

Innovation Fund 2024 calls Info Day

Riga, 15 January 2025

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Roman Doubrava, Head of Unit Innovation Fund, CINEA

Agenda

- **Innovation Fund and portfolio**
- **IF24 Call Features**
- **IF24 Batteries call features**
 - IF24 call and IF24 Batteries call – general provisions
 - IF24 call and IF24 Batteries call – award criteria
- **IF24 H2 Auction features**
 - new Resilience requirements
 - IF24 H2 Auction award criteria
 - IF24 H2 Auction application process and requirements

The Innovation Fund



INNOVATION FUND

Deploying innovative net-zero technologies for climate neutrality

Funded by the EU Emissions Trading System



€40 billion* available
between 2020-2030

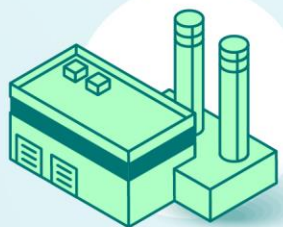


grants awarded through
regular calls and auctions



avoid GHG emissions,
boost competitiveness

supporting innovation in:



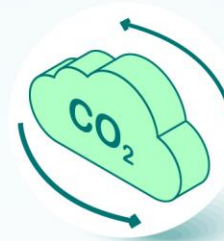
Energy-intensive
industries



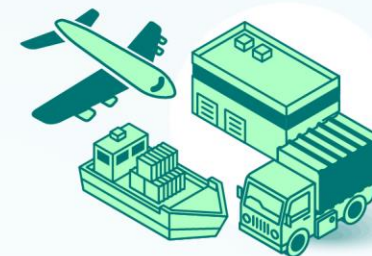
Renewable
energy



Energy
storage



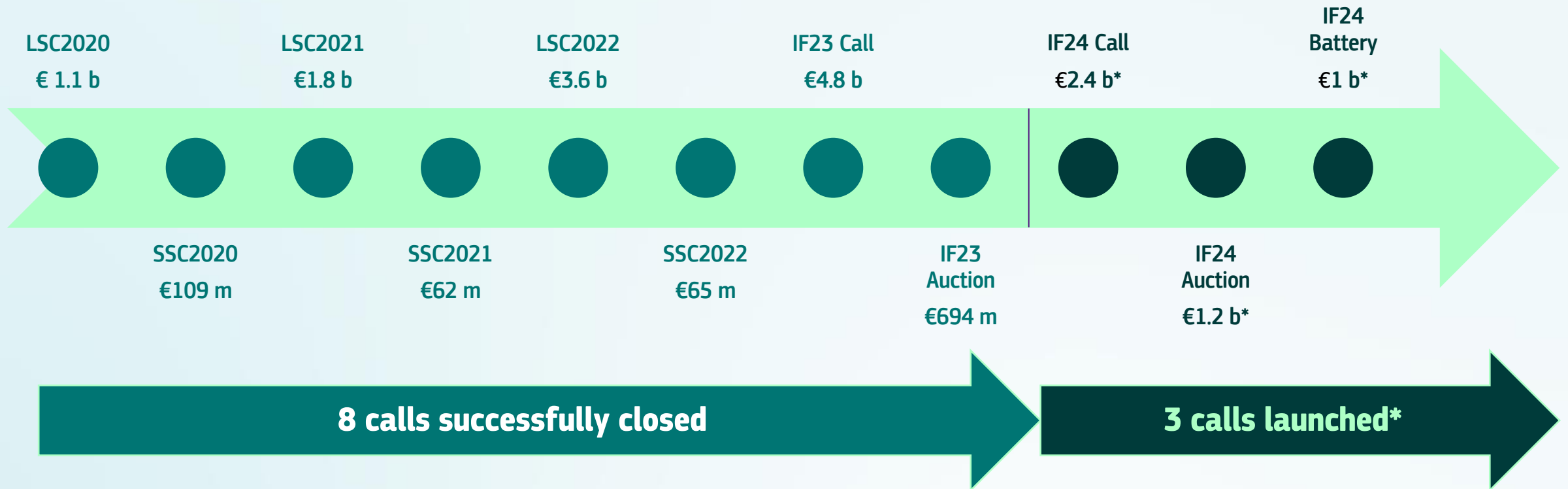
Carbon capture,
use and storage



Net-zero mobility
and buildings

**based on a carbon price of €75/tonne*

IF calls - Evolution



Innovation Fund portfolio



208 projects

*123 ongoing
85 under GAP**



€12.04 billion

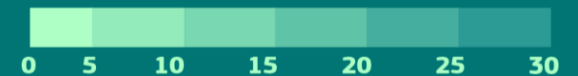
*granted +
under GAP**



~929 Mt CO₂eq
to be avoided**



Project location



**Grant Agreement Preparation*

***estimated based on 10 years of operations*

Statistics based on data from the end of Q3-2024 + IF23 selected projects

Latvia

Ongoing projects



1 Project¹
(ongoing)

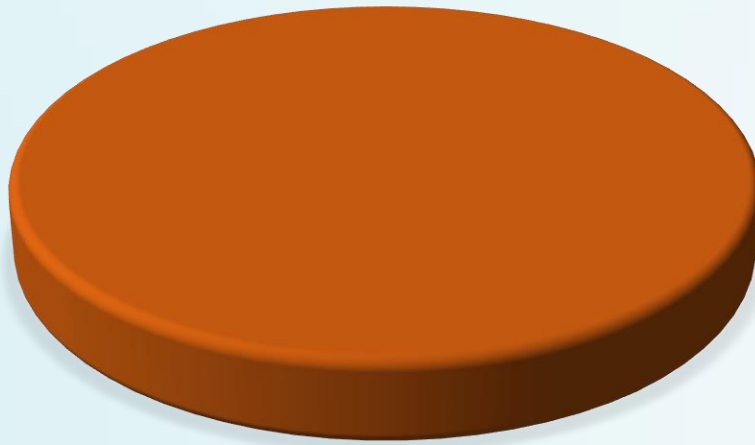


4.4 million €
EU contribution



161.3 ktCO₂ eq
first 10 years

Sectoral distribution



**Manufacturing for
RES; 1**

Latvia



¹Based on innovation fund data by the end of Q3-2024

2024 funding opportunities



IF24 Auction

RFNBO Hydrogen
3 Dec 2024 – 20 Feb 2025
Budget: €1.2 billion



IF24 Call

General, Clean-tech, Pilots
3 Dec 2024 – 24 April 2025
Budget: €2.4 billion



IF24 Batteries

Manufacturing of electric
vehicle battery cell
3 Dec 2024 – 24 April 2025
Budget: €1 billion

2024 IF calls - EU Info Days - full presentations and recordings are available

IF24 Auction

- Presentations and recording available on the [CINEA website](#)
- Apply on [F&T portal](#)

IF24 Call

- Presentations, recording and guidelines available on the [CINEA website](#)
- Apply on [F&T portal](#)
- Additional [guidelines](#)

IF24 Battery

- Presentations, recording and guidelines available on the [CINEA website](#)
- Apply on [F&T portal](#)

IF24 Call - features

IF24 Call in a nutshell



Launch 3 Dec. 2024

Deadline 24 April 2025

Results Q4 2025



€2.4 billion for grants

Project Development Assistance

STEP Seal

New

Possibility of “Grants-as-a-Service”



**Low-carbon innovations -
Five topics**

AWARD CRITERIA

- Degree of innovation
- GHG emission avoidance potential
- Project maturity
- Replicability
- Cost efficiency

Bonus points: Net Carbon Removals, Other GHG savings, electricity from additional RES, projects in the maritime sector

GRANT DISTRIBUTION

LUMP-SUM contribution grant up to 60% of relevant costs

- up to 40% of grant at financial close
- remaining amount of at least 60% after financial close
- generally, at least 10% after entry into operation



IF24 Call – 5 Topics

Topic	Capital Expenditure	Topic budget	Sectors covered
Large-scale projects	above € 100 million	€ 1 200 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex I and Annex III to the EU ETS Directive <u>2003/87</u>, including CCU • CCS • Renewable energy and energy storage technologies • Maritime and aviation
Medium-scale projects	between € 20 million and € 100 million	€ 200 million	
Small-scale projects	between € 2.5 million and € 20 million	€ 100 million	
Clean-tech manufacturing for components	above €2.5 million	€ 700 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Components for renewable energy installations • Electrolysers and fuel cells • Energy storage solutions • Heat pumps
Pilot projects	above €2.5 million	€ 200 million	Validating, testing and optimising highly innovative, deep decarbonisation solutions in all sectors eligible for Innovation Fund support

IF Self-check Questionnaire

- Provide an early high-level orientation on potential fit and readiness of project ideas for the Innovation Fund
- Entirely independent from the official Innovation Fund application and evaluation process

➤ Available [here](#)



IF24 Batteries Call - features

Political context

- The Commission will support manufacturing of the “most sustainable [EV] batteries in Member States” through “a **dedicated instrument** under the **Innovation Fund** [...]” with “up to **€3 billion** for the next three years”*
- **Difficult situation** of the battery manufacturing sector in Europe and **risk of dependency** on foreign imports
- Implementation of the **Battery Regulation**
- Stakeholders largely in favour of “regular” grants with more flexible payment schedule & possibility of combined support
- Strong interest in additional lending & venture debt possibilities
- Indication of solid project pipelines during consultation (79 battery manufacturing projects, 35 on cells manufacturing)

*EVP Šefčovič [announcement](#) relating the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement), Dec 2023



IF24 Batteries Call in a nutshell



Launch 3 Dec. 2024
Deadline 24 April 2025
Results Q4 2025 or earlier



€1 billion for grants
+
Project Development Assistance
(PDA)
+
STEP Seal



**Manufacturing of electric
vehicle battery cell**



AWARD CRITERIA

- Degree of innovation
- GHG emission avoidance
- **(NEW)** Manufacturing carbon footprint
- Project maturity
- Replicability
- **(NEW)** Security of supply and countering dependency
- Cost efficiency

GRANT DISTRIBUTION

LUMP-SUM contribution grant up to 60% of relevant costs

- up to 40% of grant at financial close
- remaining amount of at least 60% after financial close
- generally, at least 10% after entry into operation

IF24 Call and IF24 Batteries Call General provisions

Which call should you apply for?

IF24 Call: Lump sum call for Net-Zero Technologies

- Innovative commercialisation, demonstration, pilot plant or scale up of technologies, business models and processes that reduce GHG emissions
- Production of batteries for stationary storage
- Batteries applications (e.g., EV production)
- Assembly projects (e.g., battery packs or modules)
- (standalone) Batteries components manufacturing
- (standalone) Batteries Recycling activities

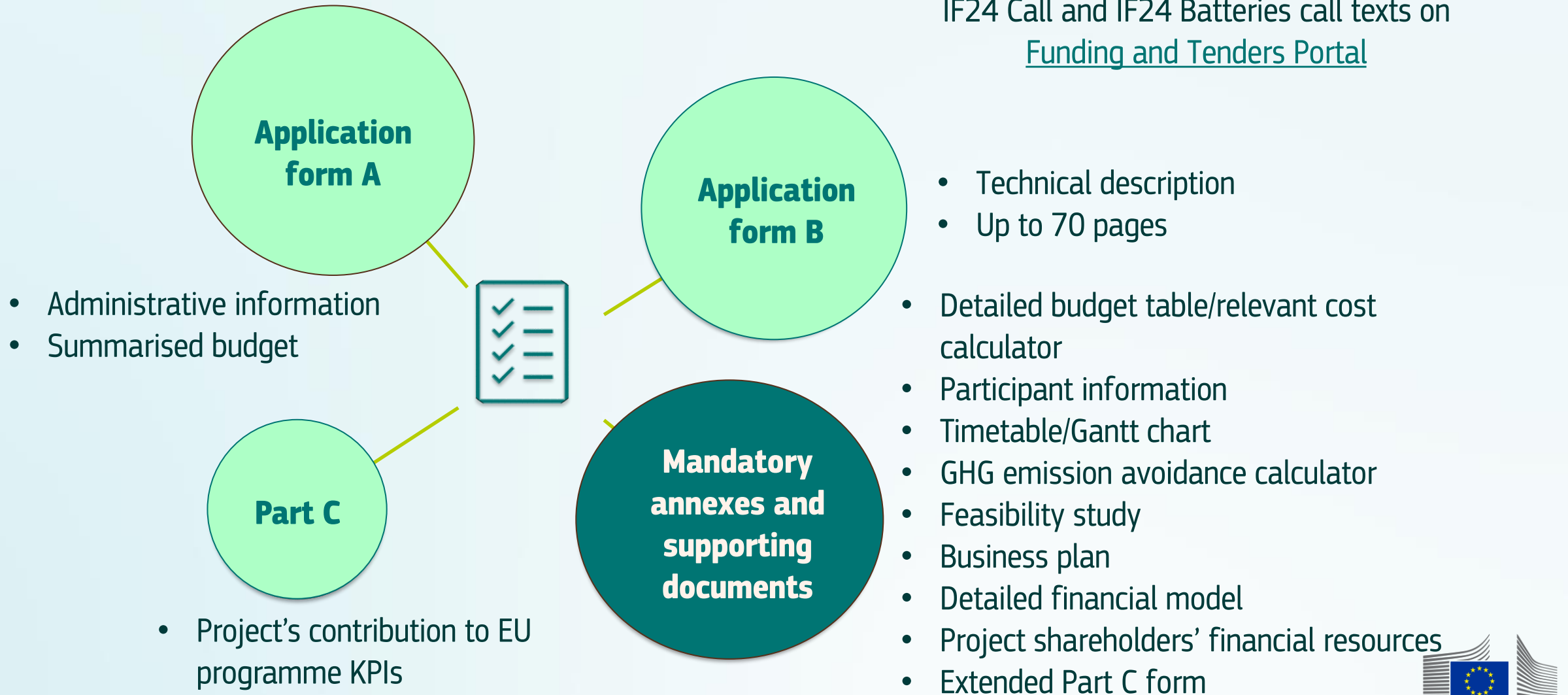
IF24 Batteries: Lump sum call for

- Manufacturing of electric vehicle battery cells (also combined with components manufacturing or recycling)



Call text and mandatory documentation

IF24 Call and IF24 Batteries call texts on
[Funding and Tenders Portal](#)



How to apply?

Tutorials

CINEA produces a series of **tutorials** to help you throughout the application process.

Where to find useful information (coming soon)	Application process 🔗	How to fill in PART C (coming soon)	Financial Information File (coming soon)
Introduction to Business Plan template and lessons learned on financial maturity (coming soon)	The extra file for data collection (coming soon)	GHG methodology calculation tutorials (coming soon)	

GHG Methodology videos

Find here a set of videos on the overview and guidance on the GHG calculations for each project category.

Main principles and step-by-step of the GHG calculation	Section 2: Energy Intensive Industries (EII)	Section 3: Renewable Energy Sources (RES)	Section 4: Energy Storage (ES)
Section 5: Mobility (MOB)	Section 6: Credit for carbon capture and storage (CCS) or utilisation (CCU)	Section 7: Batteries (BATT)	

Supporting documents

To complete the GHG Methodology tutorial and help you with your proposal, templates and examples of **GHG calculations** are available through the [following link](#) 🔗.

Still have doubts? Check out the [Frequently Asked Questions section](#) on the Funding and Tenders Portal. If you still need further assistance, don't hesitate to contact the [Innovation Fund Helpdesk](#).

Check all relevant information to apply

- [Funding and Tenders Portal link](#)
- [CINEA website](#):
 - Where to find useful information tutorial (coming soon)
 - [Application process tutorial](#)
 - How to fill in PART C and the extended Part C form (coming soon)
 - Financial Information File tutorial (coming soon)
 - Introduction to Business Plan template & Lessons Learned on Financial Maturity (coming soon)
 - GHG methodology calculation: tutorials (coming soon)
 - GHG methodology: videos
- [Info Day recording and slides](#) (available after the event)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Helpdesk](#)



Admissibility and eligibility criteria

Admissibility:

- Submitted **before** call **deadline**, electronically and using forms in the Submission System
- Complete all the application forms and include mandatory annexes and supporting documents

Eligibility:

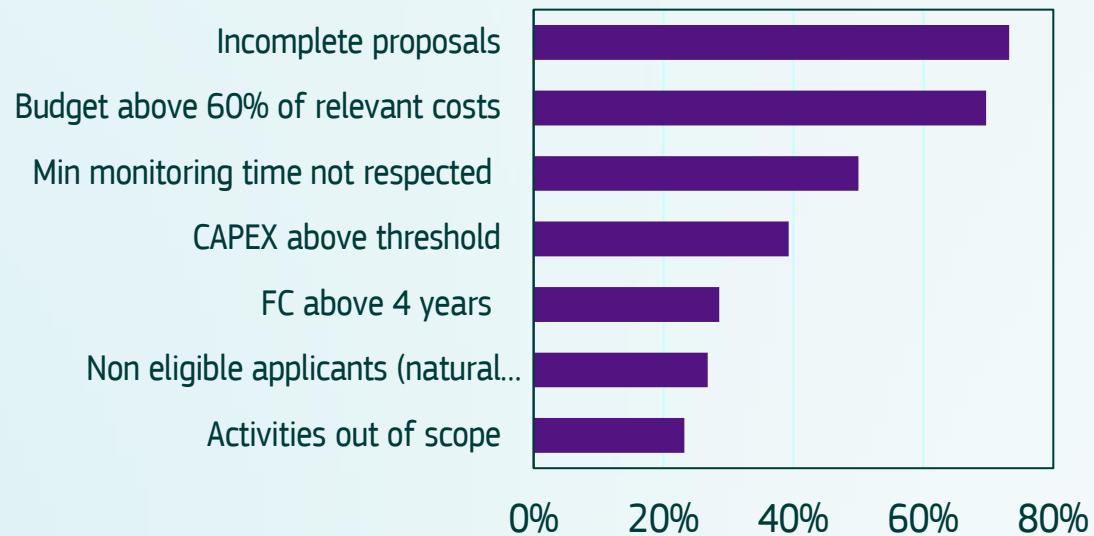
- Participants have to be legal entities; can be established anywhere in the world
- Projects must be located in the EEA (EU Member States and Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway)
- The project must:
 - Reach financial close within four years after grant signature (maximum time to financial close)
 - Operate at least (minimum GHG emission avoidance monitoring period) five years after entry into operation (except PILOTS, SSP, and BATT call projects)
- BATT call projects and IF24 SSP and PILOT projects – operate at least three years after entry into operation
- Project budget: the maximum grant amount must not exceed 60% of the relevant costs
- Eligible activities



Lesson Learned: Admissibility and Eligibility

IF23 Call

Why are proposals failing A&E?



56 projects did not pass A&E

Most common mistakes from **incomplete proposals**:

- *Relevant cost calculator* missing
- *Part B* not fully completed
- *Detailed financial model* missing
- *Business plan* missing
- *GHG calculator* missing
- *Feasibility study* missing
- *Gantt chart* missing
- *Knowledge sharing plan* missing

Follow the call text guidance precisely

- Provide all requested documents to be admissible
- Watch budget limits



Award criteria

IF24 Call and IF24 Batteries Call

Degree of Innovation

IF24 Call and IF24 Batteries Call

Degree of Innovation



- **Application form, Part B**

- Section 1: Degree of innovation
 - Innovation **in relation to the state of the art**
 - Innovation **beyond the state of the art**
- Any due diligence report (if any)
- Feasibility study (mandatory document)



A template for the Feasibility study is available in the Submission System (under "Part B templates").

Template recommended to be used
- if not used, provide at least the same level of detail and information to ensure a proper assessment



Degree of Innovation: types of innovative actions

The Innovation Fund aims to support technologies, business models and processes that are not yet commercially available:

- **First-of-a-kind commercialisation** or **large-scale commercial size demonstration** of technologies, processes or business models previously proven at pilot or smaller scale, or large-scale demonstration plants
- A **second or more of a kind commercialisation**, under certain conditions. In particular, where the relevant costs remain a significant share of total costs that prohibit commercialisation without further public support. Innovation beyond incremental must still be demonstrated
- **Innovative smaller demonstrations or pilot plants**, especially if this is the right scale at which technology needs to be proven before moving to a larger scale demonstration
- Projects aimed at demonstrated **scaling up** of innovative techniques, processes and technologies for their broad roll-out, which contribute significantly to the decarbonisation of the IF sectors



Degree of Innovation (DoI) – IF 24 Batteries call addressing scale-up challenges

Scaling-up of existing technologies explicitly encouraged:

- Lower scoring weight on DoI than in IF24 NZT Call
- Cells manufacturing does not need to be “first-of-a-kind”
- Range of options to show innovation beyond new battery chemistries, e.g.:
 - Product performance (e.g. battery lifetime, energy density, fast charging, uniqueness of technology, etc.)
 - Manufacturing process
 - Reduced use of raw materials / increased circularity



Degree of Innovation for topic General – IF24 SSP

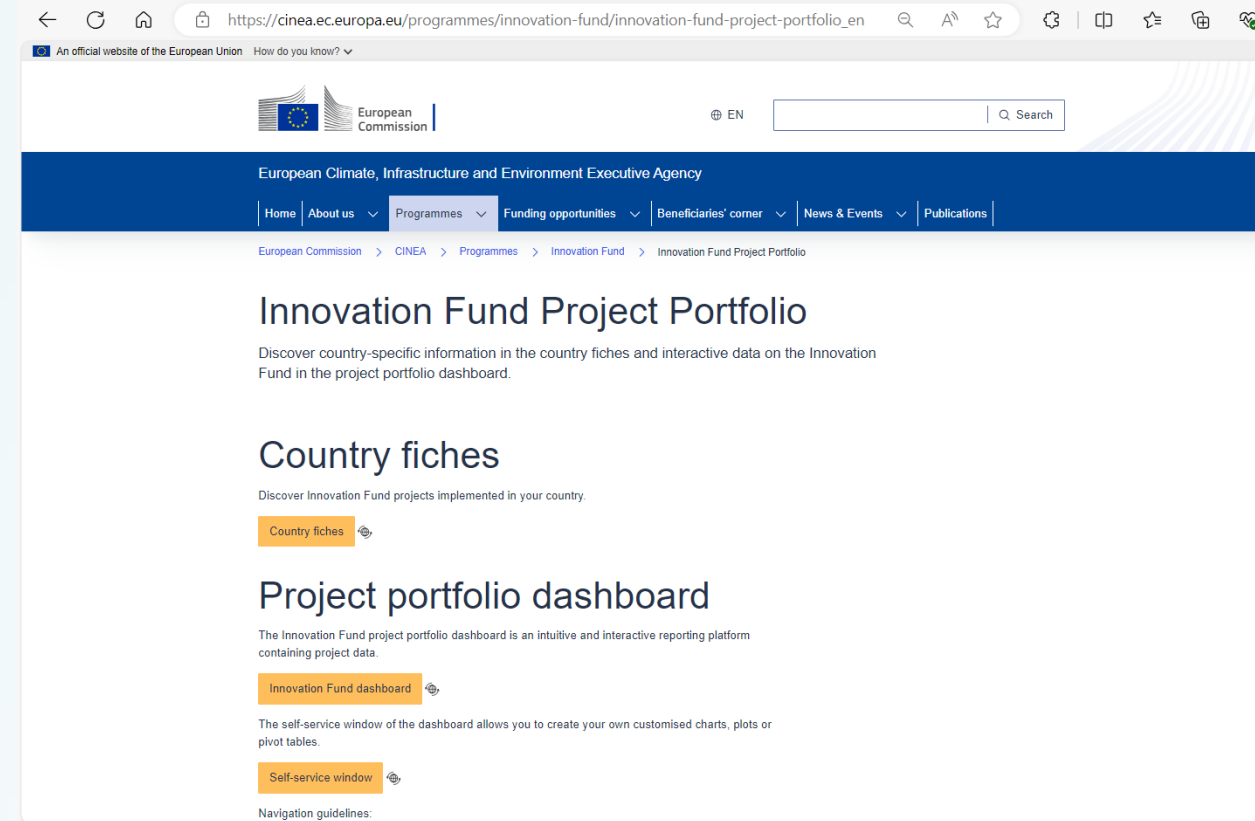
Innovation at national level:

- For **small-scale projects** (INNOVFUND-2024-NZT-GENERAL-SSP), the reference point can be at **European** or **national level**
- For **innovations at national level**: the geographical reference of the **state of the art must be the country where the project will be implemented**. The proposal should demonstrate how it goes beyond this national state-of-the-art
- Proposals going beyond state of the art at national level can meet the minimum threshold of this criterion; however, if a proposal is also going beyond the state of the art at European level, it may receive a higher score



References to Innovation Fund projects

- Proposals focusing on innovations similar to the ones of ongoing Innovation Fund projects, must clearly justify where the new innovative elements lie
- Such projects may receive a lower score
- Consult the list of funded Innovation Fund projects (Innovation Fund Project Portfolio Dashboard)

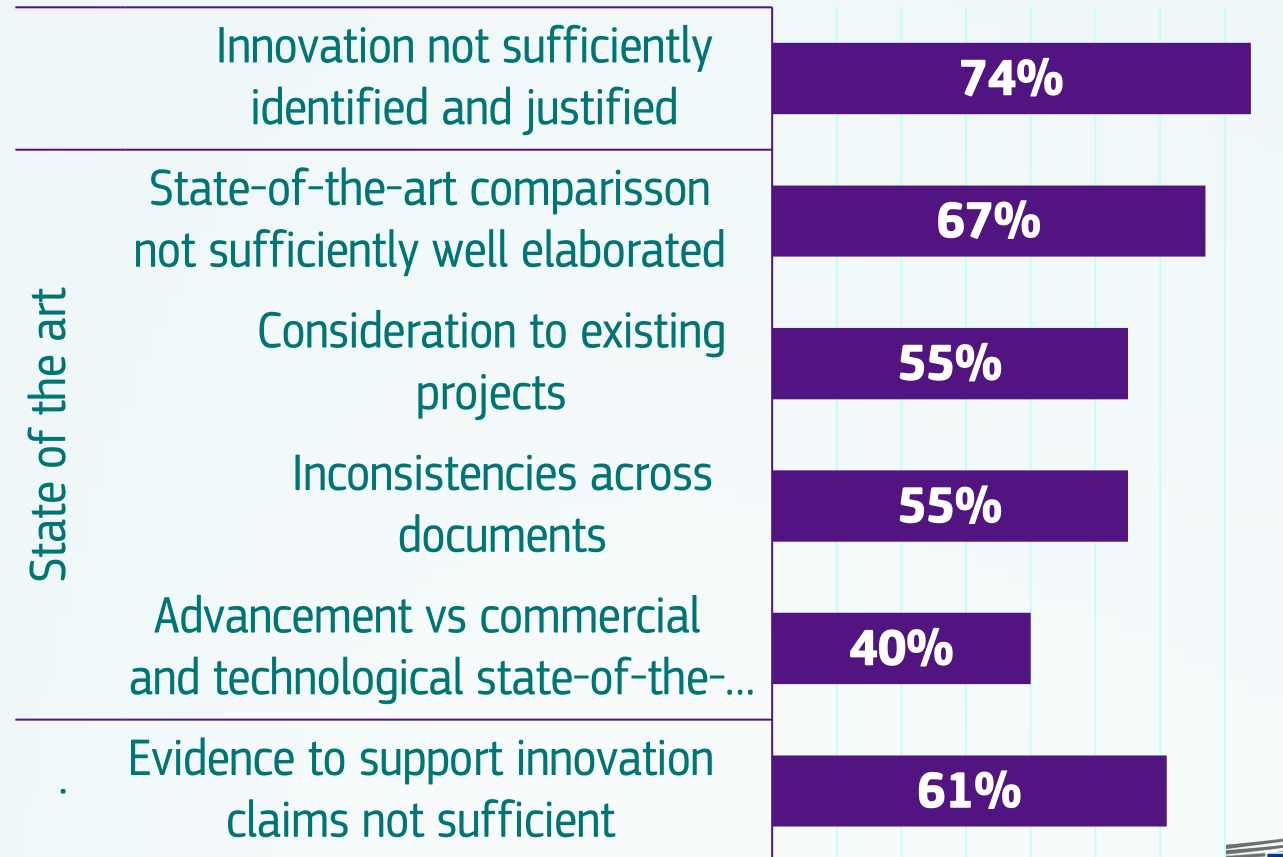


Degree of Innovation: Lessons Learned IF23 Call

Key reasons for failure:

- Innovation not sufficiently identified and justified with credible evidence
- State of the art not sufficiently well elaborated
- Inconsistencies across documents

Out of 12 proposals failing under Degree of Innovation, the main reasons are:



GHG emission avoidance potential

IF24 call and IF24 Batteries call

GHG emission avoidance potential



- **Application form, Part B, sections:**
 - Section 2: GHG emission avoidance potential
 - 2.1 Absolute GHG emission avoidance
 - 2.2 Relative GHG emission avoidance
 - 2.3 Minimum requirements
- **GHG emissions avoidance calculator** (mandatory annex)
- For BATT call, see specific section of GHG methodology

GHG emission avoidance potential (1)

- **Absolute GHG emission avoidance:** difference between the expected GHG emissions of the proposed project and the GHG emissions in the reference scenario during 10 years after entry into operation
- **Relative GHG emission avoidance:** absolute GHG emission avoidance divided by the GHG emissions in the reference scenario over the same 10 years period

The calculation must be done:

- using the relevant GHG emission avoidance calculator
- following the Methodology for GHG Emission Avoidance Calculation

General Information				
General Information		Comment / Justification	Expected GHG emissions	Check
Company	ES			OK
Calculation method	45.9	Check that the calculation method is correct and that the GHG emissions are calculated correctly.		OK
Factor		Check that the factor is correct and that the GHG emissions are calculated correctly.		OK
Principal product that is the main use of the project		Check that the principal product is the main use of the project and that the GHG emissions are calculated correctly.		OK
Principal product(s) that are not the main use of the project		Check that the principal product(s) are not the main use of the project and that the GHG emissions are calculated correctly.		OK
Non-principal product(s)		Check that the non-principal product(s) are not the main use of the project and that the GHG emissions are calculated correctly.		OK
Positive of principal product(s)		Check that the positive of principal product(s) is correct and that the GHG emissions are calculated correctly.		OK
Reference product(s) is substituted by principal product(s), if different		Check that the reference product(s) is substituted by principal product(s), if different.		OK
Is this a hybrid application?	No	Check that this is not a hybrid application.		OK
Hybrid application, identify the other relevant project categories (PCE, PCE, PCE)		Check that the hybrid application is correctly identified.		OK
Absolute GHG Emission Avoidance				
Reference GHG emissions (tCO ₂ e)				
Reference GHG emissions	0	Reference emissions	0	Reference emissions
GHG emissions	0	GHG emissions	0	GHG emissions
Relative GHG Emission Avoidance				
Relative GHG emissions (tCO ₂ e)				
Relative GHG emissions	0	Relative GHG emissions	0	Relative GHG emissions
GHG emissions	0	GHG emissions	0	GHG emissions
Absolute GHG Emission Avoidance				
Absolute GHG emissions (tCO ₂ e)				
Absolute GHG emissions	0	Absolute GHG emissions	0	Absolute GHG emissions
GHG emissions	0	GHG emissions	0	GHG emissions
Relative GHG Emission Avoidance				
Relative GHG emissions (tCO ₂ e)				
Relative GHG emissions	0	Relative GHG emissions	0	Relative GHG emissions
GHG emissions	0	GHG emissions	0	GHG emissions



GHG emission avoidance potential (2)

- Quality of the GHG emission avoidance calculation and minimum requirements
- When relevant, the proposal should demonstrate whether the proposed project meets or not the minimum requirements (IF24 call only):
 - For projects producing products with an EU ETS benchmark: the process emissions of the project per unit of product must be below the EU ETS benchmark(s) applicable at the call deadline
 - For projects using biomass feedstocks: the biomass used will at least meet the sustainability requirements of the Renewable Energy Directive
- For all projects: **the relative GHG emission avoidance must be:**
 - for BATT and IF24 call all topics except INNOVFUND-2024-NZT-PILOTS: at least 50%
 - for INNOVFUND-2024-NZT-PILOTS topic: at least 75%
- **Proposals not meeting minimum requirements will be rejected!**



Guidelines and support for GHG Calculation

- Methodology for GHG Emission Avoidance Calculation
- Recordings on the GHG methodology
- An updated set of filled examples in the templates
- Tutorial on how to fill in the GHG Calculators (coming soon)

Tutorials

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Section 5: Mobility (MOB)	Section 6: Credit for carbon capture and storage (CCS) or utilisation (CCU)	Section 7: Batteries (BATT)	

Supporting documents

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Still have doubts? Check out the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section on the Funding and Tenders Portal. If you still need further assistance, don't hesitate to contact the [Innovation Fund Helpdesk](#).



Tools and Guidance

Examples of GHG calculations for the [IF24 Call](#):

- [Energy intensive industry - Production of e-fuels](#)
- [Energy intensive industry - Production of green hydrogen](#)
- [Energy intensive industry - Production of methanol](#)
- [Energy intensive industry - Direct air capture with CO₂ storage](#)
- [Energy storage - Manufacturing of components \(stationary batteries\)](#)
- [Energy storage - Storage of hydrogen](#)
- [Renewable energy - Manufacturing of components \(wind blades\)](#)
- [Renewable energy - Use of renewable energy outside Annex I](#)
- [Net-zero mobility and buildings - Maritime](#)
- [Net-zero mobility and buildings - Aviation plus modal switch](#)



Lessons learned IF23 Call

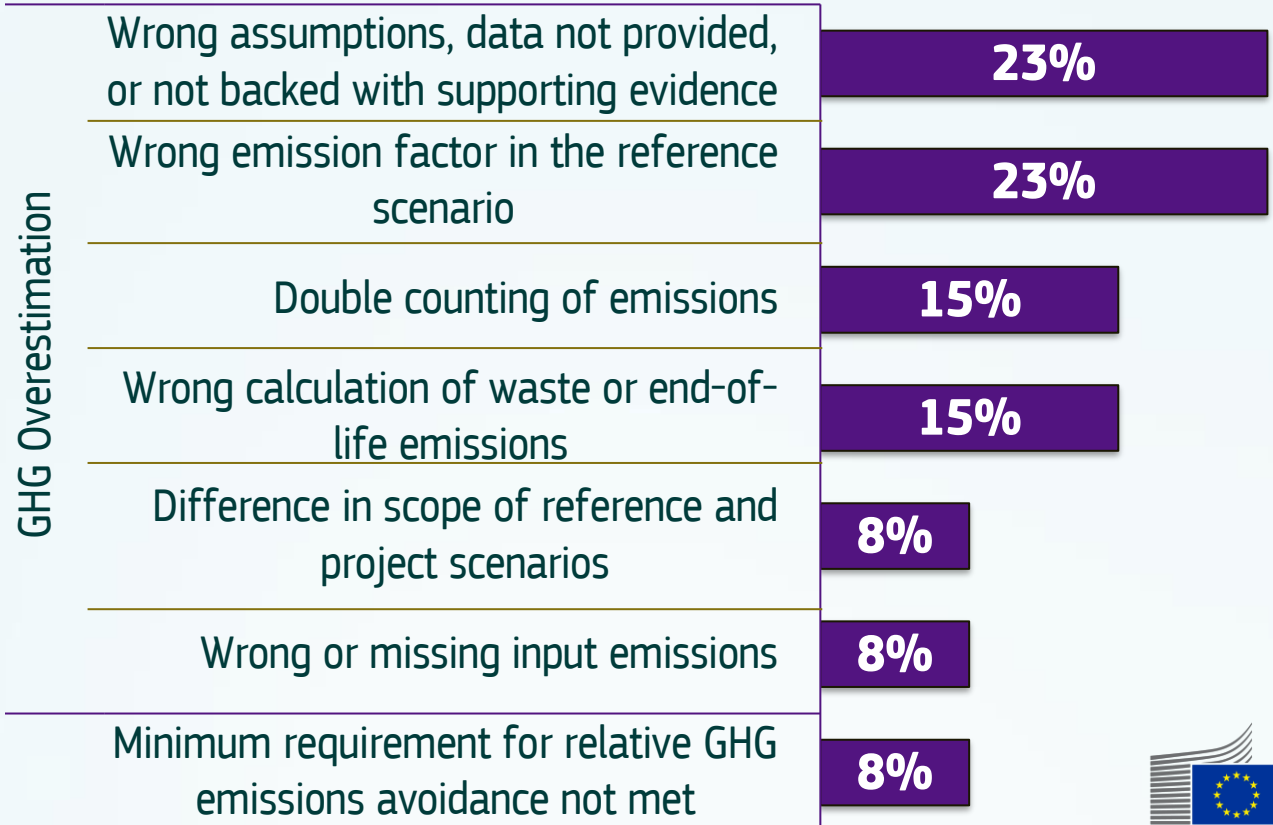
Quality of GHG calculation and min. requirements

Main mistakes on GHG emissions avoidance quality

- Poor assumptions
- Wrong emission factor
- Double counting of emissions
- Wrong calculations

Resulting in overestimations of GHG emissions avoidance

Out of 11 proposals failing quality of GHG calculation, the main reasons are:



Manufacturing carbon footprint

IF24 Batteries call only

Manufacturing carbon footprint

Methodology for GHG emission avoidance calculation for projects applying under the INNOVFUND-2024-BATT CALL

Absolute and relative GHG emission avoidance



Manufacturing carbon footprint reduction

Standardised battery
manufacturing
reference

Project's
manufacturing
emissions

Raw materials, components production, cell
production



Manufacturing carbon footprint

Included in the methodology for GHG emission avoidance calculation

Mandatory project scope

EV battery cells production

Optional additional project scope

Upstream component production*
Battery or battery recycling material*

Outside project scope

Mining, processing and refining
Upstream components imported into the project
Battery module and pack production

Not included in the methodology for GHG emission avoidance calculation

Outside project scope

Upstream component production // battery or battery recycling material exceeding 100% of the project's battery cell production capacity

*Not exceeding 100% of the project's battery cell production capacity



Project Maturity

IF24 Call and IF24 Batteries Call

Technical maturity
Financial maturity
Operational maturity

Technical Maturity

Technical Maturity



- **Application form, Part B, sections:**

- Section 0: Technical characteristics and scope and Technology scope
- 4.1 Technical maturity (explain the degree of technology readiness of the proposed solution and the technical feasibility of delivering the expected output (e.g. in terms of quality and volume of the products))



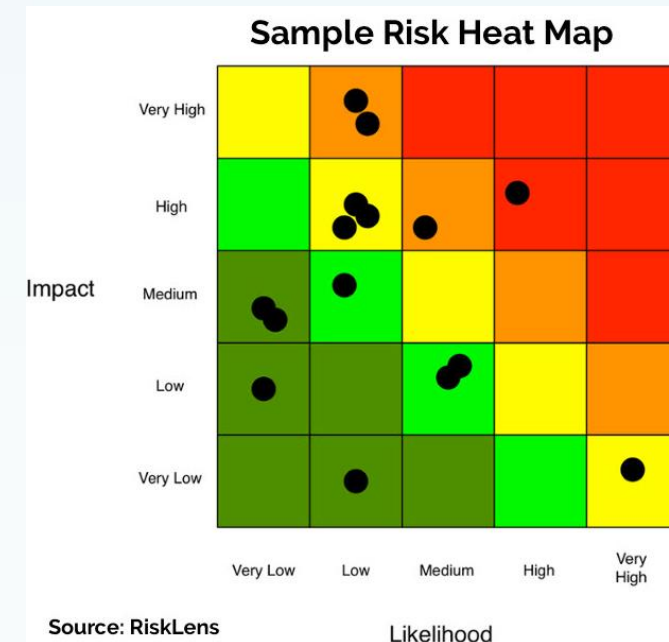
- Feasibility study (mandatory annex)
- Any due diligence report (if any)

Risk analysis and management



Risks are included **only** in the Feasibility Study (mandatory annex) which must:

- Describe key risks that could impact the technical feasibility of the proposed technology/process
- Describe the impact if the risk materializes and the proposed risk mitigation measures and explain why they are suitable
- Summarize your analysis in a table (see template)
- Provide a risk heat map



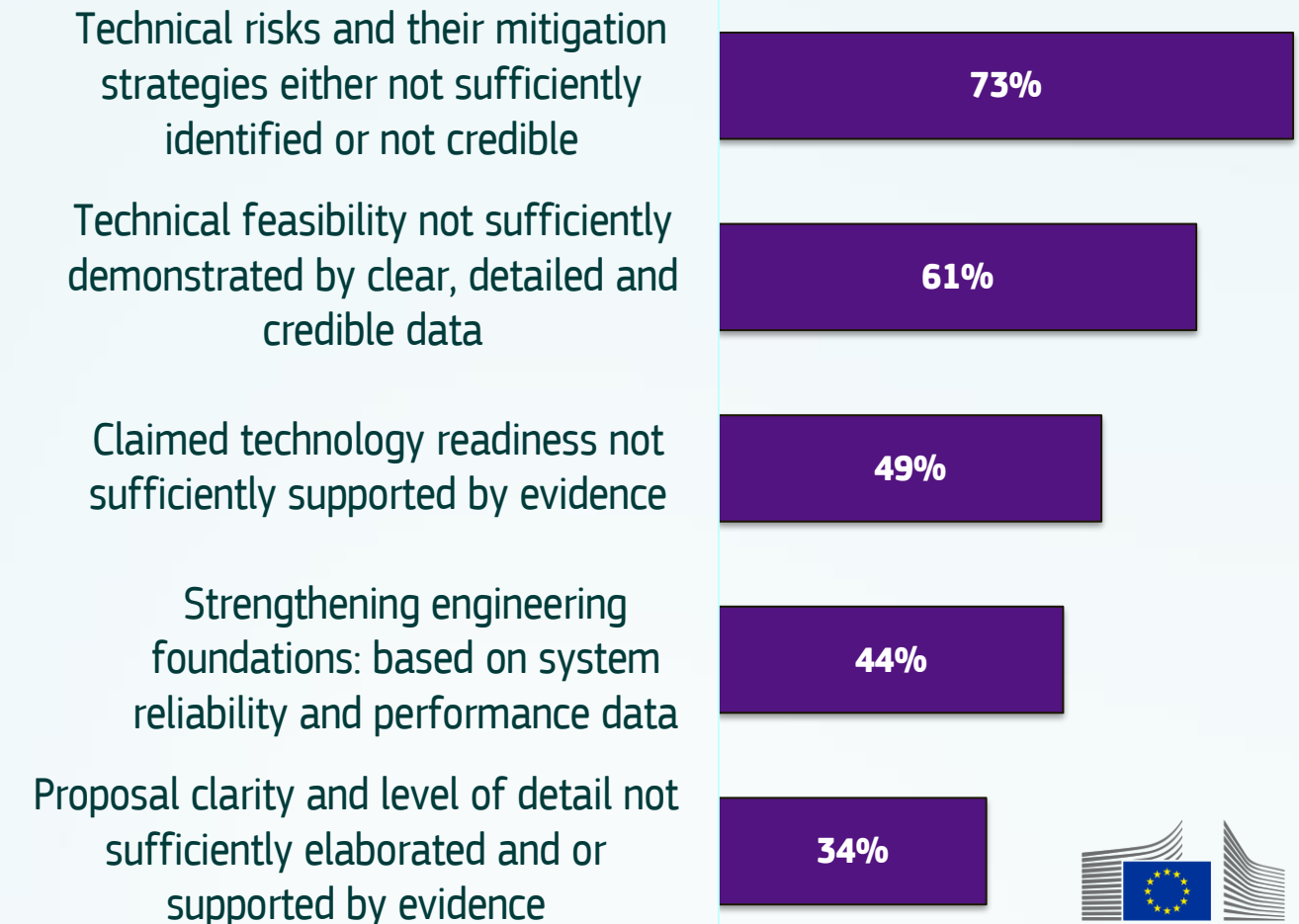
Technical Maturity: Lessons Learned IF23 Call

Key reasons for failure:

Technical feasibility claims not sufficiently supported by:

- Proper identification of risks and mitigation measures
- Credible data and evidence
- Detailed strategies to achieve targets

Out of 29 proposals failing technical maturity, the main reasons are:



Financial Maturity

Financial Maturity: Key points

Objective: assess the project's ability to reach Financial Close as soon as possible and within 4 years*

Project business plan and profitability

Soundness of the financing plan

Commitment of project funders

Understanding of project business and financial risks



Financial Maturity: Key points

Objective: ability to reach Financial Close within 4 years

New

- **Business plan (mandatory annex)**

New template to be used: available in the Submission System (under "Part B templates")

If not used, provide the same level detail and information

- **Application Form Part B**

Financial maturity (section 4.2): **summary of information submitted in the business plan annex**

Risk management (section 4.4): **leave blank** as information is already filled in business plan annex

Work packages, activities, resources and timing (section 9.2)

- **Financial Information File ('FIF') / detailed financial model**

To be filled completely - includes the Relevant cost calculator, the financial model Summary Sheet, the grant drawdown schedule and the cost efficiency calculation, Applicant's Financial Model (xls)

Simplified



Financial Maturity: Key points

Objective: ability to reach Financial Close within 4 years

- **Project shareholders' financial resources**

Financial statements of project shareholders over last 3 years (if available)

Project funding support (supporting documents)

Minimum requirements in call text Annex 3; Confirmation of funding support is essential for proposals with low profitability

- **Project contract terms (supporting documents)**

Minimum requirements in call text Annex 3

Any existing due diligence report (optional)

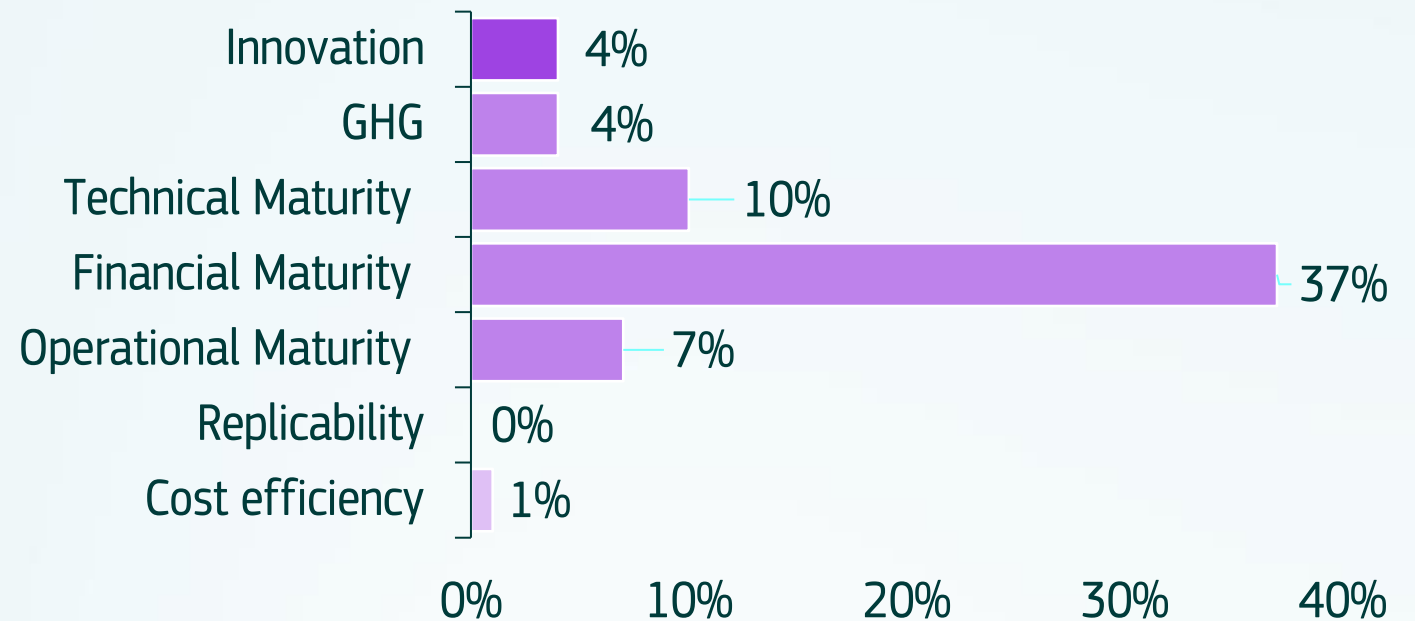


Results per evaluation criterion: IF23 Call

Out of 281 evaluated proposals, 85 were pre-selected for funding, 64 additional projects cannot be funded due to lack of budget

- Demonstrating financial maturity is the most challenging step of the evaluation process
- All proposals that reached the replicability assessment passed it

Failure rate for all eligible proposals*



* Some proposals failed various criteria simultaneously



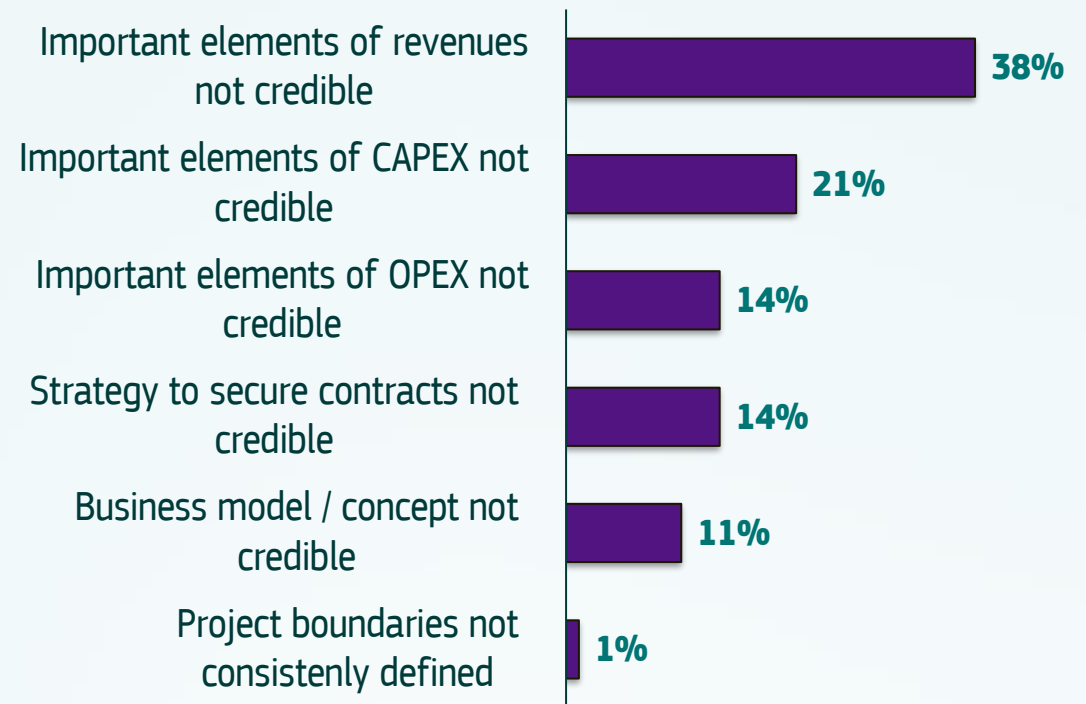
Main issues with the Business Plan

Lessons Learned IF23 Call

Most issues related to **business plan** refer to:

- **Revenues:** credibility and justification of prices, volumes
- **CAPEX:**
 - Justification missing,
 - No detailed breakdown,
 - Lack of evidence (including quotes from engineering and construction contractors)

Out of 84 proposals, the main issues with the business plan are:



- Fully **describe, substantiate and evidence the main revenues, CAPEX and OPEX assumptions** and include a **detailed breakdown** and description of prices and volumes
- See Annex 3 of call text for minimum requirements on project contract terms



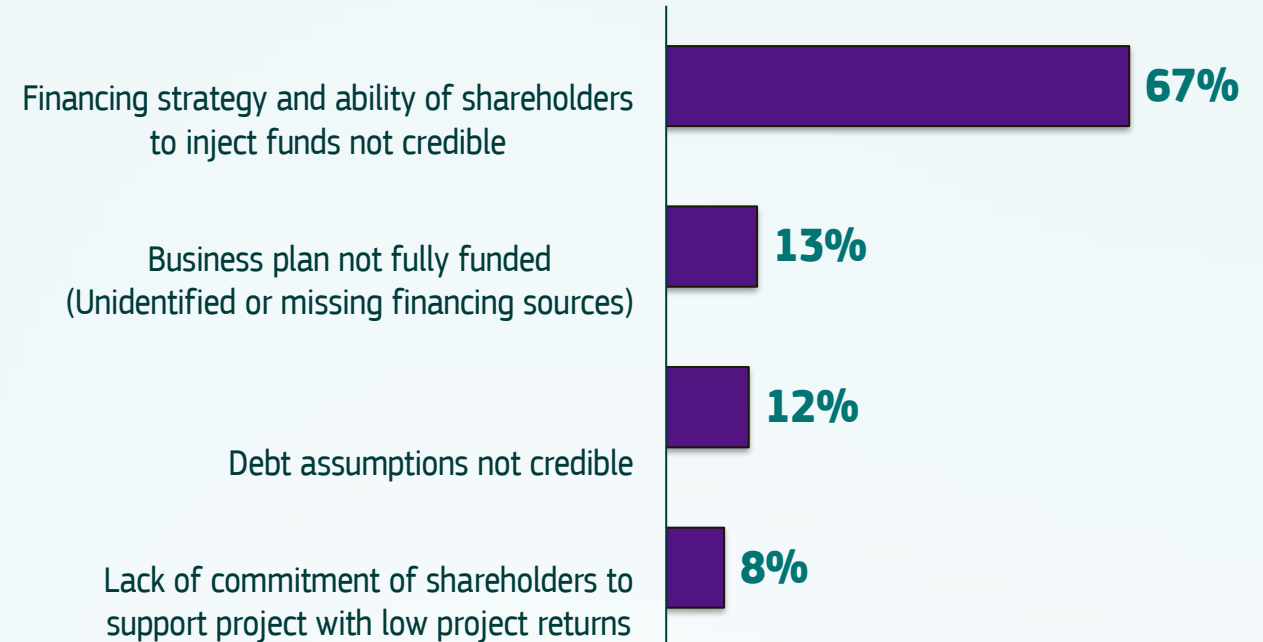
Main issues with the Financing Plan:

Lessons Learned IF23 Call

Out of 84 proposals, the main issues with the financing plan are:

Main issues with financing strategy

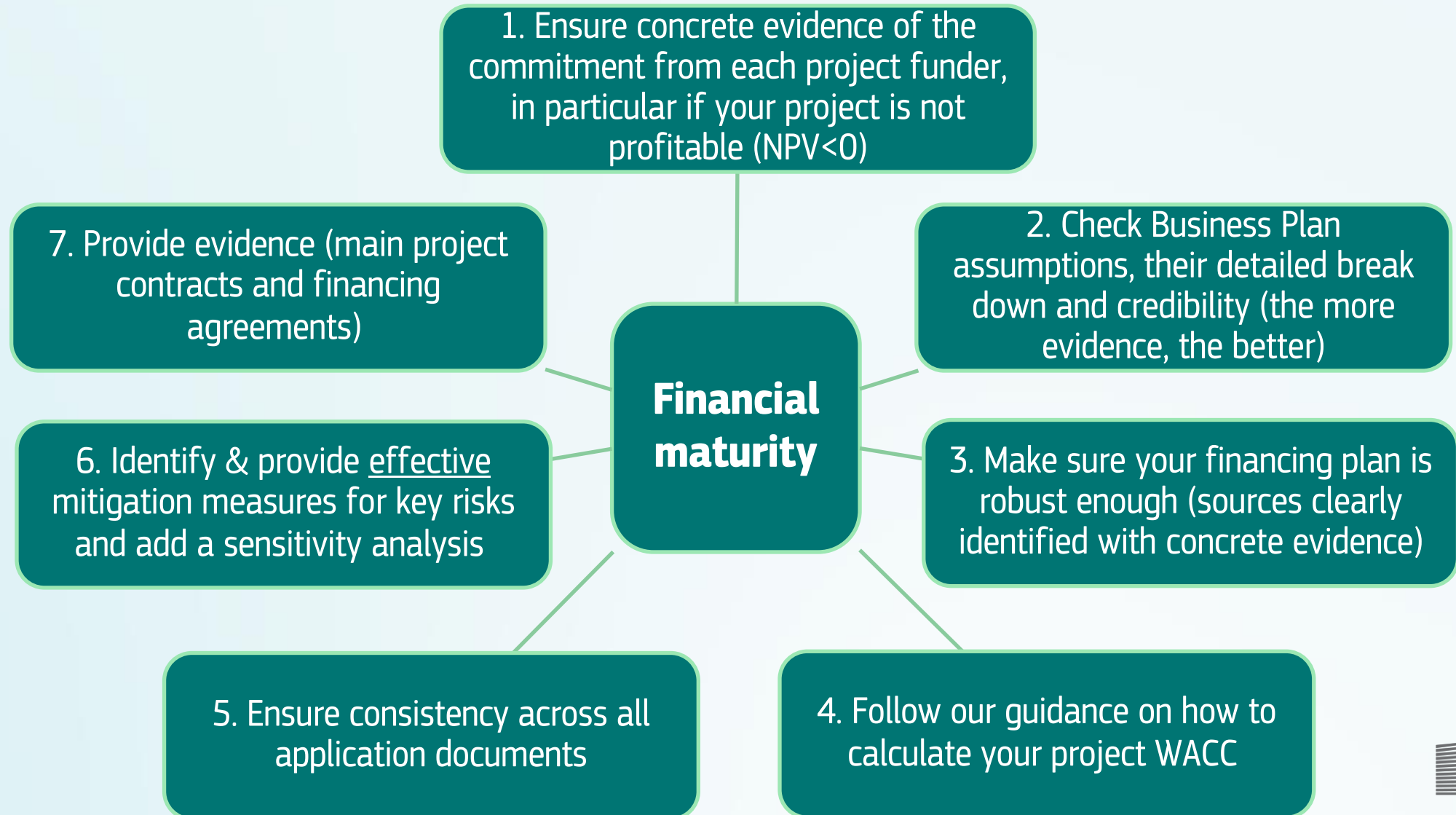
- Ability to secure the required funding
- Commitment of shareholders
- Expected timing
- Steps to reach final investment decision
- Other issues related to **debt assumptions** (for instance debt repayment capacity)
- **Unidentified or missing funding sources**



- Clearly **identify all funding sources** with their terms and conditions and the progress made in defining and/or negotiating them with funding counterparts.
- Provide financial statements of the shareholder entities
- See Annex 3 of call text for minimum requirements on project funding support



7 Golden Rules of Financial Maturity



Financial Maturity tutorials (coming soon)

PAGE CONTENTS					
Details		Where to find useful information (coming soon)	Application process ↗	How to fill in PART C (coming soon)	Financial Information File (coming soon)
Description					
Events					
Tutorials		Introduction to Business Plan template and lessons learned on financial maturity (coming soon)	The extra file for data collection (coming soon)	GHG methodology calculation tutorials (coming soon)	
GHG Methodology videos					
Supporting documents					



Check out:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/innovation-fund-2024-call-and-battery-calls_en#tutorials



Cost efficiency

Cost efficiency

Requested Innovation Fund grant
+ other public support (*)

Absolute GHG emission
avoidance

During 10 years after entry into operation

Maximum requested IF grant
is 60% of total relevant
costs

Applicants choosing not to
apply for the maximum grant
will be more competitive
when ranked against other
applicants in 'cost per unit
performance' metric

(*)

- If other public support is included in the **project's financial model**, it **must** be added in the **numerator of the Cost efficiency** formula. Public support already secured **must** be included. Public support that is not secured – up to the applicant if it is included in the financial model/CE.
- For public support received during operation, the rule is to add the undiscounted amount that will be obtained the first ten years of operation.
- Some forms of State aid such as taxes or tariff reductions can only be reflected in the Relevant Costs



Cost efficiency: key points

- **Cost efficiency is split in two sub-criteria:**
 - Cost efficiency ratio – based automatic score
 - Qualitative assessment on how the computation of Cost Efficiency ratio was made
- **Cost efficiency ratio level has minimum requirement (except for Pilots):**
 - (a) For IF24 call all topics except Pilots and for BATT call:
 - If cost efficiency ratio is *lower than or equal to* €200/tCO₂eq, score will be based on formula:
 - **12 – (12 x (cost efficiency ratio/200))** for IF24 call
 - **3 – (3 x (cost efficiency ratio/200))** for BATT call
 - If cost efficiency ratio is *higher than* €200/tCO₂eq, **proposal will be rejected (i.e. not considered for funding)**
 - (b) for IF24 call Pilots:
 - If cost efficiency ratio is *lower than or equal to* €2000/tCO₂eq, score will be based on formula
12 – (12 x (cost efficiency ratio/2000))
 - If cost efficiency ratio is *higher than* €2000/tCO₂eq, proposal gets zero score but is **NOT rejected**



Relevant cost calculation

Relevant Cost: What has changed since the IF23 Call?

New

- Further guidance specific to maritime and aviation projects
 - Two examples in the RC methodology guidance for projects which produce or install innovative technology (for example engine or equipment) into a new or retrofitted ship or plane
 - Projects using financial leases to fund the construction of newbuilt ships or planes
- Clarification on maintenance CAPEX
- Clarification on possibility to combine sheets from detailed financial model and Financial information File (FIF)
- Clarification on the calculation of Relevant Costs if entry into operation date does not coincide with the start of a calendar year
- Update of Appendix with support data materials for the WACC calculation



Key principles: Which methodology should applicants use?

No reference plant: default methodology, recommended for all projects

Reference plant: “fall-back” option if the project fulfils the following conditions:

- The project relates to the construction of a completely new plant/unit. Add-ons to existing **or new** installations must use the No Reference Plant Methodology
- The reference plant has the similar characteristics (output, capacity) as the Project plant
- The reference plant complies with the European Union environmental standards and with EU legislation, including the EU ETS benchmark for industrial products where relevant
- Applicants must provide documents necessary to assess the credibility of the financial and technical data of the reference plant, such as: proof of planning of such a (reference) plant/unit as an alternative to the project, formal board documents, financial reports, internal business plans or studies
- A complete and detailed set of verifiable financial projections is added to the Applicant's detailed financial model (mandatory)



Relevant Cost – General tips

- Compute the relevant cost as early as possible, using the right methodology to see if your project can get a grant
- Contingencies should always be justified
- Read carefully which costs are eligible and which are not
- Pay attention that entry into operation is based on the last phase of your project
- Ensure the coherence of data between the FIF, your own financial model and the business plan



FIF tutorial (coming soon)

PAGE CONTENTS Details Description Events Tutorials GHG Methodology videos Supporting documents	Where to find useful information (coming soon)	Application process ↗	How to fill in PART C (coming soon)	Financial Information File (coming soon)
	Introduction to Business Plan template and lessons learned on financial maturity (coming soon)	The extra file for data collection (coming soon)	GHG methodology calculation tutorials (coming soon)	



Check it out:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/innovation-fund-2024-call-and-battery-calls_en#tutorials



Operational Maturity

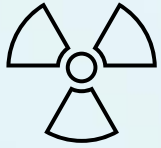
IF24 call and IF24 batteries call

Project Maturity: Operational Maturity



- **Application form, Part B, sections:**
 - 4.3 - Operational maturity
 - 9.1 - Work Plan
 - 9.2 – Work Packages, activities, resources and timing
- **Timetable-Gantt chart** (mandatory document)
- **Participant information**, including CVs and previous projects, if any (mandatory document)
- **Feasibility Study** (mandatory document)
- Due diligence report (if any)
- Permits, licences, authorisations (if any)

Operational Maturity

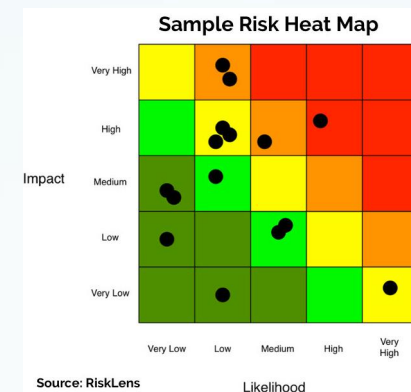


Operational risks and credibility of proposed mitigation measures



Risks are included **only** in the Feasibility Study and Business plan (mandatory documents) which must:

- Describe the main operational risks associated with the construction (for example timing), project design, operation (for example weather conditions) and decommissioning, or risks stemming from dependencies from other projects relevant to the project
- Describe the impact if the risk materializes and the proposed risk mitigation measures and explain why they are suitable
- Summarize your analysis in a table (see template)
- Include a Risk heat map

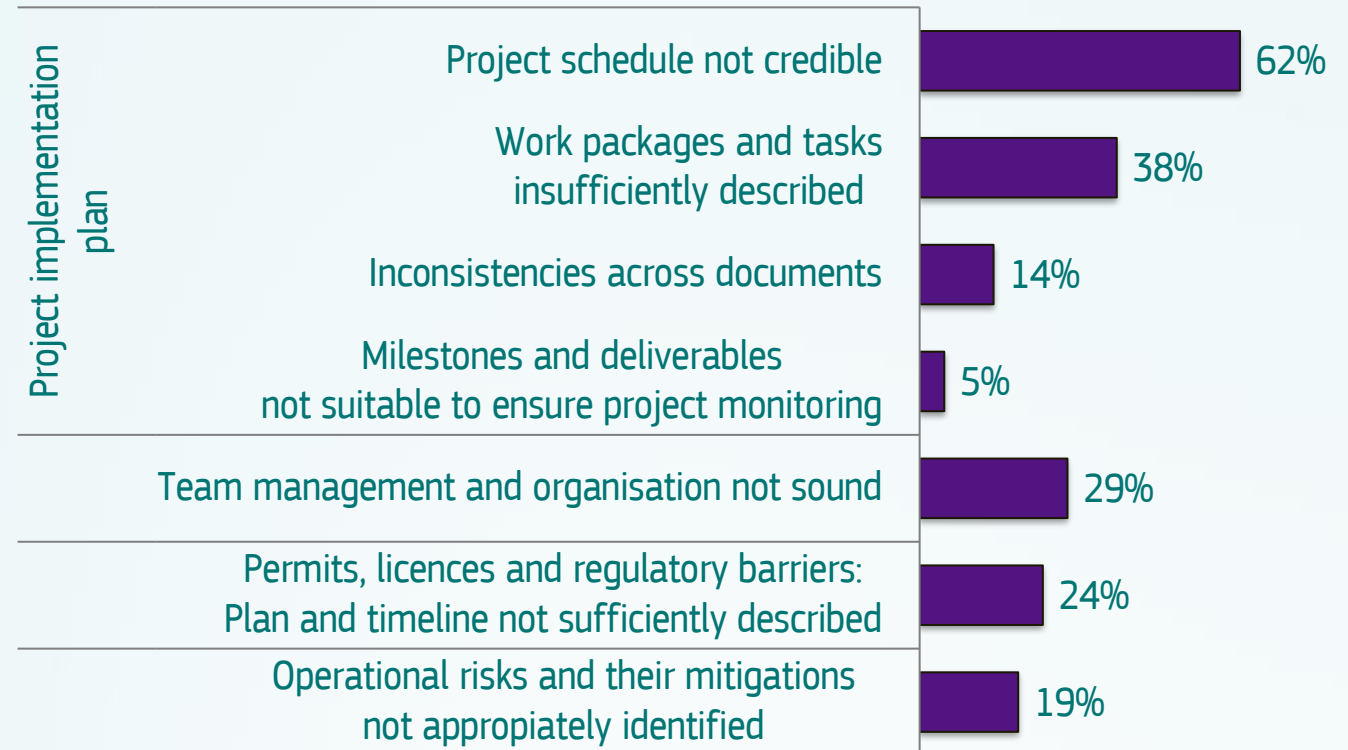


Operational Maturity: Lessons Learned IF23 Call

Out of 21 proposals failing operational maturity, the main reasons are:

Key reasons for failure:

- Project implementation plan not credible
- Team management and organisation not sound
- Permitting and licences plan and timeline not sufficiently elaborated
- Operational risks and their mitigation strategies not adequate



Replicability

IF24 call and IF24 batteries call

Replicability



- **Application form, Part B, sections:**

- 5.1 - Replicability
- 5.2 - Knowledge sharing — Communication, dissemination and visibility

The project proposals will be assessed based on quality, soundness and reliability of the information provided



Replicability



Now split into 3 sub-criteria:

- Replicability in terms of efficiency gains and multiple environmental impacts
- Replicability in terms of further deployment
- Contribution to Europe's industrial leadership and competitiveness

Replicability: Sub-criterion: Contribution to Europe's industrial leadership and competitiveness – more focus on EU resilience

Updated

IF24 Call	IF24 Battery Call
Contribution to new industrial ecosystems (for example, clusters) or contribution to energy infrastructure development (i.e., projects connected to PCIs)	Supporting the European batteries ecosystem (components, including cathodes and anodes, from EU/EEA suppliers, machinery/manufacturing equipment from EU/EEA suppliers)
Development of new technology/IP rights in EEA, cooperation with EEA universities, trainings and other actions to develop know-how in Europe during project's operation	Creation of IP rights (patents) registered in Europe in the past five years or demonstrating batteries research activities in the EU/EEA, e.g. through on-going cooperation programmes with EU/EEA universities or research institutes) !!! New patents originating from the project, during the project's duration must be registered in an EU Member State or EEA country i.e., results within the meaning of Article 16 of the Grant Agreement (project scope requirements)
Resilience and due diligence on the supply chain with reference to responsible sourcing of raw materials (namely: on governance, conflict risk, human and social rights, environmental performance and water risk)	Reduction of consumption of critical raw materials , use of secondary raw materials, recycling or other strategies helping to reduce dependencies on critical raw materials
→Where relevant, describe how the project will reduce sourcing of final products or their components or critical raw materials from countries on which EU has dependency	Jobs created, trainings or other actions to develop know-how in Europe
For maritime sector projects , ability to strengthen the EU's maritime transport value chain, including port activities, increased competitiveness and job creation in the EU maritime sector, demonstrated coordination on the development of Green Corridors (see Glossary in call text)	Reporting requirements at Financial Close, at Entry into Operation, in annual reports and reporting at the end of the monitoring period. Penalties apply if requirements are not fulfilled



Knowledge sharing

Communication, dissemination and visibility



Knowledge sharing plan no longer mandatory annex, **outline** mandatory in Application Form Part B (5.2).



Knowledge sharing goals:

- De-risking innovative low-carbon technologies with regard to wide-scale commercialisation
- Acceleration of deployment
- Increasing the undertaking of, and confidence in these technologies by the wider public
- Maintenance of a competitive market for the post-demonstration deployment of the technologies



Guideline:

- Check thoroughly **Annex 2** in call document
- Please refer to the “**Knowledge Sharing report template**” available on the Funding & Tenders portal **for information only at submission stage** to better understand the information to be provided during project implementation
- Confidentiality will be ensured!



Security of supply and countering dependency

IF24 Batteries Call only

Security of supply and countering dependency

- Degree of diversification of the **supply of cathode active materials (CAM) and anode active materials (AAM) from China** during the project's monitoring period.
- **The less CAM and AAM the project will source from China, the better it can score.**
- Projects that aim at expanding or converting existing facilities must demonstrate diversification of CAM and AAM sourcing from China, compared to existing operations over the last 2 years.

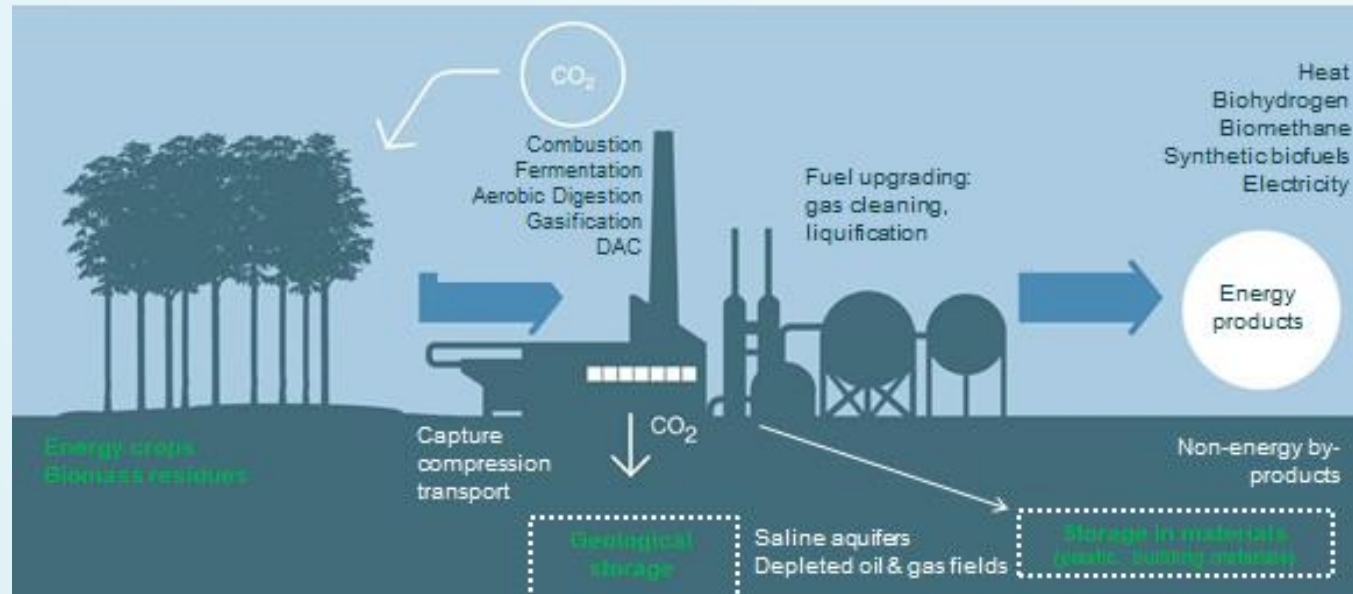
Only CAM and AAM concerned
Only imports from China are concerned
No hard thresholds applied
Claims have to be underpinned by evidence



Bonus points

IF24 Call only

Bonus Point 1: net carbon removal



- Application form, Part B, Section 8
- Template GHG emission Calculator Tab "Net carbon removals"

- The **total project emissions should be negative**
- For EII projects, negative emissions can only be claimed **excluding any credit for timed operation**
- For EII projects: the non-principal products are **not allowed to be the only source** of negative emissions in the projects

Bonus Point 2: other GHG emission savings

Other GHG savings from emissions sources that go **beyond** the boundaries established in the Innovation Fund GHG calculation methodology for the given sector, such as:

- Emissions due to transportation of raw materials or finished products,
- Waste management,
- Upstream emissions of fuels, etc.

- Application form, Part B, Section 8
- Template GHG emission Calculator Tab "Other GHG savings"



Bonus point 3: use electricity from additional renewable sources or use of RFNBOs



Only for projects where the main innovation relies on electricity use or RFNBOs consumption.

Commitment to use electricity from additional renewable sources or to use RFNBOs:

- Projects implementing innovative technologies on electricity consumption that demonstrate the use of electricity of renewable origin from additional sources*, either
 - coming from project's own installation or
 - procured via the grid, e.g. via Power Purchasing Agreements (or MoUs or Lols for such PPAs).
- Projects that propose to consume **RFNBOs** as defined in the Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001 and its Delegated Regulations on methodology for RFNBOs.

- Application form, Part B, Section 8

* Alignment with the Commission delegated regulation 2023/1184 of 10 February 2023 to the Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001 on the definitions of “additional renewable electricity” (see Article 5) must be demonstrated.



Bonus point 4: maritime sector projects

Only for projects in the maritime sector!

- Projects that have a demonstrated potential for decarbonising the maritime sector and reducing its climate impacts.

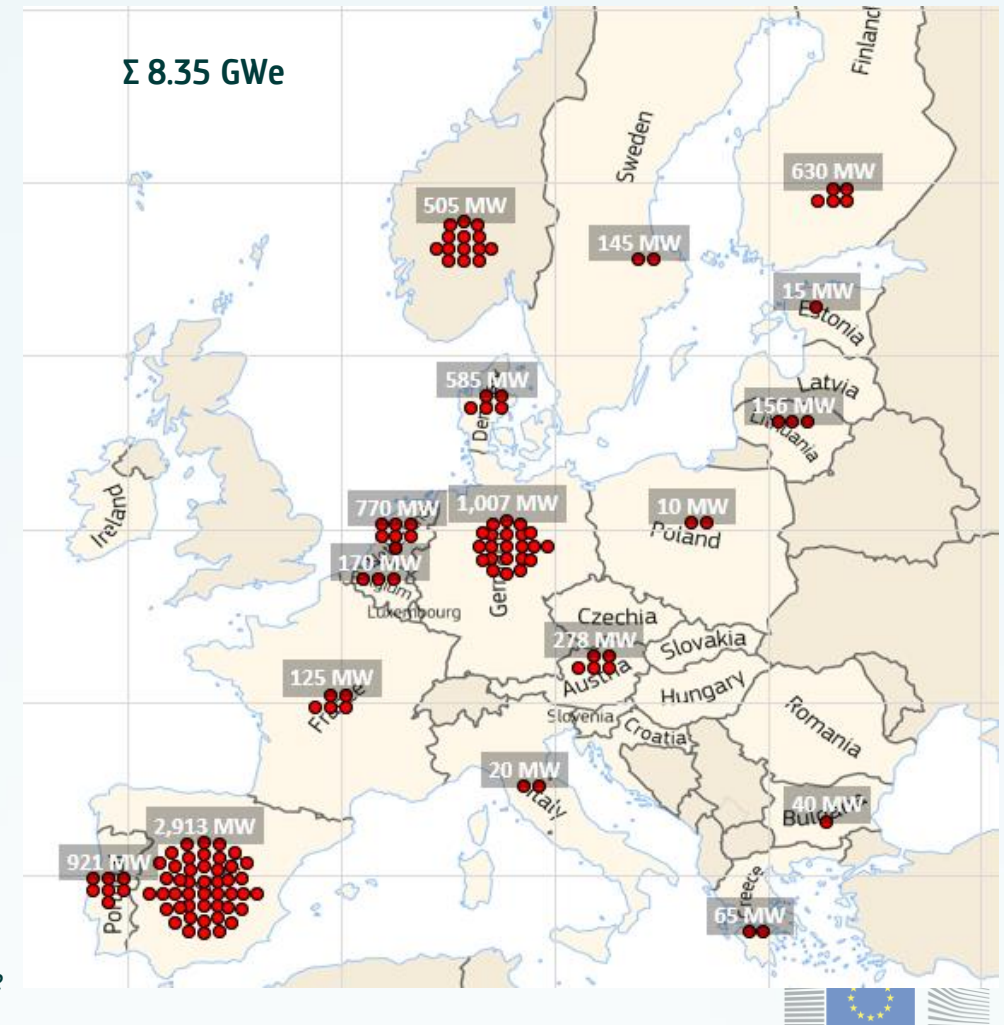
- Application form, Part B, Section 8



Innovation Fund 2024 RFNB0 H2 Auction

IF23 H2 Auction, a high-level of participation & competition

- **€800 million** budget (Innovation Fund)
- + **€350 million** (Germany's contribution in the AaaS scheme)
- **132*** bids received from **17** different EEA countries
- Only 13 projects failing admissibility and eligibility criteria
- 6 Grant Agreements signed for €694 million



Objectives fulfilled – IF23 H2 Auction



Reducing the cost gap
between renewable
& fossil H₂ in the EU



*Fixed premium support
of up to €0.48 /kg
of renewable H₂*



Allowing for **price
discovery** & renewable
H₂ market formation



*Price information shared on
selected bids & anonymised
European bid curve*



De-risking
European hydrogen projects



*€694 million
in grant support for
6 renewable H₂ producers*



Reducing
administrative burden

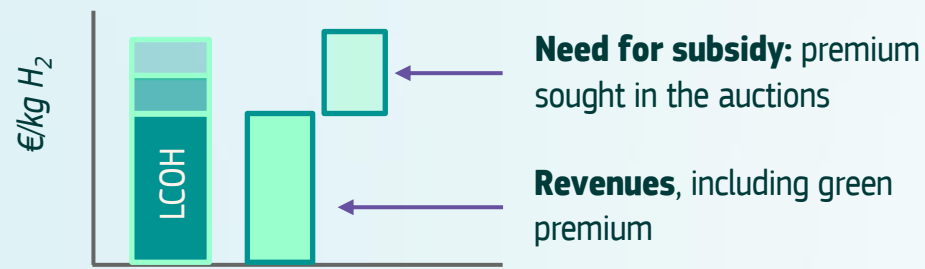


*Simplified application
process & results provided
in less than 3 months*

IF24 H2 Auction overview

- Objective: **support production of Renewable Fuel of Non-Biological Origin (RFNBO) Hydrogen** as defined in the Renewable Energy Directive & its Delegated Acts
- Also: **contribute to achieving security of essential goods supply & to Europe's industrial leadership & competitiveness**
- **Fixed-premium auction**, single stage, pay-as-bid - bidders are free to decide their bidding strategy
- **Pass/fail qualification** criteria & **ranking based on price**

Fixed-premium auction



Bids ranked on price only



IF24 H2 Auction vs. IF23 H2 Auction

Increased budget to **€1.2 billion**

- AaaS: additional contribution up to **€836 million** from Austria, Spain, & Lithuania

Budget divided in 2 topics

- **General:** €1 billion – no off-taker restrictions
- **Maritime sector:** €200 million – off-takers only from maritime sector

Increased maturity requirements for bidding projects (mandatory time to reach Financial Close, higher completion guarantee) & **lower ceiling price**

Resilience criteria

- *“Achieving security of supply of essential goods and contribution to Europe’s industrial leadership and competitiveness”* – reflected in qualification criterion + other requirements

General eligibility conditions

- Location: **within the EU/EEA** (no virtual production)
- Installed capacity: min. **5 MWe, new** capacity, **single location** (no virtual capacity pooling)
- Projects must limit the sourcing of electrolyser stacks with surface treatment or cell unit production or stack assembly **carried out in China to no more than 25%** (in MWe) of the total electrolyser capacity as expressed in the bid
- Off-takers: no restriction (general) / min. supply to maritime off-takers (maritime)
- Bid ceiling price: **€4/kg RFNBO Hydrogen**
- Maximum grant support period: **10 years**
- Maximum size of the bid: **€250 million** (general) / **€200 million** (maritime)

Key implementation arrangements (1/2)

- Financial close: within **2.5 years** after signing Grant Agreement
- Entry into Operation (EiO): within **5 years** after signing Grant Agreement
- Completion guarantee: **8%** of the requested grant - *covers reaching Financial Close & EiO under the call requirements*
- Payments: no payments before EiO; then, **biannual** basis - €/kg of RFNBO Hydrogen produced, **certified & verified** for a maximum period of **10 years**

Key implementation arrangements (2/2)

- Production requirements: semi-annual production may be increased to **up to 140%** of planned. Total grant amount cannot be increased. Production **cannot fall < 30%** of planned production for more than 3 rolling consecutive years
- Compliance with the criteria during implementation: monitoring of maritime off-takers, resilience criteria, and certification of 70% GHG savings on overall production
- Cumulation with other public funding: limitations apply, same as for IF23 Auction

A dedicated topic for the maritime sector

After its 2023 revision, the ETS Directive extended to the maritime transport. **20 million allowances** to be deployed by the Innovation Fund by 2030 to support the decarbonisation of the maritime sector, through **dedicated topics**

Specific eligibility condition:

- projects presenting pre-contractual off-take agreements in their applications, with **off-takers belonging to the maritime sector** covering at least **60% of their planned RFNBO hydrogen production as stated in the bid**
- **monitored** throughout the project's operation

New resilience requirements

(I) “Achieving **security of supply of essential goods** and **contribution to Europe’s industrial leadership and competitiveness**”

Assessing projects’ contribution to a diversified supply chain and avoiding building dependency on a single third country which may threaten the security of supply of electrolyzers in Europe.

(II) Compliance with standards

ISO Standard: ISO 22734:2019

Cybersecurity: present a cybersecurity plan at Entry into Operation

(III) **Increased information** requirements as part of the “Electrolyser procurement strategy” documentation

(IV) **Risks of investigations:** reminder of existing rules under the Foreign Subsidy Regulation, State aid and Trade Defence Instruments

Evidence to be provided at bidding stage

Monitoring how the requirements are fulfilled at Financial Close, Entry into Operation & end of monitoring period

Achieving security of supply of essential goods and contribution to Europe's industrial leadership and competitiveness

Background:

- alignment with the objectives of Net-Zero Industry Act
- significant risk of increased & irreversible dependency of the EU on imports of electrolyzers originating in China

New award sub-criterion under “relevance” (pass/fail assessment)

Projects must limit the **sourcing of electrolyser stacks with surface treatment OR cell unit production OR stack assembly carried out in China to not more than 25% (in MWe) to pass**

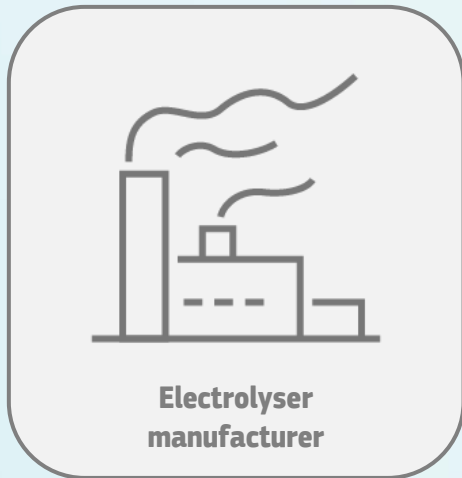
- Electrolyser cell: electrodes +diaphragm/ membrane/solid electrolyte

Evidence needed to underpin the claim in application (self-declaration + MoU/LoI from the electrolyser OEM and implementation will be monitored)

Source: IRENA

Combination with other public support

As general rule: strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget. Any given action may receive only one grant from the EU budget. See detailed slides from EU info Days and call instructions.



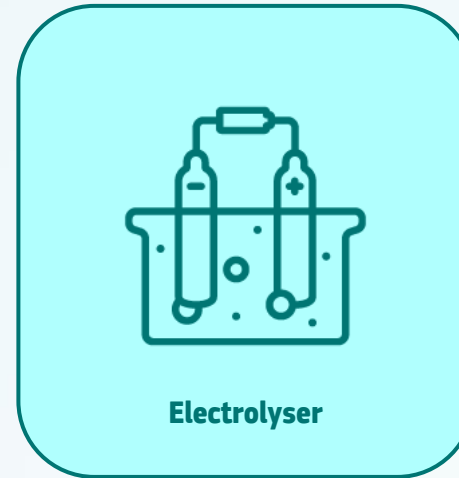
Electrolyser
manufacturer

✓ Allowed



RE electricity
producer

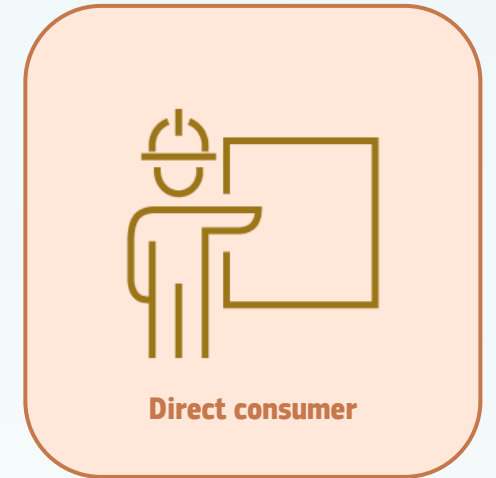
Rules for public support spelled
out in RFNBO Delegated Act



Electrolyser

✗ In general not allowed

✓ Some exceptions to this rule



Direct consumer

✓ Allowed for CAPEX or non-dedicated
infrastructure

✗ Not allowed for OPEX related to
consumption of hydrogen
from auction winner



Award criteria

RELEVANCE

(pass/fail)

- Contribution to **objectives of the call**
- Achieving **security of supply of essential goods & contribution to Europe's industrial leadership & competitiveness**

NEW

QUALITY

(pass/fail)

- Technical maturity
- Financial maturity
- Operational maturity

RANKING



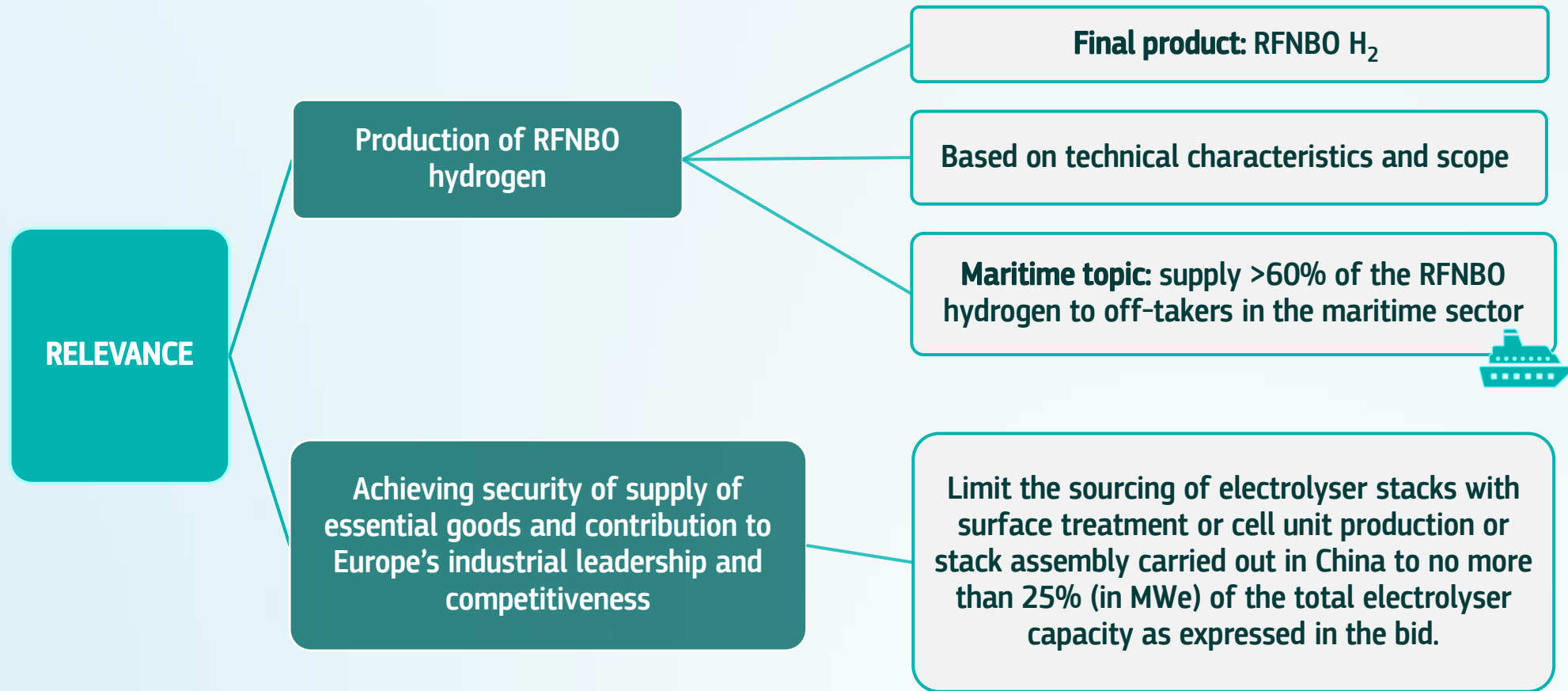
- according to the bid price (€/Kg H₂)
- within the limits of the available budget

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

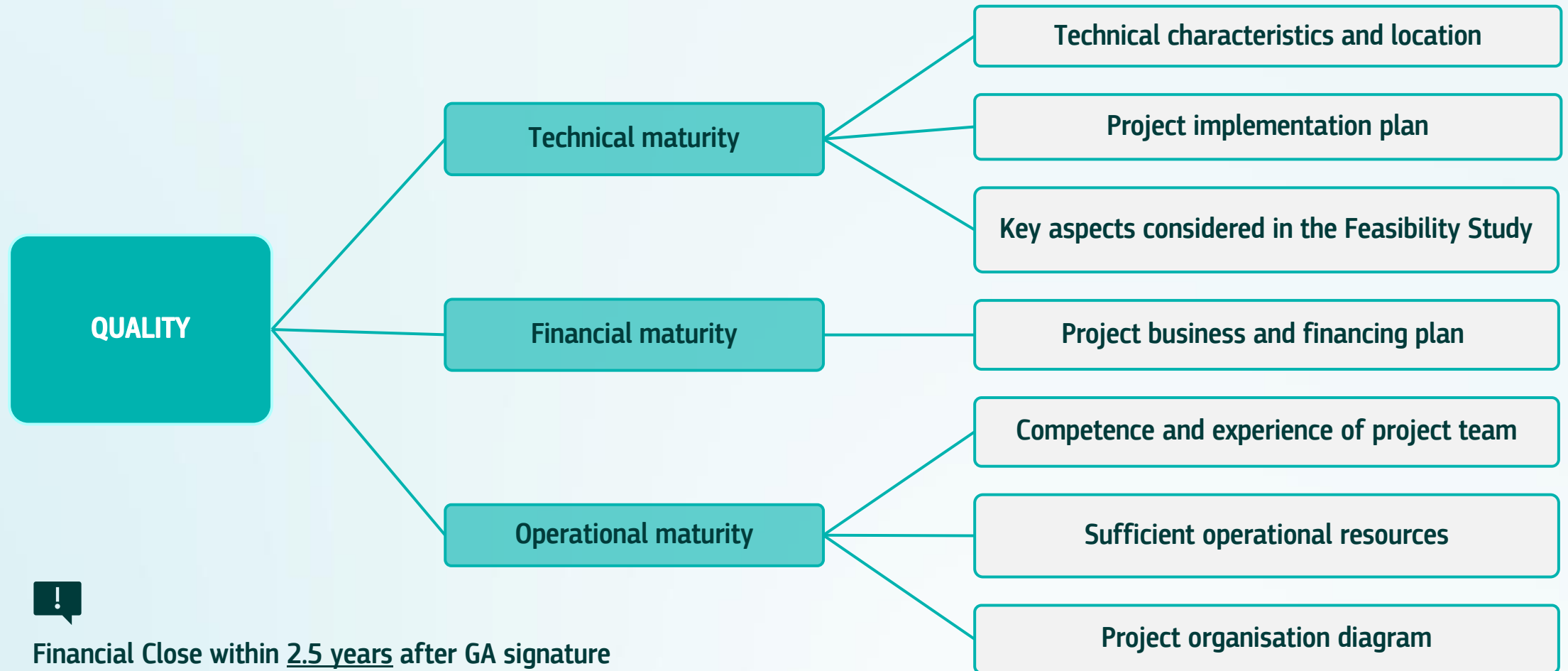
required

1. *Renewable electricity sourcing strategy*
2. *Hydrogen off-take & price hedging strategy*
3. *Electrolyser procurement strategy*
4. *Plan to receive environmental permits on time*
5. *Plan to receive grid connection permits on time*
6. **Feasibility Study** **NEW template**
7. *Completion guarantee letter of intent*

Award criteria – *Relevance*



Award criteria - *Quality*



Financial Close within 2.5 years after GA signature

Entry into Operation within 5 years after GA signature

Letter of Intent & Completion Guarantee

Letter of intent:

- To be provided in the application stage
- Issued by a bank or financial institution, authorized to conduct its business by the competent national authorities, with the following minimum rating from at least one of these rating agencies: BBB- from S&P or Fitch, Baa3 from Moody's or BBB(low) from DBRS) established in the EEA
- Template must be used and cannot be modified!

Completion guarantee:

- Signed completion guarantee using the template due 2 months after receiving invitation for GAP
- Provided by a financial institution with minimum rating as specified above
- Covering 8% of the maximum grant amount
- Validity until 6 months after maximum time to Entry into Operation
- Template must be used and cannot be modified!

Award criteria – ‘Quality’: financial maturity

Objective:

- assess the project capacity to reach Financial Close in 2.5 years and Entry into Operation within 5 years of grant signature.

Credibility of
business plan
Application Form
B 2.2 + FIF

Soundness of
the financing plan
Application Form
B 2.2 + FIF

Credibility of
Off-take and price
hedging strategy

Consistency across all documents of the application is key!

Lessons learned – Financial maturity

- Ensure **CAPEX** is sufficiently **detailed & credible** in lines 347 to 375 of the FIF. Make sure it ties with the **electrolyser procurement strategy**
- Ensure **sources of equity** financing and **debt financing are sufficiently described & credible** – *who is likely to provide it? Do they have the financial capacity to provide such an amount?*
- Ensure the **off-take strategy** and **off-take pre-contractual signed term sheets encompasses all the elements listed in the call text** – *make sure it ties to the volume and prices in the FIF*
- **Letter of intent completion guarantee** and completion guarantee: use strictly the template provided on the funding and tender portal **without changing the text**

Application process & requirements

Application process – *How to apply & mandatory documents*

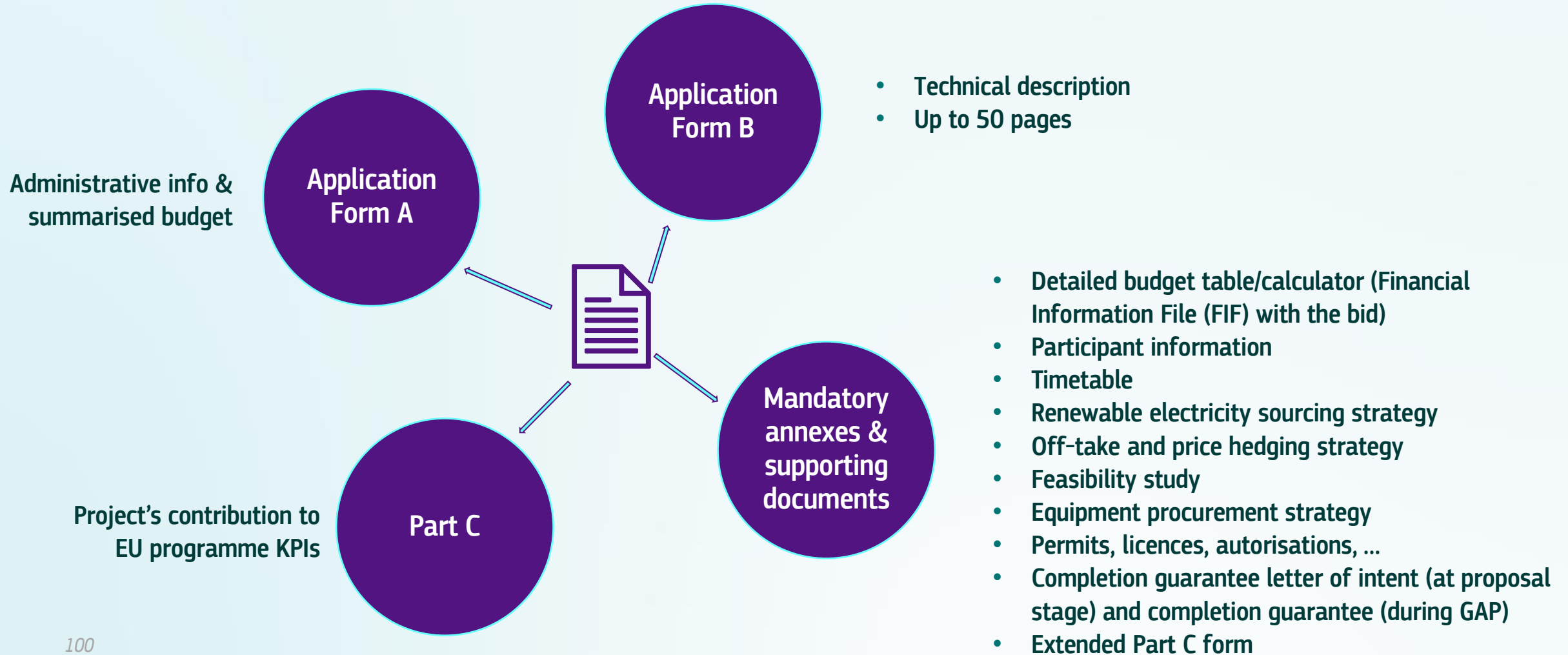
All relevant information to apply:

- [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- [Application process tutorial](#)
- [Financial Information File \(FIF\) tutorial](#)
- [Info Day recording and slides](#)
- [Innovation Fund Helpdesk](#)
- [Q&A on the general design of the IF24 Auction](#)

Programming period	2 item(s) found
Innovation Fund (INNOVFUND)	Programme Innovation Fund (INNOVFUND)
InnovFund-2024-AUC-RFNB...	Innovation Fund 2024 Auction - Fixed Premium Auction for RFNBO hydrogen production for the maritime sector
Submission status	INNOVFUND-2024-AUC-RFNBOH2-MARITIME Call for proposal
All filters	Opening date: 03 December 2024 Deadline date: 20 February 2025 Single-stage
	Programme: Innovation Fund (INNOVFUND) Type of action: INNOVFUND Fixed Premium Auction Unit Grants
	Innovation Fund 2024 Auction - Fixed Premium Auction for RFNBO hydrogen production
	INNOVFUND-2024-AUC-RFNBOH2-GENERAL Call for proposal
	Opening date: 03 December 2024 Deadline date: 20 February 2025 Single-stage
	Programme: Innovation Fund (INNOVFUND) Type of action: INNOVFUND Fixed Premium Auction Unit Grants

Call information
on EU Funding & Tenders portal

Application process – *Compulsory documents*



Application process – *Lessons learned admissibility & eligibility (1/2)*

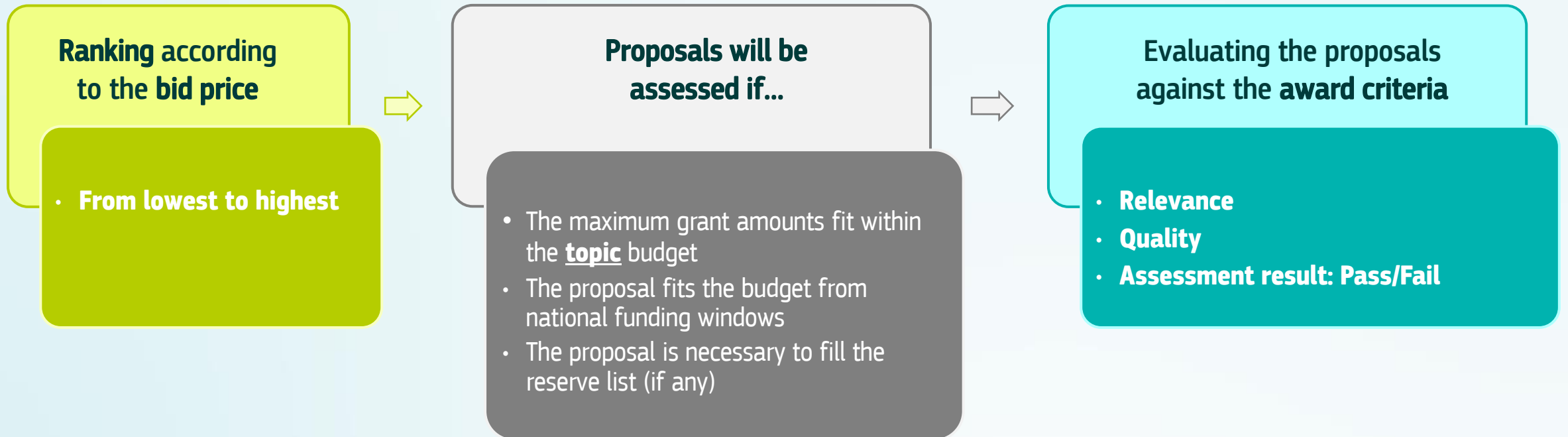
- Ensure the proposal is **complete and contain all the requested information** (Application Forms A, B, and C) and **all required annexes and supporting documents**
- Use the mandatory forms and templates provided and **do not modify them**
- Ensure your application is readable, accessible and printable
- Ensure minimum installed capacity of the electrolyser of **at least 5 MWe**, project and budget size in the limits expressed in the call
- The bid price **may not exceed** the ceiling of **€4/kg** of RFNBO hydrogen

Application process – *Lessons learned admissibility & eligibility (2/2)*

Examples of ***non-admissible*** proposals (non-exhaustive list):

- No renewable electricity sourcing strategy, or missing mandatory information
- No evidence of initiated process with relevant authority to receive an environmental permit
- No letter of intent from a bank or financial institution to issue a completion guarantee
- Letter of intent to provide a completion guarantee is not based on the template provided or has missing elements
- Financial information file provided not used
- No description of the applicant
- Some pages of the documents are not readable

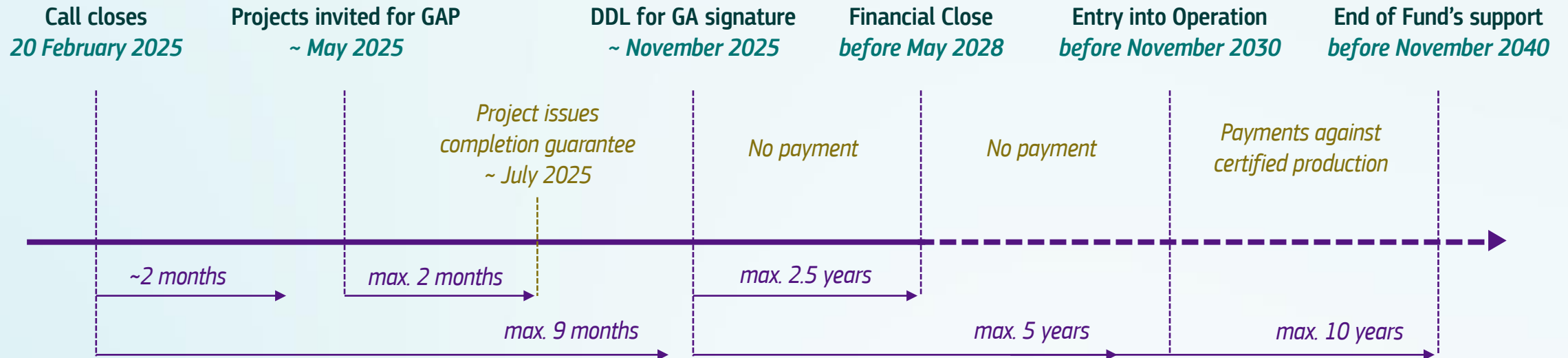
Evaluation - Evaluation & award procedure (cascade approach)



The first proposal proposed for funding ('marginal bid') exceeding the call budget will be added to the reserve list and the total auction budget volume will be decreased accordingly.

IF24 Auction implementation timeline

indicative



- Evaluation is simplified (compared to regular grants) and much faster: approx. **2 months**.
- If the completion guarantee is well prepared, winners could sign grants well before the deadline for GA Signature.
- Maximum time to Entry into Operation (EiO) of 5 years to allow projects to manage delays, but normally EiO can be achieved earlier.

2024 funding opportunities



IF24 Auction

RFNBO Hydrogen
3 Dec 2024 – 20 Feb 2025
Budget: €1.2 billion



IF24 Call

General, Clean-tech, Pilots
3 Dec 2024 – 24 April 2025
Budget: €2.4 billion



IF24 Batteries

Manufacturing of electric
vehicle battery cell
3 Dec 2024 – 24 April 2025
Budget: €1 billion

Join as project evaluator for Innovation Fund

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The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)

Sign up as an EU expert

for the INNOVATION FUND

Deploying innovative net-zero technologies for climate neutrality

Funded by the EU Emissions Trading System



More information here:



<https://europa.eu/!RTnFrw>

- Technical expert
- Financial expert
- GHG expert
- Rapporteur

[Sign up as an Expert \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/!RTnFrw)



More information



All (past) call documents available on the Funding and Tenders Portal including:

- ✓ Guidance and calculation tools on GHG emissions and relevant costs
- ✓ Frequently asked questions

<https://europa.eu/QB67by>



Further info, planning of new calls, recorded webinars and videos available on the IF Website:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/innovation-fund_en

And more videos available on YouTube:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrp3luGqStFA2fAgz86AsmVp8dXp5kPIG&si=h2W68TyCZJKemcjH>



Let's keep in touch



climate.ec.europa.eu

cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/innovation-fund_en



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[European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](https://ec.europa.eu/ecea/european-climate-infrastructure-and-environment-executive-agency)



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Thank you



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