



Pilot and Demonstration Programme funds projects through the Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP)

SFOE Call document

The Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) and Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) invite applicants to respond to the first call of the European funding program [Clean Energy Transition Partnership \(CETP\)](#), which is launched in September 2022. The CETP is a multilateral and strategic partnership of national and regional research and innovation programs in European Member States and Associated Countries. Switzerland participates in this program as an associated country. The goal is to enable the energy transition towards climate-neutrality in Europe by pooling national and regional funding for a broad variety of technologies and system solutions. 30 countries within and beyond Europe participate in a total of 55 national and regional research and innovation promotion programs. The transition as envisioned by the CETP will be a joint effort from industry, public organizations, and research and citizens organizations to make Europe the front-runner in clean energy innovation and implementation.

CETP builds on existing partnerships such as the ERA-Nets, in which Switzerland has also participated in the past years. Unlike the ERA-Nets, CETP coordinates call launches and associated administration under one umbrella instead of in separate organizations.

The CETP is represented by seven Transition Initiatives (TRIs) focusing on research and innovation challenges that address different enabling technologies and system aspects connected to the clean energy transition, as well as several cross-cutting dimensions:

- [TRI1](#): Optimized integrated European net-zero emissions energy system
- [TRI2](#): Enhanced zero emission power technologies
- [TRI3](#): Enabling climate neutrality with storage technologies, renewable fuels and CCU/CCS
- [TRI4](#): Efficient zero emission Heating and Cooling Solutions
- [TRI5](#): Integrated regional energy systems
- [TRI6](#): Integrated industrial energy systems
- [TRI7](#): Integration in the built environment

Swiss applicants can respond to the annual to biannual calls organized through CETP and - unlike to EU Horizon calls - can also apply in the role of project coordinators. Funding of the Swiss partners to projects is provided through the [SFOE](#) and the [SNSF](#) depending on the call topic: In the first year, SFOE participates in call modules for TRI1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. SNSF participates in call modules for TRI5 and 7.

SFOE funding to Swiss projects accepted at the CETP level are funded through the [Pilot and Demonstration \(P+D\) program of SFOE](#). The SFOE supports pilot and demonstration projects based on Article 49, paragraphs 2 and 4, and Article 53 of the Energy Act (EnG; SR 730.0) and on Article 54 of the Energy Ordinance (EnV; SR 730.01). The stipulations of the Subvention Act (SuG; 616.1) and of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVG; SR 172.021) also apply. For P+D projects accepted by CETP to be eligible at the Swiss level, the guidelines and criteria outlined in the [P+D directive](#) must be observed. Additional requirements are described in this document.

The CETP call is a two-stage procedure with the first stage being the evaluation of a pre proposal that may qualify for an invitation to submit a full proposal evaluated in the second stage. With the call at the SFOE level described in this document, the evaluation procedure of the P+D program aligns with the CETP procedure meaning that also the Swiss proposals undergo a two-stage procedure and evaluation. Thus, pre- and full proposals have to be submitted to both the CETP and the SFOE. For the CETP



proposals, the [CETP submission portal](#) has to be used, for SFOE the [specific application forms](#) for the call have to be used.

Call topics / call modules

The above mentioned TRIs launch their call modules simultaneously (see time schedule below). The topics per TRI are described in *Call Modules* that accompany the general [Call Text](#) of CETP overarching all TRIs. The following table indicates in which call modules SFOE (and SNSF¹) participates. Thus, Swiss applicants cannot apply for other call modules. For topic-related questions please refer to the contacts indicated in the table.

Transition initiative	Call module	Contact person	Indicative SFOE budget
TRI1: Optimized integrated European net-zero emissions energy system	RESpowerflex	michael.moser@bfe.admin.ch	€ 2'000'000
TRI2: Enhanced zero emission power technologies	Advancing RE technologies for power production through cost reduction	stefan.oberholzer@bfe.admin.ch	€ 2'000'000
TRI3: Enabling climate neutrality with storage technologies, renewable fuels and CCU/CCS	CO₂ Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)	valentin.gischig@bfe.admin.ch	€ 2'000'000
TRI4: Efficient zero emission Heating and Cooling Solutions	Enhanced and improved heating and cooling technologies and systems	valentin.gischig@bfe.admin.ch	€ 2'000'000
TRI5: Integrated regional energy systems	Integrated Regional Energy Systems for a Resilient, Secure, and Renewable Energy Supply	SNSF	€ 550'000 (shared with TRI7)
TRI6: Integrated industrial energy systems	Industrial Energy Systems	carina.alles@bfe.admin.ch	€ 2'000'000
TRI7: Integration in the built environment	Research and Innovation Action	SNSF	€ 550'000 (shared with TRI5)

¹ TRI5 and TRI7 are funded through the SNSF. Please contact daniel.kraemer@snf.ch and georges.klein@snf.ch for projects to be submitted to these calls.



Time schedule

13 September 2022	Opening of call
15 October 2022	Questions and answers related to call (SFOE specific)
22 November 2022	Deadline for submission of pre-proposals to CETP and SFOE
19 January 2023	Announcement of pre-proposals invited for full proposal
20 February 2023	Questions and answers related to full proposal (SFOE specific)
27 March 2023	Deadline for submission of full proposals to CETP and SFOE
28 June 2023	Announcement of accepted proposals
1 September 2023	Earliest start of projects

Eligibility criteria

This call is addressed to organizations such as private companies, industry organizations, universities of applied sciences, universities, the ETH domain, public institutions (e.g. cantons) and NGOs. To be eligible at the CETP level, applicants are referred to the [CETP call text and the call modules](#). Additionally, national requirements have to be fulfilled (Art. 49 EnG and Art. 54 EnV), i.e. the proposed projects will be funded by the [P+D program](#) and thus have to fulfill the formal criteria and content criteria specified in the Appendix IV of the [directive](#) of the [P+D program](#). The key eligibility criteria and funding conditions are summarized here:

Eligibility at CETP level:

- CETP requires that a project must include at least three independent legal entities from at least three different countries participating in the CETP Joint Call 2022, out of which at least two must be EU member states or Horizon Europe associated countries. Applicants not asking for funding are welcome to participate in addition to the minimum consortium requirement.
- For both the pre- and the full proposal the [designated proposal forms of CETP](#) must be used and filled in in English.
- Project consortia must include one project coordinator who is responsible for the execution of the project. Other consortia members are partners, whereof there are two categories: Partners eligible for direct funding by their respective national funding agencies (e.g. SFOE) participating in the CETP Joint Call 2022, or fully self-financed partners from any country/region who bring their own secured budget. The self-financed partner cannot be the project Coordinator and does not count to fulfil the transnationality eligibility criteria.
- CETP aim to fund projects that develop applicative solutions and provide results for the clean energy transition. The required TRL that a proposal should aim for is defined by each specific Call Module and may vary from one module to the other.
- The total effort of one partner cannot exceed 60% of the total project efforts (measured in person months). The total effort of partners from one country/region cannot exceed 75% of the total project efforts (measured in person months).
- Projects are required to start before 15 December 2023. The maximum project duration must not exceed 36 months.

Funding conditions at SFOE level:

- The pre- and full proposal submitted to the SFOE are identical in content and structure to the pre- and full proposal at the CETP level, but must use the respective proposal forms (see below on *Project evaluation*) . At the pre-proposal stage, a general description of the project and its



structure is required as well as a rough estimate of the financial requirements in accordance with the funding rules of the [P+D program](#). The projects presented in the pre-proposal and in the full proposal must be consistent. Any significant change to the plans described in the pre-proposal should be explained and justified.

- The [P+D program](#) can fund a maximum of 40% of the non-amortizable supplementary costs (NASC) of the project. The NASC represent the uneconomical parts of the project, which typically encompass expenditures for research, development, testing, dissemination, etc. as well as the additional cost for the planning and implementation of physical installations compared to conventional technologies, while deducting additional earnings or savings.
- The remaining minimum of 60% have to be contributed by the project partners or through third party funds (see also next point about double funding). Note that in case of CETP projects, work packages related to project management and dissemination can be funded with up to 80% if the Swiss partner act as project coordinator and if the claimed financial effort is within reasonable bounds. The overall funding rate in this exception shall not exceed 50%.
- Double funding: The cumulation of federal financial assistance to fund the proposed project is inadmissible if the legal provisions or rules of any of the concerned funding instruments are breached. In general, federal funds (e.g. SWEET, SEFRI, SNSF, Innosuisse) are not to be used to cover the 60%-portion of own funds in the P+D project budget, neither through direct cash contributions nor through «in-kind contributions» in the form of other related projects that are already under way, because the maximum funding rate of the [P+D program](#) would be violated. To prevent inadmissible cumulations («double funding»), Swiss applicants must clearly disclose in the pre- and full proposals all sources of financing. If funding from one instrument has been secured and that assistance is sufficient for the project (or a specific portion thereof) to go ahead, applying for assistance from other instruments for the same activities would result in an inadmissible cumulation.

Project evaluation

Both at the pre- and the full-proposal stage, the proposed projects undergo an eligibility check by the involved funding programs. Additionally, the projects are evaluated on the national and the CETP level:

On the national level, the pre- and full proposals are also evaluated according to the criteria outlined in Appendix IV of [the P+D program directive](#). The evaluation is done by SFOE internal experts and external SFOE program managers. Focus is on the relevance for Switzerland.

At the level of CETP, the pre- and full proposals are forwarded to at least three independent experts and evaluated according to the three criteria excellence, impact as well as quality and efficiency of the implementation (see [CETP call text](#) for more details). For pre proposals to pass to the next stage, a minimum score of 10 out of 15 has to be reached.

Pre proposals contain the duly filled CETP pre-proposal application and an SFOE-specific form with additional administrative and content-based information. For pre-proposals to qualify² for an invitation to submit a full proposal, all formal and content-based requirements as well as a minimum score of 2 out of 4 in the following qualitative criteria have to be reached (see [P+D program directive](#)): innovative content (Q1), energy potential (Q2) and approach (Q3).

Full proposals contain the duly filled CETP full-proposal application, the SFOE-specific form for P+D projects with additional information relevant for SFOE and the SFOE Finance sheet with detailed information on project costs, financing and NASC ([link](#)). An invitation to submit a full proposal does not guarantee acceptance nor funding of the project at the full-proposal stage. Full proposals need to fulfill

² Qualifying is a necessary condition for an invitation to the second round, but not a sufficient condition.



all requirements for the formal, content-based, and qualitative criteria, as stated in the program directive, to be eligible for funding.

SFOE reserves its right to reduce its financial contribution compared to the demanded amount and stipulate binding conditions connected to the approval if the legal basis and/or the evaluation calls for such a measure.

Pre proposals to the SFOE are to be sent as pdf to pilot-demo@bfe.admin.ch (Subject: "CETP Call pre-proposal") by 22 November 2022.

Full proposals to the SFOE are to be sent as pdf (and xlsx) to pilot-demo@bfe.admin.ch (Subject: "CETP Call full proposal") by 27 March 2023.

Questions related to administration and financial structure (not project content) can be directed at pilot-demo@bfe.admin.ch until 15 October 2022.