

Award criteria Changes from previous calls and lessons learned

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The Award Criteria

- Degree of Innovation
- GHG emission avoidance
- Bonus points 1 and 2
- Project Maturity:
 - Technical,
 - Financial and
 - Operational maturity
- Bonus points 3 and 4
- Replicability
- Cost efficiency

Degree of Innovation

Gianluca TONDI, Head of Sector
CINEA C4, Innovation Fund

Degree of Innovation

Innovation in relation to the state of the art:

- State of the art
- Innovation beyond the state of the art

Quality, soundness, and reliability of the information provided

- **Application form, Part B:**
 - Section 1: Degree of innovation
- Feasibility study (mandatory annex)
- Any existing technical due diligence report (optional)

Degree of Innovation

- Innovation Fund aims at supporting projects beyond incremental innovation on a scale from intermediate to breakthrough, including scaling-up, considering the European level as reference point (for SSP topic the European or national level)

Very low / incremental innovation

Intermediate or strong

Very strong or breakthrough

Incremental innovation: minor changes or improvements to existing products, processes or business models; implies limited new knowledge / technology; such projects **will not be retained.**

Intermediate or strong: new or considerably changed technologies or processes or business models; novel combinations of mature technologies; scale-up of innovative technologies

Very strong or breakthrough: completely new technologies or processes or business models; innovations leading to significant changes that transforms entire markets or industries or creates new ones

Degree of Innovation: types of innovative actions

Innovation Fund aims at supporting technologies, business models and processes that are not yet commercially available, representing innovative solutions which are sufficiently mature for demonstration at pre-commercial/commercial scale

First-of-a-kind commercialisation or **large-scale commercial size demonstration** of technologies, processes or business models previously proven at pilot or smaller scale, or large-scale demonstration plants

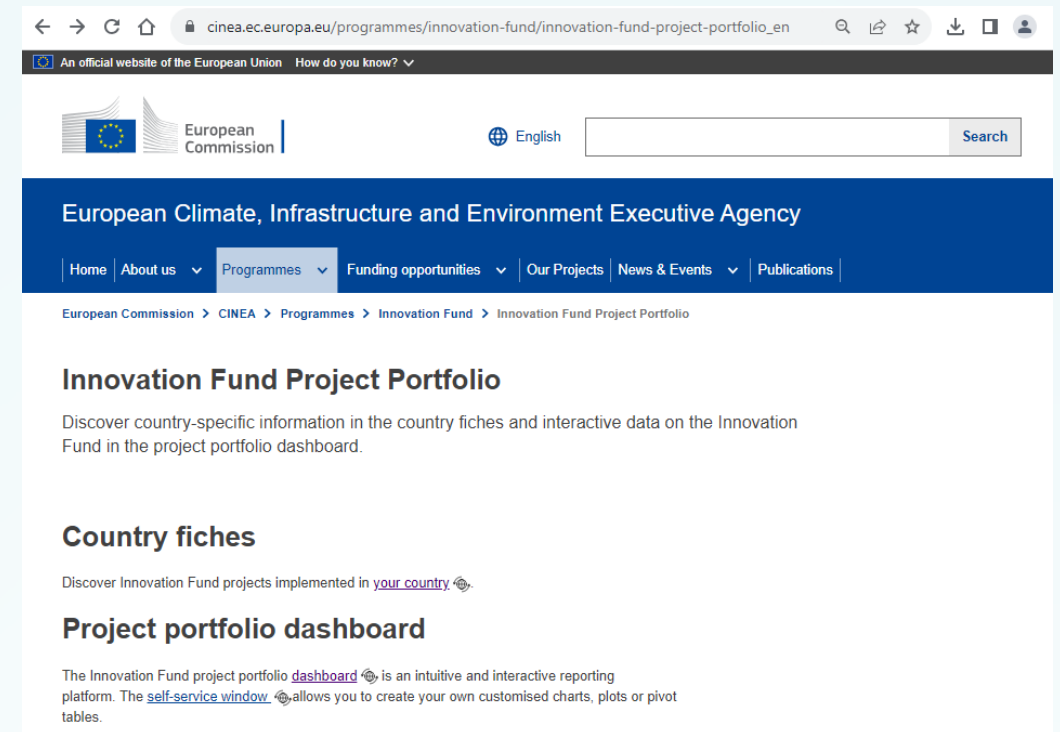
A **second or more of a kind commercialisation**, under certain conditions. In particular, where the relevant costs remain a significant share of total costs that prohibit commercialisation without further public support. Innovation beyond incremental must still be demonstrated.

Innovative smaller demonstrations or pilot plants, targeting validation of innovative solutions in industrial environment.

Projects aimed at demonstrated **scaling up** of innovative techniques, processes and technologies for their broad roll-out, which contribute significantly to the decarbonisation of the IF sectors.

References to Innovation Fund projects

- Proposals focusing on innovations similar to the ones of ongoing Innovation Fund projects, must clearly justify where the new innovative elements lie
- Such projects may receive a lower score
- Consult the list of funded Innovation Fund projects ([Innovation Fund Project Portfolio Dashboard](#))



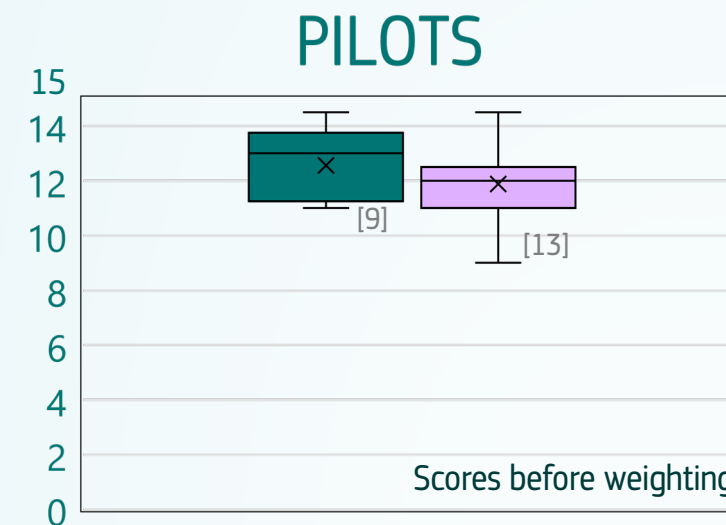
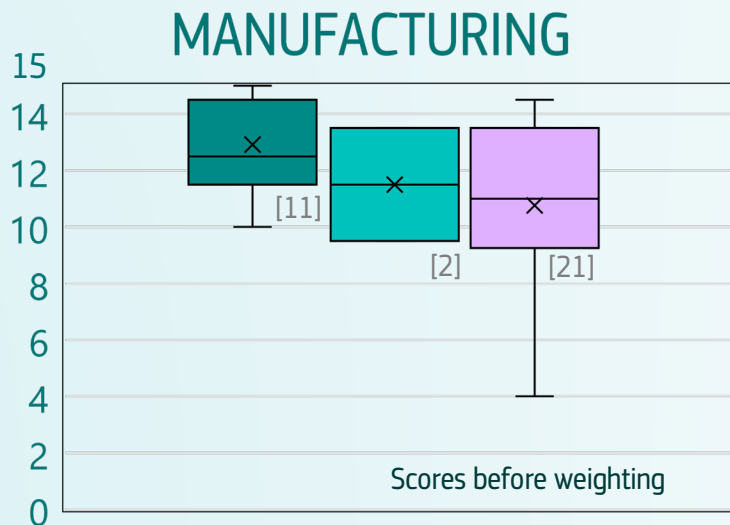
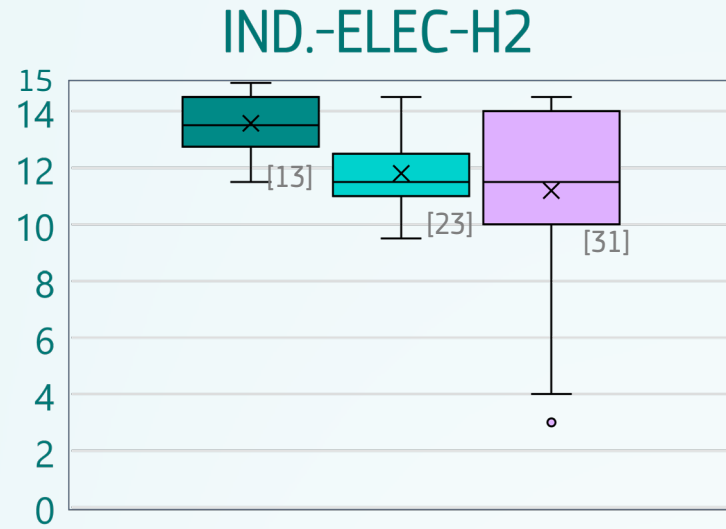
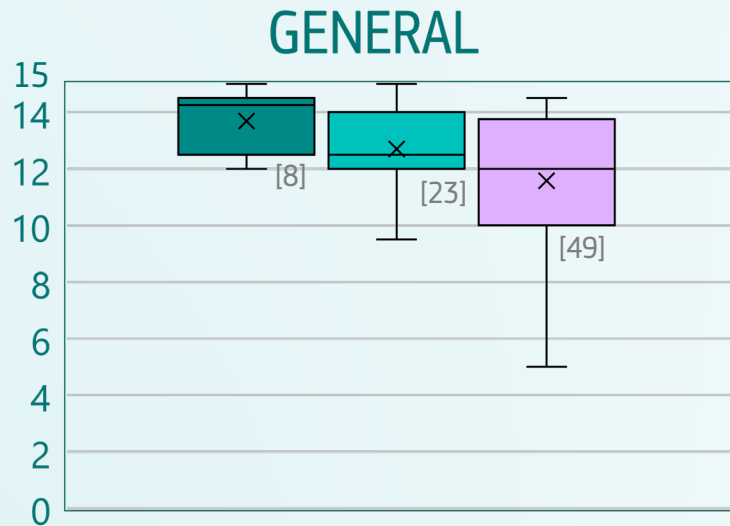
Degree of Innovation for topic General - SSP

Innovation at national level

- For **small-scale projects** (INNOVFUND-2023-NZT-GENERAL-SSP), the reference point can be at European or national level.
- For innovations at national level: the geographical reference of the state-of-the-art must be the country where the project will be implemented. The proposal should demonstrate how it goes beyond this national state-of-the-art.
- Proposals going beyond state-of-the-art at national level can meet the minimum threshold of this criterion; however, if a proposal is also going beyond the state-of-the-art at European level, it may receive a higher score.

Degree of Innovation

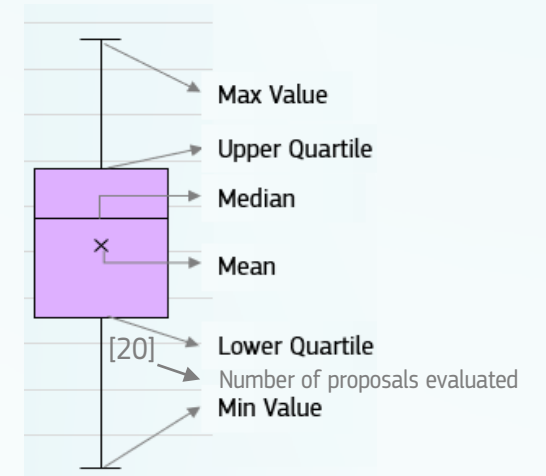
Scores per topic: Large-Scale Call 2022



Proposals evaluated

- Pre-selected for grant preparation
- Beyond available budget
- Not meeting minimum thresholds

How to interpret these graphs



Lessons learned - Degree of innovation

- Check thoroughly **ANNEX 1** in call text
- Be clear, exhaustive and transparent
- Provide convincing and substantial evidence for your claims
- Make clear references to the feasibility study, where relevant

Describe

- Relevant **state-of-the-art**
 - Technological aspects
 - Commercial aspects
- Consider **quantitatively**
 - Costs
 - Technical characteristics - Performance
 - TRL/SRL

Identify

- How does your innovation go beyond state-of-the-art?
 - **Compare** with other previous & ongoing **EU and IF projects**
 - Include your geographical reference point
- **Consider Barriers**
 - for scaling up
 - for technology integration

Provide evidence ->Feasibility study, GHG calc, other

- Compare **key performance data vs state-of-the-art**
 - Relevant parameters
 - Consider also energy efficiency and circularity
- Provide **patent data** (when relevant)
- Consider how will the innovation be implemented or integrated?