



Union Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism (RENEWFM)

Call for proposals

Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism (RENEWFM) Investment support
RENEWFM-2026-INVEST

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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O. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU action grants in the field of renewable energy under the Union Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism (RENEWFM).

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

- Regulation (EU) 2024/2509 ([‘EU Financial Regulation’](#)¹)
- the basic act: Regulation (EU) [2018/1999](#)² (**‘Governance Regulation’**)
- the implementing act: Regulation (EU) [2020/1294](#)³ (**‘RENEWFM Regulation’**).

The call is launched in accordance with the 2026 Financing Decision⁴ and will be managed by the European Climate, Environment and Infrastructure Executive Agency (CINEA) (**‘Agency’**).

The call covers the following topic:

- **RENEWFM-2026-INVEST-TECH-SPEC — Renewable energy financing mechanism**

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)

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general **budget of the Union (recast) (‘EU Financial Regulation’)** (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024)

² Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, amending Regulations (EC) No 663/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directives 94/22/EC, 98/70/EC, 2009/31/EC, 2009/73/EC, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and 2013/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 2009/119/EC and (EU) 2015/652 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council

³ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1294 of 15 September 2020 on the Union renewable energy financing mechanism (OJ L 303, 17.9.2020, p. 1).

⁴ Commission Implementing Decision C(2026) 579 of 5 February 2026 on the financing of the activities related to the Union renewable energy financing mechanism, and the adoption of the work programme for 2026.

- 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 [CINEA Projects website](#) to consult the list of projects funded previously.

1. Background

The RENEWFM is one of the EU financing programmes contributing to the clean energy transition and the Clean Industrial Deal objectives including the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement, the 2030 climate and energy targets and 2050 carbon neutrality objective.

In this context, the RENEWFM allows EU Member States to work more closely together in the take-up and promotion of renewables, improving the efficiency of investment, pooling resources and finding the right mix between public and private finance. It facilitates a more cost-effective roll-out of renewables across the EU, particularly in areas that have a greater access to natural resources or are better suited for it in terms of geography.

It also contributes to the implementation of Directive [2018/2001](#)⁵, as amended by Directive (EU) 2023/2413⁶, and of the Governance Regulation which sets out an **indicative trajectory from 2021 to 2030 for each Member State's contribution** to the **Union's** renewables target. If Member States have fallen below their national reference point (in 2022, 2025 and 2027), they can use the RENEWFM to fill the gap. In line with Article 26 of the RENEWFM Regulation, voluntary contribution to RENEWFM calls will mean that the renewable energy generated each year by the funded installations is statistically attributed to the participating EU Member States in line with Article 7 of Directive 2018/2001 in a way that reflects their relative financial contributions, as well as the agreed distribution of statistical benefits between contributing and host Member States. Moreover, the RENEWFM can contribute to the enabling framework under Directive 2018/2001⁷.

The first call under the RENEWFM was published on 18 April 2023, successfully closing with oversubscription and selection among competitive projects located in Finland.

⁵ 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 (OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 82).

⁶ Directive (EU) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (OJ L, 2023/2413: 30.10.2023).

⁷ Which requires the Commission to support the ambition of Member States in the field of renewable energy through an enabling framework, e.g., by enhancing regional cooperation between Member States and between Member States and third countries, through joint projects, joint support schemes and the opening of support schemes for renewable electricity to producers located in other Member States or, in certain cases, third countries in line with the requirements of Article 11 of Directive 2018/2001.

The second call under the RENEWFM was published on 30 July 2024, successfully closing with an important oversubscription and selection among competitive projects located in Finland and Estonia.

For the full overview of the signed grant agreements with RENEWFM support, please visit the [EC Funding and Tender portal](#).

The present call concerns:

- Ground mounted solar photovoltaic projects with co-located battery energy storage system (BESS) in Bulgaria, located in the districts of Pernik, Kyustendik or Stara Zagora.
- Ground mounted solar photovoltaic projects in Finland (except the region of Åland).

The call has received financing from the following **'contributing Member State'**: Luxembourg.

The call aims to provide support for renewable energy projects in the following **'host Member States'**: Bulgaria and Finland.

The call will be organised as a technology specific grant award procedure, pursuant to Article 16(1)(c) of the RENEWFM Regulation for ground mounted PV projects located in the above-mentioned host Member States.

The support under this call will be provided in the form of investment support in accordance with the Governance Regulation. The grants will be awarded through a competitive procedure, organised in the format of a price bidding process to achieve the most cost-effective renewable energy deployment.

The applicants will submit a bidding price expressed as EUR per MWp. For the purpose of ranking the projects, the offered bidding price will be transferred into price per MWh, based on full load hours (FLH) which are pre-defined and fixed per country and are reported in this call text as follows:

- 1550 FLH for ground mounted solar PV projects with co-located BESS in Bulgaria.
- 900 FLH for ground mounted solar PV projects in Finland;

Projects will be ranked on the basis of the transposed lowest price per MWh.

Based on the submitted offers, successful applicants will receive a lump sum **contribution to their 'bid' costs per MWp** for the full size of their project (i.e. pay-as-bid).

The call fulfils the **'gap filling function'** as set out by Article 2(2)(a) of the RENEWFM Regulation.

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

Objectives

The objective of this call is to contribute to the clean energy transition and the Clean Industrial Deal objectives including the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement, the 2030 climate and energy targets and 2050 carbon neutrality objective. The call shall also contribute to the implementation of Directive 2018/2001 as amended by Directive (EU) 2023/2413 and of the Governance Regulation which sets out an **indicative trajectory from 2021 to 2030 for each Member State's contribution** to the

Union's renewables target, with three reference points to be reached in 2022, 2025 and 2027. In this sense, Member States can use the RENEWFM to fill a gap towards the indicative Union trajectory which is the key objective of this call.

More specifically, this topic targets ground mounted solar PV with co-located BESS and ground mounted solar PV projects. Solar PV is a well-established and low-cost renewable energy technology aimed at high reliability in terms of deploying fully operational renewable electricity (RES-E) capacities and generation volumes and thus assumes effective and quick project realization from awarded project applicants. Likewise, the costs of battery energy storage systems are rapidly falling, and the co-location of such equipment with a renewable energy production facility entails significant benefits for both the generation installation and the electrical system. By sharing the same grid access point, synergies between the generation and storage systems can be maximised to improve generation profile, optimise grid capacity utilisation, save infrastructure costs, and ultimately enable the integration of higher shares of renewable energy.

Activities that can be funded (scope)

In order to effectively pursue the above-mentioned objectives, the following activities aiming at the deployment of new renewable energy capacities can be funded:

RES technology and location:

- ground mounted solar PV projects with co-located BESS located in Bulgaria
- ground mounted solar PV projects located in Finland

A project is considered as a standalone renewable energy project if it is connected to the electricity grid (or to the off-taker, in case of off-grid projects) via a single connection point.

Specific conditions per RES technology and hosting MS apply as below:

1. Ground mounted solar PV projects with co-located BESS in Bulgaria:

- I. Capacity: Each project must have a minimum capacity of 10 MWp and a maximum capacity of 100 MWp. These are to be intended as MW of solar PV capacity installed before the connection to the grid
- II. Specific conditions for the co-located BESS:
 - The solar PV installation and the co-located BESS must be connected to the same grid access point in line with the definition provided by Article 2(44d) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 as amended.
 - The rated power capacity of the energy storage facility corresponds to a minimum of 30% up to a maximum of 100% of the rated power capacity in MW of the co-located solar PV generation facility.
 - The energy to power ratio of the energy storage facility should allow for a storage duration of at least 4 hours (the amount of time storage can discharge at its rated power capacity before depleting its energy capacity).
 - The electricity produced on-site that is stored in the co-located energy storage facility, and later discharged to the grid, may count towards the full load hours requirement above only if the applicant has certified metering equipment allowing to measure that amount. Electricity that is

charged from the grid does not count towards the full load hours requirement.

- III. Commissioning of the project by 01.03.2029
- IV. Fixed expected full load hours: 1550
- V. Construction permits and grid connection permits must be obtained before the grant agreement signature, i.e. at the latest, 9 months after the call closure; The generation installation may be oversized compared to the export capacity of the grid access point if the applicant demonstrates that it can produce an equivalent amount of electricity to that expected from the full load hours requirement multiplied by the rated power capacity of the generation installation (e.g. through an enhanced grid capacity utilisation).

2. Ground mounted solar PV projects in Finland:

- I. Capacity: Each project must have a minimum capacity of 10 MWp and a maximum capacity of 100 MWp. These are to be intended as MW capacity installed before the connection to the grid
- II. Commissioning of the project by 01.03.2029
- III. Fixed expected full load hours: 900
- IV. Construction permits and grid connection permits must be obtained before the grant agreement signature, i.e. at the latest, 9 months after the call closure
- V. At project level, removal of forest and agricultural land in production is restricted to maximum 20% of the area needed for installation of solar panels (to be intended as cumulative: forest + agricultural land in production equals or is below 20% of the total project area). This requirement does not apply to agri-PV projects, where the solar panels are installed in a way which allows the normal agricultural use of the land. Applicants are required to provide information in part B of their application and to provide, where possible, annexes showing how this requirement is met (e.g. satellite and cadastral maps, land classification information, other certificates from competent authority).

Any land that, at the time of the call opening, corresponds to the following definition, regardless of the definition of this land in the competent authority masterplan will be considered as forest: forest is a land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10% and an area of more than 0.5 hectares. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 meters at maturity in site. This definition applies to any forest, being natural forest, forest plantation and/or in production and regardless of what is defined in the masterplan. Peatland does not fall within this definition.

Agricultural land in production is defined as: the total area taken up by arable land, permanent grassland (pastureland), permanent crops and kitchen gardens farmed, regardless of the type of tenure. Peatland is not considered agricultural land. Agricultural area not in use/not in production is considered to be land previously used for an agricultural purpose which is no longer worked since 1 January 2025, and which is not used in the crop rotation system. To be noted that actual use of the land prevails over any definition in the master plan.

Applicants are strongly advised to provide with all the information regarding the land use and the respect of the 20% limit in line with the definitions above. They

may use maps, own calculation, reference to official documents and databases where existing.

The evaluators will check the respect of this requirement and may do plausibility checks by confronting the data provided by the applicants with the other publicly available data (e.g. [National Land Survey](#), [CORINE land cover](#); [Paikkatietoikkuna](#)).

Expected impact

The projects must contribute to the realisation of additional renewable energy capacity across the EU in a cost-effective way and the timely delivery of renewable energy statistics to the participating Member States. The beneficiaries will be expected to report renewable energy production on an annual basis.

3. Available budget

The maximum amount available for the call budget is up to EUR 54 900 000.

The call will give investment support (EUR per MW) relating to the installation of additional units of RES per MW of ground mounted solar PV energy.

The following maximum capacities apply at Member State level:

- Finland: 400 MW
- Bulgaria: no maximum capacity restriction

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, as well as on the availability of the appropriations received from the contributing Member State.

4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
Call opening:	03 March 2026
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>01 September 2026 – 17:00:00 CET</u> <u>(Brussels)</u>
Evaluation:	Sept-Oct 2026
Information on evaluation results:	Nov-Dec 2026
GA signature:	June 2027

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).

Project acronym — **Please use the following naming convention: 'Year-HostMS-Topic-Project Acronym'** (ex. 2026-FI-INVEST-ACRONYM).

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*)
- 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*)
- Mandatory annexes and supporting documents (*templates available to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*):
 - Budget calculator
 - Latest **Applicants'** activity reports of last year (or similar)
 - List of previous projects (*template available in Part B*):
 - List of previous RES projects (key projects for the last 10 years, if available)
 - List of previous projects solar PV projects (key projects for the last 5 years, if available)
 - Timetable/Gantt chart
 - Co-financing declarations (using optional template available in the Portal or any other similar document)
 - Business plan (including at least market analysis, operations/implementation plan and financial plan)
 - Business plan financial spreadsheet (financial model).
- Other optional annexes: permits for construction and grid connection or initiation of it (e.g. request to the competent authority); proof of investment decision or any other relevant document showing the commitment of the applicants, etc.

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 120 pages (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).

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

6. Eligibility

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: any country in the world.

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*).


Specific cases

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 persons⁸.

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'**⁹.  Please note that if the action is implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise they cannot claim part of the grant).

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)*¹⁰). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities,

⁸ See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

⁹ For the definitions, see Articles 190(2) and 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

¹⁰ 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](#).

associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16th December 2022, no legal commitments (including the grant agreement itself as well as subcontracts, purchase contracts, financial support to third parties etc.) can be signed with Hungarian public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain.

Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, in case 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). In this case, co-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.

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

Consortium composition

n/a

Eligible activities

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

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

Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible host Member States: Bulgaria, Finland.

For proposals taking place in Bulgaria, the projects must be located in the administrative districts of Pernik, Kyustendik or Stara Zagora.

For proposals taking place in Finland, the projects must be located in Finland, excluding the Region of Åland.

Duration

The project must:

- enter into operation by 01.03.2029;
- operate at least 15 years after entry into operation.

After grant agreement signature, limited extensions are possible, through amendment, if duly justified and not abusive.

Please note that we reserve the right to refuse requests for extensions that we consider as going against the call objectives or being not justified or abusive, such as for instance requests that are not in line with the Grant Agreement provisions (see article 32) or that are linked to a delayed final investment decision due to market conditions.

As a result of the electricity produced by the project, renewable energy statistics will be attributed to the Contributing and Hosting Country in line with the following distribution and for 15 years after entry into operation:

- 80% of the RES statistics to the Contributing Country
- 20% of the RES statistics to the Hosting Country

This distribution of statistics is without consequence for the right of the host Member State(s) to issue guarantees of origins if requested by the projects.

Project budget and ceiling price EUR per MW

Project budgets (maximum grant amount) must be calculated using the provided calculator and respecting the following conditions:

- applicant price offer (in EUR per MW) multiplied by the installed capacity of the project (in MW).

Ceiling price: Only price offers that do not exceed EUR 130,000.00 per MW will be eligible. Price offers above the ceiling price will be rejected.

The offered bidding price per MW will be transposed in the budget calculator into price per MWh, based on full load hours (FLH) which are pre-defined and fixed per technology and country. Applicants will need to indicate the pre-defined FLH as per call text corresponding to the technology of the project:

- 1550 FLH for ground mounted solar PV projects in Bulgaria
- 900 FLH for ground mounted solar PV projects in Finland

Applications will be ranked based on the lowest transposed price per MWh.

The amount of support will correspond to the price per MWp indicated in the budget calculator.

The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

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 beneficiaries, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the individual 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*)
- or
- 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 'Quality' 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 information:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- description of the consortium participants (if applicable)
- **applicants' activity reports of last year**
- list of previous projects:
 - list of previous RES projects (at least three generation plants from any renewable sources developed and operated in the last 10 years with a cumulative capacity of 10 MW or more)
 - list of previous solar PV projects (at least one plant developed and operated in the last 5 years with a capacity of 1 MW or more).

Insufficient experience in projects of comparable size may not lead to automatic exclusion. Previous experience in RES projects having a lower capacity than the one requested by the call, or in RES projects with different technology, may be taken into account. Evaluators may consider not only the experience of the applicant, but also the one of the linked companies (e.g. parent company) and of the EPC contractor.

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 participate¹¹:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the **applicant's** debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with **unlimited liability for the applicant's debts**)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct¹² (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 that¹³:

- 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 will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals

¹¹ See Articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

¹² 'Professional **misconduct**' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

¹³ See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).


found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria (see sections 7 and 9) and then ranked according to the lowest price offer per MWh (see section 6).

Proposals will be ranked on the basis of the transposed lowest price per MWh.

For proposals with the same transposed MWh, a priority order will be determined according to the following approach:

- 1) If proposals include the same transposed price per MWh, proposals that have indicated an earlier commissioning date in their application are ranked first.
- 2) If proposal include both the same transposed price per MWh and the same commissioning date, proposals with larger capacities are ranked first.

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 (such as adaptation of the grant due to additional funding received from other sources). 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:

1. **Relevance (Pass/Fail):** Contribution to the objectives of this call, the goals and aims of the Paris Agreement, as well as the 2030 climate and energy targets and long-term decarbonisation objective; contribution to the facilitation of a more cost-effective roll-out of renewables across the EU
2. **Quality (Pass/Fail):** Technical and financial maturity and operational quality **in terms of the project's readiness to enter into operation** by 01.03.2029:
 - **Technical maturity:** evidence that the project is in a mature stage of predevelopment (in terms of permits to build and allowing to start operate within the terms prescribed by the call, etc); technical feasibility of starting the operation of the plant within the expected timeframe; quality, soundness and reliability of the information provided in the proposal
3. **Financial maturity and operational quality:** seriousness and coherence of the proposed project implementation; quality of the consortium participants (including experience to implement the project); credibility and soundness of the business plan; sufficient funding to cover the total value of the proposed

project investment; quality of the risk assessment and risk mitigation strategy; communication strategy; quality, soundness and reliability of the information provided in the proposal.

4. Price: price offer in EUR per MWp

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	n/a	pass/fail
Quality	n/a	pass/fail
Price	n/a	Scoring according to lowest price

Applicants need to demonstrate the 'Relevance' and 'Quality' of the proposed project.

Proposals that have passed this assessment, are then ranked from low- to high-price offers, with the highest rank for the applications offering the lowest price and, thereafter, in the order of the lowest to the highest price. In addition, for calls with other award criteria, those would also need to be fulfilled.

Starting from the first ranked proposal, the price offers are multiplied with the applicable project size (installed capacity of installation) and awarded up to the available budget ceiling and maximum capacity (*see section 3*).

If there are at least two host Member States, maximum capacities per country will be applied, where relevant. This means that projects located in the same host Member State will only be ranked from low to high price offers up to the applicable maximum capacity quota for that host Member State. If awarding a proposal with the next cheapest price offer would result in exceeding this maximum capacity for a specific country, the next cheapest proposal from a project in another country is ranked next instead.

10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass the 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.

Project duration: *see section 6 above*.

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.

The following work packages, milestones and deliverables will be mandatory for all projects:

- WP 1 — Construction Phase
 - proof of entry into operation/feed-in to the grid
 - o For projects located in Bulgaria:
 - A 10 years performance warranty from the battery provider that guarantees a 90% roundtrip efficiency, a 70% end-of-life state of health and 5,000 cycles over that period;
 - A third-party certification of the metering equipment necessary to measure the amount of electricity that is produced on-site and stored in the co-located energy storage facility
- WP 2 — Operating Phase I
 - proof of generation of at least 1550/900 full load hours per full year respectively for ground mounted solar PV in Bulgaria and Finland (proportional share in case of incomplete year of generation) until end of year 2 after entry into operation. A -5% tolerance is foreseen in justified cases (e.g. particularly adverse weather or market conditions; mandatory curtailment from the grid operation)
- WP 3 — Operating Phase II
 - proof of generation of at least 1550/900 full load hours per full year respectively for ground mounted solar PV in Bulgaria and Finland per full year (proportional share in case of incomplete year of generation) until end of year 4 after entry into operation. A -5% tolerance is foreseen in justified cases (e.g. particularly adverse weather or market conditions; mandatory curtailment from the grid operation)
- WP 4 — Operating Phase III
 - for years 5 to 15 after entry into operation, submission of proof of at least 1550/900 full load hours per full year respectively for ground mounted solar PV in Bulgaria and Finland (proportional share in case of incomplete year of generation). A -5% tolerance is foreseen in justified cases (e.g. particularly adverse weather or market conditions; mandatory curtailment from the grid operation)

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 6 above*.

The grant will be a lump sum grant. This means that it will reimburse a fixed amount, based on a lump sum or financing not linked to costs. The amount will be fixed by the granting authority on the basis of the applicant price offer and the project capacity (*see section 6*).

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*).


Budget categories for this call:

- Lump sum contributions¹⁴

Specific cost eligibility rules for this call:

- the lump sum amount must be calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in the lump sum authorising decision and using the detailed budget table/calculator provided (if any)
- the lump sum calculation should respect the following conditions:
 - Applicant price offer (in EUR per MW) multiplied by the installed capacity of the project (in MW).
 - only price offers that do not exceed EUR 130,000.00 per MW will be eligible (ceiling price). Price offers above the ceiling price will be rejected.
- the lump sum breakdown must comply with the following:
 - WP 1: [60%] of the maximum grant amount
 - WP 2: [20%] of the maximum grant amount
 - WP 3: [20%] of the maximum grant amount
 - WP 4: [0%] of the maximum grant amount

 Proof of energy delivery over the 15 years of operation will be checked (deliverable at the end of the project; *see above*). If **the project doesn't reach the outputs set out** in Annex 1 (for investment support, in particular the number of full load hours), the amount of the grant will be proportionally reduced. If the project fails to enter into operation, we may terminate, and the full grant amount will be recovered (*see art 28 and 32*).

 We may also terminate and reduce the grant if your project encounters major delays during the project implementation (*see art 28 and 32*).

Reporting and payment arrangements

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

There is no pre-financing payment.


There will be one or more interim payments:

- RP 1: payment of [60%] of the maximum grant amount (WP 1, in year n, **being "n" the year of the project commissioning**)
- RP 2: payment of [20%] of the maximum grant amount at the end of year n+2 (WP 2).
- RP 3: payment of [20%] of the maximum grant amount at the end of year n+4 (WP 3)
- RP 4: payment of [0%] of the maximum grant amount at the year n+15 (WP 4)

¹⁴ [Decision](#) of 05 December 2022 authorising the use of lump sum contributions for projects under the EU Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism.

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.

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)*:

- list of background: No
- 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: No
- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes

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

- 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 3 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
- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The proposal must keep to the page limits (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the right category in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted before the call deadline (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

12. Help

As far as possible, *please try to find the answers you need yourself*, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

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

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

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: cinea-renewfm@ec.europa.eu.

Please 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).

- 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.

- 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.
- 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 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. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

- 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](#).