

Hydrogen Valleys

Topics in the Call 2026

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Hydrogen Valleys - Overview



Main Focus

- Demonstrate an ecosystem built on the complete value chain of hydrogen;
- Large and small-scale hydrogen valleys acting as testbeds to showcase first regional "hydrogen economies";
- Topic open to foster the emergence of the widest possible array of valleys configurations;
- Innovation in Hydrogen Valleys is not about the technology development of an application, but on system integration of hydrogen production, its distribution and storage, and its subsequent use (TRL $\geq 6-8$)



What is new

- Change in the minimum volumes of hydrogen production & offtake and accordingly lower Clean Hydrogen JU funding per project
- Geographical location of small-scale Hydrogen Valleys should be in EU-13 countries
- FAQs on Hydrogen Valleys [available](#)

Hydrogen Valleys - Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026-06-01: Hydrogen Valleys (large-scale)	IA	17*
HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026-06-02: Hydrogen Valleys (small-scale)	IA	8*

***This is the maximum Clean Hydrogen JU contribution that may be requested – proposals requesting Clean Hydrogen JU contributions above this amount will not be evaluated**

Hydrogen Valleys - Topics

HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026-06-01: Hydrogen Valleys (large-scale)



Develop and demonstrate a large-scale Hydrogen Valley with innovative approaches at system level



- Production of $\geq 3,000$ tonnes of clean H₂ per year using new hydrogen production capacity (GOs)
- ≥ 2 hydrogen applications from ≥ 2 sectors (energy, industry, transport), ≥ 2 years of operations
- Production plants may be distributed across the territories involved but should share common hydrogen supply infrastructure

HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026-06-02: Hydrogen Valleys (small-scale)



Develop and demonstrate a small -scale Hydrogen Valley with innovative approaches at system level



- Production of ≥ 400 tonnes of clean H₂ per year using new hydrogen production capacity (GOs)
- Supply more than one end sector or application (mobility, industry energy), ≥ 2 years of operations;
- Geographical location of the Hydrogen Valleys should be in EU-13 countries, while the topic is open to participation of entities from EU and Associated Countries e.g. to provide/build equipment etc.

Hydrogen Valleys - Topics

Common elements applicable to Hydrogen Valley Topics (1/2)

- **Costs for construction and commissioning phase** of H2 production technologies (e.g connection to the electricity grid, electricity costs) and other H2 infrastructure (e.g HRS, storage, pipelines, etc) **may be funded**;
- **Costs of renewable energy plants** (e.g., PV or wind plant) or related **costs for operation of the Hydrogen Valley** (e.g., electricity for electrolyzers) will not be funded;
- Provide concrete project **implementation plans** with a clear calendar, defining the key phases of the implementation of the action;
- Provide a **funding plan** to ensure implementation of the project in synergies with other sources of funding;
- Clearly and coherently present the Hydrogen Valley (across the whole value chain) including the investments/actions supported directly by this topic as well as **other investments/actions supported by other funding /financing sources**;
- Demonstration of how **financial viability** is expected to be reached after two years of operation.

Hydrogen Valleys - Topics

Common elements applicable to Hydrogen Valley Topics (1/2)

- Provide **evidence of the commitment** and role of public authorities and of any other necessary stakeholders (e.g. hydrogen off-takers) at least in the form of **Letters of Intent (LOI)**, remember to include as annexes;
- **Replicability and cooperation** between regions to facilitate transfer of knowledge across the EU with a focus on fostering replication of Hydrogen Valleys elsewhere;
- **Scalability** showing how the valley is expected to grow;
- Demonstrate **contribution to EU competitiveness and industrial leadership**.



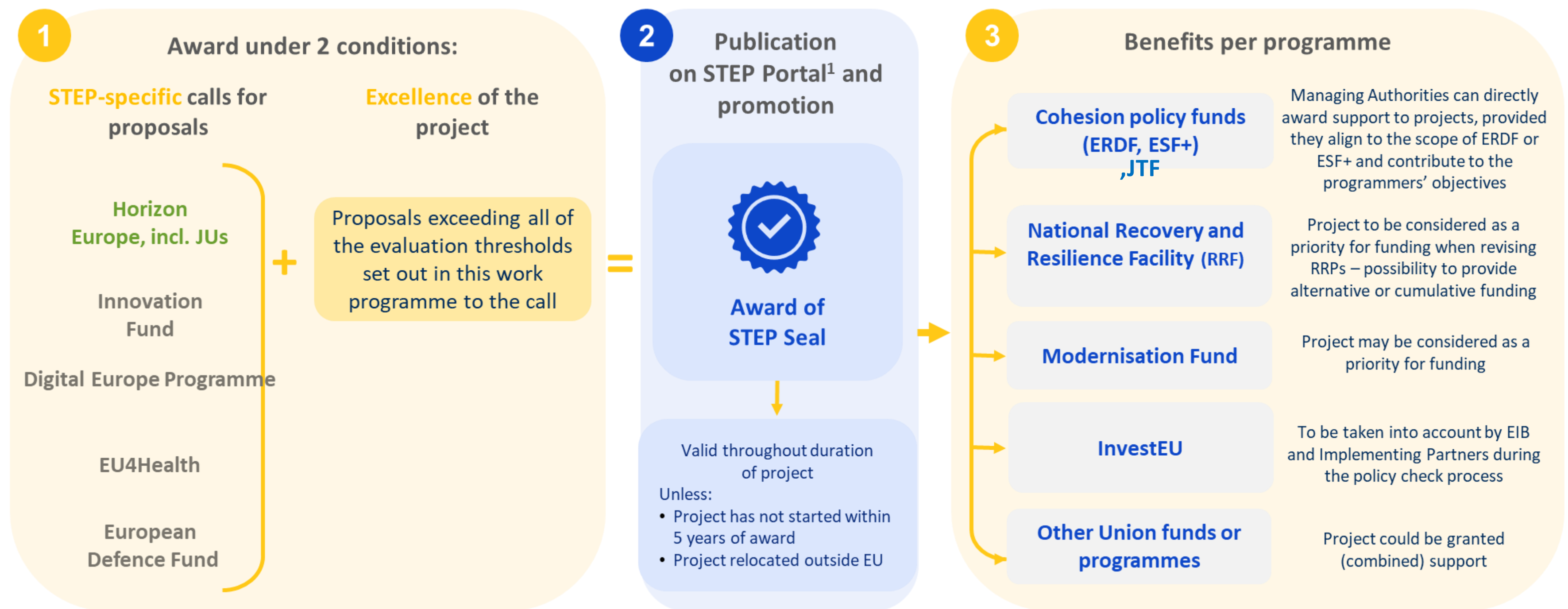
Synergies with National and Regional Programmes

STEP (Sovereignty) Seal

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Managing authorities can directly award support to projects if they align to the scope of ERDF and ESF+ contribute to the programme objectives

Increasing visibility of quality projects available for funding and help **attract alternative and cumulative funding for quality projects**, and simultaneously to provide a potential **project pipeline for regional and national programmes**



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