



Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETPartnership)

Projects funded through the Pilot and Demonstration (P+D) and the Research and Development (R+D) programmes

SFOE specific guidelines

Overview and call modules

The Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) invite applicants to respond to the 2024 call of the European funding program funding [program Clean Energy Transition Partnership \(CETPartnership\)](#), which will open the pre-proposal submission on 19 September 2024.

The aim is to enable the energy transition towards climate neutrality in Europe by pooling national and regional funding in a joint effort between industry, public organisations, research and citizens organisations.

Switzerland participates in this program as a CETPartnership-associated country.

The CETPartnership 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.

Swiss applicants can respond to the CETPartnership call and - unlike with EU Horizon calls - can also fill the role of project coordinators. Funding for Swiss project partners is provided by the SFOE for selected call topics (see table below).

Each TRI proposes one or more Call Modules. The SFOE is actively participating in the following two TRIs and Call modules in 2024. Swiss applicants cannot apply for any other call modules. For topic-related questions please refer to the contacts indicated in the table.

Transition Initiative	Call module #	Call module title	SFOE funding programme	Contact person
TRI3 Storage Technologies, Renewable Fuels and CCU/CCS	CM2024-04	CO2 capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS)	P+D or R+D	stefano.benato@bfe.admin.ch
TRI4 Efficient zero emission Heating and Cooling Solutions	CM2024-07	Geothermal energy technologies	P+D or R+D	florence.begue@bfe.admin.ch

SFOE Funding Conditions

Swiss partners within a CETPartnership project can be funded through **either**:

- The SFOE [Pilot and Demonstration \(P+D\) programme](#)¹ (total available budget of **4 million euro** - indicative 2 million euro allocated per Call Module), or

¹ The SFOE supports P+D and R+D 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.



- The SFOE [Energy Research \(R+D\) Geoenergy programme](#)¹ (total available budget of **500 thousand euro** – indicative 250 thousand euro allocated per Call Module).

The **P+D program** can fund a maximum of 50% of the eligible project costs, and the **R+D program** can fund a maximum of 75% of the eligible project costs. P+D and R+D funding cannot be cumulated. For all information on the available level of contribution, eligible project costs, double funding, project financing (own funds, third party funds, etc) for both P+D and R+D projects, please refer to [directive for energy research, pilot and demonstration and sandbox projects](#).

Submission guidelines for Swiss applicants

The CETPartnership call is a two-stage procedure (pre-proposal stage and full-proposal stage).

CETPartnership mandatory proposal templates available on the [CETPartnership Submission Platform](#) must be used.

Pre-proposals must be submitted via the CETPartnership portal by 21 November 2024.

Full-proposals (only those that pass the first stage) must be submitted via the CETPartnership portal by 31 March 2025.

The SFOE submission procedure is aligned with the CETPartnership (the SFOE will receive the proposals submitted via the CETPartnership portal).

These ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES apply to Swiss applicants, who are:

- a) Strongly encouraged to email a **formal expression of interest** with a project outline (2-3 pages) indicating the scope of the project, the project partners and the relevance to Switzerland to the SFOE contacts in the table above **by 15 October 2024**, after which our office will provide verbal feedback.
- b) Required (mandatory) to email the [SFOE-specific full proposal](#) and [financial sheet](#) to the relevant SFOE contacts in the table above (only those invited to submit a full proposal) **by 15 February 2025**. This mandatory step is required by the SFOE to ensure that the eligibility status can be communicated to the CETPartnership in a timely manner.

Following these additional steps will not guarantee acceptance nor funding of the project, but it does ensure that Swiss applicants receive assistance from the SFOE throughout the CETPartnership application process, and that all information related to the national eligibility criteria specific to the project is properly communicated. If these guidelines are not followed, there is a considerable risk that the national eligibility criteria will not be met, and therefore that the SFOE will not endorse the project towards CETPartnership.



Key eligibility criteria

Eligibility at the CETPartnership level: please refer to the [CETPartnership call text document](#).

Eligibility at the SFOE level:

- 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 project must demonstrate its **relevance to Switzerland**.
- For further information on eligibility criteria, please refer to [the directive for energy research, pilot and demonstration and sandbox projects](#), and specifically
 - Appendix I → for relevant Technology Readiness Level TRL
 - Appendix II → for P+D projects eligible project costs
 - Appendix VII → for remuneration of personnel expenses
 - Page 6 and 7 → for eligible applicants and project location
 - Page 7 → for solvency of project partners (for P+D projects)
- 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.

Evaluation

The projects are evaluated at the national and CETPartnership levels.

At the CETPartnership level, pre- and full proposals are evaluated by at least three independent experts according to the three criteria: excellence, impact as well as quality and efficiency of the implementation (see CETPartnership [call text](#) for more details).

At the SFOE level, pre- and full proposals are also evaluated according to the criteria outlined in the [directive for energy research, pilot and demonstration and sandbox projects](#). The evaluation is done by SFOE internal experts and external SFOE program managers. Focus is on the **relevance to Switzerland**.

All formal and content-based requirements must be satisfied, as detailed in the [directive for energy research, pilot and demonstration and sandbox projects, in order](#) for pre-proposals to qualify² for an invitation to submit a full proposal. Specifically, please refer to:

- Appendix III → for Energy Research (R+D) projects evaluation criteria
- Appendix V → for Pilot and Demonstration projects (P+D) projects evaluation criteria

Further notes

An invitation to submit a full proposal does not guarantee acceptance nor funding of the project.

The 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.

The information contained here constitutes only a summary of the CETPartnership information and does not exempt the candidates from carefully reading all the joint call documents available on the [call website](#).

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



Schedule

04 June 2024, 10:00 CEST	Webinar CETPartnership Joint Call 2024 Pre-Annoucement - What's in it for me? (recording available)
10 June 2024, 14:00 CEST	Online information event for upcoming CETPartnership Call 2024 regarding carbon-neutral solutions, industrial processes, CCUS, hydrogen and renewable fuels (TRI3 & 6) (recording available)
12 September 2024, 10:00 CEST	Webinar CETPartnership Joint Call 2024 Launch Event
19 September 2024	Stage 1 Opening: Pre-proposal submission to CETPartnership
15 October 2024	For Swiss applicants – Deadline: Formal declaration of interest and project outline. <i>Not mandatory, but strongly recommended.</i>
21 November 2024, 14:00 CET	Stage 1 Closing: Deadline for Pre-proposal submission to CETPartnership
29 January 2025	Stage 2 Opening: Full Proposal submission to CETPartnership
15 February 2025	For Swiss applicants – Deadline: Submission of the SFOE-specific full proposal and financial sheet . Mandatory
31 March 2025, 14:00 CEST	Stage 2 Closing: Deadline for Full proposal submission to CETPartnership
Beginning July 2025	Funding decision communicated
1 Sep.– 15 Dec. 2025	Project start