



## Answers to questions of general interest and relevance (21.01.2026)

### 1) Formatting issues with the pre-proposal template

**Some research teams are having trouble opening the pre-proposal template in any collaborative tool (Microsoft Sharepoint, Word online, Google Docs, or anything else). The document opens with a KEIN ORIGINAL watermark.**

Answer: we are very sorry for the inconvenience. We have uploaded a newly formatted version of the pre-proposal template on the EWG Website in which the problem should be solved. If you are using the old/original template or if the problem arises nevertheless, you can delete the watermark (double click on the header of the document and delete the watermark).

### 2) Scope of the EWG Call: does the call have a technical or social science and humanities focus?

Answer: Only projects with a focus on social science and humanities shall be considered for funding. The research field "Efficient integration of renewables in the Swiss energy system" (Topic 1 in collaboration with the SFOE Research programme Electricity) being an exception.

### 3) Financing of Professors:

The call text states the following: "Please beware that the EES research programme expects fully financed Professors (from the ETH domain, Universities etc) to include their work on a project as own contribution (and not ask for SFOE funding)." Does this also apply to titular Professors and Professors abroad?

Answer: Yes, it does. The decisive criterion is whether the Professors are fully financed or not. If they are, they have to include their work as own contribution, if not, they can ask for EES (EWG) funding until full financing is reached.

### 4) Call budget and ranking:

a) Is it possible to announce the total budget dedicated to the call in general?

Answer: The total budget allocated to the call will be communicated after the first round of the call.

b) Is the ranking established over all projects and all topics/fields or is there a separate ranking per topic/field with a fixed share of budget attributed to each topic/field?

Answer: The ranking is established across all fields/topics. All pre-proposals and in a second stage all proposals will be evaluated and ranked, and the best projects will be selected for funding. However, if two or several projects have similar content and not enough value added when compared to each other, EWG will only fund one of the projects (provided it qualifies for funding and is ranked high enough).

### 5) Gibt es für Hardware und Overhead Projektförderung?

Answer: the SFOE/EWG does not pay contributions to hardware or overhead cost. Please beware that the call addresses research projects **and not Pilot and Demonstration projects**.

### 6) Funding sources and submission to other funding institutions

Section 6.2 of the preproposal asks: "Has (or will) an inquiry or an official application for further financial contributions been made to the SFOE or another federal funding institution (Innosuisse, SNSF, FOEN, FOT, FEDRO, SwissEnergy, etc.) or has (or will) any other third-party funding been applied for (Cantons, Industry, Associations) for the current project or a related project?"

If so, give the date of submission, the name of the funding institution and the decision and/or evaluation received.

### What is the delimitation of projects that have to be mentioned here?

Answer: The objectives of the question are mainly:



File: BFE-226-2/2/15/1

- Understanding how the project submitted to the call will be financed
- Avoiding double financing
- Being aware of applications for financing outside the EWG Call

Consequently, you should mention any inquiry for the project you are submitting to the EWG Call or projects that have overlap with the project you are submitting.

**7) Does the maximum length of the pre-proposal (maximum 6 pages) include signatures and references?**

Answer: Yes, the maximum length of the pre-proposal is 6 pages in total including all sections. As space is limited, it is advisable to include the most relevant references only.

**8) Can one project address more than one topic of the call?**

Answer: yes, it can

**9) Funding conditions for private companies: do private companies have to provide financial guarantees?**

Answer: In research projects, private companies do not have to provide financial guarantees. However, they do have to have financial and human resources to be able to perform the research projects. If the SFOE is in doubt about the financial capacity or human capacity, it may ask for further documents to prove solvency and availability of human resources.

**10) Kann empirische Forschung / Forschung mit quantitativem Fokus unterstützt werden?**

Antwort: Ja

**11) Ist es möglich, das Projekt nach der Pre-proposal Phase in der full Proposal Phase an geänderte Rahmenbedingungen anzupassen?**

Antwort: Die im Pre-proposal und im vollständigen Antrag (full-proposal) vorgestellten Projekte müssen übereinstimmen. Jede Änderung des im Pre-proposal beschriebenen Projektes sollte erläutert und begründet werden. Es ist somit möglich, den vollständigen Antrag an geänderte Rahmenbedingungen anzupassen, aber Änderungen müssen erläutert und begründet werden.

**12) In welchem Anteil können die Projekte finanziert werden? Rsp. wie hoch wird die Eigenleistung der Projektpartner verlangt?**

Antwort: Es gibt keine formalen Anforderungen hinsichtlich der Höhe der Eigen- oder Drittmittel. Allerdings gibt es ein Bewertungskriterium „Kosten-Nutzen-Verhältnis, Subsidiarität“, anhand dessen beurteilt wird, ob das Projekt im Verhältnis zu den damit verbundenen Kosten erhebliche Vorteile verspricht und ob ausreichende Eigenmittel und Drittmittel vorgesehen sind.

**13) Applications of universities, universities of applied sciences, further research organisations and the private sector based outside Switzerland**

Hinsichtlich der “substantial contribution to the research work” durch die internationalen Partner, wie wird das definiert? Gibt es einen Richtwert, wie die Verteilung zwischen schweizerischen und internationalen Forschungspartnern aussehen sollte, die (noch) zulässig ist?

Antwort: es gibt keinen offiziellen Richtwert. Entscheidend ist: „The Swiss partner has to provide a substantial contribution to the research work performed in the project and be listed as the main partner in the application.“ Der Schweizer Partner muss entsprechend: einen substanziellen Teil der Forschungsarbeit leisten, einen substanziellen Teil der BFE-Förderung erhalten und das Projekt als main Partner leiten (und auch Kontaktperson für das BFE sein).

**14) Submission of 2 pre-proposals by the same main applicant or participation in 2 pre-proposals**

Can 2 projects with the same main applicant receive funding?

Can a researcher participate in 2 pre-proposals?



File: BFE-226-2/2/15/1

Answer: A main applicant can submit 2 pre-proposal and have 2 pre-proposals selected for the second stage (full-proposal) and finally for funding. In this context, it is important that the applicant has the time resources to implement both projects if they are successful in the application process. The same goes for participation in two pre-proposals in another role.

**15) Submission of pre-proposals (and full proposals) by applicants with a running EWG project**

May applicants without running projects in the EWG programme be prioritized compared to applicants who have such projects?

Answer: the evaluation of pre- and full proposals is not impacted by the fact that applicants have a running EWG project (or not). Applicants without running projects in the EWG programme **may consequently not** be prioritized compared to applicants who have such projects.

**16) Who/what is the coordinator?**

The coordinator (first page of the pre-proposal) is the person responsible for the project (contact person for SFOE, coordinates and manages the project for example Hans Mustermann) at the main partner institution (for example University of XY).

**17) Gibt eine Einschränkung bezüglich des Anstellungsverhältnisses oder der Funktionsstufe des Hauptantragsstellenden (Coordinator)?**

Antwort: Es gibt keine direkten Einschränkungen bezüglich des Anstellungsverhältnisses. Allerdings wird der Vertrag später, falls das Projekt genehmigt wird, mit einer juristischen Person abgeschlossen.

Es müsste entsprechend eine juristische Person bereit sein, als Host Institution aufzutreten und den „Coordinator“ für die Arbeit am Projekt anstellen. Zudem gilt es bedenken, dass die Erfahrung und Kompetenz des Projektteams in die Evaluation einfließen.

**18) Is there an advantage if proposals actively take up possible complementarity between projects in the EWG Call?**

Answer: Knowledge transfer and communication with other research teams both inside and outside the EWG Call is very important and part of the evaluation criteria of pre-proposals (see Q5: Monitoring, dissemination, and educational effects) and is encouraged. Planning in resources for these activities and pointing out possible complementarities between topics and projects is an advantage.

For topic 1, knowledge exchange between the selected projects and SFOE is foreseen and will be coordinated by SFOE. As stated in the call:

2-3 workshops have to be integrated for this coordination into the budget of the projects.

**19) Signature of the pre-proposal: who (which person in what role) should sign the pre-proposal?**

Answer: this depends on the signature rules of the institution.

Formally and legally speaking for SFOE, the contract will be decisive: the contract will be between SFOE and the project partners. Here too, institutions have rules in terms of who is entitled to sign such a contract.

**20) Letters of Intent (LoI): Kann/ soll man beim Pre-Proposal LOI von interessierten Umsetzungspartner als Anhang beilegen oder nicht?**

Antwort: LOIs von interessierten Umsetzungspartnern werden erst beim Full-proposal beigelegt.

- 1) Parties that shall not finance a part of the project: At the full proposal stage, applicants have to include letters of intent of parties willing to participate in advisory groups or letters of support of parties interested in the project. At the pre-proposal stage, it is enough to name interested parties.
- 2) Parties that shall provide financing: Own and third-party contributions (in-kind and/or cash) have to be indicated at the pre-proposal submission and formally confirmed at the full proposal submission.



File: BFE-226-2/2/15/1

Please note that all project partners who will actively participate in carrying out the project have to sign the application (pre-proposal, full proposal if applicable and contract if applicable).

**21) Are there LaTeX templates for the preproposal and the proposal?**

Answer: no, there are not.

**22) Full Proposal Deadline: The timeline indicates May 2026 as the deadline for full proposal submission. Could you please clarify if this refers to the end of May or if a specific date will be communicated later?**

Answer: the precise deadline for the submission of full proposals will be communicated at the end of March 2026 to accepted pre-proposals

**23) Muss bereits im pre-proposal dargestellt werden, welche Daten im Projekt genutzt werden/wie diese zusammengetragen werden sollen, oder kann dies an einem späteren Zeitpunkt mit dem BFE zusammen entschieden werden?**

Antwort: es gibt ein Evaluationskriterium "Approach, methodology and data: Is the proposed approach suitable to deal with the issue? Is the methodology adequate to solve the issue? Is access to the data required guaranteed/has the strategy to compile data been clearly defined?"

Daher sollte bereits im pre-proposal dargestellt werden, welche Daten genutzt werden/wie diese zusammengetragen werden sollen. Das BFE stellt in jedem EWG geförderten Projekt mindestens eine Begleitperson. Es kann daher gerne angegeben werden, dass Inputdaten mit dem BFE besprochen werden und das BFE in die Auswahl der Daten einbezogen werden soll. Es ist jedoch nicht Aufgabe des BFE, die Daten zu beschaffen.

**Questions related to topic 1: Efficient integration of renewables in the Swiss energy system**

**24) Muss jedes Projekt sowohl die technische Perspektive als auch die regulatorische Perspektive behandeln? Oder dürfen Projekte auf eine der beiden Perspektiven fokussieren?**

Antwort: Jedes Projekt muss **sowohl die technische Perspektive als auch die regulatorische Perspektive** behandeln.

We are looking for projects that propose both technical and regulatory solutions (see point A and B) for the integration of renewables and propose technical and regulatory solutions for an efficient and secure Swiss energy system based on renewables. For a project to be considered for funding under topic 1, it thus has to address both technical and regulatory aspects.

For topics 2 to 4, only projects with a focus on social science and humanities shall be considered for funding.

**25) Fördervolumen: Gilt das Volumen (200-500kCHF) pro Projekt oder für den Fördertopf insgesamt? (z.B. max 2 Projekte à 250kCHF)**

Antwort: Das Volumen gilt pro Projekt: jedes eingereichte Gesamtprojekt (das sowohl technische als auch regulatorische/sozialwissenschaftliche Komponenten hat) kann Förderung in der Grössenordnung von 200 bis 500 kCHF beantragen. Wieviele Projekte pro Schwerpunkt gefördert werden ist nicht vordefiniert, und hängt am Schluss von der Rangierung der Projekte in der Bewertung, dem für den Call zur Verfügung stehenden Budget und dem verlangten Fördervolumen der Projekte ab.

**26) What would be an adequate budget for a project in topic 1?**

Answer: Under topic 1 supported projects (total including both technical and regulatory aspects) receive public funding in the order of 200–500 kCHF and have a duration of a maximum of 24 months.



File: BFE-226-2/2/15/1

The budget has to be adequate for the work performed (cost/benefit ratio) and include sufficient in-kind contributions and / or third party funds.

**27) Technology Readiness Level (TRL): While the call focuses on application-oriented research, does the SFOE have a specific target TRL range for the technical solutions requested under Topic 1?**

Answer: Topic 1 aims to identify ways in which renewable energies can be efficiently integrated into the energy system and what corresponding future regulations might look like. The technical part focuses on providing the necessary technical foundations and requirements. Therefore, the approaches to be investigated should reasonably have a higher TRL, although we are not imposing any restrictions.

**28) Evaluation criteria: are evaluation criteria for topic 1 the same as for topics 2-4?**

Answer: evaluation criteria are the same except for Q5 monitoring, dissemination and educational effects. While the last sub-criteria under Q5 evaluates the potential as a multiplier for topic 1, it evaluates the promotion of doctoral candidates for topics 2 to 4.

**29) Wie nah an der aktuellen regulatorischen Lage müssen bei Topic 1 die vorgeschlagenen Anpassungen sein?**

Antwort: Empfehlungen können Regulierungen vorschlagen, die recht weit von der jetzigen Regulierung entfernt sind. Es sollte konkret darauf eingegangen werden, was zum Status quo angepasst werden soll.

**30) What does technical solutions refer to?**

Answer: Technical solutions refer to solutions from natural and applied sciences.

**31) Gibt es Restriktionen bezüglich der Netzebenen, die unter topic 1 untersucht werden können?**

Antwort: Nein.

**32) How important would it be to quantify impacts at a national level? (e.g. scale up cost savings from sample distribution grids that we analyze to Switzerland as a whole)**

Answer: In the pre-proposals, applicants are free to suggest suitable potential/impact analyses in order to derive and support both their technical and their regulatory solutions for a better integration of renewables in the energy system

**33) Les projets attendus doivent-ils être centrés sur la production électrique, ou est-ce-que l'aspect utilisation fait-il également partie du scope ?**

Réponse : Le Topic 1 vise à identifier les moyens d'intégrer efficacement les énergies renouvelables dans le système énergétique et à définir les futures réglementations correspondantes. La partie technique se concentre sur la mise à disposition des bases techniques et des exigences nécessaires. Si l'on considère les flexibilités, on peut également prendre en compte le côté consommation (voir exemple de question sur les ZEV, LEG, consommation propre).

**Questions related to topic 2: Incentivising investments into energy efficiency in buildings**

**34) Scope of policy instruments:**

Should research on incentive schemes focus primarily on financial incentives (e.g. subsidies, tax reductions), or are non-financial policy instruments such as regulatory requirements, standards or obligations also within the intended scope of Topic 2?

Answer: non-financial policy instruments such as regulatory requirements, standards or obligations are within the intended scope of topic 2.

**35) Interaction with existing instruments:**



File: BFE-226-2/2/15/1

Should proposals explicitly analyse interactions between new incentive schemes and existing instruments, or can they focus on standalone policy designs?

Answer: this is for the applicant to decide. To ensure policy relevance, the current regulatory setting should not be ignored completely.

**36) Empirical vs. modelling approaches: Does the SFOE have a preference regarding empirical approaches versus modelling-based or mixed-methods design?**

Answer: the applicant has to propose the methods that he/she considers best suited to answer the research questions.

**37) Policy relevance and timing: Are short- to medium-term policy insights (relevant for implementation before 2030) prioritised over longer-term structural analyses of the building stock transformation?**

Answer: no, there is no such prioritisation.

**38) Do projects have to focus on incentives for energy efficiency in buildings?**

Answer: The focus of topic 2 is on incentives for investments into energy efficiency in buildings. Energy efficiency consequently should be an important part of your research project, but you are welcome to add other relevant aspects / research questions.

### Questions related to topic 3: Economic impact of energy and climate policies

**39) Is it possible to work with proprietary data that cannot be shared publicly / made openly and freely available?**

Answer: yes, it is possible. We are aiming for a model to be as open as possible (this aspect will be included in the evaluation). In the pre-proposal, please describe your open access / data / model strategy and transparently indicate restrictions and how data can be accessed (licenses etc).

**40) Is it possible to work with proprietary models that cannot be shared publicly / made openly and freely available?**

Answer: SFOE is aiming for a model to be as open as possible (this aspect will be included in the evaluation). In the pre-proposal, please describe your open access / data / model strategy and transparently.

Beware that the objective is that it has to be possible (it may require authorizations/licenses, see question above for data) for external people to use the model elaborated in the context of the call in its entity.

**41) What is the most recent version of the Swiss Energy Input-Output-Table that has been published?**

Answer: it is the EIOT2017, available here:

[Energie- und verkehrsbezogene Differenzierung der Schweizerischen Input-Output-Tabellen 2014 und 2017 - Texts](#)

**42) To what extent can teaching activities on the modelling of the economic impact of climate and energy policies be part of the project budget?**

Answer: Teaching activities are not to be financed through the EWG call. Such activities could however be included as knowledge transfer and cost included as own contributions.

**43) Muss das Modell ein Mehrländer Modell und dynamisch sein?**

Antwort: ja

**44) Multi-country: how detailed has the modelling for countries outside Switzerland to be?**



File: BFE-226-2/2/15/1

Answer: The focus of the impact analysis is Switzerland. However, the model proposed has to include a representation of the world outside Switzerland in enough detail to be able to assess the impact of policies like CBAM and energy and climate policies outside Switzerland on the Swiss economy (including for particularly relevant sectors of the economy).

**45) Fokussiert Topic 3 auf ökonomische Modelle?**

Antwort: Topic 3 fokussiert in der Tat auf ökonomische Modelle. Von Interesse sind Modelle, die die volkswirtschaftlichen Auswirkungen von energie- und klimapolitischen Massnahmen analysieren /ausweisen (Auswirkungen auf Wohlfahrt, Wachstum, Verteilungseffekte).

**46) Kann ein bereits offen verfügbares Modell für die Schweiz angepasst/ausgebaut werden?**

Antwort: ja

**Questions related to Topic 4: The role of consumers in the Swiss green energy transition**

**47) Ist es beim Topic 4 auch von Interesse das Investitionsverhalten von Unternehmen zu untersuchen oder bezieht sich das Themenfeld strikt auf Privatpersonen?**

Antwort: beim Thema 4 geht es um die Rolle von KonsumentInnen in der Energietransition. Um welche Art von KonsumentInnen es sich handelt, ist nicht präzisiert. Im Call Text explizit erwähnt sind die behavioural insights und die policy Dimension. Auch ist als ein Ziel präzisiert, „empower citizens to make decisions that facilitate individual well-being.“ Dabei bezieht sich citizens auf Bürger:innen.

**48) Is flexibility behaviour out of the scope of the topic 4 of this call, since it is also explicitly addressed by topic 1?**

Answer: flexibility behaviour is not out of scope of topic 4.

**49) Is there in topic 4 a strong focus on direct energy consumption or is grey energy consumption also in the scope of the topic?**

Answer: the focus is on the Swiss energy transition.

**50) Is there in topic 4 strong focus on behaviours involving electricity consumption or are other energy sources also in the scope?**

Answer: there is no strong focus on electricity, other energy sources are also in the scope. Topic 4 has a strong focus on the role of consumers, policy design and behavioural insights.