

Evaluation process and award criteria

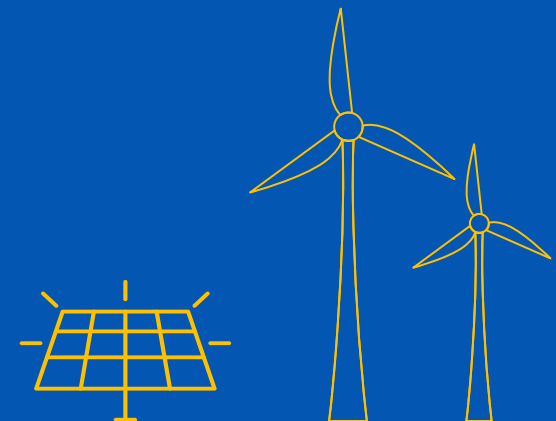


Beatrice CODA

Head of Unit B4, CINEA

Virtual Info Day

5 October 2023



Indicative timeline

Info Day
05/10/2023

Call opening
19/09/2023

Call deadline
09 January 2024

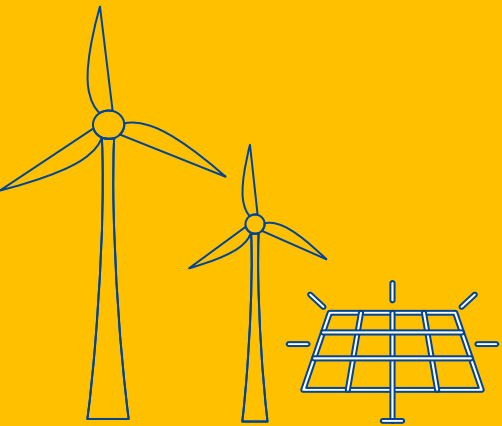
End of Evaluation Period
February 2024

CEF Coordination Committee
March 2024

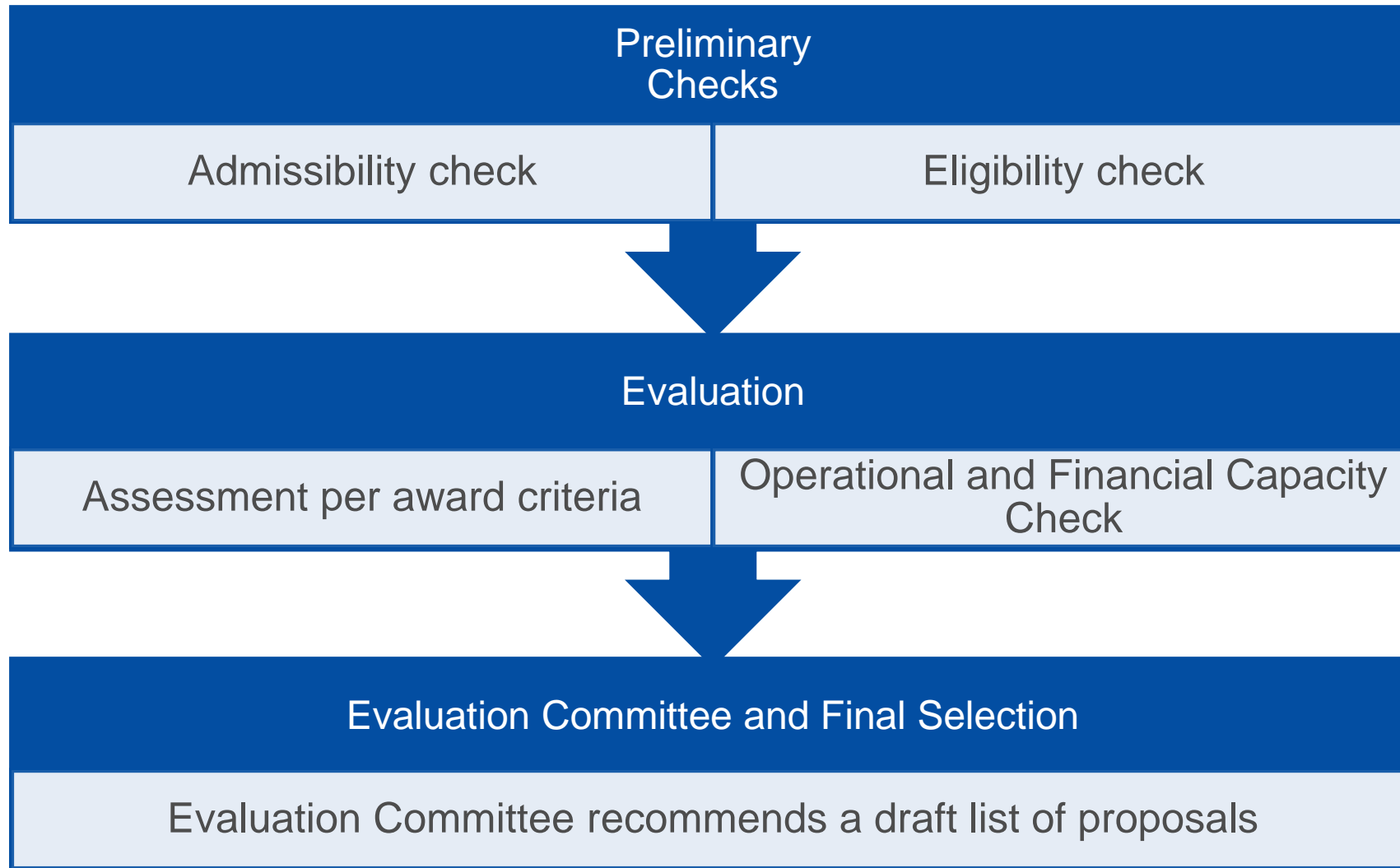
Launch of Grant Preparation
May 2024

Time To Grant
September 2024

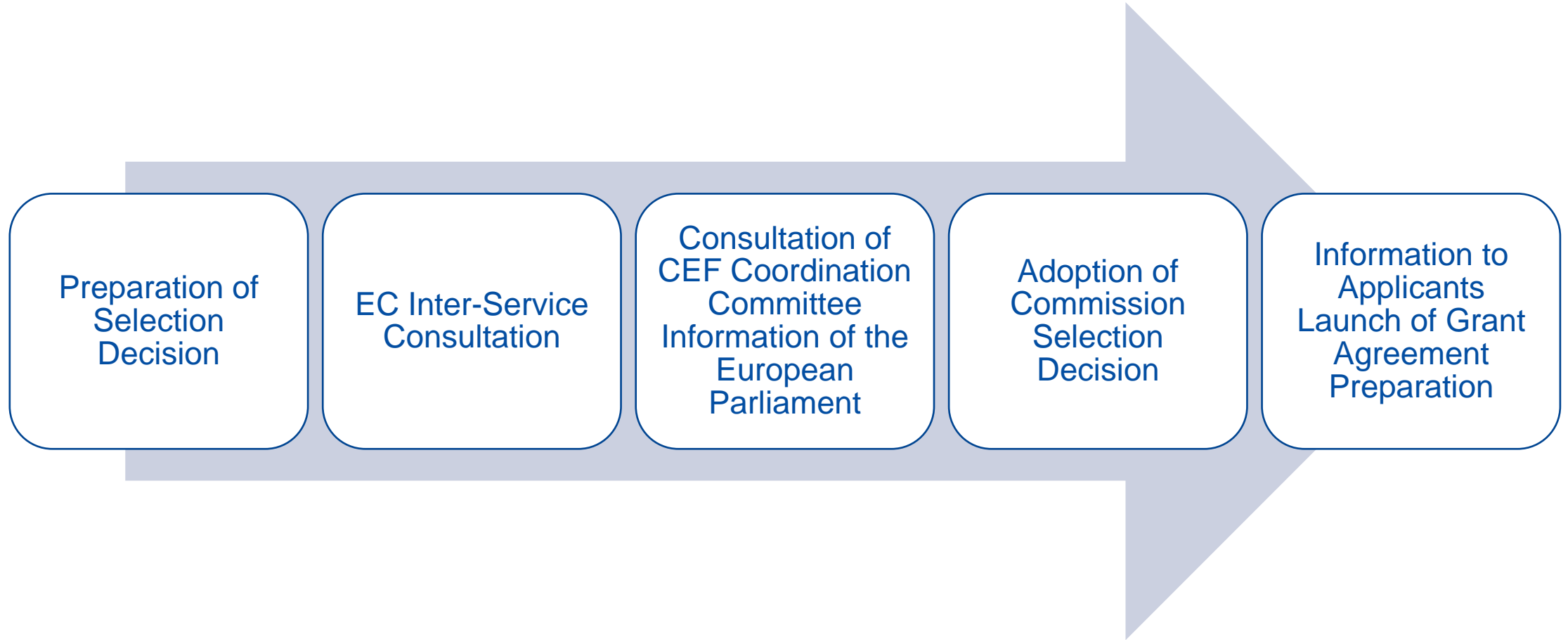
Evaluation process



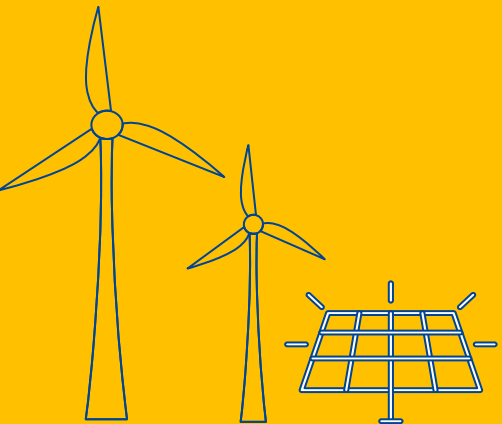
Principles for the evaluation and selection process



Final Selection Process



Admissibility and Eligibility





Admissibility - Proposals must be...

- submitted before **9 January 2024 17.00 CET**,
- submitted electronically via [the Funding & Tenders Portal](#).
No paper submissions!
- complete. There will be no follow-up on missing elements,
- readable, accessible and printable,
- limited to maximum 120 pages (Part B).



Eligibility of actions - Preparatory studies in the meaning of Article 7(3) of CEF Regulation

- aim to **develop and identify cross-border projects** in the field of renewable energy;
- should demonstrate in its scope the **link to planning or deployment of renewable energy**. Without a renewable energy component, a proposal would not meet the main requirement for a preparatory study;
- support both EU Member States and private project promoters to **advance cooperation ideas**, create momentum amongst involved stakeholders;
- **support** the project to **prepare applying for the CB RES status**.



Eligible scope

- **Technical, economic or legal support** in setting up or advancing cross-border cooperation with the objective to **select the best project concept**.
 - possible to cover some **wider system-related aspects**, e.g. the integration of additional storage investments, or of transport and/or digital related investments for synergetic elements.
- Exploring (mainly through desktop studies) the **possible sites** in order to **determine the hosting and participating countries**, as well as other exploratory tasks to assess the **overall cost and benefits** of the project.
- **Identifying and formalising the underpinning cooperation mechanism**, including **communication and stakeholder involvement** activities.
- Investigating **the best form of support**, such as the auctioning and tendering set-up as well as all aspects for which national grid, market and other **rules** differ in the participating countries and would need to be agreed upon



Duration and budget of the proposed project

- **Project duration: up to 24 months** (extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment)
- **Project budget** (maximum grant amount): projects of any budget are admitted. However, it is recommended for the budget to be in the range of 100.000 – 350.000 €



Eligibility of participants

To be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be **legal entities** (public or private bodies)
- be **established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:**





Operational capacity

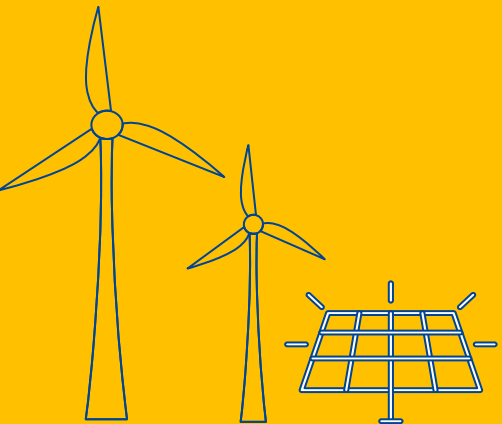
- Know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the projects
- Demonstrated in:
 - Implementation plan (Application Form B – Section 3.1.)
 - Applicants' activity reports of last year
- Exemption: Public bodies, Member State organisations, TSOs and international organisations



Financial capacity

- Stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the project.
- Checked (if selected) on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the Participant Register during grant preparation
- Exemptions:
 - Public bodies, Member State organisations, TSOs and international organisations
 - If the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

Award criteria

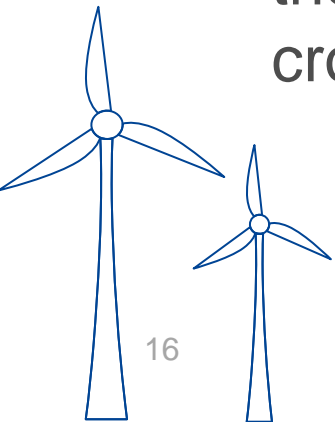


Award criteria

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Priority and urgency	3	5
Maturity	3	5
Quality	3	5
Impact	3	5
Catalytic Effect	3	5
Total	15	25

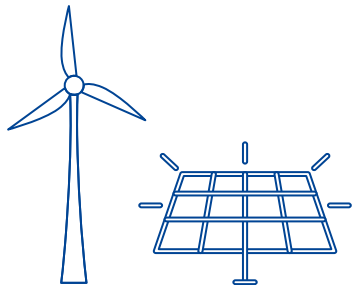
Priority and urgency of the Action

- Demonstrate contribution to **sectoral policy objectives** and explain alignment with the **EU 2030 climate and energy targets, in particular RES**
- Explain advantage of **EU level action** compared to national level action
- **Synergetic elements**, if applicable, need to **significantly improve** the socioeconomic, climate or environmental benefits of envisaged cross-border RES project



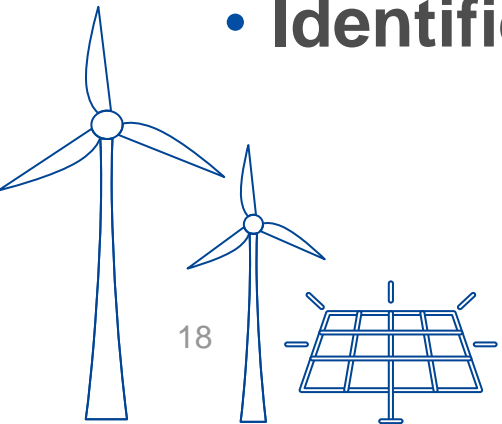
Maturity

- **Steps** completed or envisaged + confirmation that the project can be carried out without delay
- Sufficient **maturity** to be financed under this call
- **Information on cooperation mechanism** (e.g. bilateral meetings, draft Letters of intent or similar, etc.)
- **Pending legal, administrative or technical issues**, such as procurement, permits



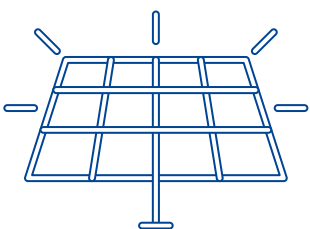
Quality

- **Resources** needed (financial and human) to implement the project
 - *Project management costs should not exceed 10% of total project costs*
- **Organisational structure** and cooperation between applicants
- **Project management**, quality assurance and control procedures
- **Identified risks and mitigation measures**



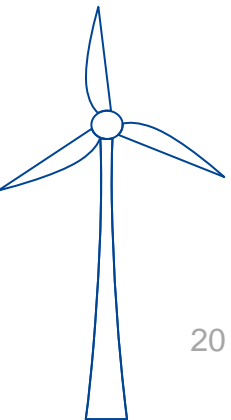
Impact

- **Impact of proposed project** on the cooperation **for the envisaged CB RES project** (e.g. preparation of cooperation agreement, cross-border dimension, network integration)
- **Contribution towards the development and identification** of the envisaged **CB RES project** (technical, legal and economic support, preparation of CBA for application for status of CB RES project)
- Provide aggregated information on the **costs and benefits** of the global CB RES project



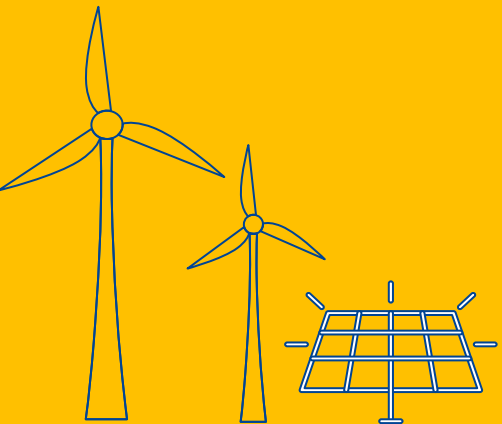
Catalytic effect

- Explain how the EU **grant will facilitate or accelerate** the envisaged cross-border RES project
- **Gap in the financing of the project**
- Indicate whether you expect any EU support under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)



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Evaluation results





Results of the evaluation

- All proposals will be informed about the **evaluation result**. Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation.
- Invitation to grant preparation is **NOT a formal commitment** for funding - various legal checks before grant award: legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.
- If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a complaint.



Grant preparation

- Successful applicants will be invited by CINEA to prepare the **Grant Agreement**
- Grant preparation involves a **dialogue** in fine-tuning of technical and financial aspects
- Provisions are defined in the Model Grant Agreement and non-negotiable
- The Model Grant Agreement that will be can be found on Portal Reference Documents