



EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.D - Natural resources, climate, sustainable blue economy and clean energy  
D.1 – LIFE Energy + LIFE Climate

**Call LIFE-2024-CET Frequently Asked Questions**

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**Frequently Asked Questions applicable to all topics**

**Under call LIFE-2024-CET, are infrastructure and equipment costs eligible?**

Infrastructure costs are not eligible under LIFE CET.

As regards equipment costs, some limited equipment costs may be considered eligible for funding if the proposal justifies that these are indispensable for the sole purpose of the action. This could for example be the case for monitoring and testing equipment. The eligibility of equipment costs is subject to depreciation during the lifetime of the project.

**What is the co-funding rate?**

The action’s eligible costs will be reimbursed up to the maximum funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement i.e. 95% except for the SAP topic for which the funding rate is 60%.

**Topic-related Frequently Asked Questions**

LIFE-2024-CET-BETTERRENO	
	<p><b>Under Scope A, is it expected that proposals include actual deep renovations?</b></p> <p>The aim of the topic is to establish long-lasting solutions/approaches, which are not necessarily technological, that accelerate the rate of deep renovation and that remain in place and are further used beyond the project duration, for large-scale replication and impact. Real life testing of the proposed solutions/approaches may be relevant to demonstrate their effectiveness and to improve them, but it may focus on other aspects than the actual implementation of the works.</p> <p>Including actual renovation works as part of the proposal is not compulsory. The relevance depends to a great extent on the approach chosen by the proposers to address the objectives of the topic. Demonstrations and actual renovations can be linked to a project concept, but the costs for these renovations would not be eligible. It is also not expected that actual renovation of buildings would take place during the timeframe of the project if this is not realistic. Much would depend on the starting point. However, projects are expected to undertake concrete steps that could credibly lead to the expected impacts, including building renovations, supported by adequate evidence.</p>
	<p><b>Are the costs of renovating a building eligible for funding?</b></p> <p>Proposals should address mainly non-technological barriers and not aim for genuine technology development, nor should they include costs for actual construction and materials. Technological solutions are considered enablers but should not be at the centre of the action in this topic.</p> <p>Hence, the eligible costs for actions under this topic are not expected to directly finance renovation activities.</p>
	<p><b>Is this topic oriented to residential buildings only?</b></p> <p>The topic is not prescriptive in terms of the building sector or segment to address. Proposals could address multiple types of buildings, including residential, non-residential, public, private, or could focus on addressing only one type of building.</p>
	<p><b>Can a proposal address more than one scope?</b></p>

	<p>The topic text invites applicants to choose their focus on one scope, as in general, the type of approach, activities and actors to involve would differ depending on the scope for proposals to be well targeted.</p> <p>If applicants decide to address more than one scope, this is possible, but needs to be well justified. Proposals should explain which is their main focus, and any additional aspects addressed should be relevant and well justified, in coherence with the overall concept addressed and with the actors involved in the consortium. Applicants are discouraged to enlarge the scope of the proposal artificially.</p> <p><b>Scope B addresses aspects that are also addressed under the topic LIFE-2024-CET-POLICY, such as Energy Performance Certificates, data collection methodologies etc. What is the delineation between the topics BETTERRENO and POLICY?</b></p> <p>The topics complement each other. The general difference is that the topic LIFE-2024-CET-POLICY focuses on direct support for Member States and their implementing bodies while the topic LIFE-2024-CET-BETTERRENO targets (also) the regional and local level and, as regards for example EPCs and the use of data, places emphasis on the market up-take dimension.</p> <p><b>Are equipment costs eligible?</b></p> <p>Some limited equipment costs may be considered eligible for funding if the proposal justifies that these are indispensable for the core purpose of the action. This could for example be the case for monitoring and testing equipment. The eligibility of equipment costs is subject to depreciation during the lifetime of the project.</p>
LIFE-2024-CET-BUILDSKILLS	
	<p><b>Scope A, it is preferable to cover several aspects within one of the six specific thematic area?</b></p> <p>No. Within a specific thematic area, applicants may choose to cover one or several of the listed aspects. A proposal can be excellent by addressing a single aspect. Proposals covering several aspects will not be considered more favourably. Note that under area 4 (Skills development for heat pump deployment) applicants are required to address only one aspect (reskilling or upskilling interventions).</p> <p><b>Under Scope A, could a proposal focus on a specific building typology, such as heritage buildings or non-residential buildings?</b></p> <p>A proposal could indeed focus on a specific building typology, as long as the proposed activities clearly address one of the six thematic areas outlined under Scope A.</p> <p><b>Under Scope B, is it advisable to involve more than three partners in the consortium?</b></p> <p>Yes. Given that the community of practice should have a pan-European reach and be able to mobilise stakeholders across Europe, it is advisable to include partners from a variety of eligible countries, as well as partners representing different type of actors able to advance the skills agenda in the building value chain. In addition, applicants should demonstrate that they are able to mobilise a large network of stakeholders across Europe (e.g. education and training providers, universities, construction companies, product manufacturers, professional associations, public authorities, social partners). The Commission intends to select a single proposal</p>

	under this scope.
	<b>Under Scope A, under the fifth thematic area, what should be understood as “on-site training methods”?</b>
	<p>Under this thematic area, applicants are expected to develop and pilot the delivery of innovative on-site training methods, with a focus on the skills required to carry out deep renovation. This means that the core part of the training should be delivered directly at the renovation site or at a very nearby location, to ensure that the training can be delivered during and/or in connection to working hours of workers and craftspeople. The training is thus expected to have a strong practical component and be oriented towards real-life scenarios. Cooperation with product manufacturers should be considered.</p> <p>Infrastructure costs for developing new or upgrading existing training facilities will not be considered eligible.</p>
LIFE-2024-CET-BUSINESS	
	<b>Do the participating companies need to be beneficiaries of the consortium?</b>
	No. Proposals have no obligation to include companies as beneficiaries in the consortium. However, since their participation and engagement is crucial for both Scopes, proposals should demonstrate how this will be ensured. Letters of Intent from companies or entities that represent their interests can be included in the proposal.
	<b>Under Scope B, is it possible to combine the two approaches i.e. the sustainable value chain with the local cooperation?</b>
	Yes, nothing prevents applicants from combining the two approaches within the same proposal, provided that it is clearly justified and in line with the proposed actions and specific objectives outlined in Scope B. Please be aware that proposals combining the two approaches will not necessarily have a higher chance of being selected over proposals targeting only one of the two approaches.
	<b>Shall the “deployment of energy related infrastructure”, as foreseen under the list of expected impact, be actually rolled out during the timeframe of the project?</b>
	No. Applicants are not expected to fully implement relevant energy related infrastructure (e.g. renewable energy generation, energy storage, district heating and/or cooling networks) within the timeframe of the project. It is sufficient to develop the business model, have them included in an investment plan and ideally having the commissioning phase starting within the 5 years after the project duration. Please note the equipment and infrastructure costs are not deemed to be eligible under this call.
	<b>Are projects fostering the uptake of green hydrogen eligible?</b>
	Yes. Green hydrogen is a crucial subject within the EU Green Deal and the REPowerEU strategy recalled in the objective section of the LIFE-2024-CET-BUSINESS topic. With regards to Scope B, proposals shall focus on promoting the market uptake of green hydrogen through a closer cooperation among companies operating in the same value chain or in proximity rather than focusing on technological development activities.
	<b>Under Scope B what is meant by “collaborative approaches”?</b>
	The term “collaborative approaches” refers to the process of establishing real

	<p>interactions among players operating in the same value chain (companies, suppliers and customers), or in proximity, and defining the governance and methods for collaboration, with the aim to create an increasing value by de-carbonisation and improving the energy performance of their activities. In this regard, applicants will be asked to start a preliminary reflection on new economic models/languages to capture the increasing value of sustainability within a business model first and then within the whole ecosystem.</p>
	<p><b>Under Scope B, can local value chains be targeted by applicants?</b></p>
	<p>Yes. Local value chains (e.g. agri-food, food and beverage sector) are in scope. Nevertheless, applicants will have to make sure that a sufficient number of large and small companies will be mobilised to develop the requested collaborative approaches fostering the market uptake of energy efficiency measures and where relevant RES and heat pumps along the targeted value chain, and that it can be further replicated. Furthermore, it is not compulsory to target the whole value chain. Applicants can focus only part of it according to the specificities (e.g. energy intensity) of the different value chain's segments.</p>
	<p><b>Under Scope A, should proposals focus on businesses of a specific sector?</b></p>
	<p>Applicants can propose sectoral approaches and specificities and explain these in the proposal.</p>
LIFE-2024-CET-DHC	
	<p><b>What is the definition of 'waste heat'?</b></p>
	<p>Article 2(9) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast) defines waste heat as unavoidable heat generated as by-product in industrial or power generation installations, or in the tertiary sector, which would be dissipated unused in air or water without access to a DHC network, where a cogeneration process has been used or will be used or where cogeneration is not feasible.</p>
	<p><b>What is meant by 'district heating'?</b></p>
	<p>According to Article 2(19) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast), 'district heating' or 'district cooling' means the distribution of thermal energy in the form of steam, hot water or chilled liquids, from central or decentralised sources of production through a network to multiple buildings or sites, for the use of space or process heating or cooling.</p> <p>The consumption must be off site, i.e. by a different economic entity (in particular without legal or capital link to the owners or operators of district heating and cooling), and more than one customer and more than one building or site should be connected to a network.</p>
	<p><b>Should investment plans be implemented before the end of a project?</b></p>
	<p>Consortia should prepare investment plans before the end of a project and consortia should fully demonstrate and ensure that plans are ready to be implemented. DHC owners/operators can start to implement the investment plans, e.g. procuring the necessary engineering studies and works, however all investments are not expected to be implemented during the project.</p>
	<p><b>Does a proposal have to address all different activities listed in the topic description?</b></p>
	<p>In all cases, a proposal should appropriately address the topic objectives. It will be up to proposers to demonstrate how the suggested activities will contribute to the topic challenges and expected impacts.</p>

	<p><b>Are equipment costs eligible under the DHC topic?</b></p>
	<p>Under that topic, the equipment costs are not eligible. LIFE CET does not finance the equipment costs but service and activities that can trigger investments. The topic does not finance the infrastructure costs themselves but services or activities that can trigger investments in the field of the topic.</p>
	<p><b>What are the criteria for "efficient district heating and cooling" system?</b></p>
	<p>An 'efficient district heating and cooling' system means a district heating or cooling system meeting the criteria laid down in Article 26 of DIRECTIVE (EU) 2023/1791 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 13 September 2023 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast).</p>
	<p><b>Should DH systems already be selected and described in the proposal?</b></p>
	<p>Following the text of the topic, consortia should convince evaluators that the planned activities are based on solid foundations and not on assumptions without a robust basis. It will be up to proposers to demonstrate the interest/commitment of district heating operators. The planned action should be implemented and should reach expected impacts defined in the topic text.</p>
	<p><b>Is it necessary to include DHC utilities or operators in the project consortium as full partners or should they be rather included only as external observers using the results of the investment plans?</b></p>
	<p>The text of the topic LIFE-2023-CET-DHC does not necessarily require that operators/ owners of existing district heating systems should be part of the consortium. However, in line with the topic text, proposals should demonstrate in a clear and convincing way the interest/ commitment of operators/ owners who are the target of the support, and explain the content of the support to be provided and how the consortium will deliver this support on the ground.</p>
	<p><b>Are neighbourhood retrofits of residential areas served by district heating eligible as subjects of investment plans? These retrofits are critical for achieving efficient district heating.</b></p>
	<p>Following the text of the topic, the focus should be on providing the required technical support for the preparation of investment plans for the fuel switch of existing district heating systems to fulfil the criteria for 'efficient district heating and cooling' or new district heating and cooling networks provided that plans are based on low-temperature renewable energy or waste heat, and with particular attention to existing buildings. The consortium should explain and justify the approach in the proposal text. Also, if necessary, proposals should engage and involve required stakeholders, work closely with the potential customers and provide an adequate risk assessment.</p>
	<p><b>Can an investment plan target a district heating system that physically exists, but that currently is not utilised but that could be revitalised for instance by harnessing locally available geothermal energy?</b></p>
	<p>The focus should be on identifying concrete ways to integrate low-temperature renewable energy or waste heat to fulfil the criteria for 'efficient district heating and cooling'. It will be up to proposers to demonstrate how the suggested solutions will contribute to the topic challenge and expected impact. Only low-temperature geothermal energy is in the topic's scope.</p>
	<p><b>Is heat from the incineration of municipal waste regarded as waste heat?</b></p>
	<p>In general, Article 2(9) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast) excludes the incineration of municipal</p>

	waste from waste heat sources. However, a small portion of the heat generated during the incineration process, which is dissipated unused in air or water, may be regarded as waste heat.
<b>LIFE-2024-CET-ENERCOM</b>	
	<b>What is meant by “pilots”?</b>
	Pilots can be energy communities (A) or support services for communities (B).
	<b>Can I use existing tools but include some budget for adaptation and translation?</b>
	Yes.
	<b>What if I focus on community heating and cooling and I know that the impacts will not materialize during the project action?</b>
	The text mentions impacts “triggered”. This means that you should aim at having an investment decision by the end of the action and then you can account for future impacts of the investment.
	<b>Do public authorities need to be part of the consortium?</b>
	It is not an obligation. However, proposals will need to prove that they have their support. The strongest proof of that is that they are willing to be part of the consortium implementing the project. However, there are other ways to demonstrate it including the provision of tailored Letters of Support.
	<b>What would be a good number of pilots?</b>
	Select your pilots well and make sure you can explain the logic behind gathering them together in a project. The number shall be in line with the budget you request and the specific objectives of your action but there is no “good” number of pilots.
	<b>What do you expect in terms of replication of the actions?</b>
	Proposals are expected to include an outline on what will the consortium will do to make sure the action is replicated and provide an idea of the resources they plan to invest in them (time and effort).
	<b>The topic text indicates that proposals need to quantify the “number of energy community projects supported”. Does this indicator refer to “projects from new energy communities” or can it account for “projects from existing energy communities that want to explore new technologies or areas of work”?</b>
	The latter. The figure should account for new projects by existing and/or new energy communities.
<b>LIFE-2024-CET-ENERPOV</b>	
	<b>Are equipment or renovation costs eligible?</b>
	No, under the call for proposals LIFE-2024-CET, infrastructure and equipment costs are not eligible. The LIFE CET programme does not finance the technologies themselves but the process and the set up of services or activities which trigger energy efficient or renewable energy investments. In exceptional cases, some limited equipment or low-cost devices may be considered eligible for funding if the proposal justifies that it is indispensable for the sole purpose of the action (e.g. monitoring devices).
	<b>Under the second bullet point, can the policy support also be at sub-national level?</b>
	The main focus of this bullet point is on the national level. However, some limited

	<p>analysis and/or support at regional level may also be considered in clearly justified cases, depending on the size and institutional arrangements within the country. It is up to the applicants to convince experts through the submitted proposal why support to implement the EED (recast) provisions on energy poverty at the sub-national level would be more effective to empower and protect energy poor households.</p>
<p><b>Under the third bullet point, could the energy poverty observatories be established by private entities or foundations? Could the observatories also be established at regional level?</b></p>	<p>The national energy poverty observatory can be set up by both public and/or private bodies or entities. It is expected that the observatory represents all relevant stakeholder groups, thereby ensuring the legitimacy of the observatory as a central point of information contributing to, for example, monitoring and data collection, supporting relevant professionals, enhancing understanding of energy poverty and helping to define an appropriate (national) strategy.</p> <p>It is mainly expected that the observatories would be set up at the national level. However, regional level observatories may also be considered in clearly justified cases, depending on e.g. the size and institutional arrangements within the country. It is up to the applicants to convince experts through the submitted proposal why a regional level observatory would be more relevant.</p>
<p><b>Under the first bullet point on support to renovation of private multi-apartment buildings, are projects expected to undertake renovations as part of the proposed action?</b></p>	<p>No, actual renovation works do not need to form part of the proposed activities. Actual renovations should result from the proposed action, but it is not expected that the renovation of multi-apartment buildings would take place during the lifetime of the proposed action, if this is not realistic. Much would depend on the starting point of the proposed activities. However, proposed actions are expected to undertake concrete steps that could credibly lead to the expected impacts, including building renovations, supported by adequate evidence.</p>
<p><b>Under the third bullet point, could the projects focus only on delivering capacity building to public authorities and social intermediaries, without setting up any coordination structures?</b></p>	<p>No, this third bullet point consists of two elements: proposals are expected to both deliver capacity building to tackle energy poverty AND support the relevant public authorities and societal actors in setting up appropriate longer-term, cross-sectoral coordination structures (cross-departmental and vertical collaboration) to alleviate energy poverty.</p>
<p><b>Under the fourth bullet point, can proposed actions also consider alternative policy measures under the energy savings obligation of Articles 8 and 10 EED (recast)?</b></p>	<p>No, the focus of this bullet point is specifically on the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Obligation Schemes by obligated parties, for the benefit of people affected by energy poverty, vulnerable customers, people in low-income households and, where applicable, people in social housing, in line with Article 9 EED (recast).</p>
<p><b>Are software costs eligible?</b></p>	<p>The LIFE CET programme does not finance the development of new technologies themselves but the process and the set up of services or activities which trigger</p>



	energy efficient or renewable energy investments. In exceptional cases, some limited software costs may be considered eligible for funding if the proposal justifies that it is indispensable for the sole purpose of the action (e.g. minor software costs for data mapping). The added value of the development of new IT tools or databases requiring software costs, instead of using existing ones, should be clearly justified in the proposal.
<b>LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS</b>	
	<b>Under Scope A, can alternative business and/or delivery models involving individual heat pumps connected via a district heating network be considered within the scope A of the topic?</b>
	The installation of new individual heat pumps connected via a newly built heating network supplying at least space heating to existing buildings operating with individual boilers could be considered within Scope A of the topic, provided all the other requirements from the call are met. On the other hand, the installation of new individual heat pumps as part of the modernisation, fuel switch, or extension of an existing district heating network should not be considered within Scope A of the LIFE-2024-CET-HEATPUMPS topic. For actions supporting fuel switch in existing district heating and cooling systems, including through heat pumps, please refer to topic LIFE-2024-CET-DHC.
	<b>Under Scope A, how can applicants demonstrate the effectiveness and replicability of the proposed approaches?</b>
	Proposals should convincingly demonstrate that the alternative business or delivery model(s) to be developed, demonstrated, upscaled and/or replicated during the action have the potential to tackle the barrier of higher upfront costs of heat pumps in specific markets as compared to mainstream technologies. Applicants should demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the target markets as well as the added value of the proposed solutions against the status-quo.
	<b>Under scope B, is there any indication in terms of the temperature requirements of the targeted industrial process?</b>
	Under Scope B, proposals are expected to foster the uptake of industrial heat pump solutions for the <b>electrification</b> of industrial processes by facilitating the establishment of concrete collaboration initiatives between industrial sectors and heat pump providers/manufactures. The scope is not prescriptive in defining the temperature requirements/needs of the targeted industrial process – which shall be clearly justified by applicants in the proposal. In line with the topic text, proposals should focus on existing technologies already available on the market. Activities aiming at technological and first deployment on the market, including for products at Technology Readiness Level 8, are not in the scope of this topic.
<b>LIFE-2024-CET-LOCAL</b>	
	<b>Do applicants need to address all the expected impacts listed?</b>
	Proposals should address only those impact indicators mentioned in the Call that are relevant considering the scope, objectives and expected outputs of the proposed action.
	<b>Do applicants need to address all the points under the 'Scope' section?</b>
	Proposals should address one or more of areas of work mentioned under the 'Scope' section. Addressing more than one point does not necessarily increase the relevance of the proposal.
	<b>Do local and regional authorities need to be beneficiaries of the consortium?</b>
	There is no obligation to include local and regional authorities as beneficiaries;

	<p>however, public authorities need to be strongly engaged in the proposed activities.</p>
	<p><b>What is an ambitious capacity building programme?</b></p> <p>Capacity building programmes for implementation of CET plans and actions, should not only be ambitious, but also extensive and in-depth, with lasting effects and tailored. Ambition will be assessed in terms of the number of trained participants, volume and depth of the training offer. Moreover, specific topic-related indicators can be used to measure the ambition level: the number of policymakers/public officers with improved capacity/skills and the average number of training hours per participant for capacity building programmes. Project-specific indicators can be also proposed as relevant.</p>
	<p><b>What is meant by the term "organisational structures"?</b></p> <p>Organisational structures should facilitate implementation of clean energy transition plans and actions in an integrated and cross-sectoral way. They should also facilitate dialogue with other governance levels and key stakeholders. These structures could be new or existing. The format and implementation of organisational structures are context specific, as long as their aims are aligned with what is required in the topic text. The topic offers an example of organisational structures, mentioning that they can include cross-sectoral teams in LRAs.</p>
LIFE-2024-CET-OSS	
	<p><b>How is "innovation" evaluated?</b></p> <p>"Innovation" is not assessed in general terms but specifically in the proposal's particular context. For the evaluators to understand what the context is, proposals should clearly describe their rationale and starting point in the territory that they are planning to target, demonstrate knowledge of the state-of-the-art (not limited to EU funded projects) and build on it. Innovation can consist of connecting actors and streamlining standards and practices into consistent and transparent processes. Even if an idea is common practice in a given Member State, it may still be innovative in other Member States and adapting relevant best practices can be considered innovative. Proposals should remain pragmatic and realistic, as services are expected to be operational by the end of the action and the type of innovation expected is only a way to better deliver investment in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy).</p>
	<p><b>Should financing services be included?</b></p> <p>All proposals should consider and facilitate the financing of investments. However, this does not necessarily mean that all service providers should carry a direct financing offer on their own. They could, for example, just facilitate the access to existing financing solutions. A subrogation positioning, where the entity advances the money and then collects the available financial support(s) on behalf of the final beneficiaries, can be very helpful in many circumstances. Partnerships, and particularly partnerships with banks or other financial institutions, could also be explored.</p>
	<p><b>How does this topic relate to the concept of "one-stop-shop"?</b></p> <p>Support to the development of "one-stop shops" is highlighted in the revised Energy Efficiency Directive and in the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. With topic LIFE-2024-CET-OSS, the European Commission supports the development of such one-stop shops. The topic requires proposals to cover the whole "customer journey": from technical and social diagnosis, technical offer,</p>

	<p>contracting of works, structuring and provision of finance, to the monitoring of works and quality assurance. The exact relevant perimeter and missions for such one-stop shops is still to be locally specified, notably by applicants under this topic. The proposals' starting point should be clearly established, notably in terms of existing offers on the local market targeted. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how they intend to improve or accelerate the current situation, by developing new offers but also by collaborating with existing providers. Notably, the financing offer that should be considered in the package of integrated services may be developed in partnership with one or several financial institutions. In addition, one important one-stop shop feature should be to clearly establish responsibility in front of final beneficiaries, with a clearly visible entity that can be held accountable in case of poor delivery. Thus, the notion of quality should also include the quality of the relationship with the final beneficiary throughout the process.</p>
	<p><b>What does "economically viable business models" mean?</b></p>
	<p>The term "economically viable business model" used in the topic description means that all proposals should have the prospect of economic viability, not necessarily in the short term but at least in the medium or long term. This means that all proposals should consider in their activities the development of a clear and sound business model and, by doing so, prove that the proposed services target economic viability and pave the way for future initiatives, notably from the private sector. Note that this objective of economic viability does not exclude the mobilization of public grants for the benefit of final beneficiaries: if grants for investment are available, facilitating the access for final beneficiaries may be useful and welcome.</p>
	<p><b>Which data and guidance should be made publicly available?</b></p>
	<p>Projects are encouraged to share key data and underlying assumptions on which their model is based. Indeed, other market actors may be interested in open data on, for example, the nature of services provided, the time spent per step along the "customer journey", the type of profiles mobilised to perform the steps, conversion rates per steps (i.e. share of beneficiaries getting to the following step in the process), average default rate on loans provided (if applicable), refinancing conditions for the structure providing the services, etc. Not only the data provided could facilitate the replication of the services, it may also trigger creative initiatives based on this data.</p>
	<p><b>Who should propose the integrated services?</b></p>
	<p>There is a distinction between "who should present a proposal for EU funding?" and "who should propose the services to final beneficiaries?". An answer to the second question ("who should propose the services to final beneficiaries?") would be "whoever can convincingly provide an integrated offer". In particular, a consortium constituted to propose the services could be extended much beyond the limits of the consortium that was created for the EU proposal. Moreover, it is important to rely on at least one entity that already has a good positioning in the territory where the services will be put in place, or is linked with one or several respected and trusted bodies.</p>
	<p><b>What does "legal and regulatory improvements" mean?</b></p>
	<p>During the set-up process of a new/improved service, projects are likely to face a number of difficulties of legal and regulatory nature: in their proposals, applicants should clearly identify these barriers and describe how their proposal will address</p>

	<p>those. They are also encouraged to foresee the necessary resources and time to tackle those (and others to be identified during the set-up process), propose possible solutions and advocate for the implementation of these solutions. Initiatives supported by the EU should not be "one of a kind": projects are encouraged to pave the way for similar initiatives to follow, notably private sector-led initiatives.</p>
	<p><b>Is there a minimum volume required for the investment pipeline?</b></p>
	<p>This topic aims to create or replicate innovative local or regional integrated services that should be operational and tested at the end of the project. Although no minimum volume is prescribed for the investment pipeline, proposals should demonstrate their expected impacts (notably) in terms of investments – at scale – in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewables) during the action (pilot phase) and within the first 5 years of operation of the services.</p>
	<p><b>Can the funding be combined with other sources of funding?</b></p>
	<p>This topic is a so-called Coordination and Support Action (CSA) under the LIFE framework. This means that selected projects may receive a funding rate of 95% and therefore their specific activities cannot be (double) funded by any other funding programme. However, projects may mobilise other sources of funding to finance external activities, complementary to the project, or to support actual investments during the pilot phase.</p>
	<p><b>Since a pilot phase has to be reached, can the investment costs for energy efficient renovations be covered?</b></p>
	<p>No, only activities which are required to develop and propose the services will be considered relevant. Actual hardware investments, fundamental research or technology development are not considered appropriate. Although there is no comprehensive list of eligible activities, the general idea is that "LIFE-2024-CET-OSS pays for brains, not for bricks". From previous experiences, the relevant costs include staff time, subcontracting of specialist advice (for example on legal, financial or technical matters), travel and subsistence and other costs such as the ones deemed necessary to communicate experiences and facilitate replication across the EU.</p>
	<p><b>Can a proposal focus only on one country? Also, is it possible to include several applicants from one single country?</b></p>
	<p>Yes, LIFE-2024-CET-OSS allows proposals to be submitted by one applicant from an eligible country. Activities under Scope A can even focus on one single local constituency (e.g. a city, or a region) in the country. This being said, proposals submitted by several applicants from the same country, or by applicants from different countries, are also perfectly eligible.</p>
	<p><b>How shall the word 'pilot' be understood?</b></p>
	<p>LIFE-2024-CET-OSS supports the creation or replication of integrated services. By the end of the action, all projects selected under this topic should have developed, implemented and tested the services proposed to final beneficiaries, although market upscale may happen after project completion. In this context, the word 'pilot' is used in the sense of 'pilot phase', when services will be operationalized and tested, and does not refer to direct infrastructure or equipment or prototypes.</p>
	<p><b>If we have already been working on a one-stop-shop approach for a number of years, can we improve it or do we need to start from a completely new idea?</b></p>
	<p>LIFE-2024-CET-OSS aims to support the creation or replication of one-stop shops,</p>

	<p>but may also support the expansion of existing initiatives, provided that the requested EU support would significantly add to the existing situation. In this case, it is particularly important that applicants describe very clearly their starting point in the targeted territory and explain in detail how and why EU support would be needed. Note however, that the topic specifies that "Proposals covering regions with low development of integrated home renovation services to date will be given higher priority".</p>
	<p><b>If a one-stop-shop is set up as a local public service, how do we establish its operation without public financing/subsidies at the end?</b></p>
	<p>The prospect of self-sustainability of the services in the medium to long term (not necessarily within project duration) is particularly important under this topic. To put it another way, the services set up with LIFE-CET support should not disappear once the project is over, and applicants must provide a clear and robust perspective on how the services will be managed after the project end: what the financial resources will be to cover costs, how the size of operations will grow in the future, etc. The prospect of partially (or even fully) covering operating costs through public subsidies is acceptable, but in this case the source(s) of public funding foreseen must be well specified in the proposal and the prospect of obtaining them must be firmly established. Please note that the topic requires to "provide integrated home renovation services, with the explicit intention of delivering services that belong in the competitive sector". With this in mind, charging the final beneficiaries for the support services provided may also be an option to consider.</p>
	<p><b>When mentioning that "The aim of this topic is supporting the creation or replication of One-Stop-Shops...", do you refer to the creation of a physical infrastructure, or to an online infrastructure, or a mix of both?</b></p>
	<p>The topic requires proposals to cover the whole "customer journey". Although the exact relevant perimeter and missions is to be specified for the local context, notably by applicants, note that the topic requires to provide proactive support to homeowners ranging from technical design, obtention of permits, selection of qualified professionals, contracting of works, structuring and/or provision of finance (e.g. loans), to the supervision of contractors to carry out the renovation works and quality assurance. Proposals addressing only the provision of generic information and diagnosis, and/or limited to internet platforms without on-site interaction are not within the scope.</p>
LIFE-2024-CET-PDA	
	<p><b>Can the funding be combined with other sources of EU funding?</b></p>
	<p>Projects selected under the topic Project Development Assistance (PDA) may receive a funding rate of 95% and their specific activities cannot be (double) funded by any other (EU) funding programme. However, PDA projects may mobilise EU funding for the actual investments, which they are expected to launch before the end of the action, e.g. using European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) or a loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB).</p>
	<p><b>How is Project Development Assistance related to the European Local Energy Assistance Facility (ELENA)?</b></p>
	<p>Project Development Assistance (PDA) activities implemented under call LIFE-2024-CET are complementary to the European Local Energy Assistance Facility (ELENA) implemented by the European Investment Bank (EIB). Whilst PDA aims to support public and private project promoters to launch project portfolios with an</p>

(indicative) investment volume between EUR 7.5 million and EUR 50 million, the EIB-ELENA facility usually supports larger-scale investments above EUR 30 million.
<b>Is the emphasis on exploitation and dissemination different from other LIFE CET topics under this part of the Work Programme?</b>
A proposal submitted under the PDA topic should clearly focus its activities on the launch of sustainable energy investments. However, proposals should also demonstrate a high degree of replicability and include a clear action plan to communicate experiences and results (across Europe) in order to enhance replication. Moreover, a proposal should also include an appropriate (local/regional) capacity building strategy to help retain know-how within the organisation after the duration of the PDA project in order to launch further sustainable energy investments.
<b>Can a proposal be submitted if parts of the investment programme/projects already exist?</b>
A proposal could still be submitted for the remaining parts of the investment programme/project. The existing investments should be clearly highlighted to avoid double funding. Proposers should describe in the application form the (local) strategic framework and previous/ongoing relevant investment projects upon which the proposal will build.
<b>What is the actual outcome expected from Project Development Assistance (PDA) projects?</b>
Projects are expected to trigger investments worth at least EUR 15 million for every million EUR of EU support (EUR 10 million in case of exclusive investments in residential buildings). The proposed sustainable energy investments of PDA projects will need to be launched before the end of the action and tangible evidence will need to be provided in this regard. This means that, by the end of its duration, the project should result in signed contracts for sustainable energy investments, e.g. construction contracts, energy performance contracts, turnkey contracts. Proposals should also be a replicable showcase in delivering organisational innovation for the mobilisation of the investment programme and/or regarding financial engineering.
<b>What is the purpose of Project Development Assistance (PDA)?</b>
The purpose of the Project Development Assistance (PDA) topic is to help public and private project promoters to transform their project idea into a concrete investment programme. This includes building the technical, economic and/or legal expertise needed for the development and implementation of sustainable energy investment projects (resulting in the actual launch of these investments during the action).
<b>How can '(organisational) innovation' be delivered within Project Development Assistance activities?</b>
Proposals shall deliver (organisational) innovation for the mobilisation of the investment programme and/or regarding financial engineering. This can mean, inter alia, regarding: * Organisation of the investment programme: setting up dedicated project development units, bundling of small(er) investments and/or pooling of several assets into a large(er)-scale investment programme to enhance bankability/investability; target-oriented stakeholder engagement for investment mobilisation etc. * Financial engineering: schemes using scalable financial models that are

	<p>leveraging private finance (also via ‘blending’ with public funds) and are distinctively different from ‘traditional’ investment models in the sector/region targeted where the owner finances the investments through equity, loans and/or subsidies, including e.g. energy performance contracting (EPC)/development of ESCOs (Energy Service Companies), various other pay-for-performance or pay-as-you-save models, on-bill or on-tax financing, specific investment funds regarding energy efficiency (including factoring, revolving or guarantee funds), green loans and mortgages etc.</p> <p>Applicants should explain the particular context of the (organisational) innovation in the proposal.</p>
	<p><b>What level of detail on the investments to be triggered should be provided in the proposal?</b></p>
	<p>The sustainable energy investments to be triggered have to be described in the application (in the mandatory annex ‘Table of Investments’ specific to this topic, which can be downloaded on the Funding &amp; Tenders Portal). Depending on the nature of the sustainable energy investment programme to be financed, tasks for establishing a full level of detail on the future investment(s) may be included in the application.</p> <p>Please note that the investments to be triggered should only refer to sustainable energy investments, i.e. investments which are directly related to or required for energy savings and/or renewable energy generation (and the declared amount of investments to be triggered should include VAT only for entities which cannot reclaim it). Other investments should not be included in the proposed 'sustainable energy investment costs' to be considered for the achievement of the leverage factor of 1:15 (1:10 in case of exclusive investments in residential buildings), as explained in the topic description. For example, in case of a building refurbishment, sustainable energy investment costs could include changing windows or painting the facade after insulation. However, costs for painting the hallways or changing the bathtubs would not be eligible.</p>
	<p><b>What does the Project Development Assistance (PDA) topic pay for in practice?</b></p>
	<p>There is no comprehensive list of eligible activities; however, only activities which are required to launch the investments will be considered relevant. "PDA pays for brains, not for bricks".</p> <p>Actual hardware investments, basic research or technology development are not covered. Costs for the supervision of works may under certain circumstances be covered, if they are fully justified by the specific context of a proposal.</p> <p>From previous experiences, the eligible costs for PDA can include e.g. staff efforts, subcontracting of specialist expertise (for example regarding legal, financial and technical matters), travel and subsistence and other costs such as publications. In practice, PDA will pay for those activities necessary to prepare and mobilise finance for investment programmes, such as feasibility studies, stakeholder and community mobilisation, preparation for tendering procedures or setting up a specific financing scheme/financial engineering approach, including bundling of sustainable energy investment projects into bankable packages. In addition, costs for developing an action plan to communicate experiences and results towards potential replicators across the EU are eligible.</p>
	<p><b>Are investments into new buildings/new assets eligible?</b></p>
	<p>In general, Project Development Assistance (PDA) supports (renovation)</p>

	measures regarding existing assets. However, in particular as part of a larger renovation project, certain ‘new investments’ may be eligible, for example the extension of existing district heating/cooling networks (provided that the extended networks are fully based on low-temperature renewable energy or waste heat), or also related renewable energy generation or certain urban mobility solutions. In addition, renewable energy production from energy communities and other citizen-led initiatives is eligible (as target sector).
	<b>Are investments into renewable energy eligible?</b>
	In general, Project Development Assistance (PDA) supports (energy efficiency) measures regarding existing assets. However, in particular as part of a larger renovation project, related renewable energy investments are in principle eligible. In addition, renewable energy production from energy communities and other citizen-led initiatives is eligible as well (as target sector).
<b>LIFE-2024-CET-POLICY</b>	
	<b>Under Scope B, regarding provisions related to the permit-granting process, can actions address permit-granting procedures for repowering?</b>
	Yes, proposals can address granting procedures for repowering in addition to broader actions addressing permit-granting procedures for new installations.
	<b>Under LIFE-2024-CET-POLICY Scope B, can applicants address in one proposal the following two areas “Provisions related to the permit-granting process” and “Provisions related to the development of plans designating renewables acceleration”? How much of an overlap is acceptable between the two areas?</b>
	Under LIFE-2024-CET-POLICY Scope B proposals shall support public authorities in charge of the transposition and implementation of the Directive by addressing only one of the three predefined areas. Addressing both areas in one proposal could be acceptable if both the following conditions are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the level of overlap is minimal and duly justified; and</li> <li>b) the results from the action stemming from the first idea (e.g. addressing area 1, permit-granting process) would be used and are clearly indispensable to achieve the goals set out for the other area (e.g. area 2 Development of plans designating renewables acceleration areas).</li> </ul> Please also note that for area 1, provisions related to the permit-granting process, the action shall be implemented through an EU community of practitioners in RES permitting consisting of the contact points established under Art. 16 of the RED and other permit-granting authorities, including at regional and local level.
<b>LIFE-2024-CET-PRIVAFIN</b>	
<b>LIFE-2024-CET-RENO PUB</b>	
<b>LIFE-2024-CET-SAP</b>	
	<b>Under the LIFE-2024-CET-SAP topic regarding the scope aiming at supporting local and regional authorities in establishing new energy agencies, in which way can project funds be transferred from the coordinating entity (e.g. a local government) to a newly established agency?</b>



	<p>A public entity is eligible to submit an application to establish a new energy agency under LIFE-Call-2024-SAP. Such new energy agencies are invited to “support the delivery of the clean energy transition on the ground”. In case the new energy agency is a separate legal entity, the new legal entity may need to be included in the Grant Agreement through an amendment in due course if this entity will incur costs or if it is responsible to carry out activities in the action. In such case, the entity could – depending on the legal/financial link with the beneficiary, be included as a beneficiary, an affiliated entity or even an associated partner (the latter cannot receive EU Funding).</p>
	<p><b>What type of costs are eligible under the SAP topic regarding the scope on the creation of an energy agency?</b></p>
	<p>Even if the majority of eligible costs would be personnel costs, exceptionally, also other type of costs like for example, the rental of office facilities, office equipment,... might be considered eligible in case these are in line with the specific cost eligibility conditions applicable to this call.</p>
	<p><b>Regarding the scope on the creation of an energy agency, is it sufficient to describe the intended set-up of the energy agency in the proposal?</b></p>
	<p>The proposal should include a clear outline on the main activities/work programme that the new energy agency plans to deliver once it is established, and during the course of the action. As illustrated through the expected impacts of this call topic, the sole description of the (administrative) set up of a new organisational entity will not be sufficient.</p>