



# Pilot and Demonstration Programme funds projects through the Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP)

## SFOE specific call document

The Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) and Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) invite applicants to respond to the second call of the European funding program [Clean Energy Transition Partnership \(CETP\)](#), which is launched in September 2023. The CETP is a multilateral and strategic partnership of national and regional research and innovation programs in European Member States and Associated Countries. Switzerland participates in this program as a CETP-associated country. The goal is to enable the energy transition towards climate neutrality in Europe by pooling national and regional funding for a broad variety of technologies and system solutions. 30 countries within and beyond Europe participate in a total of 55 national and regional research and innovation promotion programs. The transition as envisioned by the CETP is a joint effort from industry, public organizations, and research and citizens organizations to make Europe the front-runner in clean energy innovation and implementation.

The CETP builds on existing partnerships such as the ERA-NETs, in which Switzerland has also participated in the past years. Unlike the ERA-NETs, the CETP coordinates call launches and associated administration under one umbrella instead of in separate organizations.

The CETP is represented by seven Transition Initiatives (TRIs) focusing on research and innovation challenges that address different enabling technologies and system aspects connected to the clean energy transition, as well as several cross-cutting dimensions:

- [TRI1](#): Net-zero emissions energy system
- [TRI2](#): Power technologies
- [TRI3](#): Storage technologies, renewable fuels and CCU/CCS
- [TRI4](#): Heating and Cooling
- [TRI5](#): Regional energy systems
- [TRI6](#): Industrial energy systems
- [TRI7](#): Built environment

Swiss applicants can respond to the annual calls organized through the CETP and - unlike with EU Horizon calls - can also fill the role of project coordinators. Funding of the Swiss partners to projects is provided through the **SFOE** and the **SNSF** depending on the call topic: in the second year, the SFOE participates in call modules for TRI1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. The SNSF participates in call modules for TRI3, 5, 6 and 7.

## Call topics / call modules

The above-mentioned TRIs launch their call modules simultaneously (see schedule below). The TRI topics are divided into *Call Modules* accompanying the general [Call Text](#) of the CETP. The following table indicates which Call Modules are supported by the SFOE (and SNSF) in 2023 (second year). Swiss applicants cannot apply for any other call modules. For topic-related questions please refer to the contacts indicated in the table.



SFOE	SNSF	Transition Initiative	SFOE Funding program	Call Module #	Call Module title	SFOE/SNSF contact
X		1-2	P+D	CM2023-02	Energy system flexibility: renewables production, storage and system integration	<a href="mailto:michael.moser@bfe.admin.ch">michael.moser@bfe.admin.ch</a>
X		2	P+D	CM2023-03B	Advanced renewable energy technologies for power production (IOA)	<a href="mailto:stefan.oberholzer@bfe.admin.ch">stefan.oberholzer@bfe.admin.ch</a>
X	X	3	P+D	CM2023-04	Carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS)	<a href="mailto:stefano.benato@bfe.admin.ch">stefano.benato@bfe.admin.ch</a>
X		3	P+D	CM2023-05	Hydrogen and renewable fuels	<a href="mailto:stefan.oberholzer@bfe.admin.ch">stefan.oberholzer@bfe.admin.ch</a>
X		4	P+D	CM2023-06	Heating and cooling technologies	<a href="mailto:stefano.benato@bfe.admin.ch">stefano.benato@bfe.admin.ch</a>
X		4	P+D or R+D	CM2023-07	Geothermal energy technologies	<a href="mailto:stefano.benato@bfe.admin.ch">stefano.benato@bfe.admin.ch</a>
X	X	5	P+D	CM2023-08	Integrated regional energy systems	<a href="mailto:daniel.kraemer@snf.ch">daniel.kraemer@snf.ch</a> <a href="mailto:michael.moser@bfe.admin.ch">michael.moser@bfe.admin.ch</a>
X	X	6	P+D	CM2023-09	Integrated industrial energy systems	<a href="mailto:carina.alles@bfe.admin.ch">carina.alles@bfe.admin.ch</a>
	X	7	P+D	CM2023-10A	Clean energy integration in the built environment (ROA)	<a href="mailto:georges.klein@snf.ch">georges.klein@snf.ch</a>

SFOE funding to Swiss projects accepted at the CETP level are funded through the SFOE [Pilot and Demonstration \(P+D\) program](#), with a total available budget of 10 million euro (indicative 2 million euro allocated per Call Module). In addition, Swiss projects accepted at the CETP level under Call Module CM2023-07 can be funded through the SFOE [Research and Development \(R+D\) program](#) with a total available budget of 300 thousand euro. R+D and P+D funding cannot be cumulated. The SFOE supports P+D and R+D projects based on Article 49, paragraphs 2 and 4, and Article 53 of the Energy Act (EnG; SR 730.0) and on Article 54 of the Energy Ordinance (EnV; SR 730.01). The stipulations of the Subvention Act (SuG; 616.1) and of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVG; SR 172.021) also apply. For P+D and R+D projects accepted by the CETP the guidelines and criteria outlined in the [directive for energy research, pilot and demonstration and sandbox projects](#) must be observed in order to be eligible at the Swiss level. Additional requirements are described in this document.

The CETP call is a two-stage procedure, with the first stage being the evaluation of a pre-proposal which may qualify for an invitation to submit a full proposal evaluated in the second stage. Once the call is at the SFOE level, the evaluation procedure of the P+D and R+D programs aligns with the CETP procedure, meaning that also Swiss proposals undergo a two-stage procedure and evaluation. Thus, pre- and full proposals have to be submitted to both the CETP and the SFOE. Please use the [CETP submission portal](#) for the CETP proposals, and please use the [specific application forms](#) for the SFOE proposals.



## Schedule

7 June 2023, 10:00 CET	Webinar <a href="#">CETPartnership: what's in it for me?</a>
13 September 2023	Webinar <a href="#">CETPartnership Joint Call 2023 Infoday 1</a>
20 September 2023	Stage 1 Opening: Pre-proposal submission to <b>CETP and to SFOE</b>
22 November 2023, 14:00 CET	Stage 1 Closing: Deadline for Pre-proposal submission to <b>CETP and to SFOE</b>
25 January 2024	Stage 2 Opening: Full Proposal submission to <b>CETP and to SFOE</b>
27 March 2024, 14:00 CET	Stage 2 Closing: Deadline for Full proposal submission to <b>CETP and to SFOE</b>
June 2024	Funding decision communicated
September 2024	Project start (Tentative)

## Eligibility criteria

This call is addressed to organizations such as private companies, industry organizations, universities of applied sciences, universities, the ETH domain, public institutions (e.g., cantons) and NGOs. To be eligible at the CETP level, applicants are referred to the [CETP call text and the call modules](#). Additionally, national requirements must be fulfilled (Art. 49 EnG and Art. 54 EnV), i.e., the proposed projects - depending on the Call Modules - are funded by either the [P+D or the R+D program](#) and thus have to fulfill the formal criteria and content criteria specified in Appendix IV of the [directive for energy research, pilot and demonstration and sandbox projects](#). The key eligibility criteria and funding conditions are summarized here:

### Eligibility at the CETP level

- The CETP requires that a project include at least three independent legal entities from at least three different countries participating in the CETP Joint Call 2022, out of which at least two must be EU member states or Horizon Europe associated countries. Applicants not asking for funding are welcome to participate in addition to the minimum consortium requirement.
- For both the pre- and the full proposal the [designated proposal forms of CETP](#) must be used, filled in English and submitted on the CETPartnership Submission Platform before the deadlines.
- Project consortia must include one project coordinator who is responsible for the execution of the project. Other consortia members are partners, whereof there are two categories: partners eligible for direct funding by their respective national funding agencies (e.g., SFOE) participating in the CETP Joint Call 2023, or fully self-financed partners from any country/region who bring their own secured budget. The self-financed partner cannot be the project Coordinator and does not count towards fulfilling the transnationality eligibility criteria.
- The CETP aims to fund projects that develop applicative solutions and provide results for the clean energy transition. The required TRL that a proposal should aim for is defined by each specific Call Module and may vary from one module to the other.
- The total effort of one partner cannot exceed 60% of the total project efforts (measured in person months). The total effort of partners from one country/region cannot exceed 75% of the total project efforts (measured in person months).
- The following individuals are ineligible for proposal submission: CETPartnership Governing Board members, CETPartnership General Assembly members or researchers from the Funding Organisations in the Call.



- Proposals must include a *Reporting and Knowledge Community* work package in their work plan.
- Projects are required to start before 15 December 2024. The maximum project duration must not exceed 36 months.

Funding conditions at the SFOE level:

- The pre- and full proposal submitted to the SFOE are identical in content and structure to the pre- and full proposal at the CETP level, but must use the respective proposal forms (see below on *Project evaluation*). At the pre-proposal stage, a general description of the project and its structure is required as well as a rough estimate of the financial requirements in accordance with the funding rules of the [directive for energy research, pilot and demonstration and sandbox projects](#). The projects presented in the pre-proposal and in the full proposal must be consistent. Any significant change to the plans described in the pre-proposal should be explained and justified.
- The **P+D program** can fund a maximum of 40% of the non-amortizable supplementary costs (NASC) of the project. The **R+D program** can fund a maximum of 80% (CM2023-07 only) of the non-amortizable supplementary costs (NASC) of the project. The NASC represent the uneconomical parts of the project, which typically encompass expenditures for research, development, testing, dissemination, etc. as well as the additional cost for the planning and implementation of physical installations compared to conventional technologies, while deducting additional earnings or savings.
- The remaining minimum of 60% for P+D projects (or 20% for R+D projects, CM2023-07 only) has to be contributed by the project partners or through third party funds (see also the next point about double funding). Note that work packages related to project management and dissemination can be funded with up to 80% if the Swiss partner acts as project coordinator and if the claimed financial effort is within reasonable bounds. The overall funding rate in this exception shall not exceed 50%.
- Double funding: The cumulation of federal financial assistance to fund the proposed project is inadmissible if the legal provisions or rules of any of the concerned funding instruments are breached. Federal funds (e.g. SWEET, SEFRI, SNSF, Innosuisse) are not to be used to cover the 60%-portion of own funds in the P+D project budget (20% for R+D projects, CM2023-07 only), neither through direct cash contributions nor through «in-kind contributions» in the form of other related projects that are already under way, because the maximum funding rate of the [P+D/R+D program](#) would be violated. To prevent inadmissible cumulations («double funding»), Swiss applicants must clearly disclose in the pre- and full proposals all sources of financing. If funding from one instrument has been secured and that assistance is sufficient for the project (or a specific portion thereof) to go ahead, applying for assistance from other instruments for the same activities would result in an inadmissible cumulation.

## Project evaluation

Both at the pre- and the full-proposal stages, the proposed projects undergo an eligibility check by the involved funding programs. Additionally, the projects are evaluated at the national and CETP levels.

At the national level, pre- and full proposals are also evaluated according to the criteria outlined in Appendix IV of the [directive for energy research, pilot and demonstration and sandbox projects](#). The evaluation is done by SFOE internal experts and external SFOE program managers. Focus is on the relevance for Switzerland.

At the CETP level, pre- and full proposals are forwarded to at least three independent experts and evaluated according to the three criteria excellence, impact as well as quality and efficiency of the implementation (see [CETP call text](#) for more details). For pre-proposals to pass to the next stage, a minimum score of 10 out of 15 has to be reached.



Pre-proposals contain the duly filled CETP pre-proposal application and an SFOE-specific form with additional administrative and content-based information. For pre-proposals to qualify<sup>2</sup> for an invitation to submit a full proposal, all formal and content-based requirements as well as a minimum score of 2 out of 4 in the following qualitative criteria have to be reached (see [directive for energy research, pilot and demonstration and sandbox projects](#)): innovative content (Q1), energy potential (Q2) and approach (Q3).

Full proposals contain the duly filled CETP full-proposal application, the SFOE-specific form for P+D/R+D projects with additional relevant information, and the SFOE Finance sheet with details on project costs, financing and NASC ([link](#)). An invitation to submit a full proposal does not guarantee acceptance nor funding of the project at the full-proposal stage. In order to be eligible for funding full proposals need to fulfill all requirements for the formal, content-based, and qualitative criteria, as stated in the program directive.

The SFOE reserves its right to reduce its financial contribution compared to the demanded amount and stipulate binding conditions connected to the approval if the legal basis and/or the evaluation calls for such a measure.

---

<sup>2</sup> Qualifying is a necessary condition for an invitation to the second round, but not a sufficient condition.

**Pre-proposals to the SFOE are to be sent as pdf to [pilot-demo@bfe.admin.ch](mailto:pilot-demo@bfe.admin.ch) (Subject: "CETP Call pre-proposal 2023") by 22 November 2023, 14:00 CET.**

**Full proposals to the SFOE are to be sent as pdf (and xlsx) to [pilot-demo@bfe.admin.ch](mailto:pilot-demo@bfe.admin.ch) (Subject: "CETP Call full proposal 2023") by 27 March 2024, 14:00 CET.**

**Questions related to administration and financial structure (not project content) can be directed at [pilot-demo@bfe.admin.ch](mailto:pilot-demo@bfe.admin.ch) until 15 October 2023.**