



CLEAN HYDROGEN PARTNERSHIP: Apply for funding

INTRODUCTION

Hydrogen plays a critical role in the energy transformation. It can be used as a fuel, an energy carrier or a feedstock, and can reduce emissions in hard-to-abate sectors, particularly in industry and transport.

The Clean Hydrogen Partnership's main objective is to contribute to the European climate neutrality goal by stimulating research and innovation on hydrogen and strengthening the competitiveness of the EU clean hydrogen value chain.

The Partnership's total budget is at least EUR 2 billion. Half of it comes from Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation programme, the other half from private members of the Partnership which committed at least EUR 1 billion as in-kind contributions. An additional EUR 200 million to support Hydrogen Valleys will be managed by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership within the RePowerEU Plan.

The scope and objectives of the research, technological development and demonstration activities of the Partnership are outlined in the [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#).



ARE YOU INVOLVED IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACTIVITIES IN THE HYDROGEN FIELD?



APPLY FOR FUNDING!

The Clean Hydrogen Partnership provides financial support mainly in the form of grants, following open and competitive Calls for Proposals which cover different areas of research and innovation on key topics identified in the SRIA:

- Renewable Hydrogen Production
- Hydrogen Storage and Distribution
- Hydrogen End Uses: Transport Applications, Clean Heat & Power
- Hydrogen Valleys
- Strategic Research Challenge
- Cross-cutting issues (regulations, codes, standards, training, safety, social acceptance)

Call for Proposals are published each year. As foreseen under Horizon Europe and the SRIA, small part of the budget will be also used for studies through public procurement procedures. Consult our [webpage](#) for more information.



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN PROJECTS?



Any type of organisation or legal entity (e.g., universities, research institutes, industry, SMEs, NGOs) can participate as long as they have the operational and financial capacity to carry out the tasks that they propose.

Most of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership funded projects are collaborative projects with at least 3 different organisations from different EU Member States or Associated countries. Additional conditions might apply for specific calls on strategic topics. Further details or exceptions are listed on the pages of the call topics.

WHICH ENTITIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

Legal entities established in

- Member States of the European Union, including their overseas departments and territories
- Associated Countries to Horizon Europe
- International research organisations, if specified by the call or considered essential for the action.

In addition, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership aims at a better alignment and coherence between EU, national and regional Programmes. It looks at synergies with national and regional initiatives to leverage their actions at the European scale (as in the Hydrogen Valleys) and supports European cities and regions in developing and launching hydrogen projects through the Project Development Assistance (PDA).



5 STEPS TO PARTICIPATE

1. Find a suitable call for proposal

Check out the [EC's Funding & Tenders Portal](#). You can search for keywords on "cleanh2" and "hydrogen". Calls will also be published on the Clean Hydrogen Partnership [webpage](#).

2. Search for partners

Review consortium and other eligibility requirements of a call. Select a topic on the Search Funding and Tenders page and publish your partner search request or offer. Get more help [here](#). Use the [Partner Search](#) to find an organisation.

3. Register your organisation

Your organisation will need a Participant Identification Code (PIC) as a unique identifier. Your organisation may already be registered. Check [here](#) or register.

4. Prepare and submit your proposal

Select your topic and go to the Submission Service section of the topic page. The link to the submission system is available if the status of the call is 'open'.

5. Follow up on your proposal

An evaluation committee reviews the proposals. Following the evaluation, applicants receive an information letter with the outcome. The applications selected for grant awards will be invited to prepare and sign a grant agreement. Rejected applications receive also the evaluation report of their proposal as feedback. View the step-by-step process [here](#).

REGISTER AS AN EXPERT



The Clean Hydrogen Partnership recruits experts for proposal evaluations and project reviews (later during project implementation) from a central Commission database, where you can [register](#) at any time. Registration is open to experts of any nationality.

WHAT TYPES OF ACTION CAN BE FUNDED?



The Clean Hydrogen Partnership funds different types of collaborative projects:

RIA - Research and Innovation Actions

Activities that aim primarily to establish new knowledge or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. This may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing, demonstration and validation of a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment. The funding rate for RIA projects covers up to 100% of the project costs.

IA - Innovation Actions

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

The funding rate for IA covers up to 70% of the project costs, except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies.

CSA - Coordination and Support Actions

Activities that contribute to the general objectives of Horizon Europe and the JU. This excludes research and innovation (R&I) activities. Also eligible are bottom-up coordination actions which promote cooperation between legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries to strengthen the European Research Areas.

The funding rate for CSA covers up to 100% of the project costs.

Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)

Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) are indicators of the maturity level of technologies to be supported. There are nine technology readiness levels: TRL 1 being the lowest and TRL 9 the highest. The Clean Hydrogen Partnership generally supports activities from TRL2 to TRL 8.



CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT AN ACTUAL PROJECT LOOKS LIKE?

Have a look at our [success stories](#) projects

Get Support

- [Online Manual](#) is your guide on the procedures from proposal submission to managing your grant
- [Funding & Tender Portal FAQ](#) find the answers to most frequently asked questions on submission of proposals, evaluation and grant management
- [Research Enquiry Service](#) enquiries about the validation process of the legal entities
- PROJECTS@clean-hydrogen.europa.eu



ABOUT US

The Clean Hydrogen Partnership (as per its legal name Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking) is a unique public private partnership supporting research and innovation activities in hydrogen technologies in Europe. The Partnership aims to accelerate and improve advanced clean hydrogen applications in the EU, focusing on the production of clean hydrogen, as well as the distribution, storage and end use application of clean and low carbon hydrogen in hard to abate sectors.

The members of the partnership are the European Commission, fuel cell and hydrogen industries represented by Hydrogen Europe and the research community represented by Hydrogen Europe Research.

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