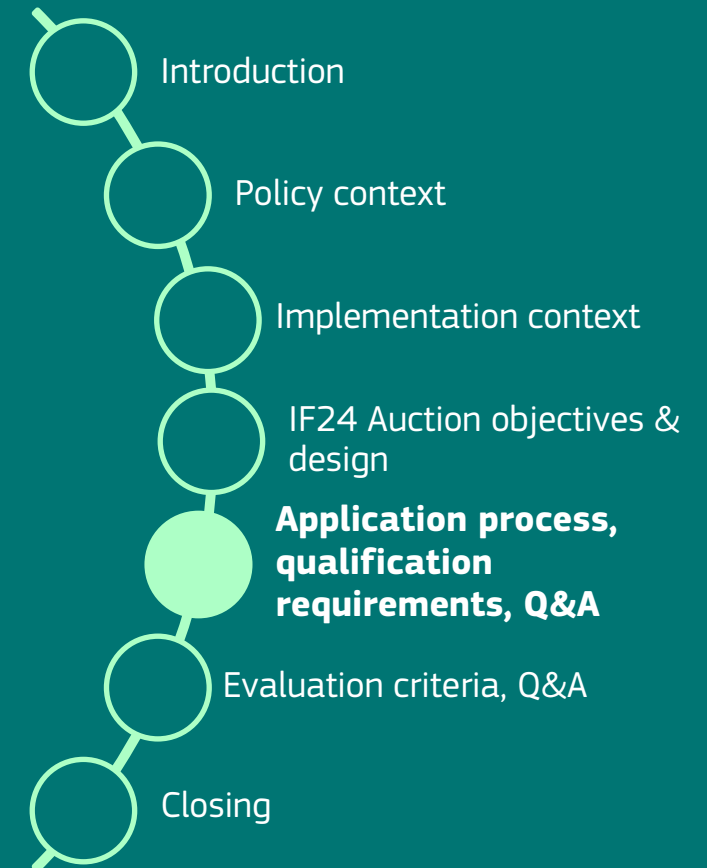




Application process & requirements

Roman DOUBRAVA, Head of Unit
CINEA C4 - Innovation Fund





Application process – *Call objectives & scope*

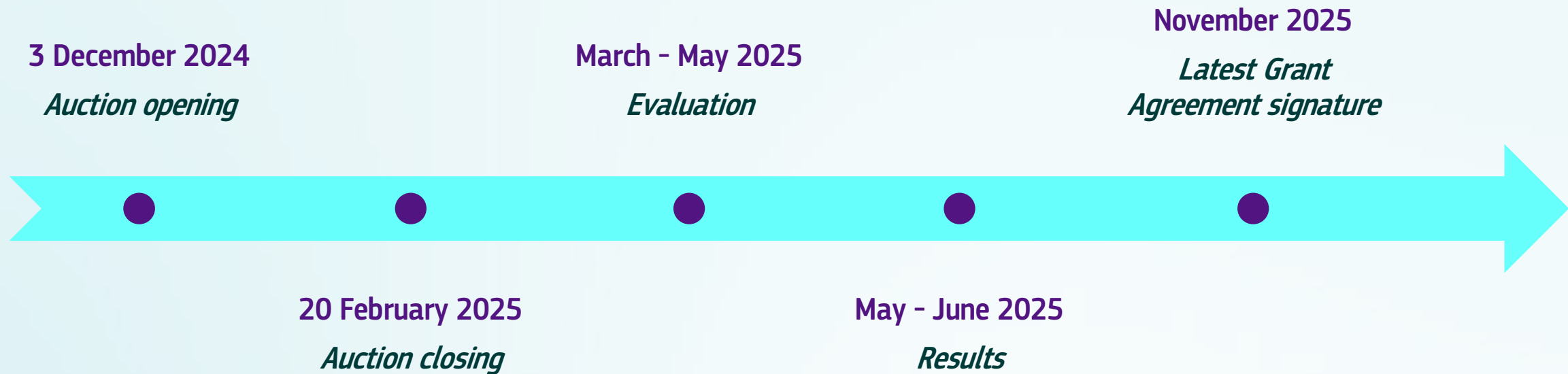
INNOVFUND-2024-AUC-RFNBOH2-GENERAL Fixed Premium Auction for RFNBO hydrogen production

-  to cost-efficiently support the new production of Renewable Fuel of Non-Biological Origin (RFNBO) hydrogen
-  installation of new additional RFNBO hydrogen capacity & the verified and certified production from this installation for a period of up to 10 years

INNOVFUND-2024-AUC- RFNBOH2-MARITIME Fixed Premium Auction for production of RFNBO hydrogen production for the maritime sector

-  to provide specific support to the production of RFNBO hydrogen to be used by stakeholders in the maritime sector
-  projects must supply at least 60% of their expected total RFNBO hydrogen production to off-takers belonging to the maritime sector

Application process – *Scope & indicative deadlines*



Application process – How to apply & mandatory documents

All relevant information to apply:

- [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- [Application process tutorial](#)
- [Financial Information File \(FIF\) tutorial](#)
- [Info Day recording and slides](#)
- [Innovation Fund Helpdesk](#)
- [Q&A on the general design of the IF24 Auction](#)

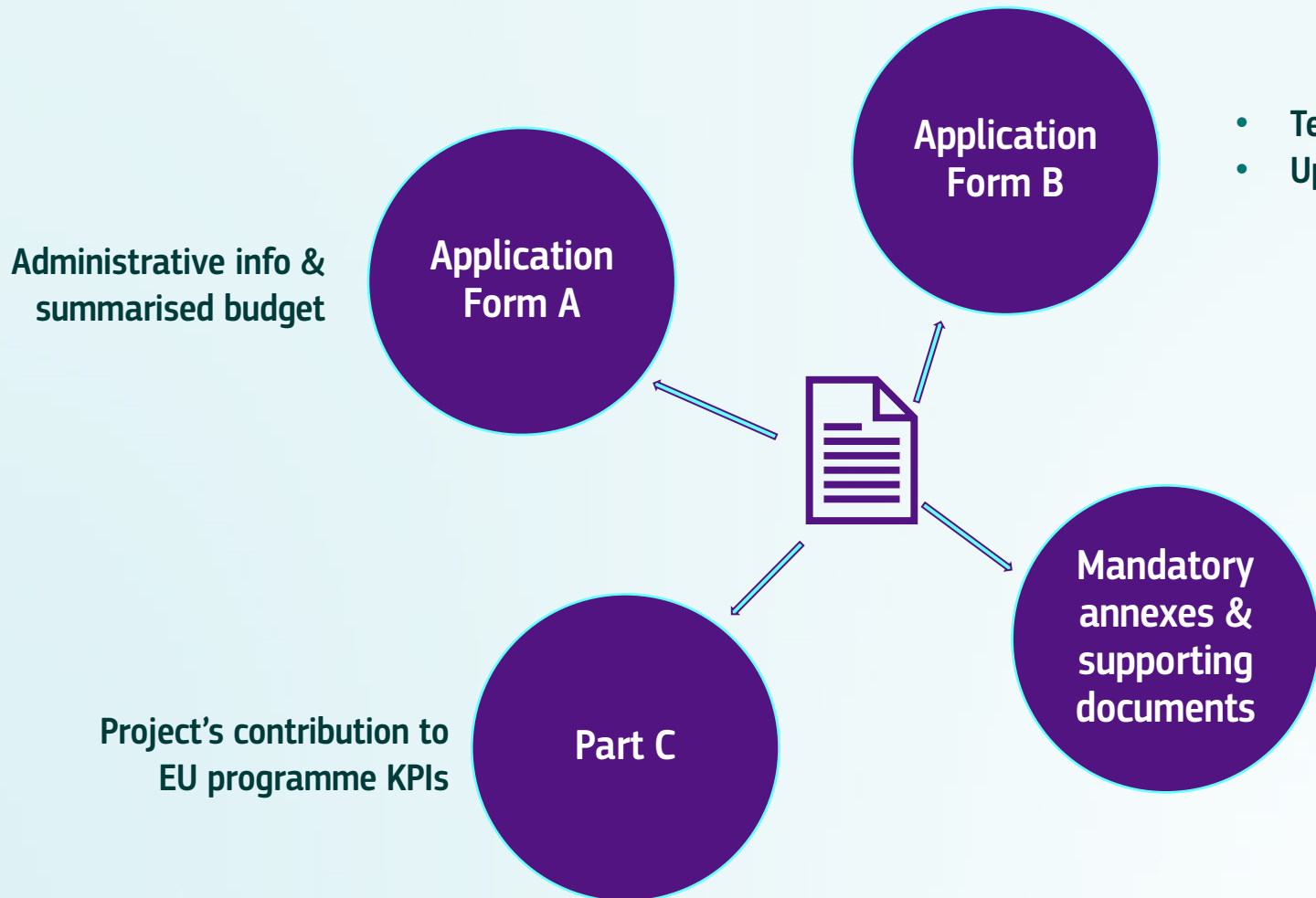
The screenshot shows a search interface with filters on the left and search results on the right. The filters include 'Programming period', 'Innovation Fund (INNOVFUND)', 'InnovFund-2024-AUC-RFNB...', and 'Submission status'. The search results show 2 items found, both for the 'Innovation Fund (INNOVFUND)' programme. The first result is 'Innovation Fund 2024 Auction - Fixed Premium Auction for RFNBO hydrogen production for the maritime sector' with an opening date of 03 December 2024 and a deadline of 20 February 2025. The second result is 'Innovation Fund 2024 Auction - Fixed Premium Auction for RFNBO hydrogen production' with the same opening date and deadline.

Call information
on EU Funding & Tenders portal

Application process



Application process – Compulsory documents



- Technical description
- Up to 50 pages

- Detailed budget table/calculator (Financial Information File (FIF) with the bid)
- Participant information
- Timetable
- Renewable electricity sourcing strategy
- Off-take and price hedging strategy
- Feasibility study
- Equipment procurement strategy
- Permits, licences, autorisations, ...
- Completion guarantee letter of intent (at proposal stage) and completion guarantee (during GAP)
- Extended Part C form

Application process – *Admissibility & eligibility*

ADMISSIBILITY

Proposals *must be*:

1. Submitted before the call deadline
2. Submitted electronically
3. Complete
4. Readable, accessible, printable

ELIGIBILITY

Participants - *legal entities established in any country in the world*

- Comply with legal entity checks (KYC, AML, Anti Bribery, etc.)
- Comply with EU exclusion situation limitations

Eligible activities – *explained on following slides*

Geographic location – *target countries*

Member State or EEA country, i.e. Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein

Duration

- Reach Financial Close within 2.5 years after the GA signature
- Entry into Operation within 5 years after the GA signature
- Operate for 10 years, unless total volume committed reached earlier

Project's budget & ceiling price

- Budget must not exceed €250 million (general) or €200 million (maritime)
- The bid must not exceed €4/kg of RFNBO hydrogen produced

Completion Guarantee & Letter of Intent

Application process – Eligible activities 1/2

Installation of new RFNBO hydrogen capacity* & verified and certified production of RFNBO hydrogen from those installations** for a period of up to 10 year

*hydrogen production capacity for which at the time of the grant application the start of works did not yet take place.

**in kg of produced volume.

The bid price per unit is expected to cover the premium required by the producer*** - cost elements like production, sale, transport, and storage can be priced into the bid

***the difference between the expected revenues from the sale of one unit and the unit's levelised cost.

The produced RFNBO hydrogen can be sold to any off-taker or self-consumed or stored – the RFNBO definition applies to hydrogen purchased by any off-taker (not only in transport)

for **Maritime** topic, at least 60% of produced hydrogen must be supplied to maritime off-takers.

Minimum installed capacity of electrolyser – 5 Mwe

The electrolyser capacity must be in a single location - virtual pooling of capacity is not permitted

Application process – *Eligible activities 2/2*

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

Financial support to third parties is not allowed

Projects must comply with resilience requirements of:

- limiting the sourcing of electrolyser stacks from China
- complying with minimum ISO standard
- complying with cybersecurity requirements

Projects under MARITIME topic must supply at least 60% of their expected total volume of production to off-takers belonging to the maritime sector

- An off-taker will be considered to belong to the maritime sector, if it will use the hydrogen or the hydrogen derivative produced by the project for carrying out/making use of bunkering activities in ports within the EEA. Fuel traders and/or intermediaries (including storage facilities), are not eligible as off-takers, neither are virtual agreements.

Application process – *Financial & operational capacity, exclusion*

Financial capacity

- Applicants must have **stable & sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share
- The financial capacity check will be carried out by the Central Validation Service during grant preparation
- If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, mitigating measures could be taken

Operational capacity

- Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications & resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share
- This capacity will be assessed under the '**Quality**' award criterion
- Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant

Exclusion

- Applicants subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in **an exclusion situation** that bars them from receiving EU funding **canNOT participate** (see Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046)
- Applicants will also **be rejected** if it turns out that:
 - *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).*

Application process – *Lessons learned admissibility & eligibility*

- Ensure the proposal is **complete and contain all the requested information** (Application Forms A, B, and C) and **all required annexes and supporting documents**
- Use the mandatory forms and templates provided and **do not modify them**
- Ensure your application is readable, accessible and printable
- Ensure minimum installed capacity of the electrolyser of **at least 5 MWe**, project and budget size in the limits expressed in the call
- The bid price **may not exceed** the ceiling of **€4/kg** of RFNBO hydrogen

Application process – *Lessons learned admissibility & eligibility*

Examples of *non-admissible* proposals (non-exhaustive list):

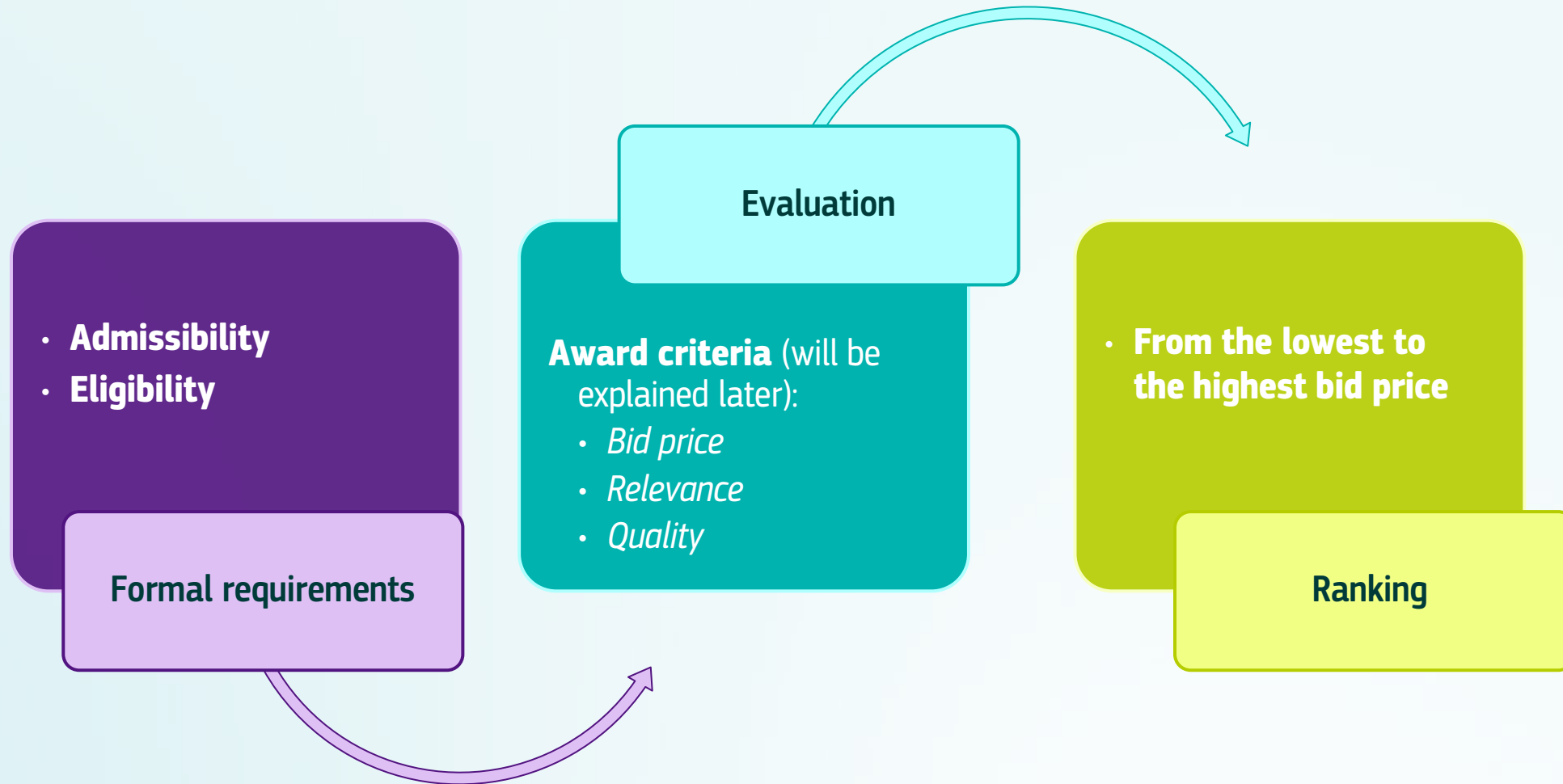
- No renewable electricity sourcing strategy, or missing mandatory information
- No evidence of initiated process with relevant authority to receive an environmental permit
- No letter of intent from a bank or financial institution to issue a completion guarantee
- Letter of intent to provide a completion guarantee is not based on the template provided or has missing elements
- Financial information file provided not used
- No description of the applicant
- Some pages of the documents are not readable

Application process – *Lessons learned admissibility & eligibility*

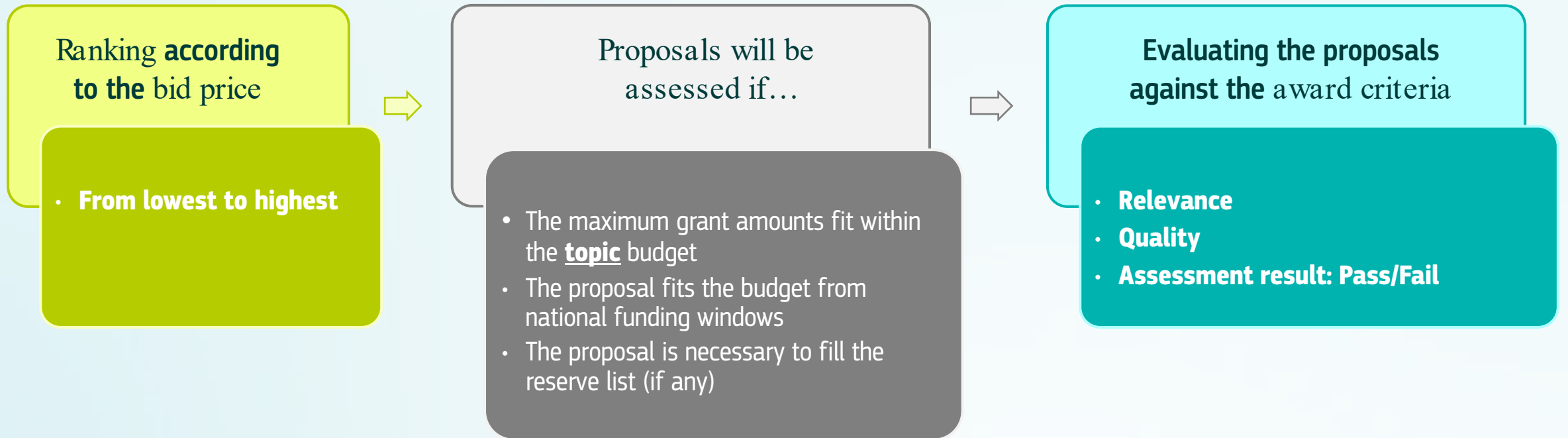
Examples of thresholds for *non-eligible* proposals (non-exhaustive list)

- Maximum grant amount
 - €250 million in the general topic
 - €200 million in the maritime topic
- Maximum installed electrolyser capacity: 5MWe
- Maximum Bid price: €4/kg of RFNBO hydrogen produced
- Maximum time to Reach Financial close: 2.5 years after grant signature
- Maximum time to Entry into operations: 5 years after grant signature

Evaluation - Evaluation & award procedure (evaluation)



Evaluation - Evaluation & award procedure (cascade approach)



The first proposal proposed for funding ('marginal bid') exceeding the call budget will be added to the reserve list and the total auction budget volume will be decreased accordingly.

Evaluation – National funding windows ('Auctions-as-a-Service')

Slido #IF24Auction

Austria, Lithuania & Spain have opened national funding windows - up to €836 million available



*...has given consent
in the application
form*

*...passed the
evaluation for
'Relevance' and
'Quality'*

IF YOUR PROPOSAL IS

- rejected by the Innovation Fund due to budget limitations
- located in a country with open national funding window

AND...

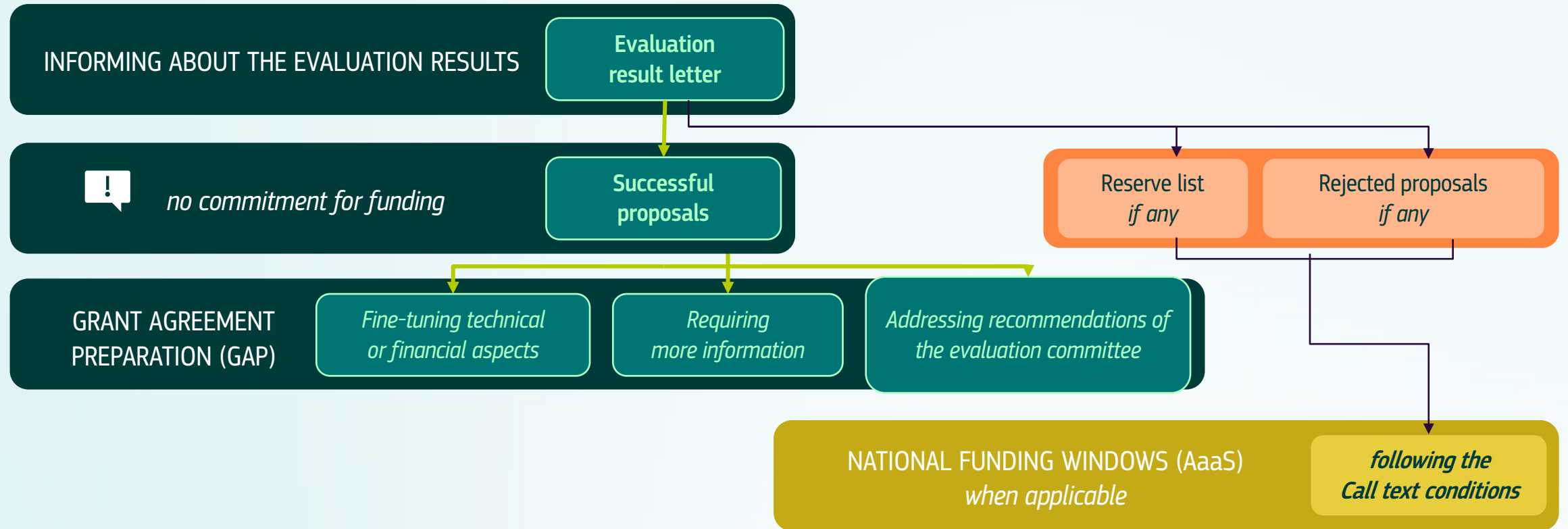
*...requested grant
support fitting
within the national
funding*

*...does not exceed
auction's ceiling
price - €4/kg of
RNFBO hydrogen*



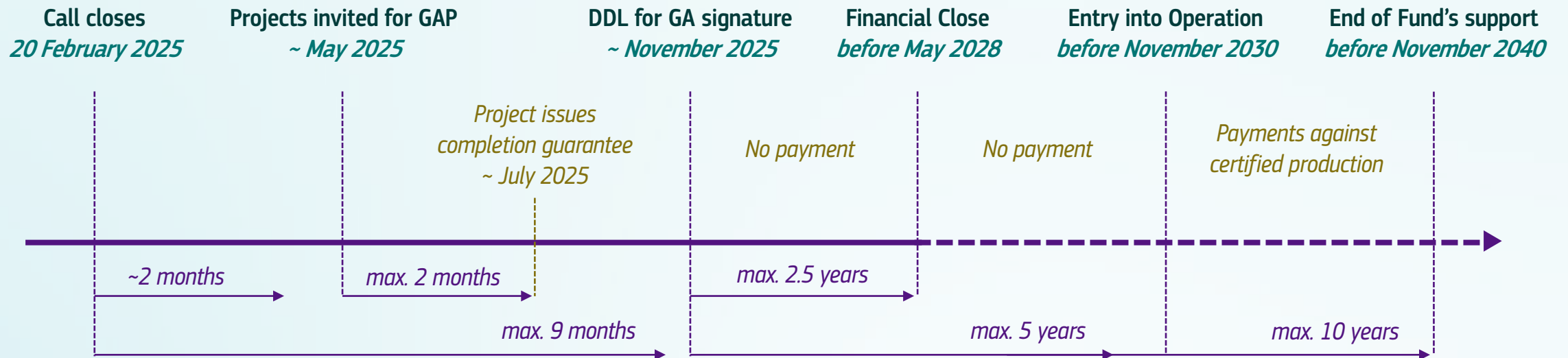
Reserve-listed proposals might be asked whether they want to remain on the Fund's reserve list or withdraw and be proposed for the national funding window

Evaluation results - Grant preparation & award procedure



IF24 Auction implementation timeline

indicative



- Evaluation is simplified (compared to regular grants) and much faster: approx. **2 months**.
- If the completion guarantee is well prepared, winners could sign grants well before the deadline for GA Signature.
- Maximum time to Entry into Operation (EiO) of 5 years to allow projects to manage delays, but normally EiO can be achieved earlier.