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Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)

Unit B1 – H2020 Energy

Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency call FAQ

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General

Q1: What is the duration of a project under the Energy Efficiency Call?

A1: The H2020 Energy Efficiency Call does not provide an indication regarding the duration. Also, the Horizon 2020 general model grant agreement does not set a fix rule for the duration of H2020 projects.

It will be up to the proposer to define a sound project duration, which will be judged during the evaluation by the expert evaluators as part of the evaluation process against the Award Criteria.

You may want to consider that the work programme contains budget indications for each topic. This will be one element of consideration when you design your proposal with an appropriate time frame.

Please do note however that other H2020 work programmes may in some cases provide an indicative duration or a compulsory duration or maximum duration.

Q2: What is the number of partners required under the Energy Efficiency Call?

A2: In principle, subject to exceptions below, for all action under the Energy Efficiency Call:

- at least three legal entities shall participate in an action;
- each of the three legal entities shall be established in a different Member State or associated country;
- all three legal entities shall be independent of each other within the meaning of Article 8 of the rules of participation.

Exceptions:

- EE4 "Construction Skills': Same as above except: Proposals focusing on upgrading or establishing large-scale qualification and training schemes for craftsmen and other on-site workers, in the continuation of the BUILD UP Skills initiative, may be submitted by one legal entity
- EE19 "Improving financiability and attractiveness of sustainable energy investment": Same as above except: Proposals aiming to create national sustainable energy financing platforms may be submitted by one legal entity
- EE20: For the whole of the topic 'Project Development Assistance', proposals may be submitted by one legal entity

EE4: Construction skills

Q1. Is it possible to address both target groups (a. craftsmen and other onsite workers and b. middle and senior level building professionals) in one proposal?

A1. Yes, you may address several target groups in the same proposal.

However, the rules for eligibility vary depending on the focus of your proposal.

Proposals similar to BUILD UP SKILLS type activities are subject to different conditions for eligibility. I.e., if your proposal addresses solely the upgrading or establishing of training schemes for craftsmen and on-site workers, proposals can originate from a single country.

If you are addressing other professionals in your proposal, there needs to be a consortium formed by 3 different legal entities from different eligible countries.

Q2. How would applicants need to recognise, integrate and address national BUILD UP Skills Roadmaps? To what extent does the proposal need to take into account and build upon the national BUS roadmaps funded under the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme?

A2. Applicants should demonstrate how their proposal is in line with the call especially in part B "Excellence" 1.2. The IEE projects database http://www.eaci-projects.eu/iee/page/Page.jsp contains details of closed and on-going BUILD UP Skills projects and the related national roadmaps. A new batch of BUILD UP Skills projects is currently being selected and will start in June/July 2014.

Q3: What does "ICT-based training may be used, building on results from the EU ICT programme" mean?

A3. This sentence means that a proposal for ICT-based training should take into account the results from those previous and ongoing projects and initiatives in the field of technology-enhanced learning from the EU ICT programmes, including the FP7 (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/programme/home_en.html), and the CIP (http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/ict-policy-support-programme), which are relevant to the construction sector.

Note: Proposers should build on existing results from all relevant sources not only at European level but also national or local initiatives. At European level, lifelong learning projects funded under the Leonardo da Vinci programme may also be relevant.

Q4 "Is the focus for architects, engineers and building managers on improving qualifications and skills (Continuous Professional Development) or is the focus on training people to join the profession?"

A4. The Call for proposals states the following: "Regarding other practitioners, proposals should focus on improving the qualification and skills of middle and senior level building professionals." Initial education or training to join the profession should therefore not be the focus of the proposal

Q5: "Could you confirm that the EU funding is not supposed to cover the training costs but to improve the qualification and accreditation schemes and to identify funding to sustain the training activities following project completion?"

A5. Regarding the first part of the question covering the training costs, the Call for proposals states that "for financial support to trainees, proposals should link to other sources of funding such as the European Social Fund, including the Youth Guarantee Scheme." It is therefore up to proposers to show how their proposal links to other sources of funding "for financial support to trainees", which might for example cover their training costs. The expected impact of >200 trained craftsmen per 1M€ of EU support also indicates that the project budget is not supposed to cover financial support to trainees.

Regarding the second part of the question, related to sustaining training activities after project completion, it is stated in the Call that "organisational and financial mechanisms should be established to sustain training activities for at least 3 years after the projects' end".

EE7: Enhancing the capacity of public authorities to plan and implement sustainable energy policies and measures

Q1. Do public authorities need to be partners of the consortium?

A1. Not necessarily. However, although there is no obligation to include public authorities directly in the consortium, the Call text makes it clear that public authorities need to be strongly engaged in the activities. Proposals must clearly explain how their actions will influence public officers and engage with public authorities in order to ensure that their proposed impacts will be achieved, ie that their proposed numbers of officers and authorities will introduce new or improved policies and plans during project implementation.

Q2. Does a proposal need to address all the actions (bullet points)?

A2. No. Although several actions have been identified as being within the scope of this topic, the list of possible actions is intended to be illustrative (and is also not exhaustive).

Q3. What kind of impacts do you expect?

A3. Proposals must clearly demonstrate how the proposed actions will empower public authorities to develop, finance and implement ambitious sustainable energy policies and plans. Project teams must not only measure the impact in terms of number of public officers influenced and number of new or improved policies and plans, but also show how their proposed actions will have an impact on the end consumers. Proposals targeted at government level should also explain how the actions would accelerate the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

EE8: Public procurement of innovative sustainable energy solutions

Q1: What do you mean by "innovative sustainable energy solutions?"

A1: The rather general title for the topic covers products, buildings and services. Two main areas of work for this topic are defined in the "scope" section of the Call.

Q2: Should proposals related to "supporting public authorities in procuring fast-evolving information and communication technologies such as Green Data Centres" provide direct support to public authorities willing to procure those technologies?

A2: No. The Call invites proposals for providing capacity building and technical support to increase the skills of public procurers, but it does not include the provision of direct financial support for procurement itself.

Q3: Are proposals related to "supporting public authorities in procuring fast-evolving information and communication technologies such as Green Data Centres", limited to Green Data Centres?

A3: No, The Call text says "such as" Green Data Centres, so other ICT solutions could also be proposed.

EE9: Empowering stakeholders to assist public authorities in the definition and implementation of sustainable energy policies and measures

Q1. Should the consortium be restricted to public entities?

A1. No. The Call text identifies a wide spectrum of stakeholders, which could assist public authorities

Q2. Should the final beneficiary be a public authority?

A2. No. The text of the Call (scope) states that proposals should provide capacity building or engagement activities to groups with a key role in defining and/or implementing sustainable energy policies and measures initiated by public authorities.

Q3. What do you mean by 'implementation of sustainable energy policies and measures'?

A3. Project activities should lead to new/updated policies and measures which influence hundreds of stakeholders and lead to a measurable impact on thousands of final consumers.

Q4. What is the role of the stakeholders in the definition/implementation of sustainable energy policy?

A4. Different stakeholders have different roles in defining and implementing sustainable energy policies. However, they should collectively and effectively convert policies and plans into concrete actions.

EE10: Consumer engagement for sustainable energy

Q1. Can a proposal address various different target groups although the text calls for a clear "market segmentation"?

A1. Yes, because there may be several target groups to address in the supply chain of a given market. Nevertheless, proposals should be well targeted and focused, and should justify the choice of target group(s) in relation to the challenges and the expected impacts.

Q2. What do you mean when you state that proposals should focus on 'Action', the last step of the AIDA (Awareness, Interest, Desire, and Action) framework?

A2. The Awareness-Interest-Desire-Action framework highlights the sequence of steps that consumers need to follow in order to change their behaviour or take informed decisions to invest in EE and/or RES products or services. Proposals should focus on the

last step of the framework "Action" in order to deliver their expected impacts (bigger market share, concrete energy savings, changed behaviour, informed investment decisions).

Q3. The topic title mentions Sustainable Energy. Are proposals focusing only on renewable energy sources (RES) also eligible?

A3. In this topic proposals may address: (i) pure Energy Efficiency proposals, aiming at changing behaviour of consumers in their every day life and/or leading to bigger market shares for the most energy efficient products, (ii) pure RES proposals assisting consumers when taking decisions to invest in RES products or services (e.g. taking part is RES citizens cooperatives), leading to bigger market shares for high quality renewable energy products, (iii) proposals addressing EE and RES together when appropriate. In any case proposals should demonstrate significant impact in terms of people changing behaviour and taking informed investment decisions.

EE11 'New ICT-based solutions for Energy Efficiency'

Q1. In the call text you state "the proposed solutions should be deployed and validated in real life conditions in publicly owned buildings (including administrative offices, social housing) and buildings in public use or of public interest". Can you clarify which kind of buildings can be addressed?

A1. An expected impact is to generate consumer understanding and engagement in energy efficiency, so the proposed solutions should be deployed and validated in buildings which maximise impact and visibility. Buildings of public interest might include, for example, schools, universities, hospitals, administrative offices, town halls, theatres and other cultural public buildings. Projects could address more than one type of building and in more than one location

Q2. What do you mean by testing Cleanweb solutions?

A2. Cleanweb is an international movement looking at applying ICT based solutions to resource problems (energy, water, waste, food, air, and other areas). See http://cleanweb.co/

Q3. Can a proposal address research activities on the technological development of a new ICT solution?

A3. The Call text states that specific attention should be given to the development and testing of ICT based solutions but, in order to deliver the expected impacts, projects must focus on addressing the key socio-economic issues which are related to the large scale up-take and deployment of those ICT solutions.

EE13 Technology for district heating and cooling

Q1. Which technologies can be addressed?

A1. An important novelty of the work programme is its challenge-based approach which gives applicants the freedom to propose innovative solutions involving any technology which is suitable to address the challenges..

Q2. Do proposals need to address all the areas mentioned in the scope?

A2. No, proposals can address one or more areas mentioned in the scope.

EE14 Removing market barriers to the uptake of efficient heating and cooling solutions (AA)

Q1. The topic title mentions "efficient heating and cooling solutions". Are Renewable Energy Sources (RES) only proposals eligible?

A1. Proposals choosing to focus only on RES solutions will need to demonstrate that the use of RES is addressed in the context of an implementation which is already energy efficient.

Q2. The topic title refers to "removing market barriers to the uptake of efficient heating and cooling solutions". How does this topic relate to topic LCE4 on "market uptake of existing and emerging renewable electricity and heating and cooling technologies"?

A2. Both topics address energy efficiency and RES for heating and cooling, but the foci and the expected impacts of the two challenges are different. EE 14 is focused on Article 14 of the Energy Efficiency Directive on the "promotion of efficiency in heating and cooling", which includes the use of renewable energy sources for heating and cooling supplies. In response to that challenge, proposals addressing EE 14 are expected to deliver ambitious impacts in terms of reductions in fossil fuel consumption, investments, numbers of policy makers influenced, and numbers of people who have increased their skills and/or changed their behaviour.

Q3. Which are the types of actor that should be involved in proposals?

A3. Consortia should include or engage with the relevant market actors, as described in the text of the Call (scope).

EE15. Ensuring effective implementation of EU product efficiency legislation

Q1. Are tyres eligible as a product group to be addressed in market surveillance activities?

A1. Yes. Proposals addressing market surveillance of the Regulation (EC) 1222/2009 are eligible (i.e. regulation on the labelling of tyres with respect to fuel efficiency and other essential parameters).

Q2. Should market surveillance authorities be directly involved in the consortium?

A2. Not necessarily. The Call text (scope) specifically states that actions must involve the relevant market surveillance authorities, but other organisations may form consortia, which engage and work closely with surveillance authorities to deliver the expected impacts .

Q3. Are costs for testing and for purchasing products to be tested eligible?

A3. Possibly. The costs for testing and for purchasing products to be tested for compliance with the ecodesign and/or energy labelling requirements, may be eligible if these costs are duly justified in the proposal.

Q4. Which staff categories can claim staff costs?

A4. Staff costs for national public authorities personnel, whose main function is to perform market surveillance in accordance with Article 18 of Regulation (EC) N° 765/2008, Article 3 (2) of the Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC, and Article 3 of the Labelling Directive 2010/30/EU, are not eligible unless these costs relate to activities which would not be carried out if the project concerned was not undertaken (e.g. transnational collaboration).

EE16 Organisational innovation to increase energy efficiency in industry.

Q1. In the description of the scope there is a list of 4 areas (bullet points) that can also be funded, individually or in combination. Can a proposal address only 1 of the issues? How does this relate to the other elements listed in the paragraph above the bullet list?

A1. Proposals are invited to address one or more of the areas defined in the 4 bullet points, and/or one or more of the areas defined in the first paragraph of the "scope" section.

Q3. Should proposals be sector-specific?

A3. Proposals – unless specified otherwise – can be either sector-specific or cross-sectorial. For instance, when developing technology pathways towards 2050, they should be sector-specific.

Q4. Is it mandatory to involve energy-intensive industries?

A4. No, other industries can be targeted. However, as mentioned in the Work Programme, energy Intensive Industries should be prioritized as they account for 70% of industrial energy use.

EE19 Improving the financeability and attractiveness of sustainable energy investments

Q1. Do proposals have to generate investments during the lifetime of the project?

A1. Projects are not required to demonstrate a higher level of investment in sustainable energy during their lifetime; however, the main purpose of the activities is to increase the levels of investment after the end of the actions.

Q2.Do proposals on financing platforms have to address both energy efficiency and renewables?

A2. No, there is no specific requirement to address both energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Q3. Can proposals on financing platforms be submitted by entities from several countries?

A3. Yes, proposals aiming to create financing platforms can be submitted by entities based in different countries; but this is not a general requirement. (Note: all other proposals to EE 19 must be submitted by at least three independent legal entities established in different eligible countries.

Q4. Are there specific requirements regarding the composition of the consortium?

A4. No, Consortia should provide the key skills required for implementing the project, but there are no specific requirements for the composition of the consortium

EE21 Development and market roll-out of innovative energy services and financial schemes for sustainable energy

Q1. What do you mean by 'energy services'?

A1. The term "Energy services" is defined in the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/eed/eed_en.htm

Q2. What do you mean by energy performance contracting?

A2. The term "Energy Performance Contracting" is defined in the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/eed/eed_en.htm

Q3. Do all proposals need to develop and roll-out innovative energy services/financial schemes or capacity building?

A3. No, the proposed actions should respond to one (or more) of the three funding priorities that are defined in the scope.

Q4. What is the difference between the bullet point on replication of financing schemes in topic EE 21 and Project Development Assistance (EE 20)?

A4. EE20 (Project Development Assistance) is exclusively designed to fund technical and financial assistance leading to new concrete investments in projects or programmes.

The bullet on replication of financing schemes in EE 21 is intended to fund projects aiming to replicate innovative financing solutions which have already been used successfully across the EU. This sub-topic does not require projects to sign investment contracts as in EE20, but instead to put in place sustainable mechanisms which will enable investments in the future.