

LIFE-2023-CET- DHC

TOPIC TITLE:

District heating and cooling:

Enabling modernisation and fuel switch through support for investment plans and skills development



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Content of the presentation

- 1. Objectives
- 2. Scopes
- 3. Expected Impacts
- 4. Questions and answers





1. Objectives





Objectives

- Still, very often, fossil fuels are the main source of the energy in district heating and cooling systems,
- Renewable heating and cooling systems should be rolled out faster to reach decarbonization targets,
- Guidance, recommendations and technical advisory services have already been developed and tested at the national and local levels,
- Application of renewable energy sources for heating and cooling is limited by different factors: e.g. limited human, technical and financial capacities of network/installation owners,
- Technical support are needed to help DHC sector prepare modernisation and development projects.



2. Scopes





Scope

Proposals are expected to **focus on one of the two scopes below**. The scope addressed should be specified in the introduction of the proposal.

- Scope A: Technical support for the development of investment plans for the modernisation, fuel switch and system integration of existing district heating systems,
- Scope B: Skills development of professionals, operators and public authorities,





Scope A: Technical support for the development of investment plans for the modernisation, fuel switch and system integration of existing district heating systems

Proposals should work with operators/owners of existing district heating systems and

- provide them with the required technical support for the preparation of investment plans to
 integrate low-temperature heat sources or waste heat and fulfil the proposed criteria for 'efficient
 district heating and cooling', defined in the revised EED, within in a timeline of 10 years.
 - Investment plans should include the detailed identification of the investments, their timing, the internal and external resources required, the public and private funding sources
- identify solid ways to modernise the systems and to integrate low-temperature renewable energy or waste heat,
 - Transformation into low-temperature district heating networks is not compulsory

Proposals should support the development of a substantial number of **investment plans in at least 3 eligible countries**.





Scope A: Technical support for the development of investment plans for the modernisation, fuel switch and system integration of existing district heating systems

Activities should:

- Include financial planning and pre-feasibility studies
- demonstrate the interest/commitment of the district heating operators receiving support,
- explain the content of the support and how the consortium will deliver this support on the ground (details are requested),
- promote replication by other district heating operators/owners.

and can provide where relevant

- · the assessment of the compatibility with the existing building stock, or
- options to link district heating retrofitting to local building renovation plans,
- the assessment of the potential to participate in electricity markets by providing balancing, storage and other flexibility services.



! Proposals under this topic are not expected to finance the development of new tools, e.g. software.



Proposals should increase the capacity of targeted professionals across the district heating and cooling value chain (including white collar workers) and/or civil servants in national, regional and local authorities.

Proposals should provide the technical and practical knowledge how to:

- develop new district heating and/or cooling systems based on low-temperature renewable energy sources and waste heat,
- modernise and integrate low-grade renewable energy and waste heat sources into existing systems,
- operate district heating networks at low temperatures.





Proposals should:

- provide details on the actual scope and content of the training and capacity building activities to be developed,
 - e.g. professional profiles and levels in the European Qualification Framework targeted; thematic coverage; duration of the training; validation mechanisms.
- include the training of trainers and a testing and validation phase for the new or upgraded schemes developed,
 - a key element should be the development of a strategy ensuring that the schemes will be sustained after the end of the project, linking to available sources of funding at national and EU level **REMARK**: the actual, long-term, running of training schemes is not covered by this topic.

Where relevant, applicants should aim to bring together employers, trade unions as well as training providers.





Proposals can cover one or more different aspects, for instance:

- Development, testing and validation phase of new schemes or upgrade and replication of existing training schemes, including on-site training and mentoring schemes,
- **Development or upgrade and dissemination** of technical **guidelines**, including those for buildings preparation for low-temperature district heating and solutions for heat storage,
- Capacity building for deploying renewable and efficient district heating and cooling networks, for integrating district heating development and building renovation programmes, including links with planning and heat mapping.





Activities should:

- build on the lessons learned and material developed from previous projects and other programmes,
- be based on concrete successful examples,
- be tailored to local contexts,
- enable peer-to-peer learning,
- be carried out, where applicable, through the use of existing software and tools.





Scope A and Scope B

- Proposals must be submitted by at least 3 applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from 3 different eligible countries.
- For Scope A, the Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1,75 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately.
 - > Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.
- For Scope B, the Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1,5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately.
 - Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.





3. Expected Impacts





Expected Impacts and Indicators

General information:

Topic-specific

Activity-specific

Common indicators

- Proposals should demonstrate how project results will contribute to expected impacts and:
 - quantify impacts using the provided topic-specific indicators where relevant. Not expected to address all listed impacts/ indicators
 - propose additional indicators which are specific to the planned activities (activity-specific)
 - > address impacts related to **common indicators** for the LIFE-CET subprogramme.
- Impacts should be quantified for project duration and for 5 years after the end of the project.
- Proposals should present the starting point and underlying assumptions with credible data and calculation methods + establish clear links between activity and impacts.





Topic Specific Impacts

SCOPE A:

- **Number** of existing district heating systems equipped with an **investment plan** allowing them to fulfil the criteria for 'efficient district heating and cooling', defined in the Energy Efficiency Directive.
- Number of local and regional authorities integrating the outcomes of the project in their energy planning.
- Investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources triggered by the implementation of the investment plans developed thanks to the project (cumulative, in million Euro).





Topic Specific Impacts

SCOPE B:

- Number of training schemes and capacity building activities developed, upgraded and replicated from existing schemes/activities,
- Number of trainers trained,
- · Number of professionals and civil servants trained,
- Number of operators with strengthened capacity (when relevant),
- Number of stakeholders and organisations endorsing technical guidelines and core material for specialised training,
- Number of local, regional, or national regulatory frameworks strengthened.





Impacts - LIFE Clean Energy Transition indicators

- Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewables) triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
- Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- Reduction of greenhouse gases emissions (in tCO2-eq/year).





4. Additional information





Additional information

• The whole topic description is available on the portal "Funding & tender opportunities"

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home

search under: Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) > Find calls for proposals and tenders >

Questions?
 CINEA-LIFE-CET@ec.europa.eu





5. Question and Answers







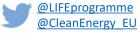
Keep in touch with us

Any questions on CET call topics? Email us on: CINEA-LIFE-CET@ec.europa.eu



https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en













Thank you



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