

Clean Hydrogen Partnership Call 2026 Info Session for Baltic countries

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Mirela ATANASIU,
Head of Unit Operations and Communication



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Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking

EU Institutional Public-Private Partnership (IPPP)



1 billion EURO from Horizon Europe* to implement R&I activities and facilitate the transition to a greener EU society through the development of hydrogen technologies

*** additional 200 million EURO for Hydrogen valleys (under RePowerEU)**

Objectives



General



Support the implementation of the Commission's **Hydrogen Strategy**



Stimulate **research and innovation on clean hydrogen** production, distribution, storage and end use applications



Strengthen the **competitiveness of the EU clean hydrogen value chain**



Contribute to the EU ambitious **2030 and 2050 climate ambition**

Specific



Improve the **cost-effectiveness, efficiency, reliability,** quantity and quality of clean hydrogen solutions across **entire value chain**



Strengthen the **knowledge/capacity of scientific and industrial actors** along the Union's hydrogen value chain while supporting the **uptake of skills**

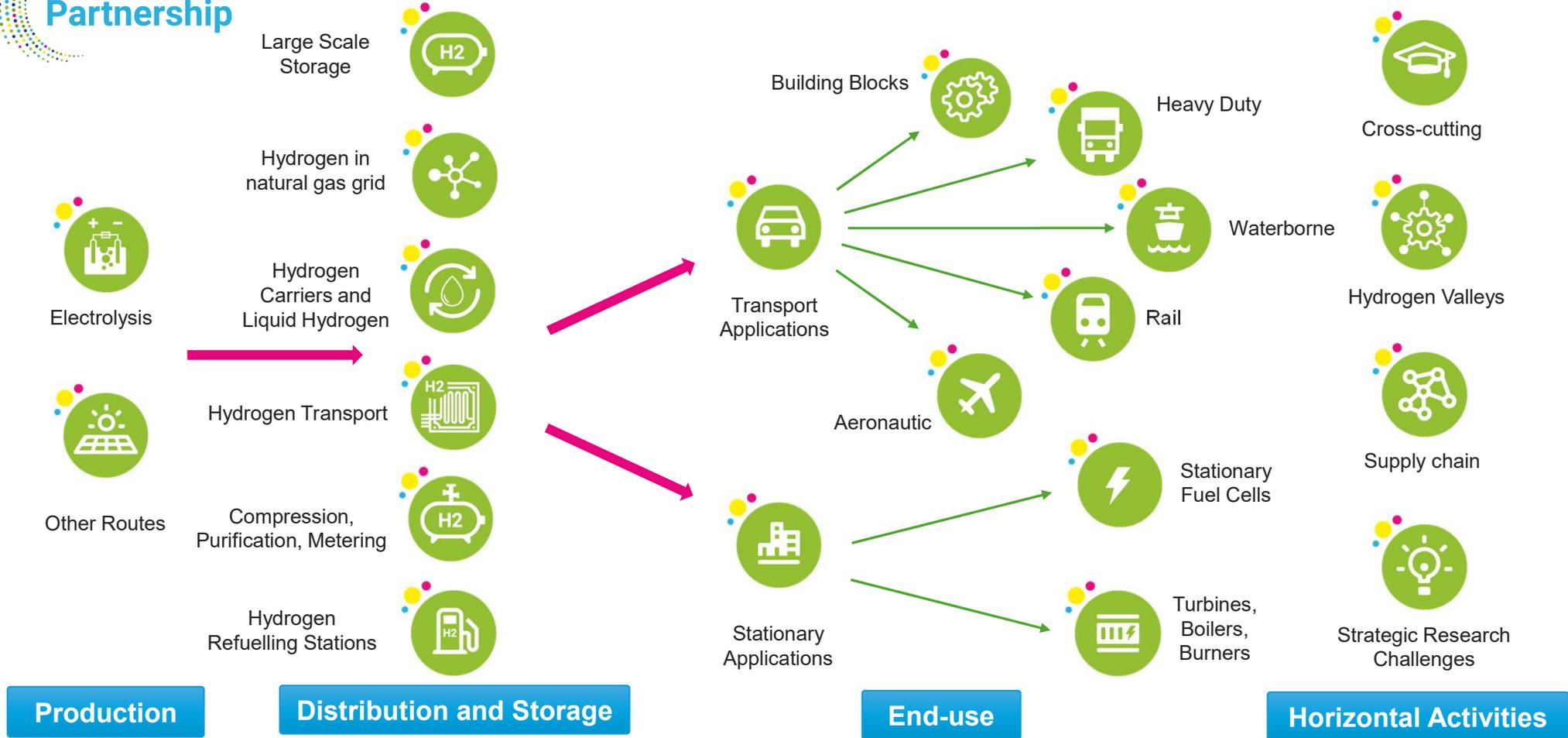


Demonstrations of clean hydrogen solutions with a view to **local, regional and Union-wide deployment,** aiming to involve stakeholders in all Member States and across **entire value chain**



Increase **public and private awareness, acceptance** and uptake of clean hydrogen solutions

SRIA: Research & Innovation Activities





Yearly support to R&I

ANNEX to GB decision no. CleanHydrogen-GB-2024-15

Clean Hydrogen JOINT UNDERTAKING
(Clean Hydrogen JU)

WORK PROGRAMME 2025



In accordance with the Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 and with Article 33 of the Financial Rules of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking.
The work programme is made publicly available after its adoption by the Governing Board.

1

Annual Work Programme

outlines the activities of a given year (aligned with the SRIA)

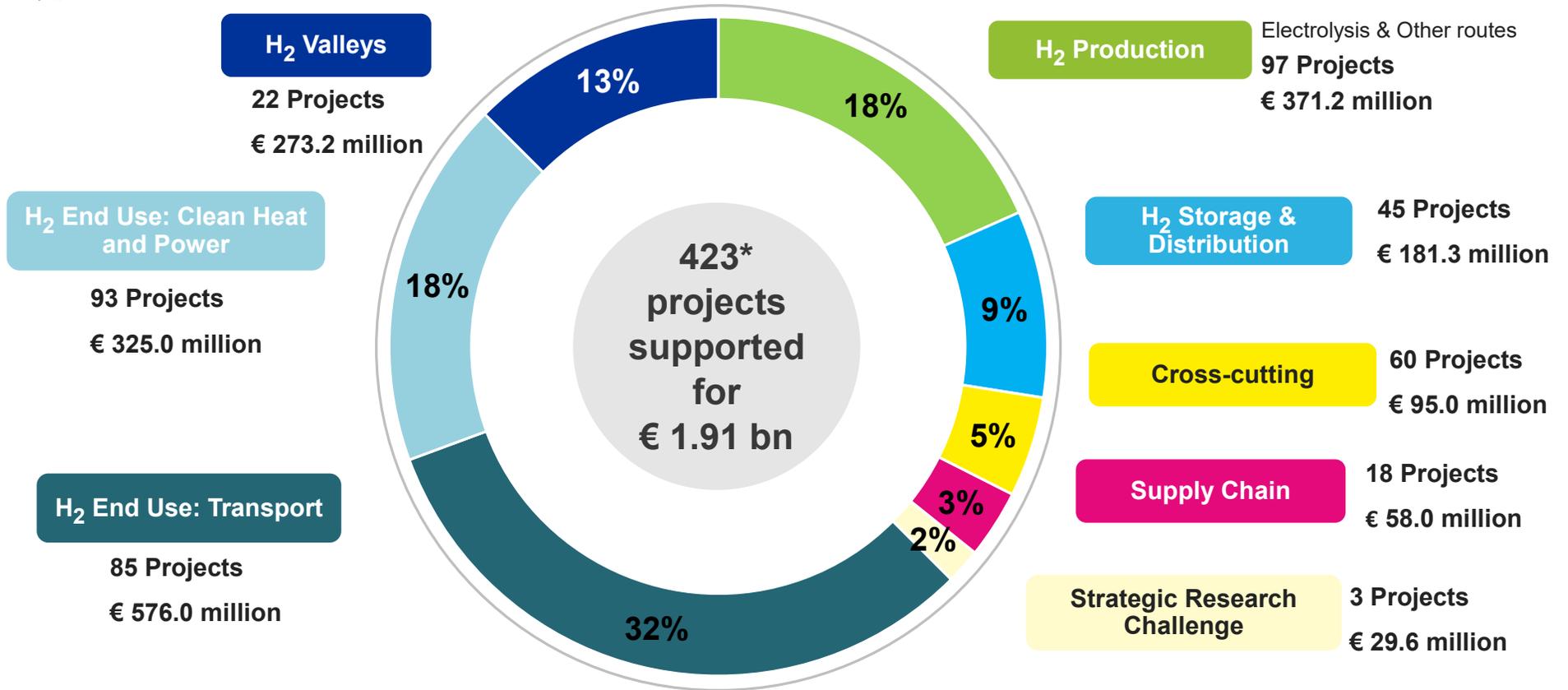
Call for Proposals

- Topics supported each year are informed by the Strategic Priorities agreed by the JU Governing Board for a given year (with the advice of the SG and SRG)
 - General Annexes to Horizon Europe
 - Specific topic conditions such as maximum contribution per topic

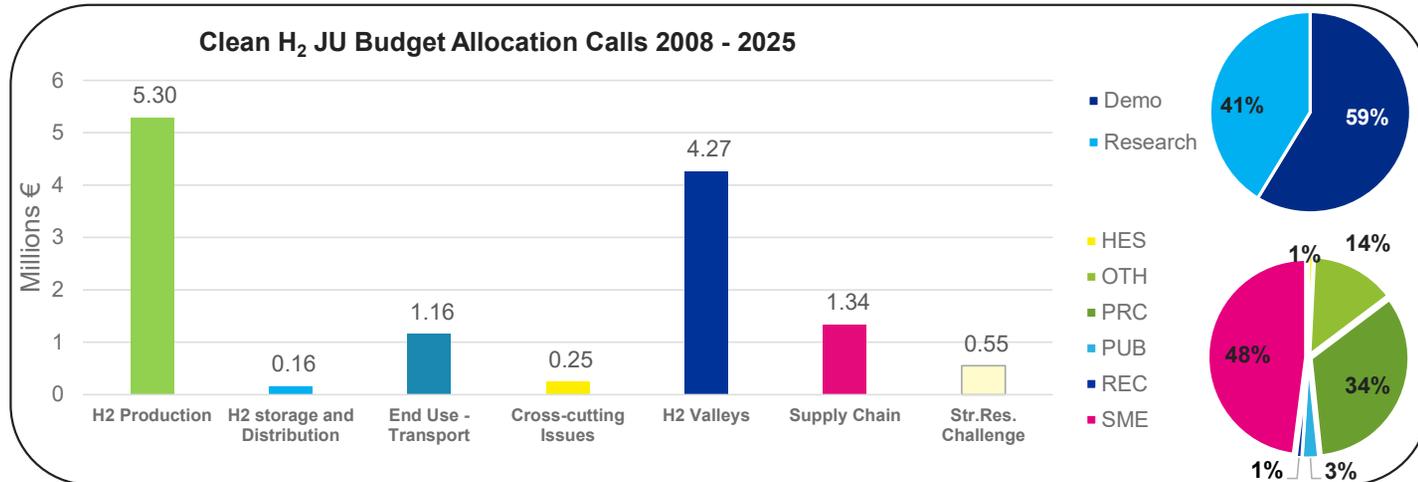
Additional Activities necessary to fulfil the objectives of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership

- Developing synergies with other partnerships and programmes
- Regulations, Codes and Standards
- European Hydrogen Safety Panel
- European Hydrogen Sustainability and Circularity Panel
- Knowledge management
- Competitiveness, SMEs
- International Cooperation
- Communication activities

Clean Hydrogen JU Programme (cumulative)



Baltic states - Support in the Clean H₂ JU



JU funds
13 M €

Projects
28

Beneficiaries
25

SMEs
48%

Top Funded Projects:

- BalticSeaH2 – 4.1 M€
- SYRIUS – 1.2 M€
- AMPS – 1 M€

Top Beneficiaries:

- ELCOGEN – 3 M€
- STARGATE – 2.8 M€
- VIRU VESINIK – 0.771 M€

PDA of regions:

- Tartu (Estonia 2021 - 2022)
- Tartu City (Estonia 2023 - 2024)
- Estonian Islands (Estonia 2023 -2024)
- Jelgava (Latvia 2021 - 2022)
- Riga (Latvia 2021 - 2022)

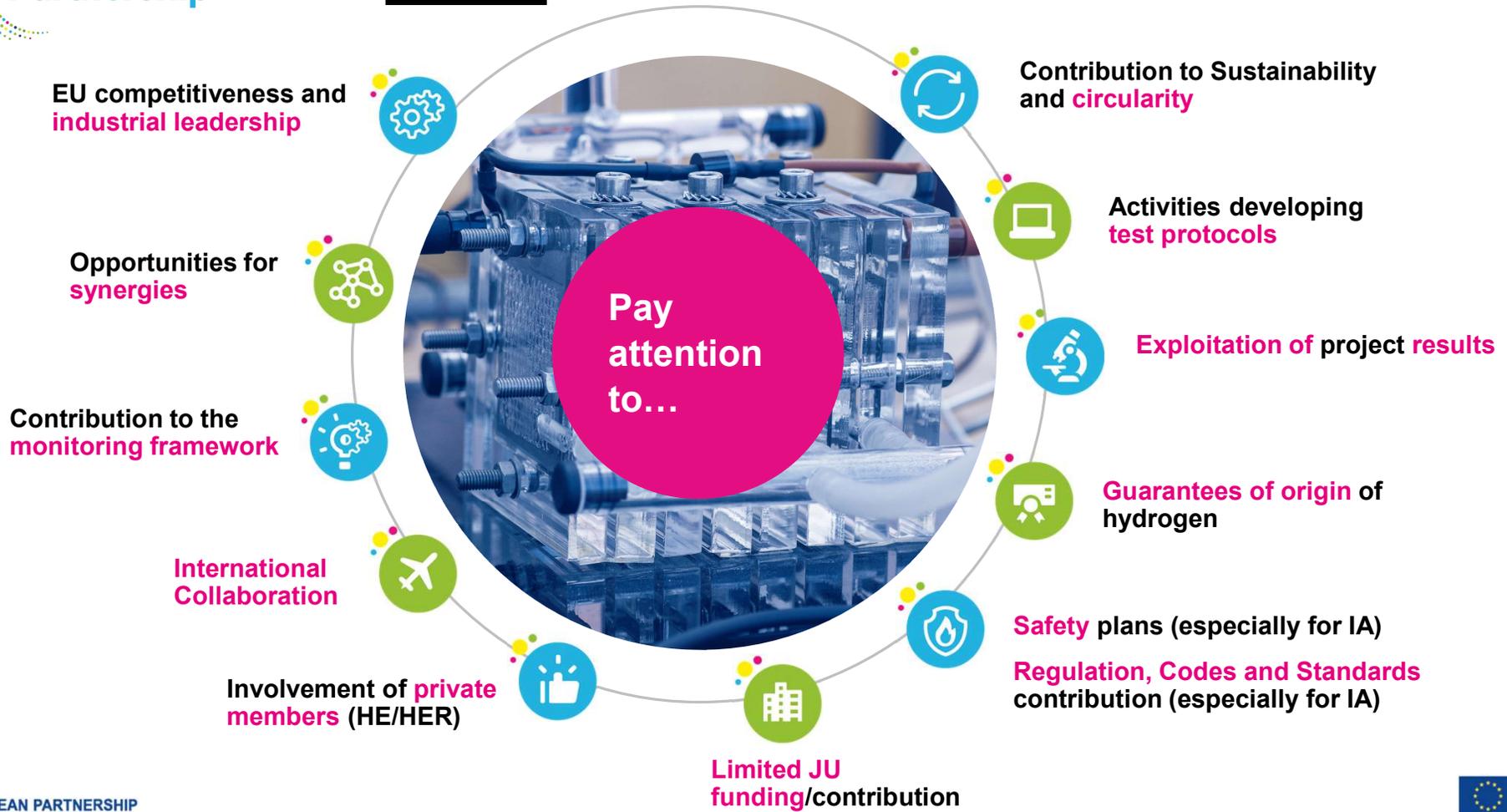
H₂ Valleys supported by the JU
BalticSeaH2 (H2 corridor, cross border, Baltic Sea countries, South Finland - Estonia)

Call for proposals 2026

Total budget: 105 M€
Publication date: 20 January 2026
Deadline: 15 April 2026



Call conditions and common elements to pay attention to:



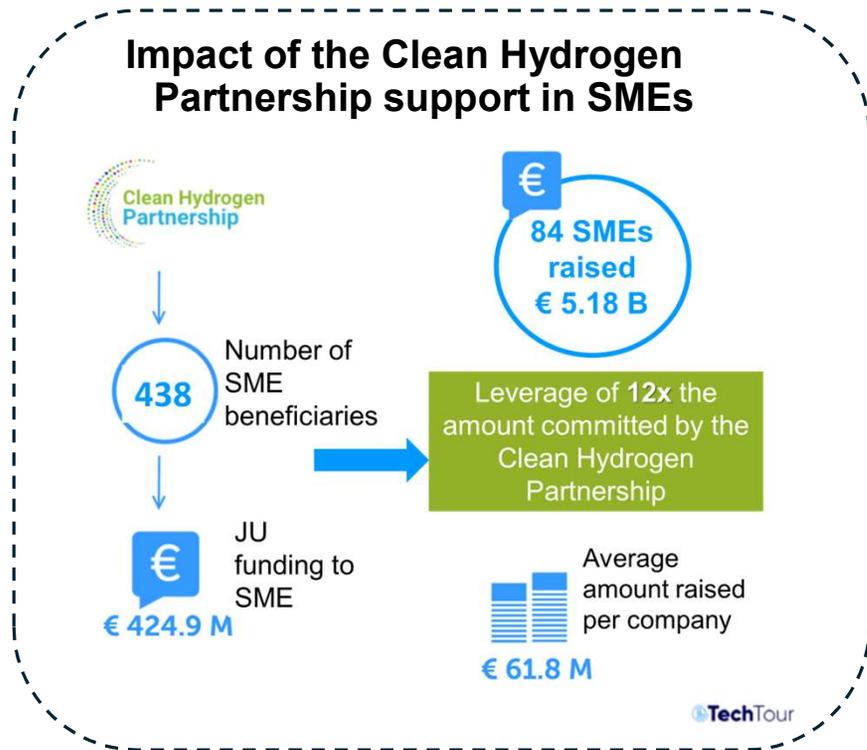
Other Activities

Additional activities are necessary to fulfil the Clean Hydrogen JU objectives



- Developing synergies with other partnerships and programmes
- Regulations, Codes and Standards
- European Hydrogen Safety
- European Hydrogen Sustainability and Circularity
- Knowledge management
- Competitiveness, SMEs
- International Cooperation
- Communication activities

Additional activities to support the H2 ecosystem e.g. competitiveness, start-ups support etc



European Clean Hydrogen Start-Up Hub

- Tender to set-up and run a European Clean Hydrogen Start-Up Hub aiming at accelerating and accompanying the “translation” of research into investable start-ups, building the basis for scaling startups by connecting investment to hydrogen innovation with corporates as key enablers, and building and consolidating European Hydrogen Innovation Corridors.
- The initiative shall contribute to the European Commission’s planned Scale Up and Start Up strategy.

Indicative budget: 10 MEUR, Q1/Q2, open procedure



Call for Proposals 2026

Summary of Topics





Call Information Available in Our Website

https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/call-proposals-2026-open_en

Call for proposals 2026 – OPEN

The Clean Hydrogen Partnership launches its hydrogen research call for proposals on 20 January 2026. A total of € 105 million will be made available for projects to support the creation of cutting-edge hydrogen technologies.

How to submit your proposal

You can find the details of the call on the Funding and Tender portal: [Call HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026](#).

Deadline date: 15 April 2026, 17:00 (CEST)

Submission System will be opened from end February 2026. The submission must be done entirely via the portal.

Additional documents

More information about the scope and details of the partnership's activities for the year 2026 can be found in the [Clean Hydrogen Partnership Annual Work Programme](#), and the [Clean Hydrogen Partnership Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#).

Details of the application process and the award criteria will be presented as well during the [Info Day 2026](#).

Lump Sums Guidance

- Guidance: "[Lump sums - what do I need to know?](#)"
- [Comprehensive information on lump sum funding in Horizon Europe](#)

Application form

- [Application form - Part B \(HE CleanH2 RIA, IA\)](#)
- [Application form - Part B \(HE CleanH2 CSA\)](#)

FAQ

- Specific [FAQ document](#), from call HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026
- Question not already covered? Submit it here: [Call 2026 - Question](#)

Hydrogen Production Overview



Main Focus

Electrolysis

- Hydrogen from low-quality water
- Safety in challenging dynamic conditions

Other routes

- H₂ production from renewable gases & biogenic waste sources
- Direct solar hydrogen production



What is new

- Addressing non-technological challenges

Hydrogen Production Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-01: Development and validation of innovative approaches, catalysts, electrolytes and components for electrolysis technologies based on low-quality water	RIA	3
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-02: Cost-efficient and reliable designs towards gigawatt-scale electrolytic hydrogen production plants	RIA	2.5
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-03: Improved components and tools to increase the safety of electrolysers	RIA	3
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-04: Innovative business models advancing renewable electrolysis integration in industry	CSA	1.5
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-05: Sustainable hydrogen production from renewable gases and biogenic waste sources through innovative modular reactor design, process intensification and integration	RIA	3
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-06: Scalable and high efficiency materials and reactors for direct solar hydrogen production	RIA	3

Hydrogen Storage and Distribution Overview



Main Focus

Hydrogen Storage

- Novel Gaseous Storage

Hydrogen Distribution

- Inspection Tool for Off-shore Pipelines

Liquid Hydrogen

- New insulation concept for shipping liquid hydrogen
- Small scale hydrogen liquefaction

Hydrogen Storage and Distribution Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-02-01: Affordable, Safe and Sustainable aboveground medium to large GH2 storage	RIA	4
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-02-02: Demonstrating in-line inspection (ILI) to monitor cracks assuring compatibility for operation with hydrogen in new and re-purposed offshore natural gas pipelines	RIA	3.5
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-02-03: New thermal insulation concepts for bulk liquid hydrogen shipping	RIA	4
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-02-04: Cost-efficient small scale hydrogen liquefaction	RIA	6

Hydrogen End Uses: Transport Applications Overview



Main Focus

- Online control and monitoring for Fuel Cells system BoP components
- Development of LH2 supply and conditioning for aviation applications
- Standardised hydrogen storage solutions
- Multifuel SOFC powertrain for maritime applications



What is new

- European open-source platform for sharing data
- Synergy between Clean Hydrogen JU and Clean Aviation JU funded projects
- Large span of alternative fuels (CH₃OH, CH₄, H₂ or NH₃) for SOFC in maritime

Transport Applications Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-03-01: Integration of control & monitoring tools and strategies for improved Fuel Cell System durability & reliability	RIA	4
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-03-02: Components Development and Experimental Testing for an Onboard Liquid Hydrogen Supply and Conditioning System in High-Power Fuel Cell Aviation Applications	RIA	8
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-03-03: Flexible and standardised hydrogen storage system	IA	5*
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-03-04: Multi-fuel SOFC powertrain for maritime transport	RIA	8**

***This is the maximum Clean Hydrogen JU contribution that may be requested – proposals requesting Clean Hydrogen JU contributions above this amount will not be evaluated**

**** Additional EUR 8 million may become available**

Hydrogen End Uses: Clean Heat and Power Overview



Main Focus

- Reversible proton conducting ceramic cells and stacks
- Reversible Solid Oxide Fuel Cells integrated with the grid
- Gas turbine combustion technology using ammonia



What is new

- Combination of Co-ionic with proton ceramic conduction
- Scale up of reversible solid oxide fuel cells stacks
- Development of a full-scale combustor using ammonia-based fuels at TRL5

Clean Heat and Power Applications Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-04-01: Next generation of reversible proton conducting ceramic cells and stacks for efficient energy applications at ≥ 1 kW scale	RIA	3
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-04-02: Demonstration of rSOC operation for local grid-connected hydrogen production and utilisation	IA	8*
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-04-03: Fuel-flexible gas turbine combustion technology for clean and efficient ammonia firing	RIA	5

* This is the maximum Clean Hydrogen JU contribution that may be requested – proposals requesting Clean Hydrogen JU contributions above this amount will not be evaluated

Cross-cutting Issues Overview



Main Focus

- Continue raising the environmental sustainability of fuel cell and hydrogen (FCH) systems
- Keep improving safety and trust in hydrogen



What is new

- Development of datasets for environmental analysis of FCH technologies
- Gaining further understanding of potential odorants for hydrogen

Cross-cutting Issues Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-05-01: Public datasets of technologies along the hydrogen value chain for life cycle (sustainability) assessment	CSA	2.5
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-05-02: Pre-Normative Research on hydrogen odourisation : enhancing safety and detection along the hydrogen value chain	RIA	3

Hydrogen Valleys - Overview



Main Focus

- Demonstrate an ecosystem built on the complete value chain of hydrogen
- Large and small-scale hydrogen valleys acting as testbeds to showcase first regional "hydrogen economies"
- Topic open to foster the emergence of the widest possible array of valleys configurations
- Innovation in H2 Valleys is not about the technology development of an application, but on system integration of hydrogen production, its distribution and storage, and its subsequent use (TRL $\geq 6-8$)



What is new

- Change in the minimum volumes of hydrogen production & offtake and accordingly lower Clean Hydrogen JU funding per project
- Geographical location of small-scale Hydrogen Valleys should be in EU-13 countries
- FAQs on Hydrogen Valleys [available](#)

Hydrogen Valleys - Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026-06-01: Hydrogen Valleys (large-scale)	IA	17*
HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026-06-02: Hydrogen Valleys (small-scale)	IA	8*

***This is the maximum Clean Hydrogen JU contribution that may be requested – proposals requesting Clean Hydrogen JU contributions above this amount will not be evaluated**

Hydrogen Valleys - Topics

HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026-06-01: Hydrogen Valleys (large-scale)



Develop and demonstrate a large-scale Hydrogen Valley with innovative approaches at system level



- Production of $\geq 3,000$ tonnes of clean H₂ per year using new hydrogen production capacity (GOs)
- ≥ 2 hydrogen applications from ≥ 2 sectors (energy, industry, transport), ≥ 2 years of operations
- Production plants may be distributed across the territories involved but should share common hydrogen supply infrastructure

HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026-06-02: Hydrogen Valleys (small-scale)



Develop and demonstrate a small -scale Hydrogen Valley with innovative approaches at system level



- Production of ≥ 400 tonnes of clean H₂ per year using new hydrogen production capacity (GOs)
- Supply more than one end sector or application (mobility, industry energy), ≥ 2 years of operations;
- Geographical location of the Hydrogen Valleys should be in EU-13 countries, while the topic is open to participation of entities from EU and Associated Countries e.g. to provide/build equipment etc.

Hydrogen Valleys - Topics

Common elements applicable to Hydrogen Valley Topics (1/2)

- **Costs for construction and commissioning phase** of H2 production technologies (e.g connection to the electricity grid, electricity costs) and other H2 infrastructure (e.g HRS, storage, pipelines, etc) **may be funded**;
- **Costs of renewable energy plants** (e.g., PV or wind plant) or related **costs for operation of the Hydrogen Valley** (e.g., electricity for electrolysers) will not be funded;
- Provide concrete project **implementation plans** with a clear calendar, defining the key phases of the implementation of the action;
- Provide a **funding plan** to ensure implementation of the project in synergies with other sources of funding;
- Clearly and coherently present the Hydrogen Valley (across the whole value chain) including the investments/actions supported directly by this topic as well as **other investments/actions supported by other funding /financing sources**;
- Demonstration of how **financial viability** is expected to be reached after two years of operation.

Hydrogen Valleys - Topics

Common elements applicable to Hydrogen Valley Topics (2/2)

- Provide **evidence of the commitment** and role of public authorities and of any other necessary stakeholders (e.g. hydrogen off-takers) at least in the form of **Letters of Intent (LOI)**, remember to include as annexes;
- **Replicability and cooperation** between regions to facilitate transfer of knowledge across the EU with a focus on fostering replication of Hydrogen Valleys elsewhere;
- **Scalability** showing how the valley is expected to grow;
- Demonstrate **contribution to EU competitiveness and industrial leadership**.

Call for Proposals 2026

From Call to Evaluation and basics of legal framework





Applicable Rules

General Annexes to Horizon Europe

- Admissibility (Annex A)
- Eligibility (Annex B)
- Financial and operational capacity and exclusion (Annex C)
- Award criteria (Annex D)
- Documents (Annex E)
- Procedure (Annex F)

Others important aspects:

- TRL, Gender equality plan

May introduce additional eligibility criteria:

- Maximum contribution per topic
- Consortium composition

Easy financial set-up and reporting with LUMP SUMS

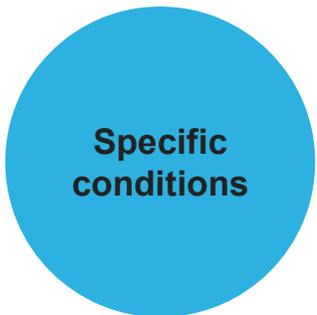


- Guidance: "[Lump sums - what do I need to know?](#)"

- [Comprehensive information on lump sum funding in Horizon Europe](#)



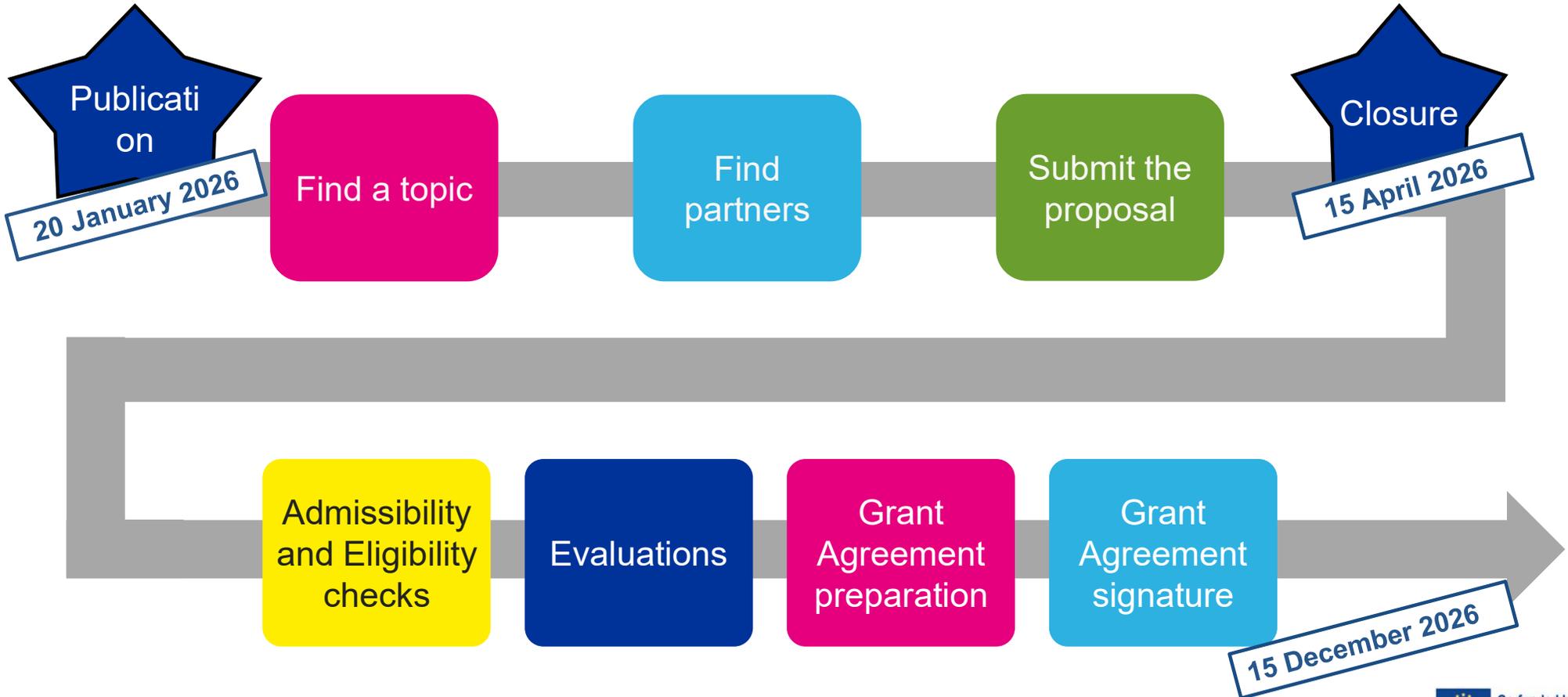
HorizonEU



Work Programme 2026



Call 2026 – Main steps from publication to projects



A proposal is a response to a topic, read it carefully

- TRL at start and end
- Consortium composition
- Indicative budget and maximum budget
- ...

- Technical targets
- Costs reduction
- Contribution to policies (env., indus., ...)
- SRIA KPIs
- ...

- Operational requirements
- Technical boundaries
- Extra focus on circularity, EU competitiveness, etc.
- Safety plan (IA)
- ...

Out-of-scope proposals = ineligible

HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2024-03-01: Balance of plant components, architectures and operation strategies for improved PEMFC system efficiency and lifetime

Specific conditions	
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Action
Technology Readiness Level	Activities are expected to start at TRL 3 and achieve TRL 5 by the end of the project - see General Annex B.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025) ¹⁹⁷ .

Expected Outcomes

To achieve the ambitious goal of the European Green Deal (at least 90% reduction in transport emissions by 2050 to be consistent with climate neutrality), reducing CO2 emissions attributed to transport, it is necessary to develop and demonstrate a zero-emission transportable fuel cell system to power critical infrastructures in the event of a natural disaster. The system to be developed and demonstrated is a zero-emission transportable fuel cell system, its operation epitomising the following expected outcomes:

- Solutions for improving efficiency and durability of the PEMFC system (at least 100 kW, as aimed for Heavy-duty (HD) road application), applicable for integration / implementation in a prototype for at least one HD transport mean by 2030;

Scope

The topic focuses on the development and demonstration at an operational environment of a lightweight, robust, containerised and modular zero-emission transportable of at least 50 kW_e fuel cell system to power critical infrastructures in the event of a natural disaster. The system to be developed and demonstrated is a zero-emission transportable fuel cell system, its operation epitomising the following expected outcomes:

- be easily transported, installed and started
- sustain vibrations and low (-30°C) and high (+50°C) ambient temperature
- be able to operate with air at low ambient pressure typical for mountain regions and other extreme environmental conditions.
- be compatible with the specific requirements and norms for transport and operation under relevant harsh environment conditions .

Find the topics in [JU Annual Work Programme 2026](#) (pages 51-136)

Check [FAQ document](#)

- Publicly available for all applicants
- Clarify important points of the call or topics

Types of Actions and funding rates

RIA - Research and Innovation Actions

Activities that aim primarily to establish new knowledge or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. This may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing, demonstration and validation of a **small-scale** prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.

funding rate
max. **100%**

IA- Innovation Actions

Activities that aim directly to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. These activities may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, **large-scale** product validation and market replication.

funding rate
max. **70%***

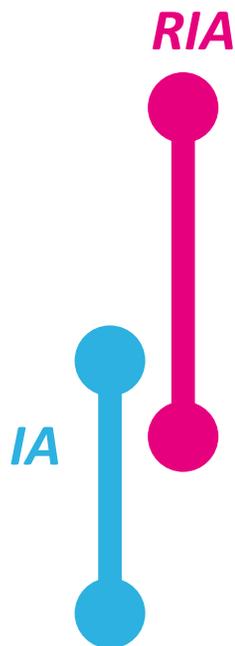
*Funding 100% for non-profit legal entities

CSA - Coordination and Support Action

Activities that contribute to the objectives of Horizon Europe. This **excludes R&I activities**. Also eligible are bottom-up coordination actions which promote cooperation between legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries to strengthen the European Research Area, and which receive no EU co-funding for research activities

funding rate
max. **100%**

Technology readiness levels (TRL)



TRL 1 – basic principles observed

TRL 2 – technology concept formulated

TRL 3 – experimental proof of concept

TRL 4 – technology validated in lab

TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment

TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment

TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment

TRL 8 – system complete and qualified

TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment

International participation and Eligibility for funding



Applicants from all over the world can participate, except:

- Entities subject to EU restrictive measures (see [EU Sanctions map](#))
- Chinese entities in RIA and IA, in any capacity (including as subcontractors)
- Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine
- And other exceptions



Yet, to be eligible for funding, beneficiaries must be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:

- The EU members states and their overseas countries and territories
- Countries associated to Horizon Europe (for example CA, CH, KR, NO, UK, etc.)
- Low and middle-income countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, ... , Zambia, Zimbabwe
- **Exceptionally**, any other country, if
 - The Clean Hydrogen JU considers that their participation as a beneficiary is essential for implementing the project



If not eligible for funding, applicants will have to participate at their own cost. These participants should **explain in the proposal how their funding will be secured**.

Application form (proposal template)

The proposal contains **three parts**:

Part A: Administrative

Who?

- Participants data
- Funding
- Ethics and security

Part B: Technical

How?

- Excellence
- Impacts
- Implementation

Detailed budget table

For how much?

- Detailed budget per participant and per WP

For hydrogen valleys **ONLY**

Additional Annex

- Evidences of commitment of stakeholders

- Part A (web-based forms) is generated by the IT system. It is based on the information entered by the participants through the submission system in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- Narrative part that includes three sections corresponding to evaluation criteria. Part B must be uploaded as a PDF following the templates downloaded in the submission system for the specific topic
- The detailed budget table is an Excel file. You must download it from the online submission system, fill it and submit it as an annex to the Part B of your application form.

Eligibility : minimum consortium composition

Horizon Europe General Annexes

Consortium includes, as **beneficiaries** three legal entities independent from each other and each established in a different country as follows:

RIA and IA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least one independent legal entity established in a Member State; and - at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries
CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one legal entity established in a Member State or Associated Country

Is this
consortium
eligible?

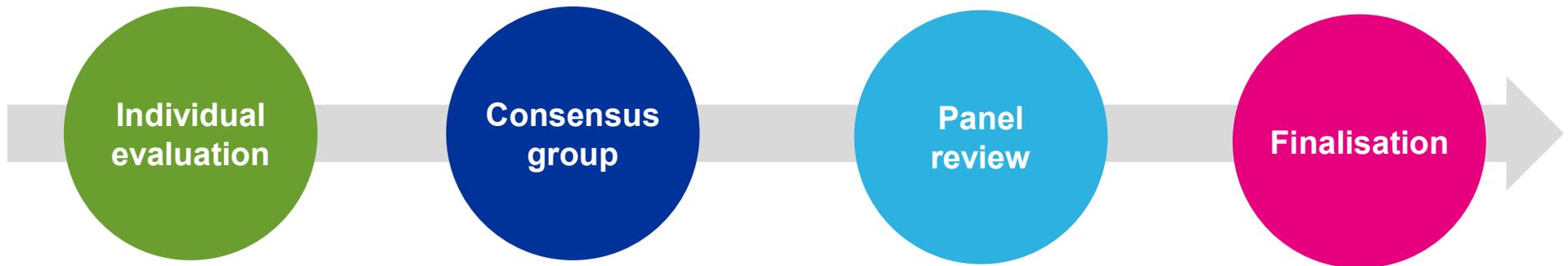
Consortium composition for a RIA, all entities independent from each other :

- Beneficiary 1: consultancy in Germany
- Beneficiary 2: industry in Norway
- Beneficiary 3: SME in Germany
- Associated partner: research institute in Switzerland

Yes?

Anwer: **No**

Evaluation process



Experts assess proposals **individually**.

Minimum of three experts per proposal

All individual experts discuss together to agree on a **common position**, including comments and scores for each proposal

The panel of experts reach an **agreement** on the scores and comments for all proposals within a call, checking **consistency across the evaluations**.

if necessary, resolve cases where evaluators were unable to agree.

Rank the proposals with the same score

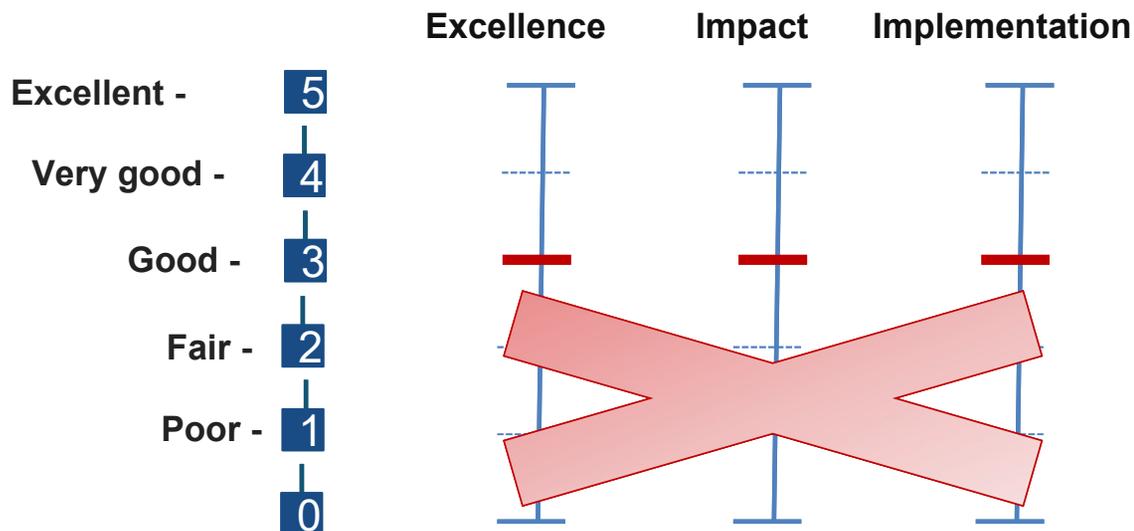
The Clean Hydrogen JU reviews the results of the experts' evaluation and puts together the **final ranking list**

Award criteria, scores, weighting and thresholds

The proposals will be evaluated against the following **award criteria**:

- **Excellence**
- **Impact**
- Quality and efficiency of the **implementation**

Evaluation grid available in
Annex D



Thresholds apply to:

- Individual criterion, score must be ≥ 3
- Overall score must be ≥ 10

Make quality your competitive advantage !

Excellence

- Clearly position the state of the art and **TRLs**
- Explain the science and highlight the **innovation** potential
- Set **clear, measurable KPIs** with a credible path to delivery

Impacts

- Show **realistic, measurable impacts** aligned with AWP/SRIA
- Define clear, usable **outcomes** and who will take them forward
- Deliver a focused dissemination & exploitation **plan** with innovative communication

Implementation

- Build a **balanced, relevant consortium** aligned with the topic
- Deliver a **credible work plan** with clear milestones and deliverables
- Manage risks proactively and justify a realistic, **well-structured budget**

Simple Language

Information easy to find

Easy to follow

Evaluation by independent experts

European Commission database of experts

Register through the **Funding & tender opportunities Portal** and **notify us with your interest**

Selection of experts

- High level of skill, experience and knowledge
- Independence and absence of conflict of interest
 - And a **balance** in terms of:
 - geographical diversity
 - gender
 - where appropriate, the private and public sectors, and
 - an appropriate 'rotation' from year to year.

In principle, each proposal will be examined by **at least three experts**

Presence of **one or more independent observers**

Experts that have a **conflict of interests** will be excluded by us !

Click [here](#) to register!



25% new experts



Large fields of expertise



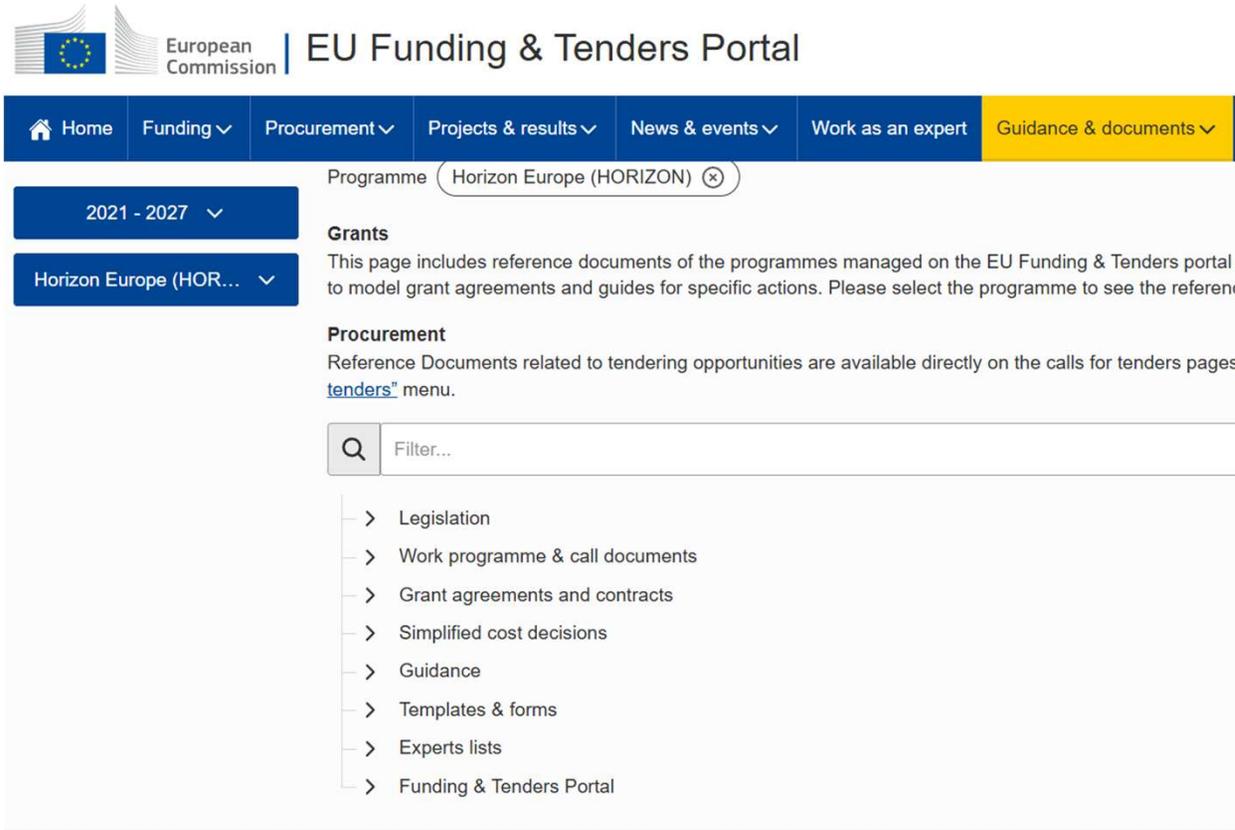
Network with fellows

Legal Frameworks and the Lump-Sum Model:

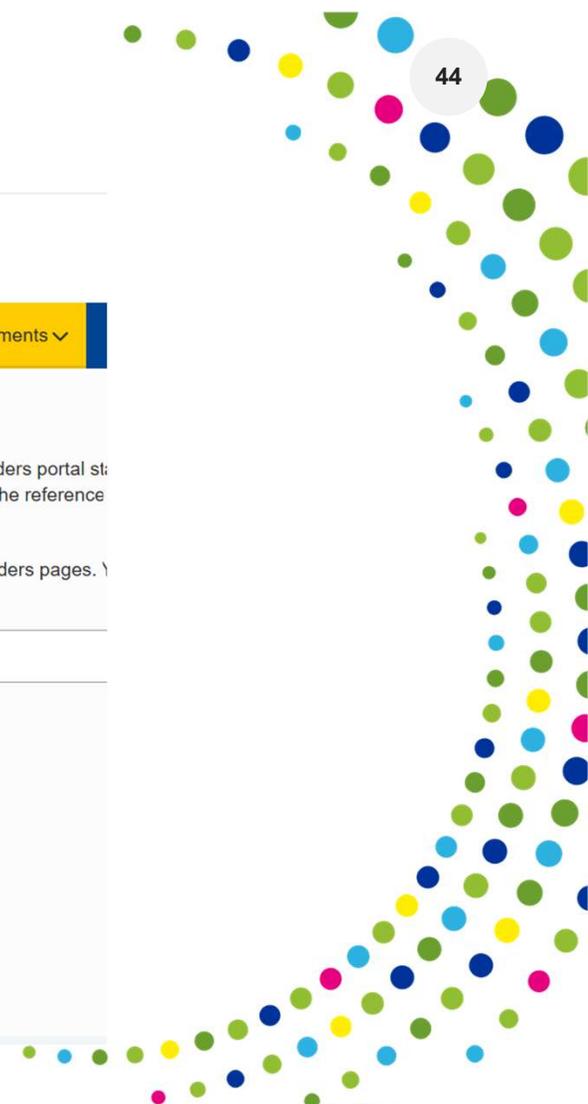
What Applicants Need to Know?



LEGAL FRAMEWORK



The screenshot shows the EU Funding & Tenders Portal interface. At the top, there is the European Commission logo and the text 'EU Funding & Tenders Portal'. Below this is a navigation bar with tabs: Home, Funding, Procurement, Projects & results, News & events, Work as an expert, and Guidance & documents. The 'Guidance & documents' tab is highlighted in yellow. Below the navigation bar, there are two dropdown menus: '2021 - 2027' and 'Horizon Europe (HOR...)'. The main content area is titled 'Programme Horizon Europe (HORIZON)'. It is divided into two sections: 'Grants' and 'Procurement'. The 'Grants' section states: 'This page includes reference documents of the programmes managed on the EU Funding & Tenders portal to model grant agreements and guides for specific actions. Please select the programme to see the reference documents.' The 'Procurement' section states: 'Reference Documents related to tendering opportunities are available directly on the calls for tenders pages. See the "tenders" menu.' Below these sections is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the text 'Filter...'. Underneath the search bar is a list of categories with expandable arrows: Legislation, Work programme & call documents, Grant agreements and contracts, Simplified cost decisions, Guidance, Templates & forms, Experts lists, and Funding & Tenders Portal.



THE GRANT AGREEMENT

- The grant agreement for your project will be based on the [Model Grant Agreement](#) for lump sum grants.
- The model grant is **non-negotiable** and can be reviewed already at proposal preparation stage.
- It establishes the **rights and obligations** of the beneficiaries and of the relevant funding body, in compliance with the HE Regulation (art. 33 [HE Regulation](#))
- The 'no negotiation' principle applies - Proposals are evaluated based on merit and not on their potential if certain improvements were made. This means that your proposal is taken 'as is'. The grant agreement will be prepared on the basis of the proposal you submitted.

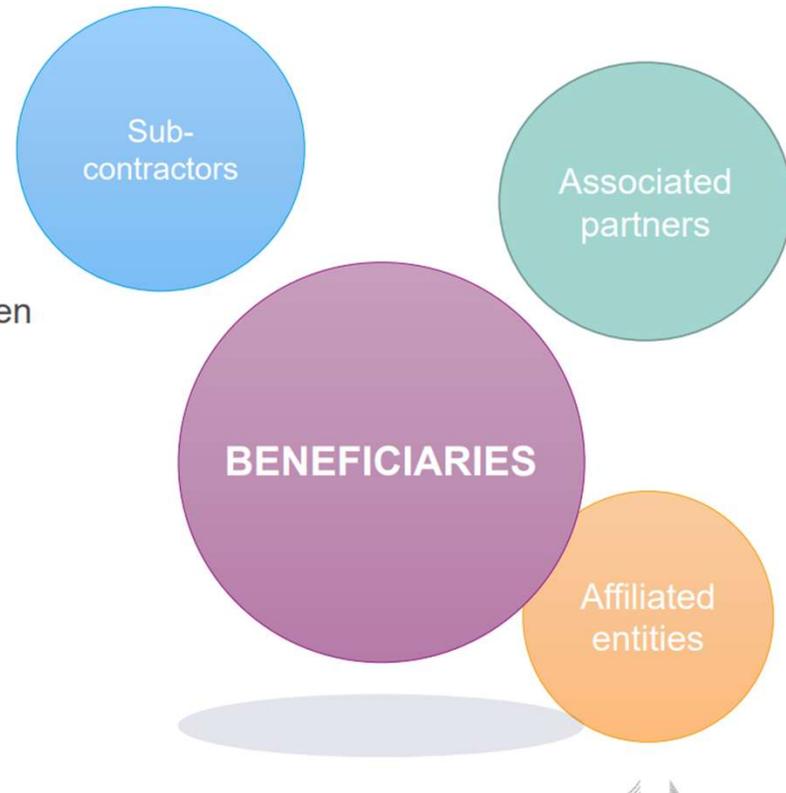
Consortium

Costs actually incurred are not relevant.

Who does the work still is!

- You need to know which participant does what when carrying out the project (see bubbles to the right).
- The partner organisations and their activities are specified in the grant agreement. This includes:
 - Beneficiaries
 - Affiliated entities (if any)
 - Associated partners (if any)
 - Subcontractors (if any)*

* Subcontracted activities must be in the grant agreement, but the subcontractor may or may not be named.



Lump sum Funding?

Simplification and reducing errors

- Lump sum project funding removes all obligations on actual cost reporting and financial ex-post audits – i.e. a major reduction of administrative burdens.
- Level playing field (SMEs vs Large enterprises)
- No change in terms of flexibility (deviations, amendments etc)

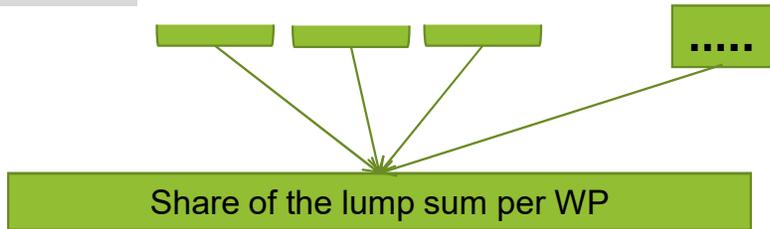
Focus on content

- Focus less on financial management and more on content /Project implementation.

Lump sum – Key difference

- Costs are only declared once → at Proposal stage
- After the evaluation, and if you are selected for funding, costs are transformed into lump sum shares per Beneficiary and are fixed in the GA per work package (Annex 2, ‘Estimated lump sum breakdown):

	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	WP8	Total
Beneficiary A	250.000			50.000	300.000	250.000		300.000	1.150.000
Beneficiary B		250.000	350.000	50.000			100.000	150.000	900.000
Beneficiary C	100.000	100.000		50.000		280.000			530.000
Beneficiary D		120.000		50.000			100.000	150.000	420.000
Total	350.000	470.000	350.000	200.000	300.000	530.000	200.000	600.000	3.000.000



Lump sum = Maximum grant amount

Setting a lump sum, **you define the amounts needed to carry out your project (respecting topic conditions)**

- The cost estimations assessed under the **Implementation** criterion.
- Experts will:
 - ensure that the cost estimations are **reasonable and non-excessive**
 - evaluate whether the proposed resources and the split of the lump sum **allow completing the activities as described in the proposal**.
- If the experts find overestimated costs, they make **concrete recommendations** on the budget that are recorded in the Evaluation Summary Report. This will be reflected in a modified lump sum amount in the grant agreement.
- Cost estimations that are clearly overestimated or underestimated lead to a decreased score under the implementation criterion.



BE Sheet – Costs budgeted as average Cost per Item X Number of Items

Coordinator: BE1 - BUDGET SHEET

COST CATEGORY	Baird COMPOUND			BE1-AE2			
	ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	BE TOTAL COSTS	ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	AE TOTAL COSTS	BE+AE TOTAL COSTS
COSTS WORK PACKAGE 1: Coordination & Management							
1. DIRECT PERSONNEL COSTS							
1.1 Employees (or equivalent)							
SENIOR SCIENTISTS (or equivalent in the private sector)	3.0	3500	10500.00	15.0	10000	150000.00	160500.00
JUNIOR SCIENTISTS (or equivalent in the private sector)	2.0	3200	6400.00	25.0	8000	200000.00	206400.00
TECHNICAL PERSONNEL (or equivalent in the private sector)			0.00			0.00	0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL (or equivalent in the private sector)			0.00			0.00	0.00
OTHERS			0.00			0.00	0.00
1.2 Natural Persons under direct contract							
1.3 Seconded Persons							
1.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries							
	2.0	5080	10160.00		6705	0.00	10160.00
2. DIRECT SUBCONTRACTING COSTS							
	2.0	5000	10000.00	1.0	17857	17857.14	27857.14
3. DIRECT PURCHASE COSTS							
3.1 Travel and subsistence							
3.2 Equipment (complete 'Depreciation costs' sheet)							
Equipment			0.00			0.00	0.00
Infrastructure			0.00			0.00	0.00
Other assets			0.00			0.00	0.00
3.3 Other goods, works and services							
Consumables			0.00	1.0	0	0.00	0.00
Services for meetings, seminars			0.00			0.00	0.00
Services for dissemination activities (including website)			0.00			0.00	0.00
Publication fees			0.00			0.00	0.00
Other (shipment, insurance, translation, etc.)			0.00			0.00	0.00
4. OTHER COST CATEGORIES							
4.1 Financial support to third parties (if applicable in the topic specific conditions)			0.00			0.00	0.00
4.2 Internally invoiced goods and services			0.00			0.00	0.00
4.3 Transnational access to research infrastructure item costs (if mentioned as eligible in the topic specific conditions)			0.00			0.00	0.00
4.4 Virtual access to research infrastructure item costs (if mentioned as eligible in the topic specific conditions)			0.00			0.00	0.00
4.5 PCP/PPI procurement costs (if mentioned as eligible in the topic specific conditions)			0.00			0.00	0.00
TOTAL DIRECT PERSONNEL COSTS AND PURCHASE COSTS (A+C)			27060.00			350000.00	377060.00
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (A+B+C+D)			37060.00			367857.14	404917.14
INDIRECT COSTS (25% * (A+C))			6765.00			87500.00	94265.00
TOTAL COSTS (A+B+C+D+E)			43825.00			455357.14	499182.14
COSTS WORK PACKAGE 2: Feasibility Analysis							
1. DIRECT PERSONNEL COSTS							
1.1 Employees (or equivalent)							

- Complete one 'BEx' sheet per beneficiary. This sheet includes one separate section for each work package. For each work package, enter the cost estimations under each cost category used.
- Enter only the number of units and the cost per unit for each cost category (yellow cells). The total costs per cost category is calculated automatically.
- For the cost per unit, enter only whole numbers (integers)
- If the beneficiary does not contribute to a specific work package, leave the cells empty.

Instructions
BE list
WP list
Lump sum breakdown
Person-months overview
Summary per WP
BE1
BE3

[Personnel Costs Dashboard here](#)

Resources available

One dedicated [lump sum page](#) on the Funding & Tenders Portal with:

Guidance documents

- [What do I need to know? & Quick guide](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [Detailed guidance for participants](#)
- [Lump sum briefing slides for experts](#)

Reference documents

- [Model Grant Agreement Lump Sum](#)
- [Decision authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme](#)

Events

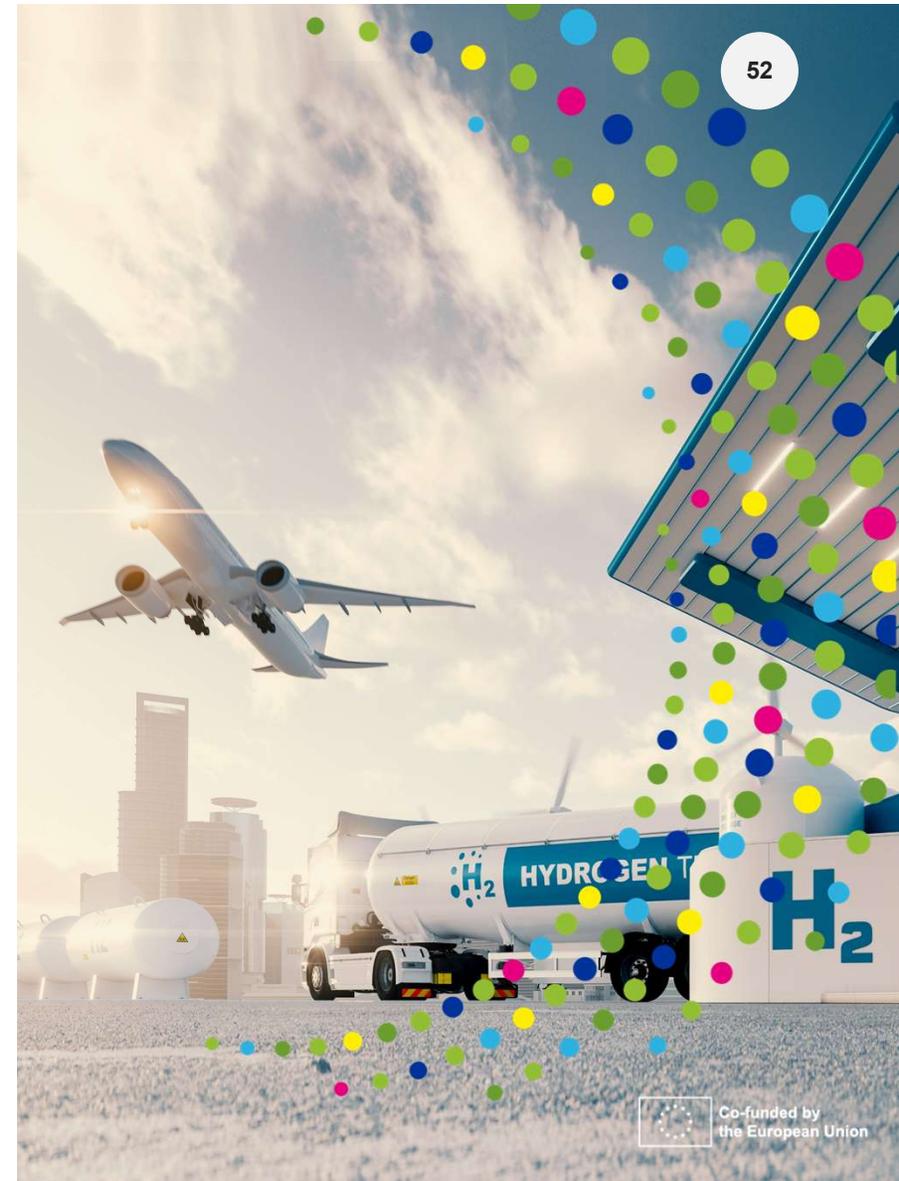
- Future events
- Past events and recordings





Call for Proposals 2026

Turning Results into Impact:
Communication,
Dissemination and
Exploitation of results



Impact is increasingly decisive

- Evaluators expect a credible pathway from results → uptake → benefits
- Impact covers scientific + socio-economic value (not only publications)
- A weak C/D/E approach can downscore excellent technical content

Impact isn't a section
— it's the story
evaluators need to
believe

Legal basis: Horizon Europe Grant Agreement – Articles 16 & 17 and Annex 5 (communication & acknowledgement).



Article 17 & Annex 5 of Horizon Europe Grant Agreement

EU Beneficiaries are expected to :

- Actively engage in communication activities
- Promote the projects to a non-specialist audience: citizens, media
- Publicly acknowledge the EU support

*“The beneficiaries must promote the action and its results by providing **targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public)**, in accordance with Annex 1 and **in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.**”*



 EUROPEAN UNION  #HorizonEU

COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION & EXPLOITATION

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE AND WHY THEY ALL MATTER

Communication	Dissemination	Exploitation
Inform, promote and communicate activities and results	Make knowledge and results publicly available free-of-charge	Make concrete use of results for commercial, societal and political purposes

Communication	Dissemination	Exploitation
<p>Goal: awareness, understanding, acceptance</p> <p>What? Inform, promote, communicate activities and results</p> <p>Who? non-specialists (citizens, media, communities, decision-makers) and specialists</p> <p>When? From the start – until the end of the action</p> <p>Why? Show benefits of research, engage with stakeholders, obtain acceptance of the technologies, increase outreach</p> <p>What ? Outputs: events, publications, website, social media</p> <p>How? A mix of channels, messages and activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: Transfer knowledge to those who can use it further • What? Outputs: publications, conferences, workshops, open data • Who? Specialists & peers • When? Aligned with timeline – until the end of the action • Why? Transparency, show benefits of research, engage with stakeholders, obtain acceptance of the technologies • How? Open access where possible (IP/security constraints) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: use results to create/improve products, services, processes • Who? users, buyers, investors, regulators • Tools: pilots, licensing, standards, procurement, replication packs • How? Requires IP strategy + market readiness work • When? Once results are validated



Final checklist (proposal-ready)

**Good proposals show a coherent chain:
communicate → disseminate → exploit**

Your C/D/E plan should contain

- Objectives (SMART) linked to outcomes
- Stakeholders + priority audiences
- Key messages per audience (simple, evidence-based)
- Activities aligned with project milestones
- KPIs + monitoring frequency
- Budget + owners
- Governance (approval workflow, spokespersons)
- EU acknowledgement plan (Annex 5)

Bottom line: show a believable pathway from communicating your results to real-world uptake.



Think of your project as a success story !

Hydrogen Storage and Distribution



A blueprint to transport hydrogen via Europe's gas grid



Development of a pan-European hydrogen transport network to meet Europe's energy transition goals, including energy supply. The Clean Hydrogen Partnership is working on a blueprint at repurposing Europe's gas grid to enable



Setting sail for zero emission shipping on Europe's waterways



Replacing freight transport from road to water results in significant emission reductions. The conversion of ageing vessels on inland waterways still produces high levels of pollution. Clean Hydrogen Partnership-funded projects are demonstrating how fuel cell technology can enable zero-emission inland waterway transport, safely and in a commercially sustainable way.

Transport End-uses

Thank you!



For further information

<https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/>





The European Hydrogen Strategy

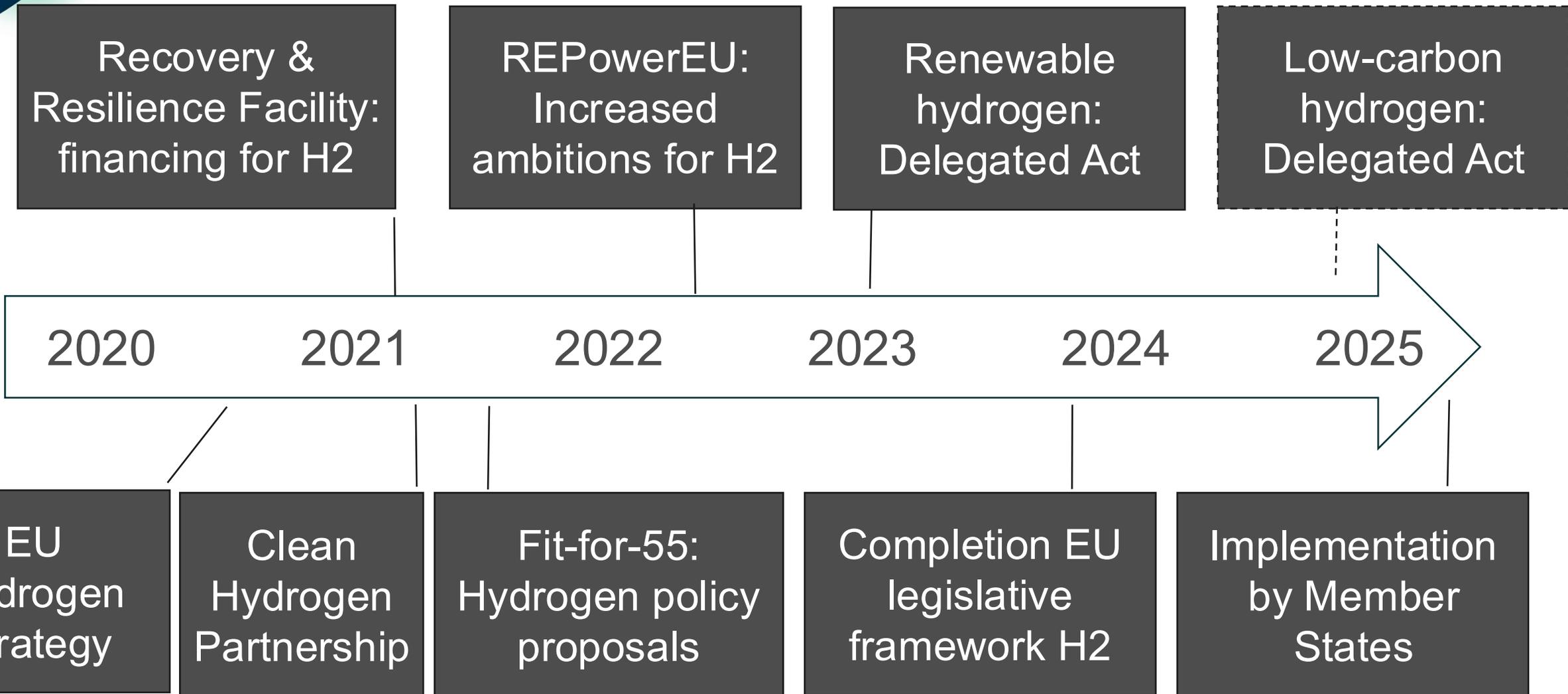
Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission



Katarzyna Gryc

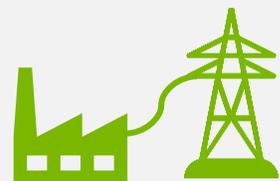


From strategy to implementation





Renewable hydrogen – delegated act



Case 1 Partial renewable hydrogen

- Renewables share in electricity mix

- < 3,4 kg CO_{2eq}/kg H₂ consumed (incl. transport)



Case 2 100% renewable hydrogen

- New renewable installation
- Includes storage behind network connection point

- < 3,4 kg CO_{2eq}/kg H₂ consumed (incl. transport)



Case 3 100% renewable hydrogen

- New unsupported installations
- Hourly temporal correlation
- Geographical correlation

- < 3,4 kg CO_{2eq}/kg H₂ consumed (incl. transport)

Delegated Act (DA)

Delegated Act (DA)



European Hydrogen Bank

1. Domestic market creation

Green premium auction(s) under the EU ETS Innovation Fund

2. Imports to the EU

Coordination

3. Transparency and coordination

- Demand assessments
- Hydrogen flows

- Infrastructure needs
- H2 cost data

4a. Existing European financing instruments

- State aid support
- Structural funds
- Innovation fund grants

4b. Existing international financing instruments

- Concessional loans
- Blending
- Guarantees



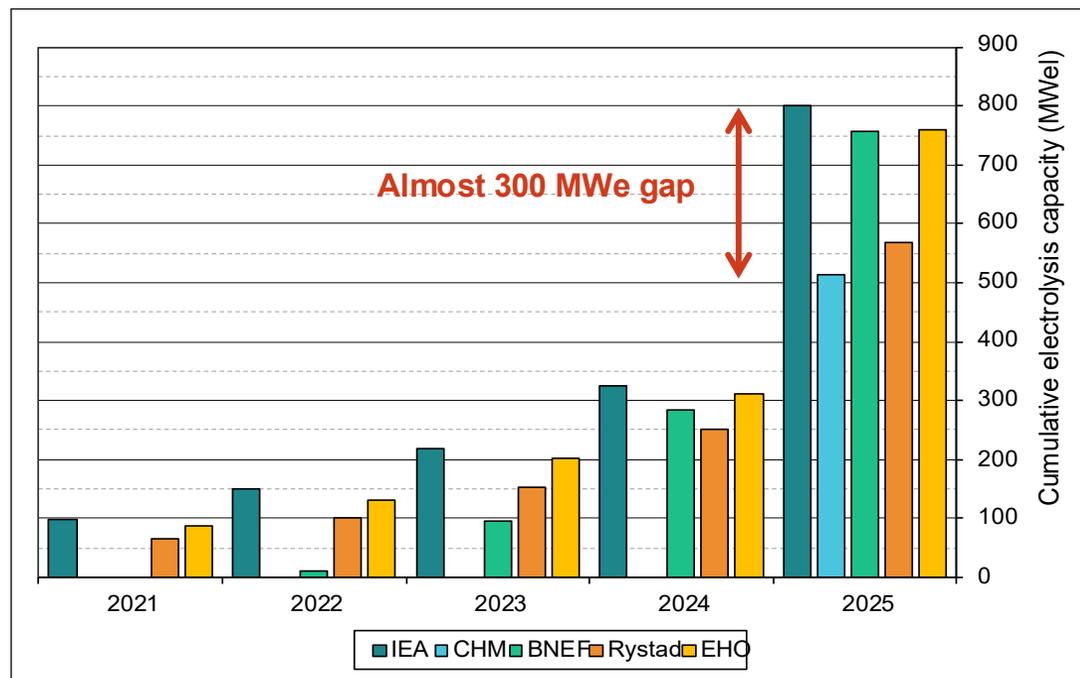
Funding and financing

- ✓ **Important Projects of Common European Interest:** State Aid framework: Hy2Tech (EUR 5.4 BN), Hy2Use (EUR 5.2 BN), HyInfra (EUR 6.9 BN), Hy2Move (EUR 1.4 BN) (public support quoted)
- ✓ **Recovery and Resilience Facility:** Earmarked renewable and low-carbon hydrogen
- ✓ **Innovative Funding: Hydrogen Bank Auctions-** revenues of the Emission Trading Scheme- currently **3rd Auction open until 19 February 2026;**
- ✓ **Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking** –regular calls for proposals, ex. specific **Facilities for PDA**
- ✓ **Connecting Europe Facility- Transport** (multiple cut-off dates for hydrogen projects) and **CEF Energy-** Projects of Common Interest PCI and PMI lists
- ✓ **Other programmes:** Just Transition programme (ex STEP Platform projects)

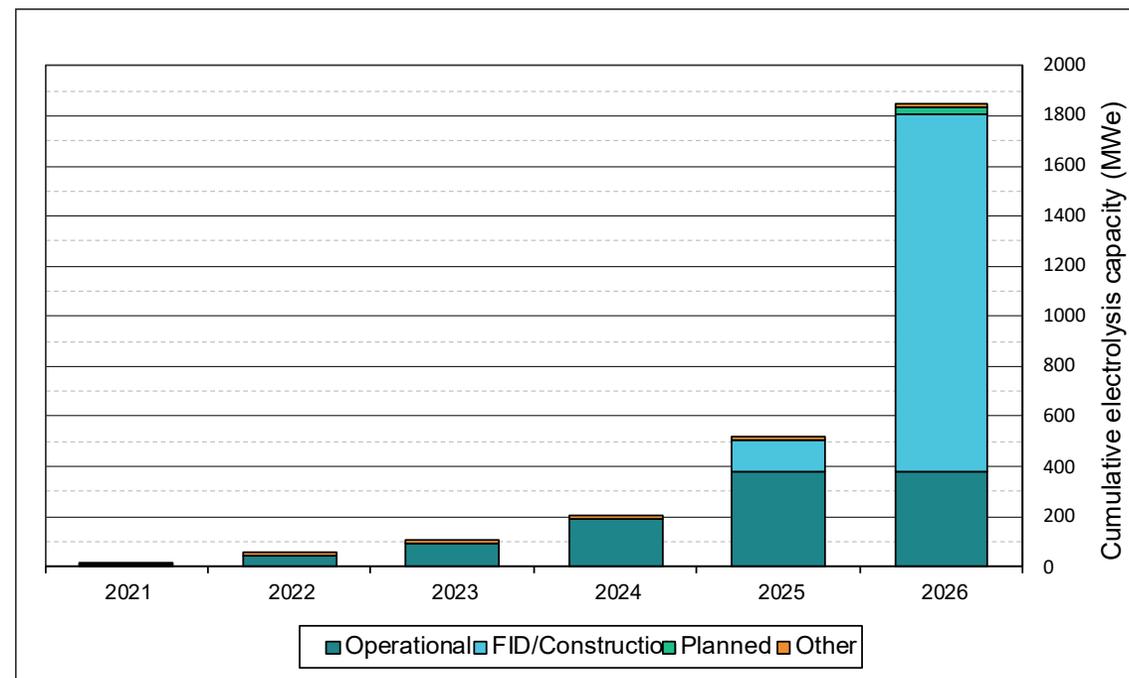
Electrolyser deployment in the EU-27 region

Between 500-800 MW_{el} of capacity are currently in operations/under construction in the EU27.

More than 1.8 GW_{el} of projects under construction/with FID taken are planned for a starting date in 2026 (but highly uncertain).



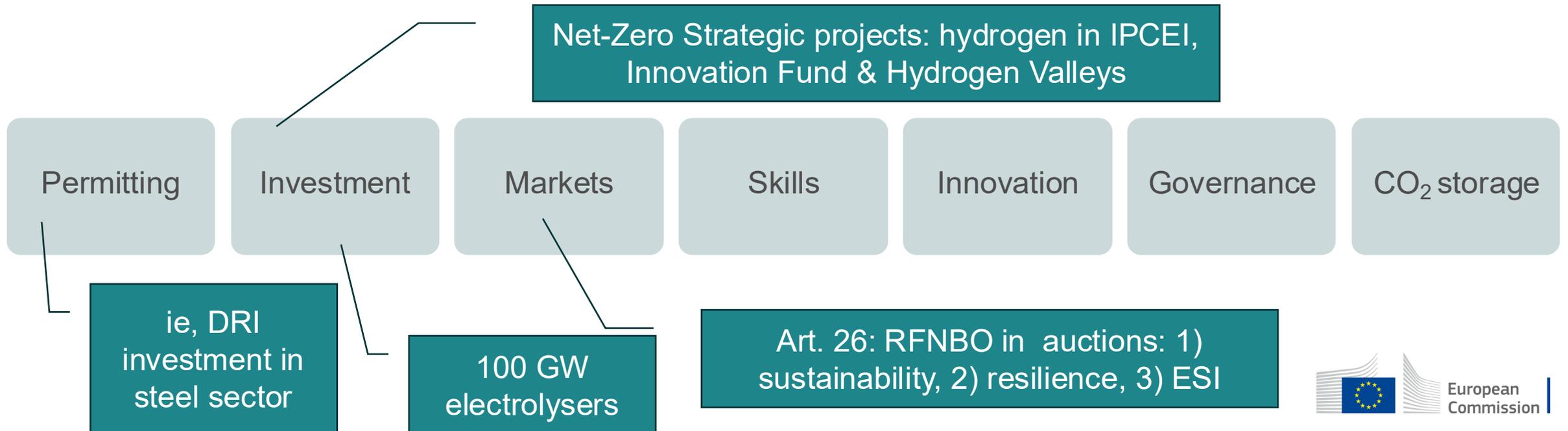
Source: JRC analysis based on Rystad and IEA data (2025)



Source: JRC analysis based on Rystad and IEA data (2025)

Net-Zero Industry Act

1. Hydrogen technologies, including electrolysers and fuel cells
2. Renewable fuels of non-biological origin technologies
3. CCS technologies
4. CO₂ transport and utilisation technologies
5. Sustainable biogas and biomethane technologies
6. Transformative industrial technologies for decarbonisation



The European Strategic Energy Technology Plan

+ Hydrogen Implementation Working Group

SET Plan key actions

14 implementation working groups



N°1 in renewables

- #1 Performant renewable technologies integrated in the system
- #2 Reduce costs of technologies

- Offshore wind
- Photovoltaics
- Deep geothermal
- Ocean energy
- Concentrated solar power / Solar thermal electricity



Energy systems

- #3 New technologies & services for consumers
- #4 Resilience & security of energy system

- Energy systems
- Positive energy districts
- High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)



Energy efficiency

- #5 New materials & technologies for buildings
- #6 Energy efficiency for industry

- Energy efficiency in buildings
- Energy efficiency in industry



Sustainable transport

- #7 Competitive in global battery sector and e-mobility
- #8 Renewable fuels and bioenergy

- Batteries
- Renewable fuels and bioenergy



CCS - CCU

- #9 Carbon capture storage / use

- Carbon capture and storage
- Carbon capture and utilisation (CCS – CCU)



Nuclear safety

- #10 Nuclear safety

- Nuclear safety