



The CEF Energy Multiannual Work Programme and the 2023 PCI Call for proposals – Priorities

CEF Energy Call Virtual Info Day

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CEF Energy Multiannual Work Programme

[C 2022 7393 1 EN ACT part1 v2.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#), [C 2022 7393 1 EN annexe acte autonome part1 v4.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

- Includes the following actions:
 - Calls for proposals for works and studies for
 - projects of common interest (PCIs) under trans-European networks (TEN-E) policy
 - cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy;
 - Technical and administrative assistance.
- Provides information on:
 - The forms of financial assistance (notably grants, plus the applicable co-funding rates);
 - The indicative timetable and commitment appropriations (essentially for 2021-2023);
- Defines the award criteria for the evaluation of proposals.

Legal basis

- **Financial Regulation 2018/1046:** [EUR-Lex - 32018R1046 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)
- **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Regulation 2021/1153:** [EUR-Lex - 32021R1153 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)
- **TEN-E Regulation 347/2013:** [EUR-Lex - 32013R0347 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)
 - *Cf. Article 32(2) of the revised TEN-E Regulation 2022/869 ([EUR-Lex - 32022R0869 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)): parts of the 2013 TEN-E Regulation continue to apply to PCIs on the fifth list until the entry into force of a new list.*
- **Fifth PCI list (Delegated Regulation 2022/564 of November 2021):** [EUR-Lex - 32022R0564 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

Budget

- For the period of 2021-2023, **EUR 2.76 billion authorised** (out of the total amount of EUR 5.84 billion – in current prices – for the period 2021-2027).
- The lion's share is reserved for PCIs under the TEN-E policy.
- New window for cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy:
 - 15% of the total CEF budget, subject to market uptake, to be allocated to these projects (if the 15% threshold is reached, the European Commission shall increase this amount up to 20%, again subject to market uptake);
 - In the absence of sufficient market uptake, reallocation of the unused budget to finance PCIs and, potentially and as of 2024, to co-fund the Union renewable energy financing mechanism (Implementing Regulation 2020/1294).

Objectives

- **PCI implementation:** *“enable projects of common interest to be prepared and implemented within the framework of the trans-European networks (TEN) policy in the energy sector, as well as cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy”;*
- **2030 climate and energy targets:** *“financing actions contributing to achieving the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement as well as the 2030 climate and energy targets and long term decarbonisation objective”;*
- Contribution to **sector integration**, inter alia through synergy measures;
- **Decarbonisation:** *“The European Green Deal has further emphasized the key enabling role of energy infrastructure ..., financial assistance provided under this [MAWP] should therefore maximise its added value towards decarbonisation.”*
- **Climate spending:** *“CEF 2021-2027 will target a contribution of **60%** of its overall financial envelope to co-financing Actions supporting climate objectives.”*

Expected results

- *“further the development and the implementation of projects of common interest as well as cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy, helping to achieve the broader CEF energy policy objectives of:*
 - *further **integration** of an efficient and competitive **internal energy market**;*
 - ***interoperability of networks** across borders and sectors,*
 - *facilitating **decarbonisation** of the economy, promoting **energy efficiency** and ensuring **security of supply**; and*
 - ***cross-border cooperation** in the area of energy, including renewable energy.”*

Eligible actions

- Article 9(3) of the CEF Regulation: *“In the energy sector, only the following actions shall be eligible to receive Union financial support under this Regulation:”*
 - A. Actions relating to projects of common interest (PCIs), *“in particular ... PCIs that have **significant socio-economic benefits** and ensure **greater solidarity** among Member States, but which **do not receive adequate funding** from the market”;*
 - B. Actions relating to cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy;
 - C. Technical and administrative assistance: up to 1% (Article 4(4) CEF Regulation).

Priorities in 2023

- “further integrating the internal market for energy, **ending energy isolation and eliminating electricity interconnection bottlenecks** with emphasis on those PCIs contributing to the achievement of the interconnection target of at least 10% by 2020 and 15% by 2030 and PCIs contributing to **synchronisation** of electricity systems with the EU networks”;
- Technologies and PCIs contributing to the **decarbonisation** of the economy;
- **RepowerEU Plan**: increasing the resilience of the EU wide energy system by speeding up the implementation of infrastructure projects, in order to phase out dependency on fossil fuels from Russia by 2027.

Co-financing rate for grants

- **General rule:** up to 50 % of the total eligible costs for studies and works;
- Up to 70 % of the total eligible costs for works in outermost regions;
- **Exceptionally:** up to 75 % of the total eligible costs for actions contributing to development of PCIs in electricity and gas sectors and which:
 - “provide a high degree of regional or Union-wide **security of supply**”;
 - “strengthen the **solidarity** of the Union”; or
 - “comprise **highly innovative solutions**”.

Climate proofing

- Applications for grants for works subject to an **environmental impact assessment (EIA)** shall include information on the **climate proofing** of such project, taking into account the Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021 2027: [EUR-Lex - 52021XC0916\(03\) - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#).
- Such information may be provided in the form of a summary of the main findings and conclusions, notably as regards climate adaptation measures to mitigate potential impacts of climate change on the project.
- In cases, where the environmental impact assessment has not been completed yet, the application shall confirm that climate proofing will be considered as part of the environmental impact assessment.
- Applications relating to a project for which an **EIA** was **completed before 31 December 2021** are **not subject to this requirement**.

Upcoming revision of the MAWP

- The current MAWP essentially covers the period 2021-2023.
- Changes in the legal framework that are relevant for 2014 onwards:
 - Entry into force of the **first list** of projects of common interest (**PCIs**) and project of mutual interest (**PMIs**) under the revised TEN-E Regulation 2022/869;
 - Thereby, CEF eligibility of **new infrastructure categories** (e.g. hydrogen, smart gas grids), whereas **natural gas projects** are not eligible anymore (*save for the derogation for Cyprus and Malta in Article 24 of the revised TEN-E Regulation*);
 - Article 19 of the revised TEN-E Regulation: revisiting the **CEF award criteria**;
- Feedback from the implementation of CEF in the period 2021-2023;
- Adoption of the MAWP later this year or early next year.

Thank you

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