

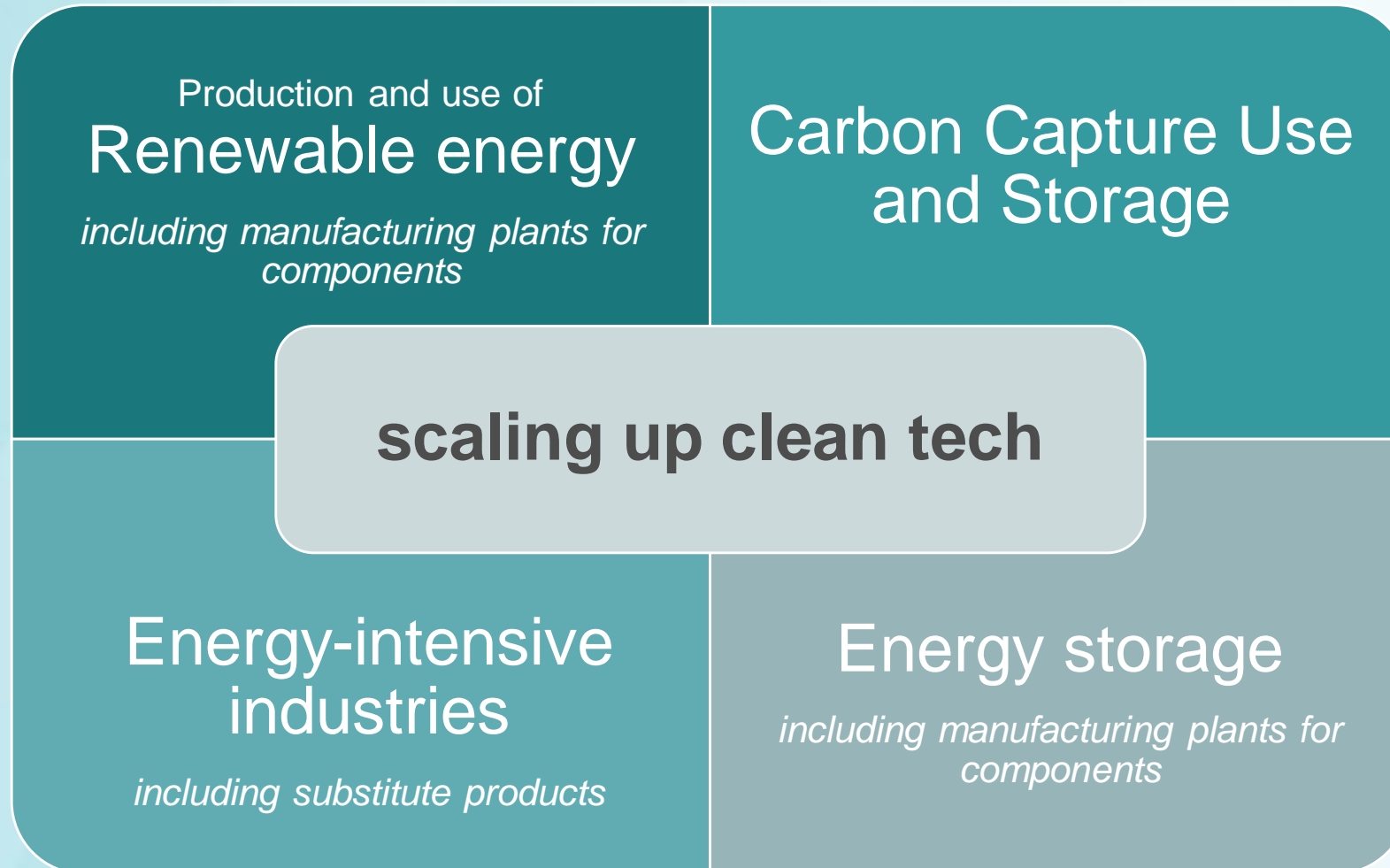


# Innovation Fund

Call for small-scale projects



# Innovation Fund



# Innovation Fund Small Scale Call

## Main Features

### CALL VOLUME

- EUR 100 million (grants)
- Project development assistance provided by EIB for around 20 projects

### PROJECT SIZE

- Total project capital expenditure between EUR 2.5 and EUR 7.5 million

### ELIGIBLE SECTORS

- Renewables
- Energy-intensive industries (incl. substitute products, CCUS)
- Energy storage

### GRANT SIZE

- Max. 60% of total project capital expenditure

### TIMELINE

Call open since 1 December 2020, apply by 10 March 2021!

# Innovation Fund Small Scale Call

## Award Criteria & Focus

### AWARD CRITERIA

- Degree of Innovation
- Greenhouse gas emission avoidance
- Project maturity
- Scalability
- Cost efficiency

### GRANT DISTRIBUTION

- Up to 40% before or at financial close
- Remaining 60% over construction and operation phase (3 year default reporting period)

### FOCUS

Innovative projects close to market  
e.g. first sale of new technology to pioneer customers

# Innovative small-scale projects ready for the market



## Pioneer Customer(s)

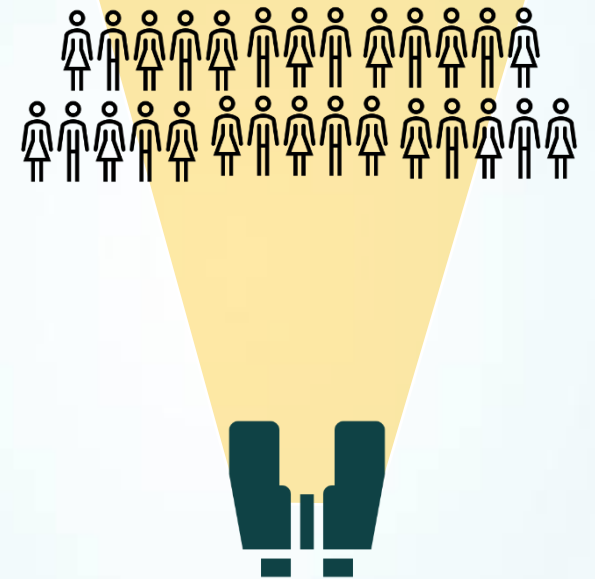
Installation of an innovation in a new “pioneer” market with a “pioneer” customer.

- *You have an exciting new technology but need a market*
- *Include the customer(s) in your application*

think of

- *Battery solutions*
- *Hydrogen fuel cells powered data centres*
- *climate neutral public buildings: renewable energy, energy storage and substitute materials pilot buildings*

examples



# Award Criteria Small Scale Call

## DEGREE OF INNOVATION

- Beyond incremental innovation
- Encouragement of specific activities (e.g. substitute products)

## GHG EMISSIONS AVOIDANCE

- Absolute & relative emissions
- Below ETS benchmark
- Biomass sustainability

## PROJECT MATURITY

- Implementation maturity (e.g. contract with customer)
- Financial maturity

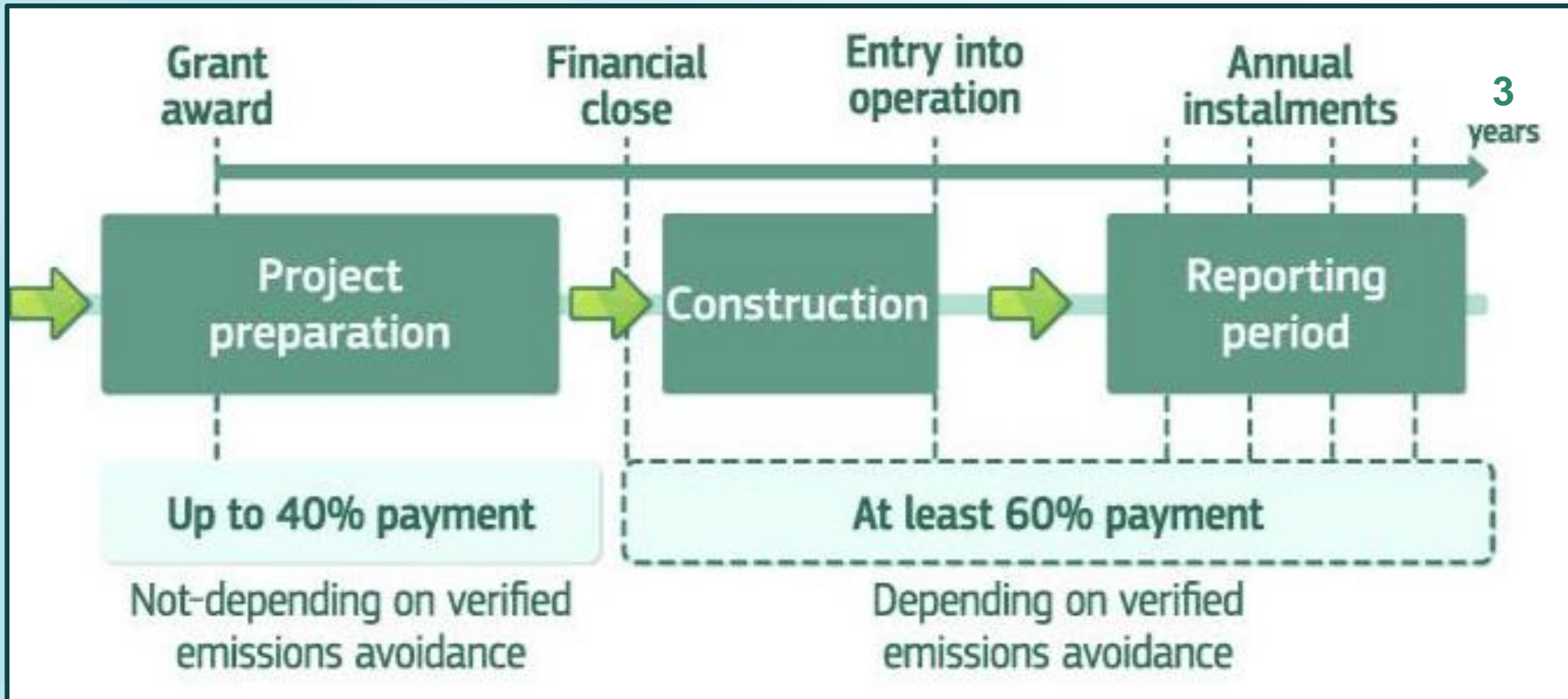
## SCALABILITY

- Project & regional level
- Sector level
- Economy level

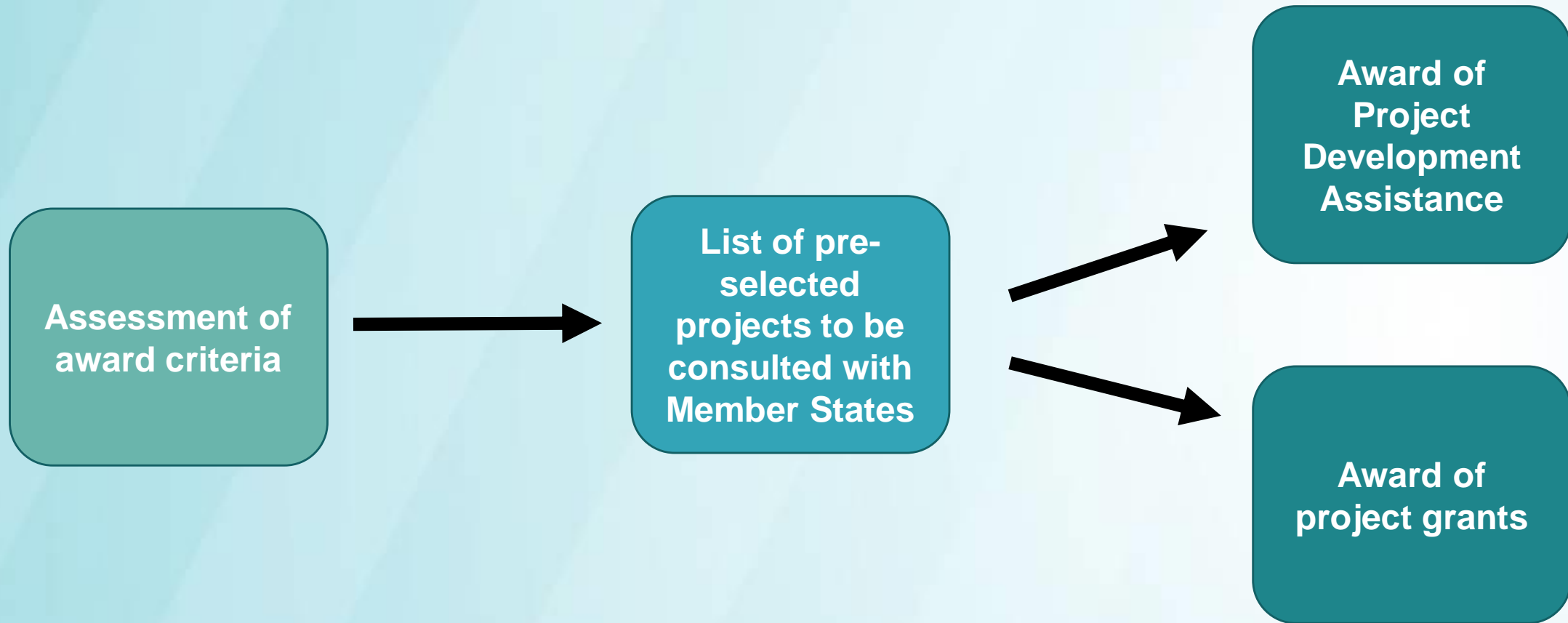
## COST EFFICIENCY

- EU contribution requested per tCO<sub>2</sub> avoided
- Max EU contribution = 60% of CAPEX
- Up to 7.5 million CAPEX

# Grant Disbursement

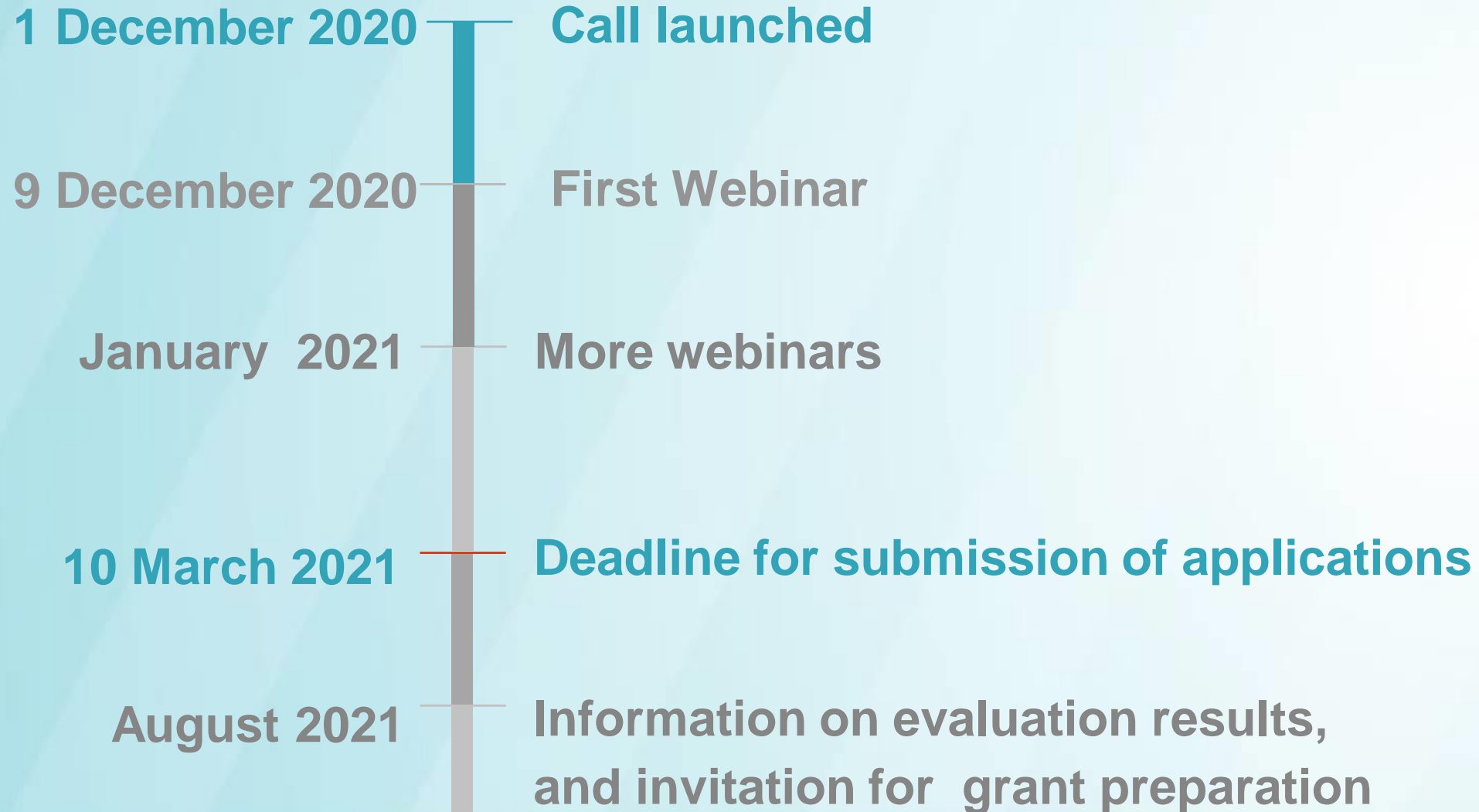


# Selection process





# Timeline



# Useful links

- Direct link to the Funding and Tender portal, IF small scale text call, FAQs: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/innovfund-ssc-2020-single-stage>
- Helpdesk Innovation Fund: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/contact-program;programCode=INNOVFUND;callType=>
- Webinar video: <https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/innovation-fund-webinar>
- DG CLIMA website: [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/innovation-fund\\_en#tab-0-2](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/innovation-fund_en#tab-0-2)

# Project Development Assistance

Which projects  
can benefit from  
PDA?

- Rejected proposals that:
  - meet minimum requirements under degree of innovation and GHG emissions criteria and are awarded at least 50% points under project maturity;
  - are considered by evaluators as having potential to improve their maturity with PDA; and
  - are confirmed by the EIB as shortlisted projects for the PDA

How does it work?

- The PDA support consists of the **EIB expert services** for further development of projects
- Managed separately under project - specific contract with the EIB
- **Up to 20 projects** could benefit from the PDA in this call

# Join us as a project evaluator!

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR



Technical Experts



Expertise on Life  
Cycle Assessment



Financial Experts



Legal Experts

Check INEA website for the  
application process!

- **Individual** evaluation
  - 5 working days
  - To be organized fully remotely from your office or home
  - Can be performed during weekends and evenings
- **Consensus group**
  - Full week of discussion with other fellow evaluators
  - Either in Brussels or virtually
- Up to € 5000 compensation OR pro-bono
- **Confidentiality and conflict of interest rules apply**

# Thank you



[ec.europa.eu/clima](https://ec.europa.eu/clima)



EUClimateAction



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# Deep dive on award criteria

# Award criteria overview

## DEGREE OF INNOVATION

- Beyond incremental innovation
- Encouragement of specific activities

## GHG EMISSIONS AVOIDANCE

- Absolute & relative emissions
- Below ETS benchmark
- Biomass sustainability

## PROJECT MATURITY

- Implementation maturity (e.g. MoU or contract with customer)
- Financial maturity

## SCALABILITY

- Project & regional level
- Sector level
- Economy level

## COST EFFICIENCY

- Relevant costs = total project CAPEX
- EU contribution requested per tCO<sub>2</sub> avoided

# Scoring

Criterion	Max score	Min threshold after normalisation	Weighting
Innovation	5	3	x2
GHG avoidance	5	None (minimum requirements apply)	x1
Project maturity	5	3 (1.5 for each sub-criterion)	x2
Scalability	5	1	x1
Cost efficiency	5	None (projects with ratio higher than 600 EUR / t CO <sub>2</sub> -eq get 0)	x1



# Degree of Innovation



Project goes beyond state of the art

- Describe the state of the art
- Describe the extent to which the project goes beyond it

Project goes beyond incremental innovation

- Proposed technology / product / business model goes beyond minor changes
- Projects contributing to SET-Plan implementation targets likely to go beyond incremental innovation

Specific encouraged activities

- Products substituting carbon intensive ones
- Direct Air Capture (DAC) plus CO<sub>2</sub> storage or use
- Potential for net carbon removal

# GHG Emission Avoidance

Sub-criteria	Description
<b>Absolute GHG emission avoidance</b>	the difference between the expected GHG emissions of the project and the GHG emissions in the reference scenario during 10 years after entry into operation*
<b>Relative GHG emission avoidance</b>	the absolute GHG emission avoidance of the project divided by the GHG emissions in the reference scenario

\*default monitoring and reporting period once the project has entered into operation: 3 years

# GHG Emission Avoidance Application To Do

- 1) Calculate the potential for absolute GHG emission avoidance
- 2) Calculate the potential for relative GHG emission avoidance
- 3) Support the calculation with:
  - Copy of own detailed calculation as one **editable Excel document** (mandatory).
  - Please **use the available templates**.
  - **Detailed explanation of the assumptions made and consistency with the methodology.**

**+ [EII] Comparison with EU ETS benchmark emissions:** Calculate the GHG emissions of the project per unit of product and compare with the equivalent EU ETS benchmark(s) **applicable at the deadline of submission of the application**

**+ Sustainability of biomass:** Projects using biomass as feedstock should explain how they will procure biomass that will at least meet the sustainability requirements of the Renewable Energy Directive and originate from feedstocks with a low risk of causing indirect land-use change

1

Define project and its boundaries

2

Classify your project

3

Identify the appropriate methodology and tools, if any

4

Identify the reference scenario for your project type and sector

5

Apply your projected operational data to adequate(s) methodology(ies)

6

Upload estimated GHG emissions avoidance to submission portal alongside supporting calculation tool

<b>Category of the project</b>	[category name from list: (Energy storage, Renewable energy, Production facilities, Energy Intensive Industries, CCU, Substitute products, CCS)]
<b>Sector of the project<sup>1</sup></b>	[sector name from list: Must be the same sector as chosen in Application Form part A (Intra-day electricity storage, Other energy storage, Wind energy, Solar energy, Hydro/Ocean energy, Geothermal energy, Bio-electricity, Renewable Heating/Cooling, Refineries, Biofuels and bio-refineries, Iron & steel, Non-ferrous metals, Glass, Ceramics & construction material, Chemicals, Hydrogen, Other, CO2 Transport and Storage)]
<b>Principal product(s)<sup>2</sup></b>	[all products chosen for principal products must be the same sector as explained in the Methodology emission avoidance calculation; (if several products are chosen please indicate the product substituted)]
<b>Other products<sup>3</sup></b>	[list any other final products of the project not considered principal products]

Category	Sector	Product
Energy storage, incl. manufacturing plants for components	Intra-day electricity storage	electricity
	Other energy storage	electricity, heating/cooling, e-fuels, hydrogen
Renewable energy, incl. manufacturing plants for components	Wind energy	electricity
	Solar energy	electricity
	Hydro/Ocean energy	electricity
	Geothermal energy	electricity, CHP
	Bio-electricity	electricity, CHP
	Renewable Heating/Cooling	heating/cooling
	Refineries	fuels (incl. e-fuels)
	Biofuels and bio-refineries	biofuel, bio-based products
	Iron & steel	coke, iron ore, iron, steel, cast ferrous metals products, other
	Non-ferrous metals	aluminium, precious metals, copper, cast non-ferrous metal products, other
Energy Intensive Industries, incl. CCU, incl. substitute products, incl. CCS (CO2 capture and full scale)	Cement & lime	cement, lime, dolime, sintered dolime, other
	Glass, ceramics & construction material	flat & container glass, glass fibres, tiles, plates, refractory products, bricks, houseware, sanitary ware, mineral wool, gypsum, other
	Pulp & paper	chemical pulp, mechanical pulp, paper and paperboard, sanitary and tissue paper, other
	Chemicals	organic basic chemicals, inorganic basic chemicals, nitrogen compounds, plastics in primary forms, synthetic rubber, other
	Hydrogen	hydrogen
	Other	electricity, heat, other
	CCS (CO2 transport and/or storage)	CO2 transport and/or storage

# Choice of a sector

1) determine *principal product(s)* and *use*

2a) **if one principal product**: the choice is straightforward: e.g. wind energy or cement production

...but may be **influenced by the use**: e.g. ethanol can be used in chemicals or as a fuel (refineries)

2b) **if more than one principal product but all in the same sector**: also straightforward: e.g. different chemicals (chemicals) or fuels (refineries)

2c) **if principal products from 2 or more sectors**: **choose one of the sectors** of the principal products

3) don't forget to list all **'other products'**

# Choice of a sector: *example*

The main aim of the project may determine the sector and the reference emissions:

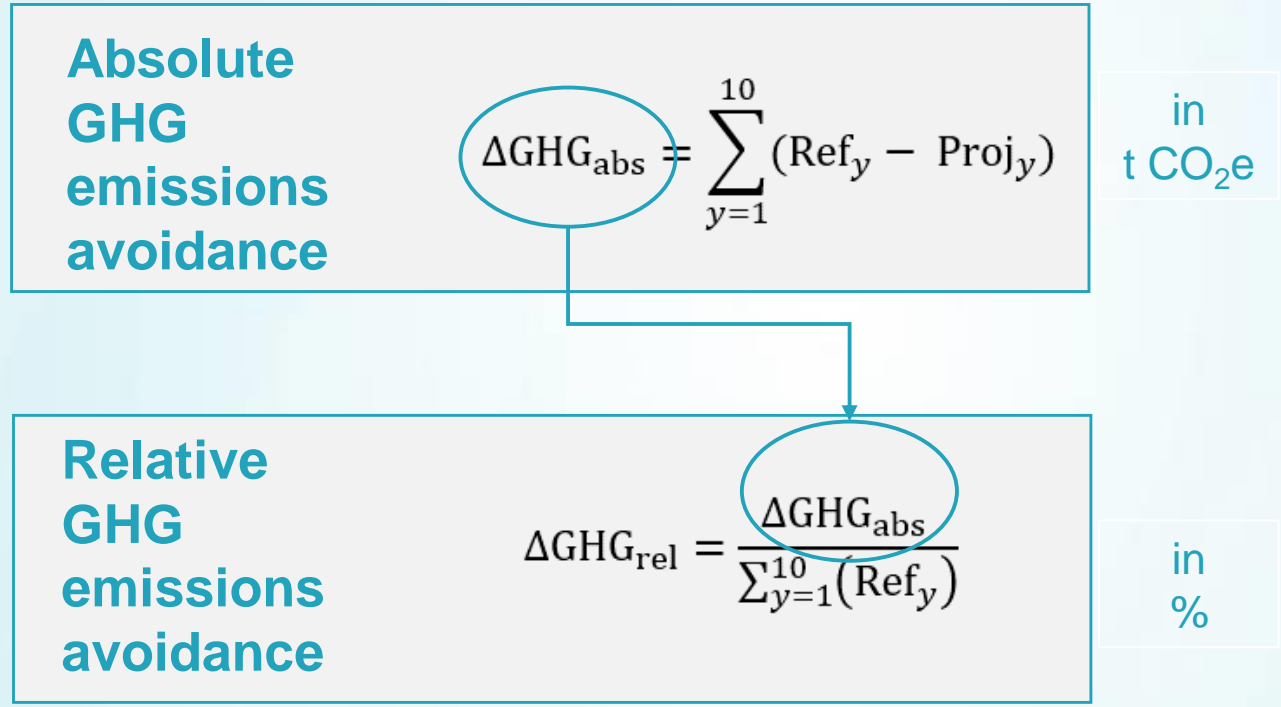
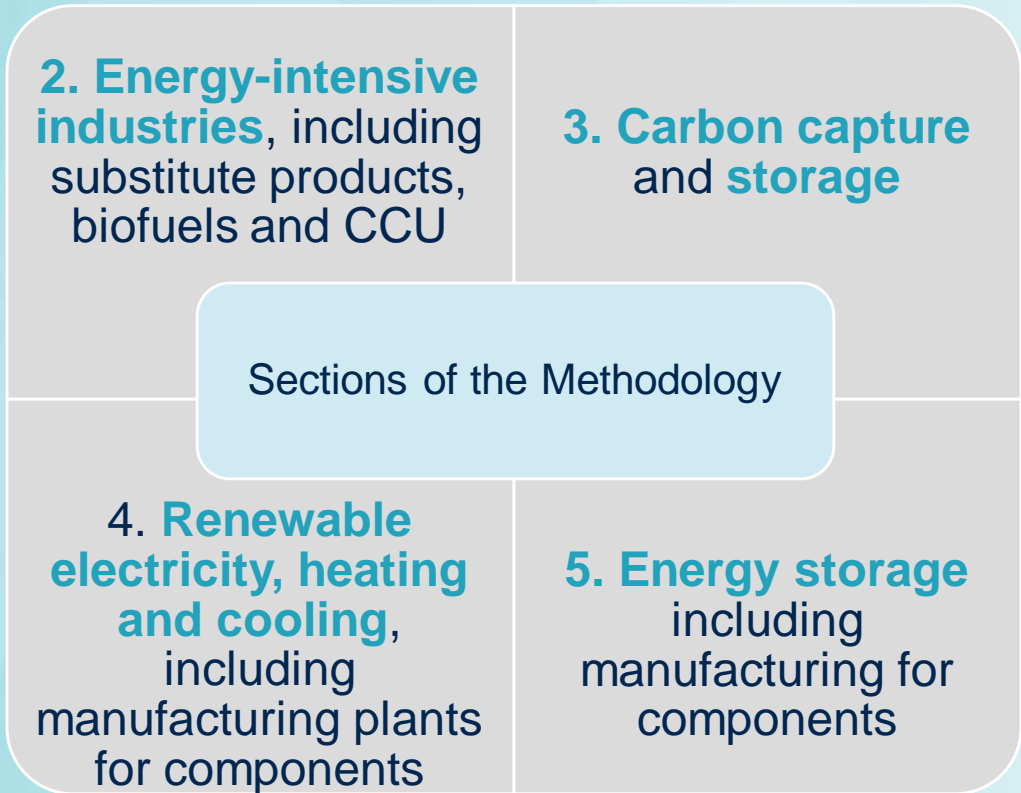
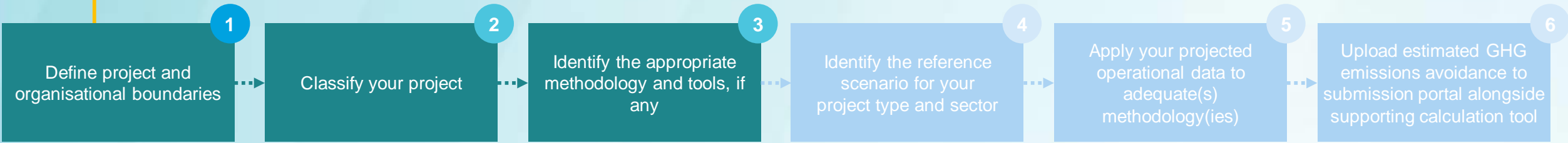
*Example:* a project produces hydrogen with electricity: if the main aim of the project is

... to **store otherwise curtailed renewable electricity**, the sector is 'energy storage'

... to **produce as much hydrogen as possible**: then the sector is 'hydrogen' and the reference is EU ETS benchmark for hydrogen

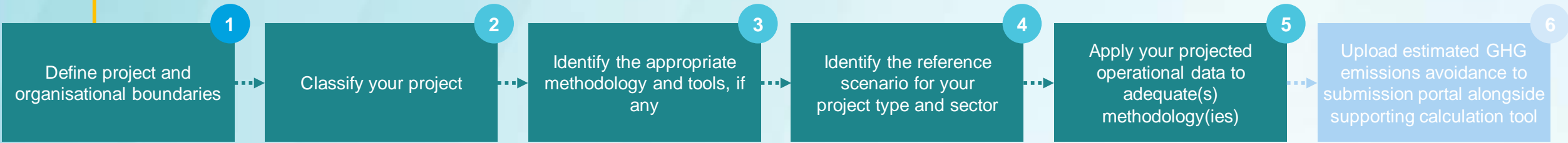
... to **produce hydrogen for transport applications**: sector still hydrogen but reference is fossil fuel comparator for the transport fuel displaced

... if it is **combined with innovative renewable electricity**: then either 'renewable electricity' or 'energy storage'



**Hybrid projects:** combine the methodology from different sections



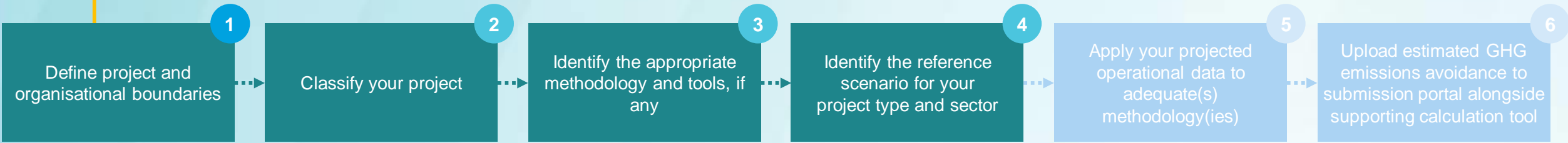


Projected operational data														GHG Emissions	
Source	Parameter monitored	Description	Unit	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	t CO <sub>2</sub> e / [unit]	t CO <sub>2</sub> e
Ref <sub>grid</sub>	EG <sub>grid</sub>	Net amount of electricity to be generated by the renewable technology and fed into the grid	MWh											0.150	0
Ref <sub>heat</sub>	EG <sub>heat</sub>	Net amount of thermal energy to be delivered by the renewable technology	MWh											0.202	0

**Tools available to support the calculation for EII, CCS, RES and energy storage projects.** Due to the variety of possible cases in the EII sectors, applicants may tailor their calculations using the provided Excel template, and are encouraged to:

- Split calculation of reference and projects emissions, for the ease of verification
- Maintain projected input data separated by year
- Not hardcode conversion factors into the formulas, so that these are easily traceable and updatable
- Use the suggested colour code for input and linked/calculated data
- Provide a full description of the data traceability and responsibility





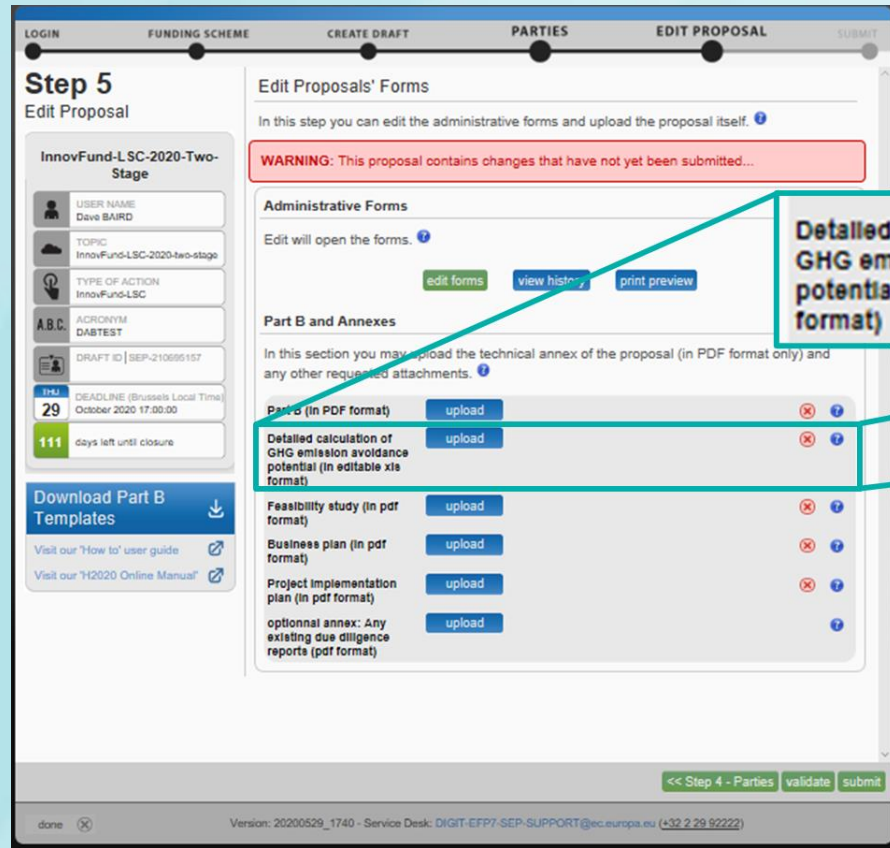
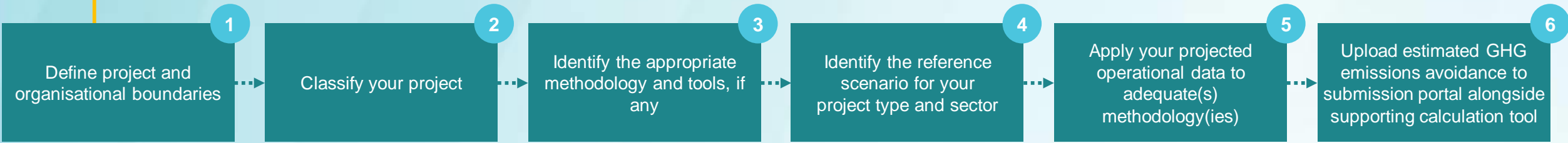
Category / Sector	Reference scenario	Project scenario (1 <sup>st</sup> stage)
Energy Intensive Industry	EU ETS benchmark(s) for the product(s) or the existing plant in case of modification or fossil fuel comparators	Changes in inputs, processes, products, use and end of life.
Biofuels	Fossil fuel comparators	Fully decarbonised electricity mix for electricity inputs
CCS	CO2 is not captured, but released/available in atmosphere	Emissions from capture, transport and storage
Renewable electricity	Expected 2030 electricity mix	Emissions from the production and supply of biomass-derived fuels and emissions due to leakage during the operation of geothermal power plants
Renewable heat	Natural gas boiler	
Renewable cooling	Expected 2030 electricity mix or fossil fuel comparator in some cases	Direct and indirect emissions from the use of fossil fuels and generation of heat, process-related emissions from the production of hydrogen as well as from transmission losses associated with the grid transport.
Energy storage	Single-cycle natural gas turbine (peaking power)	
Heat / Hydrogen storage	ETS benchmark for heat / hydrogen production	
Energy storage in vehicles	Diesel-fuelled internal combustion engine	Fully decarbonised electricity mix for electricity inputs.

# Forecasting of Grid Electricity

For calculations of emissions due to generation and use

Sector	Net grid electricity consumed or charging, for energy storage	Grid electricity substituted by net electricity export or discharging, for energy storage
Energy intensive industry / CCS	<b>Expected 2050 electricity mix*</b>	Expected 2030 electricity mix
Renewable electricity / heat	Expected 2050 electricity mix for net import (in heat projects)	<b>Expected 2030 electricity mix for net export</b>
Energy storage	Expected 2050 electricity mix	<b>Emissions for electricity produced with single-cycle NG turbine (used for peaking power)</b>

\* *Electricity is treated as zero carbon presuming full decarbonisation of the electricity mix by 2050*



Detailed calculation of GHG emission avoidance potential (in editable xls format)

# GHG Emissions Avoidance Scoring of proposals

## Absolute GHG emission avoidance

Score is calculated by comparing the absolute GHG emission avoidance for the project to the “best in sector”, i.e. the application with the highest value of absolute GHG emission avoidance, which also meets min project maturity criteria and min requirements re ETS benchmarks and biomass.

**The best in each sector gets 5 points, the worst gets 0 points.**

## Relative GHG emission avoidance

To derive the score for the relative emission avoidance, the resulting percent for the relative emission avoidance is normalised across all submitted proposals to a score between 5 and 0. **100% or more results in 5 points.**

**More than 100% relative emission avoidance will be considered under degree of innovation.**

## Points may be reduced if calculations are not robust and accurate

- **Clerical errors:** minor errors, normally caused by inadvertent negligence in the application of formulas, or conversion of units, and that can be easily corrected (e.g. wrong links in formulas, wrong unit conversions, inadequate EF)
- **Manifest errors:** discrepancies that can be seen to influence the GHG avoidance estimates significantly and, consequently, the result of the evaluation / scoring. Such errors could derive from an incorrect application of the GHG emission methodology, omission or miscalculation, etc. → **leads to a zero score and rejection of the proposal**

Sub-criteria	unit	Max score	Min score
Absolute GHG emission avoidance	tCO2	5 (the best in the sector)	0 (the worst in the sector)
Relative GHG emission avoidance	%	5 (100%)	0 (0%)
Total		10	0
<b>Normalised score</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

# Project maturity

## Implementation maturity

- Technical feasibility
- Credibility of implementation planning
- Project team
- Permitting procedures
- Contracts or MoU with customers

## Financial maturity

- Viability of financial plan and bankability
- Soundness of financial model

# Implementation Maturity

**Technical feasibility** of achieving the GHG emission avoidance within project's operational environment

- describe the **degree of technology readiness (TRL)** of your project and individual components before and after the project is implemented.
- describe the **technical readiness of the project site, expected project output and technical feasibility of achieving this output, including GHG avoidance**
- how the proposed **technology has already performed at the TRL preceding this proposal** (i.e. at a pilot or smaller-scale demonstration).
- how **changes in scale or change in circumstances** compared to previous testing/projects have been taken into account in the project design, where applicable

- **Robust feasibility study** addressing at least points in application form is a **mandatory** document
- Applicants may use an existing technical feasibility study
- Always provide precise references to the text in supporting documents
- Technical design of project should be consistent with financial/operational set-up.
- Key question:

**CAN THE TECHNOLOGY DELIVER THE EXPECTED OUTPUT AND GHG EMISSIONS AVOIDANCE?**



# Implementation Maturity

## Implementation planning of project and key milestones

Describe **key deliverables and work plan for development, construction and entry into operation** (ensure consistency with both work packages/milestones in section 7.1 & timetable template in section 7.2)

Describe **status of steps concluded so far** (e.g. FEED study, initial permits, etc.)

## Project business model – your **business plan**

- describe **target markets, key customers, the value the innovation will deliver** compared to other solutions, **how it addresses market gaps** and who are the **main competitors**.
- describe **demand for products/services** delivered.
- set out **specific market entry barriers**.

Relevance and track record of **project management team** and soundness of the project organisation

Describe the **project management team**, its professional capacity, key qualifications and relevant track record.

Set out proposed **project government structure** and **alignment of interests between management and investors**.

Describe **decision-making structures** and processes.

Describe **key business continuity approach** in case of key individuals leave project.

- **Business plan is a mandatory** document, to cover duration of project and including financial model and detailed implementation planning (e.g. Gantt chart)
- Detailed summary of business model
- Detailed plan of milestones and deliverables
- Focus on quality/relevance of the project team and partners for success of the project
- Key question:

**IS YOUR BUSINESS MODEL SOUND?**

# Implementation Maturity

State of play and credibility of the proposed plan for obtaining required permits, intellectual property rights or licences and other **regulatory procedures**.

- required **permitting** and other relevant **regulatory procedures/support**, steps towards acquiring intellectual property rights or licences.
- **list of permits/rights/licences already obtained**, those still needed and envisaged timing for obtaining them.

Strategy for ensuring public acceptance of the project

- describe **environmental impacts during construction and operation**, the state of **public acceptance** of the technology and the project and how you propose to ensure it.

Robustness and credibility of the strategy for securing the **key supply and off-take contracts**.

- describe main **commercial contracts envisaged** and the **contractual relationship between the main parties involved with the project**.
- list and describe **any preliminary agreements with suppliers or off-takers** and **strategy for timely conclusion of further required agreements**.
- **key contracts** and how the required **solidity/track record of suppliers and off-takers** will be ensured.

**Conclusions of any relevant technical or legal due diligence report (where available) produced by an independent party.** Includes due diligence on intellectual property.

- Public acceptance, permits and licenses are the responsibility of applicants – think of related timing, procedures and steps
- Evidenced contracts or agreements with suppliers and off-takers increase the credibility of planning, e.g. pioneer customers

• Key questions:

**WHAT IS YOUR DEPLOYMENT STRATEGY?**

**HOW DO YOUR SALES LOOK LIKE?**

**WHO ARE YOUR PARTNERS AND OFF-TAKERS?**



# Financial Maturity

## Project cash flow, COSTS AND REVENUES

- provide a **detailed calculation of expected costs and revenues** (cash flow projections) along project milestones **in constant prices**.
- provide **breakdown of project costs and revenues**, i.e. capital expenditure (CAPEX), operation and maintenance costs (OPEX) and expected revenues.
- detail the **sensitivity of cash-flows** to regulatory frameworks and market conditions, and robustness of off-take agreements / pioneer customers. Have a fall-back plan.

## Total project costs, relevant costs and requested EU contribution

- state **total project costs and project relevant costs (equivalent to CAPEX)** and provide justification.
- provide **background assumptions** (if available by supplying **letters of firm proposals (MoU)** from contractors).

- Independent financial due diligence report (**optional**)
- Maximum amount of requested EU contribution **cannot exceed 60%** of relevant costs (CAPEX)
- Requested EU contribution **should be consistent** with the business plan and relevant cost calculation for cost efficiency criterion
- Be mindful that **your requested grant level will impact the cost efficiency criterion**, and hence the relative competitiveness of your application
- Key message:

**NUMBERS REALLY MATTER!**

**HOW ROBUST AND CLEAR IS YOUR FINANCIAL MODEL (part of the business plan)?**

# Financial Maturity

## Project **financial viability**

- describe project's **business viability measured by project's NPV and IRR** over expected lifetime of project, before and after requested Innovation Fund support.

## Financing plan

- describe **financial structure of project** including a description of type, sources and use of funds (level and source of equity, level and source of debt, expected public subsidies and their source).
- describe how **potential negative cash flows at the start of operation will be funded** and how **project scale up will be financed** when the project has entered into operation but is not yet generating sufficient revenue to become self-sustainable.
- explain **allocation of costs** (in Work Packages) and consistency of project planning with financing plan.
- describe **alignment of requested funding and milestones with profile of cash consumption linked to cash injection** during the project cycle.

- **Provision of detailed insights from project financing plan**, showing clear financial structure, sources of funding and demonstrating the financial sustainability of the financing plan
- Coherence with cash flow projections and project design and operational planning over project lifetime
- Key questions:

**WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL STRUCTURE?**

**CAN THE FUNDING AND REVENUES COVER THE COSTS AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT?**

**HOW MUCH "SKIN IN THE GAME" DOES THE APPLICANT HAVE?**

# Financial Maturity

## Robustness of **project funders and investor commitments**

- state *expected date of financial close*
- describe *status, level and solidity of commitment of funding from project funders and investors, incl. own contribution by the applicant, external funding and financial support from Member States*
- describe *conditions of support provided by all parties and how funds will be injected into the legal entity owning the project and ownership structure*
- Provide **corresponding evidence** (e.g. letters of interest/support, letters of approval from funders/shareholders or board confirming support of the project, MOU).
- Provide **evidence of support from other sources including market mechanisms, or support from Member States**

## Conclusions of any financial due diligence report (where available)

- provide main *conclusions produced by an independent party.*

- Set out all funding sources other than the Innovation Fund
- Evidence on funding commitments may be integrated in the Business Plan as an annex
- Key questions:
- **HOW QUICKLY CAN THE PROJECT REACH FINANCIAL CLOSE WITHIN THE 4 YEARS?**
- **IS THE PROJECT FUNDING SECURED AND EVIDENCED?**
- **WHAT IS THE OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE?**

# Scalability

## Project and regional level

- Expansion at project site / possible transfer to other sites
- Cooperation with other actors of the regional economy
- Knowledge sharing, communication and dissemination

## Sector level

- Extent to which the technology of the project can be applied within the sector and contribute to GHG emissions avoidance
- Support with qualitative and quantitative indicators
- Consider demand and supply conditions

## Economy-wide

- Contribution to wider economy impacts
- Potential to create new value chains or reinforce existing ones
- Support with qualitative and quantitative indicators

# Cost Efficiency

**Relevant costs less contribution  
by project applicant**  
*Max 60% of relevant costs*

**Absolute GHG emission  
avoidance**

During 10 years after entry into operation

**Relevant costs = total  
capital expenditure  
(CAPEX) of the project**

(e.g. construction costs, site  
infrastructure; development  
costs; Intangible assets)

**Min. of € 2.5M and max of  
€7.5M CAPEX**

**CAPEX to be certified by  
independent auditor during  
grant agreement negotiation**

It is mandatory to attach a **detailed calculation of relevant costs  
(CAPEX)** and cost efficiency as one editable Excel document

# Overview of Supporting Documents

Mandatory documents	Page limit	Optional documents	Page limit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed calculation of GHG emission avoidance potential, including (if relevant) detailed estimate of further emission avoidance that the project may be bringing and that are not covered under the GHG methodology. (in editable xls format)</li> </ul>	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any existing due diligence reports (pdf format)</li> </ul>	n/a
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility Study (in pdf format)</li> </ul>	100 in total for the feasibility study and the business plan		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Plan including financial model and, if available, any documents indicating support for the project (e.g. letters of interest, letters of support, letters of approval from funders, letters from shareholders or board) as an annex (in pdf)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed calculation of relevant costs and cost efficiency (in editable xls format)</li> </ul>	n/a		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of the profiles of the people primarily responsible for managing and implementing the project (accompanied by a curriculum vitae</li> <li>List of relevant recent projects and/or activities carried out by the applicant and relevant to delivery of the project</li> </ul>	20 in total including the description of profiles and the list of relevant projects		