Innovation Fund Small Scale Projects

Call for proposals
INEA in short

• European Commission's executive agency with five parent DGs

• Established in 2014 to manage parts of Connecting Europe Facility/Horizon 2020 and Legacy programmes
Innovation Fund

Production and use of Renewable energy
including manufacturing plants for components

Carbon Capture Use and Storage

Scaling up clean tech

Energy-intensive industries
including substitute products

Energy storage
including manufacturing plants for components
Main Features
Focus on innovative projects close to market

Call volume
- €100 million (grants)
- Project Development Assistance (PDA)

Project size
- CAPEX <€7.5 million

Eligible sectors
- Renewables
- Energy Intensive Industries and substitute products
- Carbon capture and storage
- Energy storage

Grant size
- Max 60% of CAPEX
Innovative small-scale projects ready for the market

**Pioneer Customer(s)**
Installation of an innovation in a new “pioneer” market with a “pioneer” customer.

- You have an exciting new technology but need a market
- Include the customer(s) in your application

**Examples**
- Battery solutions
- Hydrogen fuel cells powered data centres
- Climate neutral public buildings: renewable energy, energy storage and substitute materials pilot buildings
Award criteria and focus

**AWARD CRITERIA**

- Greenhouse gas emission avoidance
- Degree of innovation
- Project maturity
- Scalability
- Cost efficiency

**GRANT DISBURSEMENT**

- Up to 40% before or at financial close
- Remaining 60% over 3 year reporting period

**FOCUS**

- First sale of new technology to pioneer customers
Award Criteria

GHG Emissions avoidance
- Absolute and relative emissions
- Below ETS benchmark
- Biomass sustainability

Innovation
- Beyond state-of-the-art
- Beyond incremental innovation

Project maturity
- Implementation maturity
- Financial maturity

Scalability
- Project and regional level
- Sector level
- Economy wide

Cost efficiency
- Relevant cost = total project CAPEX
- EU contribution requested per tCO2 avoidance

Simplified methodologies

Encouragement of specific activities

Fewer requirements on documentation

No knowledge sharing plan

Simpler calculations

Simplifications compared to large-scale call
Grant Disbursement

- **Grant award**
- **Financial close**
- **Entry into operation**
- **Annual instalments** (3 - 10 years)

- **Project preparation**
  - Up to 40% payment
    - Not-depending on verified emissions avoidance
- **Construction**
  - At least 60% payment
    - Depending on verified emissions avoidance
- **Reporting period**
Selection Procedure

Assessment of award criteria → List of pre-selected projects to be consulted with Member States → Award of Project Development Assistance → Award of project grants
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Which projects can benefit from PDA?
- Rejected projects that:
  - Meet certain minimum requirements
  - Are considered by evaluators as having potential to improve their maturity with PDA
  - Are confirmed by the EIB as shortlisted projects for the PDA

How does it work?
- The PDA support consists of the EIB expert services for further development of projects
- Managed separately under project – specific contract with the EIB
- About 20 projects could benefit from the PDA in this call
Timeline

1 December 2020
Launch of the call

9 December 2020
First webinar

January 2021
More webinars

10 March 2021
Deadline for submission

August 2021
Information on evaluation results and grant preparation
JOIN AS PROJECT EVALUATOR

- **Individual** evaluation (remote)
  - Normally 5-10 working days
  - To be organized fully remotely from your office or home
  - Can be performed during weekends and evenings

- **Consensus group**
  - Full week of discussion with other fellow evaluators
  - Either in Brussels or virtually

- **Up to €5000 compensation OR pro-bono**

- **Confidentiality and conflict of interest rules apply**

Check [INEA website](https://inea.ec.europa.eu) for the application process!
How to be informed

- **INNOVATION FUND WEBINAR**
- **INEA webpage**
- **Funding & tender portal**

ec.europa.eu/inea  
@inea_eu
THANK YOU

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