

Rules for participation, call conditions, evaluation and submission

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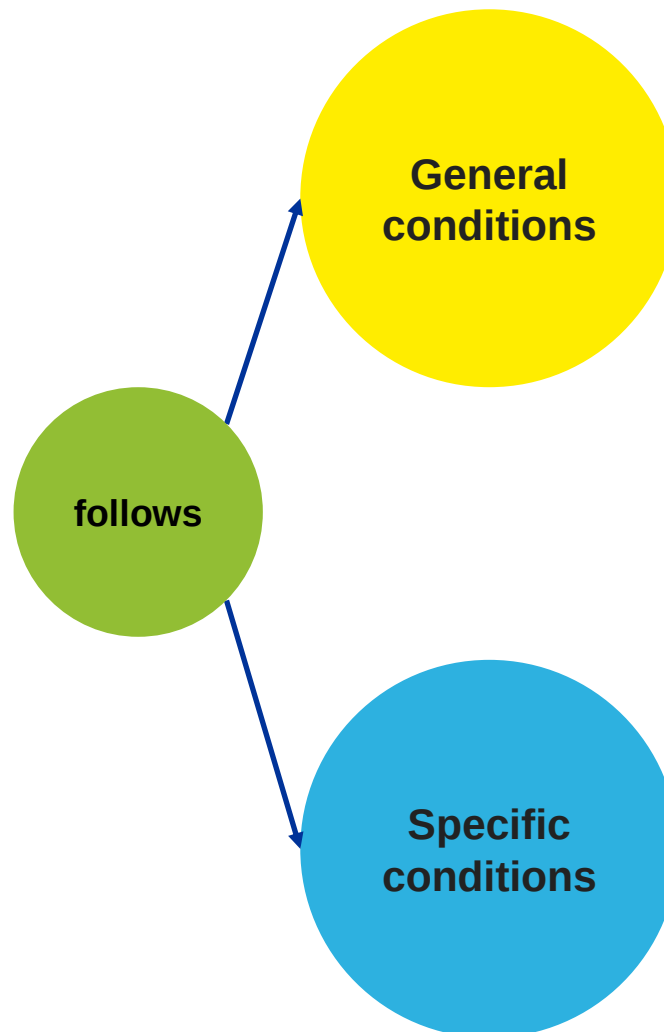
Applicable rules

Call: HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2025

Total budget: 184.5 M€

Publication date: 15 January 2025

Deadline: 23 April 2025



General Annexes to Horizon Europe

- Admissibility (Annex A)
- Eligibility (Annex B)
- Financial and operational capacity and exclusion (Annex C)
- Award criteria (Annex D)
- Documents (Annex E)
- Procedure (Annex F)

Others importants aspects:
- TRL, Gender equality plan

Work Programme 2025

- May introduce additional eligibility criteria:
- Maximum contribution per topic
 - Consortium composition

Annexes A, B and E – Admissibility, eligibility and documents

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A proposal is **ADMISSIBLE**, when:

- **Submitted** electronically via the Funders & Tenders Portal **on time**
- **Readable**, accessible and printable + in line with content and format instructions
- **Complete** (admin data, proposal description, **detailed budget table**, etc.)
- Must include a **plan for the exploitation and dissemination** of the results
- Consist of 3 parts:
 - Part A: administrative and budgetary data
 - Part B: technical description
 - Detailed budget table

A proposal is **ELIGIBLE**, when:

- **In line with the topic and call conditions**, with exclusive focus on civil applications
- **Complies with consortium composition:**

RIA and IA

- At least one independent legal entity established in a Member State
- And at least two other independent legal entities, each established either in different Member State or Associated Country

CSA

- At least one legal entity established in a Member State or Associated Country

Respect page limit for
Part B!
CSA = 33 pages
RIA = 50 pages
IA = 70 pages

+ Additional Conditions in the AWP



Applicants from all over the world can participate, except:

- Entities subject to EU restrictive measures (see [EU Sanctions map](#))
- Chinese entities in Innovation Actions
- Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine



Yet, to be eligible for funding, applicants must be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:

- The EU members states and their overseas countries and territories
- Countries associated to Horizon Europe (for example CA, CH, KR, NO, and UK)
- Low and middle-income countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, ... , Zambia, Zimbabwe
- **Exceptionally**, any other country, if
 - The Clean Hydrogen JU considers that their participation as a beneficiary is essential for implementing the project



If not eligible for funding, applicants will have to participate at their own cost.
These participants should **explain in the proposal how their funding will be secured**.

Gender Equality Plan

As an **ELIGIBILITY** criterion, public bodies, research organisations and higher education establishments from Member States and Associated Countries must have a gender equality plan, covering:

Process:

- Publication: a formal document published on the institution's website and signed by the top management;
- Dedicated resources: commitment of resources and expertise in gender equality to implement the plan
- Data collection and monitoring: sex/gender disaggregated data on personnel (and students, for the establishments concerned) and annual reporting based on indicators
- Training: awareness raising/training on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and decision-makers

Content

- work-life balance and organisational culture
- gender balance in leadership and decision-making
- gender equality in recruitment and career progression
- integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content
- measures against gender-based violence, including sexual harassment.

Self-declaration in the proposal

Additional eligibility requirements

- **Exclusive focus on civil applications**
- **No human cloning**, modify the genetic heritage of human beings, create human embryos, etc.
- Must **comply with EU policy interests and priorities** (environment, social, security, industrial policy, etc.).

Types of Actions and funding rates

RIA - Research and Innovation Actions

Activities that aim primarily to establish new knowledge or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. This may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing, demonstration and validation of a **small-scale** prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.

funding rate
max. **100%**

funding rate
max. **70%***

*Funding 100% for non-profit legal entities

IA- Innovation Actions

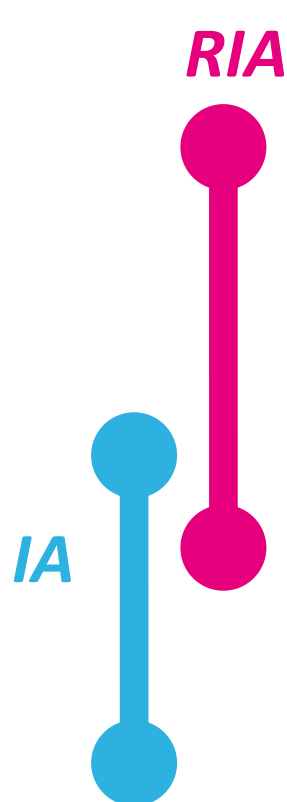
Activities that aim directly to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. These activities may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, **large-scale** product validation and market replication.

CSA - Coordination and Support Action

Activities that contribute to the objectives of Horizon Europe. This **excludes R&I activities**. Also eligible are bottom-up coordination actions which promote cooperation between legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries to strengthen the European Research Area, and which receive no EU co-funding for research activities

funding rate
max. **100%**

Technology readiness levels (TRL)



TRL 1 – basic principles observed

TRL 2 – technology concept formulated

TRL 3 – experimental proof of concept

TRL 4 – technology validated in lab

TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment

TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment

TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment

TRL 8 – system complete and qualified

TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment

Annex C – Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Financial Capacity:

- Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** for the project(s)
- Coordinator completes a self-assessment at the proposal stage

Operational Capacity (including operational resources - human, technical and other):

- Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications and resources**
- Scored by the experts under implementation, based on partners information:
 - Qualifications and experience of staff
 - Description of the consortium participants, including infrastructure
 - List of relevant activities/projects/publications

Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise

Each individual participant has, or exceptionally will have in due time, competence and experience to carry out its tasks in the proposed work plan?

Exclusion:

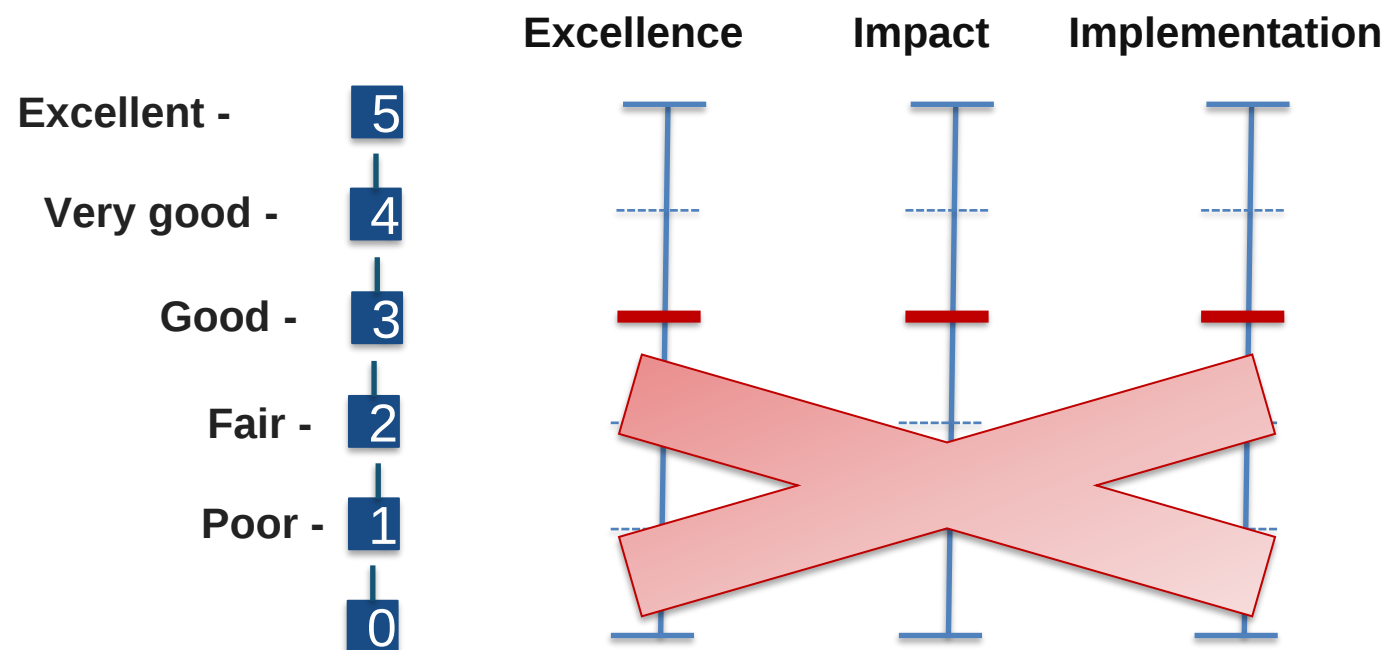
- If subject to EU administrative sanctions or in exclusion situations
- **Misrepresented information** or involved in the call preparation and create a distortion of competition

Annex D – Award criteria, scores, weighting and thresholds

The proposals will be evaluated against the following **award criteria**:

- **Excellence**
- **Impact**
- Quality and efficiency of the **implementation**

Evaluation grid available in
Annex D



Thresholds apply to:

- Individual criterion, score must be ≥ 3
- Overall score must be ≥ 10

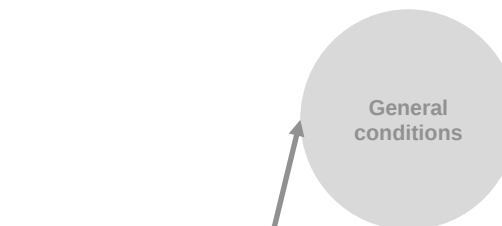
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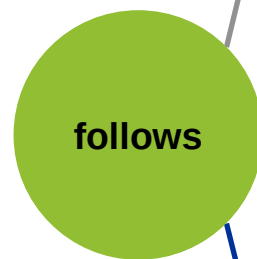
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General Annexes to Horizon Europe

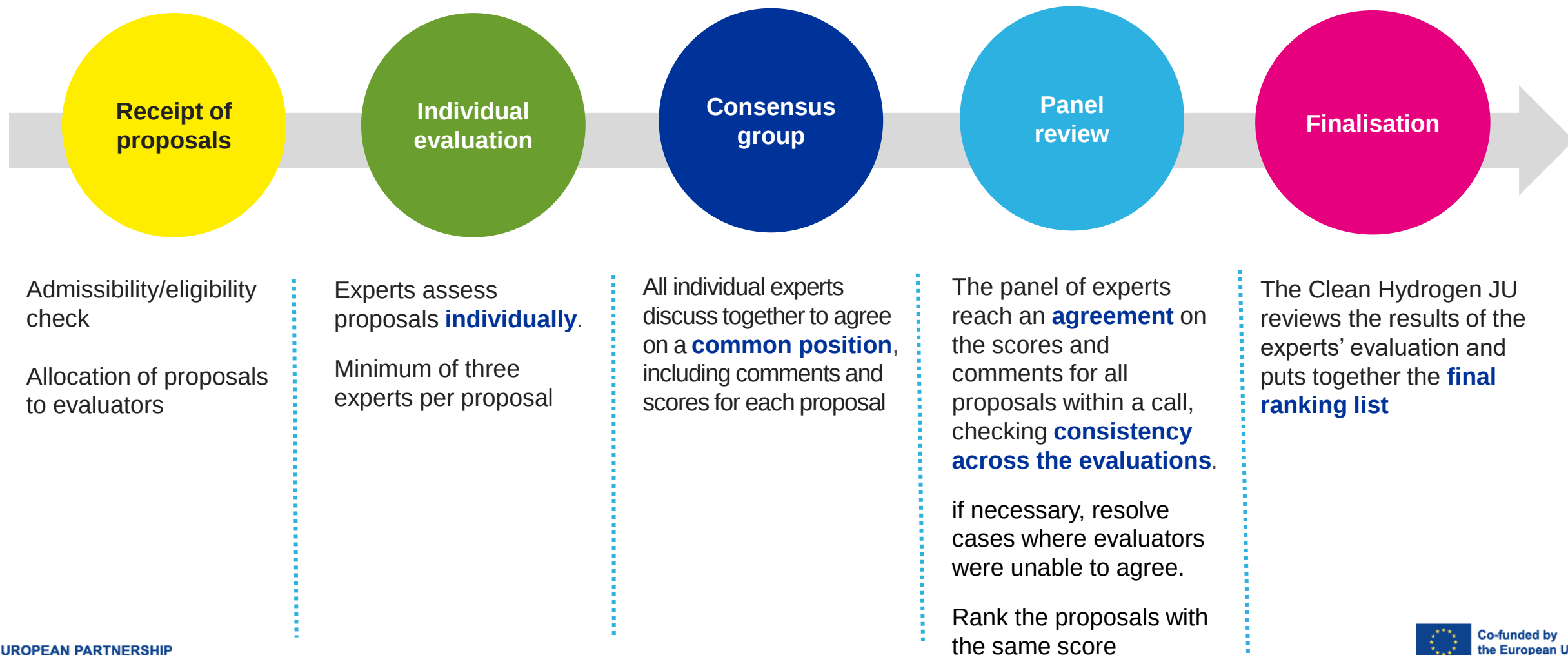


Work Programme 2025



- **Maximum contribution per topic** (relevant for 6 topics):
“The maximum Clean Hydrogen JU contribution.... proposals requesting Clean Hydrogen JU contribution above this amount will not be evaluated”
- **Consortium composition** (relevant for 6 topics):
“At least one partner in the consortium must be a member of either Hydrogen Europe or Hydrogen Europe Research”

Submission and Evaluation process



Application form (proposal template)



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The proposal contains **three parts**:

Part A

- Part A (web-based forms) is generated by the IT system. It is based on the information entered by the participants through the submission system in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Part B

- Part B is the narrative part that includes three sections that each correspond to an evaluation criterion. Part B needs to be uploaded as a PDF document following the templates downloaded by the applicants in the submission system for the specific call or topic.
- The detailed budget table is an Excel file. You must download it from the online submission system, fill it and submit it as an annex to the Part B of your application form.

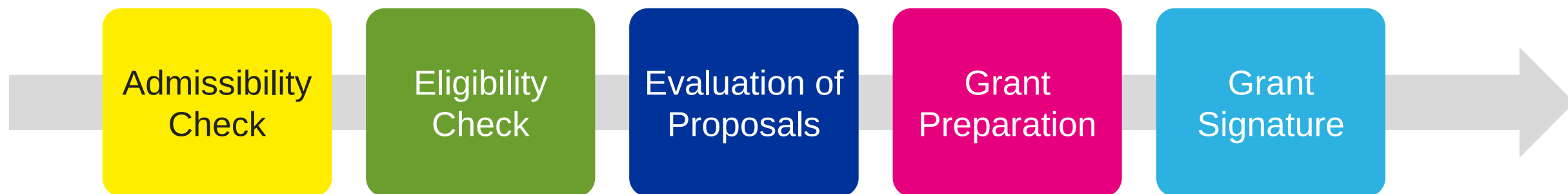
Detailed budget table

For hydrogen valleys **ONLY**

Additional Annex

- Evidences of commitment of stakeholders

8 months for time to grant, from call deadline to signature of the grant agreement



Call deadline

23 April 2025



**Signature of
Grant Agreement**

23 December 2025



Quality of the proposal is key !

- The experts evaluate each proposal as submitted
- The experts do not recommend substantial modifications
- If the experts identify significant shortcomings, they must reflect those in a lower score for the relevant criterion

Evaluation by independent experts

European Commission database of experts

Register through the **Funding & tender opportunities Portal** and **notify us with your interest**

Selection of experts

- High level of skill, experience and knowledge
- Independence and absence of conflict of interest

And **a balance** in terms of:

- geographical diversity
- gender
- where appropriate, the private and public sectors, and
- an appropriate 'rotation' from year to year.

In principle, each proposal will be examined by **at least three experts**

Presence of **one or more independent observers**

Experts that have a **conflict of interests** will be excluded by us !

Click [here](#) to register!



25% new experts



Large fields of expertise



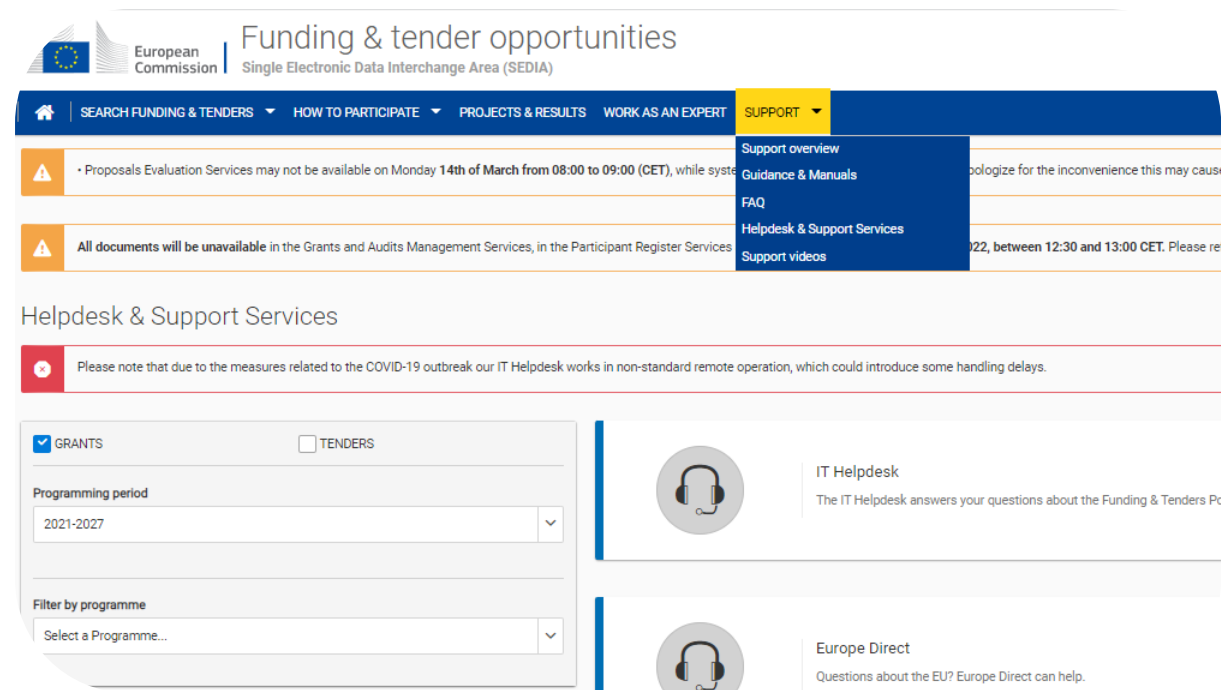
Network with fellows

Resources and Support

Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal

Get Support

- [Online Manual](#) is your guide on the procedures from proposal submission to managing your grant
- [IT How To](#) wiki (guide for IT processes)
- [Funding & Tender Portal FAQ](#) find the answers to most frequently asked questions on submission of proposals, evaluation and grant management
- [Research Enquiry Service](#) enquiries about the validation process of the legal entities
- PROJECTS@clean-hydrogen.europa.eu



The screenshot shows the European Commission's 'Funding & tender opportunities' portal (SEDIA). The top navigation bar includes links for 'SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS', 'HOW TO PARTICIPATE', 'PROJECTS & RESULTS', 'WORK AS AN EXPERT', and 'SUPPORT'. The 'SUPPORT' menu is expanded, showing options like 'Support overview', 'Guidance & Manuals', 'FAQ', 'Helpdesk & Support Services', and 'Support videos'. Below the menu, there are two orange warning banners: one about proposal evaluation services being unavailable on Monday 14th of March, and another about document availability in Grants and Audits Management Services. The 'Helpdesk & Support Services' section features a red banner about COVID-19 related delays. Below this, there are two service cards: 'IT Helpdesk' (with a headset icon) and 'Europe Direct' (with a headset icon). The 'IT Helpdesk' card states: 'The IT Helpdesk answers your questions about the Funding & Tenders Portal'. The 'Europe Direct' card states: 'Questions about the EU? Europe Direct can help.'