



Preparatory studies for CB RES projects

Evaluation process and award criteria

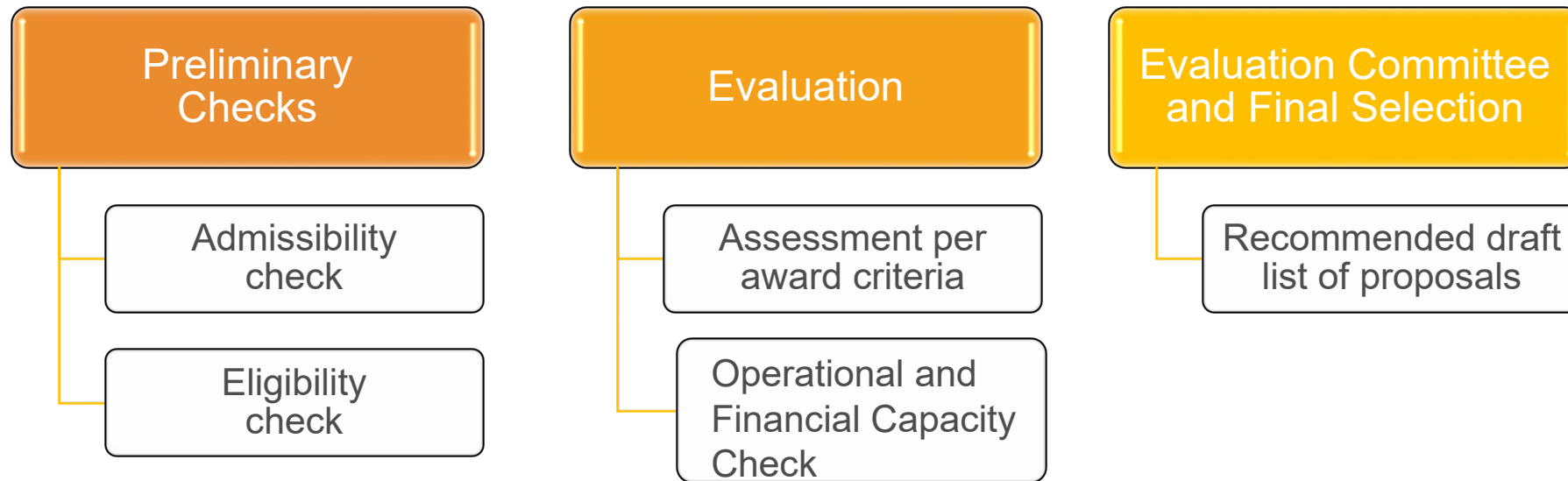
*CINEAB.B4 - CEF Energy and Renewable Energy
Financing Mechanism*

Tentative timeline

Call publication	20 September 2022
Info-Day	10 October 2022
Deadline	10 January 2023 17:00.00 (Brussels time)
Evaluation of proposals	January 2023 - February 2023
Consultation of CEF Coordination Committee	20 March 2023
Launch of Grant Preparation (information to applicants)	May 2023
Time To Grant	September 2023

Evaluation process

Principles for the evaluation and selection process



Final Selection Process

Preparation of Selection Decision

EC Inter-Service Consultation

Consultation of CEF Coordination Committee
Information of the European Parliament

Adoption of Commission Selection Decision

Information to Applicants
Launch of Grant Agreement Preparation

Admissibility and Eligibility

Admissibility

- Proposals must be submitted before the call deadline 10 January 2023 17.00 CET
- Proposals must be submitted electronically via the [Call page of the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System](#). Paper submissions are NOT admissible.
- Proposals must be complete and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents. There will be no follow-up on missing elements.
- Your application must be readable, accessible and printable.
- Proposals are limited to maximum 120 pages (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

Eligibility of actions

- Preparatory studies in the meaning of Article 7(3) of CEF Regulation: studies that aim to develop and identify the cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy
- Support to both EU Member States and private project promoters in order to advance cooperation ideas, create momentum amongst involved stakeholders and with this generate a pipeline of cross-border renewable projects
- **Support to the project before being included in the list of cross-border RES projects (CB RES list)**

Scope of proposal

- Providing **technical, economic or legal support** in setting up or advancing cross-border cooperation with the objective to **select the best project concept**.
 - possible to cover some **wider system-related aspects**, e.g. the integration of additional storage investments, or of transport and/or digital related investments for synergetic elements.
- Exploring (mainly through desktop studies) the **possible sites** in order to **determine the hosting and participating countries**, as well as other exploratory tasks to assess the **overall cost and benefits** of the project.
- **Identifying and formalising the underpinning cooperation mechanism** and may include **communication and stakeholder involvement** activities.
- Investigating **the best form of support**, such as the auctioning and tendering set-up as well as all aspects for which national grid, market and other **rules** differ in the participating countries and would need to be agreed upon.

Duration and budget of the proposed project

- **Project duration: up to 24 months** (extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment). Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. Retroactive application can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons but never earlier than the proposal's submission date.
- **Project budget** (maximum grant amount): projects of any budget are admitted. However it is recommended for the budget to be in the range of 100.000 – 350.000 €. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

Eligibility - participants

- Eligible 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 CEF Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature (list of participating countries)

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).
- Applicants will have to show their capacity through:
 - Implementation plan (Application Form B – Section 3.1.)
 - applicants' activity reports of last year
- Public bodies, Member State organisations, transmission system operators and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

Financial capacity check

- 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.
- A financial capacity check will be carried out for beneficiaries in selected or reserve-list proposals on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the Participant Register during grant preparation
- The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:
 - public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations or TSOs
 - if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

Award criteria

Award criteria

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

Priority and urgency of the Action

- Demonstrate how the envisaged CB RES project will contribute to **sectoral policy objectives** and explain how it is aligned with the **EU 2030 climate and energy targets, in particular RES**
- Explain to what extent **EU level action** will help to reach policy objectives more effectively and faster compared to exclusively national level action
- **Synergetic elements**, if applicable, need to **significantly improve** the socioeconomic, climate or environmental benefits of envisaged cross-border RES project

Maturity

- **Steps** already completed or envisaged and confirmation that the project can be carried out without delay
- Confirmation that the proposed **project is mature** enough to be financed under this call
- **Information on cooperation mechanism**, including proof of steps taken so far to prepare a cooperation mechanism (e.g. bilateral meetings, draft Letters of intent or similar, etc.)
- Any **pending legal, administrative or technical issues**, which could prevent the proposed project from being implemented, such as procurement, permits

Quality

- **Resources** needed (financial and human) to implement the project
 - *Project management costs should not exceed 10% of total project costs*
- **Organisational structure** and cooperation between applicants
- **Project management**, quality assurance and control procedures
- **Identified risks and mitigation measures**

Impact

- Explain **the impact of proposed project** in terms of the cross-border cooperation **for the envisaged CB RES project** (e.g. preparation of cooperation agreement, cross-border dimension, network integration)
- Describe the proposed project's **contribution towards the development and identification** of the envisaged **CB RES project** (technical, legal and economic support, preparation of CBA for application for status of CB RES project)
- If available, provide aggregated information on the **costs and benefits** of the global CB RES project and the added value of the project

Catalytic effect

- Explain how the EU **grant will facilitate or accelerate** the envisaged cross-border RES project, in comparison to a situation without the EU funding
- Demonstrate the existence of a **gap in the financing of the project**
- Indicate whether you expect any EU support under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) (with an approximate amount)

To note!



- Information provided under the different criteria must be **coherent and consistent** across the application
- Important to check that all application form sections are **complete** and all applicable **supporting documents** are submitted
- The application should convincingly **demonstrate** the **need for EU funds**
- The term '**project**' used in application forms and other documents is synonymous to the term '**action**' used in the CEF Regulation 2021/1153!

Evaluation results

Results of the evaluation

- All proposals will be informed about the **evaluation result** (evaluation result letter). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones may be put on a reserve list or rejected.
- Invitation to grant preparation is **NOT 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.
- 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).

Grant preparation

- Successful applicants will be invited by CINEA to prepare the **Grant Agreement** via eGrants tool together with the EU Project Officer
- Grant preparation involves a **dialogue** in fine-tuning of technical and financial aspects, such as milestones, deliverables, etc., and implementation of recommendations from evaluation if applicable
- Provisions are defined in the Model Grant Agreement and non-negotiable
- The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on Portal Reference Documents

Keep in touch - CINEA



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Thank you



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