



CEF 2 Energy – Projects of Common Interest 2023

Evaluation process, admissibility, eligibility and award criteria

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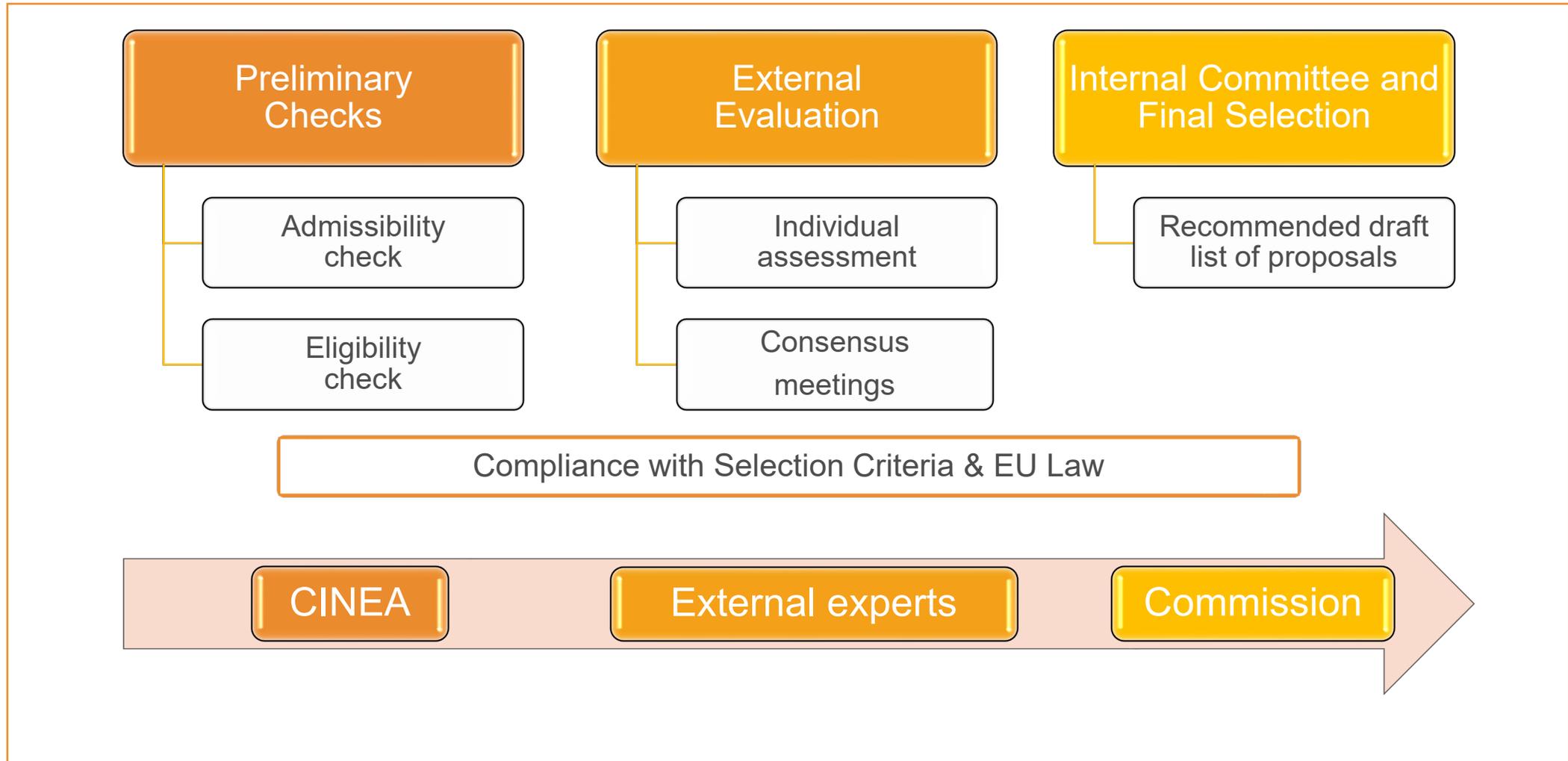
*CINEA.B4 - CEF Energy and Renewable Energy Financing
Mechanism*

Evaluation process

Tentative call timeline

Call publication	18 April 2023
Deadline	5 September 2023 17:00.00 (Brussels time)
Evaluation of proposals	September-December 2023
Consultation of CEF Coordination Committee Information of European Parliament	December 2023
Launch of Grant Preparation (Inform applicants)	January 2024
Time To Grant	June 2024

Principles for the evaluation and selection process



Final Selection Process

Preparation of Selection Decision

EC Inter-Service Consultation

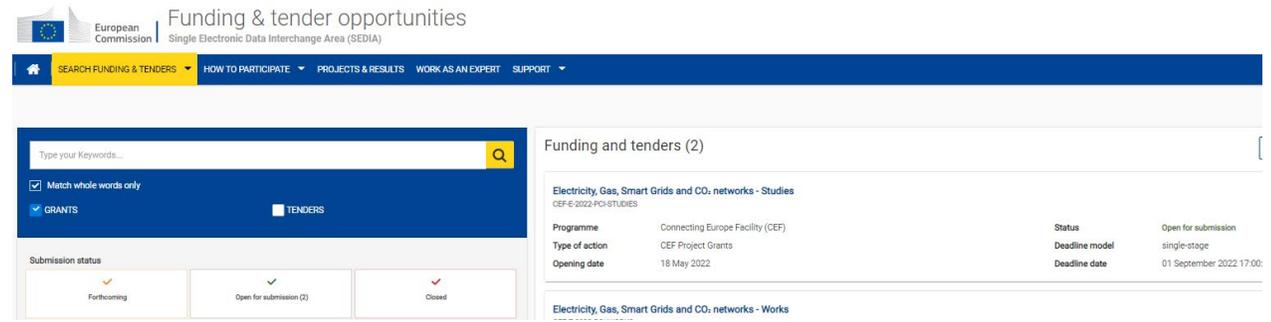
Consultation of CEF Coordination Committee
Information of the European Parliament

Adoption of Commission Selection Decision

Information to Applicants
Launch of Grant Agreement Preparation

Admissibility and Eligibility

Admissibility



- Proposals must be submitted before the call deadline 5 September 2023 17.00 CET
- Proposals must be submitted electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search;callCode=CEF-E-2022-PCI>). Paper submissions are NOT possible.
- Proposals must be complete and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents. There will be no follow-up for missing elements.
- Your application must be readable, accessible and printable and submitted in the provided template.
- Proposals are limited to maximum 120 pages (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

FAQs on annexes

Agreement by the concerned Member States (Letter of support)

- the duly signed forms should be provided for all the concerned applicants in the proposal

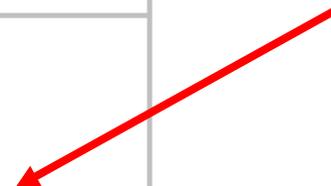
Applicant(s) established in...	Proposed Action implemented in...	Support required from...
Germany, Austria	Austria	Austria
Sweden, Finland	Sweden, Finland	Sweden, Finland
Poland	Poland, Lithuania	Poland, Lithuania
Belgium	The Netherlands	The Netherlands
UK	Belgium	Belgium
Norway	Norway	EU Member State

FAQs on annexes

Environmental compliance file

- To be completed in full for works and studies with physical intervention
 - ✓ Filled in for each applicant and for each Member State where the project is implemented
 - ✓ The competent authority in the Member State in question needs to sign the declaration for monitoring of NATURA 2000 sites to certify that there is no impact on NATURA 2000 areas
- For studies without physical intervention: only click the relevant option and upload the document

Project name and acronym:	[project title] — [acronym]
Location:	[country], [region]
Project type:	Works <input type="checkbox"/>
	Study with physical intervention <input type="checkbox"/>
	Study without physical intervention <input type="checkbox"/>



FAQs on annexes

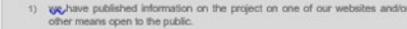
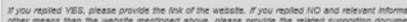
TEN-E compliance form (Compliance with EU Law on Energy Infrastructure)

- To be filled out by the applicants and annexed to the application
- In case of multiple applicants/beneficiaries, preferably include one where the data of the status in each country is included for the given PCI or PCIs.
- Submitted by the promoter, Member State does not sign the TEN-E-compliance form

EU Grants: TEN-E Compliance Form (CEF-E): V1.0 – 01.09.2021

TEN-E COMPLIANCE FORM

(To be filled out by the applicants and annexed to the application. It does not have to be submitted for projects of common interest which are in the permit granting process and for which the project promoter has submitted an application file before 10 November 2013)

TEN-E COMPLIANCE FORM	
Name of the project:	project title) – (acronym)
Location:	country), region)
Coordinator contact:	name), (organisation name)
COMPLIANCE DECLARATION – PERMIT GRANTING PROCESS	
We hereby confirm that:	
1) We have submitted the project notification and its detailed outline to the competent authority within the meaning of Article 9(1) of the TEN-E Regulation (if YES, please provide a copy of the acknowledgement or rejection of the notification and detailed outline of the project from the competent authority.)	Yes / No
2) We have prepared and submitted the concept of public participation in the framework of the permit granting process to the competent authority (if YES, please provide a copy of the approval or request for modifications from the competent authority.)	Yes / No
3) 	Yes / No
4) We have submitted the application file for the permit granting process together with the report summarising the results of the public consultation to the competent authority (if YES, please provide a copy of the acceptance for examination of the application file or request for additional information from the competent authority.)	Yes / No
Additional comments <i>If you replied NO for any of the above, please provide a short explanation.</i>	
Insert text	
COMPLIANCE DECLARATION – TRANSPARENCY	
We hereby confirm that:	
1)  have published information on the project on one of our websites and/or other means open to the public.	Yes / No
Additional comments <i>If you replied YES, please provide the link of the website. If you replied NO and relevant information  by other means than the website mentioned above, please provide the related supporting documents together with your application. If information  please provide a short explanation.</i>	

FAQs on annexes

Latest PCI annual report in accordance with Article 5(4) of the TEN-E Regulation (Report to ACER)

- If available

Annual activity reports

List of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years)

- Requested in order to verify operational capacity for each applicant/beneficiary
- EXCEPT: Public bodies, Member State organisations, transmission system operators certified under Directives 2009/72 or 2009/73 and international organisations
- Should be the regular activity report prepared for the board, shareholders, public etc., not anything specific prepared for this proposal.

Eligibility

- Proposed project contributes to PCIs as identified in the Commission Delegated Regulation 2022/564 of 19 November 2021 (5th PCI list)
 - **Studies** in the meaning of CEF-Energy include activities needed to prepare PCI implementation, such as preparatory, mapping, feasibility, evaluation, testing and validation studies, including in the form of software, and any other technical support measure, including prior action to define and develop a PCI and decide on its financing, such as reconnaissance of the sites concerned and preparation of the financial package.
 - **Works** in the meaning of CEF-Energy include the purchase, supply and deployment of components, systems and services including software, the development, construction and installation activities relating to a PCI, the acceptance of installations and launching a project

Eligibility - participants

- Eligible applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:
 - be legal entities (public or private bodies)
 - be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs*))
 - non-EU countries:
 - listed EEA countries and countries associated to the CEF Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature (list of participating countries)
- Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the Participant Register — before submitting the proposal.
- Participants in selected or reserve-list proposals will be validated by the Central Validation Service. For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Operational Capacity

- Applicants must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).
- Applicants will have to show their capacity through:
 - description of the participants
 - applicants' activity reports of last year
 - list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years)
- Public bodies, Member State organisations, transmission system operators and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

Financial Capacity Check

- Applicants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.
- A financial capacity check will be carried out for beneficiaries in selected or reserve-list proposals on the basis of the documents they will be requested to upload in the Participant Register during grant preparation
- The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:
 - public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations or TSOs
 - 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
Overall (pass) scores	15	25

Priority and urgency

Evaluating correspondence of the proposal with the sectoral policy targets, objectives and priorities, notably its contribution to and alignment with achieving the EU 2030 climate and energy targets in view of reaching the climate neutrality objective by 2050 as set out in the European Green Deal, market integration, and where applicable assessing the possible synergies with other sectors

- Demonstrate how the proposed Action will contribute to **sectoral policy objectives** and, in particular, explain how it is aligned with the **EU 2030 climate and energy targets** in view of reaching climate neutrality by 2050.
- Indicate how the proposed Action contributes to **market integration**, including through **ending energy isolation** or implementation of internal market
- Indicate if the project contributes to eliminating **electricity interconnection bottlenecks**, as well as to the achievement of the interconnection targets and to **synchronisation** of electricity systems with the EU networks.
- Synergetic elements with the **transport and the digital sector** need to **significantly improve** the socioeconomic, climate or environmental benefits of the proposed Action
- It is considered that the EU added value of an action related to a PCI is demonstrated by the PCI status itself.

Maturity

Assessing the maturity of the project in the PCI development. The criterion will measure, among others, the readiness/ability of the project to start by the proposed start date and to be completed by the proposed end date, the status of the contracting procedures and of the necessary permits

- **Preparatory steps** already completed or envisaged and confirmation that the project can be carried out without delay
- Confirmation that the proposed **project is mature** enough to be financed under this call
- Justification that the project is the **next step** in PCI implementation
- **PCI Annual report**
- **Procurement** procedures needed, contracts awarded and planned
- Summary of the **public consultation** (only for Works)
- Authorisations, approvals and **permits** (only for Works)
- **Financial viability** and commitments, including FIRR and FNPV (works), explaining efforts to secure other sources of funding

Quality

Evaluating the soundness of the implementation plan proposed, both from the technical and financial point of view, the architecture and design approach, the organisational structures put in place (or foreseen) for the implementation, the risk analysis, the control procedures and quality management

- **Resources** needed (financial and human) to implement the project, evidence that the project is correctly sized
 - *Project management costs should not exceed 10% of total project costs*
- **Organisational structure** and cooperation between applicants
- **Project management**, quality assurance and control procedures
- **Risk management** methods and procedures
- **Risk assessment**

Impact (1/3)

Assessing relevant externalities such as security of supply, innovation, and solidarity among Member States as well as the climate impact and, where applicable, the environmental impact involving works. In addition, assessing the need to overcome financial obstacles such as those generated by insufficient commercial viability, high upfront costs or the lack of market finance. Moreover, regarding works, the criterion will assess its cross-border dimension.

- Positive **externalities** building on the CBA, namely in terms of security of supply, innovation, and solidarity among Member States (only for Works)
 - For **SoS**, quantify the positive impact of the Action at the regional level, also beyond involved Member States (e.g. constructing countries)
 - For **solidarity**, quantify the impact (for both constructing and non-constructing countries) of the proposed Action, e.g. changes to tariffs and commodity price
 - For **innovation**, information on the benefits of the technology compared to a conventional solution, e.g. cost savings, replicability of results
 - Specify the extent of significant externalities in view of the requested co-funding rate; in case of requested co-funding rate higher than 50%, detailed justification of the **exceptional circumstances**

Impact (2/3)

Assessing relevant externalities such as security of supply, innovation, and solidarity among Member States as well as the climate impact and, where applicable, the environmental impact involving works. In addition, assessing the need to overcome financial obstacles such as those generated by insufficient commercial viability, high upfront costs or the lack of market finance. Moreover, regarding works, the criterion will assess its cross-border dimension.

- **Environmental and climate impact:** expected positive/negative impacts of the project and underlying PCI on climate change targets, emission of air pollutants, reduction of GHG emissions, measures foreseen to prevent and mitigate environmental impact; consistency with climate proofing of infrastructure mitigation pillar (only for Works)
- **Climate resilience / climate proofing** (only for Works)
- **Revenues and revenues potential** (only for Works)
- **Financial obstacles** for the project implementation and how public funding would help to overcome them

Impact (3/3)

Assessing relevant externalities such as security of supply, innovation, and solidarity among Member States as well as the climate impact and, where applicable, the environmental impact involving works. In addition, assessing the need to overcome financial obstacles such as those generated by insufficient commercial viability, high upfront costs or the lack of market finance. Moreover, regarding works, the criterion will assess its cross-border dimension.

- **Cross-border dimension**, including area of impact, Member States concerned, cooperation between Member States and promoters, financial contribution by MS and promoters as per CBCA (only for Works)
- If relevant, cooperation may also refer to **other countries** beyond those where the Action takes place

Catalytic effect

Evaluating the financial gap, the capacity to mobilise differentiated investments sources, the capacity to trigger important overall investments with limited EU support and when appropriate the extent to which externalities justify the CEF financial assistance. This criterion shall assess the catalytic effect of the EU financial assistance and determine whenever possible the actual co-funding rate to be granted.

- The application should convincingly demonstrate the **need for EU funds**
- Demonstrate why the **CEF grant makes a positive difference to the Action** in terms of facilitating or accelerating its implementation
- Explain the difficulties in obtaining market finance and how the grant can help to overcome this shortage
- Will the CEF grant help to mobilise additional public and private sources of financing?
- If all costs are included in the tariffs and there are no substantial risks with the project promoters, there might not be a stimulating effect of the grant

Evaluation results

Results of the evaluation

- All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**) via the Participant portal. Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation with the EU Project Officer; the other ones may be put on a reserve list or rejected.
- Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make 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 (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter).

Keep in touch - CINEA



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Thank you



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