

Innovation Fund

Information category	Description
Programme name	Innovation Fund
Objective(s) and scope	<p>The Innovation Fund is a dedicated EU fund for climate policy, with a particular emphasis on energy and industry. Its primary objective is to introduce market solutions that will support the decarbonisation of the European industry, thereby supporting its transition towards climate neutrality. This is aimed to be achieved while simultaneously enhancing its competitiveness, with funding sourced from the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS).</p> <p>The Innovation Fund is driven by the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help businesses invest in clean energy and industry • boost economic growth • create future-proof jobs • reinforce European technological leadership on a global scale. <p>These objectives are realised by financing innovative projects that focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • innovative low-carbon technologies and processes in energy-intensive industries, including products that can substitute carbon-intensive ones • carbon capture and utilisation – CCU • construction and operation of carbon capture and storage (CCS) facilities • innovative renewable energy generation • energy storage <p>In light of the recent revision of the ETS Directive, new sectors have been added, including net-zero mobility (maritime, aviation, road transport) and buildings. With the inclusion of the maritime sector in the ETS, the Innovation Fund is now in a position to support the development and implementation of breakthrough technologies aimed at decarbonising this sector. This includes initiatives in energy efficiency, sustainable alternative fuels, electrification, and zero-emission propulsion technologies, such as wind technologies. The fund also supports the development of innovative infrastructure in the maritime sector, particularly for EU container transhipment ports. Projects funded by the Innovation Fund can address the full spectrum of climate impacts, including black carbon emissions.</p>
Type of finance provider	Public
Administering body	European Investment Bank (EIB) / European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)
Financing product	Grants
Financing value	<p>[Call currently closed. This information is related to the 2023 call and is provided only for reference]</p> <p>A total of EUR 4 billion distributed in 5 categories as follows:</p> <p>(1) General decarbonisation projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale, CAPEX above EUR 100 million – EUR 1.7 billion available • General decarbonisation projects (medium-scale, CAPEX between EUR 20 and 100 million) – EUR 500 million available • General decarbonisation projects (small-scale, CAPEX between EUR 2.5 and 20 million) – EUR 200 million available <p>(2) Cleantech manufacturing – EUR 1.4 billion available for projects with CAPEX above EUR 2.5 million, focusing on the manufacturing of components for renewable energy, energy storage, heat pumps and hydrogen production.</p> <p>(3) Pilot projects – EUR 200 million available for projects with CAPEX above EUR 2.5 million focusing on deep decarbonisation.</p> <p>The Innovation Fund can cover up to 60% of projects' relevant costs.</p>
Eligible countries	EU Member States/ EEA
Eligibility criteria (where available)	<p>Eligibility criteria include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must be located in an EU/EEA Member States

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must comply with EU policy interests • Enter into operation within five years after grant signature <p>Projects applying to calls for regular grants will be selected based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effectiveness of greenhouse gas emissions avoidance • degree of innovation • project maturity • replicability • cost efficiency <p>Projects applying for competitive bidding are checked based on minimum qualification criteria and then ranked according to the auctioned price. The detailed scoring and ranking methodology, as well as possible additional criteria for geographical and sectoral balance, are set in each call for proposals.</p>
Further information on eligibility criteria	[Call currently closed]
Application period	[Call currently closed] There will be regular calls for project proposals throughout the duration of the Innovation Fund (between 2020 and 2030). For reference, last call was published on 23 November 2023 and remained open until 9 April 2024 (5 months).
Technology type	Multiple
Technology readiness level (TRL)	Multiple
Previous projects financed example(s)	IF - SustainSea: Reducing maritime transport CO2 emissions using wind
Additional information	Different topics are covered under each call, some of which may be relevant to the maritime industry. For reference, a total of 337 project proposals were submitted in response to the 2023 call. Out of those, 10% were related to mobility, and 70% of those concerned the maritime industry. This resulted in 24 applications (7%) for support for the maritime industry.
Links	Legal framework - European Commission (europa.eu) Innovation Fund (INNOVFUND) EU Funding & Tenders Portal (europa.eu)
Contact(s)	National Contact Points - European Commission (europa.eu)