

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Energy Programme Romania Calls for Proposals 5(a), 5(b), SGS Call 5, Focus area: Research and Development – EEA Grants & Norway Grants	
<i>Last update: 08.09.2021</i>	
<i>(NB: the provisions of the Call text and related documents take precedence over the present replies to Frequently Asked Questions)</i>	
1.	<p>Q: We are a National Research institute, and as a Romanian partner should we present co-finance part to the project?</p> <p>A: This needs to be agreed with the project Applicant (Project Promoter) and detailed in the project application (especially in the Partnership Agreement). Generally, the Applicant provides the co-financing, but where otherwise agreed between the Applicant and its Partner(s), the Partner(s) can also ensure co-financing.</p>
2.	<p>Q: If we must give a contribution (co-finance) to the project, we must send a Declaration to the Innovation Norway?</p> <p>A: Both the Applicant and the Project Partners will each have to fill in the project application mandatory attachment - 6. Letter of Commitment (template).</p>
3.	<p>Q: How we must calculate the “indirect expenses”, what is the maximum value (in %)?</p> <p>A: Provisions on indirect costs are available in the R&D Calls, section 1.5.3.2 Eligible indirect costs in projects (overheads).</p>
4.	<p>Q: What are the steps for submitting the Project Proposal?</p> <p>A: Provisions on how to submit the project application are available in the R&D Calls, section 5 Procedure for submission of application.</p>
5.	<p>Q: Who is the project promoter, a Norwegian partner or a Romanian one?</p> <p>A: The following definitions from the R&D Calls, Essential reading - 6. Glossary of Terms. are relevant: Applicant: A legal person applying for a grant. Project Promoter: the legal person having the responsibility for initiating, preparing, and implementing a project in the context of EEA and Norway Grants. Within the R&D Calls it is only Romanian entities that can be Applicants (Project Promoters), while entities from Norway/Iceland/Liechtenstein/Romania can be Project Partners – see full details in the screenshot below from the R&D Calls which details eligible entities per Call and Financial Mechanism. Please note that under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism only entities from Norway/Romania are eligible Partners, while under the EEA Financial Mechanism entities from Norway/Iceland/Liechtenstein/Romania are eligible Partners.</p>
6.	<p>Q: In a project proposal must we have one of the schemes (5a, 5b or SGS)? and to specify why I chose that scheme?</p> <p>A: Yes, only one financing scheme (Call for Proposals) can be chosen, depending on the grant amount requested and country of establishment of the potential Project Partner(s) – please see the Call screenshots below. You can mention in the project application under which Call (5a, 5b or SGS) is financing requested for the proposed project.</p>
7.	<p>Q: Is the applicant the same as the Promoter?</p> <p>A: Please see below the distinction between the two terms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant: legally registered entity submitting a project application. 2. Promoter: legal entity who has signed a financing contract for a project.
8.	<p>Q: Do we need to focus on one or both priority axes [I and II] in the proposal? (I. Renewable energy, energy efficiency and safety, II. Hydropower - Renewable Energy) ; If only one axis is to be reached, must we reach all the subdomains (a, b, c, etc.)? If both axes are to be achieved, how many subdomains must be achieved through the project?”</p> <p>A: Either of the two types of eligible activities (I or II) can be implemented. And not all subdomains need to be implemented. However, please note that activity “e) Pre-feasibility/ Feasibility studies etc. for Carbon Capture</p>

	and Storage (CCS); - as long as they are part of an integrated project” cannot be implemented as a stand-alone activity of a project.
9.	<p>Q: In the second. Hydropower - Renewable Energy, is it necessary an act to approve the construction (feasibility study, DTAC, etc.) or can this act be included in the activities financed by the project?</p> <p>A: Construction permits can be obtained during project implementation. However, please pay special attention to our reply further below ref. investments not being eligible within the R&D Calls.</p>
10.	<p>Q: In the second. Hydropower - Renewable Energy, for the construction of a dam or the construction of a photovoltaic park what documents are needed? (As above, is there a need for a construction agreement, etc.?)</p> <p>A: It is the applicable Romanian project specific authorisation requested by the Romanian law and authorities (this is project specific set of documents). However, please pay special attention to our reply further below ref. investments not being eligible within the R&D Calls.</p> <p>Comments on financing of investments not being eligible in the R&D Calls: Before we provide our reply below, please note that we are not able to provide full eligibility assessments before an application are submitted, but only general input, while it is the Applicant who is expected to self-assess how fit their project idea is for a certain Call for Proposals.</p> <p>To install, for example, a hydropower turbine or a photovoltaic park would not qualify as R&D unless it is equipment used as a part of the Research and Development (R&D). Even then, only the depreciation costs would be eligible. With a long lifetime of e.g., the turbine or of the PV panels, that would then only be a small part of the project costs.</p> <p>Please note that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The research to find a solution needs to be a novelty at international level to qualify. It is not enough to assess different existing solutions/technology to pick the best one for such a project. That would not qualify as R&D. 2. Within the currently opened R&D Calls, investments are not eligible. 3. An R&D project needs to contribute to all mandatory project indicators mentioned in the Call – as per the screenshot below. Hence, it is advisable that you check if your project is contributing to all mandatory project indicators – see screenshot below from the Call text. <p>Projects are also expected to contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successful joint applications for Intellectual Property protection (copyrights, industrial design, trademarks, patents) by research institutions and enterprises. - Collaborative agreements between research institutions and enterprises involved in the programme. - Contribution will be made towards increased cooperation between research institutions and enterprises. - Industrial and experimental research projects that deliver impact during the programme lifetime will be targeted. - The research projects must meet the criterion of being transferable/ reproducible. - The primary outputs of the research projects will be research results, including scientific publications, patent applications submitted. <p>Please find below some specific documents which are relevant for the present Calls:</p> <p>1. Technology Readiness Level: Guidance Principles for Renewable Energy technologies Technology readiness level - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu): https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/1da3324e-e6d0-11e7-9749-01aa75ed71a1/language-en</p>

2. Frascati Manual 2015: Guidelines for Collecting and Reporting Data on Research and Experimental Development (oecd-ilibrary.org):

<https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9789264239012-en.pdf>

11.

Q: Ref. eligibility of project, respectively installation of a turbine in a dam builds for water supply for Bucharest, with the goal to find, using R&D, the most appropriate solution to equip a non-powered dam with a turbine.

A: Before we provide our reply below, please note that we are not able to provide full eligibility assessments before an application is submitted, but only general input, while it is the Applicant who is expected to self-assess how fit their project idea is for a certain Call for Proposals.

To install a turbine would not qualify as R&D unless it is equipment used as a part of the Research and Development (R&D). Even then, only the depreciation costs would be eligible. With a long lifetime of the turbine, that would then only be a small part of the costs.

Please note that: The research to find a solution needs to be a novelty at international level to qualify. It is not enough to assess different existing solutions to pick the best one for such a project. That would not qualify as R&D.

Within the currently opened R&D Calls, investments are not eligible.

An R&D project needs to contribute to all mandatory project indicators mentioned in the Call – as per the screenshot below. Hence, it is advisable that you check if your project is contributing to all mandatory project indicators – see screenshot below from the Call text.

12.

Q: Bearing in mind the objective of the municipality, we would kindly like to ask whether among the eligible activities financed under the Call for proposals "Enhanced research and development capacity" would be eligible also a pre-feasibility study for improving the energy efficiency of a Stadium aimed at transforming it into the first NZEB stadium in Romania.

A: Regarding eligibility of Pre-feasibility/Feasibility Study, please note that within the R&D Calls, Pre-feasibility/Feasibility Study can only be made in relation to Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) – see screenshot 1 below. Also, elaboration of Pre-feasibility/Feasibility Study for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) need to be part of an integrated project and not a standalone activity.

Screenshot 1

1.2 Areas of support and eligible activities

An Applicant shall submit only one project proposal under this Call for Proposals.

This Scheme can provide support for projects that will develop and implement activities aiming to enhanced research and development capacity on renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy security:

I. Renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy security:

- a) Novel technologies for challenges in Energy transitions from fossils based to less Carbon emissions.
- b) Research and Development related to technologies, equipment, tools, solutions, materials etc. for the energy transition.
- c) Smart grid technologies,
- d) Energy valorisation of waste.
- e) **Pre-feasibility/ Feasibility studies** etc. for **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)**; - **as long as they are part of an integrated project.**

II. Renewable - Hydropower:

- a) Energy generation in Non-Powered Dams originally built for water supply, cooling water for industry or irrigation.
- b) Safety of classical hydro power stations operated for designed conditions.
- c) Safety of old hydro power stations against the effect of natural hazards.
- d) Pump storage plants.

It is also worth to be mentioned that an R&D project needs to contribute to all mandatory project indicators mentioned in the Call – as per screenshot 2. Hence, it is advisable that you check if your project idea is contributing to all mandatory project indicators.

	<p>Projects on Calls for Proposals, focus area: Research and Development must contribute directly to these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ outcome indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced research and development capacity on renewable energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Number of renewable energies, energy efficiency and energy security technologies/ solutions/ services developed. b. Number of successful joint applications for Intellectual Property protection (copyrights, industrial design, trademarks, patents) by research institutions and enterprises. ➤ output indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased support to renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy security research and development provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Number of research and development on renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy security projects supported. b. Number of signed collaborative agreements between research institutions and enterprises involved in the programme. <p><u>Optionally</u>, projects may contribute to this <u>outcome indicator</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of jobs created.
13.	<p>Q: I would like to know if for Call, 5 (a), 5 (b), SGS-5 are necessary for the promoter to have a positive accounting financial balance? If the balance is negative, is it still eligible for application? (Even if it will be additionally scored for low management capacity)?</p> <p>A: All applications which fulfil administrative and eligibility criteria will be further assessed against the technical and financial selection criteria, resulting in a ranked list that forms the basis of the Fund Operator’s Selection Committee’s discussion. For more details on the assessment methodology see document “Project assessment criteria and methodology” published together with this Call on the Program website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial capacity and operating risk - The extent to which the Applicant (and Partners) have the necessary co- financing and financial capacity to implement the project and support its cost. - Operating risk – the assessment of Applicant’s financial situation and debt service capabilities. - The Fund Operator may purchase credit reports to assess the Applicant’s and Partner’s financial capacity and operating risk. - Project profitability - the extent to which the project has potential on the market: The projects profitability will be based on the potential of the technologies/solutions/services to enter the market and generate revenues. - Project risks - the extent to which the project is supported by a risk management plan: The Applicant should have identified and assessed the relevant risk factors that may affect the achievement of the project expected outcome and described how they intend to mitigate the risks. <p>For the full list of criteria, including on the weighting of criteria, see the Call document “Project Assessment Criteria and Methodology”.</p> <p>Please also read: Guideline for Detailed budget and financial forecast.</p> <p>Please also assess: The Applicant is not an undertaking in difficulty (applicable only to entities subject to state aid rules). The definition of “undertaking in difficulty” is included in Article 2, paragraph 18 of Commission Regulation (EU) No.651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.</p>
14.	<p>Q: Please explain how should the project applications be submitted to Innovation Norway?</p> <p>A: The application procedure is detailed in the Call text, <i>Call section - Procedure for submission of application</i>. The project Application Form and mandatory attachments must be submitted to Innovation Norway through the Electronic Application Portal.</p>
15.	<p>Q: Were in the project application should the involvement of consultants be mentioned?</p> <p>A: The identity of the consultant(s) shall be disclosed in the <i>Application Form, section “Project information”</i>.</p>
16.	<p>Q: Where can we find updated information about the Energy Programme in Romania? Which is the official communication channel of the Energy Programme?</p> <p>A: The official webpage of Innovation Norway for EEA and Norway Grants is www.innovationnorway.no/EEA-Norway-Grants. The website aggregates information regarding Innovation Norway’s activity as Fund Operator in Romania as well as in other countries.</p> <p>The Energy Programme in Romania can be accessed at www.innovationnorway.no/RoEnergy.</p> <p>You can also follow us on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/EnergyProgrammeinRO • LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/innovation-norway-romania

