LIFE-2026-CET-RENEWHC:

Strengthening national frameworks for renewable and efficient heating and cooling in existing buildings

#EULIFE26
INFO DAYS

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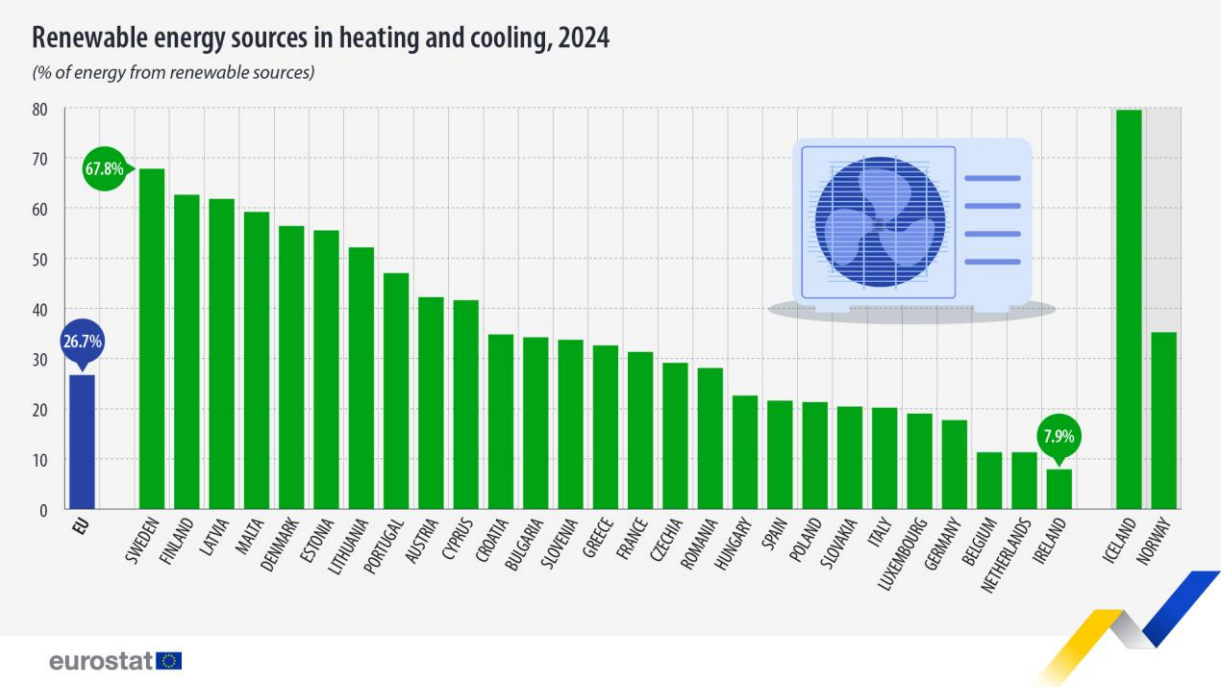
LIFE-2026-CET-RENEWHC

- **Topic budget**: EUR 6.5 million
- **Expected EU contribution per project**: up to EUR 2 million (other amounts possible)
- **Funding rate**: 95% of eligible costs
- At least 3 applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from 3 different eligible countries
- **Deadline**: 16 September 2026, 17:00 Brussels time
- For proposals focused on local heating and cooling planning, please consider applying under the topic LIFE-2026-CET-HEATCOOLPLAN.

Disclaimer: Not legally binding

Background

- Heating and cooling account for **half** of final energy use in the EU
- Around 70% from imported **fossil fuels**, mainly fossil gas
- Annual rate of deployment way below RED targets
- Heat pump (HPs), solar thermal sales slowed down in 2023-24 but rebound in 2025 must be sustained
- This topic supports:
  - the upcoming Heating and Cooling Strategy and Electrification Action Plan
  - efforts to address specific barriers that remain beyond the direct reach of EU legislation.
  - efforts to strengthen the resilience of EU energy system vis-a-vis geopolitical crises impacting the global energy market.



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Topic rationale

- Heat pumps and solar thermal mature technologies essential for meeting the EU's energy and climate targets

- Key barriers include
  - high upfront costs in existing buildings
  - split incentives
  - for heat pumps: high electricity prices relative to natural gas (often due to levies and taxes)
- New financing schemes and business models can shift costs, risks and administrative burden from consumers to providers
  - Often constrained by national/local regulatory and market barriers (e.g., permitting, building/rental rules, third-party ownership/service agreements, lack of demand-response valorisation)

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LIFE CET on-going support

- Support **group purchases of heat pumps** led by consumer associations (BE, BG, IT, PT, SK, SI, ES; LIFE22-CET-CLEAR-HP) and by public authorities or energy communities (prefabricated modules ; IT, DE, FR; – LIFE22-CET-LIFE Street HP Reno)
- Demonstrate and replicate **alternative business and delivery models** (AT, MK, NL, PL, SI; LIFE23-CET-install.res)
- Address economic, technical and legal challenges for contracting services in **multi-apartment buildings and office buildings** (AT, DE, LV, PT; LIFE24-CET-HQHeatpumpServices)
- Upscale subscription model in **leased commercial and public buildings** (AT, EL, and FR - LIFE24-CET-HP-SUBSCRIBE)

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Topic objectives

- Finance the work of newly established or adapted **national platforms**/fora of key relevant stakeholders (max. 3-5 countries per proposal) to

a) Assess and model options to strengthen the regulatory and market conditions for the large-scale roll-out of **alternative business models** for

  - ***on-site heat pump and solar thermal*** *installations in* ***existing buildings****, including in combination with photovoltaic (PV) or photovoltaic thermal (PVT) systems*

b) Reinforce the **capacity and knowledge of public authorities and other relevant stakeholders** along the value chain, including consumers.

Focus of the activities: national level

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What is expected from applicants

Proposals shall describe how they intend to:

- **Assess** in detail for each target country the **barriers and enabling conditions** for the uptake of alternative business models and financing schemes
- **Scope, assess and model** for each target country the impact of specific regulatory and non-regulatory options;
- **Assess options** to
  - attract a broader range of economic actors to deploy heat pumps, solar thermal and PVT and offer new business models;
  - adapt public incentives to alternative business models;
  - update existing and creating new tools to enhance cost transparency and competition;
  - create marketplaces and alliances that increase market transparency and facilitate decision making by consumers and support installers in view of improving consumer offers.

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Further requirements/1:

- The addressed business models and financing schemes should focus on the supply of at least space heating; however, this does not preclude considering additional services such as water heating and space cooling, including free cooling

- For heat pumps specifically, actions may also address the unfavourable electricity-to-gas price ratio

- Important note: Business models and financing schemes for new heating and cooling networks, including small-scale networks, are out of scope

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Further requirements/2:

- Proposals are **encouraged to start and monitor the first phase of implementation of selected measures** within the duration of the action

- Proposals should provide a **clear and detailed overview of the state of play in each target market**, the uptake level of the alternative financing schemes and the business models they intend to address and the barriers to be tackled
- The national collaborative platforms should include
  - market players, relevant competent national or regional public authorities (e.g. from different relevant ministries) regulators, energy suppliers and distribution system operators (important note: for the full list, refer to the call document)

- Proposals shall demonstrate at the proposal stage the interest and nature of commitment from the above-mentioned actors

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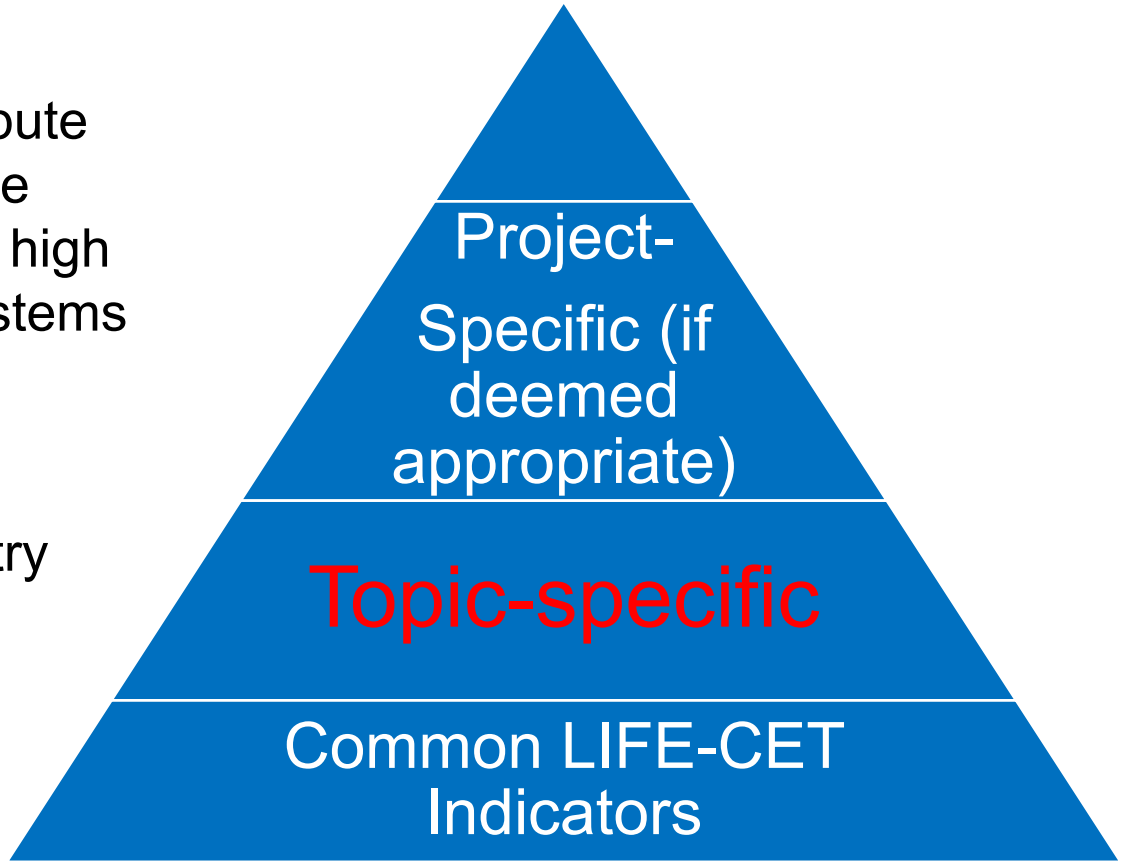
Impacts + Indicators

Proposals should demonstrate how they will contribute to strengthen the national frameworks for alternative business and financing models reducing or shifting high investment costs heat pumps and solar thermal systems in existing buildings, based on:

- A solid analysis of the state of play in each country
- Realistic assumptions and baselines
- Clear links between activities, results and impacts.



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Expected quantitative impacts – topic indicators

- **Proposals should quantify results and impacts:**
  - Using the indicators provided for the topic
  - For the end of the project and 5 years after the end

- **Topic specific quantitative indicators include:**
  - Number of relevant stakeholders participating in the national collaborative platforms
  - Number of public authorities using resources and information produced and provided by the activity
  - Number of public authorities and other relevant stakeholders endorsing the identified measures
  - Number of relevant stakeholders, along the value chains, including consumers, with improved skills/knowledge during the action

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Common LIFE CET indicators

- Proposals should also **quantify impacts using CET common indicators**:
  - Primary energy savings triggered by the project (GWh/year)
  - Final energy savings triggered by the project (GWh/year)
  - Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (GWh/year)
  - Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (t CO_2 eq/year)
  - Investments in sustainable energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy) triggered by the project (cumulative, million EUR)

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Impacts + Indicators

The LIFE Project Indicators LPI webtool

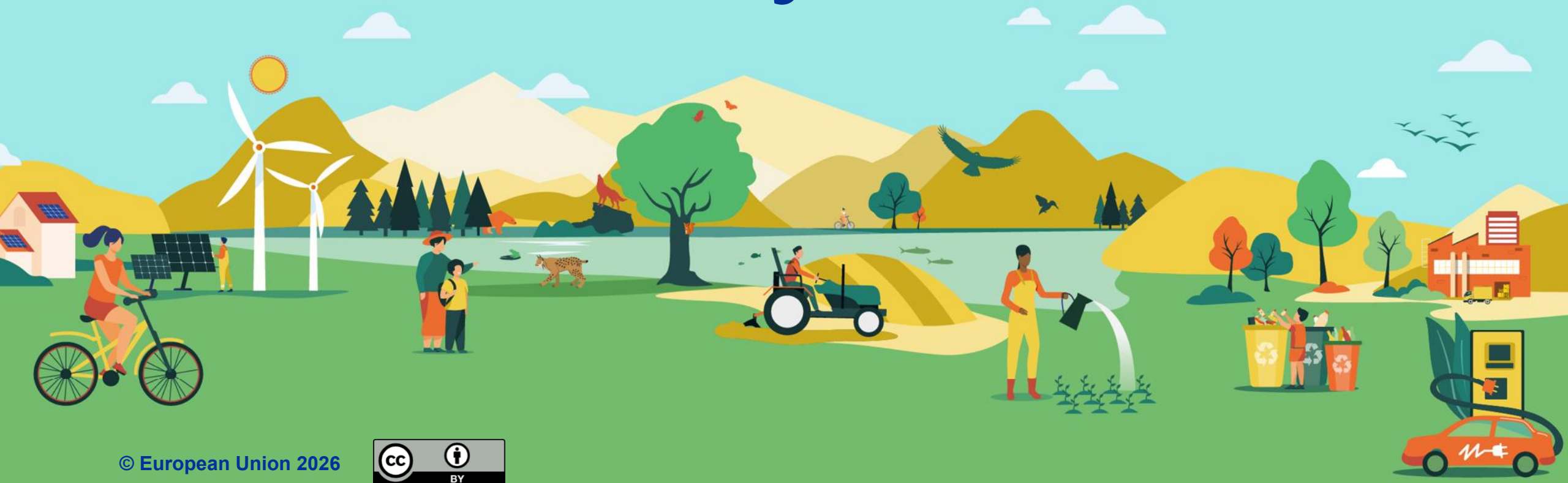
- 11 LIFE-CET indicators* – LPIs 1-5 mirrored as common LIFE-CET-indicators under each topic
- Application Form Part C
- Part C should not contradict Part B
- If selected: Projects to report impacts in a specific LIFE LPI webtool

* (1) Primary Energy Savings; (2) Final Energy Savings; (3) Renewable Energy Generation; (4) GHG Emissions; (5) Investments in sustainable Energy; (6) Legislation and Policy; (7) Market Introduction; (8) Implementation sites; (9) Skills; (10) Communication; (11) Employment

Further information

- Call details and FAQ in the Funding & Tenders Portal
- Further guidance: Presentation “How to submit an excellent proposal” from the LIFE CET Infoday
- Questions: CINEA-LIFE-CET@ec.europa.eu

Thank you



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