



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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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.

Scope B: Skills development of professionals, operators and public authorities

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.



Scope B: Skills development of professionals, operators and public authorities

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.



Scope B: Skills development of professionals, operators and public authorities

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.



Scope B: Skills development of professionals, operators and public authorities

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



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€99 MILLION AVAILABLE

#EULife23 Call for proposals

Your project fits right here

Clean Energy Transition

Thank you



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