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Federal Department of the Environment, Transport,
Energy and Communications DETEC

Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE
Energy Research and Cleantech

Swiss Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Climate Division

SWEETER Call 1-2026: Call Guideline

Energy- and Resource-Efficient Industrial Processes

This call is jointly issued by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) and
the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

**The notification of intent to submit a pre-proposal must be submitted by 12 May 2026.
The call for pre-proposals closes on 30 June 2026 at 12:00 noon CEST.**



Dates associated with this call

Entries in italics are provisional and will be fixed later. For instance, the deadline for submission of full proposals and the date for the dialog with the expert panel will be announced together with the invitation to prepare full proposals.

Event	Date and time
Deadline for notification of intent to submit pre-proposal	12 May 2026
Deadline for submission of pre-proposals	30 June 2026 at 12:00 noon CEST
Announcement of evaluation results	<i>September 2026</i>
Invitation to prepare full proposals	<i>September 2026</i>
Workshop on improved implementation of transdisciplinarity	<i>October 2026</i>
Dialog with expert panel	<i>November 2026</i>
Deadline for submission of full proposals	<i>January 2026</i>
Announcement of funding decision	<i>April 2027</i>
Consortium starts operations	<i>August 2027</i>

Documents associated with the pre-proposal stage of this call

1. This call guideline.
2. The Call-Guideline Complement, which contains important information for all persons interested in contributing to the preparation of pre- and full proposals in response to this call.
3. The template for the notification of intent to submit pre-proposal.
4. The pre-proposal template.
5. The stakeholder-analysis template.
6. The impact-model template (analytical and visual components).

Questions about this call

Any and all questions about this call, including questions about the support provided by td-net and the CROSS activity, must be directed to:

Swiss Federal Office of Energy
SWEET Office
Section Energy Research and Cleantech
P.O. Box
CH-3003 Berne / Switzerland
sweet@bfe.admin.ch

The questions and answers will be published on the [SWEET website](#) and regularly updated.



Table of Contents

1	Introduction	5
1.1	The SWEET funding programme	5
1.2	The SWEETER funding instrument	6
1.2.1	Important characteristics	6
1.2.2	Impact orientation	7
1.2.3	Stakeholders and their involvement	8
1.2.4	Knowledge and technology transfer	9
1.2.5	Transdisciplinarity	10
1.3	Guiding theme of this SWEETER call	10
2	Research challenges	15
2.1	Research challenge 1	15
2.2	Research challenge 2	16
3	Application	17
3.1	Consortium requirements	17
3.1.1	Host institution	18
3.1.2	Members	18
3.1.3	Collaboration partners	19
3.1.4	Key positions	19
3.2	Work-programme requirements	22
3.3	Funding requirements	22
3.3.1	Call budget	23
3.3.2	Further particulars	24
3.4	Other requirements	25
4	Submission	27
4.1	Notification of intent to submit a pre-proposal	27
4.2	Stage 1: Pre-proposal submission	27
4.2.1	Pre-proposal	28
4.2.2	Stakeholder analysis	28
4.2.3	Impact model	28
4.2.4	Letter of commitment	28
4.2.5	Curricula vitae	29
4.3	Stage 2: Dialogue materials	29
4.4	Stage 3: Full-proposal submission	29
4.5	Data protection	29
5	Evaluation	31
5.1	Formal check by the SFOE	31
5.2	Evaluation by the expert panel	31
5.2.1	The rating scale	31
5.2.2	Evaluation criteria	32
5.2.3	Stage 1: Pre-proposal evaluation	33
5.2.4	Stage 2: Dialogue between the consortium and the expert panel	34
5.2.5	Stage 3: Full-proposal evaluation	34
6	Negotiation and implementation	35
	Appendix A: Further information on the full-proposal content	37
	Appendix B: Mandatory content in letter of commitment	39





1 Introduction

1.1 The SWEET funding programme

[SWEET](#) (SWiss Energy research for the Energy Transition) is a funding programme owned and managed by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE). The purpose of SWEET is to fund solution-oriented research and innovation activities with a focus on the targets of Switzerland's [Energy Strategy 2050](#) and [long-term climate strategy](#). To achieve these targets, solutions must be developed not only from a technical perspective, but in the context of suitable legal and regulatory frameworks, innovative market designs, as well as social acceptance and agency. In other words, transdisciplinary research is required to generate knowledge that is scientifically robust and evidence-based, as well as relevant and applicable to common policy, practice and societal interests — not merely to the particular interests of individual non-academic actors. Close collaborations between the social sciences and humanities (SSH), the natural sciences, and engineering, and a diverse range of non-academic actors, are therefore essential. Such collaborations, in the form of transdisciplinary consortia consisting of academic actors from institutes of the ETH domain, universities, and universities of applied sciences as well as non-academic actors from industry/the private sector, the public sector (such as cantons, cities, communes, districts/regions), federal enterprises, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), are central to the SWEET programme.

The SWEET programme falls under federal policy research, which is research initiated and supported by the federal administration because it requires sound scientific knowledge to fulfil its tasks.¹ Here, “sound scientific knowledge” means it is scientifically robust, evidence-based, and practically relevant. To ensure that the consortia funded through the SWEET programme produce the knowledge required by the administration, the calls issued through the programme follow three principles:

1. The calls are dedicated to so-called “guiding themes” that are aligned with central challenges posed by the Energy Strategy 2050 and the long-term climate strategy and that have been set after consulting the [Federal Energy Research Commission CORE](#).
2. The calls are formulated in terms of research challenges to be tackled by the consortia. The research challenges are formulated after discussions with various stakeholders. Within the boundaries set by the research challenges, consortia are free to set focal points and choose or develop new approaches. Therefore, SWEET combines features of “top-down” and “bottom-up” funding programmes.
3. The funded consortia are accompanied closely by a panel of experts, with particular attention being paid to impact orientation, transdisciplinarity, stakeholder involvement, and knowledge and technology transfer (KTT).

The SWEET programme comprises two main funding instruments. The first is the SWEET instrument, through which seven calls for proposals were published from 2020 to 2024 that resulted in ten consortia. The second instrument is called SWEETER (SWiss research for the EnErgy Transition and Emissions Reduction) to reflect the further development of SWEET and the collaboration with the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN). The SFOE and FOEN plan to issue three SWEETER calls from 2026 to 2028 through which three consortia may be funded. Further calls may be issued from 2028 onwards depending on parliamentary funding decisions.

¹ Further information on federal policy research is available at <https://www.ressortforschung.admin.ch> (German and French).



1.2 The SWEETER funding instrument

1.2.1 Important characteristics

Persons or organisations interested in applying for funding in response to this call should be aware of the following important characteristics of SWEETER:

1. SWEETER is designed to support solution-oriented research and innovation activities that focus on the targets of Switzerland's Energy Strategy 2050 and long-term climate strategy. Research and innovation activities that are not focused on these targets are incompatible with SWEETER.
2. SWEETER consortia must adopt impact orientation as a guiding principle. This has several important implications that are explained in Section 1.2.2.
3. SWEETER consortia must be transdisciplinary, i.e., be composed of a combination of academic and non-academic partners that collaborate to produce knowledge that is scientifically robust, evidence-based, and practically relevant. The composition of SWEETER consortia must therefore be based on an analysis of non-academic stakeholders, see Section 1.2.3. To enable transdisciplinary consortia, a broad range of academic and non-academic actors may apply for SWEETER funding, see Section 3.1.2.
4. SWEETER consortia may be led by academic or non-academic host institutions, see Section 3.1.1. Irrespective of the type of host institution, the governance structures of SWEETER consortia must include both academic and non-academic actors.
5. SWEETER consortia apply for funding through a three-stage process consisting of a pre-proposal evaluation, an evaluative dialogue based on draft full proposals, and a full-proposal evaluation. Based on the evaluation by an expert panel, not more than two consortia may be invited to prepare full proposals and one consortium may be funded. The key differences between pre-proposals and full proposals are:
 - a. Only in the full proposal do complete consortia need to be formed. In the pre-proposal, consortia may be incomplete, i.e., certain academic or non-academic partners may not be members yet, but a plan must be provided for how the missing partners will be added. Consortia are expected to adapt their composition using the feedback from the pre-proposal evaluation.
 - b. Only in the full proposal do activities need to be detailed and structured into work packages (WPs) and tasks. In the pre-proposal, only overviews of the activities are required. Consortia are expected to adapt their activities using the feedback from the pre-proposal evaluation.
6. SWEETER consortia that are invited to prepare full proposals are offered twofold support:
 - a. They receive so-called seed funding, which is intended to support the formation of impact-oriented transdisciplinary consortia and work programmes. Further information on the seed funding can be found in Section 3.
 - b. They will be invited to attend a workshop with the [Network for Transdisciplinary Research \(td-net\)](#) of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. At the workshop, representatives from the td-net will provide advice on how the consortia could address the expert panel's recommendations on transdisciplinarity (from its evaluation of the pre-proposals).
7. SWEETER consortia whose full proposal is selected for funding will initially receive funding for three years only. Depending on an evaluation of their progress during the first three years and their proposed activities for another three years, the SFOE may grant further funding. In the full proposal, only the activities for the first three years need to be described in detail, whereas the activities for the second three years only need to be sketched. In the second three years, consortia are expected to place even greater emphasis on the practical implementation. Accordingly, the composition of the consortia is anticipated to change.



8. SWEETER funding follows the principle of subsidiarity: Consortia supplement the requested SWEETER funding with own and third-party contributions. The combined means are used to finance the consortia's work programmes subject to the requirements described in Section 3.3.

1.2.2 Impact orientation

As mentioned above, SWEETER consortia must adopt impact orientation as a guiding principle. A consortium works in an impact-oriented manner if:

1. It develops a five-stage impact model, see Figure 1-1, as it prepares a pre-proposal, i.e., as it and its work programme are being formed. As indicated by the arrow at the top of the figure, this means working from right to left and deducing outcomes from the research challenges, outputs from the outcomes, and activities from the outputs. It also means that an iterative approach process is adopted, see Sections 3 and 4 in the Call-Guideline Complement, and that non-academic stakeholders are involved from early on.
2. It refines the impact model as it expands its pre-proposal into a full proposal based on the feedback from the expert panel.
3. It uses the impact model to regularly assess its progress in implementing its work programme and adapts its composition and work programme accordingly.

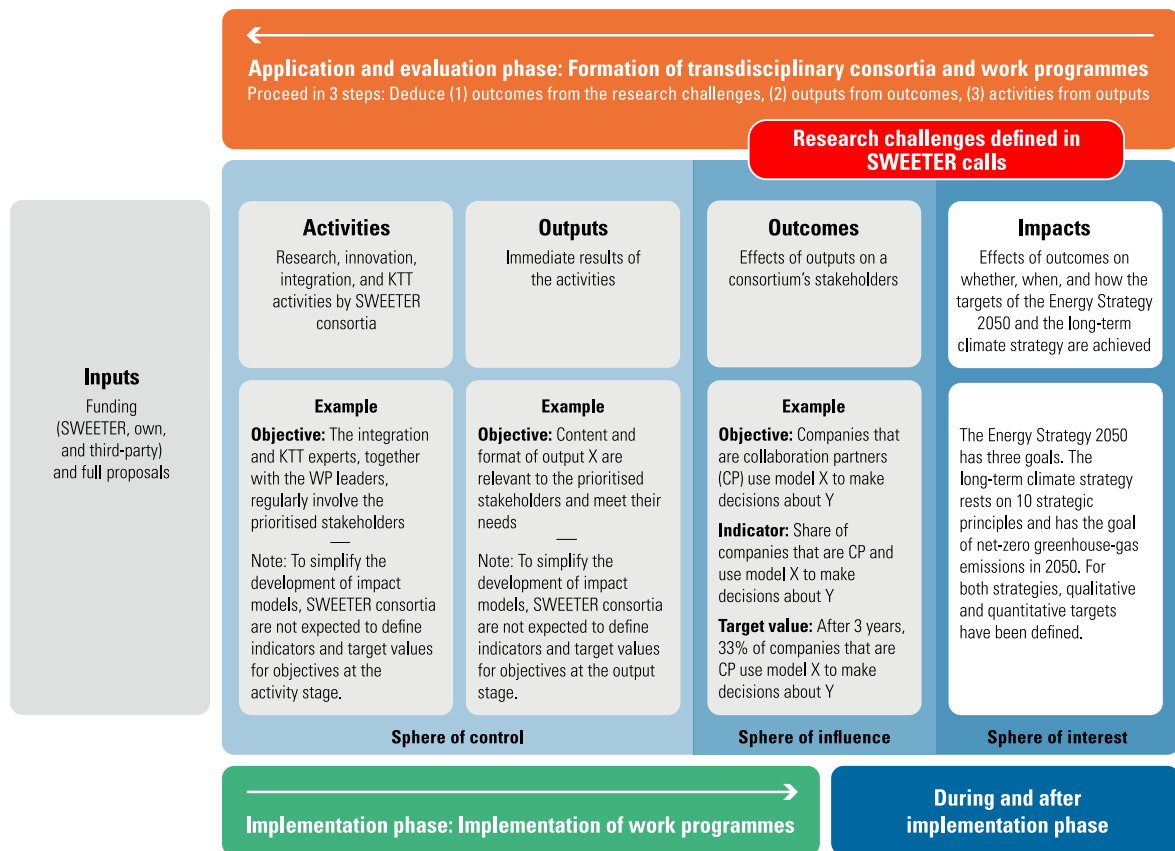


Figure 1-1: The five-stage impact model as applied to SWEETER consortia. As indicated in the figure, the research challenges contained in SWEETER calls may be classified as outcomes or impacts. During the application and evaluation phase, i.e., when transdisciplinary consortia and work programmes are being formed, applicants are expected to proceed in three steps by (1) deducing outcomes from the research challenges, (2) deducing outputs from the outcomes, and (3) by deducing activities from the outputs.



4. It regularly updates the impact model as it implements its work programme to reflect new insights and changing circumstances. The updates should focus on the activities and outputs; updates to the outcomes should only be made in consultation with the expert panel.

In the SWEET programme, the five stages in the impact model shown in Figure 1-1 are interpreted as follows:

- Inputs: the SWEETER, own, and third-party funding and full proposals by consortia.²
- Activities: the research, innovation, integration, and KTT activities of consortia.
- Outputs: the immediate results of the activities. Examples include peer-reviewed publications; reports, policy briefs, white papers; invited talks; events (conferences, workshops, courses, ...); completed PhD and Master theses; simulation tools, models, data sets, data bases; patent applications; awarded patents; licenses; spin-off companies.
- Outcomes: the effects of the outputs on a consortium's stakeholders. Examples include decisionmakers at the federal, cantonal, or municipal levels use outputs in their decisions; companies consider outputs in strategic decisions or product development; associations inform their members about outputs.
- Impacts: the effects of outcomes on whether and when the targets of the Energy Strategy 2050 and long-term climate strategy are achieved.

It is especially challenging to assess the impact of SWEET and SWEETER consortia because the SWEET programme will likely terminate well before 2050 and because many other factors will influence whether and when the 2050 targets are achieved. Therefore, SWEET and SWEETER consortia should focus their attention on outcomes while keeping in mind that impacts are the ultimate goal. The focus on outcomes means that SWEET and SWEETER consortia should view outputs as a necessary first step and the effects of the outputs on stakeholders to be of greater interest.

1.2.3 Stakeholders and their involvement

In the SWEET programme, stakeholders are persons and organisations that have legitimate interests in or concerns about the programme and the consortia supported through the programme or that have knowledge that the consortia need to attain their objectives. ("Legitimate" means that the stakeholders are positively/negatively affected by and have a positive/negative effect on the outputs and outcomes.) Of primary importance to the SWEET programme are non-academic stakeholders, which may be categorised into three broad groups:

- Economic stakeholders, e.g., private sector companies, umbrella and professional associations (including networks and clusters), [companies associated with the Swiss confederation](#) (e.g., SBB and Swisscom).
- Political stakeholders, e.g., decisionmakers (federal, cantonal, and communal levels), administrations (federal, cantonal, and communal levels).
- Societal stakeholders, e.g., non-commercial research organisations, non-governmental organisations (including foundations), citizen associations, cooperatives.

As stated above, for consortia to work in an impact-oriented manner, non-academic stakeholders need to be involved from early on. This implies that as the core of a consortium is being formed, it needs to conduct an analysis of the stakeholders that are relevant to this call and the research challenges in Section 1. Further information on conducting stakeholder analyses can be found in Section 6.2 of the Call-Guideline Complement and on the [SWEET website](#). With reference to Figure 1-2, the result of the

² Other inputs, e.g., personnel and equipment, are not mentioned separately because they can, at least in part, be covered through these funding sources.



analysis is a prioritised list of stakeholders. Prioritised stakeholders should be included directly as members, which means that their contributions are financed with SWEETER funding, or indirectly as collaboration partners, which means that their contributions are financed with own or third-party funding, see Section 3. The prioritised stakeholders that are not included as members or collaboration partners and the non-prioritised stakeholders together form the external stakeholders of the extended consortium and become the focus of the consortium's KTT activities. For simplicity, the external stakeholders are referred to simply as the stakeholders. The stakeholder analysis should be updated periodically to reflect changes in the stakeholders' interests and knowledge.

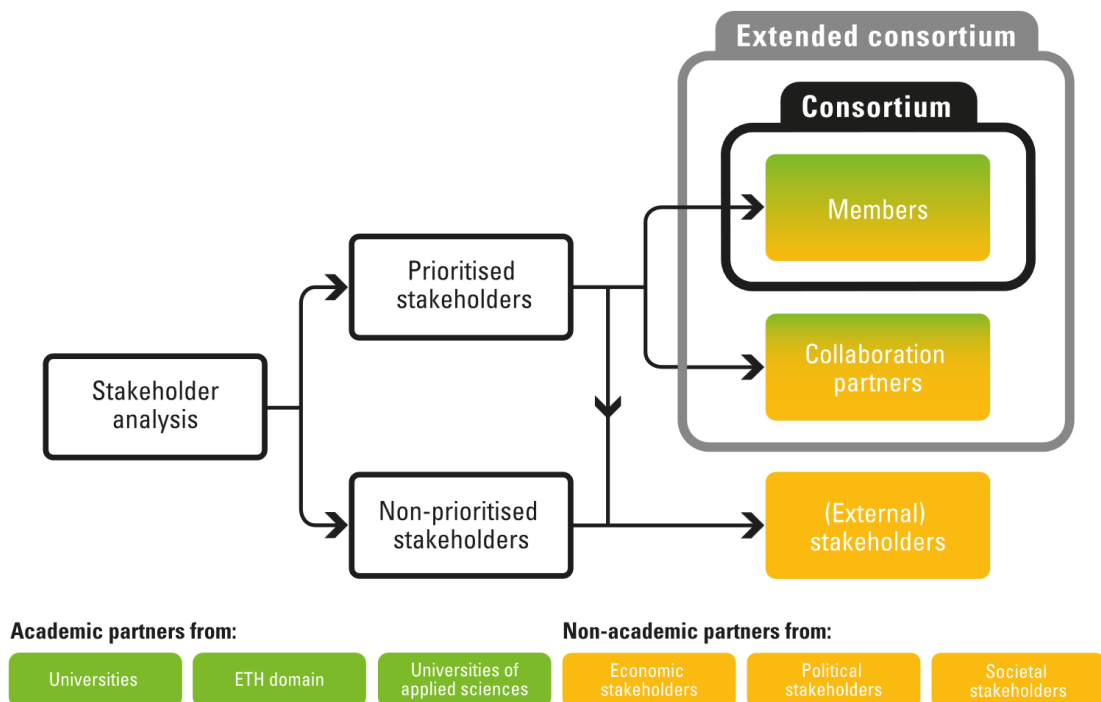


Figure 1-2: Schematic depiction of how the stakeholder analysis and the associated classification into prioritised and non-prioritised stakeholders should influence the formation of a consortium and how a consortium's stakeholders are formed from the prioritised stakeholders that do not become members or collaboration partners and the non-prioritised stakeholders.

1.2.4 Knowledge and technology transfer

Knowledge and technology transfer (KTT) is critical to achieving outcomes and impacts in two ways. First, KTT has an outward component (from the consortium to the stakeholders) that may be divided into three parts:

- **Communication:** informing stakeholders about the consortium, its activities, and its outputs as well as demonstrating their values and benefits.
- **Dissemination:** providing outputs to stakeholders (with the help of multipliers such as associations) such as industrial or commercial actors and policymakers, with the aim of encouraging the use of these outputs.
- **Exploitation:** using outputs for political, economic, or societal purposes jointly with stakeholders or systematically empowering stakeholders to use the outputs themselves.

Second, KTT has an inward component (from the stakeholders to the consortium) in which a consortium involves stakeholders in the co-production of knowledge.



1.2.5 Transdisciplinarity

Impact orientation, stakeholder involvement, and KTT are all aspects of transdisciplinarity. To support SWEETER consortia with the development and implementation of transdisciplinary approaches, the SFOE and the td-net have entered into a collaboration. As part of the collaboration, the td-net has prepared the Call-Guideline Complement “Recommendations for the Formation of Transdisciplinary Consortia and Work Programmes”, which contains information and resources on topics such as joint problem framing, stakeholder analysis, collaboration and involvement, and impact orientation. Consortia are expected to carefully read the complement and consider its recommendations as they prepare pre-proposals and full proposals. Furthermore, the td-net offers the following support to SWEETER consortia:

1. While preparing full proposals, consortia will be invited to attend a workshop.
2. Once selected for funding, consortia may request support by the td-net on overcoming specific challenges related to transdisciplinarity. In addition, the expert panel may request that the td-net provide support.

It should be noted that the td-net is not involved in the evaluation of the proposals and that it is the consortia’s responsibility to decide whether and how to incorporate the information and advice provided by the td-net. All questions about the support by the td-net must be addressed to the SWEET Office.

1.3 **Guiding theme of this SWEETER call**

The industrial sector plays a pivotal role in Switzerland’s Energy Strategy 2050 and long-term climate strategy. From 2018 to 2023, it accounted for an average yearly final energy use of 147 PJ and greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions of 10.4 Mt CO₂eq, which amount to 19% of Switzerland’s total final energy use and 23% of the total GHG emissions, respectively.³ The industrial sector is also a key driver of national value creation by enabling high-tech manufacturing and export-oriented innovation. Advancing energy- and resource-efficient industrial processes can boost productivity and competitiveness and support skilled employment. Swiss leadership in renewable-energy and low-carbon technologies and advanced materials can contribute to global GHG reduction by developing solutions that can scale internationally.

Within the industrial sector, process heat accounted for an average of 85 PJ or 58% of the final energy use from 2018 to 2023. Fuels were responsible for supplying an average of 74 PJ or 88% of the process-heat demand. Approximately 50-55% of the process heat generated from fuels is from fossil fuels. Industrial energy use accounts for roughly 10% of Switzerland’s total GHG emissions, thereby highlighting the urgency of accelerating both emission reductions and fossil-fuel phase-out efforts.⁴

Process heat can be classified according to temperature ranges. The classification into low-, medium-, and high-temperature ranges used in this call is shown in Table 1-1. Each range is associated with representative applications and heat-supply technologies. While low- and medium-temperature heat can, in principle, be supplied by commercially available electrified solutions, such as heat pumps,^{5,6}

³ For energy data, see the Swiss Federal Office of Energy’s [Overall Energy Statistics](#) for the years 2018 to 2023 and the [Analysis of Energy Consumption by Specific Use](#) for the year 2024. For emissions data, see the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment’s [Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#) for the year 2025.

⁴ The figure of 10% follows from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment’s [National Inventory Document 2025 - Switzerland’s Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2023](#), taking the yearly GHG emissions from fuel combustion in industry from source category 1A2 as ranging between 3.8-4.8 Mt CO₂eq, relative to the corresponding yearly national GHG emissions of 41-47 Mt CO₂eq.

⁵ Arpagaus, C. and Bertsch S. (2020). [Industrial Heat Pumps in Switzerland: Application Potentials and Case Studies](#). NTB University of Applied Sciences of Technology, Buchs. Report published by Swiss Federal Office of Energy.

⁶ Jakob, M., Melliger, M. Bagemihl, J. and Talary, Z. (2023). [Techno-Economic Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Process Heat Decarbonisation](#). TEP Energy. Report published by the SWEET consortium SURE.



high-temperature heat remains predominantly dependent on fossil fuels. Decarbonising high-temperature processes is challenging because they generally require a continuous heat supply and because chemical reactions may generate emissions that can thus not be mitigated through fuel switching only.

Table 1-1: Classification of process heat according to temperature ranges and associated representative industrial applications and commonly used and emerging heat-supply technologies.

Temperature range	Representative industrial applications	Commonly used heat-supply technologies	Emerging heat-supply technologies
< 80 °C (low)	Space heating, washing, cleaning, drying, pre-heating	Conventional heat pumps, solar thermal systems, district heating, waste heat recovery	Advanced industrial heat pumps with higher temperature lift, smart thermal storage, power-to-heat conversion with dynamic electricity tariffs
80 - 150 °C (medium)	Pasteurisation, evaporation, distillation, drying, some chemical processes	Advanced or cascade heat pumps (where available), electric boilers, hybrid fossil-electric systems, waste-heat upgrading	High-temperature heat pumps, large-scale solar process heat, electrified steam generation, integration with low-temperature waste-heat networks
> 150 °C (high)	Metal processing, clinker and cement production, glass manufacturing, chemical synthesis	Fossil-fuel boilers and furnaces (coal, gas, oil), conventional high-temperature kilns, direct firing, partial electrification (e.g., electric furnaces)	Direct electrification (electric furnaces and kilns), hydrogen or sustainable fuels, advanced biofuels, high-temperature thermal storage, novel high-temperature heat pumps

From the breakdown of the Swiss process-heat demand averaged from 2015 to 2023 into temperature ranges in Table 1-2, it can be seen that roughly 75% falls into the high-temperature range (as defined in this call) and that roughly 60% is met through fossil fuels. Table 1-3 shows the corresponding breakdown of the process-heat demand according to processes/products and temperature ranges. It follows that decarbonising the supply of high-temperature process heat is an effective lever to further reduce the energy demand and emissions of the Swiss industry sector.

Table 1-2: Breakdown of final-energy demand in the Swiss industry sector in PJ, averaged from 2015-2023, into end uses and temperature ranges for process heat.⁷

Subsector	PJ	%	End use	PJ	%	Temp. range (C)	PJ	%	% Fuels	% Elect.
Processes	122	81	Process heat	85	56	>1200	18	12	10	2
						800-1200	6	4	3	
						400-800	30	20	16	3
						200-400	6	4	3	1
						100-200	9	6	5	1
						<100	17	11	11	0
			Mech. work	33	22					
Electrolysis	2	1								
Other	3	2								
Buildings	29	19								
Total	151	100								

⁷ Rubin, K., Kulkarni, P., Lengning, S. Muralter, F., Piegsa, A., Saad, N. and Wünsch, A. (2025), [Dekarbonisierungspotenzial von Hochtemperatur-Prozesswärme durch Elektrifizierung](#). Prognos. Report published by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy.



Table 1-3: Breakdown of process-heat demand in Swiss industry sector in PJ, averaged from 2015-2023, according to processes/products and temperature ranges.⁷

Process/ product	Temperature range (C)						Total		
	<100	100-200	200-400	400-800	800-1200	>1200	PJ	%	
Chemical			0.1	23.1			23.2	27.4	
Cement, bricks			0.9	2.5	0.2	9.2	12.8	15.1	
Other	8.6		2.3				10.9	12.9	
Food	0.3	8.5					8.8	10.4	
Iron, steel			0.1		2.1	4.4	6.6	7.8	
Paper	6.2	0.1					6.3	7.4	
Glass, ceramics				0.9	0.3	2	3.2	3.8	
Non-iron metals				3.1			3.1	3.7	
Elect. engineering			2.3				2.3	2.7	
Construction	0.5					1.8	2.3	2.7	
Metal products					2.1		2.1	2.5	
Mech. engineering					0.8	0.6	1.4	1.7	
Textiles	0.9						0.9	1.1	
Water, waste	0.9						0.9	1.1	
Total	PJ	17.4	8.6	5.7	29.6	5.5	18.0	84.8	100.0
	%	20.5	10.1	6.7	34.9	6.5	21.2	100.0	-

This transition requires a portfolio of approaches, such as increasing efficiency, further developing and implementing emerging heat-supply technologies (e.g., those shown in Table 1-1), and deploying carbon capture and storage (CCS). Efficiency enhancements – such as reduced heat losses, waste-heat recovery, and enhanced process control – have been identified as important levers for the Swiss pulp and paper industry.⁸ Phasing out coal, oil, and natural gas in favour of biomass, biogas, green hydrogen, and renewable electricity is crucial to cutting emissions. Electrification presents a potential route for processes operating at the lower end of the high-temperature range or for processes that can be redesigned to reduce their operating temperature, thereby facilitating the integration of electric heating technologies. Heat pumps are considered to be a promising option for the lower end of the high-temperature range, but have been shown by a modelling study not to be economical for supplying heat between 150°C and 200°C in the Swiss pulp and paper as well as food and beverage industries.⁹ CCS will be needed for emissions that are inherent to industrial processes. Digitalisation and advanced process integration can optimize energy flows while minimizing waste.

The large-scale deployment of several of these approaches remains constrained by the limited availability of mature solutions (especially for very-high-temperature applications), high capital investment requirements, slow capital stock turnover, and policy frameworks. Therefore, reducing the energy demand and emissions of high-temperature process heat in particular, but also industrial processes in general, requires coordinated and sustained development of technical, economic, and policy measures.

Defossilising and decarbonising industrial processes depends on the large-scale deployment of a range of technologies and components, e.g., photovoltaic (PV) panels, wind turbines, heat pumps, electrolyzers, and waste-heat recovery systems. Their production, operation, and end-of-life treatment are material- and energy-intensive, impact the environment, and create dependencies on imported equipment

⁸ Obrist, M. D., Kannan, R., Schmidt, T. J., and Kober, T. (2022). [Long-term energy efficiency and decarbonization trajectories for the Swiss pulp and paper industry](#). Sustainable Energy Technologies and Assessments, 52, 101937

⁹ Obrist, M. D., Kannan, R., McKenna, R., Schmidt, T. J., and Kober, T. (2023). [High-temperature heat pumps in climate pathways for selected industry sectors in Switzerland](#). Energy Policy, 173, 113383.

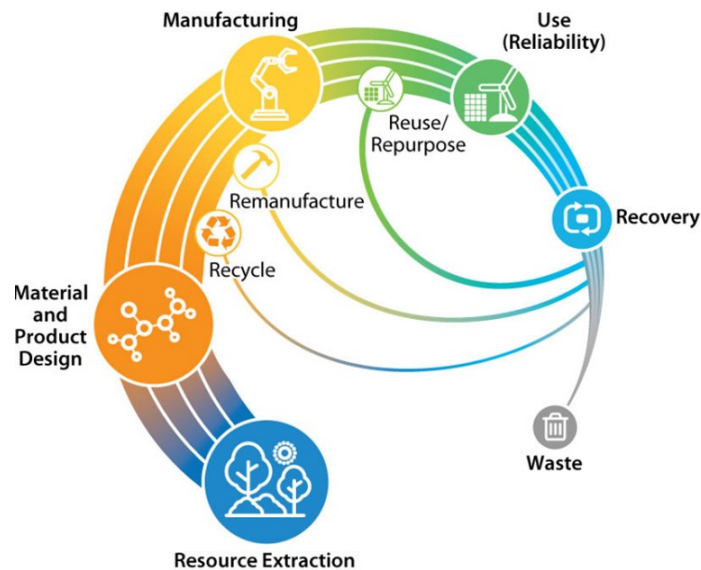


Figure 1-3: Circular Economy for Energy Materials. From Curtis, T.L., Smith, L., Buchanan, H., and Heath, G. (2021). *A Circular Economy for Lithium-Ion Batteries Used in Mobile and Stationary Energy Storage: Drivers, Barriers, Enablers, and U.S. Policy Considerations*. Technical Report NREL/TP-6A20-77035, National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

and critical raw materials.^{10,11} These materials, such as lithium, copper, rare earths, and high-grade steels, are used extensively in semiconductors, magnetic cores, and converter unit, for example. Power electronics alone underpin every stage of the renewable energy system, from generation and storage to industrial electrification.^{10,12} However, the large-scale deployment of these technologies and components is expected to substantially increase the volume of end-of-life equipment, thereby intensifying electronic waste generation and critical raw material recovery challenges.^{13,14}

These intertwined energy, material, and technological challenges reshape the scope of industrial decarbonisation and defossilisation. Rather than focusing only on the substitution of fossil fuels, the challenges should be viewed as part of a systemic transformation towards energy- and resource-efficient industrial processes, see Figure 1-3. This systemic perspective can be characterised through the four “R” strategies:

- Reuse: extending product lifetimes through continued use in their original form.
- Repurposing: reallocating products or components to new functions.
- Remanufacturing: restoring used products to like-new condition meeting original specifications.
- Recycling: converting end-of-life materials into secondary raw materials for new production.

Building on these strategies allows components to remain in use. For instance, reusing and repurposing allow mechanical, thermal, electrical, and electronic components to be redeployed in second-life appli-

¹⁰ Hahn Menacho, A. J., Sacchi, R., Bauer, C., Panos, E., McKenna, R., and Burgherr, P. (2025). [The material-energy nexus in net-zero transition scenarios: Exploring environmental trade-offs and uncertainties](#). Resources, Conservation and Recycling 218, 108251.

¹¹ IRENA (2021). [Critical Materials for the Energy Transition](#). Abu Dhabi: International Renewable Energy Agency.

¹² Huber, J. and Kolar, J. W. (2025). [Circular Economy Compatible Power Electronics and New Application Areas](#). ETH Zurich.

¹³ Heuberger, S. and Morgenthaler, A. (2025). [Critical Raw Materials in Switzerland. A review](#). ETH Zurich.

¹⁴ Forti, V., Baldé, C.P., Kuehr, R., and Bel, G. (2020). [The Global E-waste Monitor 2020: Quantities, flows, and the circular economy potential](#). United Nations University (UNU)/United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) – co-hosted SCYCLE Programme, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) & International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), Bonn/Genève/Rotterdam.



cations. This approach delays recycling and disposal, preserves embedded value and energy. Photovoltaic modules, for example, can operate well beyond 25 years, and initiatives such as Swiss PV Circle show how assessment tools and business models can extend their use into a second life before recycling.¹⁵ Similarly, electric-vehicle and stationary lithium-ion batteries can be repurposed for secondary storage applications, including in buildings, as explored in the CircuBAT project, which develops technical frameworks and business models for the second life of batteries.¹⁶ Industrial equipment, including compressors, heat exchangers, and heat pumps, can be re-engineered for waste-heat recovery and low-temperature heating.^{17,18} Power converters, inverters, and circuit boards can likewise be reconditioned or upgraded for reuse in microgrids, industry, and energy-storage systems.¹⁹

New energy- and resource-efficient industrial processes must demonstrate economic viability if they are to be adopted at scale. Research is needed to identify the national and international energy- and climate-policy conditions under which such processes have pathways to becoming economically viable, e.g., through targeted incentives, market design, carbon pricing frameworks, or standards that reward energy- and resource efficiency and low GHG emissions. Establishing viable pathways is essential for ensuring that innovative processes can succeed in real markets, support skilled employment, and reinforce Switzerland's role in globally competitive, climate-aligned value chains. Research is also needed on the adoption of second-life components, which remains limited by social, market and regulatory barriers. Across stakeholder groups, concerns related to quality assurance and the lack of transparent certification frameworks continue to hinder broader market acceptance.^{20,21}

¹⁵ Swiss PV Circle. [Swiss PV Circle - Data-driven business models for reuse in the Swiss solar industry](#). Accessed 15 April 2026.

¹⁶ CircuBAT. [CircuBAT - Swiss circular economy model for lithium-ion batteries](#). Accessed 15 April 2026.

¹⁷ Stampfli, J. A., Ong, B. H. Y., Olsen, D. G., Wellig, B., and Hofmann, R. (2023). [Multi-objective evolutionary optimization for multi-period heat exchanger network retrofit](#). *Energy*, 281, 128175

¹⁸ Arpagaus, C., Bless, F., Uhlmann, M., Schiffmann, J., and Bertsch, S. S. (2018). [High-temperature heat pumps: Market overview, state of the art, research status, and applications](#). *Energy*, 152, 985-1010.

¹⁹ Ruiz de Azua Lahidalga, I., Wandji, C., Picatoste, A., Justel, D., Aizpuru, I., Riel, A. et al. (2026). [Circularity assessment of power electronic converters: manual disassembly, bill of material, circularity indicators and actionable guidelines](#). *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 546, 147774.

²⁰ Hina, M., Chauhan, C., Kaur, P., Kraus, S., and Dhir, A. (2022). [Drivers and barriers of circular economy business models: Where we are now, and where we are heading](#). *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 333, 130049.

²¹ Prenner, S., Part, F., Jung-Waclik, S., Bordes, A., Leonhardt, R., Jandric, A., et al. (2024). [Barriers and framework conditions for the market entry of second-life lithium-ion batteries from electric vehicles](#). *Heliyon*, 10(18), e37423.



2 Research challenges

This call comprises two research challenges. One consortium may be supported with a budget of at most CHF 11.95 Mio. to tackle in the context of the guiding theme both challenges over two three-year periods separated by an intermediate evaluation, see Section 3.3.1.

2.1 Research challenge 1

How can industrial processes requiring high-temperature heat (i.e., above 150 °C) or industrial processes lacking viable commercially available solutions and still requiring research and innovation (as of April 2026), be optimised and transitioned away from fossil energy carriers in a way that significantly contributes to the goals of Switzerland's Energy Strategy 2050 and long-term climate strategy while maintaining or enhancing the economic viability and efficiency of the industrial processes as well as the competitiveness of the companies involved?

Consortia must develop and demonstrate solutions that avoid fossil energy carriers for at least one process that requires high-temperature heat (i.e., above 150 °C) or that lacks viable commercially available solutions and still requires research and innovation (as of April 2026). The process selection must be justified through a techno-economic assessment (including a cost-benefit analysis), life-cycle analysis (incorporating environmental and circular-economy indicators), as well as an assessment of its multiplication potential. The solutions to be developed and demonstrated must have a high multiplication potential at the national level, which are defined as solutions that can be adopted by multiple processes with limited customisation, while maintaining comparable performance and continuing to comply with applicable environmental and safety regulations as well as relevant industrial standards.

For each selected process, the following information should be presented: the current heat demand, indicative temperature ranges, representative load profiles describing the temporal variation of heat demand (if applicable), energy sources, and a quantified baseline for energy use and GHG emissions. All reported information should be aggregated at an appropriate level to preserve confidentiality. Building on the above information, consortia must first consider optimisation measures (e.g., waste-heat recovery, cascaded, and cross-process use of heat; thermal-energy storage; coupling of processes) before considering options such as electrification, high-temperature heat pumps, concentrated solar thermal energy, sustainable fuels (e.g., green hydrogen or ammonia), as well as hybrid systems (i.e., combinations of the aforementioned measures and options).

The proposed solution(s) must be tested through pilot- or full-scale demonstrations conducted under realistic industrial operating conditions to generate performance data. The results must then be validated against predefined technical, regulatory, and operational criteria, including, for example, process performance, compliance with applicable safety and environmental requirements, and operational reliability. The demonstrations shall document energy savings, GHG emission reductions, and any information required to enable replication, defined as the ability of other operators or sites to reproduce the demonstrated solution(s) under comparable technical and operational conditions, expressed in terms of applicability ranges and performance envelopes rather than site-specific data (to preserve confidentiality).

Finally, consortia must explicitly address the economic viability of the proposed solution(s). This entails either demonstrating the economic viability under current market and policy conditions or identifying the national and international market conditions, as well as the energy and climate policy frameworks, under which the solution(s) could become competitive. In addition, consortia must address the broader policy, market, and social factors that may influence the practical adoption and large-scale deployment of the proposed solution(s).



2.2 Research challenge 2

How can the reuse, repurpose, remanufacture, and recycling of components that already play or are expected to play an important role in the Swiss energy system be made more efficient, sustainable, economic, and socially accepted?

Consortia are challenged to develop new or improve existing processes for the reuse, repurpose, remanufacture, and recycling of those components that already play or are expected to play an important role in the Swiss energy system. Examples of such components are PV panels, batteries, heat pumps, electrolysers, power electronics, and wind-turbine blades. In developing or improving processes, consortia must pay particular attention to their efficiency, sustainability, and viability. Here, “viability” means economically feasible, technically implementable, compatible with the Swiss regulatory and societal contexts, while contributing to a reduced dependence on imported raw materials or products.

In addressing this research challenge, consortia are required to select at least one component (see the previous paragraph for examples). For each selected component, consortia are challenged to develop a new or improve an existing process for reusing, repurposing, remanufacturing and recycling the component and demonstrate that process. It is important to note that it is not sufficient for consortia to consider only reusing or repurposing or remanufacturing or recycling by themselves; instead, consortia must consider the complete sequence. The processes considered by consortia must demonstrate measurable improvements over existing processes in terms of efficiency, sustainability, and viability (see the criteria defined above).

In developing new or improved processes, consortia must address societal and regulatory barriers to the deployment of the proposed processes, including the public acceptance of second-life components. This includes describing measures, such as communication strategies and regulatory and policy adaptations that could help overcome these barriers.

Finally, consortia must address how the processes can be deployed in ways that reduce costs, create new market opportunities, and – if applicable – strengthen Switzerland’s position in global value chains.



3 Application

Applications for SWEETER funding proceed through pre-proposals and full proposals, which require the formation of transdisciplinary consortia and work programmes and the preparation of a budget. The following sections describe the requirements that consortia, work programmes, and budgets must satisfy. Applicants are expected to carefully read the call-guideline complement and consider its recommendations as they form transdisciplinary consortia and work programmes.

Each consortium that is invited to prepare a full proposal will receive so-called seed funding of CHF 25'000 once the complete full proposal is submitted. The purpose of the seed funding is to support the formation of impact-oriented transdisciplinary consortia and work programmes, such as organising (possibly professionally prepared and moderated) workshops on problem framing, stakeholder analyses, and impact models and partially covering the expenses of members, collaboration partners, and stakeholders that cannot cover their expenses using their own funding. The rules governing the seed funding are described in an agreement between the SFOE and each consortium that is invited to prepare a full proposal. The agreement will be distributed together with the invitation to prepare a full proposal.

3.1 Consortium requirements

A consortium is a network of academic and non-academic members that apply for SWEETER funding and use this funding, supplemented by own and third-party funding, to tackle the research challenges defined in SWEETER calls. A consortium must:

1. Be led by 1 host institution that represents the consortium to the SFOE.
2. Consist of at least 2 academic member institutions:
 - a. 1 member institution from Swiss universities or institutes of the ETH domain (ETH Zurich, EPF Lausanne, Empa, Eawag, PSI, and WSL),
 - b. 1 member institution from Swiss universities of applied sciences.
3. Consist of at least 2 member institutions from the private sector.
4. Include member institutions located in at least 2 different language regions of Switzerland.

In addition, a consortium should:

1. Be composed of members that deliver complementary and significant contributions to the work programme and receive an adequate share of the SWEETER funding.
2. Ensure that various academic disciplines and non-academic fields of expertise lead WPs.
3. Strive for gender balance among director and WP leaders.²²

As indicated by Figure 3-1, the members are expected to work closely with so-called collaboration partners that finance their activities not through SWEETER funding but through own and third-party contributions. The consortium and collaboration partners together form the so-called extended consortium. The SFOE expects that the extended consortium includes members and collaboration partners that span the innovation system, see Figure 3-2, and thereby enable a transdisciplinary approach. The SFOE also expects that the extended consortium includes those stakeholders that are most relevant to the call's guiding theme and the consortium's outcomes and that these stakeholders are closely involved in the co-production of knowledge.

²² The Swiss Confederation attaches great importance to the adequate representation of women in management positions. Through its involvement in the Technology Collaboration Programme [Clean Energy Education and Empowerment \(C3E\)](#) of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the SFOE actively supports the development of a community of women leaders in the field of clean energy across various sectors.

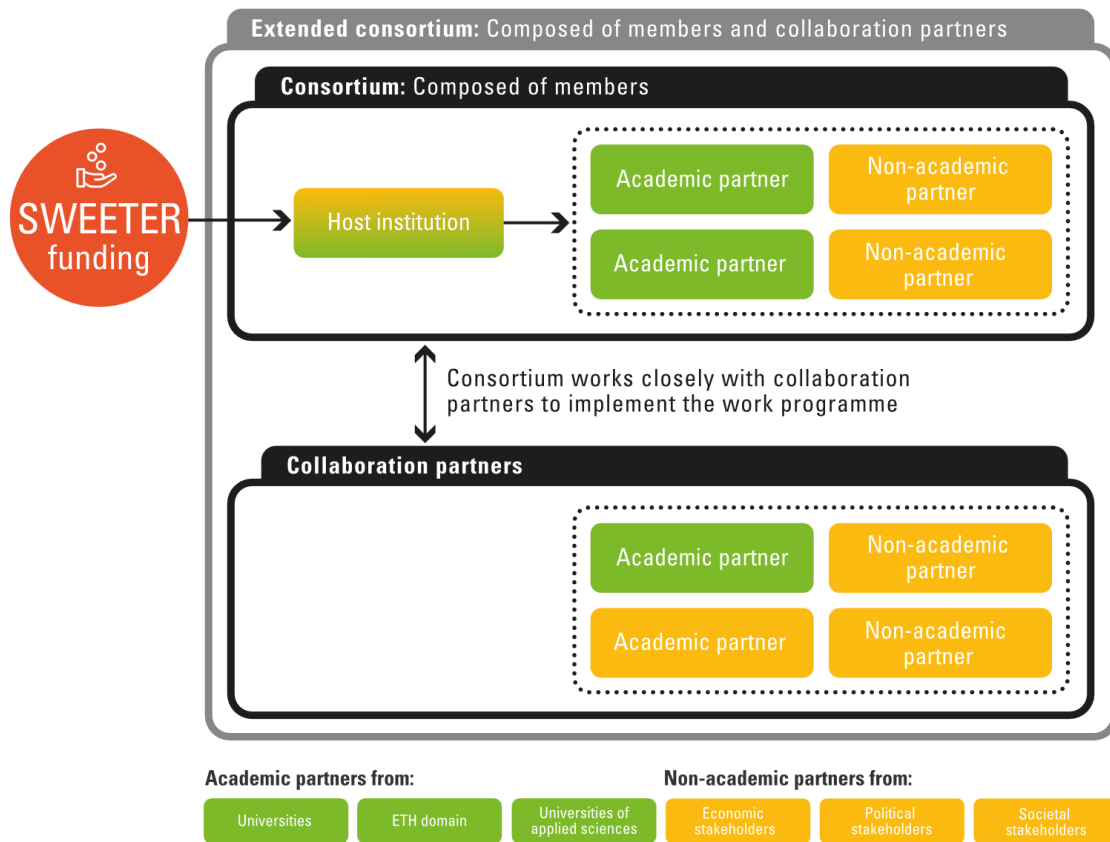


Figure 3-1: SWEETER consortia are composed of members that interact with collaboration partners to implement the portfolio of interrelated projects. SWEETER funding flows to the members via the host institution. The consortium and collaboration partners together form the so-called extended consortium. The number of academic and non-academic partners shown in this figure is indicative only.

3.1.1 Host institution

The host institution must be a Swiss institution entitled to receive SWEETER funding, see Table 3-1, and is the legal entity applying for funding on behalf of the consortium. The host institution may be an academic or a non-academic institution. The obligations of the host institution include appointing one of its employees as the consortium director (see Section 3.1.4) and, if the consortium is awarded funding, negotiating first a consortium agreement with all the member institutions and then a subsidy contract with the SFOE. To demonstrate its commitment to fulfil these obligations, the host institution must provide a letter of commitment (see Section 4.2.4). Upon request and SFOE approval, the host institution may change during the application and implementation phases, provided that the new host institution makes similar commitments and that all contracts are reassigned.

3.1.2 Members

Partners that apply for SWEETER funding through consortia are called members. In line with the need for transdisciplinary consortia, various institutions are eligible for SWEETER funding, see Table 3-1. Institutions that are not eligible for SWEETER funding may participate in a consortium's activities as collaboration partners. It must be noted that in the SWEET programme, the term "member" appears in three ways, see Table 3-2. If a consortium is awarded funding, its member institutions become beneficiaries of the subsidy contract between the SFOE and the host institution. Members may join more than

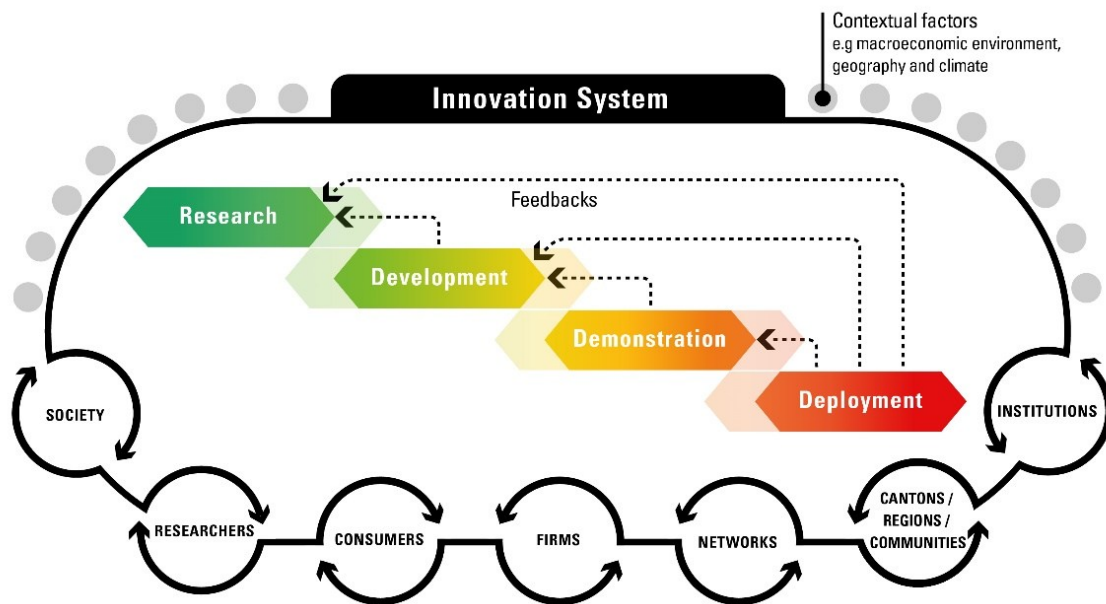


Figure 3-2: A schematic representation of the innovation system, significant parts of which should be covered by SWEETER consortia and their work programmes. The consortia and work programmes are expected to generate and exploit feedbacks, e.g., a marketplace or a community that demands innovations (deployment) is supplied with new knowledge and/or products from research, development, and demonstration. Adapted from International Energy Agency (2019), *Energy Technology Innovation Partnerships*, building on graphics and text sourced from Global Energy Assessment (2012), *Global Energy Assessment: Towards a Sustainable Energy Future*, Cambridge University Press and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.

one consortium provided that they inform the directors of all concerned consortia. Members may not offer substantially the same contribution to more than one consortium, with the exception of the integration and KTT experts (see Section 3.1.4).

3.1.3 Collaboration partners

Partners that do not apply for SWEETER funding may participate in the work programme of the consortium as collaboration partners. Collaboration partners must finance their activities from own and/or third-party contributions. Collaboration partners may join more than one consortium and may lead WPs.

3.1.4 Key positions

The responsibility for leading the extended consortium and ensuring that it works in an impact-oriented manner cannot be shouldered by one person. The critical importance of knowledge integration and KTT in particular means that the associated activities require the attention of dedicated persons. Thus, the SFOE requires that SWEETER consortia are led by a triumvirate consisting of a director, an integration expert, and a KTT expert. Their responsibilities are as follows:

- The director is that member of the consortium who is responsible and accountable for the scientific and managerial leadership of the consortium and serves as the primary point of contact for the SFOE regarding all matters (including administrative, legal, and financial ones). The director is expected to have considerable experience with the scientific and managerial leadership of trans-disciplinary consortia and work programmes.²³ The director must be an employee of the host

²³ Experience gathered through the SWEET programme, programmes similar to SWEET, private-sector companies, and non-governmental organisations is regarded as particularly relevant. Programmes similar to SWEET include the Swiss Competence



institution and have its support (as manifested by it relieving the director of other responsibilities, for example). The director is expected to dedicate at least 30% of a full-time equivalent to the responsibilities.

Table 3-1: Eligibility of institutions for SWEETER funding.

Origin	Institution	Eligible for SWEETER funding?
Swiss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institution of higher education • Private sector company • Umbrella and professional associations (incl. networks and clusters) • Company associated with the Swiss confederation • Canton, city, commune, district, region • Non-commercial research organisation • Non-governmental organisation (incl. foundations) • Citizen association • Cooperative 	Yes
	Federal department and its administrative units	No
	Other	Contact the SWEET Office
Foreign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institution of higher education • Non-commercial research organisation • Private sector company 	Yes, provided that their contributions are essential to achieving the consortium's objectives, cannot be provided by Swiss members and generate added value in Switzerland. The inclusion of such institutions must be justified in the notification of intent to submit a pre-proposal (see Section 4.1) and is subject to approval by the SFOE.
	Other	No

Table 3-2: Overview of the ways in which the term "member" appears in the SWEET programme.

Term	Meaning	Relevance and comments
Member institution	An institution such as an institution of higher education, private sector company, etc., see Table 3-1.	The member institution must be eligible for SWEETER funding and a legal entity with due representation.
Member entity	The smallest unit within the member institution, such as a department, an institute, a laboratory, or a group, that individually reports its costs to the member institution.	If the member institution is not organised into units, the member entity is identical to the member institution. In the proposals, the requested SWEETER funding as well as own and third-party contributions must be reported at the level of member entities.
Member	A person who is employed by the member institution and leads the member entity's contributions to the consortium. (This person is often called the principal investigator.)	The potential financial award to the consortium is linked to the number of members, see Section 3.3.1. In Table 0-5 of the proposals, each member entity is represented by one member.



- The integration expert is that member of the consortium who is responsible for the knowledge integration between the WPs, i.e., the interrelationships within the project portfolio, as well as the knowledge integration with other SWEET and SWEETER consortia and the [CROSS activity](#). The designation “[integration expert](#)” is used to indicate that the responsibilities go beyond those of a technical or project manager, because ensuring knowledge integration will require know-how about how to constructively combine the distinct perspectives from various scientific disciplines as well as how to effectively operate at the intersection of science and society.²⁴ While it is desirable that the integration expert has a scientific background, it is essential that the expert is open to all scientific disciplines and societal actors and domains represented in the consortium (and the different approaches adopted by them) and seeks and promotes connections between the disciplines specifically as well as between science and society generally. The integration expert is expected to have at least one year of experience with transdisciplinary integration.²³

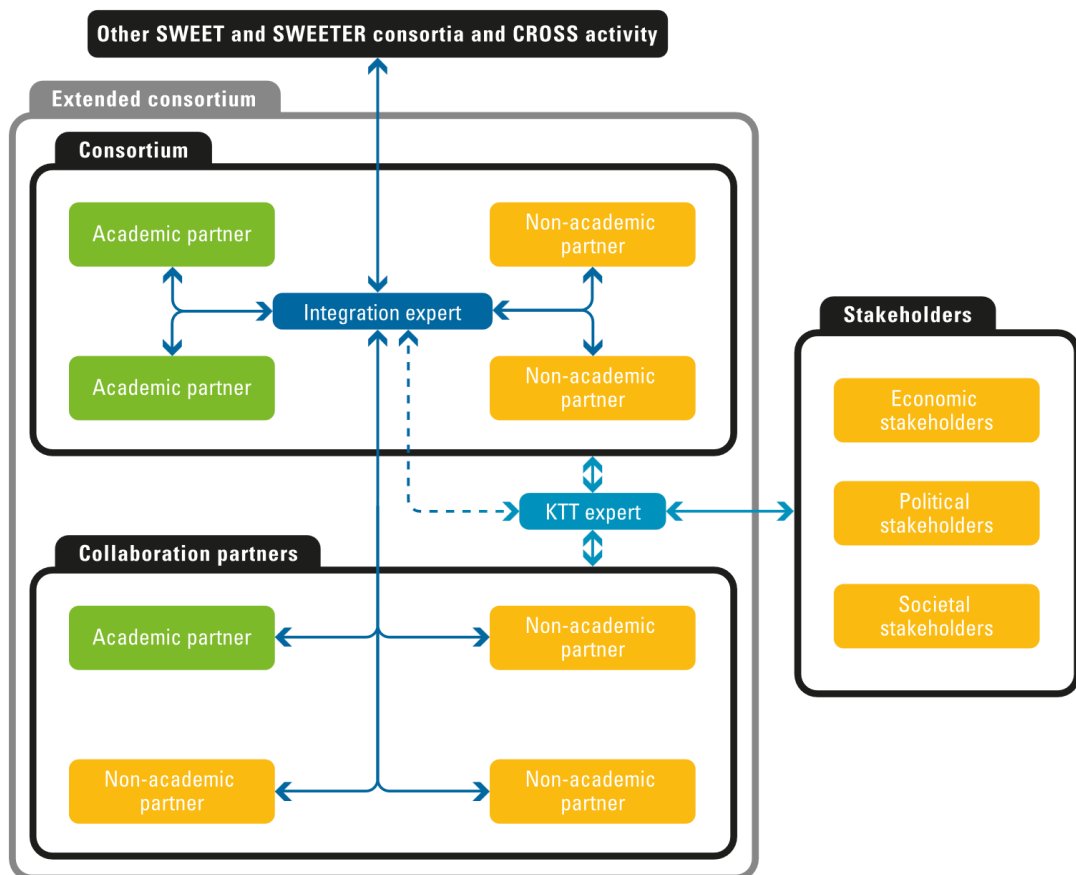


Figure 3-3: Schematic illustration of the roles of the integration and KTT experts. The terms “academic partner” and “non-academic partner” follow Figure 3-1. The numbers and relative proportions of academic and non-academic partners in the consortium, the collaboration partners, and stakeholders are indicative only. The arrows between the integration expert and the academic and non-academic partners indicate the knowledge integration. For simplicity, no arrows are drawn between academic and non-academic partners, but this should not be taken to imply that all communication takes place through the integration expert. The close collaboration between the integration and KTT experts is reflected by the dashed arrow. To avoid cluttering the figure, the director is not depicted.

²⁴ Hoffmann, S., Deutsch, L., and O'Rourke, M. (2024). [Integration experts and expertise](#). In F. Darbellay (Ed.), *Elgar Encyclopedia of Interdisciplinarity and Transdisciplinarity*, 273-276. [Open-access version](#).



- The KTT expert is that member of the consortium who is responsible for the communication, dissemination, and exploitation of the outputs of the extended consortium. The KTT expert involves relevant stakeholders from the outset to ensure that the outputs are fully exploited and thereby develop into outcomes and impacts. The KTT expert is expected to have at least two years of experience with KTT.²³

Because the profiles of the three positions are very different, the consortium must fill them with separate persons. The responsibilities of the integration and KTT experts are shown schematically in Figure 3-3.

3.2 Work-programme requirements

Work programmes may be viewed as a portfolio of interrelated projects, structured such that the projects build on and feed into each other, see Figure 3-4. The projects can be of two types:

- Research projects, i.e., projects that are driven by academic partners but may also involve non-academic partners. With reference to Figure 3-2, the term “research project” is used as a shorthand for projects that focus on research and development. Research projects may be driven by partners from the natural sciences, engineering, and the SSH. When the activities in research projects can be characterised by technology readiness levels (TRLs), SWEETER funding may only be used for TRL 1-4, see Table 3-4.
- Implementation projects, i.e., projects that are driven by non-academic partners but may also involve academic partners. With reference to Figure 3-2, the term “implementation project” is used as a shorthand for projects that focus on demonstration and deployment. When the activities in implementation projects can be characterised by TRLs, SWEETER funding may be used for TRL 5-9, see Table 3-4. Implementation projects may involve real-world laboratories and other formats in which the effects on and the agency of people can be explored.

Typically, each project corresponds to a WP. The consortia and project portfolios should cover significant parts of the innovation system depicted in Figure 3-2. Some projects may start as soon as a consortium is launched, while others may follow at a later stage as they build on the output of earlier projects. Iterative feedback loops between the projects are encouraged. The research and implementation projects are supported by management, integration, and KTT activities. Research and implementation projects may span across the evaluation that will take place after the first three years.

3.3 Funding requirements

The SFOE funds in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity: To ensure that the overall funding is sufficient for the work programme of the consortium, members and collaboration partners supplement the requested SWEETER funding, each according to its abilities, with own and third-party contributions:

- Own contributions are financial contributions (cash or in-kind) from members and collaboration partners.
- Third-party contributions are financial contributions (cash or in-kind) from sources other than members, collaboration partners, and the Federal Administration (e.g., Federal Offices, Innosuisse, and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)).²⁵

The plausibility of the budget allocation in light of the principle of subsidiarity, the research challenges, and the proposed activities enters into the evaluation, see Table 5-3. The consortium has the right to reallocate SWEETER funds to its members provided that the funding rules are adhered to and that the reallocation is transparent and traceable.

²⁵ Contributions from collaboration partners should be declared by them as own contributions and not by members as third-party contributions.

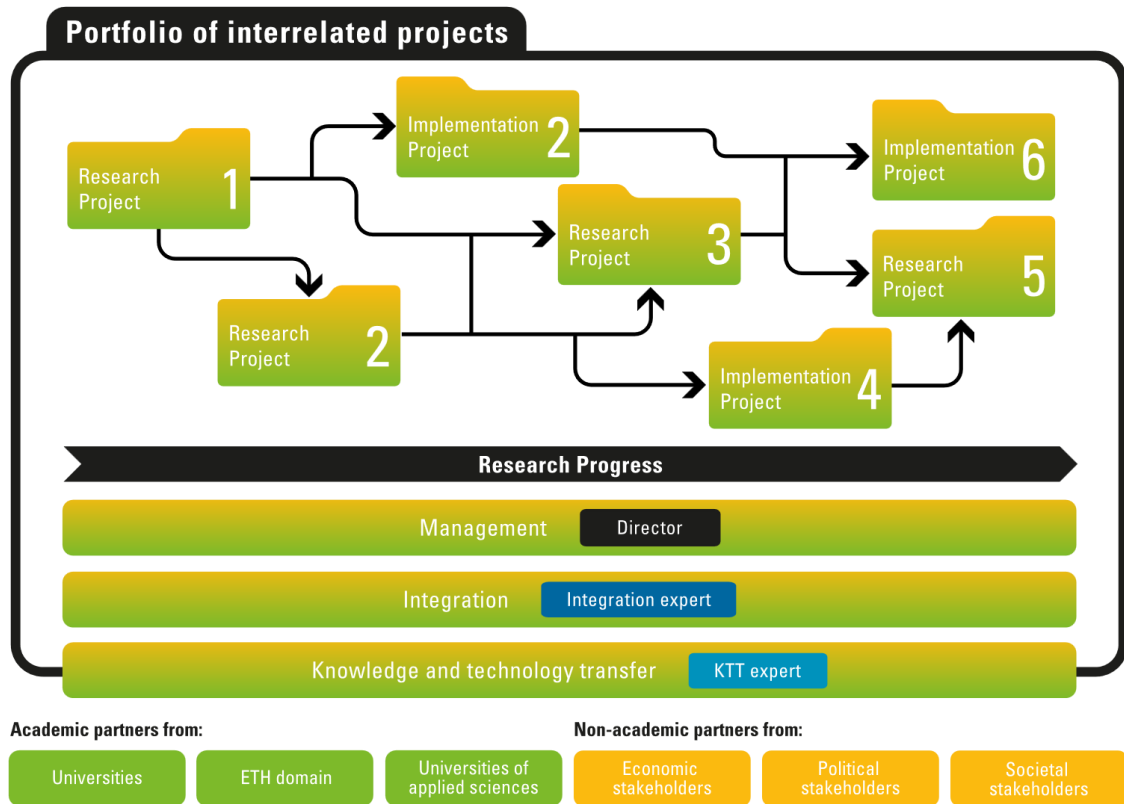


Figure 3-4: Schematic depiction of the work programme as a portfolio of interrelated projects by a consortium of academic and non-academic partners, supported by management, integration, and KTT activities. Section 3.1.4 describes the key positions of the director, integration expert, and KTT expert.

3.3.1 Call budget

The potential financial award as specified in the subsidy contract is referred to as the call budget and represents the SFOE's funding for research projects, implementation projects, as well as management, integration, and KTT activities. To encourage the formation of compact consortia, the call budget is tied to the number of members N ,

$$\text{call budget in Mio. CHF} = \begin{cases} 11.95 & \text{if } N \leq 15, \\ 11.95[1 - 0.115(N - 15)] & \text{if } N > 15. \end{cases}$$

The number of members must be equal to the number of entries in Table 0-5 of the pre-proposal and full-proposal templates. The call budget is subject to annual parliamentary appropriations and the payment schedule agreed to in the subsidy contract.

The call budget is split into a fixed budget and a flexible budget. The fixed budget amounts to 85% of the call budget and represents the SWEETER funding with which consortia can plan in the pre-proposals and full proposals. At most 50% of the fixed budget may be dedicated to years 1-3; at least 50% must be dedicated to years 4-6. In each three-year period, the use of SWEETER funding is restricted according to Table 3-3.



Table 3-3: Restrictions on the maximum SWEETER funding level of WPs and the share of the call budget in the pre- and full proposals.

WP		TRL range	In pre- and full proposals	
			Maximum SWEETER funding level	Share of call budget
Research projects	Natural sciences/engineering	1-4	80%	Max. 35%
	SSH	n/a	100%	
Implementation projects	Natural sciences/engineering	5-9	50%	Min. 35%
	SSH	n/a	100%	
Management		n/a	100%	Min. 5%
Integration				Min. 5%
KTT				Min. 5%
Sum of SWEETER funding for all WPs				85%

The flexible budget equals 15% of the call budget and must be reserved for activities that are not planned in the pre- and full proposals. The purpose of the flexible budget is to empower the director to adapt the work programme by (a) increasing the funding for existing projects or activities and (b) supporting new projects or activities. After the first year, the director may request funding from the flexible budget using a dedicated template. The expert-panel head, in consultation with the other panel members, reviews the request and issues a recommendation to the SFOE as to whether the request should be granted or not. In the full proposal, the consortium is required to describe how it ensures that the flexible budget is used in a fair and transparent manner.

3.3.2 Further particulars

In preparing their budgets, consortia must consider the following:

- Only the costs actually incurred and that are absolutely necessary for the fulfilment of the work programme are eligible for funding.²⁶ Costs incurred before the start date specified in the subsidy contract are not eligible for funding.²⁷
- The cumulation of federal financial assistance to fund a project is inadmissible if the legal provisions or rules of any of the concerned funding instruments are breached. For instance, if funding from one instrument has been secured and that assistance is sufficient for the project to go ahead, applying for assistance from other instruments for the same project would result in an inadmissible cumulation.²⁸ Similarly, an inadmissible cumulation would occur if the maximum funding rate of one instrument is violated by the assistance from other instruments. To prevent inadmissible cumulations, members that seek financial assistance from several federal instruments must clearly disclose all sources of financing and inform all concerned authorities.²⁹
- All WPs must be fully funded by the call budget, own contributions, and third-party contributions and be independent of the outputs of unfunded activities.

²⁶ Article 14 para. 1 of the [Federal Subsidies Act \(SR 616.1\)](#).

²⁷ Article 53 para. 1 of the [Federal Energy Act \(SR 730.0\)](#) and Article 26 para. 1 of the [Federal Subsidies Act \(SR 616.1\)](#).

²⁸ Article 6 letter c and Article 7 letters c and d of the [Federal Subsidies Act \(SR 616.1\)](#).

²⁹ Article 12 of the [Federal Subsidies Act \(SR 616.1\)](#).



- SWEETER funding may be used to cover article processing charges for full open access to peer-reviewed articles based on results by SWEETER consortia, provided that the charges are not covered by member institutions and do not exceed those covered by the SNSF.³⁰

The eligibilities of cost types by SWEETER funding as well as own and third-party contributions are specified in Table 3-4. There is no entitlement to funding.

Table 3-4: Eligibilities of cost types by SWEETER funding and own and third-party contributions.

Cost		Eligibilities		
Type	Definition and restrictions	SWEETER funding	Own contrib.	Third-party contrib.
Internal costs	Internal costs are personnel costs. The maximum contribution of SWEETER funding to internal costs must follow specified hourly rates. ³¹ VAT cannot be included.	Yes	Yes	Yes
External costs	External costs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipment (e.g., devices and consumables), • external services (e.g., subcontracts), • expenses (e.g., travel, conference fees, certain article processing charges), and • other costs (e.g., licenses). The maximum contribution of SWEETER funding to equipment purchases must correspond to the actual use of the equipment in SWEETER projects. The remainder can be declared as own contribution. VAT can be included.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Overhead	Cannot be covered through SWEETER funding. ³² The following may be reported as costs covered by own and third-party contributions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal costs for administrative personnel, which must be calculated not as a fixed percentage of the sum of internal and external costs, but by multiplying the personnel hours by the specified hourly rates. • External costs not specifically related to the fulfilment of the work programme, e.g., costs related to the maintenance of standard laboratory facilities and standard consumables. 	No	Yes	Yes
Depreciation	Cannot be covered by SWEETER funding. ³³	No	No	No
Interest on capital costs	Cannot be covered by SWEETER funding. ³⁴	No	No	No

3.4 Other requirements

Where appropriate, the consortium must build on the outputs of the [CROSS activity](#) and contribute to the continuing harmonisation of assumptions, scenarios, and narratives/storylines by the [SWEET CoSi consortium](#). The consortium is expected to set aside resources for the interactions with CROSS, CoSi, and other relevant SWEET and SWEETER consortia.

³⁰ Starting 1 January 2027, the SNSF will cap the covered charges at CHF 3'500 and will not cover charges higher than this cap, not even partially: [SNSF to adapt its open access funding](#).

³¹ See Appendix VI of the [Directive on the submission and evaluation of applications for financial support of energy research, pilot and demonstration projects and sandbox projects](#). The currently valid directive is dated 19 December 2024.

³² Article 14 para. 1 of the [Federal Subsidy Act \(SR 616.1\)](#).

³³ Article 14 para. 3 of the [Federal Subsidy Act \(SR 616.1\)](#).

³⁴ Article 14 para. 2 of the [Federal Subsidy Act \(SR 616.1\)](#).



The SFOE subscribes to the notion of Open Science and expects that results and data generated by funded projects are publicly accessible. Should legal restrictions prevent public access to the data as originally generated, consortia are expected to create a publicly accessible version through aggregation, anonymisation, or normalisation. Furthermore, consortia are encouraged to publish data that is of national interest on the Swiss public administration's central [portal for open government data](#) and data that is related to the modelling of the Swiss energy-system on [CROSSDat](#). (The SFOE can be consulted at ogd@bfe.admin.ch for advice about publishing data on the portal.)



4 Submission

Table 4-1 provides an overview of the proposal content at the pre-proposal and full-proposal stages. The scope and depth of the sections increase from the pre-proposal to the full proposal. The specific submission requirements for each stage are described in Sections 4.1 to 4.4. Further information on the content of Section 6 of the full proposal is presented in Appendix A.

Table 4-1: Overview of the contents of the pre- and full proposals.

Section	Content	Pre-proposal	Full proposal
0	General information	✓	✓
1	Stakeholder analysis	✓	✓
2	Impact orientation	✓	✓
3	Extended consortium	✓	✓
4	Collaboration and involvement	✓	✓ (including governance, integration, and KTT concepts)
5	Overview of activities	✓	✓
6	Work programme	-	✓ (including life-cycle assessment and risk-management plan)
7	Plans	✓ (plans for full proposal)	✓ (plans for years 4-6)
-	References, self-declarations, signature	✓	✓

4.1 Notification of intent to submit a pre-proposal

Consortia that intend to submit a pre-proposal must inform the SFOE by sending a notification of intent to submit to sweet@bfe.admin.ch **no later than 12 May 2026**. The notification must be prepared in English using the template that is available on the [SWEET website](#). The SFOE will acknowledge having received the notification by contacting the director named in the notification.

The notification includes a section that must be completed if the consortium wishes to include foreign member institutions (see Section 3.1.2 and the eligibilities in Table 3-1). The SFOE will inform the director whether the foreign institutions are approved.

The notification is mandatory; consortia that fail to submit it by the deadline will not pass the formal check and their pre-proposal will not be evaluated (see Section 5.1). However, the notification is not binding, i.e., a consortium may choose not to submit a pre-proposal although it had previously notified the SFOE of its intention to do so.

4.2 Stage 1: Pre-proposal submission

At the pre-proposal stage, a complete application must contain the files shown in Table 4-2 (with *Acronym* denoting the consortium's acronym). Directors must submit the application via [e-submission SFOE](#) (available in German, French, or Italian) with the subject line "**SWEETER: Pre-proposal of Acronym**" (in the field "Betreff" in German, "Objet" in French, and "Oggetto" in Italian) **no later than 30 June 2026 at 12:00 noon CEST**. Upon successful submission, an automatic confirmation will be sent.



Table 4-2: Files that make up a complete application at the pre-proposal stage. *Acronym* is the consortium acronym.

Nr.	Content	Name (file extension not shown)	Format	Template?
1	Pre-proposal	<i>Acronym_preproposal</i>	Microsoft Word	✓
2	Pre-proposal	<i>Acronym_preproposal</i>	pdf ³⁵	-
3	List of prioritised stakeholders	<i>Acronym_pre stakeholder_list</i>	Microsoft Excel	✓
4	Impact model, analytical component	<i>Acronym_preimpactmodel_analytical</i>	Microsoft Excel	✓
5	Letter of commitment	<i>Acronym_preletter</i>	pdf	-
6	Curricula vitae of director, integration expert, and KTT expert	<i>Acronym_preCVs</i>	pdf	-

4.2.1 Pre-proposal

The pre-proposal must be prepared in English using the template that is available on the [SWEET website](#). The font, font size, line spacing, and margins must not be changed, otherwise the pre-proposal will not be considered for evaluation. Furthermore, the page limits specified in the template must be obeyed. Content that exceeds a specified limit or that was not specifically requested will be removed before the pre-proposal is forwarded to the evaluation panel.

4.2.2 Stakeholder analysis

The stakeholder analysis results in a list of prioritised stakeholders and a graphical illustration (the so-called stakeholder mapping). The former must be prepared using the template that is available on the [SWEET website](#). There is no template for the illustration. The list must be submitted as a separate file (see Table 4-2), while the illustration must be included in the relevant section of the pre-proposal.

4.2.3 Impact model

The impact model consists of a list of outputs and intermediate outcomes (the so-called analytical component) and graphical illustrations (the so-called visual component). Both must be prepared using the templates that are available on the [SWEET website](#). Separate illustrations must be prepared for each research challenge. The list must be submitted as a separate file (see Table 4-2), while the illustrations are included in the relevant section of the pre-proposal.

4.2.4 Letter of commitment

The host institution must submit a letter of commitment, which must be printed on its official stationery, be addressed to the SFOE, and be signed by authorised representatives.

The letter of commitment must demonstrate the host institution's commitment to fulfil its obligations (see Section 3.1.1 and Appendix B). Since the host institution will be the contractual partner of the SFOE, the commitment must be confirmed by the institution's board. The letter must contain the full name and contact information of the consortium director.

Members and collaboration partners do not need to submit letters to the SFOE. However, the SFOE expects the host institution to secure appropriate written statements from members and collaboration partners that specify their commitments to the consortium. The SFOE reserves the right to inspect these statements.

³⁵ Please convert the Microsoft Word document to pdf for submission.



4.2.5 Curricula vitae

The director as well as the integration and KTT experts must provide a curriculum vitae (CV) of no more than two A4 pages. The CV should focus on the achievements and experiences most relevant to the guiding theme of this call and to the proposed role in the consortium. It should include:

- A description of selected achievements from the last ten years, relevant to the guiding theme of this call, illustrated by a small number of selected outputs (e.g., publications, products, data sets, software).
- A description of selected previous roles, projects, or activities from the last ten years that demonstrate experience relevant to the proposed role in the consortium.

The consortium is encouraged to create its own CV template.

4.3 **Stage 2: Dialogue materials**

At the dialogue stage, invited consortia submit a draft of certain sections of the full proposal, enabling the expert panel to assess whether the consortium is on track to develop a competitive full proposal and to provide early feedback. A complete submission at this stage must contain items 1-4 of Table 4-3. Which specific sections of the full-proposal document are required will be communicated together with the invitation to prepare a full proposal. Items 5-7 of Table 4-3 are not required at this stage. Invited consortia will also be asked to prepare a presentation for the dialogue, based on questions from the expert panel that will be communicated in advance.

The submission deadline and procedure will likewise be communicated with the invitation. Practical details and requirements are defined in the agreement between each consortium and the SFOE, which will be provided to consortia invited to prepare a full proposal.

4.4 **Stage 3: Full-proposal submission**

At the full-proposal stage, a complete application must contain the files shown in Table 4-3 (with *Acronym* denoting the consortium's acronym). Invited consortia will receive detailed information on deadlines, procedures, and templates.

Table 4-3: Files that make up a complete application at the full-proposal stage. *Acronym* is the consortium acronym.

Nr.	Content	Name (file extension not shown)	Format	Template?
1	Full proposal	<i>Acronym_proposal</i>	Microsoft Word	✓
2	Full proposal	<i>Acronym_proposal</i>	pdf ³⁶	-
3	List of prioritised stakeholders	<i>Acronym_stakeholder_list</i>	Microsoft Excel	✓
4	Impact model, analytical component	<i>Acronym_impactmodel_analytical</i>	Microsoft Excel	✓
5	Letter of commitment	<i>Acronym_letter</i>	pdf	-
6	Budget	<i>Acronym_budget</i>	Microsoft Excel	✓
7	Curricula vitae of director, integration expert, KTT expert, and WP leaders	<i>Acronym_CVs</i>	pdf	-

4.5 **Data protection**

Proposals submitted in response to this call will be treated confidentially and stored on secure servers. By submitting proposals, consortia agree to them being forwarded to experts for the purposes of evaluation and monitoring and used for the further development of the SWEET programme. The experts will

³⁶ Please convert the Microsoft Word document to pdf for submission.



be required to sign declarations concerning confidentiality and conflicts of interest before they will be granted permission to access proposals.



5 Evaluation

The evaluation process starts with a formal check by the SFOE and continues with the evaluation by the expert panel. SWEETER calls use a three-stage evaluation process consisting of a pre-proposal evaluation, an evaluative dialogue based on draft full proposals, and a full-proposal evaluation.

5.1 Formal check by the SFOE

Before forwarding applications to the expert panel, the SFOE verifies that each application meets the formal requirements in Table 5-1. These cover the submission itself (completeness, format, timeliness) as well as the eligibility of the consortium and its members. Applications that do not satisfy all formal requirements will be rejected and not evaluated. The SFOE will inform the director of the rejected application in writing, stating which requirements were not met.

Table 5-1: The formal requirements that an application must meet before the evaluation by the expert panel.

Nr.	Requirement	Reference
F1	Pre-proposal stage: Was a notification of intent submitted by the deadline?	Section 4.1
F2	Was the application received before the deadline?	Section 4.2
F3	Is the application complete and prepared using the correct templates, formatting, and language?	Sections 4.2 and 4.4
F4	Did the host institution submit a duly signed letter of commitment with the mandatory content?	Section 4.2.4
F5	Have all self-declaration questions been answered positively?	See templates
F6	Is the host institution entitled to receive SWEETER funding and has a director been appointed?	Sections 3.1.2 and 3.1.4
F7	Does the consortium consist of at least (a) 1 member institution from Swiss universities or an institute of the ETH domain, (b) 1 member institution from Swiss universities of applied sciences, and (c) 2 member institutions from the private sector?	Section 3.1
F8	Does the consortium include member institutions located in at least two different language regions of Switzerland?	Section 3.1
F9	Did the SFOE approve all foreign members?	Section 3.1.2
F10	Are the three key positions filled by three different people?	Section 3.1.4
F11	Is the call budget consistent with the number of members?	Section 3.3.1
F12	Full proposal stage: Does the budget comply with the funding restrictions in Table 3-3?	Section 3.3.1

5.2 Evaluation by the expert panel

Pre-proposals and full proposals that meet the formal requirements will be evaluated by an expert panel appointed by the SFOE. This panel will consist of independent national and international experts from fields relevant to the call, as well as experts from the SFOE and the FOEN. Together, the panel will reflect scientific, industrial, societal, and policy perspectives, as well as expertise at the interfaces of these areas (e.g., transdisciplinarity and knowledge and technology transfer).

5.2.1 The rating scale

Experts score each evaluation criterion using the scale in Table 5-2 and identify specific weaknesses in the proposal for any score below 5.



Table 5-2: The scores and their meaning. Quality in the description refers to the overall soundness, coherence, plausibility, and suitability of the proposal under the respective evaluation criterion.

Score	Description
5	No reduction in quality due to identified weaknesses (if any).
4	Minor reduction in quality due to identified weaknesses.
3	Moderate reduction in quality due to identified weaknesses.
2	Major reduction in quality due to identified weaknesses.
1	Critical reduction in quality due to identified weaknesses.

5.2.2 Evaluation criteria

All three evaluation stages draw on the same set of evaluation criteria. These criteria reflect the objectives of the funding programme and correspond to the proposal template, guiding applicants on where to address each criterion. The aspects relevant at each stage differ. Table 5-3 sets out the criteria, the corresponding proposal sections, and the aspects relevant to the pre-proposal stage. The listed aspects outline the scope of each criterion at that stage, but do not constitute separate sub-criteria. Each criterion is assessed holistically, and each panel member assigns a single score per criterion. The aspects relevant to Stage 2 and Stage 3 will be communicated together with the invitation to prepare full proposals. At Stage 2, no criterion-level scores are assigned.

Table 5-3: Overview of the evaluation criteria and the aspects relevant at the pre-proposal stage.

Criterion	Aspects included in the criterion (pre-proposal stage)
C1 (Section 1): Stakeholder analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suitability of the approach used to analyse stakeholders - Suitability of the criteria used to prioritise stakeholders - Relevance of the prioritised stakeholders to the call and the consortium's activities
C2 (Section 2): Impact orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suitability of the approach used to develop the impact model - Ambition and plausibility of the 5-10 most important intermediate outcomes derived from the impact model - Credibility that the intermediate outcomes are relevant to the prioritised stakeholders - Clarity and coherence of the links between outputs and intermediate outcomes - Soundness of the explanation of potential synergies/overlaps with related Swiss research and innovation efforts and of the plans to exploit/avoid them
C3 (Section 3): Extended consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representation of the prioritised stakeholders in the extended consortium - Complementarity of the members and collaboration partners - Suitability of the expertise of the members and collaboration partners and relevance of their contributions to the intermediate outcomes - Suitability of the expertise and experience of the key roles (director, integration expert, KTT expert), including the credibility of the explanations if the minimum expectations are not met
C4 (Section 4): Collaboration and involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suitability and ambition of the approach to collaborate in a transdisciplinary manner and ensure that the extended consortium is more than the sum of its parts
C5 (Section 5): Overview of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality of the approaches to addressing the research challenges, including the planned activities and the involvement of the members and collaboration partners - Coherence between the planned activities and the outputs - Fit of the activities with the scope and focus of the call and the research challenges - Plausibility of the budget allocation in light of the principle of subsidiarity, the research challenges, and the proposed activities



C6 (Section 6): Work programme Full proposal only	<i>Aspects will be communicated together with the invitation to prepare full proposals</i>
C7 (Section 7): Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Soundness and feasibility of the plan to develop the full proposal, including a plan outlining how members and collaboration partners will work together, and how stakeholders will be involved.- Appropriateness of the planned use of seed funding- Thoroughness in identifying missing expertise in the extended consortium and feasibility of the plans to address these gaps

5.2.3 Stage 1: Pre-proposal evaluation

The evaluation consists of the following steps:

1. Individual assessment: For each criterion listed in Table 5-3, panel members independently review the proposals and assign a score based on the identified weaknesses. The individual assessments serve as the basis for the subsequent panel discussion.
2. Panel discussion and scoring: At the panel meeting, the experts discuss the proposals with respect to the evaluation criteria. Following the discussion, each panel member submits a final score for each criterion.
3. Ranking and selection for invitation to Stage 2: For each criterion, a criterion-level score is calculated as the average of the panel member's final scores. The overall score of a pre-proposal is the average of its criterion-level scores (equal weights). The two highest-ranked proposals are invited to participate in Stage 2 of the evaluation procedure and thereby to prepare a full proposal. Pre-proposals are eligible for invitation to Stage 2 only if they achieve a criterion-level score of at least 2.0 under each applicable evaluation criterion (C1-C5, C7).
4. Tie-breaking procedure (if needed): Small numerical differences of 0.25 points or less are not considered to reflect meaningful differences in overall proposal quality. Starting from the highest-ranked proposal, a proposal is invited to Stage 2 if its score is more than 0.25 points above the third-ranked proposal. Otherwise, the tie-breaking criteria below are applied (in order) among all proposals within 0.25 points of the relevant proposal to fill the remaining slot(s):
 - a. Impact orientation: The pre-proposal that is stronger in its impact orientation (Criterion C2) is ranked higher, provided that the difference in that criterion exceeds 0.25 points.
 - b. Plans for the full-proposal stage: If pre-proposals remain tied, the pre-proposal that is stronger in its plans for the full proposal stage (Criterion C7) is ranked higher, provided that the difference in that criterion exceeds 0.25 points.
 - c. Final tiebreaker: If proposals are still ranked the same, a random selection will break the tie.
5. Communication of results: The SFOE will inform directors about their pre-proposal's rank and provide them with an evaluation report that lists the strengths and weaknesses identified by the panel. Directors of pre-proposals selected to continue will receive an invitation to participate in Stage 2, along with the required templates, instructions, and conditions for the dialogue.

The expert panel's assessments are final. The directors of pre-proposals that are not invited to prepare full proposals may submit a formal objection within 30 days. After this period, the SFOE's decision on the invitation to Stage 2 becomes final.



5.2.4 Stage 2: Dialogue between the consortium and the expert panel

The consortia invited to Stage 2 each participate in an in-person, structured evaluative dialogue of approximately half a day with the expert panel. The dialogue follows a fixed agenda, uniform procedures and settings, strict time limits, and standardized documentation to ensure equal treatment between the consortia. For the consortia, the dialogue is an opportunity to get direct feedback from the panel on specific sections of the draft full proposal, helping them identify gaps, and discuss points to address before submitting the full proposal.

The panel reviews the submitted draft section considering the evaluation criteria and uses the dialogue to clarify open questions and to assess whether the consortium is on track to develop a competitive full proposal. At the end of the dialogue, the panel issues an interim section-based assessment using a traffic-light system to indicate where further development is needed before submission of the complete full proposal. Based on this interim assessment, the panel also determines whether the consortium may proceed to the full-proposal evaluation (Stage 3). The Stage 3 evaluation is based solely on the final full proposal as submitted.

5.2.5 Stage 3: Full-proposal evaluation

The evaluation consists of the following steps:

1. Individual assessment: Identical to Stage 1 (see above).
2. Panel discussion and scoring: Identical to Stage 1 (see above).
3. Ranking and funding decision: Full proposals are ranked based on their overall score, calculated as the average of the criterion-level scores (equal weights), where each criterion-level score represents the average of the panel members' final scores for that criterion. Only proposals that achieve a minimum score of 3.0 under each evaluation criterion are considered eligible for funding. The expert panel recommends the highest-ranked eligible proposal for funding. The final funding decision is ratified by the management board of the SFOE.
4. Tie-breaking procedure (if needed): If the overall scores of the full proposals differ by 0.25 points or less, they are considered tied. In this case, the tie-breaking criteria below are applied (in order):
 - a. Impact orientation: The proposal that is stronger in its impact orientation (Criterion C2) is ranked higher, provided that the difference in that criterion exceeds 0.25 points.
 - b. Plans for year 4-6: If the proposals remain tied, the proposal that is stronger in its plans for the second three-year period (Criterion C7 of the full proposal evaluation) is ranked higher, provided that the difference in that criterion exceeds 0.25 points.
 - c. Gender diversity: If proposals remain tied, priority is given to the consortium whose leadership team (director and WP leaders) has no single gender representing more than 60% of the positions.
 - d. Final tiebreaker: If proposals remain tied, the expert panel conducts a structured comparative assessment along the evaluation criteria of the tied proposals. The panel compares the proposals side-by-side to determine which offers the stronger overall contribution to the objectives of the funding programme, considering their relative strengths, weaknesses, and the added value they offer for the programme. The comparative assessment is documented in writing.
5. Communication of results: The SFOE will inform the directors about the funding decision and provide them with an evaluation report.

In case of a positive funding decision, the SFOE and the host institution enter the negotiation phase, see Section 6. In the event of a negative funding decision, a formal objection may be submitted within 30 days; thereafter, the SFOE's decision becomes final.



6 Negotiation and implementation

During the negotiation phase, the consortium must first negotiate a so-called consortium agreement that governs the rights and obligations of its members. Once all members have signed the consortium agreement, and this agreement has been submitted to the SFOE, the host institution will sign a subsidy contract with the SFOE. The subsidy contract ensures, among other things, the flow of SWEETER funds via the host institution to the members. The expert panel may recommend that certain points be addressed and the SFOE may require further clarifications or adjustments before the subsidy contract will be signed.

The consortium's progress will be monitored by the expert panel that already evaluated the pre- and full proposals. As part of the monitoring, the consortium will be required to provide annual progress and finance reports and organize annual one-day review meetings (so-called site visits) between the expert panel and at least the director, the integration expert, the KTT expert, and the WP leaders. Consortia are expected to set aside resources for the site visits.

Furthermore, consortia are encouraged to organise an event the day before the site visit at which the extended consortium is present. The SFOE views these events as serving a dual purpose: the consortium can inform the expert panel in more detail about its activities, outputs, and outcomes than is possible during the site visit and simultaneously inform its stakeholders.





Appendix A: Further information on the full-proposal content

As shown by Table 4-1, Section 6 of the full proposals describes the overall structure and content of the work programme. It will also need to contain information on life-cycle analyses (LCAs) and a risk-management plan. This appendix is intended to briefly describe the expected content for those two components.

Life-cycle analyses

Applicants are expected to carry out an LCA for each proposed solution/process/ technology/system. (Hereafter, for simplicity, “solution” includes “process, technology, and system”.) The LCAs shall cover the full life cycle of the proposed solution and include environmental and circular-economy indicators. The LCAs shall support the systematic comparison of the proposed solution with reference (competing or state-of-the-art) solutions, provide a robust basis for identifying the preferred solution, and avoid burden shifting.

In the full proposal, the focus is on justifying the selection of the solutions using semi-quantitative (screening) LCAs. Applicants shall define the goal and scope, functional unit, and system boundaries; identify the key life-cycle stages where the main environmental impacts are expected to occur (environmental hotspots); and address uncertainties and relevant circular-economy aspects. Qualitative/semi-quantitative comparisons of the proposed solutions with reference solutions are welcome, but not required.

Environmental impacts shall be assessed using the global warming potential as a core environmental impact indicator and the Ecological Scarcity Method.³⁷ To perform this assessment, the [open-access Life Cycle Inventory](#) of the Federal Office for the Environment must be used. Data sources, methodological choices, uncertainties, and limitations shall be documented. Key aspects that require refinement in the case of a positive funding decision shall be identified.

For clarity and transparency, the LCA requirements for the full proposal are summarised in Table A-1.

Table A-1: LCA aspects and expectations for the full proposal.

Aspect	Expectation
Purpose of the LCA	Demonstrate relevance and integration of environmental assessment
Level of detail	Semi-quantitative
Type of LCA	Simplified / screening
Functional unit	Defined at conceptual level (preliminarily defined and justified)
System boundaries	Indicated at high level (preliminarily defined and justified)
Life-cycle stages	Main stages identified
Environmental indicators	Global Warming Potential (GWP, indicative) and ecological scarcity
Reference scenario	Qualitative comparison
Circular economy aspects	Identified qualitatively
Integration in work plan	Conceptual integration
Monitoring over time	Not required
Deliverables	Description of intended approach

³⁷ Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (2021). [Ökofaktoren Schweiz 2021 gemäss der Methode der ökologischen Knappheit](#). (German and French).



The work programme to be described in the full proposal shall contain activities that focus on LCAs and incorporate the metrics and indicators defined in Table A-2. These indicators and metrics shall guide the development and demonstration of the proposed solutions, be integrated into the consortium’s internal tracking of progress, and be reported as part of the SFOE’s annual monitoring (see Section 6). Changes in the annually reported indicator values shall be explained.

For solutions that entail interactions at a process or site level, applicants shall indicate how these interactions will be addressed in the LCA. Where relevant, systematic sensitivity analyses and/or scenario analyses shall be included to assess the robustness of results and the influence of assumptions and boundary conditions. Deliverables shall include clear descriptions of the methodologies and results as well as the contributions to national goals on energy efficiency and GHG emissions.

Table A-2: Metrics and indicators for the LCAs in the work programme contained in the full proposal.

Metrics	Indicators
Environmental impacts (mandatory)	Life-cycle-based GHG emissions expressed as GWP (kg CO ₂ eq per functional unit) Primary energy demand (MJ or kWh per functional unit) Ecological scarcity (UBP)
Resource use and circular economy (mandatory)	Resource-related metrics shall address material use and resource efficiency, with particular attention to critical raw materials. Where relevant, this shall include material circularity indicator, recycled content, recyclability, and/or reusability rate, lifetime extension factor, critical material loss, and energy recovery rate at end of life. The selection of circular-economy indicators shall be aligned with the main material flows, design choices, and end-of-life strategies of the proposed solutions.
Economic assessment (mandatory)	Life-cycle cost shall be assessed to support the interpretation of environmental and circular-economy results. Economic aspects shall be assessed separately from the environmental impact assessment.
System effects and substitution (where relevant)	Where the proposed solutions enable substitution effects, they shall be assessed and reported either in terms of energy substitution or material substitution. The assumptions, system boundaries, allocation rules, and reference scenarios used to quantify substitution effects shall be clearly documented and consistent with the LCA framework.
Others	Where appropriate, water-related indicators or other environmental metrics may be included.

Risk-mitigation plan

The risk-mitigation plan needs to address what consortia deem to be the most significant risks; their likelihoods of occurrence; their effects on WPs, the most important intermediate outcomes and outputs contained in the impact model; and appropriate mitigation measures.



Appendix B: Mandatory content in letter of commitment

The SFOE does not provide complete templates for the letter of commitment by the host institution, but it does require that the following content be included in the letter:

[Insert host institution] commits to hosting the *[insert consortium acronym]* consortium and has appointed *[insert name and contact information]* to act as the consortium director.

Should the consortium be awarded funding, *[insert host institution]* commits to negotiating a consortium agreement with all the member institutions and a subsidy contract with the SFOE.

Should the consortium be awarded funding, *[insert host institution]* commits to supporting the consortium director by relieving *[him/her]* of *[insert list of responsibilities]*. This relief is estimated to correspond to *[insert]* % of a full-time equivalent (FTE).