

Climate proofing requirements for the CEF Transport calls

1. Background

Climate proofing is a process that integrates climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into the development of infrastructure projects.

The **CEF Regulation** in recital 5 states that “In order to prevent infrastructure from being vulnerable to potential long term climate change effects, and to ensure that the cost of greenhouse gas emissions arising from the project is included in the project’s economic evaluation, projects supported by the CEF should be subject to climate proofing, where relevant, in accordance with guidance that should be developed by the Commission coherently with the guidance developed for other programmes of the Union”.

Under Article 14, the CEF Regulation refers to the “climate impact (project life cycle benefits and costs)”, “consistency with Union and national energy and climate plans, including the “energy efficiency first” principle”. It also specifies that “the assessment of proposals against the award criteria shall take into account, where relevant, the resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change through a climate vulnerability and risk assessment, including the relevant adaptation measures.”

The Commission notice on “[Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021-2027](#)”¹ was published in the EU Official Journal on 16.09.2021. A [corrigendum to this notice](#) was published on 29.06.2022. Moreover, the guidance is a relevant reference for climate proofing under Article 5(5) of the European Climate Law on adaptation to climate change.²

The Work Programme on the CEF Transport sector for 2021-2027 indicates that “*applications relating to a project for which an environmental impact assessment (EIA) must be carried out in compliance with Directive 2011/92/EU shall include information on the climate proofing of such project, taking into account the [Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure](#). Such information may be provided in the form of a summary of the main findings and conclusions, notably as regards mitigation and adaptation measures. The call text shall further specify the requirements. The requirement to take into account the Guidance on the Climate Proofing of Infrastructure does not apply to applications relating to a project for which key steps³ of the environmental impact assessment are completed before closure of the 2022 calls for proposals (18/01/2023). It is however recommended to use such Guidance where possible.*”

2. Climate proofing of infrastructure in the evaluation of proposals

In accordance with Article 14 of the CEF Regulation, the information on climate proofing of infrastructure should be subject to the assessment against the award criteria. The assessment on climate proofing is taken into account in the *Impact* criterion.

3. Implementation of the climate proofing requirement to the CEF calls (applications for projects concerning works)

In accordance with the Work Programme:

- 1) For applications concerning projects not subject to an EIA: there is no requirement to provide information on the climate proofing process of the infrastructure;

¹ Commission Notice C(2021) 5430 final of 29/07/2021.

² Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council, OJ C246 of 29.6.2022.

³ Completion of the following steps of the EIA procedure: an environmental impact assessment report prepared by the project promoter and consultations carried out under the EIA Directive.

2) For applications concerning projects subject to an EIA:

- a. If the key steps for the EIA have been completed before 18 January 2023 for Transport projects, it is not required to provide information on climate proofing.
- b. If the key steps for the EIA have been completed after 18 January 2023 for Transport projects, the applications are under the obligation to submit the information on climate proofing taking into account the Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure.

Applicants must summarise the main findings and conclusions, including adaptations to the project, regarding the climate proofing process, notably as regards climate neutrality (mitigation) and climate resilience (adaptation measures), under point “4.3 Social, environmental and other impacts” of Part B of the application form in the two sections ”Environmental and climate impact” and “Climate resilience”. See boxes below.

Under the section “Environmental and climate impact, applicants will also be requested to describe the consistency with the mitigation pillar of the “Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021-2027”. This also includes how the cost of greenhouse gas emissions have been integrated in the economic evaluation, consistency with the energy efficiency first principle, and consistency with the emission targets for 2050’.

4.3 Social, environmental and other impacts

<p>Environmental and climate impact</p> <p><i>Describe the expected positive and/or negative impacts of the project on the climate change targets (such as the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Climate and energy framework).</i></p> <p><i>Describe the expected positive and/or negative impacts of the project on the emission of air pollutants such as Particulate Matter - PM2.5, Nitrogen oxides - NOX, Sulphur Dioxides – SO2, etc. If quantified in the CBA, mention the total monetary value of such impacts (€ NPV) and the main assumptions in terms of quantities (change in tonnes or vehicle*km) and unit values (e.g. €/tonnes or €/vkm).</i></p> <p><i>Specify if the project helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and limit global warming. Explain how it impacts upstream and downstream emissions (e.g. emissions from purchased electricity as well as full life cycle). For works proposals submitting a CBA, also include the total monetary value of such impacts (€ NPV) and the main assumptions in terms of quantities (avoided tonnes of GHG) and unit values (e.g. €/tCO2equivalent).</i></p> <p><i>Describe how climate change has been taken or will be taken into consideration when designing the project and its components.</i></p> <p><i>Describe how the project is consistent with the climate proofing of infrastructure mitigation pillar (including how the cost of greenhouse gas emissions have been integrated in the economic evaluation, how it is consistent with the energy efficiency first principle and how it is consistent with the emission targets for 2050; for details, see Commission Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure).</i></p> <p><i>Describe in detail the measures that are foreseen to monitor, prevent and mitigate a negative impact on the environment, and provide an estimation of the associated costs.</i></p>
<p>Insert text</p>

<p>Climate resilience (for Works topics)</p> <p><i>Describe the climate proofing exercise and how it was taken into consideration when designing the project and its components in line with the Commission Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure. Summarise the findings of the vulnerability assessment to identify the climate hazards to which the project is more sensitive (because of the its type or location).</i></p> <p><i>If significant risks are identified, explain how the vulnerabilities were embedded in the decision-making process so that they can be addressed and mitigated and what relevant measures were taken to ensure the resilience of the project to climate change.</i></p>
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Insert text

Parts of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) relating to climate mitigation and adaptation can be used for the purpose of the climate proofing analysis.

Optional: In addition to the above, applicants may include a summary of the climate proofing process under “*Other Annexes*” available in the submission system.