

Evaluation Criteria

for the selection of Managing Authorities to receive Technical Assistance to Generate Synergies with the Clean Hydrogen Partnership

Eligibility of applications

In order to be considered for the evaluation process, the applicants and Expression of Interest (EOI) responses must meet the following criteria:

- Applications to the Call for EOI must be completed in English
- Applications to the Call for EOI must be submitted before the deadline via the web interface
- Applications to the Call for EOI must be submitted by a Managing Authority (MA) located within an EU member state or a country associated to Horizon Europe.
- The applicant Managing Authority must complete and sign the Expression of Interest Form (to be uploaded via the application form)

If an application does not meet all the above requirements, it will be considered ineligible and will not be considered for the evaluation process.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria have been defined against five domains to ensure quality, diversity, and a wide European geographic coverage amongst the Managing Authorities to be selected:

1. Impact (Score 0-20)

The following aspects will be taken into account:

- What is the MA's readiness level to fund Clean Hydrogen projects?¹
- What is the potential replicability of synergies developed with this MA?
- How large is the population of the region/member state/associated country?
- What is the current energy mix by % share under the jurisdiction of the MA, and what are the national/regional emissions?
- What is the current level of H2 infrastructure within the MA's jurisdiction, or what is the level that they aspire to reach?
- What is the potential of the MA to implement H2 applications in various sectors i.e. energy, transport, industry.
- What are the national/regional emission reduction targets that the MA must follow?

2. Engagement (Score 0-20)

The following aspects will be taken into account:

¹ This refers to your Managing Authorities previous experience with co-financing.

- How many stakeholders exist that are relevant to the H2 ecosystem within the MA's jurisdiction?
- How strong is the MA's collaboration with national/regional H2 stakeholders?
- How structured and frequent is the MA's interaction with their H2 stakeholders?
- Is the MA part of any EU-wide network relevant to the objectives of the EOI?

3. Commitment (Score 0-20)

The following aspects will be taken into account:

- What are the MA's reasons for wanting technical assistance?
- What is the % of the MA's staff that work in hydrogen-related areas?
- Does the MA have set targets regarding H2 production and/or usage?
- Is there a regional/national H2 strategy or does the MA apply any H2 policies?
- Does the MA already have any concrete FCH project plans?
- How much was invested previously by the MA and what are future budgetary commitments/plans?

4. Willingness (Score 0-20).

The following aspects will be taken into account:

- How willing is the MA to fund Clean Hydrogen projects?²
- How willing is the MA to support projects that get the seal of excellence from the Clean Hydrogen Partnership?
- How willing is the MA to become a member of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership's State Representative Group/H2 Valleys Partnership and to mobilise local stakeholders to become members of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership's stakeholder group?
- How willing is the MA to be included in the annual data collection exercise of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership and have a regular communication with them to share relevant local hydrogen activities?
- How willing is the MA to sign letters of support for applications to topics of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership?
- How willing is the MA to co-identify appropriate regional/national projects/hubs that can be scaled up significantly?

5. Readiness (Score 0-20).

The following aspects will be taken into account:

- Is the MA already involved in H2 initiatives?
- Does the MA have experience in signing similar Cooperation Agreements?
- Has the MA participated in other Clean Hydrogen Partnership initiatives (or those of its predecessors)?

² This refers to how open your Managing Authority would be to co-financing in the future.

Evaluation procedure and ranking

Applications will be checked for eligibility and then evaluated by an evaluation committee composed of a panel of assessors made by members of the contracting team.

The evaluation committee will evaluate each application against the stated evaluation criteria, giving a score for each domain from 0 to 20.

Taking into account (i) the highest scores (ii) the widest geographic coverage (at least half of the selected managing authorities must be from at least 5 different EU 13 countries³) and (iii) only one Managing Authority per country (should enough applications be submitted), around 10 Managing Authorities will be selected to receive technical assistance with the 5 next highest scoring regions placed on a reserve list. Regions from the reserve list may receive technical assistance support should any of the selected regions withdraw or in a future expansion of this initiative. Decisions on which reserve project will receive support will be based on the score and geographical coverage.

The contracting authority, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership, reserves the right to advise on final selections, for reasons of improved geographical coverage or any specific additional knowledge the JU may gather around each application including their relevance to ongoing projects supported by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership.

³ Countries that joined the EU since 2004