

CLEAN ENERGY

Connecting Europe Facility (Energy)

Funding instrument to realise European energy infrastructure policy. It identifies priority corridors and thematic areas and establishes a biennial [list of Projects of Common/Mutual Interest \(PCIs/PMIs\)](#) that help the EU meet its short and long-term energy and climate objectives. Among other, the Connecting Europe Facility provides an enabling framework to support cross border cooperation in the field of renewable energy and defines the concept of [cross border renewable energy \(CB RES\) projects](#). A list of such projects is updated on an annual basis.

Budget (2021–2027): €5.87 billion

Key Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-border renewable energy generation, transmission and distribution • Electricity transmission and distribution, including electricity interconnections • Smart energy grids (electricity and gas) • Hydrogen interconnections and electrolyzers • Offshore electricity grids • Carbon dioxide networks • Energy storage 			
WHO can apply?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Member States, associated third countries (Article 5 of the CEF Regulation) • Legal entities: Public or private bodies <p>To be eligible for funding, projects must first obtain PCIs/PMIs or CB RES status and be included on the in force list that is adopted either on annual or biannual basis. Proposal should be submitted by PCIs/PMIs/CB RES projects developers with the support of one or more EU Member States. For CB RES projects, cooperation agreement between Member States or between Member State(s) and third country(ies) as set out in the Renewable Energy Directive is required.</p>			
WHAT activities can be funded?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works or Studies (CEF Regulation) or a combination of both needed for the implementation of cross-border energy infrastructure projects • Only activities contributing to the implementation of projects of common/mutual interest as identified in the in-force PCIs/PMIs list and in-force CB RES projects identified in the CB RES status list are eligible for support 			
Range of EU Contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 50% co-funding for studies and works <p>The co-financing rate may be increased to a maximum of 75% of the total eligible cost for works actions contributing to the development of PCIs/PMIs, which provide a high degree of regional or Union-wide security of supply, strengthen the solidarity of the Union or offer highly innovative solutions.</p>			
Links to relevant calls	CEF Energy Calls for Proposals			
Target Technology Readiness Level (TRL)	n/a			
Project examples	<p>Porthos (July 2020 – December 2024)</p> <p>The project is part of the 'CO₂ TransPorts' PCI that consists of the development of an open access cross-border transport network to bring CO₂ from the ports of Rotterdam, Antwerp and Ghent to offshore storage locations in depleted gas fields in the North Sea. The CEF supported Action concerns the development of the Port of Rotterdam CO₂ Transport Hub and the Offshore Storage (Porthos). It includes the construction and commissioning of a 33 km onshore pipeline connecting industrial emitters in the port of Rotterdam, a 20 megawatt (MW) compressor station and a 20 km offshore pipeline.</p>	<p>Biscay Gulf electricity France-Spain interconnection (July 2018 – December 2028)</p> <p>The new electricity link through the Bay of Biscay aims to nearly double the interconnection capacity between Spain and France – increasing it from 2,800 to 5,000 MW.</p> <p>It will improve the security of supply in both countries and facilitate further integration of renewables into the grid, encouraging investment in renewable energy sources.</p> <p>The co-funded studies Action focused on assessment of feasibility, impact of the new interconnector, it analysed final route and detailed technical means to secure it. The co-funded works Action is meant to fully implement the construction of the interconnector.</p>	<p>North Sea Wind Power Hub Feasibility and preparatory studies (June 2020 – September 2024)</p> <p>As part of the project, a large-scale European electricity system for offshore wind will be developed in the North Sea, including the construction of one or more hubs with interconnectors to bordering countries.</p> <p>This project is a first building block in the hub-and-spoke concept connecting up to 14 gigawatt (GW) future offshore wind parks to the systems of Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany after 2035.</p> <p>The co-funded Action covered feasibility and preparatory studies.</p>	<p>CICERONE (March 2023 – August 2024)</p> <p>The CICERONE project aims to build an integrated industrial scale cross-border European green hydrogen and ammonia value chain under the broader "CEO-Alliance" initiative. As such, the CICERONE value chain will consist of independent but highly interconnected infrastructure located in different EU Member States.</p> <p>The funded activities cover environmental assessment, market study and engineering design for the realisation of the renewable energy sources plus electrolyser and green ammonia infrastructure to be installed and managed in Spain.</p>