approach and the implementation of cost-effective energy efficiency measures.

Proposals are expected to primarily define a common approach for the identification of enterprises falling under the scope of Article 11 of the EED recast based on their energy consumption. They shall investigate and propose solutions on how to approach businesses near the thresholds and those falling in different thresholds over the last three years before the energy audit obligation.

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<sup>18</sup> E.g. projects related to the clean energy transition of companies funded under Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency (Coordination and Support Actions) and LIFE-CET.

Applicants shall propose measures that can encourage businesses with an average annual consumption between 10TJ and 85TJ of energy towards an energy management system, and businesses with an average annual consumption of less than 10TJ of energy to undergo an energy audit and implement at least one highly cost-effective recommendation.

Furthermore, applicants shall develop a template for the Action Plan resulting from the energy audit. The Action Plan shall identify measures to implement each audit recommendation, including the potentials for the cost-effective use or production of renewable energy. In addition to energy savings and estimated costs, the template shall include a clear methodology for quantifying and valorising the non-energy benefits triggered by the implementation of the recommended measures. In this regard, applicants shall facilitate the uptake of such template and methodology in relevant international and European standards as well as national policy frameworks by involving relevant stakeholders, such as standardisation bodies and national authorities responsible for the implementation of Article 11 of the EED recast.

Digitalisation, eco-labelling of businesses, follow-up systems for checks on the implementation of measures, benchmarking mechanisms between companies and exploitability of energy data could also be addressed.

### **Scope B: Fostering energy cooperation among companies**

Proposals under this scope should foster the market uptake of energy efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy (and heat pumps where relevant), through the establishment of collaborative approaches among companies. Applicants can focus on developing collaborative approaches, namely between large and small companies operating in the same value chain, or on energy cooperation among companies in physical proximity (region, cluster, industrial park/site).

*Energy cooperation and collaborative approaches* refers to, for example, companies working in the same value chain and holding business relations. The value chains addressed can operate at any level (from local to European, and international when relevant). It can also refer to companies in physical proximity (region, cluster, industrial park/site) sharing energy related assets (e.g. renewable energy generation, energy networks, energy storage), sharing energy services, implementing energy exchanges (e.g. recovery and use of waste heat from industrial and manufacturing processes) or being involved in energy communities. Clustering of companies can also facilitate better access to finance, ESCO contracts and power purchase agreements (e.g. aggregators).

Proposals are expected to carry out activities aiming at triggering interest, awareness, knowledge and know-how on the multiple benefits achievable from collaborative approaches. Some examples of these benefits are operating costs reduction, mitigation of energy-related risks, easier access to finance or stronger value proposition (e.g. more environmental friendly products/services). Proposals should also work on removing barriers that hinder energy cooperation, e.g. organisational (coordination, trust, responsibilities, data management, risk sharing), legal or social. Furthermore, proposals should facilitate the establishment of concrete cooperation initiatives, including but not limited to identifying, investigating and validating economically viable business models (based on concrete interaction with participating companies), proving the relevance of a collaborative 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 (e.g. upstream to downstream in the case of value chains).

The proposed activities should be focused on engaging businesses in energy cooperation activities; the involvement of additional relevant stakeholders (e.g.

industrial organisations, multipliers, financial players, ESCOs, public authorities) should be envisaged to ensure the success and the sustainability of the developed collaborative approach.

The proposed approaches should demonstrate a high degree of replicability and proposals should include a clear action plan to communicate experiences, critical success factors and results towards relevant energy cooperation actors and stakeholders across the EU.

Additionally, benchmarking and monitoring mechanisms, focusing on the energy use at value chain, or at cluster or industrial park/site 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.

For all Scopes, proposals must be submitted by **at least 3 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) **from 3 different eligible countries**.

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

#### *Expected impacts*

Proposals should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities, and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific impacts. This demonstration should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions, and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts.

Proposals submitted under this topic should demonstrate how they will contribute to, depending on the scope:

- Improved quality of energy audits.
- Harmonisation of energy audit frameworks and replication of best practices across participating countries.
- Improved uptake of the recommendations of energy audits.
- Implementation of EU legislation (in particular Energy Efficiency Directive and Renewable Energy Directive) addressing the business sector.
- Viable business models for energy cooperation between companies ready to be rolled out on the market.
- Deployment of energy related infrastructure, energy services, and/or energy exchanges contributing to the clean energy transition of businesses.

Proposals should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic, when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

The indicators for this topic include:

- Number of companies benefitting from direct support.
- Implementation rate of energy audit recommendations resulting from the proposed activities.
- Number of energy auditors using improved energy audit methodologies.
- Number of national/regional ecosystems supported for energy management systems and energy audits.

- Number of companies implementing energy cooperation approaches.
- Number of relevant stakeholders approached and mobilised at local, national and European level on energy cooperation approaches as defined per scope B.

Proposals should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

### Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

## **Ensuring the right skills on the market for the energy transition**

### **LIFE-2024-CET-BUILDSKILLS — BUILD UP Skills – Upskilling and reskilling interventions for building decarbonisation**

#### Objectives

Launched in 2011, the BUILD UP Skills initiative<sup>19</sup> 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 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 of the topic (Scope A) is to increase the number of skilled building professionals at all levels of the building design, operation and maintenance value chain. The focus is on the skills needed to enable the Clean Energy Transition, in particular the EU Renovation Wave, the EU Solar Energy Strategy<sup>20</sup>, the Communication on Digitalising the Energy System – EU action plan<sup>21</sup>, as well as the implementation of the provisions on skills as part of revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), and Renewable Energy Directive (RED).<sup>22</sup>

The second objective of the topic (Scope B) is to create a thriving community of practitioners actively involved in upskilling activities for building professionals, which will support the large-scale roll-out of successful approaches across Europe.

The topic supports and goes beyond the Large-Scale Partnership for the construction ecosystem under the Pact for Skills, which plans to upskill and reskill overall at least 25% of the workforce of the construction industry in the next 5 years, to reach the

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<sup>19</sup><https://build-up.ec.europa.eu/en/bup-skills>

<sup>20</sup>COM(2022) 221 final.

<sup>21</sup>COM(2022) 552 final.

<sup>22</sup> [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 \(recast\); Directive \(EU\) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending Directive \(EU\) 2018/2001, Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources; Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings.](#)

target of 3 million workers<sup>23</sup>, as well as the Renewable Energy skills Large-Scale partnership.<sup>24</sup> In addition, the topic aims to leverage synergies with the initiatives on digital skills for the energy transition addressed in the framework of the Communication on Digitalising the Energy System.

### *Scope*

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

#### **Scope A - Upskilling and reskilling interventions enabling a decarbonised building stock and energy system integration**

Proposals under Scope A should develop, test, validate and prepare the deployment of new and/or the upgrade of existing training and qualification schemes for all types of professionals involved in the building value chain ('blue collars' and/or 'white collars' professionals), as well as for professionals active in other sectors than construction and buildings renovation. To ensure a successful deployment phase, the proposed training and qualification schemes should be tailored to the specificities of the national markets targeted; proposals should demonstrate a clear plan for deployment after project completion.

The main focus of proposals should be on Continuing Vocational Education and Training (or professional training) of professionals, i.e. after they have entered working life. This may include the retraining of professionals from other sectors with skills transferable to construction and building renovation. In addition to the above, proposals may also 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.

All professional profiles involved in the building value chain, can be validly addressed. Proposals should clearly justify the choice of the profile(s) and level(s) in the European Qualification Framework (EQF) targeted.

The proposed action should address **one** of the following thematic areas:

1. Skills development and deployment supporting the implementation of core provisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), covering one or several of the following:
  - skills for carrying out building energy audits, including assessment and advice for preparing buildings to operate at low temperature and integrate heat pumps.
  - Skills for inspections, design, installation and optimisation of heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems, as well as hybridisation, digitalisation for smart home energy management and energy system integration.
  - skills to deliver building renovation passports.
  - skills enabling to leverage accessibility, fire safety, and/or seismic safety interventions for energy efficiency improvements.
2. Skills development and deployment supporting the decarbonisation of the building stock, covering one or several of the following:

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<sup>23</sup><https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=25235&langid=en>.

<sup>24</sup>[https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu/about/industrial-ecosystems-and-partnerships/renewables\\_en](https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu/about/industrial-ecosystems-and-partnerships/renewables_en).



- skills for delivering building deep renovation, including through modular and industrialised solutions; training professionals in a cross-trade manner to allow for integrated renovation works.
  - skills for new and existing nearly Zero Energy Buildings (nZEBs) and bridging the gap towards Zero Emission Buildings (ZEBs).
  - skills related to whole life carbon (via the assessment of Global Warming Potential), circular construction and resource efficiency, and leveraging the Level(s) framework.<sup>25</sup>
  - 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.
3. Skills development for solar energy deployment and energy system integration, covering one or several of the following:
- skills to increase the workforce of trained installers and maintenance staff, in particular for onsite solar systems; measures focusing on the identification of skills gaps in companies along the value chains combined with targeted trainings.
  - upskilling for energy systems related digitalisation to allow energy management in homes, buildings and energy communities, i.e. covering several buildings or larger areas and districts to facilitate system integration via electrification of buildings and transport, linking smart appliances, smart recharging with demand response and storage etc.
4. Skills development for heat pump deployment, covering only **one** of the following:
- Reskilling interventions for professionals from other sectors with skills transferable to the heat pump value chain, including via partnerships between industry and trade associations, trade unions and public bodies to identify and attract suitable profiles.
  - Upskilling of professionals, including to integrate heat pumps as part of building renovation projects and for integrated solutions (e.g. heat pumps and PV together, hybrid heating systems). In that context, applicants may establish or reinforce cooperation between trades and/or among national associations and other relevant stakeholders to develop, test, and disseminate widely agreed EU-wide content guidelines for specialised training programmes, and core training material replicable and adaptable to local contexts.
5. Development and delivery of innovative on-site training methods (especially for on-site workers/ craftspeople) as part of renovation projects, in cooperation with product manufacturers. Actions should focus on the skills needed to carry out deep renovation. The proposed methods should help address one of the main barriers to upskilling, i.e. the lack of time from companies and professionals to enrol in upskilling activities. The proposed training should ultimately facilitate the cooperation and understanding between different crafts and professions, and support a holistic vision of the building and of renovation works.
6. Skills development and deployment for the implementation and effective operation of integrated home renovation services (or one-stop-shops), providing coordinated and coherent responses to the needs of building owners at each step of their

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<sup>25</sup> [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/levels\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/levels_en)

renovation 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.

Regardless of the thematic area addressed, proposals should:

- be tailored to the specificities of the national markets targeted and demonstrate their complementarity with and added value compared to already existing training and qualification schemes.
- provide details on the actual scope and content of the training and qualification schemes to be developed/upgraded, i.e. professional profiles and levels in the European Qualification Framework targeted; details about the thematic coverage; duration of the training courses; involvement of stakeholders in the validation of the schemes' content; mechanisms for the validation of acquired competences, and future deployment prospects.
- include activities ensuring the recognition (e.g. certification, skills passports, skills registries etc.) of trained and qualified professionals.
- include train-the-trainer activities.
- include a testing and validation phase for the new or upgraded qualification schemes developed; this testing and validation phase should take place during the project lifetime. It should take the form of training sessions for building professionals, during which participants will trial and test the draft qualification scheme, the curriculum, the training materials as well as the recognition mechanisms developed within the project. The testing and validation phase should involve a representative number of trainees, based on the size of the targeted sector(s) in the countries involved. After the training sessions, feedback collected from the trainees should be used to validate and/or further improve the qualification and training schemes developed within the action. Infrastructure costs for developing new or upgrading existing training facilities will not be considered eligible.
- include activities to develop a strategy ensuring that the proposed schemes will be scaled up and sustained/rolled-out after the end of the project, linking to available sources of funding at national and EU level and pro-actively engaging national training providers and national qualification authorities.

Proposals are also expected to include activities to engage relevant institutions in the field of energy, climate, education, employment, social and industrial policies. Applicants should notably foresee activities to engage employers, trade unions as well as education and training providers in order to ensure that training programmes and curricula are labour market-relevant and proactively integrate emerging skills.<sup>26</sup>

Proposals are expected to leverage the work developed within the European Construction Blueprint<sup>27</sup> which focussed on vocational education and training primarily for 'blue-collar' professionals up to level 5 in the European Qualification Framework. The proposed activities are also expected to align with and support the Pact for Skills in Construction as part of the European Skills Agenda<sup>28</sup>.

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

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<sup>26</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

<sup>27</sup> <https://constructionblueprint.eu>

<sup>28</sup> [https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu/about/industrial-ecosystems-and-partnerships/construction\\_en](https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu/about/industrial-ecosystems-and-partnerships/construction_en)

The Commission considers that proposals submitted under Scope A requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 1 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 - BUILD UP Skills community of practice**

The BUILD UP Skills initiative has funded more than 90 projects involving 32 countries since its inception. These projects have developed and tested a whole range of solutions and tools for skills intelligence, skills development and skills uptake in the building value chain.

Proposals under Scope B are expected to develop an EU community of practitioners with proven experience in the development and promotion of sustainable energy skills for building professionals in EU Member States and LIFE associated countries.

The community of practice should build bridges both within the group of BUILD UP Skills projects (past, ongoing and new ones starting during the project), as well as with other related projects and initiatives.

The community should foster pan-European collaboration and dialogue on cross-cutting issues, build and deploy collective knowledge, support and roll-out capacity building, increase market recognition, encourage convergence towards best practices and contribute to the development of partnerships between key actors.

The work of the community is expected to be structured around several working groups that will exchange on specific topics and produce relevant deliverables. Working groups are expected to meet on a regular basis (online and/or onsite as appropriate). Topics to be addressed by the working groups should include, but are not limited to:

- **Sectorial skills needs:** e.g. circularity, digital skills, building smartness, heat pumps and innovative Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) technologies; skilled energy auditors, new generation of electricians etc.
- **Skills recognition:** mechanisms and approaches ensuring that trained and qualified professionals are recognised by the relevant public authorities and industries.
- **Innovative training methods:** reduce the constraints inherent to the training process and foster a better understanding between crafts and professions. Mapping of existing e-learning tools and possible interoperability.
- **Demand side mechanisms:** notably how public procurement can boost demand for sustainable energy skills in the construction sector.
- **National skills roll-out:** accelerate the large-scale roll-out of skills interventions. Notably following up on the implementation of the national roadmaps developed following the LIFE CET calls for proposals 2021 and 2022 and fostering the network of the BUILD UP Skills national qualification platforms.
- **Funding sources:** mapping available EU and national funding sources for skills deployment in the building sector, and their effective use.
- **Synergies with other relevant projects and initiatives:** notably the work done by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)<sup>29</sup>, the European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations classification

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en>

(ESCO)<sup>30</sup>, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)<sup>31</sup>, the Large Scale Partnership for the Construction Ecosystem and the Renewable Energy skills Large-Scale partnership under the Pact for Skills<sup>32</sup>, as well as relevant projects funded under the Erasmus+ programme such as the EU Construction Blueprint.<sup>33</sup>

Proposals should include capacity building, twinning and peer-to-peer learning activities at the national and EU level, focused on the practical uptake of tried and tested approaches. This may notably target relevant players such as public authorities, energy agencies, training providers, companies active in the building value chain, social partners etc.

The community should also develop effective communication actions to showcase the most relevant best practices to policy makers and stakeholders at all governance level (EU, national, regional, local), and notably promote the national roadmaps developed by projects funded under calls LIFE-CET-2021 and LIFE-CET-2022.

The Commission intends to select one single proposal under Scope B.

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 stakeholders from various eligible countries. Therefore, the Commission considers relevant that consortia gather a **minimum of 3 applicants from 3 different eligible countries**.

The Commission considers that proposals submitted under Scope B 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 impacts

Proposals should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities, and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific impacts. This demonstration should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts.

Proposals should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic, when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

### **Impacts for Scope A:**

Proposals submitted under Scope A should demonstrate how they will contribute to an increased uptake of sustainable energy skills along the building value chain, through the development of training and qualification schemes tailored to the specificities of the national markets targeted and adding value to existing schemes.

The indicators for this topic include:

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<sup>30</sup> <https://esco.ec.europa.eu/en/classification>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/home>

<sup>32</sup> [https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu/about/industrial-ecosystems-and-partnerships/construction\\_en](https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu/about/industrial-ecosystems-and-partnerships/construction_en) and [https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu/about/industrial-ecosystems-and-partnerships/renewables\\_en](https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu/about/industrial-ecosystems-and-partnerships/renewables_en)

<sup>33</sup> <https://constructionblueprint.eu/>

- Number of qualification schemes developed or upgraded and tested.
- Number of trained professionals.
- Number of trained trainers.
- Number of professionals with increased qualifications or requalified professionals and the level of the European Qualification Framework (EQF).
- Level of satisfaction of trained professionals, as documented in feedback surveys.

Proposals should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

### **Impacts for Scope B**

Proposals submitted under scope B should result in:

- The establishment of a European community of practice gathering relevant stakeholders, actively involved in ongoing implementation of upskilling activities for building professionals.
- Guidance made publicly available in order to facilitate the uptake of skills in the EU and national building value chains. Evidence that the value of skills 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) education and training providers, universities, construction companies, product manufacturers, professional associations, public authorities, social partners etc.
- Number, nature and quality of the planned collective outputs.
- Number and nature of national and EU capacity building, twinning and peer-to-peer learning activities put in place.
- Number, nature and target audience of communication materials.

Proposals should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable 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%

## **Supporting the decarbonisation of heating and cooling**

### **LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS – Supporting the roll-out of high-quality heat pump installations**

### Objectives

Heat pumps represent one of the key technologies to meet the 2030 EU energy and climate targets and towards the climate neutrality of heating and cooling by mid-century. As part of the REPowerEU<sup>34</sup> Plan to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports the European Commission has called for 10 million additional heat pumps installed within 5 years. While market growth of 2021 and 2022 alone – cumulatively amounting to slightly below 5 million new units – is already overshooting on this aspiration, it is becoming increasingly clear that the present market deployment alone will be insufficient to deliver a profound transformation of the heating sector in view of delivering in line with the Fit-for-55 target and beyond. Furthermore, through the Net-Zero Industry Act<sup>35</sup> which is part of the Green Deal Industrial Plan, the European Commission is aiming at increasing the manufacturing capacity of strategic net-zero technologies to meet at least 40% of the EU's annual deployment needs by 2030.

In this framework, the aim of this topic is to strengthen the enabling framework for the accelerated roll-out of high-quality heat pumps, complementing existing legislative and financial incentives at the EU, national and local levels. In particular, the topic aims to accelerate the deployment of heat pumps in existing buildings through alternative business and delivery models as well as in industrial sectors through a closer collaboration between different industrial sectors and industrial heat pump technology providers.

### Scope

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

#### **Scope A: Alternative business and delivery models**

Proposals should stimulate large-scale demand for heat pumps in existing buildings, while significantly reducing or spreading over several years the initial costs for product acquisition and installation.

To that end, the proposed actions should develop, demonstrate, upscale and/or replicate alternative business and/or heat delivery models.

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<sup>34</sup> [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 Plan, COM\(2022\) 230 final.](#)

<sup>35</sup> [Net Zero Industry Act - European Commission](#)

For the purpose of this topic, business and delivery models refer to the arrangements between the involved parties and their roles involving a defined set of relationships, responsibilities and rights, including arrangements about equipment ownership and payment.

Proposals should ensure that installations are of high quality, that the selected buildings are suitable and ready (e.g. in terms of thermal insulation, internal distribution systems) for a heat pump prior to any installation, and that building heating needs and heat pump size are properly evaluated. To that end, proposals may apply innovative methods/tools simplifying processes and assessments.

Proposals should demonstrate the effectiveness and replicability of the proposed approaches.

The focus of the proposed actions should be at least on space heating; however, this does not preclude considering additional functions such as water heating and space cooling. Actions may address any type of buildings, although multi-apartment and commercial buildings are especially encouraged. Synergies of heat pumps with PV installations and/or hybrid renewable heating and cooling systems could also be promoted.

Heat pumps should be designed and installed by professionals with relevant qualifications and skills. All relevant stakeholders necessary for the successful implementation of the action should be involved; if not directly involved, their support should be demonstrated in the proposal.

In this context, proposals may put in place new or strengthen existing strategic partnerships between relevant stakeholders (e.g. industry, installers, local authorities, consumer associations, integrated home renovation services) and consider the objective of the European Commission's Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age of strengthening, among others, the heat pump supply chain within the EU<sup>36</sup>.

The proposed actions are invited to build on experiences and lessons learned from other relevant projects and programmes<sup>37</sup>.

### **Scope B: Collaboration between industrial sectors and industrial heat pump technology providers**

Proposals under this scope should promote a sustainable and efficient use of energy in at least one industrial sector by bridging the gap between users and providers of industrial heat pump solutions. Most notably, proposals should facilitate the collaboration between industrial sectors/sub-sectors sharing similar processes and energy related needs with heat pump manufacturers and providers. On the user side, specific industrial sectors could survey their sector's processes to define an 'average' process and reassess its operational energy needs in a most cost-effective way through a closer exchange with technology suppliers in order to effectively design sustainable energy solutions. On the provider side, manufacturers and providers of industrial heat pumps could optimise and standardise their existing technological offer, products and solutions to meet the industrial sector needs.

This aligned cooperation for creating demand and ensuring supply would benefit certain industrial sectors progress in their path towards decarbonisation. The goal is to move from custom-built project by project approach for each specific industrial

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<sup>36</sup> COM(2023) 62 final.

<sup>37</sup> 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.

plant and process, to more streamlined, standardised, turn-key solutions for industrial sector(s) and/or processes with similar energy needs.

Proposals are expected to facilitate the establishment of concrete collaboration initiatives, proving optimisation and integration of industrial heat pump solutions in industrial processes. Activities should include not only the assessment and optimisation of technical aspects but also the creation and exchange of knowledge and expertise, including guidelines on how to deploy the solutions, and the development and validation of business models for the deployment of the specific solutions explored in the sector(s) addressed.

Proposals should ensure dissemination and replication of the proposed approaches for wide deployment, including advising and building capacity among the relevant actors and initiatives as well as identify and map possible synergies with relevant funding instruments at regional, national and European level that could help build, disseminate, and exploit knowledge and results.

Involvement of the relevant user sector(s) and of technology provider representatives is recommended for effective market acceptance and implementation.

Proposals should focus on existing technologies already available on the market. Activities aiming at technological and first deployment on the market, including for products at Technology Readiness Level 8, are not in the scope of this topic.

For both scopes, proposals must be submitted by **at least 3 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) **from 3 different eligible countries**.

For Scopes A and B, 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 impacts

Proposals should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities, and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific impacts. This demonstration should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions, and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts.

For Scope A proposals should demonstrate how they will tackle the high-upfront costs of heat pumps in existing buildings through alternative business and delivery models. For Scope B the aim is to accelerate the deployment of industrial heat pump solutions in industrial sectors by developing standardised approaches.

Proposals under Scope A and B should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic, when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

The indicators for this topic include:

- Number of new installations of heat pumps triggered by the action (including commitments).
- Number of key actors along the value chains with improved skills/knowledge during the action.
- Number of new customers benefitting from alternative business and delivery models.
- Number of standardised solutions to implement heat pumps in industrial processes.



- Natural gas savings triggered by the project (in million cubic meters/year), where appropriate.

Proposals should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

### Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

## **LIFE-2024-CET-DHC — Supporting district heating and cooling**

### Objectives

To advance towards carbon neutrality and to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuels imports, there is an urgent need to reduce fossil fuels consumption for heating and/or cooling purposes. In that context, in particular modern and efficient district heating systems can connect local demand with low-temperature renewable and waste energy sources, as well as the wider electric and gas grids, thereby contributing to the optimisation of supply and demand across energy carriers.

The REPowerEU Plan, the revised Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and the revised Renewable Energy Directive (RED)<sup>38</sup> set out ambitious measures, including the increase of the share of renewable energy and waste heat in district heating systems, and how to facilitate the achievement of efficient district and cooling networks. District heating and/or cooling operators/owners need to prepare and implement plans so that existing systems fulfil the criteria for “efficient district heating and cooling”, defined in the EED. This will require, among other aspects, the integration of low-temperature renewable energy (e.g. from solar thermal, ambient energy and geothermal resources) and waste heat as well as the cost-effective and energy efficient retrofitting of existing, inefficient district heating networks. Furthermore, district heating has been identified as a key option for the decarbonisation of the heating sector in countries and regions without long tradition and experience in the technology.

The option to further develop district heating and cooling systems should be integrated in energy planning and heat mapping by public administrations, taking a district approach when addressing the policy priority of deploying renewable and efficient heating and cooling, including for instance building or modernising district heating systems when planning renovation programmes.

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<sup>38</sup> [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 Plan, COM\(2022\) 230 final; 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 \(recast\); Directive \(EU\) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending Directive \(EU\) 2018/2001, Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources.](#)

Guidance, recommendations and technical advisory services have already been developed and tested at the national and local levels. Notwithstanding, a large share of existing district heating and cooling systems still overly rely on fossil fuels. Additionally, the switch to low-temperature renewable energy and waste heat and the development of new systems in emerging markets is hampered, among other factors by limited human, technical and financial capacities. Technical support and enabling frameworks are therefore needed to support the preparation of modernisation and development projects.

### Scope

Proposals are expected to work either

- with operators/owners of existing district heating systems and provide them with 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” as defined in the Energy Efficiency Directive. This can include the extension of existing district heating and cooling networks provided that they are fully based on low-temperature renewable energy or waste heat; or
- with municipalities or relevant key stakeholders in the development of investment plans for new district heating and/or cooling networks, provided that they are fully based on low-temperature renewable energy or waste heat, and with particular attention to existing buildings.

The focus should be on identifying and offering concrete ways to integrate low-temperature renewable energy or waste heat as defined in the revised Renewable Energy Directive.

The investment plans to be developed should include the technical part and detailed identification of the investments, their timing, the internal and external resources required, the public and private funding sources, in particular for the first tranches of investments and the potential identification of alternative funding sources and models. Activities should include, among others, financial planning and pre-feasibility studies including, where relevant, the assessment of the compatibility with the existing building stock and options to link district heating retrofitting to local building renovation plans.

The investment plans to be produced should 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. However, the transformation into low-temperature of the district heating networks is not compulsory and other feasible approaches enabling the fuel switch to low-temperature renewable energy or waste heat are possible.

Proposals should support the development of a substantial number of investment plans in at least 3 eligible countries. Proposals should demonstrate, in a clear and convincing way, the commitment of operators/owners of the district heating networks that will be targeted for the collaboration, explain the content of the support to be provided and how the consortium will deliver this support on the ground. Additionally, proposals should engage and involve required stakeholders, in particular potential waste heat suppliers, work closely with the potential customers, provide an adequate risk assessment, identify barriers, provide recommendations for regulatory bodies, inputs for local administrations for the preparation of the local heating and cooling plans and promote replication through other district heating operators/owners.

Proposals under this scope are not expected to finance the equipment or development of new tools (e.g. software, or the upgrade of existing ones, platforms, applicants are encouraged to make use of existing commercial software, as needed).

In line with the Renewable Energy Directive, actions may also include the assessment of the potential to participate in electricity markets by providing balancing, storage and other flexibility services.

Proposals must be submitted **by at least 3 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) **from 3 different eligible countries**.

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 impacts*

Proposals submitted under this topic should demonstrate the impact of the supplied investments plans and guidance on the transition towards “efficient district heating and cooling” networks, and on integration of low-temperature renewable energy and waste heat. The expected results together with a detailed analysis of the starting point, with a set of well-substantiated assumptions, with clear links between the results, should be given in the proposal.

Proposals should demonstrate how they will contribute to equip district heating and/or cooling operators and/or local authorities and other key stakeholders with investment plans, guidance, internal capacity and other elements which are required to either build new systems or to meet the criteria defined for “efficient district heating and cooling”, encouraging potential waste heat suppliers to consider becoming heat suppliers to district heating.

Proposals should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic, when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

The indicators for this topic include:

- Number of 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.
- Number of follower cases (DH companies) selected during the project life for which transfer of knowledge was effectively provided.
- Number of local and regional authorities integrating the outcomes of the project in their energy planning.
- Investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources triggered by the implementation of the investment plans developed thanks to the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

Proposals should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).

- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

### Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

## **Attracting private finance for sustainable energy**

### **LIFE-2024-CET-PRIVAFIN — Crowding in private finance**

#### Objectives

The topic aims to increase the amount of private finance allocated to energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy sources by establishing innovative financing schemes for investments in sustainable energy.

Significant investments in energy efficiency and small-scale renewables need to be mobilised to achieve the ambition set by the European Green Deal<sup>39</sup> and the objective to reduce EU dependence on fossil fuel imports set out in the REPowerEU Plan<sup>40</sup>. In order to meet the required level of investments, it is necessary to progressively maximise the mobilisation of private capital, using public funds as a catalyst, and to put in place an enabling regulatory framework. This has been at the heart of the works of the Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group (EEFIG)<sup>41</sup> and will remain a central objective of the recently established European Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition<sup>42</sup>. In addition, the revised Energy Efficiency Directive and Energy Performance of Buildings Directive aim to increase the cost-effectiveness of public funding and the mobilisation of private investments in energy efficiency measures, including by promoting innovative financing mechanisms. National Energy and Climate Plans provide a solid framework for Member States to evaluate and report on investment needs and gaps to achieve their 2030 national energy and climate targets, including regarding the mobilisation of private investments. The Smart Cities Marketplace offers an investor matchmaking platform for investments in clean energy, ICT solutions and sustainable mobility.

While significant public sector expenditure is allocated to leverage private finance for energy efficiency and small-scale renewables (e.g. through the InvestEU facility), most private investors still view this type of investments as risky, complex and/or insufficiently profitable. This is due to the limited availability of investment opportunities which comply with the requirements of financial institutions in terms of size, scale, standardisation and transaction costs. There is a need to set up and roll-out private financing schemes which can be expanded and/or replicated at scale, and contribute to the national strategies to achieve the 2030 energy efficiency targets and the building renovation policy objectives. These schemes have to be adapted to the specificities of energy efficiency investment profiles, as well as those of small-scale renewables, in buildings, SMEs, district heating and other relevant sectors.

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<sup>39</sup> [COM\(2019\) 640 final](#)

<sup>40</sup> [COM\(2022\) 108 final](#)

<sup>41</sup> The Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group (EEFIG) ([https://ec.europa.eu/eefig/index\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eefig/index_en)) analyses drivers and barriers for energy efficiency investments in buildings and industry, including adequate financing instruments.

<sup>42</sup> [https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/funding-and-financing/european-energy-efficiency-financing-coalition\\_en](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/funding-and-financing/european-energy-efficiency-financing-coalition_en)

The financing schemes can be initiated by private sector stakeholders or local and regional authorities, as well as other types of actors.

### Scope

Proposals should clearly focus on tailored, market-oriented solutions to crowd in private finance at scale for sustainable energy investments, understood as investments in energy efficiency and/or small-scale renewable energy sources and storage.

Proposals should set-up innovative financing schemes leveraging private finance for sustainable energy investments, with a dedicated and clear focus on energy efficiency, in at least 1 eligible country with a clear ambition and effort towards expansion in additional eligible countries. The financing scheme should be operational by the end of the project, whereas the related investments may be implemented after project completion.

The financing schemes can involve, for example, but are not limited to:

- Equity, debt, mezzanine financing, potentially combined with non-reimbursable grants (“blending”).
- Local or regional investment funds, including blended financing. Guarantees, risk-sharing, insurances or other de-risking instruments.
- Energy services such as energy performance contracting, efficiency as a service, and variants thereof, if used to finance the investments.
- On-bill, on-tax and building-based financing, where the debt is attached to the energy meter or the building rather than the household or company.
- Schemes complementing, with a dedicated financing component, already existing local and regional technical assistance facilities, in particular integrated home renovation services.
- Schemes targeting the secondary market, including refinancing mechanisms, specialised securitisation vehicles and green bond schemes.
- Local investment structures, including citizen financing (e.g. crowdfunding) for energy efficiency.
- Market-based instruments relevant for sustainable energy (e.g. carbon finance instruments, energy efficiency obligations, etc.).
- Brokering, aggregation or clearing houses, which facilitate matching of demand and supply of sustainable energy finance.

Proposals should take into account all the following elements:

- Establish an innovative, operational financing scheme for energy efficiency and/or integrated renewables in at least 1 eligible country. Proposals can build on and/or upscale innovative financing schemes successfully tested previously<sup>43</sup>.
- 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) and justify how the proposed scheme is innovative and complements available funding schemes.
- Clearly demonstrate the business case and financial viability of the proposed scheme (including e.g. market analysis, investment sizes targeted, transaction and management costs, expected energy/cost savings and other returns, etc.).

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<sup>43</sup> 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 PDA or ELENA-EIB).

- 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.

Proposals should demonstrate support of the targeted stakeholder groups and present in a detailed manner how they will be involved throughout the project.

- *For actions addressing innovative financing schemes focused specifically on heat pumps, please refer to topic LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS.*

Proposals must be submitted by **at least 3 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) **from 3 different eligible countries**.

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 impacts

Proposals should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities, and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific impacts. This demonstration should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions, and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts.

Proposals should demonstrate how they will contribute to deliver adequately tailored innovative financing schemes that are operational and ready to finance investments, and the impact that this will have on investments in energy efficiency and small-scale renewables.

Proposals should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic, when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

The indicators for this topic include:

- Number of investors and project developers using the financing scheme.
- Number of investment projects processed/covered by the financing scheme.
- Volume of investments processed/covered by the financing scheme.
- Number of households and/or businesses benefitting from the financing scheme.
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewables) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Investments in building energy renovation triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Average % of energy savings targeted by investment projects.

Proposals should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

#### Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

## **Supporting the development of local and regional investment projects**

### ***Developing innovative integrated service offers***

#### **LIFE-2024-CET-OSS — One-Stop-Shops - Integrated services for clean energy transition in buildings**

#### Objectives

As highlighted in the "Renovation Wave" initiative of the European Green Deal and in the REPowerEU Plan, there is pressing need to increase the number of ambitious building renovations across the EU and to better integrate the switch to efficient renewable-based heating and cooling as an integral part of building renovations. Businesses are one of the key contributors to the clean energy transition. However, many homeowners, building owners or small businesses lack the skills and capacity to set-up, implement and finance complex and ambitious clean energy transition projects. In addition, many project developers face high implementation costs, given the relatively small size of the investments and the lack of turnkey solutions, and have limited access to adequate and attractive financing solutions on the market.

This topic aims at supporting the creation or replication of One-Stop-Shops, proposing integrated services for clean energy transition in buildings and businesses.

Proposals submitted under this topic (depending on the specific scope) are expected to tackle, but are not limited to, the following aspects:

(1) Improve market conditions and develop integrated building renovation service offers to:

- Reduce complexity, simplify decision making and stimulate demand for investment in energy performance improvements and decarbonisation.
- 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/or dedicated consumer protection policies.
- Develop a robust pipeline of investments in building renovations, able to increase interest and participation from financial institutions and exploit synergies on the market, for instance via the development of dedicated financial products for building renovations mediated by One-Stop-Shops.

(2) Provide methods and support:

- Implemented, operationalise and test integrated services.
- 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, district approaches, etc.).
- Ensure cost effectiveness and price transparency of services provided to final beneficiaries.

(3) Aim at a self-sustained business model taking into account that:

- Integration of services can be developed through dedicated 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.

(4) Communicate results:

- Disseminate innovative solutions (e.g. organisational and contractual), suited to the targeted contexts.
- Help improve legal and regulatory environments. communicating project results to competent authorities and bodies.
- Demonstrate a high degree of replicability and include a clear action plan to communicate experiences and results towards potential replicators across the EU.

Proposals should be well integrated in their local and national context, making best use of what is locally available, notably in terms of local market conditions and public support schemes, and contribute to develop partnerships between local authorities and the relevant market players, in the construction, heating and cooling, and wider energy sectors. The targeted territories and/or sector should be clearly identified and justified, notably segmenting and quantifying the potential target users, and a first detailed concept of the services should be presented in the proposal.

### Scope

Based on the generic approach and common objectives presented above, proposals submitted under this topic are expected to focus on one of the three specific scopes below. The scope addressed should be specified in the introduction of the proposal. Although this does not exclude the possibility of addressing, in addition, some aspects of the other scopes, proposals must be fully clear on what the core focus of the approach is, and who the main final beneficiaries will be.

#### **Scope A: Integrated Home Renovation Services**

Under Scope A, actions should clearly focus on the energy efficient renovation 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; etc.) may be included in this scope. Specific approaches to deal with subsets of the residential sector (e.g. focus on condominiums, focus on energy poor households, etc.) are also welcome, as long as the main focus is on private non-professional homeowners (including homeowners' associations in the condominium sector).

Beyond the common objectives presented above, the proposals presented under this scope should meet the following specific objectives:



The services developed under Scope A should cover the whole "customer journey" of the homeowners aiming to renovate their home. Dedicated structures (legal entities or consortia of organisations) should provide integrated home renovation services, with the explicit intention of delivering services that belong in the competitive sector. In particular, proposals are expected to provide proactive support to homeowners ranging from technical design, obtention of permits, selection of qualified professionals, contracting of works, structuring and/or provision of finance (e.g. loans), to the supervision of contractors to carry out the renovation works and quality assurance. Those services can be implemented by public or private entities, either on a not-for-profit or for-profit basis. Proposals addressing only the provision of generic information and diagnosis, and/or limited to internet platforms without on-site interaction are **not** within the scope. Proposals covering regions with low development of integrated home renovation services to date will be given higher priority.

### **Scope B: Integrated services for private rental housing energy upgrade**

Under Scope B, actions should clearly focus on the energy performance improvement of existing buildings owned by private professional entities operating under private law, with a core focus on rental housing. Examples of stakeholders that could be targeted by the services developed under Scope B are, among others: housing companies, housing cooperatives, real-estate investors, property managers (on behalf of multi-owner households or real estate investors), building administrators, non-profit organisations, etc.

Beyond the common objectives presented above, the proposals presented under this scope should meet the following specific objectives:

The type of integrated solutions developed must be particularly tailored to the specificities of rental housing in the local context, especially from a real estate portfolio management and asset valuation perspective. Services developed under Scope B should not be limited to first level information and generic diagnosis, but should also address: the development of strategic partnerships with construction companies and/or financial institutions (notably in the context of the EU taxonomy regulation, see 2020/852/EU); the development of dedicated financial and/or fiscal schemes; the development of a sustainable business model. Proposals should also pay particular attention to governance issues, e.g. developing a framework to facilitate decisions and conflict resolution among co-owners, or developing a framework so that tenants can participate in decisions and partly share risks and benefits, etc. Proposals addressing only the provision of generic information and diagnosis, and/or limited to internet platforms without on-site interaction are not within the scope.

### **Proposals under Scopes A and B may be submitted by a single applicant from a single eligible country.**

For Scopes A and B, 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 impacts*

Proposals submitted under this topic should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities, and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific impacts. This demonstration should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions, and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts.

Proposals should demonstrate how they will contribute (depending on the specific scope) to:

- Integrated services implemented, operational and tested at the end of the action. Projects should necessarily set up and launch the services on a pilot phase, although upscale may happen after project completion.
- Strong and trustworthy partnerships with local actors (e.g. SMEs, architects, engineers, ESCOs, financial institutions, chambers of commerce, professional federations and networks, local and regional authorities, energy agencies, NGOs).
- Prospect of economically viable business models, in the medium to long-term running without the need for public subsidies to cover running costs.
- Increased awareness and trust of end-users through clear accountability, quality assurance and/or dedicated consumer protection mechanisms.
- Data and guidance made publicly 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 should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic, when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

The indicators for this topic include (depending on the specific scope):

- Number of initial contacts (households, private companies) made by the integrated service provider.
- Number of investment projects effectively implemented (number of housing units)
- Average conversion rate of initial contacts into effective investments, demonstrating the value of the services offered.
- Investments in building energy renovation triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Average percentage of energy savings per investment project.

All proposals submitted under this topic should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).  
Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

#### Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

### **LIFE-2024-CET-RENOPUB — Facilitation structures for the renovation of public buildings**

#### 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 Wave<sup>44</sup> aims to double the renovation rate of buildings by 2030, which requires also massive investment into the public building stock. In line with the REPowerEU plan<sup>45</sup> to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuel imports, the public sector is called to play a key role in reducing its energy consumption through building renovations. The revised Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)<sup>46</sup> requires the public sector at local, regional and national levels to reduce their total final energy consumption by 1.9% annually and to renovate at least 3% of the total floor area of their heated and/or cooled buildings annually, which should be transformed into at least nearly zero-energy buildings (nZEB) or zero-emission buildings (ZEB).

Currently, a substantial barrier to increased renovation rates in the public sector is to create and sustain in the long-term the financial and technical capacity amongst public 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 renovations of public buildings to nZEB or ZEB standards and 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 to public authorities a comprehensive, all-inclusive service from technical, financial to legal advice, procurement and quality assurance of works.

Actions should clearly focus on the ambitious energy renovation of existing public buildings (e.g. administrative buildings, hospitals, schools) to nZEB or ZEB standards, and should target legal entities operating under public law (e.g. public authorities, public bodies, social/public rental housing operators, etc.) as the main final beneficiaries of the services to be put in place.

Proposals should describe the services that will be developed and offered to public authorities, which should include:

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<sup>44</sup> [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.](#)

<sup>45</sup> [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.](#)

<sup>46</sup> [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 \(recast\).](#)

- Reduction of complexity and simplified decision making for public authorities to stimulate demand for building renovation and energy performance improvements.
- Proactive outreach to public authorities and identification of public buildings for energy renovations.
- Renovation of buildings to nZEB and ZEB standards in line with the revised EED.
- Provision of 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 as well as facilitating the use of energy performance contracting and third-party financing mechanisms on a long-term contractual basis.
- 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, energy efficiency as a service, and to increase blended finance of public and private sources and uptake of EU funding sources such as InvestEU, Recovery and Resilient Facility and EU Cohesion Policy funds including REACT-EU and Just Transition Mechanism.
- Systematic collection, aggregation and assessment of energy related public buildings data for informing local, regional or national policy developments and reporting.

Proposals should clearly describe how they will achieve long-term sustainability of the facilitation structure. For example, this could include a clear outline of a sustainability strategy, business plan and/or dedicated tasks in the proposed work plan to that effect.

**Proposals 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 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.

### Expected impacts

Proposals submitted under this topic should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities, and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific impacts. This demonstration should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions, and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts.

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 to nZEB and ZEB standards.

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

- Number of public buildings renovated to nZEB or ZEB standards targeted through the facilitation structures.
- Average percentage of energy savings per investment project.
- Number of public authorities supported through the services of the facilitation structures.

- 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.

All proposals submitted under this topic should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable 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%

## **Delivering public sector investments**

### **LIFE-2024-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 PDA topic aims to support project developers across Europe to deliver a highly ambitious sustainable energy project pipeline. Projects under this topic are expected 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. Projects shall demonstrate an innovative approach, for example in advancing existing procurement procedures, in aggregating and structuring investment projects, in advancing market boundaries, improving organisational and regulatory structures or in achieving high levels of energy savings and ultimately decarbonisation.

PDA projects contribute significantly to the European Green Deal goals<sup>47</sup> and will help pave the way for a decarbonised and clean energy system. In the next years, PDA actions are expected to significantly contribute to accelerating the clean energy transition, as pointed out in the REPowerEU plan<sup>48</sup> to phase out EU dependence on fossil fuel imports, and to contribute to the Green Deal Investment Plan<sup>49</sup>, by stimulating market demand for Net-Zero technologies and assisting in their uptake. A range of very innovative solutions with regard to the financing and mobilisation of

<sup>47</sup> [Energy and the Green Deal \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/infographic/infographic-energy-and-the-green-deal-2022-01-11-01).

<sup>48</sup> [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 Plan, COM\(2022\) 230 final.](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_24)

<sup>49</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_20\\_24](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_24).

investments were demonstrated in past PDA projects (e.g. under Horizon 2020), which helped to shift market boundaries and demonstrate practical application of inspiring solutions. Examples include 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 a region, the development of a forfeiting fund using private investments<sup>50</sup>, or the development of sustainable public real estate management and subsequent energy efficiency investments in municipal assets<sup>51</sup>. PDA projects can also help to implement investment concepts developed under the European City Facility.

PDA projects are expected to mobilise private investments and increase cost-effectiveness of national and Union public budgetary resources by developing ready-to-finance and bankable projects.

### Scope

Project Development Assistance (PDA) will support project promoters in preparing and launching investment pipelines of sustainable energy projects. The call topic aims to build technical, economic and legal expertise of project promoters needed for the successful project development and implementation. Projects shall demonstrate their added value and lead to the launch of tangible sustainable energy investments within the project duration.

Proposals for this topic can be submitted by public or 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, services or industry.

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

- the organisational innovation for the mobilisation of the investment programme such as setting up project development units or establishing efficient procurement procedures for large-scale bundling and pooling of (mixed) assets; and/or
- financial engineering with a particular focus on leveraging enhanced levels of private investment and improved combination of existing funds. This could include Energy Performance Contracting, financial instruments, blended funds, innovative on-bill and on-tax payment schemes, community-based financing schemes, etc.

Proposals should aim for high ambition levels of energy savings and decarbonisation, such as deep renovation, nearly zero-energy buildings (nZEB) or zero-emission building (ZEB) standards, incl. building-integrated renewables, positive energy buildings or districts and/or highly energy efficient infrastructure.

Proposals could target sectors including:

- Buildings
  - Existing residential buildings including large social housing operators or district-level renovation approaches.
  - Existing non-residential buildings, such as public bodies' buildings, hospitals, academies, defence facilities such as their offices, and commercial buildings.

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<sup>50</sup> <https://sharex.lv/>.

<sup>51</sup> [www.sure2050.be](http://www.sure2050.be).

- District Heating/Cooling networks
    - Decarbonisation and modernisation of existing district heating/cooling networks, including the extension of existing networks provided that extended networks are fully based on low-temperature renewable energy or waste heat.
  - Infrastructure
    - Existing public infrastructure such as water/wastewater services or lighting.
  - Businesses
    - Improving energy efficiency of industry and services, including SMEs through, for example, market facilitators that are supporting investment projects.
  - Renewables
    - Renewable energy production from energy communities and other citizen-led initiatives.
  - Mobility
    - Clean and energy efficient urban transport infrastructure.
    - Low emission urban mobility solutions including conversion of urban areas for soft mobility or non-motorised transport.
    - Integration of smart recharging infrastructures in buildings, including in multi-family buildings.
- *For actions that support the establishment of investment plans developed on the basis of the criteria for "efficient district heating and cooling" as set out in the revised Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), please refer to the topic LIFE-2024-CET-DHC.*
- *For actions developing transition plans such as Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs), please refer to the topic LIFE-2024-CET-LOCAL.*
- *For development of one-stop-shops for integrated renovation services for residential buildings, please refer to topic LIFE-2024-CET-OSS.*

**Proposals 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 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.

**Expected impacts**

Proposals should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities, and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific impacts. This demonstration should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts.

Proposals should result in the launch of an energy efficiency and/or renewable investment programme as well as the delivery of scalable financing solutions for sustainable energy investment projects with a particular emphasis on private sector funds. Proposals submitted under this topic should demonstrate that every million EUR of EU support will trigger at least EUR 15 million of investments in sustainable energy in the form of signed work contracts or investment contracts. 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 also contribute to increased skills and capacity to deliver further sustainable energy investments.

Proposals should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic, when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

The indicators for this topic include:

- Number of staff with increased skills within project promoter organisations.
- Number of organisations with increased capacity to deliver investments and/or organisational structures.
- Number of jobs directly and indirectly created.

All proposals submitted under this topic should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

### Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

## **Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition**

### ***Addressing energy poverty***

#### **LIFE-2024-CET-ENERPOV — Alleviating household energy poverty in Europe**

### Objectives

In recent years, European households have continued to spend an increasing share of income on energy, leading to higher rates of energy poverty and negatively affecting living conditions, well-being and health. Most recent estimates suggest that 9.3% of Europeans are unable to keep their homes adequately warm.<sup>52</sup> Following the recent surges in energy prices, the number of energy poor households overburdened by their energy costs is likely to be on the rise. These higher prices, combined with low incomes and poor energy efficiency of buildings and appliances, are root causes of energy poverty. In addition to its causal multidimensionality, the phenomenon cuts across different policy sectors beyond energy, such as health, housing and social policy, requiring coordinated, holistic efforts at all governance levels, and involving different sectoral actors. While increasing the uptake of building renovation measures can bring significant long-term benefits to energy poor households, energy efficiency

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<sup>52</sup> Eurostat, June 2023.



measures at the household level and increased use of renewable energy are also key tools in addressing energy poverty and can lead to lower energy bills and improved living conditions.

The European Green Deal<sup>53</sup> sets out to ensure an energy transition that is socially just and inclusive. In accordance with the Fit for 55 package, and in particular the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)<sup>54</sup>, Member States shall implement energy efficiency improvement measures as a priority among people affected by energy poverty, vulnerable customers, people in low-income households and, where applicable, people living in social housing. These households should be prioritised in the implementation of energy savings obligations, with the option of requiring obligated parties<sup>55</sup> to achieve a share of their energy savings obligation among vulnerable customers and to work together with local authorities to do so. In addition, the EED (recast) underlines the need to address the split incentive dilemma and remove barriers to energy efficiency measures in multi-owner properties. To ensure more coordinated action on energy poverty, an EC Recommendation on Energy Poverty and accompanying Staff Working Document further set out a series of measures and policies that can be adopted<sup>56</sup>.

In this context, efforts should focus on offering support to overcome barriers to the uptake of renovation measures in multi-apartment buildings requiring coordinated action amongst homeowners, as well as supporting relevant actors, including public authorities, in designing longer-term strategies and coordination frameworks to mitigate energy poverty at different governance levels, including dedicated financing schemes specifically addressing energy performance improvements for energy poor households. As obligated parties under energy efficiency obligation schemes have potentially at their disposal the necessary data and means to identify energy poverty and vulnerability among their customers, supporting the obligated parties is needed in order to spread such schemes across the EU.

### Scope

Actions should contribute to actively alleviating energy poverty and build on the tools, indicators and resources of existing initiatives, such as the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub<sup>57</sup> or the energy poverty pillar of Covenant of Mayors<sup>58</sup>.

The proposed action should cover maximum **two** of the following bullet points:

- Support the renovation of private multi-apartment buildings with energy poor residents, with a special focus on reinforcing and adapting the governance and decision-making structures of building management and homeowners or tenants associations, tackling related regulatory framework barriers (e.g. property and/or rental laws), split incentives (where relevant), and setting up and coordinating relevant support services. The renovation actions supported should take into account the ability of residents to remain in their homes to avoid gentrification.

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<sup>53</sup> [COM\(2019\) 640 final, including the Renovation Wave Strategy and Commission Recommendation \(EU\) 2020/1563 of 14 October 2020 on energy poverty.](#)

<sup>54</sup> [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 \(recast\).](#)

<sup>55</sup> Articles 8-9 EED (recast). Obligated party refers to an energy distributor, retail energy sales company or transmission system operator (Article 2(19) EED (recast).

<sup>56</sup> Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/2407 of 20 October 2023 on energy poverty (C/2023/4080) and Commission Staff Working Document (SWD/2003/647).

<sup>57</sup> Results of the predecessor of the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub, the European Energy Poverty Observatory, should also be considered, where relevant.

<sup>58</sup> Actions should also take into account potential initiatives or schemes set up under other relevant EU funding such as the Social Climate Fund or the Just Transition Mechanism.

- Support national authorities in their obligation to empower and protect energy poor households by implementing the relevant provisions of the EED (recast)<sup>59</sup>. This support should help analyse the national policy mix, and combine and pull the different energy poverty-related provisions together to allow for the effective and coherent application of measures at the national level. In doing so, the action should also support relevant authorities to evaluate the impact of different implementation options, taking into account the specific national needs and context on energy poverty.
  - Actions should facilitate the delivery of capacity-building for national, regional and/or local authorities and societal intermediaries, **and** support these actors in setting up long-term, cross-sectoral coordination structures<sup>60</sup> to tackle energy poverty. Such structures could include setting up national energy poverty observatories<sup>61</sup>. The actors involved are expected to represent all relevant sectors (e.g. energy, social, health, and housing) to ensure a holistic participatory approach to the alleviation of energy poverty in the long term and to improve social cohesion. This capacity-building should ultimately lead to the relevant actors co-designing and rolling out integrated interventions and support schemes for the benefit of energy poor households; however, it is not expected that such interventions or support schemes are delivered as part of the action.
  - Support obligated parties in setting up and testing schemes for energy efficiency improvement measures for the benefit of people affected by energy poverty, vulnerable customers, people in low-income households and, where applicable, people living in social housing under the energy efficiency obligation schemes of the EED (recast)<sup>62</sup>, including, where applicable, working together with local authorities or municipalities, and/or relevant networks such as the Covenant of Mayors. It is expected that obligated parties, in particular, are either directly involved or their support is clearly demonstrated in the proposal.
- *For actions addressing building renovation actions without a clear focus on energy poor households, please refer to LIFE-2024-CET-BETTERRENO.*
  - *For actions addressing policy support without a focus on energy poverty, please refer to call topic LIFE-2024-CET-POLICY.*

The proposed actions should take into account multiple benefits from the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy measures for the different energy poor target groups, such as improved health, comfort, air quality, better social inclusion etc. Specific attention could be paid to particular groups which are more at risk of being affected by energy poverty or more susceptible to the adverse impacts of energy poverty, taking into account gender, where relevant.

The proposed actions should involve local authorities and intermediaries such as consumer or social organisations, energy companies, healthcare providers, homeowners or tenants associations, energy communities, as relevant.

Proposals should justify the need for the development of any tools, databases or platforms, considering their added value compared to existing ones. If included,

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<sup>59</sup> In particular Articles 2(52), 8-9, 22 and 24 of the EED (recast)

<sup>60</sup> Cross-departmental and vertical collaboration across national, regional, and local government structures

<sup>61</sup> Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/2407 of 20 October 2023 on energy poverty (C/2023/4080). A key element of such observatories should be the inclusion of a strategy ensuring that the observatories will be sustained after the end of the project.

<sup>62</sup> Article 8-9 EED (recast)

applicants should carefully consider how to make them available to facilitate their reuse by other initiatives.

Addressing more than one bullet point does not necessarily increase the relevance of the proposal.

Proposals must be submitted by **at least 3 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) **from 3 different eligible countries**.

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 impacts*

Proposals should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities, and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific impacts. This demonstration should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions, and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts.

Proposals submitted under this topic should demonstrate how they will contribute to the reduction of energy poverty for the targeted households and the development of successful approaches for improvements in the energy efficiency and use of renewable energy solutions, which can be replicated in other regions or Member States. Prebound/rebound effects should be taken into account and reported on, where relevant.

Proposals should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic, when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project. Impacts under this topic are expected to be demonstrated for energy poor households specifically.

The indicators for this topic include:

- Number of energy poor households with reduced energy costs.
- Number of multi-apartment buildings renovated.
- Number of governance and decision-making structures adapted for multi-apartment buildings.
- Number of energy poverty observatories, coordination structures or support and capacity-building programmes established.
- Quantified multiple benefits, where relevant, for energy poor households, such as improved physical and mental health, comfort and indoor environment, better indoor air quality, improved social inclusion, reduced public health expenditure.
- Number of energy poor consumers benefitting from the measures.
- Number of legislative or implementing acts, policies or strategies created/adapted on energy poverty.
- Other environmental impacts such as reduction of the production of harmful substances, or reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Proposals should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

#### Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

### **Energy communities and other citizen-led initiatives**

#### **LIFE-2024-CET-ENERCOM — Developing support mechanisms for Energy Communities**

#### Objectives

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/or address other priorities such as improving the energy efficiency of housing or reducing energy poverty. The role of energy communities in the EU energy systems is expected to grow in line with the REPowerEU plan<sup>63</sup>. As part of that, for instance, the EU Solar Strategy defined the target of setting up at least 1 renewables-based Energy Community in every municipality with more than 10,000 inhabitants by 2025.

Developing and realising projects can be complex for energy communities due to the regulatory and policy context (e.g. changing national support schemes for renewables, burdensome licensing, heavy administrative procedures, 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 or difficulties in engaging citizens and establishing effective governance and decision-making structures. These hurdles prevent energy communities around Europe from developing their potential.

An increasing number of local and regional authorities wish to make sure that more citizens and local communities benefit from the energy transition and play an active role in it. Supporting energy communities can be a way to achieve that and local governments are uniquely well-placed to support their development by creating an enabling framework for communities and addressing their development hurdles. Strategies to do so vary depending on the specific context of each territory. For instance, some public authorities may choose to directly (help) set-up and/or invest in an energy community, while others, may decide to open One-Stop-Shops (OSS) to support community energy projects, or procure public services and products from energy communities.

This topic aims to foster the collaboration between local/regional authorities and energy communities.

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<sup>63</sup> [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.](#)

### Scope

Proposals should focus on one of the two actions below:

- A. Set up energy communities led by or supported by relevant public authorities aimed at supporting the achievement of local and regional energy policy objectives and actively and democratically engage citizens in investments and decision-making.
- B. Develop support services for energy communities (e.g. One-Stop-Shops or other facilitation structures) supplying technical support to energy community projects by reducing the complexity of the process, simplifying decision making and stimulating the execution of projects. As a result of their work, these services should lead to local energy community investment pipelines. The design of the services is to be justified in each proposal taking into account the local context and existing support mechanisms.

In order to deliver on the actions above, proposals are encouraged to consider including some of the elements below (among other possible actions):

- Creation of a supportive local policy framework for the development of energy projects (e.g. through community participation or investment quotas or public procurement). Provision of technical support to enable actors to set-up an energy community (e.g. licencing, energy commercialisation, business models, legal aspects).
- Training and capacity building on energy community development for local and regional authority officials, local communities and other relevant local actors.
- Creation of a supportive local policy framework for the development of energy community projects (e.g. through community participation or investment quotas or public procurement).
- Support of active engagement and democratic governance by citizens in energy communities.
- Facilitation of energy communities' access to financial resources (e.g. through guarantees, seed funding for revolving funds, technical support for the early stages of project development, aggregation of small projects).
- Development of services to support the operational phase of existing energy communities and/or enabling communities to pool resources for project development and operation (e.g. by creating umbrella communities/coalitions).
- Development of specific support measures (or streamline access to existing ones) for specific target groups such as energy vulnerable and energy poor households.

Proposals submitted under this topic should aim at fostering communities fitting the definition of "renewable energy community" according to the revised Renewable Energy Directive ((EU) 2018/2001)<sup>64</sup> and/or the definition of "citizen energy community" according to the Directive on common rules for the internal electricity market ((EU) 2019/944)<sup>65</sup>. They should adequately take into account participation and governance differences between both concepts.

Project applicants may choose to focus on one or more activities related to sustainable energy (production, transmission, distribution, energy efficiency, demand-response, etc.).

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<sup>64</sup> [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.](#)

<sup>65</sup> [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](#)

Priority will be given to proposals that develop areas in which community energy is less developed (in their specific context) including building renovation, heating and cooling or renewable gas market.

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

Pilots can be energy communities (A) or support services for communities (B). Proposals should justify the potential for synergies between the selected pilots.

Proposals should make use of existing initiatives, networks and platforms as relevant and demonstrate that the EU funding will be used in an effective way by delivering actions that complement existing initiatives (e.g. national enabling frameworks for energy communities and the European Energy Communities Facility).

Actions should contribute to fostering the collaboration between local/regional authorities and citizen-led-initiatives in the field of energy and build on the tools and resources of existing Horizon and LIFE projects, as well as initiatives such as the Energy Communities Repository and Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub.

Proposals should justify the added value of including the development of any new tools, guidance and platforms considering existing resources<sup>66</sup>. If included, applicants should carefully consider how to make them available to facilitate their re-use by other projects.

Projects should analyse and justify the effectiveness of different approaches to tackle the barriers of different sub-types of energy communities they intend to support (e.g. municipal-driven communities, citizen-driven communities, communities involving vulnerable citizens, communities in rural contexts) at different stages of professionalisation and foresee the provision of policy feedback.

For both actions, proposals must be submitted by **at least 3 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) **from 3 different eligible countries**.

For both actions, 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.

➤ *For actions focusing mainly on energy poverty alleviation strategies, please refer to call topic LIFE-2024-CET-ENERPOV.*

### *Expected impacts*

Proposals submitted under this topic should present the concrete results which will be achieved by the planned activities. This demonstration should include a detailed analysis of the baseline, well-substantiated assumptions and establish clear causality links between the expected impacts and the workplan.

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<sup>66</sup> Please consider, among other sources, the tools listed under the Toolbox of the European Energy Communities Repository before proposing the development of new tools: [https://energy-communities-repository.ec.europa.eu/energy-communities-repository-support/energy-communities-repository-toolbox-0\\_en](https://energy-communities-repository.ec.europa.eu/energy-communities-repository-support/energy-communities-repository-toolbox-0_en)

Applicants are asked to quantify the topic specific impacts (where relevant), the LIFE CET common indicators and any other project-specific performance indicators which they consider relevant for their action.

The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime. It should be noted that the figures reported will be assessed considering the context in which they are generated and the relative difficulty of launching energy community projects there.

The indicators for this topic include:

- Number of energy community projects supported.
- Number of energy community projects created.
- Number of operational support services for energy communities which have been tested, established and incorporated feedback from users.
- 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.

Proposals should also quantify their impacts related to the following common indicators for the LIFE CET subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).

Beyond the impacts above, proposals are expected to deliver (where relevant):

- A robust strategy to continue providing the support services after the project ends.
- A solid set of local enabling actions to create an environment where new energy communities emerge.
- A piloted approach to create inclusive energy communities (e.g. including energy poor and vulnerable households, but also looking at other historically excluded categories).
- Adequate financing mechanisms to support energy community projects at the local /regional level.

### Funding rate

Other Action Grants (OAGs) — 95%

## Standard Action Project

### **LIFE-2024-CET-SAP — LIFE Clean Energy Transition – Standard Action Project**

#### Objectives

This topic aims to complement the main Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) under the LIFE Clean Energy Transition work-programme 2024, with a Call for LIFE Standard Action Projects (SAPs), co-financing action in the area of the clean energy transition with up to 60% of the eligible costs specifically addressed to support bottom-up actions by key actors of the EU energy transition.

SAPs are a flexible tool available to support actions from key commercial and non-commercial actors of the EU energy transition, which includes entities from all sectors (public, non-governmental and private). They are preferably close-to-market (i.e. aimed not only at delivering improved clean energy solutions, but also at making sure such solutions are widely taken up by society in general and, more particularly, by the economy through an explicit market-oriented approach). In this case, applicants will be required to highlight specific market-related information in their application (e.g. planned production capacity, reference market, economic feasibility etc.).

Actions under this topic should contribute to the implementation of the EU's energy efficiency and renewable energy policy and legislation and demonstrate their positive contribution to the overall clean and fair energy transition.

This topic aims to support actions from key commercial and non-commercial actors in the clean energy transition, involving in particular local and regional authorities, energy agencies, energy service companies (ESCOs), financial institutions and EU manufacturers of net-zero energy technologies.

#### Scope

The focus of the actions under this Call should address one of the following areas:

- Support local and regional authorities in establishing new energy agencies to support the delivery of the clean energy transition on the ground, including synergies with other areas addressed by the LIFE Programme and contributing to a carbon neutral future;
- Support energy service companies (ESCOs) in piloting and rolling-out ambitious investment and financial solutions for deep energy renovation of buildings, such as EnPC or similar contractual arrangements.
- Support financial institutions, brokers, insurers and other actors involved in the energy financing areas, as well as public-private partnerships, in developing and marketing financial products and solutions to finance investments in energy efficiency and integrated renewables.
- Support EU manufacturers of net-zero energy technologies to roll-out innovative techniques, including activities such as the identification of needs for regulatory updates where relevant (e.g. regulatory sandboxes), along with fostering collaboration with all actors in the value-chains to increase the market uptake and large-scale deployment of their clean energy solutions in line with the Green Deal Industrial Plan and the Net-Zero Industry Act.

Proposals should address one of the above listed points. Addressing more than one point does not increase the relevance of the proposal.



Actions should provide the right mix of activities that will ensure their sustainability and replicability after LIFE CET support.

**Proposals 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.

### Expected impacts

Proposals should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities and demonstrate how these results will contribute to deliver impact on the relevant markets and stakeholders. This impact should be quantified with indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts. The results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

Proposals should also quantify their impacts (when relevant) against the following common indicators for the LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme:

- Primary energy savings triggered by the project in GWh/year.
- Final 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 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/year).
- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Number of pieces of legislation, policies or strategies created/adapted to support sustainable energy policies.
- Number of products (goods or services), processes and methods launched into the market by the project.
- Number of real-life implementation sites carried out by the project.
- Number of market stakeholders trained with increased clean energy transition skills and competencies due to the project.
- Number of stakeholders reached through events and media during the project.
- Number of jobs created in full-time equivalent (FTE).

### Funding rate

Standard Action Projects (SAPs) — 60%

## **3. Available budget**

The available call budget is **EUR 81 250 000**.

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

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Topic budget</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-LOCAL	<b>EUR 7 000 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-POLICY	<b>EUR 6 000 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-PRODUCTS	<b>EUR 2 000 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-BETTERRENO	<b>EUR 6 000 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-BUSINESS	<b>EUR 5 250 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-BUILDSKILLS	<b>EUR 6 500 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS	<b>EUR 5 750 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-DHC	<b>EUR 4 000 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-PRIVAFIN	<b>EUR 5 250 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-OSS	<b>EUR 7 000 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-RENO PUB	<b>EUR 3 500 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-PDA	<b>EUR 6 000 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-ENERPOV	<b>EUR 6 000 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-ENERCOM	<b>EUR 7 000 000</b>
LIFE-2024-CET-SAP	<b>EUR 4 000 000</b>

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**

<b>Timetable and deadlines (indicative)</b>	
Call opening:	18 April 2024
<b><u>Deadline for submission (full proposal):</u></b>	<b><u>19 September 2024 – 17:00:00 CET (Brussels)</u></b>
Information on evaluation results:	February 2025
GA signature:	June 2025

## 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 or not complying with the instructions therein (*e.g. font size limit, deletion of instructions, etc*) 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 depending on whether the call has one or two submission stages.

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 — contains additional project data and the project’s contribution to EU programme key performance indicators (*to be filled in directly online*)
- **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-2024-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.*).

 Please be aware that some proposal information may be shared with the LIFE programme committee established under Regulation No [182/2011](#)<sup>67</sup>, i.e. name and country of all applicants (coordinating organisation and partners), project title, total eligible costs, LIFE funding requested, result of the assessment of the admissibility and eligibility of the proposal, and scores by criterion for eligible proposals.

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

## 6. Eligibility

Applications will only be considered eligible if their content corresponds wholly (or at least in part) to the topic description for which they are submitted.

### *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 ([list of participating countries](#))<sup>68</sup>
- 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*).

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<sup>67</sup> Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

<sup>68</sup> Applicants from countries which have requested to be associated to the LIFE Programme may participate in this call for proposals. However, no grant agreement will be signed if the association agreement is not entered into force by the end of the selection procedure.

### *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 persons<sup>69</sup>.

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'<sup>70</sup>. ⚠ 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 for participating in the programme (*see list of participating countries above*) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature and if the association covers the call (i.e. is retroactive and covers both the part of the programme and the year when the call was launched).

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)*<sup>71</sup>). 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).

Measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary — Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16 December 2022, no legal commitments can be entered into with Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain. Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, as long as the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc.). In case of multi-beneficiary grant calls, applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity and/or to change its status into associated partner. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly.

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<sup>69</sup> See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>70</sup> For the definitions, see Articles 187(2) and 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>71</sup> 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](#).

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

### Consortium composition

For topics LIFE-2024-CET-LOCAL, LIFE-2024-CET-POLICY, LIFE-2024-CET-PRODUCTS, LIFE-2024-CET-BETTERRENO, LIFE-2024-CET-BUSINESS, LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS, LIFE-2024-CET-DHC, LIFE-2024-CET-PRIVAFIN, LIFE-2024-CET-ENERPOV and LIFE-2024-CET-ENERCOM: proposals must be submitted by **at least 3 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from 3 different eligible countries.

For topics LIFE-2024-CET-BUILDSKILLS, LIFE-2024-CET-OSS, LIFE-2024-CET-RENOPUB, LIFE-2024-CET-PDA and LIFE-2024-CET-SAP: proposals must be submitted by at least one applicant from an eligible country.

For all topics, the coordinator must be established in an eligible country (*see above*).

### 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 under Call LIFE-2024-CET except for topic LIFE-2024-CET-SAP.

### 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.

 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 participate<sup>72</sup>:

- 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)

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<sup>72</sup> See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

- guilty of grave professional misconduct<sup>73</sup> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of 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 rejected if it turns out that<sup>74</sup>:

- 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

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<sup>73</sup> 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.

<sup>74</sup> See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).



'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.

 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 will be 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:

For full proposals:

### 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

#### 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
<b>Overall weighted (pass) scores (without bonus)</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>90</b>	N/A

Maximum points (full proposals): 90 points.

Individual thresholds per criterion (full proposals): 10/20, 10/20, 10/20 and 10/20 points (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. A retroactive starting date 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%** for following topics:

LIFE-2024-CET-LOCAL, LIFE-2024-CET-POLICY, LIFE-2024-CET-PRODUCTS, LIFE-2024-CET-BETTERRENO, LIFE-2024-CET-BUSINESS, LIFE-2024-CET-BUILDSKILLS, LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS, LIFE-2024-CET-DHC, LIFE-2024-CET-PRIVAFIN, LIFE-2024-CET-OSS, LIFE-2024-CET-RENOPUB, LIFE-2024-CET-PDA, LIFE-2024-CET-ENERPOV and LIFE-2024-CET-ENERCOM

- **60%** for topic LIFE-2024-CET-SAP.


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*).

Please note that the maximum grant amount for each beneficiary will be fixed in the Grant Agreement. The beneficiaries can however decide to distribute the grant money differently in accordance with what they have agreed in the consortium agreement (*see also section 13*).

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
- D. Other cost categories: **ONLY FOR topic LIFE-2024-CET-SAP**
  - D.1 Financial support to third parties
  - D.2 Land purchase
- E. Indirect costs

*Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:*

- personnel costs:
  - SME owner/natural person unit cost<sup>75</sup>: Yes
  - volunteers unit cost<sup>76</sup>: Yes (without indirect costs)
- travel and subsistence unit cost<sup>77</sup>: No (only actual costs)
- equipment costs for **all LIFE-2024-CET topics except** for topic LIFE-2024-CET-SAP: depreciation
- equipment costs for topic **LIFE-2024-CET-SAP**: full cost + depreciation for listed equipment (*under the special conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (art 6.2.C.2) and linked to special durability clause (use and maintain for 5 years after end of action; annex 5)*)
- other cost categories:
  - costs for financial support to third parties for **all LIFE-2024-CET topics except** for topic LIFE-2024-CET-SAP: not allowed
  - costs for financial support to third parties for topic **LIFE-2024-CET-SAP**: allowed for grants and prizes; maximum total amount for financial support to third parties **EUR 100.000**; maximum amount per third party **EUR 20.000**.
  - land purchase costs for **all LIFE-2024-CET topics except** for topic LIFE-2024-CET-SAP: not applicable
  - land purchase costs for topic **LIFE-2024-CET-SAP**: subject to the conditions specified in Art. 6.2 - D.2 Eligible and ineligible costs and contributions of the LIFE General Model Grant Agreement. The applicant must address each of these conditions in his proposal, explaining how each one is met or will be met during the project. Such conditions refer, for example, to the contribution to the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, to the guarantee that in the long term the land will be used consistently with the specific objectives of the LIFE Programme, to the fact that land purchase is the only or most cost-effective way of achieving the desired conservation outcome etc.


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<sup>75</sup> 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)7115).

<sup>76</sup> 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).

<sup>77</sup> 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).

- 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, except for topic LIFE-2024-CET-SAP
    - 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*).


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

If agreed with 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 (*art 23*).

### 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](#)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).
- FAQs on the Topic page
- [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](mailto: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).
- **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).
- **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 cumulation of funding/no double funding** — It is strictly prohibited to cumulate 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 be declared under two EU grants. If you would like to nonetheless benefit from different EU funding opportunities, projects must be designed as different actions, clearly delineated and separated for each grant (without overlaps).
- **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 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 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 the others (or they will be rejected).
- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this Call Document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application.

- **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](#).